

THE VOTE.
MAY 1, 1925.

OUR CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

THE VOTE

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

Vol. XXVI. No. 810.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE—EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.	EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM COURTS OF JUSTICE. CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.	AGE OF CONSENT IN INDIA.
COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MISS E. PHIPPS, B.A.	BOOK REVIEW. J. M. T.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE—EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, APRIL 25TH, 1925.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, BY COUNCILLOR MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

Again I have the honour and pleasure of bidding the delegates to Conference a hearty welcome on behalf of the members of the National Executive Committee. This is the 18th Conference of the Women's Freedom League, and we are still working for our earliest object—the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as men.

Year after year our hopes have been high that before the next Conference our first object would be realised, and perhaps our hopes were never higher than last year when a Labour Government, entirely pledged to this reform, was in power. Delays, which destroyed the confidence of many supporters in that Government, caused the non-realisation of our hopes. An election occurring placed another party in power, and we fear that much more self-denying work is necessary before our object will be achieved.

This year our demand was embodied in a Bill introduced by Mr. Whiteley, of the Labour Party, but a Government Amendment promising a conference on the subject caused its defeat. A conference for considering whether women should have votes on the same terms as men is absolutely unnecessary at this time of day. The principle has been accepted numerous times by Parliament in the passing of the First and Second Readings of Franchise Bills, and we can only think that the proposed Conference is designed to hinder rather than to help. It means much unnecessary talk, and we fear an insidious attempt will be made to discover some means of withholding justice from women.

Sex prejudice is still strong, and men are unwilling to be fair as far as women are concerned. We ask a fair field and no favour. Given equal opportunities with men, women will be able to serve the community better than they do now, whether in the intellectual or industrial field. As it is, much of their energy is spent in attempts to remove the barriers which prevent them giving of their best. They are compelled to fight hard for every step forward, but the cause—the complete emancipation of womanhood—is so just that, given courage and determination, they must progress.

None know this better than the women who have grown old in the movement which they joined in their

youth. Despite rebuffs so much has been won that the young woman of to-day finds it difficult to believe that much of what she accepts as her right, women, less than 15 years ago, were suffering ridicule and going to prison to obtain, some even giving their lives. Courage and determination of such a kind cannot miss achieving their object.

We have won the vote, even though limited. We have women doctors, lawyers, magistrates, jurors, Members of Parliament, a woman second only to the President in the Department of Education—and we must not rest. Instead, it is necessary to be more vigilant, or we begin to lose what we have won. Take the case of the teachers. At one time the organ of the National Union of Teachers used to publish a scale of salaries equal for men and women as their object. To-day, the National Union of Teachers accept the new Burnham Scale which differentiates between the sexes, and the women are the losers. The committee which agreed upon the Scale was overwhelmingly composed of men, and the results make it very patent that women must have fair representation on all bodies which deal with matters concerning their sex. Unfortunately, some public authorities are attempting to use the findings of the Burnham Committee as a means of lowering women's salaries in other professions. Women doctors are amongst the first to suffer from the attack. Women councillors and guardians need to be very watchful, and should offer strenuous opposition to any attempts which are made to standardise women's pay at less than men's. It will be hard for them to succeed owing to the preponderance of men members on the various bodies, and these men members are so often a generation behind in their ideas concerning women. Protests will arouse public interest, and we must be ready to direct public opinion. One very great help will be the election of many more women to our local administrative bodies.

A year ago we were rejoicing in having eight women Members of Parliament. To-day, we have only half that number, the women candidates sharing the fate of their parties, and also having the handicap, in most cases, of fighting exceedingly difficult seats.

Men are not yet ready to give the women candidates of their party the contests that seem likely to result in victory. Money controls, to a very great extent, the choice of candidate, and women suffer a disability in this respect.

A new woman Member, however, was elected in the town where your present President lives, and the Middlesbrough Branch are proud that their many years of work have largely contributed to the success of the candidature of Miss Ellen Wilkinson, a keen suffragist, and believer in the equality of the sexes.

We are met still another year under the dark cloud of unemployment. Industrially, conditions are not so good as they were last year in many respects, and the numbers of unemployed are higher. Those who work amongst the families of the unemployed can see the general deterioration which is going on. Food is dear, and many families do not get enough to eat. It is distressing to read the budgets drawn up by pinched and careful housewives who are trying to maintain families on the unemployment insurance benefit, relief from the guardians, or the small wages now being paid.

Our school-children are showing the marks of privation, and we are compelled to resort to feeding them at school if they are to benefit by their instruction.

The war is being paid for heavily now by suffering in working-class homes. The comfortable classes who govern need to speed up negotiations for a real world peace or they will receive a violent shock. Mothers of suffering families are not as meek as they used to be, and they will make their protest felt. They are better able to express themselves, and they are no longer believers that men alone can manage the affairs of the world for the good of mankind. The world war and its results are opening women's eyes to the fact that they must share with men the responsibility of making a world fit for their children to live in. There is something that men have missed in their long period of rule, and where they have failed it is quite possible that the full co-operation of women may mean success.

In every part of the world the emancipation of women is making headway. In all the colonies, with the exception of South Africa, the franchise, complete or partial, has been won. In Northern Europe equal franchise is general, and women cabinet ministers are not now a novelty. In the Latin countries, women's status and share in governing are advancing, and it is quite probable that at the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress in Paris, next year, we shall celebrate the extension of the franchise in some of those countries.

The recent elections in Egypt have shown that women there are taking a greater share in affairs, and the news from India and other Eastern countries is most encouraging.

Perhaps the least satisfactory feature of our work is the position of the married woman as mother and worker. She is still not recognised as the parent of her child with powers equal to those of the father. Concessions have been made, but with irritating reservations, and we shall not rest content with anything less than equality.

Despite the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act of 1919, women who marry are debarred from following professions for which they have been trained. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the number of authorities penalising women in this respect, and we ask all women elected to local bodies to oppose strenuously the dismissal of women because of their marriage.

Progress is slow in the direction of the Reform of the Law concerning nationality of married women. We appreciate Mr. Harvey's resolution, but we are not content that the British Parliament should wait for the consent of our Colonies before proceeding to allow British women the same freedom as men in changing or retaining their nationality.

The longer one lives and works in the Women's Movement, the more one wonders at the time men

have spent in legislating to put restrictions on the freedom of women. They could have better employed their time, and an atonement long overdue is a measure giving women equal citizen rights with men.

I must not close without drawing attention to the reports before you. They are a record of work which must be very pleasing to the members of the League. Money has not been plentiful, but enthusiasm has overcome that very real difficulty, and we are fortunate in having officials who do not spare themselves in any way. This Conference is your opportunity to criticise these records where you think necessary, and also in your discussions you should indicate what you wish done in the future. Your Committee is anxious that you should pool your ideas, and that, whatever is decided upon, the branches should in their different districts do their utmost to support.

If we wish to move the Government, we must not spare ourselves.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

American Women Diplomats.

Miss Lucille Atcherson, graduate of Smith College, U.S.A., and until recently a clerk in the Latin-American division of the State Department at Washington, has been given the appointment of Third Secretary to the American Legation at Berne. In addition to Miss Atcherson, Miss Pattie Field has passed the foreign service examination in Washington, and soon will receive a State Department appointment, which is the door by which diplomatic careers are entered in the United States.

Mlle. Bolland's Protest.

Mlle. Adrienne Bolland, who claims to be the only professional airwoman in the world, and who holds the women's world record with 1,200 hours of flight, is shortly bringing a test case before the French Courts as a protest against the recent decision taken by the International Aeronautical Commission, which rules that all professional air pilots must be men.

Women's Deputation to Russia.

A picked deputation of women from the British trade unions is being taken to Russia at the expense of the Russian Government. Miss Mary Quaile, a member of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress, will be in charge of the deputation, and Mrs. W. P. Coates, whose husband is associated with Arcos, will act as interpreter.

American Women Postmasters.

Nearly 3,000 women were appointed as postmasters at American post offices during the year ended March 4th. Texas led in the number of women appointed, with 166; California was second with 154; Pennsylvania third with 153; and New York fourth with 134.

Girton's Windfall.

Mrs. Charles Hancock has endowed Girton College with two fellowships, one in her own name of £3,000 in respect of Literature, and the other of equal value in memory of her friend Mrs. Hertha Ayrton in respect of Science.

MINERVA CLUB SUNDAY RECEPTION.

On Sunday afternoon, after the Conference, the Minerva Club Branch very kindly gave a delightful tea to our delegates, members, and friends. A good company was present; Miss Munro presided, and invigorating, short speeches were delivered by our retiring President, to whom a charming bunch of flowers was presented, by Mrs. Rowland Williams and Miss Kirkland (Swansea), Mrs. Andain (Wallasey), Miss Bruce (Edinburgh), and Mrs. Thomas (Middlesbrough), and Mr. Harrison Hill most kindly came in and gave his beautiful "Song of Bow Bells," followed by a number of his inimitable stories.

Literature and THE VOTE were sold, new members joined the Minerva Club Branch, and a good collection was taken for Headquarters.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MISS E. PHIPPS, B.A.

The complimentary dinner to congratulate Miss Phipps upon her entry into the legal profession, which was held at the Minerva Club on Saturday, April 24th, proved to be yet another in the long list of successes of Women's Freedom League gatherings. The dinner had been arranged for the evening of the Annual Conference, and many members and delegates from the provinces were thus able to attend, and to congratulate both Miss Phipps upon her success and also the League upon numbering among its members a woman not only devoted to the woman's cause, but one who, possessing brilliant gifts, and having achieved brilliant success, desired to use those attainments for the betterment of the position of woman.

Among those present were Miss Anna Munro (President), Mrs. Schofield Coates (ex-President), Miss Underwood, and Dr. Knight, as well as many other prominent members of the Women's Freedom League.

In the course of her speech from the chair, Dr. Knight expressed pleasure that we had assembled to celebrate the success of one of our own members in the legal profession, and also the opening of the legal profession to women.

Miss M. I. Neal expressed the opinion that, although Miss Phipps had worked for women all her life, she had never performed a greater service than when, almost at the end of one career, she entered the legal profession in order to help women and women's societies. We owed her a great debt, and the members of the Women's Freedom League held her in high esteem and affection.

Miss Collison, on behalf of the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, paid tribute to the determination, courage, and spirit which had achieved this success in a profession formerly limited to one particular caste; and Miss Munro said that success such as that achieved by Miss Phipps proved a source of inspiration to those who, working day after day in the women's cause, were sometimes disheartened.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

In a short address on "Family Endowment," which concluded our Annual Conference last Saturday, Miss Isobel Goddard pointed out that this question was being increasingly discussed in this country, and would soon become the foremost subject not only in women's societies, but in any society which was concerned with family life and social economics. In England, Family Endowment was an untouched subject, but on the Continent it had been in practice for many years. Ever since 1917, the Family Endowment Society, started by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, had not only done splendid propaganda work in this country, but had collected information from the Civil Services of several countries which would otherwise not have been obtainable. The International Labour Office had also concerned itself with this matter, and had recently published a book, entitled "Family Allowances," which provided for the family from birth to 14 years of age, on the assumption that the present wage system did not meet the needs of the normal family. This normal family usually represented a husband, wife, and three children, but 45 per cent. of families had more than three children. After describing how the system worked in France, Miss Goddard pointed out that in France the system had already effected a savings on the wages bill. The cost of Family Endowment in England would work out at 243 millions, but more than this was spent annually in this country on drink and entertainments. Several questions were put to Miss Goddard at the close of her address, and there was some discussion. It is hoped to publish articles in the future on this subject, for and against, in THE VOTE.

In her reply, Miss Phipps delighted us with a résumé of an old number of *Punch*, published in 1875. In a satirical vein *Punch* had referred to the awakening spirit of woman. He certainly did not desire nor expect to see women voters, women professors, women barristers, or women Members of Parliament. In suggesting that it might now be expedient that the grille in front of the Ladies' Gallery might be removed, he little thought that forty years afterwards it would be cut away with a member of the Women's Freedom League attached to it. We had, however, made enormous strides since the day when Mr. *Punch* laughed at all these things; and that should prove sufficiently comforting for the future.

Mrs. Schofield Coates stated that although she had been a member of the Women's Freedom League since its inception, she had never met so active a person as Miss Phipps. She had not only been extremely active in the women's movement, but had until recently been the headmistress of a secondary school acknowledged as one of the best in the country. She was still editor of the *Woman Teacher*; and, in addition to all this work, had passed her examinations and qualified as a barrister. She expressed the hope that the entry of women into the legal profession would make it possible for the ordinary person to obtain justice more easily. She hoped, also, that women would work for the good of the general public, and not for the aggrandisement of the profession.

Miss Clare Neal added her congratulations to Miss Phipps on behalf of the Swansea Branch of the Women's Freedom League, and the National Union of Women Teachers, both of which bodies counted Miss Phipps among their members. Miss Neal referred to the formation of the Women's Freedom League Branch in Swansea with twelve members—four of whom were present on this occasion. She was convinced that very few women had had such varied experience as Miss Phipps, and she believed that her wonderful vitality was due to her multitude of interests outside her own profession.—L. P.

WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES.

Twenty-four women were successful in the recent Easter Bar Examinations. Four women were successful in Roman Law:—Miss Hilda Craig Harding (Lincoln's Inn), who gained a First Class; Miss May Louise Gordon Williams (Gray's Inn), who gained a Second Class; and the Misses Evelyn Acworth (Inner Temple) and Sarah Dhar (Middle Temple). Seven women were successful in Constitutional Law and Legal History:—Miss Cynthia Nancy Rachel Gower (Middle Temple), who gained a First Class; the Misses Jessie Elliot Alderson (Lincoln's Inn) and Gladys Siddie Powell (Middle Temple), who gained Second Classes, and the Misses Alice Josephine Mackie, Winifride Botterell McConnell (both of the Inner Temple), Phyllis Manley and Doris Tempest (both of the Middle Temple). Seven women were successful in Criminal Law and Procedure:—Miss Olive Reid Morris (Gray's Inn), who gained a First Class; the Misses Katherine Robertson Andrew and Kathleen Anna Burgess (both of the Middle Temple), and the Misses Sarah Dhar (Middle Temple), Ella Violet Hoaching (Inner Temple), Dorothy Scott Stokes and Marion Alice Warner (both of Gray's Inn). Three women were successful in Real Property and Conveyancing:—The Misses Vera Beatrice, Marjorie Meiklejohn (Middle Temple), Catherine Allison Morrison and Elizabeth Alice Schuster (both of the Inner Temple). Four women were successful in the Final Examination:—Miss Jessie Irene Wall (Gray's Inn), who gained the Second Certificate of Honour in Class I, Miss Muriel Maude Wells (Gray's Inn), who gained a Second Class; and Baroness Elizabeth Adeline Mary Bligh Clifton (Lincoln's Inn), and Miss Constance Colwill (Gray's Inn). The total number of women called to the Bar, or qualified for call, is now 53.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
FRIDAY, MAY 1st, 1925.

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.

EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM COURTS OF JUSTICE.

The Secretary of the Women's Freedom League has received the following letter from the Home Office, dated 22nd April, 1925:—

MADAM,

The Home Secretary has now further considered the question about which you wrote to him and sent particulars on the 25th March, namely, the exclusion of women from Courts of Justice. He has no authority to issue instructions to the Courts on this subject, and does not think any useful purpose would be served by discussing it with a deputation from the Women's Freedom League. Any woman who has been illegally excluded from a Court of law has a remedy at law, but it would be quite impossible for the Home Secretary to judge from *ex parte* statements in any particular case whether a woman's legal right to enter a Court of law has been infringed or not. Such a question can only be determined by means of judicial proceedings taken in a competent Court, and the Secretary of State could not say beforehand what the result would be.

Yours faithfully, (Sgd.) G. R. A. BUCKLAND.

We regret this decision of the Home Secretary. In a previous letter from the Home Office, we were informed that this matter concerned the Lord Chancellor as well as the Home Secretary, and if the above letter is the result of their united efforts we cannot pretend to be satisfied with the amount of help they are prepared to give in the direction of safeguarding women's liberties. We would remind these gentlemen that when Capt. Hope's Resolution to enable blackmailing crimes to be tried *in camera* was debated in the House of Commons last March, lawyer after lawyer got up to urge the necessity of maintaining the right to Open Court as an old-established right of the British people, and that the Home Secretary himself was moved to say on that occasion, "You cannot clear the Court... you must, at least, have an Open Court. I am all for Open Courts." If it is so essential to have an open Court for men, why is it not equally necessary to keep it open for women? We should very much like to know what Acts empower judges, coroners, or magistrates to discriminate between men and women in regard to their right of access to the Courts. The Home Secretary can only suggest to us that we might be able to get further knowledge in this matter if one of our members, who had either been turned out of a Court, or refused access to a Court, brought a test case in the Courts! Like the Home Secretary, we are more interested in the principle of this matter than in action taken in isolated cases; and we hoped that we might get from him some ruling in regard to the principle. As we cannot, apparently, secure this ruling, we hope that some of our friends in Parliament will try to get some ruling for us. In the meantime, we say again to this Government, as we have said to previous Governments, that women expect it to act impartially as between men and women citizens; and if the Government cannot uphold the impartial treatment of women and men in regard to the old-established right of Open Court in this country, it cannot be expected that women will have much confidence either in the Government or in the administration of justice.

THE BUDGET.

Mr. Churchill's Budget is certainly a comprehensive one. Among other things it seeks to carry out Mr. Baldwin's promise of an All-in Insurance Scheme embodying a scheme for widows' pensions. We agree with Mr. Churchill that, when misfortune falls upon a workman's home, "most painful of all is the position of the widow with several young children, left absolutely upon her own resources with a few pounds, and a few belongings"; and we are wholeheartedly glad that provision is to be made for widows and dependent children in the near future; but we think that the money for these pensions should be a national charge and not, as proposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, a special charge upon industry. The present proposal is that all workmen and their employers should each contribute an additional 4d. a week, and that workwomen and the employers of these women should each contribute 2d. a week towards this scheme. Our view is that the present high cost of living is a great handicap to the industry of this country, and that the industrial workers and their employers ought not to be fettered with these extra charges. Mr. Churchill reminded the House that Mr. Snowden, the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer, "made great remissions on tea and sugar, and the relief granted by him provides the fund out of which the contributions of the workers can be paid." We do not think the housewife, when comparing her family budget of the present day with her budget of a year ago, will be much impressed with that argument. The Budget proposes that widows are to receive 10s. a week; their children, up to 14 years of age, 5s. and 3s. a week; the provision for orphan children being 7s. 6d. and 6s.; and that the benefits and allowances are to be paid from January 4th next. From January 6th, 1928, all contributors, male and female, who have been contributors to Health Insurance for five years, and who will have paid under the new scheme two years' contributions—that is less than £1 a year in the case of men and 10s. for women—who are over 65 years of age, or who subsequently reach 65, will receive 10s. a week without any means test or disability of any kind. Mr. Churchill budgets for a reduction of 6d. in the Income Tax; an increase in Death Duties; duties on silk—"for women are going to pay their part," says the Chancellor—and imported hops; and a reimposition of the McKenna duties. Further, duties on dried fruits of all kinds are to be removed; there is to be an increase of preference on Empire wines and tobaccos, and Empire sugar preference is to be restored. The posters describe the present Budget as "A Sixpenny Budget," "A Bad Budget," "A Coalition Budget," "A Preference Budget," but nowhere have we seen it called "A Housewives' Budget."

PARLIAMENT STILL YOUNG!

The question of Woman Franchise has again been raised in the House of Commons. Mr. Morris wanted to know if the Government had arrived at any decision as to the terms of reference and constitution of the Committee proposed to be set up to inquire into the extension of woman franchise. The Prime Minister replied in the negative. Capt. Benn then inquired if the Prime Minister remembered the fact that he gave a definite pledge at the Election on this particular subject, and that apparently he was taking no steps to redeem that pledge. Mr. Baldwin asked the hon. and gallant Gentleman to recollect that the present Parliament is still young. While the plea of youth may sometimes be attractive, women are not prepared to accept the Government's youthfulness as an excuse for further delay in this matter of justice to women. They suffered heavily from a similar excuse last year. However youthful the present Parliament may be, many of its Members are old in wickedness, so far as women's interests are concerned.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

President: Miss Anna Munro.
Hon. Treasurer: Dr. Knight.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Miss A. M. Clark, Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., Mrs. Dexter, Miss Haugh, B.A., Mrs. Jason Kerr, J.P., Dr. Lewin, Mrs. Foster Lumb, Miss Morton, M.B.E., Miss C. Neal, Miss M. I. Neal, Mrs. Strickland; Scottish Delegates (Miss Spriggs, Mrs. Fiske, Miss Harvey, Miss C. L. Thomson, B.A.).

URGENCY RESOLUTIONS.

1. This Conference sends its hearty congratulations to Miss Eleanor Rathbone on her appointment as assessor to the Advisory Commission on Traffic in Women and Protection of Children in the League of Nations.
2. This Conference calls upon the Home Secretary when framing his Factories Bill to see that no further restrictions are imposed on women workers which are not also imposed on men workers.
3. This Conference protests against the differentiation in pay and increment as between the sexes in the recent Burnham Award.

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS.

This Conference reaffirms the position of the Women's Freedom League in regard to (1) equal suffrage; (2) equal opportunities and equal pay for women and men throughout all branches of our national life; (3) equal guardianship of children; (4) women's unemployment; (5) women prison commissioners, women governors and women deputy-governors, and women medical officers in all women's prisons and women's sections of prisons; (6) women police; (7) raising the Age of Consent.

Political.

This Conference regrets that the King's Speech contained no reference to women's franchise, and expresses its extreme indignation at the attitude taken up by the Government in moving an Amendment which secured the defeat of Mr. Whiteley's Equal Franchise Bill; and reiterates its demand for a Government measure, to be introduced and carried into law at the earliest possible date next Session, which will enfranchise women at the age of twenty-one, on a short residential qualification. In the opinion of the Women's Freedom League the suggested Conference is not only unnecessary but mischievous.

This Conference calls upon the Government immediately to put into force the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, especially in regard to the employment of married women.

Election Policy.

That in the event of another General Election, the Women's Freedom League should, if possible, run a Women's Freedom League candidate.

Equality of Opportunity for Women.

This Conference calls upon the Government to remove the injustice of differentiating between the payment of men and women doing similar work, and of denying women full opportunity for promotion in the various branches of the State.

Propaganda.

In view of the ignorance on women's questions which was brought out during the last General Election, this Conference urges the National Executive Committee and Branches to formulate a scheme for further propaganda work:—(a) By making a great effort to increase the circulation of THE VOTE; (b) By writing to the Press on women's questions; (c) By street oratory; (d) By distributing pamphlets and leaflets which show the disabilities under which women suffer by our laws as at present constituted.

THE VOTE.

In order to stimulate local interest in THE VOTE, this Conference calls upon all Branch Secretaries

and members of the Women's Freedom League to send regular reports of their Branch activities to THE VOTE, noting in them any local press correspondence concerning the aims or work of the Women's Freedom League, also any items of interest concerning the achievements of our members, or local women, or local conditions of women's work likely to be of interest to our readers.

Women and Children.

This Conference demands that the laws shall be so altered that both parents have equal rights in respect of their children, and that the mother be given equal rights with the father in claiming exemption from vaccination.

This Conference urges the Government to introduce and expedite a Bill to enable British women to retain their nationality on marriage without waiting for the sanction of any Imperial Conference.

That the law be amended as regards husband and wife—that it be impossible for a man to leave his wife penniless, that she be entitled to at least one-third of his estate.

Income Tax.

This Conference demands that the Income Tax for husband and wife be separately assessed and separately taxed.

Education.

This Conference demands that the school-leaving age be raised to 16 years at once with provision for maintenance where necessary, and that the 1918 Act be put into operation without further delay.

Housing.

This Conference calls upon the Government to make it compulsory for local authorities to build more houses for letting, and to appoint women as rent collectors and supervisors of property, protests against the lowering of the standard of Housing by the present Minister of Health, and considers that no more one-roomed houses should be built, as these are below the minimum of accommodation suitable for human beings, and demands that, where unfurnished houses are left unoccupied for more than a certain period, the owners should be compelled to let them.

Widows' Pensions.

This Conference demands that the Government put into operation at once a non-contributory scheme of pensions for widows with dependent children, protests against the suggestion that widows' pensions should be contributory, and urges that these pensions should be paid through a State department, and not through Approved Societies.

Railway Carriages Reserved for Women.

This Conference calls upon the Government to bring forward and carry into law a Bill requiring all trains to include compartments for women only, that a "fairer proportion" should be non-smoking, and that we take steps to approach the various railway companies with a view to making it compulsory that trains always be lit up in tunnels.

Penal Reform.

This Conference demands that Capital Punishment should be abolished.

This Conference protests strongly against the attempts being made to exclude women from Courts of Justice and Inquiry which by law and custom are open to the public.

This Conference demands that provision shall be made so that no child shall be born in prison.

This Conference demands that every Bench should have women magistrates in equal numbers with men.

This Conference is gratified to learn that there has been an increase in the number of women police, and urges a still further increase for uniformed women police.

This Conference urges all public authorities, in the interests of the public, to employ women as park-keepers in all our public parks.

General.

This Conference urges the Government to reduce the age for old age pensions to 65.

That, in addition to the provision of nurses and health visitors, municipal authorities should also employ a staff of home helpers, to assist women in their own homes in times of sickness.

This Conference calls upon the Government to stop the traffic in worn-out horses.

Branches Represented.

Ashford, Bexhill, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hastings, Middlesbrough, Mid-Porton, Minerva Club, Montgomery Boroughs, Portsmouth, Swansea, Thames Valley, and Wallasey.

AGE OF CONSENT IN INDIA.

The following paragraphs have been sent us by Mrs. Jinarajadasa, Chairman of the Women's Indian Association:—

A Bill has been before the Legislative Assembly, brought by Sir Hari Singh Gour, to raise the age of consent for married girls from 12 to 14. This Bill was brought up at the end of last week in the Assembly, and has had a curious treatment. The raising of the age for married girls from 12 to 14 was brought up as an amendment and passed, the ages being 45, and the noes 43. There was also an amendment to raise the age of consent for unmarried girls to 16; there the ayes got 65, and the noes 22.

Yesterday, March 25th, the whole of the Bill with all its amendments was considered, and the whole Bill was rejected by 54 votes against 26. Of course, this question of the marriage age is a matter that entirely concerns Indians, and we want to emphasise to you the effect of the attitude of the Government and the English members of the Assembly. It is a matter, surely, on which the Government should have been absolutely neutral, and the English members should have refrained from voting. That they should have thrown the whole weight of their influence and words against a reform that a very large number of enlightened Indians are trying hard to get made into law is a most scandalous thing. A brief copy of the speech made by Sir A. P. Muddiman shows how very strongly the Government were working against this Bill:—

"Sir Alexander Muddiman gave a serious warning to the Assembly not to go far beyond public opinion. He confessed that he was not prepared to see the Assembly show itself in favour of drastically raising the age of consent in the case of married girls by two years from the administrative point of view. Sir Alexander Muddiman feared that there might be serious agitation if Dr. Datta's amendment was passed. It was a very serious step which the Assembly was asked to take. Let every member consider the consequences before voting in favour of the amendment. As the consequences of accepting the amendment would be serious, Government members would vote against it."

In the Division List, on the age of consent for Married Women Amendment, there were 16 Englishmen among the noes, and as there are only 30 English members in the Assembly, this is a large percentage. There were only six Englishmen who voted for the amendment.

We can understand the forceful objection of the very orthodox section of the Hindus, and though they are a large number in India, there is also a very large number who would either approve the reform, or would accept it without any very great objection.

The Women's Indian Association made a careful inquiry amongst a large number of women, and also circularised the 57 branches of its organisation, representing several thousands of women, and received a very large number of letters emphatically approving of the Bill, and desiring to raise the age of marriage for girls; and not one single answer has been received by the Association raising any word of objection from any women all over India.

We feel certain that this reform is desired by a large number, and not objected to by a majority, and that the Government has no right whatever to have hindered the passing of the Bill into law.

We should be glad if you could draw the attention of the British Government to the action of the English members of the Legislative Assembly with regard to this Age of Consent Bill.

BOOK REVIEW.

Lady Margaret: a Memoir. (Oxford University Press.) 6s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

This charming little book, which is issued on behalf of the Lady Margaret Hall Appeal Fund, gives an interesting account of the great Tudor lady, mother of Henry VII, "gentlewoman, scholar, and saint," patroness of the Universities, and friend of the great Bishop Fisher. Three times married—first for romance, secondly for expediency, and thirdly as a matter of policy—she became one of the greatest landowners in England, possessing numberless estates, and doing her duty nobly to all her wards and dependants, but before all things she was a good and loving mother. Left a widow at sixteen, fourteen years parted from an exiled son, Lady Margaret was able to safeguard her son's interests, and by her capable diplomacy to unite the rival houses of York and Lancaster, and bring peace to the kingdom. Her faculty for organisation and mastery of detail was of great use to her victorious son when he set up his court, and she seems to have been a most loving grandmother.

Bishop Fisher tells us that she was "right studious in books," and had a "holding memory, a ready wit," and the useful faculty of passing over "tryfelous thynges that were lytell to be regarded, while those of weight and substance wherein she might profit, she would not let for any pain or labour to take upon hand." The new learning and new discoveries were stimulating men's minds, so Lady Margaret founded her divinity lectures, and later, the Colleges of Christ and St. John, at Cambridge. To her, too, Caxton owed help in his printing business, and the first translation of Gexus' "Imitation of Christ" into English was due to her influence.

A great housekeeper and home-maker, giving magnificent hospitality, she herself spent much time at her prayers and devotions, rising at 5 o'clock in the morning, fasting often, wearing a hair shirt and girdle, and deploring the extravagance and vanity of the times.

Lady Margaret's tomb of black marble rests in her son's Chapel at Westminster, and her will shows her thoughtfulness for others and her wide charity. Surely one of our greatest Englishwomen, and one who has served our generation as well as her own.
J. M. T.

OUR LENDING LIBRARY

"Women in the Factory." By Dame Adelaide M. Anderson, D.B.E., M.A.

"What I Remember." By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, J.P., LL.D.

"Ancilla's Share." An Indictment of Sex Antagonism. Anonymously.

"The Police Court and Its Work." By Henry Turner Waddy.

May be borrowed from the Literature Department at 6d. per week.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telephone:—MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams:—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Miss ANNA MUNRO.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, May 4th, at 3.

Hampstead Branch. Members' Meeting at 16, Denning Road, Hampstead.

Thursday, May 21st, at 6.30.

Mid-London Branch. "At Home" at the Kingsway Hall, W.C., to raise Funds for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Gift. Speakers: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., and others who will be announced later.

DARE TO BE FREE.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, May 5th, at 4.

Hastings Branch. Whist Drive at the Glenroyde Ho'el. M.C., Mrs. Felton Smith. Tickets 1/-. Tea 9d. Prizes.

Tuesday, May 5th, at 7.30.

Portsmouth Branch. Public Meeting. Grand Jury Room, Town Hall. Subject: "The Need for Women Police." Speaker: Miss Mercer. Chair: Miss Cossey, M.A.

Friday, May 8th, at 4.

Ashford Branch. Members' Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Report on Annual Conference by Mrs. Palmer.

Saturday, May 9th, at 6.30.

Portsmouth Branch. Whist Drive. Unitarian Schoolroom. Tickets, 1/6.

Monday, May 25th, at 4.

Bexhill Branch. Whist Party at the Albany Hotel (by kind permission of Miss Skinner). Tickets 1/-. Tea 9d. Prizes.

Friday, May 29th, at 3.

Ashford Branch. Public Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Education from a medical woman's point of view." Chair: Mrs. Miles.

Friday, July 3rd, at 7.

Birthday Party at Caxton Hall.

Saturday, July 4th, at 10.

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, May 4th, at 5.45.

Six Point Group, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. Annual General Meeting.

BRANCH NOTES.

HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting on Housing was held on Wednesday evening, April 22nd, at the Friends' Meeting House, Heath Street. Lady Smith, J.P., who was in the chair, said all were agreed that Housing was the most urgent question, and was affecting the rising generations both physically and morally. Anything they could do to urge on the authorities to erect more houses, especially for the working classes, they should do.

Miss Upcott, of the Association of Women House Property Managers, said she thought Hampstead should particularly be interested in housing, and should consider how to help the working classes. In no Borough, except perhaps Chelsea, had the houses of the working classes been taken away to such a great extent as in Hampstead. All over Hampstead little cottages, formerly inhabited by working-class families, were now inhabited by middle-class families.

Miss Homfray said the resolution they wished to forward to the Borough Council was not being forwarded in any carping or cavilling spirit; they wished to rouse the spirit of the whole country, and incidentally their own Borough. People should realize the conditions under which some people lived; it was intolerable that the people should not be properly housed, and until they were it was a slight on the neighbourhood.

Miss Biggs, of the Westminster Housing Council, said that, in 1919 and 1923 Acts, Councils could make landlords put property into proper repair, and there was no need for property to become derelict, as landlords could get help from their Councils to obtain money for the repairs. Hampstead was no worse off than Westminster, and in that city they had improved, and were improving, matters.

Councillor Mrs. Maddox said Hampstead had a very apathetic Housing Council. In the Kilburn and Belsize Wards, the lower working classes were the greatest sufferers from prevailing conditions. The Council had a small scheme on hand for 16 flats in Sherriff Road, but at a rent of 17s. 6d. a week—too much for working people. Flats should be erected on every available piece of land. When every spot had been utilised, then they could appeal to the L.C.C. for grants to build outside Hampstead.

Many present joined in the discussion, including Councillor Skene MacKay.

The following resolution was put to the meeting by Lady Smith, and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting calls upon the Hampstead Borough Council to provide additional accommodation for working-class families at a moderate rent.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and speakers was proposed by Dr. Knight, and seconded by Miss Lyndon.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

MINERVA CLUB.

A business meeting was held on Thursday 23rd inst., and well attended. The Annual Conference Agenda was read, and our delegate, Miss Reeves, being prevented from attending the Conference, two other members were elected to fill her place. Two new members were added to the Branch, and a very happy meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Miss Reeves for taking the chair.

(Sec.) F. E. HARTE.

BEXHILL.

The Whist Party, held at the Albany Hotel last Wednesday, was very enjoyable. Our warmest thanks are due to Miss Skinner, our kind hostess, who lent the room. Our thanks must also go to Mrs. Meads and Mrs. Tansen, who gave the prizes. The first prize was won by Miss Skinner, who very kindly gave it back to be offered again at the next Whist Party, which will be held at the Albany Hotel on Monday, May 25th, at 4 p.m. Mrs. Sandford carried off the beautiful tea cosy which was offered as the second prize. Miss Osborne acted as delegate at the Conference, which was held at the Caxton Hall last Saturday. We were very pleased to see Miss Green, another Bexhill member, who also went up to the Conference.

(Org.) Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmsdale Gardens, Hastings.

GLASGOW.

We are extremely pleased to be able to report that Miss Marjorie Gullan has agreed to be a Vice-President of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League. Unfortunately, Miss Crone was not able to act as Literature Secretary. However, we have been very lucky in securing the services of Miss Harvey, 155, North Street, Charing Cross, in this capacity. She will be assisted by Mrs. Keenan, Miss Park, and the Misses Crone. A Branch meeting was held in the Christian Institute on Wednesday, April 22nd, when final instructions were given to our delegate to the Conference—Mrs. Fiskin—and other business discussed.

(Org.) LILLIAN LENTON, 11, Lochside St., Crossmyloof, Glasgow.

WALLASEY.

The Wallasey Branch of the Women's Freedom League met at the Town Hall, on April 16th, to hear Miss N. H. Cowlin, director of Women Police Patrols (Liverpool), address a representative gathering on "Women Police and the Protection of Child Life." Mrs. Francis Williams, B.A., took the chair. At the close of the meeting, Mrs. Margaret Graham, J.P., moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting is of the opinion that there is need for the employment of women police in Wallasey, and expresses its dissatisfaction with the recent refusal of the Watch Committee to consider such employment. It further considers that the Watch Committee should be asked to receive a deputation at an early date with a view to a more complete examination of the question." Mrs. Andain seconded the resolution, which was passed unanimously. It was stated that the resolution had received the support of the New Brighton Hotel, Apartment, and Boarding House Association, the British Legion, the Women Citizens' Association, the Girl's Friendly Society (two branches), the Civic Guild of Help, the Labour Party, the Mothers' Union, the B.W.T.A. (two branches), and the Seacombe Ratepayers' and Improvements Association. Miss Cowlin impressed the need for women police in parks, playgrounds, promenades, and streets, which constituted the playgrounds of hundreds of working-class children, also with regard to preventive work in juvenile crime and prostitution, and in taking down depositions from child victims of assault.

WHAT WE HAVE—AND WHAT WE WANT.

Very many thanks to Miss Rose Conway for 2s. 6d., "an offering for the splendid editorial in this week's VOTE (April 24th). More power to your determination to obtain equal opportunities for women with men in every branch of our national life."

Special contributions are invited for the expense of expanding this article into a short pamphlet for sale at our open-air campaigns this summer.

THE VOTE.

Protect your Hands

BY WEARING

ASHLEY'S HOUSEHOLD RUBBER GLOVES

whilst doing housework, gardening, etc., and guard against chaps, roughness and stains. Best British make. Sizes 6 to 9, 2/11 pair, post free.

Best Rubber Hot-water Bottles

Guaranteed (12 by 8), 5/6 each, post free. Plush Covers for ditto, 1/9 each, post free.

ASHLEY & CO.,
7 AMHURST PARADE, N.16.



FRIDAY,
MAY 1,
1925.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Please send me *THE VOTE* every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name

Address

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

ATTRACTIVE TOURS.

CONTINENTAL HOLIDAY "SUGGESTIONS" PROGRAMME for refined and inexpensive Travel sent FREE on application to readers of *THE VOTE* from "TOURS ATTRACTIVE," 71, High Holborn, W.C.1.

ARLINGTON TOURING CLUB. Conducted tours to Balearic Isles, Balkans, Corsica, Finland, Switzerland. WALKING TOURS, Tyrol, Provence, Norway. Moderate inclusive charges. Programme from 11 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2

CLUBS.

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.

MINERVA CLUB, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Open to non-residents. Restaurant. Smoking Room. Papers. Library. Bedrooms available at holiday times. Membership, £1 1s. Entrance Fee suspended during present year. All particulars from the SECRETARY. Telephone: Museum 4791.

PIONEER CLUB, 12, Cavendish Place, Oxford Circus, W.1. Bedrooms. Debates. Concerts. Town Membership, £5 5s.; Professional and Country, £4 4s.

NOTICES.

A PROFITABLE CAREER for Women. Restoring Antique China and Glass. Practical Postal Instruction. Free pamphlet.—CRAFTSMANS, 19, King Street, Watford.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. BAKER, 275, High Holborn, W.C.1. Income Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all Descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, May 3rd. 3.30. Music. Lecture: Rt. Hon. L. C. M. S. Amery, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden: "On Cruelty to Animals."

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BRIGHTON.—"Sea View," Victoria Road. Midday dinner. Gas fires in Bedrooms. Wireless. Vegetarians catered for.—Hostess: MISS TURNER.

RUISLIP.—Lady can receive two PAYING GUESTS. Sunny bedroom. Excellent train service.—VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

BROADSTAIRS.—"Homedale," Lloyd Road. Recommended Furnished Apartments. Near Sea. Moderate Terms. Attendance, Piano, Bedrooms, Sitting Rooms. Vacancies immediate.—Stamp, VAUGHAN.

PART of Furnished House. South aspect. Bath, modern indoor sanitation, breezy, bracing, healthy.—11, Council Houses, Burton Bradstock, Dorset.

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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.

TO LET.

VACANCY occurs for two or three young ladies, willing share large bedroom (single beds). Bath, piano, central position, every comfort and freedom. Moderate terms—MISS HURRELL, 29A, Sinclair Gardens, W.14.

PLEASANTLY Furnished Rooms (facing Regent's Park). Bath, Geyser, Electric Light, Gas, Separate Meter. Convenient Train or Bus to City or West End. Board optional. Phone Hampstead 6062; or letter to "D.Z.," THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FURNISHED COTTAGE, in Suffolk, 21/- weekly. Simply Decorated. Oak beams exposed.—Apply HAYLAND, The Peasant Shop, 41, Devonshire Street, Theobald's Road, W.C.1.

LARGE, Comfortable, nicely Furnished Bedroom, with Board, and use of Dining and Drawing rooms. Large pretty garden, bath (h. & c.). Excellent cooking. Small refined family. Quick train service to City and Victoria (6 stations in all). Good bus service. Easy access to some of finest scenery in Kent. Would suit lady engaged in town during day, or two lady friends sharing (single beds). Moderate terms.—Write M.W.D., THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

SMART CUT, AND :: COSTUMES MADE
PERFECT TAILORING TO ORDER FROM
AT MODERATE :: :: 7 GUINEAS. :: ::
PRICES. :: :: ::

H. Melissen,

Ladies' Tailor,

PERSONAL ATTENTION.

62, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words.	Once.		Three Times.		Six Times.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

Displayed Advertisements,
8/- per inch.

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.