

THE VOTE,  
MAY 17, 1918.  
ONE PENNY.

# Why We Oppose the Bills.

E. KNIGHT.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1918

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME. A VALUABLE LINK.  
CHANGED TIMES - - - Margaret Wynne Nevinson.  
REVERTING TO THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS: WHY WE  
OPPOSE THE BILLS - - - - - E. Knight.  
DEBATES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

HEALTH IN SCHOOL - - - - - S. A. Mustard  
LETTERS TO MINISTERS OF STATE.  
OUR POINT OF VIEW. OUR TREASURY.  
JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION. LORD COURTNEY.  
OUR WEDNESDAYS. IN MEMORIAM: MRS. PENROSE

### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

#### Women in Parliament.

Yet another candidate, the first officially adopted by a political party, Miss Mary Macarthur. On May 11 Miss Macarthur was adopted as the prospective candidate for Stourbridge, one of the new divisions under the Representation of the People Act. All the men's trades unions voted for her. Miss Macarthur had the choice of seven constituencies; in deciding for Stourbridge she has the chance of representing the women chain-makers of Cradley Heath, who will have votes in the constituency; her work on their behalf has made her a popular candidate in the Black Country. Miss Macarthur is the wife of Mr. W. C. Anderson, Member of Parliament for Attercliffe, but carries on her work as secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, and hon. secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers, under her maiden name. The Labour Party and the Independent Labour Party have adopted women candidates. How long before the Liberal and Conservative Parties follow suit—or find themselves hopelessly lagging behind?

Should Miss MacArthur be successful, husband and wife may sit in the same Parliament. Several such cases have occurred in Finland.

#### "The Complete Emancipation of Women."

Under this heading the following section (IX.) appears in the resolutions on reconstruction to be discussed at the Conference of the Labour Party,

June 26-28, 1918, at the Central Hall, Westminster:—

That the Conference holds that the changes in the position of women during the war, in which they have rendered such good service, and the importance of securing to women as to men the fullest possible opportunities for individual development, make it necessary to pay special attention in the reconstruction programme to matters affecting women; and, in particular, the Conference affirms—

#### A.—WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRY ON DEMOBILISATION:—

(i.) That work or maintenance at fair rates should be provided for all women displaced from their employment to make way for men returning from service with the forces or other national work.

(ii.) That full inquiry should be made into trades and processes previously held to be unhealthy or in any way unsuitable for women, but now being carried on by them, with a view to making recommendations as to the conditions of their further employment in such trades.

(iii.) That all women employed in trades formerly closed to them should only continue to be so employed at Trade Union rates of wages.

(iv.) That Trade Unions should be urged to accept women members in all trades in which they are employed.

(v.) That the principle of "equal pay for equal work" should be everywhere adopted.

#### B.—WITH REGARD TO CIVIL RIGHTS:—

(i.) That all legal restrictions on the entry of women to the professions on the same conditions as men should be abrogated.

(ii.) That women should have all franchises and be eligible for election to all public bodies (including Parliament), on the same conditions as men.

(iii.) That systematic provision should be made for the inclusion of women in Committees or Commissions, national

**I**f you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men

**Join the Women's Freedom League.**

Fill in your name and address and send it to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

or local, dealing with any subjects that are not of exclusively masculine interest.

(iv.) That the present unjust provision of the income-tax law, under which the married woman is not treated as an independent human being, even in respect of her own property or earnings, must be at once repealed.

#### School Dentist.

The Essex Educational Council has appointed a woman as school dentist. Mrs. Lepper, L.D.S., holds a Glasgow degree, and, says a contemporary, "is probably the first woman to be given an appointment of this kind. It is a wise step to appoint women to posts dealing with personal hygiene. Such appointments should increase."

#### Medical Officer of Health.

Bethnal Green Borough Council has appointed Miss J. R. Murray, M.B., as Assistant Medical Officer of Health, primarily for the Council's maternity and child welfare schemes, at a salary of £400 per annum.

#### Women Preachers: Still They Come.

The Rev. Margaret Crook, B.A., of Oxford, has been appointed minister of the Octagon Unitarian Chapel, Norwich.

### A Valuable Link: "The International Woman Suffrage News."

This valuable link between the women of many nations continues month by month to do excellent service to the Woman's Cause in the broadest sense of the word, and should be in the hands of all who are interested in the co-operation of men and women for the good of every nation. The question of equal pay for equal work is being dealt with in a most useful way by the collection of evidence in various countries, including Great Britain, the United States, Denmark, Germany, and Italy, and the articles on the subject, which began in April, are continued in the May issue; still more are to come. They form a most important record in many spheres of activity.

The Bill to give all Canadian women the vote for the Dominion Parliament is in process of passing into law, but the Government has shown an intelligent appreciation of events in already summoning leading women from all parts of Canada to conference with Ministers of State.

#### The Canadian Government Calls a Conference of Women.

The current issue contains an interesting account, with many important facts, of the working of the conference between the Government and the women summoned to advise on the war situation and to deal with pressing problems. It was a great historic occasion when, for the first time in Canada's history, sixty women arrived at Ottawa in response to the Government's call. They were welcomed by the Governor-General and the Duchess of Devonshire, and were addressed by various Ministers of State. They represented the principal organisations of women throughout the Dominion, and were called upon to advise on man power and woman power. They worked in eight sections, and a co-ordination committee combined the resolutions of all sections into a statement presented for confirmation at a meeting of all the delegates. Ministers were in conference with the women, and Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, addressing the final session, spoke of men and women as "equal parts of the body politic." The women put forward a general resolution urging that they should be given the opportunity for continued co-operation with the Government. Among other resolutions was one emphasizing the principle of equal pay for equal work. Mr. N. W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council, at the conclusion of the Conference, said: "You have accomplished the primary object we had in view by meeting here and making recommenda-

## Women's Freedom League.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Wednesday, May 22.—Working Party, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 5.30-7 p.m.

Friday, May 24.—John Stuart Mill Commemoration Meeting in Roadway near John Stuart Mill's Statue in Temple Gardens, 6.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Nevinson and others. If wet, this meeting will be held in the Minerva Cafe.

Saturday, May 25.—Nine Elms Settlement "At Home." Guests, Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, Mrs. Fisher, and others. 4 p.m.

Wednesday, May 29.—Public meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson on "What the Labour Party has to offer Women." Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Cafe if desired at 6d. each.

Wednesday, June 5.—Public meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Saturday, June 8.—Jumble Sale, Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1, 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 9.—Mid-London Branch meeting, to protest against Regulation 40 D, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Admission free.

#### PROVINCES.

Friday, May 17.—PORTSMOUTH. Drawing-room Meeting at 14, Festing Grove (by kind permission of Mrs. Slatter), 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Bloxham. Subject: Portsmouth Women's Citizens' Association. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Friday, May 24.—BATH. Meeting at Grosvenor College (by kind permission of Miss Lock and Miss Parsons). Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Mrs. Whetton.

#### SCOTLAND.

Thursday, May 23.—DUNDEE. Annual Business Meeting.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, May 27.—UXBRIDGE Women's Suffrage Society. Miss F. A. Underwood on "Women and Police Courts."

#### We call special attention to—

Friday, May 24.—John Stuart Mill Commemoration Meeting in Roadway near John Stuart Mill's Statue in Temple Gardens, at 6.30 p.m.

#### WHITSUN HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the Women's Freedom League, the Minerva Publishing Company, the Minerva Cafe, and the Minerva Dressmaking Department, will be closed from Friday evening, May 17, till Tuesday morning, May 21.

tions; we wanted your advice. It necessarily follows that this is but the initiation of a larger measure of co-operation in the future."

Other news of interest in the May issue includes information regarding the position of the Federal Amendment in the United States Congress, still delayed by the Senate, though passed by the House of Representatives; the Italian Chamber has postponed a woman suffrage amendment to a Franchise Bill, though the Prime Minister, Signor Orlando, declared himself a supporter of Woman Suffrage, and the Ex-Prime Minister, Signor Salandra, says the time is ripe for the reform; Holland has celebrated the victories of British and American women; in Sweden a Government Franchise Bill has been introduced conferring "active and passive Parliamentary franchise on women."

Women voters in Denmark are demanding equality in laws which now differentiate between the sexes. Several Danish women are standing as candidates for Parliament; some of the political parties have nominated women as "substitutes" for men M.P.s.

### HEALTH IN SCHOOL.

The war has forced the nation to face no more important social problem than that of developing to the utmost the physical fitness of the race, for, as Spencer pointed out sixty years ago, it is as important for civil and commercial as for military success. If we would have a happy and contented people we must have a healthy people.

Government departments, local bodies, and voluntary enthusiasts vie with each other to-day in working for this end. We have our baby weeks, our infant welfare centres, our care and after-care committees, our school clinics, and Insurance Act.

In the last few years we certainly have made a start in the right direction in instituting medical school inspection, for by early treatment much later trouble has been avoided. In training a child one knows that not only in character formation but in laying the foundation of good health the first seven years of life are the most important.

To quote Spencer again, "The first necessity in training a child is to develop a healthy animal,"—this is most true, for without the good, rich blood how can the brain be well fed?

We rejoice to hear of open-air schools, but deplore the fact that there are so few, and that these are only for the delicate children. We welcome the new scheme for special daily schools for the children suffering with slight tubercular trouble. Dr. Truby King, lecturing last week, stated there were three essential habits to be cultivated if we would rear a healthy race—regular food, regular habits, regular early to bed and risings. Everyone with experience will agree with Dr. King in emphasizing the great importance of plenty of fresh air.

Fresh air and exercise in the open air are so essential for children that the matter ought to be more seriously considered. We never get enough of either in the school life of our children or our teachers. Some of our schools are old and very badly ventilated, and the vitiated atmosphere caused by large classes in such rooms reacts on the health of both teacher and child. The many breakdowns in health among teachers to-day should arouse those who have the welfare of education at heart, to demand an enquiry into the causes.

We should have more open-air work in school hours for the good of both teacher and taught? The philosopher, Locke, known, and looked up to, throughout the world as one of the greatest of educationists, says swimming and letters should go together. Let more use be made of the swimming baths we already possess, and in the great future, when we can build new schools with large, open-air spaces for lessons, each one must have its own swimming bath.

In the crowded parts of our great towns we know how difficult it is to get much air, yet pure air for our schools is so absolutely vital. London possesses one school, a magnificent building, in which the rooms are ventilated by pure air, all doors and windows being kept shut. The air is purified and pumped into the rooms by electricity. Perhaps we may have more of this type of building in the near future. Great care is taken that members of Parliament shall be supplied with purified air, yet many complain that the atmosphere of the House of Commons makes them bald—and sleepy! We should at least ensure that the nation's children are equally well cared for; they are the citizens of the future; they must be strong and vigorous, not sleepy and weak. Let fresh air begin its beneficial work now.

S. A. MUSTARD.

### LETTERS TO MINISTERS OF STATE.

The following letters have been sent to Ministers of State:—

#### The Secretary of State for War.

May 9, 1918.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of May 1, replying to my letter of April 25 in which I asked you to receive a deputation arranged by the Women's Freedom League of Women's Societies, representing thousands of organised women in regard to Regulation 40 D, Defence of the Realm Act.

You say that no good purpose would be served by receiving this deputation because the views which would be expressed by its members were already known to his Majesty's Government when it was decided to take power to introduce the Regulation in question. We cannot agree that this is sufficient reason for refusing to receive the deputation. We wished to place before you the reasons for the views we hold about this Regulation. Moreover, as women citizens, we resent strongly the principle of the negation of representative government which your letter affirms. This Regulation is directed solely against women, and we maintain that organised women citizens have a right to have their views considered on this matter, and that the War Office, or any other office of State, has no right to refuse to consult with women on this matter, more especially as the Regulation has not been dealt with by the House of Commons. We, therefore, urge you to reconsider the advisability of receiving this deputation.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

#### The Secretary of State for the Home Department.

May 9, 1918.

SIR,—We beg to thank you for your letter dated May 2 in regard to receiving a deputation of organised women, arranged by the Women's Freedom League. We certainly desire that this deputation should be received if either Lord Beauchamp's Bill or Lord Sandhurst's Bill is introduced into the House of Commons. We note that both Bills are to be referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and that the Committee may be willing to receive evidence from representatives of organised women's societies. Will you very kindly let me know to whom we should apply for the opportunity to give evidence to this Joint Select Committee?—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

#### The Postmaster-General.

DEAR SIR,—We are glad to note that you have conceded to the House of Commons that letters sent to soldiers overseas shall still go for 1d. instead of the new 1½d. inland rate, but we urge that the same concession be granted in the case of letters to women overseas serving in his Majesty's forces. We think you will agree that it is very important for the community just now to maintain home ties and family ties for both the men and women serving abroad. Trusting that you will be able to give consideration to this view, I am, sir, yours faithfully,

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

A similar letter has been sent to several M.P.'s asking them to press for this further concession in the House of Commons, and favourable replies have already been received from Mr. C. E. Price, Mr. J. Allen Baker, Mr. P. W. Raffan, and Mr. H. W. Carr-Gomm.

### BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION. THIRD BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, JUNE 4th, 5th, 6th, 1918.

Subjects: Equal Suffrage; Equal Pay for Equal Work and Endowment of Motherhood; Equal Parental Rights and Status for Illegitimate Child; Nationality of Married Women; Prostitution and an Equal Moral Standard; Divorce; Women Police; Women in the Crown Colonies; Women in relation to the Press and to Political Parties, etc.

SPEAKERS: Miss K. D. Courtney, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Miss Damer Dawson, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss C. Macmillan, Miss March, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Royden, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Sheepshanks, Dr. E. Beadon Turner, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Watt, Mr. Leonard Woolf, and others.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd.—SERMON, MISS MAUDE ROYDEN.

THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 6th, INDIA.  
Tickets, Three Days, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; One Day, 2s. and 1s.; India, 1s. Apply Miss NEWCOMB, Hon. Sec., B.D.W.S.U., c.o. International Woman Suffrage News, 11, Adam-street, Strand, W.C. 2.

## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

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## CHANGED TIMES.

Now that we (or rather six millions of us) have obtained our objective—the vote, the next step will be to see that the many bars and barriers blocking the freedom and development of women are thrown down.

Many, it is true, have fallen, owing to war necessity; by the drain of men for the Army, women are working in many trades and professions hitherto rigorously closed to them; now that we are accustomed to W.A.A.C.s and W.R.N.S.s and Penguins, to women chauffeurs and women grooms, women window-cleaners, munition workers, and land workers, many old prejudices and traditions are dying a natural death. Only about seven years ago some women in Hyde Park were roughly handled and maltreated by some young male purists, whose defence, later, in the police court, was that they thought (quite erroneously) that the girls were wearing "harem skirts," the fashion of the hour. Only a short time ago a girl cyclist was arrested for touring in knickerbockers, and received a grave homily from the presiding magistrate on the enormity of the offence and the dangers of neglecting the home. We believe to wear breeches still remains a criminal offence on the statute book, but D.O.R.A. appears to condone it with more sense than one expects from her, and nowadays the wearers of the forbidden bifurcated garments are neither arrested nor fined, insulted nor mobbed.

We all remember the struggles and insults of the pioneer medical woman, and the sneers and slanders heaped upon Florence Nightingale as a "forward young female of nasty mind"; we read that only when some of the Catholic bishops released nuns from their vows in order that they might accompany her to the Crimea did most of these slanders die.

All this seems very far away, and yet it is well within the memory of many of us, so that when we read on our pink forms that men and women (boys of 19, women of 30) were included in the same category of active service, we felt indeed that we live in a changing world.

The learned professions of the Church and the Law are still closed to us, but perhaps the minds of women just now are focussed upon the important question of "equal pay for equal work," especially in the teaching profession. Just now, owing to the drain on "man power," the education of the country is largely in the hands of women, and even in those strongholds of conservatism—our public schools—our girl graduates of Oxford and Cambridge (still degreeless) have been commanded to instruct our future rulers and generals.

Women have to go through the same long and arduous training as the men, the strain of constant

study and nerve-racking examinations. They hold the same degrees and certificates, they teach the same subjects in the same standards to boys as well as girls. In addition to this women bear alone the burden of infant school teaching, which requires special gifts of imagination and patience, and the tedium of instruction in needlework and domestic economy. Few will maintain that the required standard of knowledge and teaching is not equal, or that the responsibilities of a school mistress towards the children, the parents, her colleagues, and society generally are not the same. Why, then, must the woman receive less pay? No one asks if a man is married, nor if a woman has dependents; work should be paid *qua* work.

Doctors have had to resign themselves to the entrance of women in their profession, but are showing far more wisdom and foresight than the male teachers. They, with the strongest and most powerful union existing, at once recognised the dangers of women working for less money and cutting down salaries, and in these days of doctor shortage the medical profession watches jealously in its own interest that public posts given to women should be at the same rate of pay as for men.

There has been much discontent amongst women teachers lately, and anyone who has followed the history will agree that it has not been without very good cause. To harass and underpay a hard-working body of public servants is foolish economy. No one, however conscientious, can do good work under a rankling sense of grievance and injustice. Consciously or unconsciously, people lose heart, and education suffers, and even in sport-loving England we are beginning to realise that our national welfare depends on brains and technical training even more than on football and cricket.

Our old suffrage motto: "Our right is no man's wrong," holds good now; we are not asking that men's salaries should be lowered, but that women's shall be raised.

Heavy burdens are falling upon women now with the slaughter and wreckage of our young men. They have to take up the care of children orphaned in early youth, of husbands crippled and blinded, helpless and maimed, the burden of younger brothers and sisters, and parents aged or invalided. Except that married and deserted wives have no legal responsibilities for their children, the burden of providing for their relations has been placed upon women equally with men through the long ages of their serfdom and sweated work. We shall not shirk our responsibilities, but we shall justly ask for the means to meet them. The cry for "equal pay for equal work" will grow more insistent, and the nation will have to listen.

The ancient profession of marriage will probably become almost closed by reason of the death of millions of a whole generation of men throughout the world; the romance of love and the joys of motherhood will never be realised by thousands of our girls—an unnatural and bitter fate at best—and parents will be wise to give their daughters a training to fit them for a profession and a dignified independence.

Many suffragists will note and remember when the time comes the resolution on the agenda of the Labour Party recommended by the National Executive to their affiliated societies to be discussed at their conference at the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 26 and two following days:

Work or maintenance should be provided for women displaced by men returning from the forces or from other national work. The principle of "equal pay for equal work" should be everywhere adopted. Women should have all franchises, be eligible for Parliament and all other public bodies, and have the right of entry to the professions, on the same conditions as men.

MARGARET WYNNE VINSON.

## REVERTING TO THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS: Why We Oppose the Bills.

Because measures of this sort are not going to do any good; they are not going to lessen venereal diseases, but they are going to increase immorality.

Immorality in itself is an enemy to the State far more deadly even than venereal disease.

Because its effects are less obvious, its incubation period longer, it is all the more disastrous in its effect. Again, the more the immorality, the more the venereal disease. Regulation of the conditions of immorality of necessity carries with it the idea that the traffic itself is not to be avoided. This idea is unconsciously assimilated by the average mind, and especially by the young and inexperienced.

The Women's Freedom League fully realises the extent to which venereal diseases injure our women, men, and children, and we are quite as anxious as the Archbishop of Canterbury or Lord Sydenham to annihilate this plague; but it does not make vice "safe" to call it safe. It is, and always has been, impossible to ensure that only the healthy shall be immoral, and the ideal of the regulationist must remain eternally unattained.

Under modern conditions of civilisation venereal diseases will always accompany immorality, so these measures increase venereal disease.

Clause V. of the Government Bill may shut up Mary Jane when she is diseased, but her place is immediately filled by Sarah Anne. Far pleasanter for immoral men to get rid of Mary Jane from the streets, but they have no guarantee of safety; in a very few days Sarah Anne may be infectious and a danger to all, and have we really gained anything by the elimination of Mary Jane except that two girls instead of one are robbed of all their most precious possessions, and is that what we want? Scattered about all these Bills are baits to make us swallow them. Raising of the age of consent is dangled before our eyes. Women have for many years passionately demanded that this reform should be passed, but there is a way of giving protection with one hand and taking it away with the other. Girls are to be sent to "homes" instead of to prison, but what makes any place a prison except the fact that you cannot get out of it? Severe penalties are imposed upon the owners of immoral houses, but you must catch your owner before you can penalise him, and until all owners are registered this is almost an impossible feat.

E. KNIGHT.

### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL, 1918. Second Reading in House of Lords May 7.

VISCOUNT SANDHURST, in charge of the Bill, asked that it might be referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses, who would carefully consider it, and take evidence from experts, and especially social workers, after which it would return to their Lordships.

He compared his Bill to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill of last year, and laid great stress on the "truly representative deputation" of archbishops, bishops, and ladies "representing" social workers who were received by the Home Secretary on July 6, 1917, in support of the Bill. Of the combined deputation representing many thousands of organised women, which the Home Secretary promised the Women's Freedom League also to receive, but which he never met, nothing was said. Girls were to be shut up in homes, with no idea of punishment but for their own protection; he knew there was considerable opposition, but he believed and was advised, indeed, that much of it came from misunderstanding and misconception. It was true that Acts of Parliament would not make people moral, other and moral forces must be employed.

### A Short Cut,

LORD SYDENHAM piled up encomiums upon the "really very remarkable deputation" of people who agreed with him, "no more representative body covering every aspect of these questions (!) has ever been presented to a Minister of State." Unfortunately compulsory detention, except in a prison, raised a storm of opposition, by "quite a small body of voluble objectors." The effect of this organised opposition to the "Homes" clause last year was to hold up the Bill for months, and a very heavy responsibility rested

upon the agitators for the serious results of that long delay. He suggested that to save time Clause V., which "embodies a most important new principle, because it makes the communication of venereal disease an indictable offence," should on emerging from the Joint Select Committee be made into a separate Bill, and proceeded with as rapidly as possible. Clause V. would dispose of the strong objection to 40 D; it placed the sexes in a position of "absolute equality before the law."

LORD PARMOOR thought the difficulties of dealing with these matters had been underrated. It was always difficult to convert immorality into crime. They should consider reformation, not punishment. He could never understand why brothel owners, who were at the bottom of the abominable traffic, were not more severely dealt with; even on a third conviction, under Clause IV., they could only have 12 months, while the girl soliciting could have two years.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON was sorry that the Bill did not raise the age of consent, but he felt certain that public opinion, especially backed up with the full pressure of 6,000,000 women's votes, would soon raise it to 17. Only moral and spiritual influences could raise anyone, but the Bill would remove five "stones" upon the people which prevented the churches from getting at them.

### Real Danger.

LORD RUSSELL thought the real dangers in Clause III. were dangers of administration, the hastiness or, conceivably in some cases, the untruthfulness, of the constable who makes the arrest, and the character of the Homes to which the girls would be sent. These things they would have to leave to the experience of the magistrates.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY rather supported the "Clause-V.-by-Itself-Emergency-Bill" suggested by Lord Sydenham. He objected to "reasonable cause" provisions; let the man who was immoral with quite young girls realise that he was doing a risky thing, let him look after himself, and not be protected. He wanted the owner of every house to be easily found; the owner of a house ought to know about it as well as the occupier. Some ten years ago he tried to get a Bill passed to secure that somebody should be registered as the owner of every house, and should be ultimately responsible.

THE EARL OF DESART saw many difficulties in Clause V., but the chief objection was that it might be very nearly a dead letter except in cases where the police, or some authority, might have evidence, and might forcibly bring somebody under their control to prosecute. He thought it very unlikely that any man or woman would voluntarily prosecute, or that it would do much to suppress disease.

### Woman's New Power.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE hoped Parliament would realise that women had now got the vote, and intended to make their influence felt. The Bill concerned women very nearly indeed, and men should not blunder into legislation of this kind without taking every means in their power to consult the organised bodies of women in this country. He supposed the Bill would replace the celebrated 40 D. The women felt it very keenly that, so soon after they had got the vote, legislation on things concerning them so nearly was effected by an Order in Council and not by Parliament. They felt it arbitrary, and it created a grievance. The woman's right to accuse the man under 40 D was window-dressing only. The ultimate opinion of the organised bodies of women could not be predicted; that was why both these Bills ought to go to a Select Committee, where the opinions of women qualified to speak for their sex on this very grave subject could be consulted. He went to a largely attended meeting—(Central Hall, April 29)—addressed by men and women who knew what they were talking about. One speaker was a Member of Parliament who had thoroughly studied the subject. The whole tone of the meeting was dead against any legislation with regard to prostitution or venereal disease in any shape, form, or description. The objection was that any legislation, especially if it involved anything like medical examination, was bound to revive the old C.D. Act, which a very strong body of people viewed with great abhorrence. He wished to warn Lord Sandhurst that that view was largely taken by influential people.

LORD SANDHURST stated that his Bill passed in its entirety would supersede 40 D.

Last week's summary of the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill omitted Clause VI. This clause provides that the conviction of a husband under Clause V. shall be for the wife a ground of judicial separation under the Summary Jurisdiction (Married Women's) Act, 1895.

### SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL.

#### Second Reading in House of Lords May 7.

LORD BEAUCHAMP denied that his Bill was a rival Bill; he introduced it as a stimulant to make the Government bring in their own measure, and he was gratified that success had crowned his efforts. He wished to protect the young

soldier from temptations from within and from without, and to deal equally with the sexes. One or two expressions of opinion from women's organisations persuaded him that his object had been won. People who were never content unless a measure was exactly what they themselves wanted unfortunately devoted themselves to blocking social reforms.

LORD SANDHURST quite understood that the two Bills were not antagonists. Everything in this direction assisted and helped the Government upon the road it was endeavouring to travel. The only difference was that Lord Beauchamp went "one better" than the Government.

Both the Bills were referred to the same Select Committee, to be composed of members of both Houses. Its proceedings will be open to the public, and it will call witnesses to give evidence before it. After its deliberations are finished, whatever emerges will return to the House of Lords. This will probably be one combined Bill; or two Bills, one intended to be speedily rushed through both Houses, the "Clause-V.-by-Itself-Emergency-Bill" to be immediately put in force, and the other a comprehensive and complicated Bill to be proceeded with in a leisurely manner.

E. K.

### THE PARLIAMENTARY DOUBLE SHUFFLE.

#### "40D" in the Navy.

Asked on May 8 by Mr. KING what was the general purport of any circular or instructions concerning 40 D issued to the naval authorities at home or commanding ships in home waters or ports, the FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY declared that nothing had been done beyond drawing their attention to the Regulation.

#### Voluntary Compulsion.

MR. LEES-SMITH, on May 9, asked the Home Secretary what steps were being taken to inform women arrested under 40 D that they did not need to subject themselves to a medical examination unless they themselves desired.

SIR G. CAVE thought that was clear on the face of the Regulation, and that no steps were required for the purpose mentioned.

MR. LEES-SMITH: Since 40 D was so obscure as to the woman's right to refuse the examination—even Members of Parliament had to ask questions to clear it up—did not the Home Secretary realise that unless women arrested were told of their legal right the system would in practice be compulsory examination?

SIR G. CAVE: There is no need to give any such information. I believe the effect of the Regulation is well understood.

MR. LEES-SMITH asked whether the soldier or sailor solicited would be called to give evidence before the woman was convicted.

SIR G. CAVE had no authority to give directions as to the evidence to be called before magistrates. The soldier or sailor would usually give evidence for the prosecution; if he was not called and the woman wanted him as a witness for the defence, it would be for the magistrate to give the proper directions.

### OUR POINT OF VIEW.

#### A Fine Programme.

We call the attention of our readers to the resolutions to be discussed at the June Conference of the Labour Party concerning the position of women, particulars of which are given on page 249. The party has set a fine example to the older political parties in the recognition of full equality of opportunity and right for women and men, and insistence on equal pay for equal work everywhere. The party declares its faith in the right of women to be eligible as candidates for Parliament, and doubtless the adoption of Miss Mary Macarthur will be followed by other women Labour candidates. While the Labour Party is forging ahead, what are the Liberals and Unionists doing beyond seeking the support of women's votes?

#### Women on the Luxury Tax Committee.

Women's work in educating men still goes on, and judging by present conditions the women have still a long and hard task to accomplish before the lesson of equality has been fully learned. But, as

with other almost hopeless reforms, "It moves," and to-day we have to record a practical, though partial answer to our request for an equal voice for women on the Luxury Tax Committee in the co-optation of the following women: Miss Beatrice Chamberlain, Mrs. H. Craig, the Hon. Mrs. F. Guest, Lady St. Helier, Mrs. H. B. Irving, Miss Violet Markham, and Mrs. Vaughan Nash.

#### Cinderella Scores.

Mr. B. H. Morgan read a thoughtful paper on May 3 to a meeting of mechanical engineers. He has had large experience as a "dilution" officer, and has been technical adviser to the Labour Supply Department of the Ministry of Munitions. The lecturer mentioned what everyone, including male trade unionists, now recognises—it was absolutely necessary to tap women's labour; Cinderella was invited to the labour ball at which she greatly distinguished herself. Her engineering capacity is undoubted. Instead of *Conspuez la femme!* we now hear compliments. Mr. Morgan was very interesting, very improving to feminine readers, when he showed how unionists stood up against dilution, slowly yielding, here an inch, there a barleycorn, to the inexorable logic of necessity, of winning the war. They fought every whit as bravely as their brothers at the Front. Then followed a long list of the agreements that had to be made by the Government (or Ministry of Munitions) with the trade unionists. Mr. Morgan declared that "Women had been found to be accurate and conscientious workers, much assisted by their fine sense of touch. They could carry out finishing processes on large and costly work. Generally speaking, they had excelled in machinery work rather than in fitting. In regard to output, they had enormously exceeded previous records, but on non-repetition work it was doubtful whether they had equalled the output of men." He quoted one case—the boring of shell—where skilled men had taken slightly over three hours to do the work, and women, after three months' practice, did the same work in less than half the time. Well done, Cinderella! How much more important to gain the praise and thanks of your countrymen and women than the favour of princes by dancing never so gracefully at balls!

### In Memoriam.

It is with the deepest regret that we have learnt of the death of Mrs. Penrose, for so many years the Honorary Secretary of our Reading Branch. It was due to Mrs. Penrose's energy and initiative that this Branch was formed and to her untiring devotion that its activities have been sustained. Mrs. Penrose was always the foremost worker in any cause locally which aimed at the benefit of women and children, her special care being the Children's Day Nursery. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Penrose and his two sons in their irreparable loss. We offer it also to our Reading Branch members, and can only hope that her memory may inspire them further to support the cause which she so much loved.

The Press Correspondent of the Reading Branch writes:

"To the inexpressible grief of this (the Reading) Branch the beloved Secretary, Mrs. Penrose, passed to the Higher Life on May 6th, after a very brief illness. Keenly interested in everything concerning women, she deemed nothing a trouble that would further their cause; and her bright, cheery presence will be sadly missed. A shield of flowers in the colours of the Women's Freedom League was sent by the Branch, which was represented at the funeral. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Penrose and his two young sons in the unexpected sorrow which has fallen upon them."

### OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged (October, 1907, to December, 1917, £29,465 2s. 11d.)

Amount previously acknowledged ...	£	s.	d.
Special Emergency War Fund—	£	305	0 6
"A Friend" ...	1	17	6
W. R. Snow, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Sholl ...	5	0	
Mrs. Angold ...	3	0	
Tufnell Park Branch ...	2	0	
<b>"40 D Protest"—</b>			3 7 6
Mrs. Douglas Hamilton ...	10	0	0
Miss F. A. Howard ...	5	5	0
Mrs. Despard ...	3	17	6
Lady Clare Annesley ...	3	0	0
F. J. Gordon, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Miss W. Louise Boulton ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Walter Carey ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Bell Lloyd ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Saul Solomon ...	10	6	
Mrs. Branch ...	10	0	
Mrs. Tancred ...	10	0	
Miss Ball ...	5	0	
Mrs. C. Bryant ...	5	0	
Anonymous ...	3	0	
Miss H. G. Whitton ...	3	0	
Miss E. Davies ...	2	6	
Miss R. T. Wells ...	1	9	
Miss M. M. Green ...	1	0	

Turquoise Necklace Competition ...	20	0	0
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck (Organisers' Fund) ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Schofield Coates ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Despard (Organisers' Fund) ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Fisher ...	3	1	6
Dr. Knight ...	2	5	0
Anonymous ...	1	0	0
Mrs. E. Fisher ...	1	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders ...	10	0	
Mrs. F. E. Smith ...	10	0	
Mrs. Holmes ...	3	0	
Mrs. C. Bryant ...	2	6	
Miss Jeannie Dow ...	2	6	
Miss Ada E. Farmer ...	2	6	
Mrs. E. M. Marston ...	2	6	
Miss F. E. Tooke ...	2	6	
Miss Laura Morris ...	2	0	
Miss M. E. Birch ...	1	6	
Miss Gregory ...	1	0	
Tickets ...	24	16	6
Collections ...	22	4	3
Branches—			
Golder's Green ...	6	0	
Highbury ...	6	0	
Ipswich ...	17	6	
Branches—Delegates' Expenses—			
Clapham ...	9	6	
Highbury ...	9	6	
Reading ...	6	6	
Sheffield ...	9	6	
Branches—Capitation Fees—			
Sheffield ...	4	6	

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London, Provincial and South-Western Bank, Ltd." £433 8 6

### JOHN STUART MILL CELEBRATION: May 24.

In previous years, as unenfranchised women, we have celebrated John Stuart Mill's birthday; in this year of victory we shall celebrate it as citizens. All who are inspired by the triumph of the Woman's Cause "at last," will gather round the statue of our great champion in the Temple Gardens, Embankment, on Friday, May 24, at 6.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson will be among the speakers. The celebration is being organised by the Women's Freedom League; other societies are co-operating, and further particulars will be given next week. Before the meeting wreaths will be placed on the statue of John Stuart Mill. We look to our readers to make the celebration widely known, so that in numbers and enthusiasm it may be worthy of the man, great in foresight, justice, and courage, who presented to Parliament the first petition in favour of woman suffrage more than fifty years ago.

### 40 D.

#### THE REGULATION OF VICE.

Another urgent and important Campaign is upon us. Foiled in the attempt to revive the iniquitous provisions of the detested Contagious Diseases Acts by means of the late innocent-seeming Criminal Law Amendment Bill of unhappy memory, the men who rule us have now—by Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act—reintroduced the State Regulation of Vice in this country.

Long years ago the Women's Freedom League had its mind made up to oppose to the bitter end any such action.

Our machinery for agitation stands ready to be set in motion—money must come in freely for this renewal of the fight.

As the matter is urgent the expenses will be heavy. Delay is dangerous. We must have this shameful blot upon the Statute Book, this death-knell to the moral life of Britain—as the great pioneer, Josephine Butler, termed it—withdrawn at once.

Friends and fellow-workers, we must stand together shoulder to shoulder. Send your cheques, and notes and postal orders as quickly as you can, and make them as large as possible.

E. KNIGHT.

144, High Holborn,  
W.C. 1.

whose writings, "The Subjection of Women," on Liberty, and on Education are masterpieces and classics; who was a devoted friend of woman's progress in every way, and tireless fighter for votes for women.

### LORD COURTNEY:

#### Staunch Supporter of Woman Suffrage.

It is a cause for thankfulness that Lord Courtney, who carried forward the woman suffrage banner on the death of John Stuart Mill, and bore it aloft throughout his long life, lived to see the great victory of last February. Suffragists will ever honour his name and work as a staunch supporter of their cause, one whose advocacy and support were based on the sincere conviction of the unanswerable justice of their demand. He was a faithful friend through half a century of disappointments, and took part in the great triumph in the House of Lords on January 10 by voting for woman suffrage. Nor was he absent, despite his 85 years, from the final attempt to discredit the women's victory by postponing the operation of the Woman Suffrage clause until a roundabout referendum had been taken. He riddled the proposal with shot and shell, and recorded his vote against it. It was almost the last important speech of his life, and suffragists will remember it with gratitude.

Last year Lord Courtney wrote a most sympathetic letter in reply to the invitation of the Women's Freedom League to take part in the John Stuart Mill celebration. He regretted his inability to accept, owing to the state of his health, because it would have afforded him special pleasure to speak of his old friend, whom he admired so intensely for his championship of woman suffrage and proportional representation. He passed away at his London residence, Chelsea Embankment, on May 11, in his 86th year, on the eve of the House of Commons' debate on proportional representation, for which he worked strenuously to the end of his life.

### BRITAIN & INDIA

#### PUBLIC LECTURE,

By KHAWAJA KAMALUDDIN,

ON  
"UNIVERSALISM AS TAUGHT BY THE PROPHET  
OF ISLAM,"  
ON THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 1918, AT 5 P.M.,  
AT 314, REGENT STREET.  
(Order of the Star in the East Shop.)  
Admission Free.

FRIDAY,  
MAY 17,  
1918.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, S.W. 8.

Readers of THE VOTE are asked to show their interest in the Settlement by coming in good numbers to welcome Mr. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, Mrs. Fisher, and members of the British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union, on Saturday, May 25, for the inauguration of the "Devonport-Tasmania" cot, supported by Mrs. Walpole and other friends in the Dominions, on Saturday, May 25, 4 to 6.30 p.m. Miss Margaret Hodge will lecture on "The Home of the Anzacs, and Mrs. Despard will speak on the work of the Settlement. Tea at four o'clock, and please be punctual, as we expect Mr. and Mrs. Fisher at that hour, and the programme of the proceedings is a full one. Gifts are gratefully acknowledged from Miss Estelle Nordheimer, £5; Mrs. Copland, £1 1s.; Mrs. Bull, 3s.; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Miss L. Hornabrook, 10s.; Mrs. Daubeny, 2s. 6d.; Anfield Branch Women's Freedom League, 10s.;

Miss Pember and Miss Howse, some very nice clothes for the Guest House; Hon. Mrs. Forbes, a mattress and jumble goods Mrs. Delbanco, spoons; Mrs. Roberts, clothing. Urgently wanted: pieces of linoleum; children's summer socks.

## The Despard Arms. 123, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1.

Will all our friends bear in mind Saturday, June 8, and send contributions to our Jumble Sale at 6 p.m. on that day? Clothing for men, women, and children, especially boots and shoes, and articles for household use will be most warmly welcomed. Please address all parcels to the Manageress, and mark them "Jumble Sale."

We still have accommodation for visitors desiring to stay one night or any length of time.

### ARTICLES FOR SALE.

NEW STRIPED COTTON DRESS;  
12s. 6d.

NEW BLACK and WHITE ALL  
WOOL CHECK (best quality,  
tailor-made) COAT-FROCK; £2 12s. 6d.

SECOND-HAND GREEN TWEED  
COSTUME; 30s.

NEW BLACK WOOL and SILK  
PLEATED COAT - FROCK;  
37s. 6d.

14 - CARAT GOLD WALTHAM  
KEYLESS WATCH, case set  
diamonds; £7 10s.; lady's or gent.'s.

ONE DOZEN FINEST QUALITY  
ALL IRISH LINEN SER-  
VIETTES, hand loom; 37s. 6d.

NEW BLUE MERCERISED BED-  
COVER, 19s. 11d.; also Yellow  
ditto, 12s. 11d.

HAND-MADE Crochet FLOUNCE,  
for petticoat, 10in. deep; 23s. 6d.

JIG-SAW PUZZLES for Soldiers and  
others; well cut; from 9d. upwards.  
—Write or call "THE VOTE" Office.

BISCUIT - COLOUR BROCADE  
SILK COAT AND SKIRT, real  
lace collar; £2 5s.

PINK AND WHITE STRIPED  
COAT AND SKIRT; 25s.

TUSSORE COAT AND SKIRT; 30s.

### ARTICLES FOR SALE.

BLACK VELVETEEN SKIRT,  
small size; 12s. 6d.

NEW BLACK and BLUE STRIPED  
GEORGETTE AFTERNOON  
DRESS; 2 guineas.

SUPERIOR BLACK and PIN  
STRIPE TAILOR-MADE COAT  
FROCK; stock size; £3 12s. 6d.

NEW GIRL'S WINE - COLOUR  
VELOUR COAT, black caracul  
collar; 29s. 11d.; age 14 to 17.

ART GREEN WOOL and SILK  
DRESS, small size; 38s. 6d.

SMALL STILL; good condition; 15s.

PARMA VIOLET DRESS, trimmed  
silver, 35s.

SEVERAL DRESS and BLOUSE  
LENGTHS, material and silk  
cheap.

NEW, SUPERIOR GREY TWEED  
SKIRT; stock size; 19s. 11d.

SEVERAL NEW USEFUL and  
DAINTY BLOUSES; from 7s. 11d.  
to 25s.

NEW PURPLE SICILIAN COAT-  
FROCK; 35s. 6d.

SECOND - HAND CONEY SEAL  
COAT, with skunk collar and  
cuffs; £5.

DARK MAUVE SILK DRESS; oxy-  
dised silver trimmings; 37s. 6d.

### ARTICLES FOR SALE.

NIGGER BROWN SILK DRESS;  
large size; 37s. 6d.

PAIR NEW SHOES, size 4-5;  
19s. 11d.

SILVER CHAIN-PURSE, 2½ ozs.;  
25s.

SUPERIOR QUALITY GLACE  
SHOES, worn twice, size 5; 21s.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

FOR SMALL HOUSE in Ealing,  
superior GENERAL or WORK-  
ING HOUSEKEEPER; entire charge;  
two ladies on daily war work.—Full  
particulars and references, c/o "THE  
VOTE." Interview by appointment  
after 7 p.m.

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Margaret's, Richmond; two recep-  
tion, three bedrooms, kitchen and  
bath; pleasure-grounds by riverside; 8  
minutes from station, Waterloo 25  
minutes; rent: 3 months, 3½ guineas;  
6 months, 3 guineas; 12 months, 2½  
guineas.—Write AJAX, c/o "THE  
VOTE" Office.

LESSONS in PIANOFORTE and  
SINGING by Mrs. Silvester  
Sparrow; engagements solicited as  
Accompanist at Concerts, Dances, &c.  
—43, Black Lion-lane, Ravenscourt-  
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AND HOW TO USE THEM,  
post free 2d.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist,  
144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Estab-  
lished 1879.

The Articles for Sale are on view at the Minerva Exchange, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, 10 to 5.30. Saturdays, 10 to 12.

### ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY.

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Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.  
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CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone: 3795 North.

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paid. Orders minimum value £2, half carriage charged.  
Orders under £2 carriage forward.

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