

THE VOTE,
JANUARY 16, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO LIVE!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 16, 1920.

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.

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COME TO OUR PUBLIC MEETING

On **MONDAY, JANUARY 19th, 1920,**
ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND, W.C.2.
At 7.30 P.M.

"Women's Right to Live"

Speakers: **Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY**, **Miss LIND-AF-HAGEBY**,
Miss D. EVANS, M.A. (Sec. Assn. Women Clerks & Secretaries), **Miss HASLETT**
(Sec. Women's Engineering Society), **Miss ANNA MUNRO**, **Mrs. MUIR**
STANBURY (Nat. Fed. Women Teachers, London Unit), and **Discharged Women**
Workers. **Chairman: Mrs. MUSTARD.**

Other Societies Co-operating: Nat Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Women's Engineering Society, Women's International League, Independent Women's Social and Political Union, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Nat. Federation of Women Teachers.

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. DESPARD.

I am exceedingly glad to hear that the Women's Freedom League, mindful of its title and its functions, is taking strongly in hand the question of Women's Place in Industry. During the terrible war years lip praise and honour were given to Woman for her invaluable help. Over and over again, from the Press and the platform, she was told that but for her energy, adaptability and self-sacrifice the war could not be won.

It has been won; and, even in the first year of the so-called Peace she is sharply awakened from her dream of confidence. From one and another Women's Union, from department after department of those public services which women, during the war, managed so well, they are being thrown out; and (even worse, as I think) those who have finely proved their capacity for leadership and organisation are being practically told that they must give way to men. The higher posts are not for them. Now that men have got through their fighting they must be given, over the heads of intelligent and trained women, posts for which in some cases women will have to prepare them.

Naturally the cry goes up to those who rule—is this fair? Is it right? Is there, in fact any reason why men and women of equal capacity should not have an

equal opportunity of rising in the profession they may have chosen?

The question which is becoming urgent and critical comes actually to this: Has woman a right to live? Can she righteously and legitimately claim the right to such work as will enable her to live? We of the Women's Freedom League are determined that this question shall be thrashed out. The first step in that direction is the meeting which will be held on Monday, the 19th inst., at the Memorial Hall, and which, I hope, will be largely attended not only by members of the League, but by the general public whom it so closely concerns.

I deeply regret that my engagement for a series of lectures in the North of England, arranged many weeks ago, will prevent me from being present, for I am sure that much light will be thrown on a problem difficult and, if not fairly settled, menacing to the stability of society; and I hope helpers will come forward, and measures will be taken to spread through the country a knowledge of what out-of-work women are suffering; so that our demand for justice and fair play may be conceded.

C. DESPARD.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

An Historic Occasion.

For the first time in the history of the Inns of Court women law students have dined with the Benchers. The dinner was in the old Tudor hall of the Middle Temple, where it is believed that the last woman who dined there was Queen Elizabeth, when she attended a banquet, and danced with the Templars some 300 years ago. The women law students were Miss Helena Normanton, Miss Cobb, daughter of the Rector of St. Ethelburga, Bishopsgate, Miss Doherty, and Miss Bruce. It is customary to mess in fours in the Middle Temple, and Miss Normanton sat with Mr. Hubert Sweeny, Mr. Wells Thatcher (with whom she is reading), and Mr. Holford Knight, whilst the other three women students occupied an adjoining table. At the Inner Temple, on the same night, another woman student, Miss Davies, was also dining for the first time, the custodian taking care to find her an end seat, so that she would not have to climb over the bench to get to it! The women seem to have been welcomed by their men colleagues in both halls with the utmost cordiality, and one Bencher even went so far as to wish that Miss Normanton might become the first Lady Chancellor.

Mrs. Ayrton's Fan.

Mrs. Ayrton has been giving an address on her famous anti-gas fan, to a meeting of science teachers, at University College, London. The visitors to the physics theatre were subjected to a miniature "gas" attack, smoke being substituted for gas. The War Office took a year to consider the question when Mrs. Ayrton offered them her fan in May, 1915, and its final acceptance came about in rather a curious way. Mrs. Ayrton's son-in-law telegraphed to Mr. Lloyd George that a lady physicist had invented a fan to prevent gas attacks and that he must see it. In the long run, however, it was Dr. Addison who first witnessed its demonstration, and obtained its acceptance by the War Office.

Gift to Mrs. Fawcett.

Mrs. Fawcett's many friends and admirers were anxious that 1919 should not close without a personal tribute to her to mark the triumph of the Suffrage cause, to which she has given all the best years of her life. They, therefore, presented her with a cheque on New Year's Day, with the hope that it may be used entirely for her own comfort and pleasure. She has replied: "The letter and the wonderful present did indeed give me a keen pang of pleasure, and I do bless and thank all the donors for the love which prompted it, and especially for all the strong backing they have given me in my work. What I accomplished is really due to this; without it I could have done nothing."

Women Engineers.

Though engineering is still a "closed" trade to women it is interesting to know that at least one distinguished engineer, Sir William Beardmore, believes that women can do good work in this direction. In a factory he has started in Scotland women can serve a practical apprenticeship and secure theoretical training, and the venture is doing well. Meantime, the Women's Engineering Society, with Miss Rachel Parsons as President, is still continuing its activities, and has just enlarged its premises at 46, Dover Street, to include a technical library and a clubroom for those interested in mechanics.

Moslem Women Voters.

A conference between representatives of Armenia, Georgia, and the Republic of Azerbaijan is now taking place in Tiflis, with the object of settling outstanding political questions. Georgia and Azerbaijan were already allied, and the inclusion of Armenia is expected as a result of the Conference. Azerbaijan is the only Mussulman country where women exercise the vote, and is the most advanced Mohammedan country in the world. Its first Constituent Assembly begins its sittings next month.

Workers at St. Dunstan's.

Rather special emphasis is laid by Sir Arthur Pearson on the part played by women in helping the men at St. Dunstan's "to learn to be blind," in his book, "Victory Over Blindness," just published by Hodder and Stoughton. "One thinks," he writes, "of the women workers especially—of how they contributed to the happiness of the men, of how they gladdened their hearts, taking the trouble to understand them and to bring just the right kind of cheer and sympathy to bear on their problems."

It is interesting, too, to note that most of the work at St. Dunstan's was undertaken by women, of whom some 600 or more devoted all or a great part of their time to the task of helping to lead the patients "to look upon blindness not as an affliction, but as a handicap; not merely as a calamity, but as an opportunity." The successes achieved by St. Dunstan's men is the best possible proof of the value of their work.

Mrs. Lloyd George, J.P.

Mrs. Lloyd George last week was sworn as a Justice of the Peace for her native county of Carnarvon. She attended the Court of Quarter Sessions, over which the Lord-Lieutenant (Mr. J. E. Greaves) presided. In a clear voice she took the oath administered to her by the Clerk of the Peace, and, having signed the roll, she took her seat on the left-hand side of the Chairman, with whom she shook hands. In a short speech he congratulated her most heartily upon an appointment which marked an historic occasion in the progress of the women's movement.

Abolition in Uruguay.

Dr. Pauline Luisi, President of the Equal Moral Standard Committee in Uruguay, is working hard to obtain the adherence of Uruguay to the International Convention against the White Slave Traffic, signed in Paris in 1910. So far, none of the Latin-American countries, with the exception of Brazil, have joined the Convention. Dr. Luisi has had interviews with the President of the Republic and the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. These have promised their support, and the Minister of Education has drawn up a Report advising the adherence of Uruguay to the Paris Convention. It is hoped that a Bill to this effect will shortly be laid before the Chamber of Deputies.

Votes for Jewish Women.

The question of Women's Suffrage is agitating the orthodox Rabbis of Jerusalem. The Mizrahi, or ultra-orthodox, party in Palestine, recently called a meeting, at which the question was discussed, and decided to take the opinions of the orthodox Rabbis of Jerusalem. These Rabbis took up a position against Women's Suffrage. The Mizrahi, or orthodox organisation of England, on the other hand, have declared themselves in favour of granting the franchise to women in a properly constituted Jewish Parliament in Palestine. The General Zionist organisation has always been in favour of equal rights for women, and the leaders of the movement at present in Palestine are using all their influence on the side of women's rights.

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DEMOBILISED WOMEN.

Now that the demobilisation crisis has actually arisen for temporary Government clerks, the Press which has consistently demanded their dismissal on the grounds of flapperdom and other false charges appears to be surprised at the extent to which distress exists amongst those women discharged.

The chief problem in connection with the Fisher policy to-day in force is that of the elderly, war-hit, "middle-class" woman, totally untrained in any profession prior to the war. This class of woman is, of course, the result of the old doctrine that all women, married or single, whose relatives of the male sex could afford to support them, should adorn the home, and neither study much nor earn their living themselves, and their pitiful position now that their war-work has ceased is a standing lesson to all women to refuse to accept relegation to the pre-war position of women.

In addition to these, there exists the girl who went straight from school into the office to do general routine work, without any technical training in shorthand or typewriting, and who has now reached an age at which she can ill afford to give two or more years to training, and those who threw up well-paid City posts in order to serve the Government and now find men or juniors employed in their old positions. A man who has served the State is given preference; the woman is considered inferior to those who have remained in the City earning good salaries.

This Association is at present concentrating on obtaining the following concessions in the women's interests:—

(a) Service Gratuities on demobilisation similar to those received by men employed in the Army Pay and other base work.

(b) A month's notice or a month's pay; at present those receiving over £160 a year get a month's notice, and those with less get a week. The latter are supposed to have an additional week's warning "where possible," but these words, as in the War Office, cover a multitude of sins. The authorities have just excused this differentiation by stating that when the circular arranging these matters was issued the £160 and over people were ineligible for donation. As the worse-paid are equally ineligible now we claim equal consideration for them.

(c) Absolute equality with men other than disabled men in temporary retention and in establishment. We understand that men temporary clerks, not necessarily ex-Service men, are to be established without examination in certain cases, on a probationary period. We claim the same concessions for women, who were not in Government offices in order to avoid more strenuous service. We claim that the remarkably high standard shown by the candidates in the temporary women's examination for permanent women clerkships is sufficient justification for the establishment of those above the age-limit for that examination, and those who for other reasons were unable to compete on that occasion. Not every woman clerk was officially notified. Such women should be established on no less advantageous terms than temporary male clerks other than disabled.

The position, for instance, of the women of the Soldiers' Awards Branch, Ministry of Pensions, is a source of great dissatisfaction. These women, who have handled with remarkable efficiency the whole awarding work of the Ministry, and, since they willingly gave over half the work to disabled men, have handled half the regiments without the possibility of adverse criticism, are, according to the Pensions' Minister, to be relegated to the Pensions Issue Office, because "that is equivalent to the work of the Post Office Savings Bank Dept., a department reserved for women before the war." Present signs do not indicate any establishment for the higher grade women who have proved their work in this Department.

DOROTHY EVANS, M.A.

(Gen. Sec., Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries).

THE MADRID CONFERENCE.

CALL TO SUFFRAGISTS.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, U.S.A., President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, has issued, in the January number of *Jus Suffragi*, the following appeal for delegates to the forthcoming Conference at Madrid:

The Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance hereby call its twenty-six National Auxiliaries to send duly accredited delegates to the Eighth International Congress, convening in Madrid, Spain, May 2nd to 8th, 1920.

The affiliated National Woman Suffrage Associations of Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America are each entitled to twelve delegates; and those of Austria, Bohemia and Galicia are each entitled to two delegates. Applications for affiliation will be received from National Woman Suffrage Associations in Argentina, Cuba, Spain, and Uruguay.

A special invitation to send

official delegates,

is extended to the Governments of the world. National Associations which are in sympathy with our movement are invited to send fraternal delegates. Specially invited delegates are also expected from Burma, China, India, Japan, and the Dutch East Indies. Individuals of whatever race, nativity, or creed, who believe in the rights of the woman citizen to protect her interests in society by the ballot are invited to be present.

Since the last Congress, held in Budapest in 1913, the greatest of world wars has devastated the earth. Out of its cruel sorrows and tragedies women of many nations have emerged politically free. The last seven years have witnessed victories for the cause of woman suffrage in no fewer than sixteen countries. In Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, British East Africa, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Jamaica, Poland, Rhodesia, Russia and Sweden, women have been wholly or partially enfranchised, and in the United States of America, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, New York, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, and Michigan have been added to those States which have given full equal suffrage to women: the Federal Amendment has passed both Houses of Legislature and has been ratified by twenty-two of the necessary thirty-six States. This

triumph of justice

is assuredly one of the most definite and permanent results of the world war now visible. There is universal regret among women that their political liberty has come through the suffering of others, but they rejoice that it is here. No more shall effort be wasted in the struggle to secure to women the rights of responsible citizens. Instead, endowed with new privilege and power, they are free to turn their hearts and hands to the great problems of their national life.

Is our work together at an end? Or shall we go on until the women of every land are likewise emancipated? Is the emancipation of women complete, or is there other work yet to be done before that end is attained? Do the women of the world send a call to us for additional service which bids us march on farther?

These are serious questions which we must ask ourselves, and we shall ask them in a Latin country, so that the gospel of our faith in women may be heard where it is needed. Fellow suffragists of all lands, send delegates to the Congress in Madrid, that we may hear together the marvellous story of our movement since last we met, and that we may counsel together how best to use our newly won power for the good of all nations.

A woman, Mme. Cubayne, has been elected a member of the Chamber of Commerce at Cahors, France.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 16th. 1920.

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To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,
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Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

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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PEACE A REALITY.

Last Saturday afternoon, fourteen months after the arrangement of the Armistice, and six-and-a-half months after the ceremony of the signature of the Peace Treaty, the last formalities of Peace were concluded, and all the documents were signed. The Treaty is now in force, and a state of peace definitely exists between us and our former enemies. The chapter closes on a five years' devastating war, in which lie buried indescribable anguish and suffering and an incalculable wastage of life and material. It is impossible—it will always be impossible—to enumerate the losses sustained by any one of the belligerent countries. The account is closed, and we must begin afresh to make plans for the future. The League of Nations has been established, and a gigantic effort must be made on the part of every country to make it a genuine force in the affairs of the world, which has now to be organised for Peace, and not for War. The problems of Peace are more far-reaching and in many ways more difficult than those of War—every citizen is vitally concerned in the solution of these problems. Women, even more than men, are convinced that the old ideas of competition, rivalries and antagonisms among the nations must give way to their co-operation in the interests of all; and that no country can be really prosperous so long as another is suffering from want and misery. The position and influence of women throughout the world have remarkably improved during the last five years; and they are being recognised more and more as the co-partners with men in the building of every nation. This fact will be clearly in evidence in the coming Conference of women to be held at Madrid in May, convened by the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. Women will there take stock of their resources and review the progress of the Women's Movement in every country. Nothing but good can result from this Conference. The women who have a strong position in their own country cannot fail to strengthen those who are in a less favoured position in other countries; and all will resolve that in the near future women, as well as men, shall have control of their nation's affairs. Women will always be better internationalists than men, and the more they come to understand their own national interests, the more they will realise how closely these are bound up with those of other nations. Humanity—the race—is the great primary interest of the women of all nations. What they seek is the power to safeguard that interest, securing a share first of all in the counsels of their own nation, and afterwards, at no long distance, we hope, a full representation in the counsels of the League of Nations—to secure the permanent Peace of the World.

MORE PRODUCTION.

Pictorial propaganda is one of the innovations of Mr. Lloyd George's régime. Picture posters summoned the young men to the War, the young women to work on the land, the older men to munition-making—all classes to save both bread, fuel and money—and now, when a state of Peace exists, our suburban stations are plastered with the heads of five Labour Leaders, underneath which appear extracts from their recent speeches, calling upon workers of all kinds to produce more, earn more, and get more. Messrs. Clynes, Hodge, Brownlie, Thomas and Brace solemnly join in the universal cry for more Production, Mr. Hodge varying it with the statement that it is with sorrow and pain that he sees the workers producing less, and Mr. Brace, to the astonishment of most of us, appealing to women as well as men, whatever occupation they pursue, to secure the greatest possible output! Is it possible that Mr. Brace has forgotten the fact that he and all the other members of the Labour Party deliberately caused under-production in this country by compelling the Government to pass into law the Restoration of Pre-War Practices Act which is now on the Statute Book and in vigorous operation throughout the country? By this Act, and by the Home Office's prohibition of night work for women, many thousands of competent women have been debarred from employment in trades and sections of trades in which they had become skilled workers, because men Trade Unionists feared their competition. Working women would be only too glad to have the chance to earn more, and get more; but working men selfishly refuse to give them that chance. Does Mr. Brace understand that his appeal to women is sheer mockery?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Next Session a new Unemployment Insurance Bill is to be introduced by the Government, the provisions of which will largely affect working women. Hitherto, only men engaged in building and constructional works, shipbuilding, mechanical engineering, ironfounding, sawmilling and vehicle building, and in various trades connected with the manufacture of munitions were insured against unemployment. Under the proposed new Bill men and women in all industries and trades, with the exception of domestic service and agriculture, will be compelled to pay contributions against unemployment. *Ways and Means* tells us that at present about three and a half million workers fall within the scope of the existing Acts; but if the new Bill becomes law about eleven and three-quarter millions between the ages of 16 and 70 will be brought in. There will be a few classes exempted from compulsory contributions, such as employed persons who are not manual workers and who earn more than £250 a year, workers with rights under superannuation schemes, certain classes of teachers, casual labour not employed in trade or business, and crews of fishing vessels remunerated by shares in profits or earnings; but at any time the Minister of Labour, with the sanction of the Treasury, may bring these classes also into the scheme.

The contributions under this new Bill will be as follows: Men, 3d. per week; women, 2½d.; boys between 16 and 18 years of age, 2d.; and girls between the same ages, 1½d.—the employers in each case making an identical contribution, and the State a grant equivalent to one-third of the total amount of their contributions. The benefits will be 15s. per week for men, 12s. for women, 7s. 6d. for boys, and 6s. for girls. Not more than 15 weeks benefit may be drawn in any insurance year, and in the first year not more than eight weeks. There is, of course, neither equality of contributions nor of benefits for men and women under this scheme—and this inequality of treatment can only serve to accentuate women's inferior economic position in the State.

WOMEN AND INSURANCE.

AN ENTERPRISING COMPANY.

The necessity for filling up the places of men called to the fighting forces during the war years gave women an insight into many kinds of work of which up to that time they had been ignorant, and obliged them to familiarise themselves with professional and commercial customs and methods without the advantage of previous training. In many professions and businesses it was only the hack-work that could be entrusted to them, but there were other cases where, at short notice, they had to slip into, and adapt themselves to fill positions of great responsibility, involving serious obligations. The result of all this is that, as a whole, women have gained a firmer footing in all spheres of labour, and a very much wider and more varied choice of work for which the younger generation may qualify themselves. Not the least of the advantages gained by this experience is the recognition by women that for the better posts and the best work a training of years is absolutely necessary.

The Insurance Office,

and all the work that comes under Insurance, provides a case in point. There is here a large amount of hack-work, as there is also a large amount of outside work, which women can do easily as well as men, but the responsible positions in the profession call for long and careful preparation by training and study, and, for what is almost as essential, a certain psychological fitness.

Women have for some years past been doing outside work for the large insurance houses as agents and inspectors, even as speakers and writers, and inside work as accountants. But there have been very few women who have had the hardihood to go in for the actuarial course, and, even then, to rise above the position of actuarial clerk. To become a manager of a department calls for both inside and outside experience, as well as for the passing of examination tests; therefore it is not surprising that the number of women who are holding such positions may easily be counted on the fingers of one hand! Up to the present time, indeed, only one of the larger Insurance companies has gone out of its way to establish a special

Women's Section

staffed by women. Here, Mrs. Marjorie R. Verden is in full charge, with a selected staff of assistants; and a woman medical officer, Dr. Christine Murrell, acts for the company. It is quite likely that in the near future others will follow the enterprising example of this pioneer company, since when one sheep breaks through a barrier the rest of the flock invariably follow. Yet each woman appointed to open out such a venture on the part of any firm will find that in every instance her work is the hard and often discouraging work of the pioneer. This is the opinion of Mrs. Verden, after considerable experience, and Miss Allport, another authority, advises the woman who embarks upon Insurance to study her own psychology before attempting it! Miss Edith Beesley, appointed as manager of the Women's Advisory Department of some well-known Insurance brokers, acts in a rather different capacity, as she gives advice without being attached to any company in particular.

There is undoubtedly a prospect of women becoming more and more attracted to Insurance as an investment for savings, and as a means of providing against accidents and untimely death, and even more especially as one of the easiest and surest means of securing a certain income for old age. Women are earning larger salaries and better wages than was formerly possible, and they are also bearing heavier burdens as bread-winners for dependents, and their responsibilities tend to make them anxious to know what means they should

take to safeguard themselves and others. What the men of the family realised years ago the women are beginning to realise now. So well have men appreciated the protection that Insurance gave them that it has become quite usual for a business man to insure heavily during his hazardous years in order to be sure of leaving wife and family provided for should he be taken from them. It is not likely that this feeling would influence women so strongly, but, on the other hand, the dread of an old age, without means, becomes

a veritable nightmare!

With two different forces actuating them, men and women require different methods of dealing as clients, and in the case of women a more elastic system may be necessary, which women are best suited to suggest and manage. Women clients, again, are sometimes shy of approaching large companies with their smaller requirements, and are often attracted to joining friendly societies instead, sometimes to their sad regret.

There is scope for much useful work before women who fit themselves for the positions of Advisory Managers, but such posts will be few, and will call for exceptional qualifications. On the other hand, Insurance work covers so many branches and offers so great a variety of work, both inside and outside a company's walls, that young women who are prepared to study hard and work hard may turn their eyes towards this field of promise, and find it reward them well for their trouble. It is also a field of work in which individuality and personality count for much, and this is a factor which invariably attracts women, and quite as often repels men!

L. H. YATES.

A TRIBUTE TO LADY ASTOR.

In the January number of *Jus Suffragi* the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton contributes a warm appreciation of our first woman Member. Mrs. Lyttelton describes her extraordinary capacity for friendship with numbers of people of varying types. "In a few moments she has attacked, she has found the secret entrance, she is up the stairs and in the citadel. . . . The doors fly open at her touch because her impulse is love and not curiosity, and her desire is to help, not to probe or analyse." The Press has waxed enthusiastic over the wit and gaiety of the Member for Plymouth when addressing political meetings. Mrs. Lyttelton reveals a deeper side: "She pledges herself to no opinion or promise, she goes to no meeting, and makes no speech without inward prayer." Her courage and fearlessness are eulogised. "She hits out at all selfishness and all bitterness, in whatever class she finds it, and is not afraid to tell a slatternly woman that she need not be dirty, any more than she would be afraid to tell a war profiteer he has no business to spend his money on luxuries." The happiness of her home life is commented on. "The new Member is a wife, a mother of six children, and a woman through and through." And again in the same connection: "She takes religion, home, children, friends, work, amusements, games, talks, in her stride, and carries everything along with her in a gay turmoil. Thus, many of her friends grudge her to political life, and an afraid that her particular gifts will not have their best setting. This may be true, but, on the other hand, her passionate sympathy with suffering of all kinds, her moral fervour, her radiant faith, are needed in politics, as elsewhere."

A Notable Conversion.

General Smuts has come round on the Woman's Question, and is now a declared suffragist. Resolutions in favour of Woman Suffrage, and in favour of election to the Senate, have been adopted by the Congress of the South African Party.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

(To the Editor of THE VOTE.)

Madam,—In THE VOTE of January 2nd, Aimée Gibbs asks, "Is Domestic Service Women's Work or Men's?" The answer to that depends upon answers to other questions. Does Aimée Gibbs imply that a girl looking forward to "having a home of her own" depends upon her being married? If so, of course, in a home supported by a husband he certainly expects his wife to do the domestic work, if he cannot afford a servant, in return for her keep. But in a home supported by a woman's own exertions, then it does not mean that domestic work is woman's sphere! It is this latter fact which makes it imperative that girls should not be made to waste time by the educational authorities on domestic subjects during the precious school years, which should be devoted to more intellectual subjects—mathematics, etc.—absolutely essential, if women hope to be able to compete with men for anything but blind-alley occupations and drudgery. Those women who do look forward to marrying, let them, when they do marry, by all means qualify for that profession thoroughly. Any educated girl will master those subjects in a very short time, as far as they can be taught, but all girls should certainly not waste time in studying ridiculously long for a profession they not only don't desire, but will never enter. Let those who select wifehood and motherhood as their profession qualify fully by all means, but that will not be until they are adult. All men in the past have been able to have all their domestic drudgery done for them by women, however superior intellectually to themselves. The most mediocre of men has gone to his daily work unhandicapped by domestic drudgery. The modern woman demands the same right! Given equal educational advantages and chances in the labour market, she also will be able to start for her day's work untired by domestic drudgery—she will be enabled to pay somebody else to do it for her, because she will earn sufficient money to do so. If domestic help costs too much for her purse (and, rightly, domestics are demanding good pay for such eminently useful work, which evidently is found so very uncongenial by men as well as women) then she must do it herself, and I venture to think that it will not be long before men of moderate means will have to ask themselves: "Can I find a girl of equal social and intellectual status with myself who will be willing to marry me and undertake to do the domestic drudgery for myself and my children?" He can no longer rely (fortunately) on his wife being able to command the services of a poorly-paid domestic drudge. The poor bachelor will have to do like the poor spinster—do it himself. There is no dearth whatever of excellent servants, more than sufficiently trained for ordinary middle-class households, if they liked domestic service, but they don't! Therefore, no amount of "let us pretend" that domestic work is an intellectual occupation requiring "years of training" in order to take a degree in "Domestic Service" will procure servants for the future. The only solution seems to be the endowment of motherhood—so that her income can pay half the salary of the very necessary domestic help she requires to help her in her arduous labour of bearing and rearing the family. Her husband will pay the other half. If they cannot afford a help at all, then he, with his short working day, must do his part of the domestic drudgery, just as his wife and the bachelor and spinster will have to do. With regard to girls "flocking to be nurses" in preference to domestic servants, the cases are scarcely parallel. How many nurses would there be did they spend their day in a house (not lively institutions) working for a mistress, however sympathetic she might be, under doctors strictly limited to her own sex, and nursing patients, again strictly limited to her own sex? I fear very few.—Yours truly,

ALICE HEALE.

WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

(To the Editor of THE VOTE.)

Dear Madam,—In my article on Women Justices, which appeared in THE VOTE for last week, I am represented as saying that (a few years ago) "nearly all the Magistrates in Home County Districts were Conservatives." What I did say was that they were so in "some County Districts." This is incontestable.

Lord Loreburn said, in 1906: "Sometimes the proposition is five to one, sometimes twenty-five to one, and in one case it was seventy to one only a few years ago."

I should like to add that the administration of some of the Benches, in neglecting various humane provisions made by the legislature, was so bad that, two or three years ago Parliament had again to interfere so as to try to improve the administration. Generally the County Benches were the worst. Some of the Boroughs have been good. But what is really needed is the improvement in the administrators, which the addition of women, representing all classes and different social and political views, would give.—Yours, etc.,

J. THEODORE DODD.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

The Public Meeting on Monday at the Large Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, will be the great opportunity for women to demand full equality with men in the Government Training Schemes, the opening of Trade Unions to women on equal terms with men, and to fight the Government's motto, "Everything for Him and nothing for Her." The Government is clamouring for increased production, yet they are deliberately wasting valuable human material, for the past four years has taught us that if women can build ships, aeroplanes, etc., they can build houses, and, when properly taught and trained, can engage in all those trades now reserved exclusively for men. But unless women bestir themselves and wake up to the fact that it is only by full equality of women with men that anything satisfactory can be arrived at, the results will be disastrous.

Everyone loves Justice. The other day, at Preston, the Judge, in giving six months' imprisonment to a young woman from the Army Pay Office for forgery and fraud, made a little speech upon women offenders, to the effect that "it must be clearly understood that when it came to meting out justice to offenders no distinction could be made between men and women." Quite so, but what about the out-of-work donation to the women in the Army Pay Office, the W.R.A.F.'s, W.A.A.C.'s, W.R.N.S.'s? This donation finished last November, yet men in His Majesty's Forces are still securing an out-of-work donation. Here is a case of privileges granted by the State, yet women are only specified when the State is meting out justice to offenders. There are no privileges for them. Now is our great opportunity. We have the power of the vote, for which we have worked hard and long. Are we going to use this vote or are we going to sit in our easy-chairs and do nothing, just feeling happy and rejoicing in the possession of the vote, mumbling to ourselves the words of the Prime Minister's promise of the New World which he dreamed of when out of Britain?

This has never been the attitude of the Women's Freedom League. We shall rally on Monday next to the call of *Women's Right to Live, and to Work*, and with one voice demand full and equal treatment of women with men.

ALIX M. CLARK.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

DARE TO
BE FREE

Saturday, January 17.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 10 a.m.

Monday, January 19th.—Public Meeting, Large Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. "Women's Right to Live." 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury, Miss Lind-at-Hageby, Miss D. Evans, M.A. (Sec. Assn. Women Clerks and Secretaries), Miss Haslett (Sec. Women's Engineering Society), Mrs. Muir Stanbury (N.F. Women Teacher's, London Unit.), Miss Anna Munro and Discharged Women Workers. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

Wednesday, January 21.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Mothers' Pensions." Chair: Mrs. Tanner, 3 p.m.

Friday, January 23.—Drawing Room Meeting, 94, Cambridge Gardens, Ladbroke Grove, W. (by kind permission of Miss Marian Reeves). Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. Subject: "Why We Need Women M.P.'s." 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 24.—Herne Hill and Norwood Branch Meeting at 69, Danecroft Road, S.E. Important business. 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Raleigh. Subject: "The Rights of Animals in Ancient and Modern Times." Chair: Mrs. Stebbing, 3 p.m.

Friday, January 30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Debate: "Does Dr. Montessori Preach a New Gospel in Matters Educational?" Chair: Miss Agnes Dawson (President, N.F.W.T.). Proposer: Dr. Jessie White (Org. Sec., Montessori Society). Opposer: Councillor Margaret Hodges, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Councillor Norah March, B.Sc. Subject: "Child Welfare." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood, 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mr. W. Clarke Hall. Subject: "The Naughty Child." Chair: Mrs. J. E. Cliffe, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill. Subject: "The Reading Public." Chair: Mrs. Earengay, 3 p.m.

Monday, February 16.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Rebecca West. Subject: "Women and Crime." Chairman: Miss Munro, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Edith Neville. Subject: "The Work of the Penal Reform League." Chair: Mrs. Metge, 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 19.—Model Parliamentary Election, Belmont Hall, Clapham. Candidates to be announced later. 7 p.m.

Monday, March 1.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Major A. C. Morrison-Bell, M.P. Subject: "Proportional Representation." 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speakers: Hon. Mrs. William Cecil (Member West Sussex County Council). Subject: "Our British Soviet." Chair: Mrs. Keevil Rickford, 3 p.m.

Monday, March 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mr. W. L. George. Subject: "Women Under Socialism." Chair: Miss Pierotti, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Miss Jessie March. Subject: "The Unmarried Mother." Chair: Dr. Patch, 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 27.—Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 10 a.m.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 21.—Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Marie Grigsby. Subject: "Sex Hygiene."

Monday, January 26.—Westcliff. Social at "Ensburry," Eastwood Lane, Westcliff (by kind permission of Mrs. Newberry). 7.15 p.m. Tickets 1s. Each member may bring a friend.

Monday, February 2.—Ashford. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "Mothers' Pensions." 3 p.m.

Monday, February 9.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, 7.30. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject: "Proportional Representation."

Monday, February 23.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, 7.30. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Political Work of the Women's Freedom League."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, January 22.—S.W. London Women's Question Group, 72, Thurligh Road, Clapham (by kind permission of Miss Fryer). Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. Subject: "Woman—the Spoilt Child of the Law." 8 p.m.

Sunday, February 1.—Ashford P.S.A. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, 3 p.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

EDINBURGH.

On Thursday, January 8th, a Social Meeting was held at 44, George IV Bridge, at which there was a Debate on the "Endowment of Motherhood." The leader in favour was Dr. Aimée Gibbs, and against was Miss G. H. Jacob. After hearing the various arguments for and against the scheme, the members took part in a very sustained and animated discussion, which would have been prolonged for longer if time had permitted. On putting the question to the vote the resolution in favour of the "Endowment of Motherhood" was lost by 4 votes to 11, not all present, however, giving a vote. At the next Social Meeting, on February 5th, the Branch hopes to welcome the Scottish organiser, Miss Janet Gibson; and hopes all members will turn out.

G. H. JACOB, Hon. Sec.

MANCHESTER.

On Monday, January 12th, our Study Circle meets, and Miss Neal will give a report of the work of the Women's Housing Committee, of which she is a member. On February 4th another Dance has been arranged to be held at the Women's University Union, from 7—10.30 p.m. All members and friends will be welcomed. In March we are holding our Annual Jumble Sale. Further details will be given later. In the meantime will all who have jumble send it along to us in good time?

Organiser—Miss M. Sackur, 149, Plymouth Grove, C.-on-M., Manchester.

MRS. HOW-MARTYN, M.P.

Yet another local Parliament has been established, this time at Mill Hill (The Hale), Middlesex, in connection with the Mill Hill Literary Society. The membership exceeds 200, and the "Government" itself contains more than one woman. That doughty champion of the Women's Cause, Mrs. Edith How-Martyn—who contested the Hendon Parliamentary Division (which contains Mill Hill) at the last election—holds the Home Office portfolio, and at the forthcoming meeting on January 19th, 1920, is to introduce a Bill for the extension of the Children Act. After making the necessary allowance for the interest usually created by a new venture of this sort, it is a healthy sign that in spite of inclement weather the "House" is usually full; and it is an evidence of the awakened interest in politics brought about by the extension of the franchise that quite half the "House" consists of women.

LONDON HOSTEL FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

A dozen Indian ladies, including one Mahomedan, many of whom are graduates from Indian Universities, are about to start a hostel in London. They are living in England for purposes of higher education and research work. One holds M.B. and B.Sc. degrees from an Indian University, another is writing a thesis on the "Economic Position of India" for the degree of Ph.D., and a third is studying law and is about to enter her name as a law student.

MRS. SAROJINI NAIDU.

Mrs. Naidu, the Indian Poetess, has promised to speak at several of the W.F.L. branches towards the end of February. She hopes to visit Scotland, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Bexhill, etc. She leaves England this month for a tour in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Holland, where she will speak on the Feminist Movement generally, and on the subject of "Votes for Indian Women." She is visiting these countries at the invitation of Dutch, Danish and Scandinavian women's societies.

WOMEN PREACHERS AT ST. BOTOLPH'S

Women are preaching at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, each Thursday in January, at 1.15 p.m. Miss E. C. Higgins officiated on January 8th, and Mrs. Lucy Re-Bartlett on the 15th. Miss Cicely Ellis will take the services on January 22nd and 29th.

NEW YEAR PARTY.

Members and friends who would like to contribute to the expenses of the New Year Party at Mortimer Hall on January 14th are invited to send donations to Miss Pierotti, 144, High Holborn.

Queen's Hall Recital.

We wish all success to Miss Jessie Snow's Violin Recital at the Queen's Hall, on Thursday next, January 22nd, at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY,
JAN. 16,
1920.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

NOTES FROM SWITZERLAND.

We are greatly indebted to one of our members, Miss Doris Brookman, for some interesting notes on the Suffrage movement in Switzerland—and, incidentally, in Madagascar. The Swiss woman, it seems, takes only an apathetic interest in woman suffrage, the reason being, no doubt, that her status in Switzerland is unusually high, and that, apart from the actual franchise, she has for long stood on an almost equal footing with her brothers. The extreme Socialist Party (the Communists) have lately been making efforts at suffrage propaganda amongst the working-class women of German-Switzerland, but have secured little success. Even the suffrage paper which has circulated in the country for the last seven years devotes most of its space to book reviews, musical and dramatic criticisms, topical subjects, and general news items. Very little is given to the expression of women's point of view on matters of interest to women. The last number, says our correspondent, was almost exclusively taken up with a spirited repudiation of a statement which a prominent French journalist had caused to appear in one of the Swiss papers, to the effect that Feminism was the refuge of the plain and disappointed woman! In the issue of December 20th, however, appeared an article under the title, "The Feminine Paradise," from which the following extracts are taken:—

"It would appear that, of all the women of the earth, the Madagascan woman is the most highly privileged. It has been the custom to appraise Paris as the feminine paradise, but whilst the French mother is still contesting the equality of her right with that of her husband in the education of her children, the Madagascan woman is recognised indisputably as the guardian of her offspring, and it is to the woman that the rôle of the head of the family is assigned.

"Amongst the privileges accorded to the Madagascan woman, one or two may be considered to be of a rather debatable nature. For instance, infidelity in woman is covered with a far lighter penalty than the deed of her accomplice. Again, certain Europeans have claimed the right to recognise children born of their relations with native women; but the custom of the island is opposed to this. It is only by mutual agreement, with the consent of the mother that a European father may recognise his and her children.

"The following is the formula with which the Madagascan mother confides her daughter to a suitor:—

"My daughter has full freedom over her body and her heart. Take her, but do not treat her harshly. Break neither tooth nor limb; rather, return her to me just as you receive her."

In the League of Red Cross Societies established in Geneva it is gratifying to learn that an Englishwoman holds the post of third in command, viz., Assistant Secretary-General.

STAMMERING.—A lady who has effected cures in cases of long standing will be pleased to treat any lady or gentleman who may be suffering from this disability.—Write in strict confidence, A. R. B. BAKER, 39, Queen Alexandra Mansions, W.C.1.

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