

THE RIGHT TO A NAME.

THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXV. No. 778.

(Registered at
the G.P.O.)

ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 1924

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

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THE NEED FOR PEACE.

TEN years ago, this country was taking its full share in the most terrible war in history, a war in which the whole world was soon involved. The passion and hatred engendered by that war among all the nations will not easily be forgotten by the present generation, nor will its heritage of personal loss, human wreckage, poverty, social misery, and higher cost of living. But one of the great tragedies of life is that the experience of one generation is so frequently forgotten by, and therefore of so little use to, succeeding generations. For this reason, it is most necessary that men and women of the present day, belonging to all countries, should lay firm foundations for the Peace of the future; that children and young people should be instructed in the laws and rules governing the Peace of the world; and that the ideals of Peace, of co-operation with people at home and abroad as the only hope for prosperity, and of mutual understanding among the nations, should be inculcated among the youth and men and women of all ages and all classes. During the recent war the ideals of Peace were discredited and buried deep under the debris of destruction; after the Armistice they began to rise, pale and indeterminate, out of the ruin and chaos of more than four years of Armageddon. At that time, however, revenge was uppermost in the minds of nations. All countries had to face the cost of the devastating war, and were overwhelmed with their appalling losses and accumulated debts. For a season, in this country, the individual, narrow view was taken by the majority of people—that we must boycott everything foreign and develop only our own resources. It did not take much time to discover that our own resources were ludicrously inadequate in a world which had become a whirlpool of revolution, disorder and general economic disaster. It was borne in upon us, even the narrowest among us, that we were, whether we liked it or not, intimately and irrevocably bound up in the fortune or misfortune of every country, and that no country can be independent of, or indifferent to, the conditions prevailing in another country. That idea has been taking root as the years have passed. Plain common sense is teaching us again the eternal truth of human brotherhood, and we are beginning not only to pay lip service to that ideal, but to assimilate it, and to realise its practical implications.

In every country the League of Nations, the greatest organisation at the moment on behalf of the Peace

of the world, and the professed purpose of which is to delay the outbreak of war, and to bring any nation's grievances or aggressions before a Tribunal composed of representatives of all countries, is making a direct appeal to men and women of all nations, who are beginning to understand clearly that a war in any country is the direct concern of the people in every other country. Disarmament, too, has its adherents in all nations, and this week, in this country, in London, in the provinces, and many other countries, No More War Demonstrations are being held, in which pledges will be asked and given for people to use all the influence they possess to make war an impossibility in the future.

Another great European war is unlikely during the lifetime of the majority of us; every country in Europe being too weary, and their resources in men and materials too exhausted, to make preparations for another war immediately possible. But the lessons of the past ten years, if we have any capacity for learning them, make it imperative that all nations shall cease to think of war, and shall determine to work for and establish a lasting Peace in the world. Nations must cease to work only for their own advantage; they must seek to know the aims and interests of other nations (and every year there are greater and more facilities for travel among all classes of people), and to try to work together on the basis of mutual understanding and consideration. Only in this way can peace and prosperity for all be secured. The immeasurable resources of the world and its incalculable wealth, the wonders of science, the infinite fields of knowledge still unexplored, the conquest of land and sea and air for the purposes of travel—all these should surely be used for the benefit and happiness of mankind, and not for its destruction! Nations can only have the will to Peace if individuals lead the way. Throughout the year women, organised nationally and internationally, have discussed the means of securing Peace. Women in nearly all countries now have political power; it is their business, it is certainly their sincere desire, to foster the spirit of peace. They can make sure that their children and the young people of to-day have the chance of imbuing the ideals of Peace; more than that, they can insist that the men and the women who represent them in their Parliaments and Governments are pledged to work for the Peace of the world, the only sure basis for national and international prosperity.

"THE CALL TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION."

"The Call to the Younger Generation," in its various aspects, is the keynote of the Public Meetings arranged by the National Council of Women at its Annual Conference to be held in the Dome at Brighton during the early days of October, as well as of the resolutions sent in by affiliated societies and branches to be discussed by the delegates.

There will be four evening Public Meetings, in addition to a reception by the Mayors of Brighton and Hove. The first of these Public Meetings—a Meeting for Girls, on October 6th—will be presided over by Lady Astor, the speakers dealing with "Openings for Social Service, Paid and Unpaid," and with "The Spirit behind Work." The subject of Tuesday's Public Meeting will be "The Call from Home," the chair being taken by Mrs. George Morgan, the President of the Council, the subjects to be discussed being "Good Housing," and "Homes Overseas." Wednesday's Meeting will be on "The Call from the Nation," when Mr. Frank Briant, M.P.; will speak on "Citizenship." The subject of Friday's Meeting is "The Call from the World," the speaker on that occasion being the Rt. Hon. Viscount Cecil of Chelwood on "The Work of the League of Nations."

A Conference of Women Justices of the Peace has been arranged for the early evening of Wednesday, October 8th. Other interesting arrangements are visits to Local Educational and Health Institutions, and excursions to places of interest in and around Brighton—Arundel Castle; The Palace, Chichester; Lancing College; Craft Schools; The Heritage, Chailey, etc.

Dr. Octavia Lewin will represent The Women's Freedom League at this Conference, and will propose the following resolution on behalf of our League: "That the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland urges the Government to establish the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work—which already operates among Members of Parliament—for all employees in the service of the State, irrespective of sex." The following resolutions will be noted with interest by our readers:—(1) "That the National Council of Women records its conviction that the age and other qualifications for the Parliamentary Franchise should be the same for both sexes"; (2) "That Women Police be reinstated at the earliest possible moment and that their number be augmented"; (3) "That the National Council of Women calls upon the Government to establish an adequate system of pensions for widows with dependent children"; (4) "That, in view of the need for providing careers for the younger generation, this Council considers that the time has now come when recruitment to the Clerical, Executive, and Administrative Grades of the Civil Service should be by open competition for both sexes, and that the recruitment of women only to the Writing Assistant Grade should be abolished"; (5) "That all branches and affiliated societies be urged to consider what steps should be taken to secure the loyal adherence of young people to a high and equal moral standard, and, in particular, to study how the reasons for good morals and good citizenship may best be presented to them."

There are also interesting resolutions concerning littering public parks; the advisability of trained women being employed for the work of rent collecting, and the management of house property; the prevention of reports of juvenile cases appearing in newspapers; the care of the mentally deficient; and the necessity for every Housing Committee including women.

It is possible, however, that the first part of the following resolution on Training in Domestic Science may meet with some opposition:—"That the National Council of Women endorses the opinion of the Domestic Service Inquiry Committee that 'training in Domestic Science should form an integral part of the Education of every young girl,' and urges the Government to give facilities throughout all Government schools for efficient training, examination, and certification of

those desirous of taking up this career; and to carry out, without delay, the recommendations of that Committee for the increased development of instruction in practical Domestic Science in Elementary Schools."

THE UNMARRIED MOTHER & HER CHILD

We have received two very interesting pamphlets from The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child—its Sixth Annual Report (price 4d. net), and a neat booklet dedicated to fellow-workers from overseas, which deals more in detail with the aims and work of the Council (price 6d. net). The Report records with satisfaction that the Bastardy Act has been placed on the Statute Book and came into force in October, 1923. This Act makes it possible for a Magistrates' Court to order a putative father to pay any weekly sum up to 20s. per week, instead of 10s. as before, and it renders him liable to a fine if he fails to give notice of his change of address; it also makes some slight improvements in regard to the issue of summonses, and provides that an affiliation order secured by a Board of Guardians may be transferred to the mother when the child ceases to be chargeable. The Report also expresses the hope that Colonel Campion's Bill to provide for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock by the subsequent marriage of the parents to each other, will pass its Report Stage and Third Reading this Session. During the past twelve months the Case Committee of the Council has dealt with nearly 600 applications, which must have necessitated an immense amount of work, each case having to be considered separately, and requiring careful thought. Recalcitrant fathers have to be corresponded with, and interviews and advice given to their mothers and relatives. The booklet states that the death-rate amongst illegitimate children shows an encouraging decrease since 1917, but it is still nearly twice as high as amongst legitimately born children. The booklet also gives an interesting account of the work of the Council in regard to securing residential accommodation for the unmarried mother and her child, in maternity homes, and afterwards in hostels, including hostels for daily workers. The President of this Council is Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, and the Chairman, Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher. Its work is of the utmost importance, and must commend itself to everyone with human sympathy.

In the following sentences, the booklet sums up the present position of the child of an unmarried mother in this country:—"The illegitimate child in the eyes of the law of England and Wales has no legal status; it has no legal kin, and may be said to be 'nobody's child.' Its mother is solely responsible for its support and custody, although she may summons the father to contribute towards its maintenance. The father cannot legally claim the child, even if the mother has died or fails to carry out her obligations; in these circumstances it comes under the care of the Guardians of the Poor, who may prosecute the mother if she has neglected or abandoned the child. . . . The illegitimate child has no right of inheritance, except by will. . . . it may not claim the surname of either parent; it only adopts that of its mother, by custom."

NEED FOR WOMEN POLICE.

At a Meeting of the Deptford Borough Council, last week, it was decided to write to the Home Secretary urging him to appoint more women police in London, and asking that a fair proportion might be allotted to Deptford.

It is understood that arrangements will be made for increasing the number of women police very shortly. At present, women police in London number 20. The Committee appointed to investigate this subject recently reported in favour of having the number increased to 200. It is suggested that when the women are enrolled, particular attention will be paid to the night club question.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Public-spirited Woman.

Mrs. Elizabeth Sarah Hichisson, who died last week, was for many years a member of Camberwell Guardians, and was Chairman of the Children's Homes Committee. She worked hard to secure more humane treatment of the poor in various institutions, and it was largely due to her untiring efforts that the "Scattered Homes" system, under which orphan and other children were placed in separate homes under foster mothers, was substituted for that of keeping the children herded together in large prison-like buildings. She and her husband, Alderman Joseph Hichisson, were co-workers in many causes in North Camberwell. Together they strongly supported the opening of One Tree Hill to the public, and were jointly responsible for the erection of a large circular seat over the stump of the famous oak under which Queen Elizabeth was said to have rested. Mrs. Hichisson leaves 11 children, 33 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

Women Conduct Church Service.

The *Sheffield Independent* reports that Woodseats (Sheffield) Wesleyans recently had a "Men's Sunday," when a specially trained male choir took the place of the ordinary choir. Sunday, September 7th, the women of the church took charge, and everything connected with the three services was carried out by women. The women's choir was conducted by a woman, and the organist was a woman. All the preachers and speakers were women, and women gave out the notices and made the collections. Mrs. (Field-Major) Duncan, of the Salvation Army, preached in the morning; Mrs. Crowther presided over a musical service in the afternoon, and Mrs. Frederick Hill preached in the evening.

A Woman Mayor for Richmond?

Mrs. J. T. Edwards, who for the past five years has been a town councillor, is a candidate for the Mayoralty of Richmond. She is a business woman, and for many years has been associated with the public life of the town. Mrs. Edwards is known locally as the "Teacup Candidate," because, in the course of her Council work, she has been insistent on the efficacy of a cup of tea in forwarding business and clearing the atmosphere of stormy meetings.

Mrs. Tata in Bombay.

Members of The Women's Freedom League will be pleased to know that Mrs. Tata, whom we met so frequently when she was staying in England, and who became a member of our League, is now in Bombay, and has taken with her two hand-looms of an improved pattern from England. The Bombay Branch of The Women's Indian Association has now started classes in spinning and weaving.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

Mrs. Naidu, the Indian poetess and writer, who was well known to our London members, and exceedingly popular with them during her stay in England, has recently toured Africa on behalf of a raised status for Indians. After a number of years, the externment order has been raised from her as regards Hyderabad State. *Stri-Dharma* reports that she was received in Secunderabad with full honours, and states that it must have been a great joy to her once again to enter her lovely home.

Women in Canton of Bâle.

In the recent Elections for the Synod of the Canton of Bâle, Switzerland, nine women (out of twenty candidates) were elected to the Synod and twenty-eight to the Council.

International Women Artists.

The Women's International Art Club will hold an exhibition at the Suffolk Street Galleries in October. A section will be allotted to decorative art.

F.I.D.A.C. and Women.

At the fifth Annual Conference of the F.I.D.A.C. (Fédération Inter-Alliée des Anciens Combattants, or Inter-Allied Federation of Ex-Fighting Men), which opened at the London County Hall last Monday, it was agreed to form a Women's Auxiliary Section, and that every country which was a member of the F.I.D.A.C. should be invited to send a woman delegate to the next Conference to take part in its proceedings, because it was felt that the co-operation of women in the work of the Federation would give a material reinforcement to the work of Peace. The Federation aims at encouraging and solidifying an intelligent understanding and friendship between ex-Service men of all nations, and at removing the causes of misunderstanding, and so prevent the possibility of another great war.

A Commendable Innovation.

The Directors of the Glasgow Royal Maternity and Women's Hospital, at their quarterly meeting held recently, gave all four appointments as indoor resident surgeons to women—Dr. Ellen B. Sutherland, Dr. Mary P. MacCunn, Dr. Janet M. Stewart, and Dr. Ellen D. Morton. This is the first time that these appointments have been given to women at the Glasgow Royal Women's Hospital, which fills a great and beneficent role in the lives of thousands of Glasgow's slum-dwellers and poor generally.

Statue of Pilgrim Maiden.

Equal Rights, the official organ of The National Woman's Party in America, states that a bronze statue, entitled "The Pilgrim Maiden," has been erected at Plymouth, Massachusetts, by the National Society of New England Women. It is designed to be "a memorial to those women and young girls whose courage and fortitude helped found this Republic." The statue was unveiled in Plymouth, September 4th.

Women in Wall Street.

A recent door-to-door census of first-class office buildings in the Wall Street section of New York City reveals the fact that the number of women workers in the Wall Street district is increasing. In one typical office building, with a total number of 10,868 workers, the proportion of men to women is now two to one, compared with four men to every woman ten years ago.

Lady Parsons' New Work.

The *Daily News* reports that Lady Parsons, who has helped to open the engineering professions to women, is to be chairman of a new women's Committee formed to encourage the wider use of electric labour-saving devices in the home. The members of the committee will be housewives, medical women, and at least one woman dentist, and an X-ray operator.

Indian Woman Municipal Councillor.

Mrs. Velayuda Menon, a lady noted for her interest in public questions, especially child welfare schemes and the education of women, has been appointed a municipal councillor in Madura, a town in the extreme South of India.

A Woman Engineer at Wembley.

At a conference of engineering societies held earlier in the week at Wembley, Miss C. Griff, Chairman of the Women's Engineering Society, read a paper on "The Working of Stainless Steel."

Woman Cobbler's Skill.

In the national mothercraft competitions, Mrs. Paintin, of Winslow, was awarded honours for skill in cobbling.

THE VOTE

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 1924.

EDITORIAL.

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

OUR AUTUMN SESSION.

When the House of Commons adjourned on August 7th, it was on the understanding that it would reassemble Tuesday, October 28th, unless the public interest required that the House should meet at any earlier time during the Adjournment. It is now likely that it will meet on September 30th because of Irish difficulties, which will in that case take priority of other questions. Our own National Executive Committee will meet Saturday, October 11th, to discuss and arrange plans of work for The Women's Freedom League during the autumn and winter months. In the meantime we are preparing for the Public Meeting to be held at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, Friday evening, October 10th. We are organizing this meeting with the full co-operation of several other women's organisations, and we hope to give their names as well as a list of speakers in the next issue of our paper. The object of this meeting is to demand that the Government shall give full facilities for the remaining stages of Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill, so that it shall be passed into law at the earliest possible date during the Autumn Session. Until this Bill is upon the Statute Book, the matter of securing equal voting rights for men and women will continue to be the primary object of the Women's Freedom League, the object upon which we shall expend all the forces at our command. There are constant rumours of an early General Election. We still hope that, before it takes place, British women will have the right to vote at that Election at the same age and on the same terms as men. If they have not, we shall not hesitate during the Election to apportion the blame to those on whom we believe it rests. At that Election also we shall do our utmost to secure the return of really suitable women to Parliament, irrespective of the political Party to which they belong. To the Women's Freedom League, "really suitable" women are those women who are willing to work inside and outside of Parliament for the equality of the sexes.

We are glad to learn that our branches are beginning to resume their work for the coming autumn and winter months. We rely upon them all to press forward in their own districts, first and foremost the need for equal enfranchisement of women and men, and to work for equal pay for equal work, and indeed for the equality of women with men in all directions. We know also that we can confidently rely upon our branches to give us their generous support at our Green, White, and Gold Fair, to take place Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th, at the Central Hall, Westminster. We need all kinds of goods for our many stalls, and we depend upon our members and friends to fill them. We hope, too, that as many of our branches as possible will send representatives to take part in this Fair and to meet London members, among whom they have many friends. There is always a reunion of old friends at our Annual Fair, and the opportunity of making new ones. Should there then be a prospect of a General Election in the near future, we shall make full use of the occasion to confer with our members and friends in the organisation of our Election campaign.

"A PRAM PUSHER."

A very human letter appeared in last week's *Surrey Comet*, signed by "A Pram Pusher." She says that life is very hard for those who have been old-fashioned enough to have babies. Very few young mothers have a house of their own to live in—they mostly have to live in two or three rooms, with no right of access to the garden; shops now close so early in the evening that "father" can no longer be left in charge of children while "mother" does her shopping, so she has to take the baby in a pram. She explains that it isn't a joy to push that pram through a crowded thoroughfare, and to have black looks and unpleasant remarks if it happens to push against the skirt or coat of a passer-by. Complaints have frequently been made of prams being pushed two abreast; but this correspondent retorts that groups of people, without prams, often block the pathway in the most inconsiderate manner. People have often walked out of a shop in front of her when she was with the pram, and allowed the door to slam in her face! She also pleads for more "safe" open spaces where children can play, and states that the only available one in her neighbourhood has been given up entirely to sports; and there is now no room or safety for young children. She wishes someone would start a union for mothers—if they went on strike, life might be made a little easier for them! She remembers that during the war thousands of women of leisure gave their services to hospitals, etc., and she asks if some of those who still have leisure could not form a society which would arrange to mind a baby sometimes, and let "mother" go shopping alone, and even sometimes get an hour or so off to go to a cinema! The "honourable profession" of motherhood is a very exacting one to those mothers not too well off in this world's goods, and it certainly deserves more consideration than it usually gets from the community.

A WOMAN'S VOTE.

Last Monday, the Registration Officer at Southwark upheld the claim of a probationer nurse to a Parliamentary vote. A political agent had objected to a considerable number of nurses and other members of the staff of Guy's Hospital, the Evelina Hospital, the Royal Eye Hospital, and Bethlem Hospital, appearing on the Register, on the ground that in certain technical respects the conditions of their residence and the terms of their appointment were such as to disentitle them to exercise the franchise. The objection to a probationer nurse was taken as a test case, and the decision applied to all the others to whom objection was taken. The Registration Officer said that as far back as 1870 it had been laid down that in construing statutes relating to the franchise, the widest interpretation must be given to a description contained therein. Mr. Justice Darling had maintained that a person who inhabited a dwelling-house by virtue of any office, service, or employment, was to be deemed an inhabitant occupier of that dwelling-house for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act. A contract of service had been entered into by the probationer nurse with the governors of the Hospital in which she worked, between whom and herself the relation of master and servant existed. She occupied a bedroom allotted to her by the matron on behalf of the governors of the Hospital, and there was a sufficient occupation of a dwelling-house by virtue of service within Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, to confer the local government vote upon the nurse in question, and also (as she was over 30 years of age) the Parliamentary vote.

THE RIGHT TO A NAME.

The right of a woman to retain her own name after marriage instead of being known by her husband's name has on more than one occasion been challenged in this country, but not always with success. A married woman who tries to get a passport in her maiden name will find some considerable difficulty in doing so. On the other hand, Dr. Alice Vickery, one of our oldest members, and always the staunchest of suffragists, continued to retain her own name after her marriage with Mr. Drysdale, and has always been known professionally and privately either as Dr. Vickery or as Dr. Drysdale Vickery. Another of our members, Mrs. Florence Fenwick Miller, had to uphold her claim to use her own name in the Courts. She married the late Mr. Frederick A. Ford in 1877, and with his consent retained her maiden name; but the next time she was elected to the School Board an objection was raised against her taking her seat on the Board on this ground; but the election was declared legal by the highest authorities, and the objection failed.

In America, an adverse ruling on this point has just been issued to the Department of the Interior, the Comptroller-General of the United States, Mr. J. R. McCarl, holding that a married woman employed by the Government must use the surname of her husband when she signs the pay-roll. This has been hailed by a section of the British Press as "a Check to Feminism." We are glad to record, however, that The Woman's Party in America is preparing a protest against this ruling, and is asking for a reconsideration of the matter by the Department of the Interior.

Equal Rights, the organ of The Woman's Party, states that the case in which this ruling was laid down was that of Dr. Marjorie Mason Jarvis, who is attached to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington. She was married last May to Mr. Charles Lloyd Hutson, but continued to use her own name, the name by which she is known professionally. She refused to sign her husband's name to the pay-roll, insisting upon her right to her own name. She retained Olive Lacy, who is a member of the Washington Bar and of the Woman's Party, to contest the ruling.

The Comptroller-General's "ruling" is a very long document reviewing American and English law on this subject. Among its many quotations from authorities are the following:—"By custom a woman at marriage loses her own surname and acquires that of her husband." "Marriage at our law does not change the man's name, but it confers his surname upon the woman. Until a decree of divorce giving a married woman leave to resume her maiden name goes into full effect, or widowhood is succeeded by a new marriage and another husband, she goes by her former husband's surname."

The ruling then proceeds as follows:—"It is true our law has been liberalised by the passage of the so-called Married Women's Acts in most of the States of the Union, but these acts have to do largely with the property rights of the wife. At common law the husband not only became liable for the support of his wife, but took title to her property as a sort of compensation for the marital responsibility. While the Married Women's Acts recognise the wife in the married state as a *femme sole*, capable of suing and being sued, and these acts in some states give her the right to alienate her individual property without being joined by her husband, yet the old rule of marital unity is still preserved. All law writers agree that marriage is a civil contract, and most law writers agree that it is more than a mere contract. So far as the legal status of man and wife is concerned, their relation is contractual, but marriage is an institution contemplating homes and families. Each family is a unit in the body politic, and it can hardly be imagined of husbands, wives and children composing the same family bearing different names. The law in this

country, that the wife takes the surname of the husband, is as well settled as that the domicile of the wife merges in the domicile of the husband. A wife might reside apart from her husband, but so long as she remains his lawful wife she has but one legal domicile, and that is the legal domicile of the husband. So it is with the name. She may have an assumed name, but she has but one legal name. The separate legal entity of the wife is not so generally recognised as to accept the maiden name rather than the surname of her husband. It is to-day the main distinction between a single woman and a married woman, and such fact has in the past appeared upon the pay-rolls. There appears no valid reason why it should not so continue, and the pay-roll should state the fact accordingly."

We ourselves are intrigued to find that "the old rule of marital unity" argument is made to appear so potent in this ruling. We remember it was used by the present Lord Chancellor (Viscount Haldane) as a reason for not conceding equality of rights and responsibilities to mothers with fathers in the guardianship of their children when he introduced the Government's Guardianship of Infants Bill in the House of Lords last June. Our readers will remember that Lord Haldane then said "She (the mother) has not altogether the same status (as the father) because it is necessary to preserve the position of the family unit, and, if you have a unit, there must be a head to that unit."

Equal Rights tells us that following the decision of Mr. McCarl, Dr. Jarvis has been obliged to sign her husband's name to the pay-roll in order to draw her pay, although she has not otherwise accepted his name and continues to be known by her own. The Woman's Party is pressing for the passing of the National Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution—that men and women shall have equal rights throughout the United States, and every place subject to its jurisdiction, and their organ asserts that when this Amendment is passed, it will mean that a woman will no longer be compelled to sign her husband's name in order to draw her salary, because no man is obliged to sign his wife's name in order to draw his. Every Government official, from the highest to the lowest, will then be bound to respect the right of a married woman to her own name.

We congratulate our American sisters on their determination to fight for the right of a married woman to retain her own name if she so chooses, and for equality of rights in every direction as between men and women. Needless to say, we whole-heartedly wish them every success in their cause.

PRESS AND PUBLIC MORALS.

We are glad to record that at the Annual Conference at the Institute of Journalists, held last week at Margate, a resolution adopted at the last Conference was reaffirmed—that no member should supply, or assist in the propagation of, any report giving undue prominence to nauseous and intimate details of divorce cases and murders, and other criminal cases, or be a party to the publication of any matter calculated to injure public morality. The Conference also reaffirmed a resolution that, in the interests of public morality and the training of future citizens, all newspapers should be urged to withhold the names of juvenile offenders tried or convicted in Children's Courts, as well as those innocently involved in criminal cases.

BEST SEATS FOR THE THEATRES!

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

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN NEW ZEALAND.

A recent issue of the *British Australian and New Zealander* reports that for the third time the New Zealand House of Representatives has sent to the Legislative Council an amendment to the Justices of the Peace Act making it clear that women may be appointed justices. The two previous Bills were rejected by the Legislative Council. Mr. Wilford, who introduced the Bill, explained that it was a small instalment of a scheme which he hoped to see carried out in the Dominion. He hoped to see women's courts established at least in the four centres, by way of experiment, to which could be referred troubles that occurred in which women were concerned. There would also be appointed, under control of the Justice Department, what was known in America as the "City Mother." This woman, whose judgment was valued by the police and administrators of the law, investigated troubles over wayward children and marital difficulties. He had investigated these two branches of social reform in America, finding them quite successful. When they saw the public positions held by women in America, they must admit we were far behind in such matters. Mr. Wilford was subjected to a considerable amount of chaff on the ground that, in 1918, he had refused to appoint women jurors because women's prejudices were of the heart rather than the mind. He admitted that he had changed his opinions as a result of what he had seen in the course of two visits to America. Other members were not, however, prepared to discard such antediluvian prejudices, and eighteen voted for an amendment which sought to limit appointments to women not less than 40 years of age. These gentlemen trotted out the usual time-worn arguments, but met with little support. Thus the Bill was read a third time and consigned to the tender mercies of the Legislative Councillors.

SERVANTS AND MISTRESSES IN BERLIN.

The domestic service problem is a difficulty in Germany as well as in this country. According to the *Observer*, social experts in Berlin put the increase of unemployment in general, and particularly in Berlin, down to the growing numbers of women out of work. This is said to be due, not to a stagnation in the textile, or any other trade chiefly dependent on female labour, but to the number of householders who find it impossible to keep a domestic servant any longer. Prices, on the whole, are rather on the increase than the decrease, and so are servant girls' wages. The Socialist paper *Vorwaerts* recently tried, though in vain, to draw up a suitable scale which housewives attacked as too high, and maids as too low. In all cases insurance is borne by employers entirely, although legally intended to be shared by both parties.

MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE

has consented to give a special Matinée Performance of

Trojan Women

in the
NEW THEATRE, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
on

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD, AT 3.30 P.M.,

to help the work of

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Lady Mary Murray will make an introductory speech.

USUAL PRICES.

MISS BONDFIELD'S MISSION.

Last Saturday, Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Labour), sailed for Canada at the head of a delegation to inquire into the problems of child settlement in that country. Mrs. Harrison Bell, Vice-President of the Industrial Women's Organisations, and Mr. G. F. Plant, Secretary to the Overseas Settlement Committee, accompanied her as well as Mr. W. Garnett, who is acting as secretary to the delegation. About 1,200 children are settled annually in Canada, being sent there by Dr. Barnardo's Homes, the Salvation Army, and other institutions. In a statement, Miss Bondfield said:—"We have a very definite object in view, namely, to elicit the opinion of various groups in Canada, such as Government departments, Labour and employers' groups, and social welfare workers, with regard to the very important question of child migration. Our work will be of a very detailed kind. We hope to visit a large number of individual cases of children who have been either adopted or boarded out, and we shall hope to discuss with the authorities any proposals which they may wish to make for the smooth working of any schemes mutually agreed upon. We expect to get over to the coast, but that will depend to some extent on how far we can keep to our time-table. We anticipate leaving Canada at the end of October."

GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FAIR.

To be held this year on

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th & 29th,

at

THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

FRIDAY, November 28th, from 3 to 9 p.m.
SATURDAY, November 29th, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To be formally opened each day at 3 p.m.

ON FRIDAY BY

MRS. HILTON PHILIPSON, M.P.

Chairman: Mrs. JUSON KERR, J.P.

ON SATURDAY BY

MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE, M.P.

Chairman: Councillor Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P. (Middlesbrough).

ENTERTAINMENTS.

GAMES.

DISPLAY BY MISS WOOLLACOTT'S PUPILS (Saturday 29th)

Novel Competitions:

RINGS OF SKILL. HIDDEN TREASURE HUNT.
MADAME C. M. CARR'S STRING ORCHESTRA.
PHRENOLOGY. CHARACTER READING.

THE CHANTANT (4 to 6 p.m. each day).

Teas, Suppers, and Refreshments at moderate prices.

Exhibition of Lace-Making by the Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.

Other Societies taking Stalls:—

Council for International Service.
St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance.
The British Esperanto Association.
The Food Education Society.
The London Association for the Blind.
The Montessori Society.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Miss Maud F. Edwards (Handweaving).
Miss Nettleton (Association Deaf and Dumb).
Mrs. Rogers (South Indian Village Industries).

Tickets (including tax)—2/6 the first day until 5 o'clock; after 5 p.m. and on second day, 1/2—will shortly be on sale at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or can be obtained at the doors.

All communications and gifts (also applications for Stalls) should be sent to Miss E. Berry, Hon. Fair Sec., at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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—Councillor Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. WHETTON.

Vote Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK.

Literature Department—Joint Hon. Heads:

Mrs. PIEROTTI and Miss HARVERSON, LL.B.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, October 6th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead.

Branch Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3.

(by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Friday, October 10th, at 8 p.m. Public

Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand.

Saturday, October 11th, at 10 a.m. National

Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High

Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 13th, at 3.30 p.m. "Fair"

Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High

Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday and Saturday, November 28th and

29th, Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White and Gold Fair.

To be opened on Friday, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P., and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.

DARE TO
BE FREE.

BRANCH NOTES.

MINERVA CLUB.

A Branch Meeting will be held on Friday, September 26th, and a Whist Drive on Friday, October 3rd. Tickets for the latter can be obtained from the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, price 2s.

MID-LONDON.

A Branch Meeting will be held on Monday, September 29th, at 6.15 p.m. All members are urged to be present to discuss the winter's work.

NEW HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Under the 1923 Housing Act (the Minister of Health at that time being Mr. Neville Chamberlain), the official figures provided by the Ministry of Health, on August 13th last, show that 154,141 houses had been authorised. Of those, 21,952 were completed, 49,042 were now under construction, and there were contracts and definite arrangements for the others. Notwithstanding the building dispute, more than 4,000 cottages were completed in July, and contracts signed for more than 8,000.

Prices, however, are still rising. The following figures for each month give the average price of houses included in contracts placed by local authorities for parlour houses: January, £445; February, £439; March, £460; April, £442; May, £477; June, £458; July, 498. In the case of non-parlour houses, the average price has gone up from £384 in January to £420 in July.

CLASSES IN PUBLIC SPEAKING.

We have received a prospectus from Miss Lucy D. Bell of her classes in Public Speaking for the Michaelmas Term, to be held at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., together with a programme of very interesting Debates arranged by her. Further particulars to be obtained from Miss Bell at the Minerva Club.

BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

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

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

"Ladies Only" Compartments.

DEAR MADAM.—In reply to your correspondent, E. M. White, may I point out that the Equality for which we are fighting is not that we should have the same tastes as men, but that we should have equal political, economic, and industrial facilities for the development of our own tastes and the fulfilment of our own wishes.

For the first forty years of their existence, Railway Companies were not compelled to provide smoking carriages. By the 'sixties, some men wished for such accommodation, and, by the power of their votes, were able to secure Sec. 20 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1867, which secured for them the accommodation they desired. Some pre-war women (myself included) wished for "Ladies Only" compartments, but we had no voting power and therefore, as an official of the late L.N.W.R. put it to me, "We do not mind about women's grievances because they have no votes wherewith to block our Bills." Now that I have got a vote I mean to use it to reverse this attitude towards women's interests.

The provision of ladies' compartments will not compel E. M. White to occupy them. If she is so happily circumstanced that she can have her summer frocks freshly laundered every day, or if she has completely emancipated herself from the vanities of this wicked world—as indeed her letter would lead one to believe—she would still be at liberty to travel between a sooty stoker and an oily engineer, on cushions previously occupied by a sweep, with perhaps a greasy butcher as her *vis-à-vis*, but she has no right to force other women to travel under such conditions. Women's freedom does not mean the substitution of the dictatorship of E. M. White for the tyranny of pre-war men.

I do not think we need to trouble ourselves over the sorrows of men travellers. If the man of to-day wants "Men Only" compartments which shall be out of bounds to Babie (what about boy babies with internal upsets?) and Little Bits of Fluff, he has the same means at his disposal for obtaining his desires as had his grandfather for obtaining his smoking carriage in the 'sixties; we have not yet disfranchised men.

Yours, L. PEARSON.

Empress Club, W. I.

DEAR MADAM.—Your correspondent, Mrs. White, has evidently misunderstood our agitation for railway carriages for "Ladies Only." It is essentially a demand for equality of treatment. "Smoking" carriages are generally recognised as reserved for men, and though women and girls use them (for lack of other accommodation), they are quite plainly regarded as intruders. It is certainly not "invariably possible" to avoid the risk of travelling alone with a strange man in a non-corridor compartment, as Mrs. White would realise if she used, or even watched, suburban trains. As an example—on the line I use there are eleven stops between the starting and terminal points—how can a girl be sure of a companion the whole way? What is she to do if left alone at one station and at the next joined by a strange man? On occasions I have been joined by men in various stages of intoxication, and a friend of mine, by a man who, after attempting to open a conversation, produced a razor which he proceeded to strop on the window strap! Even a run of seven minutes to the next station is nerve-racking under such conditions. Surely the fact that not one week elapses without an assault—or attempted assault—on a woman traveller being reported on some line in the country, is justification for our claim that women—as well as smokers—should have carriages reserved!

The question of dress—though of real importance in many cases—is of less weight than that of the safety of our girls. As for the "toilet operations," in many years' daily travelling I have only twice found these performed (on the suburban lines) by girls—but I have constantly been nauseated by the men who clean and trim their nails in public! The provision of more non-smoking carriages—however desirable—would not entirely meet the necessity. A woman or girl cannot ask to have the solitary man removed from such a carriage, but she has that right if the compartment is labelled "Ladies Only," and this is unquestionably a safeguard.

Yours, M. I. NEAL.

JOIN THE PEACE PROCESSION.

To-morrow (Saturday) there will be a Youth Peace Procession and Demonstration in Hyde Park. The Procession will form up at 2.30 p.m. at Temple Station, leaving for Hyde Park at 3 p.m. There will be two platforms from which Youth representatives will speak at 4 p.m. Will volunteers first call at our office for VOTES and sell them on the route? There will also be a Meeting at Holborn Empire at 3 o'clock at which more VOTE sellers will be wanted.

MARRIAGE.

Harvey—Powell: On the 8th September at Holy Trinity Church, Coleman's Hatch, Rita, third daughter of the late Frank Henry, of Tuticorin, South India, and of Mrs. Kate Harvey, of Hartfield, to Roger Powell, of Charity Farm, Chiddingfold, eldest son of Oswald Powell, of Streep, Hants.

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 19,
1924.

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.

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. Bedrooms available during summer months. 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.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 21st. 6.30 p.m. Miss Maude Royden: "A Sermon on Old Age."

TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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

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

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.

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.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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

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

CORNWALL.—Superior Farmhouse board-residence for September, one mile city and River Fal. Splendid centre. Moderate terms.—LAMBESSOW, Truro.

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

TO LET

FURNISHED or UNFURNISHED Rooms, £1 1s. Breakfast. Electric light, gas fires, telephone, constant hot water, use of kitchen, tennis.—11, Holland Park, W. Telephone: Park 4878.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—Two large single rooms, £35 and £45 yearly, 1st floor. Electric light, geyser bath, use of kitchen on same floor, garden with tennis court, vegetarian meals served if required. No meat cooked on premises.—84, BOUNDARY ROAD. Apply in writing or call after 6 p.m.

BUNGALOW.—TOWN SHOREHAM, Sussex. Three bedrooms. Water laid in bedrooms, gas fires, sitting-room, bathroom, kitchen, telephone. Three guineas per week.—Apply A.B.C., VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

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LUNCHEON & SMOKING ROOMS.

GOOD FOOD. QUICK SERVICE. BRIGHT ROOMS.

SMART CUT, AND ::
PERFECT TAILORING
AT MODERATE ::
PRICES.

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PERSONAL ATTENTION.

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

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.