

THE VOTE.
AUG. 7, 1925.

FAIR PLAY FOR THE MODERN GIRL!

THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 1925

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

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WOMEN M.P.s IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

VI.—MRS. TAWSE JOLLIE, M.P. FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Mrs. Tawse Jollie went out to Rhodesia ten years ago, and is to-day one of the best known and most influential women in the Colony. In 1915, Rhodesia was still under the British South Africa Chartered Co., founded by Cecil Rhodes, and had no political party organisation, and no adequate means of organising public opinion. It was just a country of successful ranchers and miners who had little time or inclination towards cultivating responsible Government. Mrs. Tawse Jollie, a well-known writer and speaker (gifts which, curiously enough, she had hitherto chiefly exercised in this country against the extension of the suffrage to women), thereupon helped to found and became hon. secretary of the Responsible Government or Rhodesian Party, and in 1919, after British women became eligible for a vote and a seat in Parliament, she was immediately nominated for the Legislative Assembly, and was elected by a large majority. Mrs. Tawse Jollie has weathered two elections since 1919, and now represents the constituency of Umtali in Southern Rhodesia. Rhodesia's new constitution for self-government was obtained 18 months ago, and her Members of Parliament, including Mrs. Tawse Jollie, number 30 all told.

"The two subjects in which I am most interested," Mrs. Tawse Jollie told our representative, "are land settlement and education. As regards the former, the kind of settlers Rhodesia wants are people who must not expect too much from their capital or from unskilled

labour, which is plentiful. Rhodesia is a country of real English homes, and we are endeavouring to build up the best types of English life, and to avoid the social problems which press so hardly upon civilization. Our standard of education is also extremely high, and I am working hard to make it compulsory for every white child to become educated. Only the best teachers from England are accepted by the Government, which is willing to form schools and hostels wherever it is possible to obtain a nucleus of 12 children."

Asked about openings for Englishwomen in Rhodesia, Mrs. Tawse Jollie said these chiefly required capital, and an understanding of native labour. There were at least a dozen women farming on their own in Rhodesia, and doing it very profitably, but it was only fair to add that practically all of these had entered into an inheritance founded in the first place by a father or a husband.

Mrs. Tawse Jollie's duties as a Member of Parliament are no sinecure, for it takes her the best part of four days to reach Salisbury, the Westminster of Southern Rhodesia. Her knowledge of farming, gained on her husband's ranch of 60,000 acres devoted to cattle farm-

ing, cotton, maize, and coffee growing, stands her in good stead as a representative of a male electorate chiefly devoted to land cultivation, whilst her point of view on matters affecting the interest of women and children is warmly welcomed by her women constituents.



MRS. TAWSE JOLLIE.

[Photo by]

[Elliott & Fry]

THE HOME OFFICE VOTE.

The annual discussion which takes place in the House of Commons on the Home Office Vote is always of special interest to members of the Women's Freedom League. Members then exercise their right to criticise the activities of this great Department of State and emphasise the necessity of reforms in the domestic life of the community. Last week, it was pointed out to the Home Secretary that more probation officers were necessary, and Sir William Joynson-Hicks promised that if the Criminal Justice Bill is passed into law there will be a very large increase of probation officers. The need for more factory inspectors was emphasised. The Factory Inspectors' recent Report shows that last year there was an increase in the number of accidents and of fatal accidents in our factories and workshops. In ship-building and building construction the casualties were also heavy; suffering from lead poisoning, for which shipbreaking and the manufacture of electric accumulators were responsible for an appalling amount, was on the increase. In 1914, 222 inspectors were employed by the Home Office, by the end of 1924 there were only 205, and it was claimed that there was an intimate connection between the visits of inspectors and the number of accidents and cases of sickness in factories and workshops. The Home Secretary said that his Department had issued new codes of regulations to lessen the risks in Dangerous Trades, and in the new Factories Bill provision would be made for considerable increase in the Inspectorate. With regard to anthrax, a horrible disease, 43 cases and four deaths were reported last year. To combat anthrax, co-operation with other countries is needed in order to deal with the disinfection of wool, but opposition comes from two of our Dominions, India and Australia, and Sir William Joynson-Hicks said it was quite impossible for the Imperial Government to dictate to them, but something was being done to safeguard the workers in hides and skins against anthrax, and, to that end, a conference had been arranged between the Home Office, the employers, and the workers in this trade. The abolition of night baking was advocated, but the Home Secretary pointed out that a Commission had recently reported that it would increase the price of bread by at least a half-penny on the quarter loaf, so that he was not prepared to proceed further in this matter. The case of the boy scalers was the subject of a special appeal to the Government. The Home Secretary admitted that the scaling of boilers, carried on by unfortunate boys who have to get through an aperture 16 inches by 12 inches in a boiler, is a filthy, dirty business; and that there is at present no control over them; no welfare work amongst them; and that their conditions are not such as any humane Minister would desire to see. Unfortunately, the Home Secretary has no power to deal with these boys and their work which is carried out in harbour and in wet docks, which at the present time are outside the purview of all the Factory Acts. Sir William Joynson-Hicks stated, however, that the improvements in regard to the position of these boys are embodied in the draft Factory Bill which he hopes to present to the House. One Member wanted to see more mounted police, but he was reminded that there was such a thing as economy, and that any increase in mounted police would represent a rather expensive item in the Police Vote. We hope that, when the Police Vote comes to be considered, the necessity for *women* police, who are not so expensive as mounted police, will be pressed with vigour. Several Members vigorously attacked the Home Secretary's policy in regard to the admission of aliens to this country, and to their naturalisation. He defended this policy by saying that, were this country not in the position it is to-day in regard to unemployment, much might be said for allowing it to be used, as it has been for many centuries, as a refuge for the distressed of other nations; but since we have

1,250,000 unemployed, he was not prepared to allow any alien to come into the country to take a job which might by any possibility be taken by an Englishman. Sir William Joynson-Hicks further declared that if Parliament desired to defer all questions of naturalisation to a Committee it would save him a great deal of trouble and take a great load of responsibility off his shoulders; but since Parliament had placed the responsibility upon him, and given him the duty of deciding in the interest of this country whether it is desirable to naturalise a man or not, they must do one of two things—either turn him out or trust him. We cannot help wishing that the subject of nationality of a British woman married to an alien had come up for discussion, and that the Home Secretary had been pressed to restore to British women the right to retain their own nationality on marriage, either with or without the consent of our self-governing Dominions. It is all very well for the Home Secretary to state that if an alien has married an English wife, that fact goes a long way to convincing him that his heart is in England. We are more concerned with the English wife than with her alien husband, and consider that the law of this country ought not to deprive her of her right of British nationality simply and solely because she weds a foreigner.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Woman Crack Shot.

Miss M. E. Foster, wearing knee-breeches, rain-coat, and a soft hat, made the surprising score of 98 out of a possible 105 in a recent competition at Bisley of the London and Middlesex Counties Rifle Association. She beat 21 crack marksmen, including two silver medallists and two bronze medallists. She scored 33 out of the possible 35 at 200 yards, 34 at 500 yards, and 31 at 600 yards, with a wind-blown "maggie," her last shot, breaking a string of bull's-eyes and inners.

Birmingham's New Headmistress.

In succession to Miss Major, who has been appointed Principal of Girton College, Cambridge, Miss Lilian Barrie has been appointed Headmistress of King Edward's High School for Girls, Birmingham. Miss Barrie, who is a niece of Sir James Barrie, is at present Headmistress of Wallasey High School for Girls—a post she has held since 1915.

Greek Women and Municipal Suffrage.

It was announced last week that the Greek Parliamentary Committee has passed a decree provisionally according the vote to women over thirty, who are not illiterate, for municipal and communal elections. This decision has been received with great satisfaction in women's suffrage quarters in Athens.

WOMEN FOR CLASS I. OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Girton and Newnham have for many years fought for the opening to women on equal terms with men of Class I., the most exclusive branch of the Civil Service which is the qualification for head of the Board of Trade or the Post Office, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, or head of the Civil Service at £3,500 a year.

Thirty-four women, chiefly Cambridge graduates, are now for the first time busy taking the Annual Open Competitive Examination, which lasts three weeks and is the stiffest in the world. It admits officially to the Junior Grade of the Administrative Class in the Home Civil Service.

There are six compulsory subjects, one a living foreign language; and some 50 other optional subjects, including astronomy, zoology, experimental psychology, Arabic and Persian, civilisation, etc.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Domestic Service (Refusal).

SIR ARTHUR HOLBROOK (U., Basingstoke) asked the Minister of Labour the number of women at present registered as unemployed who had been offered but had refused employment as domestic servants, and had subsequently drawn unemployment benefit? MR. BETTERTON (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour) said he regretted that no statistics on that point were available.

War Office (Stores and Clothing Inspection Department).

MISS WILKINSON (Lab., E. Middlesbrough) asked the Secretary of State for War why the annual leave with pay which is granted to men viewers in the Stores and Clothing Inspection Department is withheld from women viewers; and if he would be prepared to rectify this inequality? CAPT. DOUGLAS KING (Financial Secretary to the War Office) replied that he found that leave with pay was granted to the male viewers many years ago as an exception to the general rule that such leave was not granted to workers of this grade. He regretted that it was not possible to make further exceptions now, particularly as the Government so recently as March last found it necessary to refuse an application for paid leave for Government industrial employees generally. MISS WILKINSON asked if the hon. and gallant Gentleman thought it fair that men and women working on exactly the same type of work should not be paid the same? CAPT. KING replied that he would point out that they were treating the women as the general industrial workers, most of whom are men, are treated.

Adoption of Children.

SIR GEOFFREY BUTLER (U., Cambridge University) asked the Home Secretary if he intended to take any further steps towards the introduction of an Adoption of Children Bill, and, if so, when? SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS replied that a further report of the Committee on Adoption, containing suggestions for a draft Bill, had just been presented to Parliament, and would be published immediately. He could not make any statement as to legislation at the present moment.

Wives of Aliens (Enemy Action Claims).

CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Lib., Leith) asked the President of the Board of Trade if a British-born woman married to an alien who was killed in the service of the Crown during the War was disqualified from making application for any share in the money voted by Parliament for meeting reparation claims? SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER replied that the answer was in the affirmative. CAPT. BENN asked if the right hon. Gentleman thought it just that a woman, who is British born and who has, perhaps, lived all her life in this country, should not be compensated for the loss of a husband killed in the War? SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER said that that point did not arise. All the power he had was power to administer the fund provided by Parliament, in accordance with the terms of the Royal Commission, and Parliament had laid down terms for that Royal Commission which excluded the consideration of such cases.

Child Welfare Clinic, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. CONNOLLY (Lab., Newcastle, E.) asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that the officials of the Child Welfare Clinic, Portland Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, when making inquiries into the circumstances of unemployed parents of children receiving medical nourishment at cost price, issue a questionnaire containing the words "How much dole are you in receipt of?" and if he would issue instructions that the words "State Unemployment Benefit" be substituted for "dole"? SIR KINGSLEY WOOD (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Health) replied that his right hon. Friend had no information as to the facts stated in the first part of the question, but he was in communication with the local authority on the matter.

Members of Food Council.

MR. H. WILLIAMS (U., Reading) asked the President of the Board of Trade the names and members of the Food Council. SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER replied that LORD BRADBURY had accepted the Chairmanship of the Food Council (Lord Bradbury was the Principal British Representative on the Reparation Committee at Paris). The other members of the Council were: MR. G. A. POWELL, C.B.E., Clerk to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and member of the Royal Commission on Food Prices; MR. F. W. BIRCHENOUGH, J.P., General Secretary to the Oldham Operative Cotton Spinners' Provincial Association, and Chairman of the Management Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions; ALDERMAN CHARLES BIRD, C.B.E., J.P., member of the Corporation of Cardiff; MRS. B. M. DRAPPER, J.P., Chairman of the Greenwich Board of Guardians and of the Public Health Committee of the Deptford Borough Council; MR. W. E. DUDLEY, O.B.E., J.P., Director of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and member of the Royal Commission on Food Prices; MR. A. E. FAULKNER, C.B., C.B.E., Director of Sea Transport, Board of Trade; SIR GILBERT T. GARNSEY, K.B.E., partner in the firm of Price, Waterhouse & Company; SIR JOHN LORNE MACLEOD, G.B.E., ex-Provost of Edinburgh, ex-Food Controller for Scotland, and member of the Royal Commission on Food Prices; MR. C. S. ORWIN, M.A., Director of the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics at Oxford University; MR. ISAAC STEPHENSON, J.P., ex-President of the National Chamber of Trade, and member of the Royal Commission on Food Prices, and Mrs. WILSON, who gave evidence before the Royal Commission on Food Prices. (Her husband is employed as a plumber on the railway, and in her evidence Mrs. Wilson emphasised the difficulties of the working-class woman.)

Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister claimed that the Council was given a very wide representation, and that all the people were elected as being likely to render the most efficient service. Our criticism is that there should be a greater number of suitable, trained and experienced women on this Council. Two women to ten men is not a fair or an adequate proportion. We are convinced that the results would be more effective if there were an equal number of women and men on this Council.

Young Offenders, Scotland (Committee of Inquiry).

CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN asked the Secretary for Scotland the names of the members of Sheriff Morton's Committee inquiring into the treatment of young offenders; and if any women were to be appointed? CAPT. ELLIOT (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health, Scotland) replied that the Committee referred to is constituted as follows:—GEORGE MORTON, Esq., K.C., Sheriff of Forfarshire (Chairman); THE RT. HON. WILLIAM ADAMSON, M.P., DR. G. C. GOSSAR (Glasgow); GEORGE DUNCAN, Esq. (Chairman of Aberdeen Education Authority); MISS N. H. IRWIN (Secretary of the Scottish Council of Women's Trades); W. W. MCKECHNIE, Esq. (Inspector under Scottish Education Department); WILLIAM L. M'KERRON, Esq. (Chairman of the Special Schools Committee of Glasgow Education Authority); C. A. MACPHERSON, Esq. Advocate (Burgh Prosecutor, Edinburgh); BALLIE MRS. MILLAR (Edinburgh); LORD POLWARTH, C.B.E. (Chairman of the Prison Commission for Scotland).

Captain Elliott pointed out that there are two women on this Committee; but we see that there are eight men; and again we say that, as this is a Committee dealing equally with the welfare of boys and girls, suitable and experienced women should be on it in a fairer proportion than two women to eight men.

F. A. U.

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EDITORIAL.

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

MARRIED WOMAN'S VICTORY.

We heartily rejoice that Mrs. Ethel Short, a certificated married woman teacher, has won her suit in Mr. Justice Romer's Court against the Poole Corporation. In delivering judgment, Mr. Justice Romer said that the plaintiff alleged that the defendants were attempting to dismiss her in pursuance of motives alien and irrelevant to the discharge of their duties as a local education authority. It was admitted that during the whole of her employment no complaints or adverse reports had been made with respect to her efficiency as a teacher, the only reason for her dismissal being that she was a married woman. From resolutions passed by the Education Committee it appeared that this Committee was not averse from appointing married women in general, but only married women whose husbands were living and capable of supporting them. They did not seem to hold the view that a married woman was by reason of her family and household duties likely to be a less efficient teacher than one who was free from those ties. Mr. Justice Romer pointed out that as between two husbands, of whom one is capable of maintaining his wife and the other is not, the former would be the one best able to provide his wife with assistance in the discharge of her domestic duties. The Education Committee had ascertained that Mrs. Short's husband earns £4 a week, that she employed a woman to attend to her domestic concerns, and that her mother lived with her and supervised in the plaintiff's absence. Moreover, the plaintiff had no children. His Lordship said he could not understand what the Education Committee or the Council had to do with the financial position of the teachers and their husbands. The object which the Committee and the Council had in view was to remove so far as possible any inducement to married women teachers to neglect their domestic concerns, both because it was, in their view, the primary duty of married women to attend to those concerns, and because the young unmarried female teachers were in greater need of remunerative employment than those who were married; and he found himself driven to the conclusion that, however deserving of sympathy the object the defendants had in view might be, they were attempting to dismiss the plaintiff in pursuance of motives in no way connected with the efficient maintenance of the schools or of education in their district, but for motives alien and irrelevant to the discharge of their statutory duties; and he therefore made the declaration asked for—that a notice served on the plaintiff by the Education Committee of the Poole Corporation purporting to terminate her engagement as an assistant mistress was invalid and inoperative, and for an injunction to restrain the defendants from acting on or attempting to enforce the notice.

We most cordially congratulate Mrs. Short on bringing this action and on the victory she has gained,

not only for herself and the 16 other married women employed in the public elementary schools in the defendants' district, as well as other married women employees in similar circumstances, but for common sense in the administration of our affairs. We think it is high time that members of local governing authorities were taught to mind their own business. Their sole concern should be to see that those whom they employ at the expense of the community should render the best service possible, and that a meddling inquisition into their employees' private affairs is entirely outside their province. We hope that other local governing bodies will take warning by Mr. Justice Romer's decision. If a man or woman proves incompetent in the discharge of his or her duties it is the right and the duty of a local governing body, who spends the ratepayers' money, to dismiss that employee; but it has no manner of right to dismiss an employee on account of any personal arrangements of that employee with which the local governing body has emphatically no concern. Moreover, we hope the law will go further, and restrain local governing authorities from making or holding to any stipulation that their women employees shall sign any agreement that they will resign their posts on marriage. It should be illegal for any authority to make such a stipulation. Efficiency alone should be the test for all its employees—whether men or women.

THE WOMEN'S PRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT.

We think it is time that the Government recognised that there is a woman's press in this country, increasing in influence every week, with special needs which the Government should be prepared to meet. Although women have been Members of the House of Commons since 1919, Members of the Government itself since 1924, and there are now women working in every department of our political life, there is at present no place allotted to a representative of any woman's paper in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. For more than twelve years women have been applying, at more or less frequent intervals, to the Sergeant-at-Arms for representation in the Press Gallery, but always the same reply is received that "the paper is on the waiting list." We are told by Press representatives that the accommodation is too small to admit women. All we can say is that structural alterations should be made to meet new conditions. Last week, we applied to the Scottish Office for the names of the Committee appointed to inquire into the treatment of Young Offenders. We had a courteous reply giving us these names, but we were at the same time told that the list had some days earlier been issued to the Press. We had not seen that list in any paper, and think it fairly safe to say that it was not issued to any woman's paper. Why not? THE VOTE applied for permission for its representative to attend the International Prison Congress which is being held this week; but we received a letter from the Home Office stating that arrangements had been made with the Press agencies to be present at the proceedings, and there would be no need, therefore, for our paper to be represented! Yet there are women prisoners in all countries; it is admitted that the number of women recidivists is greater than that of men; the Lord Chancellor is to deal specially with this subject; and Mrs. J. Hodder, Head of a Women's Reformatory, Massachusetts, is to be present at this Congress. We believe she is the only woman representative. Women have a special interest in this International Prison Congress, and the women's press should be allowed to send their own representatives to get a first-hand impression of its proceedings. They ought not to have to rely on Press agencies. We submit that the Government should immediately alter its ways in regard to its treatment of the women's press, and henceforward afford it the same consideration that it gives to the Press of any other section of the community.

THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN IRELAND AND INDIA.

SUFFRAGE DINNER TO DR. AND MRS. COUSINS.

On the occasion of their recent visit to Ireland, after an absence in India of nearly ten years, Dr. and Mrs. Cousins were the guests of honour at a little Reunion Dinner given by their old comrades and colleagues, the Committee of the Irish Women's Franchise League. The gathering, which included Mrs. Despard, was representative of various sections of Irishwomen who had been identified with the struggle for the vote. Many of these are now representatives of public bodies, city and county councils, etc.

Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington, who presided, welcomed the guests in the name of the League, and paid a tribute to the progressive and feminist work of both in India.

Mrs. Cousins, she said, would be doing a great service if she returned to Ireland to devote herself to building up again a woman's movement there independent of all Parties, with its objective solely the complete emancipation of women. Mrs. Skeffington recalled the founding of *The Irish Citizen* by Dr. Cousins, and the joint editorship of Dr. Cousins and Frank Sheehy Skeffington of that valiant little organ.

In expressing her deep joy at being once again among so many of her former co-workers, Mrs. Cousins congratulated them on having gained adult franchise as a status, and proportional representation as a method, so that the women of the Irish Free State were actually better recognised as citizens than the women of any other part of the world. But all that was only opening the door. Unless women got out of Party ruts and limitations and worked for a time, at any rate, as a Woman's Party to get women legislators in such a number as would ensure the wishes of women being carried into effect on subjects like temperance, endowment of motherhood, the outlawing of war, etc., the value of the women's suffrage fight would become only a dead letter.

Mrs. Cousins sketched the progress of the movement in India for the opening of political opportunities equally to women and men. Now, qualified women in five of the great Provinces of India have the vote on exactly the same terms as men, women in the Indian States are in the Parliaments, and one is the Minister of Health of her State. Women are also both by election and nomination in Municipal, District, and Urban Councils. There are Indian women lawyers, doctors, professors, magistrates, apothecaries, etc. But the mass primary education is appallingly small, so that the greatest need of women still is education and freedom from many outrun customs which inflict great cruelty and suffering on Indian

women. The worst of these is early motherhood and the sad lot of widows. Within the next generation or so, when education has become the birthright of Indian girls, Mrs. Cousins foresaw that India would have forces at her command with which to remould her own civilization and that of the Western world, but in the meantime there was no doubt that Western women could be of help to their sisters in India if they had a true sympathy, and no other ulterior object in view than sisterly service.

In Ireland women were not yet in the position that she would like to see them in. Even their respective parties did not realise, and did not recognise, the full value their women partisans were to them. Only by the greatest vigilance of the keenest feminists in the country could women's present freedom be preserved and extended, but the Time-spirit was with these, and would help them to march ever forward in their desire for the betterment of the conditions of humanity.

Mrs. Despard, who was warmly applauded, spoke as "grandmother of the woman's movement," and referred with pride to the great spirit of comradeship awakened in women everywhere by the struggles and sacrifices which they went through together for citizenship. She spoke lovingly of her English and Irish sisters, and said that much still remained for women to do.

Dr. Cousins, in conclusion, expressed the deep pleasure it gave him to be once again among old comrades in the work for the emancipation of woman. That work, he emphasized, was not simply a local phenomenon; it was a world work, and when his wife and he were engaged in the service of helping the womanhood of distant India towards freedom, they felt they were not far from Ireland, and that they were engaged in an extension of the same work as they had been busied with in Ireland. He spoke of the immense importance of the forward movements in India at the present time, and of the circumstances that had involved Mrs. Cousins and himself in complicated responsibilities which were regarded as of special value in the social and educational life of India. It was a consolation to realise that the work for human freedom and uplift, the world over, was one and the same work. Recalling old times in the suffrage struggle in Ireland and Britain, Dr. Cousins recounted several amusing incidents, and told the story of the founding of the weekly, *The Irish Citizen*, which had done such good work for the cause.

FAIR PLAY FOR THE MODERN GIRL!

It would be impossible to find a more maligned person than the present-day girl. Those who have lived long enough, deplore the passing of the Victorian age in girlhood, whilst those who cannot recall that era waste much time—and ink—tabulating the faults and vagaries of our younger women. One seldom picks up a newspaper or magazine without reading some noted (or notorious) person's condemnation of the "modern girl." Unfortunately, his statements are taken as gospel truth by narrow-minded folk, of which this world seems to have a plentiful supply.

The young girl of to-day possesses a wonderfully independent spirit, and a desire, which is truly admirable, to "paddle her own canoe." This has, in many cases, been forced upon her by post-war circumstances. During recent years, a need for girls to support themselves has arisen, and it is pleasing to see the forceful manner with which the problem is tackled; although it is the reverse of pleasant to realise the obstacles that are flung in her path by many men, and some women, who are, frequently, parents themselves, and know from experience that the majority of the girls aged between twenty-one and thirty do not merit the calumnies levelled at them.

Above all, they are not even allowed a voice in the government of their own country. The flimsy excuses offered for the non-existence of equal franchise are (1) that girls do not desire a vote; (2) that they are too empty-headed to take an interest in politics, and are more concerned in the attractions of the opposite sex at that age; (3) that women of this country are so much in the majority that to equal the franchise would mean an Empire very largely governed by women!

Let us take these points individually. Firstly, that girls do not want a vote is an absurd statement. They do—and they mean to get it! Secondly, most girls of to-day are far from being empty-headed. On the contrary, they have very keen intellects. Search the professions and you will be amazed at the numbers of girls under thirty who are distinguishing themselves in the varied spheres of politics, medicine, literature, art, music, the stage, commerce, and domestic duties, whilst showing great business acumen in the direction of works of public charity.

There are black sheep in every flock, exactly as there are some empty-headed girls in the ranks of young womanhood. However, as they are decidedly in the

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser—MISS ALIX M. CLARK.
Speaker—MISS LILIAN LENTON.

minority, there is no reason to deprive all women under thirty of a vote because of the few frivolous ones. Their criticisers indicate the absurdity of the modern girl's clothes and hairdressing. Without going into a lengthy discourse on the hygienic improvements in the present-day garb and mode of dressing the hair, I should like to point out that the modern young man indulges in many eccentricities in his dress and person, but because he is of the male species no one suggests that his partiality for the latest Oxford "bags" in any way makes him less eligible for political duties, so why must girls of similar age be condemned as empty-headed if they display a liking for the short, tight skirt?

With regard to that neat and comfortable style of hairdressing, the shingle or bob, which certain guardians of a hospital forbade the young nurses to adopt on the grounds of its "flightiness," at all times the male sex have shown a marked tendency to display some eccentricity in the arrangement of their hair, but did anyone think less of some of our former Prime Ministers, who chose to grow their hair to a length beloved by their caricaturists? Did we consider their intellectual powers at all diminished because of these little whims? Decidedly not. Whilst the august painter, whose pictures are the envy and admiration of all and sundry, is thought to be doubly talented because his hair is somewhat "Chelsea" in style. Since man has peopled this planet he has made so trivial a thing as the cutting of his beard quite a hobby, to wit, the lengthy, curling beards of Solomon's days, then later the Vandyck, the Imperial, and, in these mundane days, the tooth-brush moustache. So, pray allow the women and girls the comfort of a "bob" if they desire it. You must not think I am condemning the male sex, I merely wish to draw attention to the fact that both sexes have their little peculiarities, and that "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones" would be an excellent maxim for those who levy criticism at our young girls.

Anent the interest taken in the opposite sex, well, as all will admit, that interest is not confined to one age or one sex, but depends greatly on the individual, so that excuse can also be swept away. Two statements are now answered. Thirdly, and lastly (as our clerical friends put it), women *are* in the majority in this country, as one cannot help knowing since so much talk about "superfluous women" has been floating about. This "term" as applied to any of God's creations is distinctly out of place, and makes one realise that many people consider women solely as a medium for populating the earth—not a flattering or grateful sentiment, when one recollects the masterful way young girls carried on during the war, releasing men from employments which had, until that time, been thought exclusively masculine, and in many cases to the detriment of their own health, as time has proved. Many of these girls are still under thirty, consequently without a vote.

That the matter of equal franchise has become a Party topic is regrettable in the extreme. No doubt the question of the vote was seized upon by certain Parties merely for the sake of something to wrangle over, with the result that many discerning young women (not to mention their parents, who are, in most cases, disgusted at the treatment of their daughters) are having their political views somewhat changed by the determined—nay bigoted—way some Members in the House refuse to support the Bill. Some of the latter, it is rumoured, are themselves not yet thirty!

We can but conclude that they have been exceptionally unfortunate in their female friends and acquaintances to have so distorted a view!

The young English girl demands fair play from her fellow countrymen and women, so why not give her a vote and encourage her patriotism? You may smile at some of her vagaries, but do remember that many of her criticisers have far more harmful traits in their characters, and are without that marvellous saving grace—the exuberant spirit of Youth, which we all possess for only too brief a time. *IVY BASTABLE.*

Another week has passed—a week of glorious weather (despite the early morning threat of cloudy skies), of delightful sails on the peaceful waters of the Clyde, amid the sunlit beauty of these hills and isles, wending our way to one holiday resort or another—to Millport, Largs, Dunoon or Helensburgh—that there we may hold our meetings and sell our literature, returning each evening in time for our nightly gathering on the Pier Head at Rothesay.

Thus the first half of this, the eighteenth Clyde campaign organised by the Women's Freedom League, is being brought to a safe conclusion. Twenty open-air meetings have been held, three thousand copies of *THE VOTE* sold, and six or seven hundred pamphlets. For *THE VOTE*, new subscribers have been found, and we are pleased to welcome yet more women who have joined here as members of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

Strange are the opinions expressed by some of the male members of our audiences, with a strangeness equalled only by those with which we are faced when selling. We wonder what the nice little girl who was with him thought, when a certain youth, on realising the nature of the pamphlet he was asked to buy, refused, saying he was "dead agin the women!" One night, an eminently respectable gentleman was much incensed at the suggestion that widowed mothers should have pensions, and said that no child should be born whose parents had not taken steps to assure it an economically secure existence. He seemed to see no obstacles, thinking that any remissness on the part of the father in this respect should, without compunction, be visited on the children. Awfully anxious are the young men to know if we are willing to "go down the pit" or "carry the hod"; and any faintly expressed suggestion to the effect that, with equal opportunities between the sexes, men, being physically stronger than women, might still retain some of the jobs involving heavy manual labour, is regarded as an injustice to man, as proving that woman only wants the "pick of the work" for herself. Someone argued that it was not fair for a woman to get as much pay as a man even for the same work, as her food costs her less; and on the fact that there are not two lists of prices in a restaurant, one for the woman and one for the man, being mentioned, he pointed out that women don't order the same meals as men—women are satisfied with a cup of tea and a bun. Why?

And now let us congratulate ourselves with much thankfulness, for a gentleman was overheard saying to his wife that on no account must she have anything to do with the Women's Freedom League as "it is a very dangerous organisation."

The coal strike is off. We feared it too, lest these holiday centres should be empty and our campaign a failure; but all is well, and we hope that the next two weeks will be even more successful than those that are past.

LOOK AFTER YOUR VOTE!

Monday, August 10th, is the last day for lodging claims for inclusion in the new register. Call at once at your municipal offices and see if your name is on the list; if not, put in your claim at once.

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WHERE TO GO.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, October 10th, at 10.
National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Friday and Saturday, November 20th and 21st.
Green, White and Gold Fair at Central Hall, Westminster.
Saturday, December 5th, at 10.
National Executive Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.



**DARE TO
BE FREE.**

July 18th—August 15th.

Clyde Coast Campaign. Meetings at 8 p.m. nightly at the Pier Head, Rothesay, Bute, and at Largs, Dunoon, Millport and Helensburgh during the day.

July 31st—August 7th.

League of Nations Union. Summer School at Trinity College, Cambridge.

August 3rd-8th.

Ninth International Prison Congress at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

August 7th-14th.

League of Nations Union. Summer School at Geneva.

August 8th-22nd.

Save the Children Fund. International Summer School at Geneva.

August 14-28th.

Women's International League. Summer School at Thonon (Haute Savoie), France.

August 25th—September 8th.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford.

September 19-27th.

National Council of Women at Birmingham.

BRANCH NOTE.

ASHFORD.

A very delightful garden fête was held at Ashford, Kent, on Thursday, July 30th, in the garden of "Lodore," kindly lent by Mrs. Knock, sen. Owing to the uncertain weather and the holiday season the attendance was not so large as it might have been, but those who paid 9d. for tea and admission received full value for their money and a most enjoyable time. The competitions arranged by members of the committee were both numerous and varied, and charming prizes were bestowed upon the winners. A feature of the afternoon was the dramatic recital given by Miss Mabel Glover in her inimitable manner. Mrs. Saunders proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Knock for lending her garden, which was seconded by Mrs. Palmer and carried unanimously. (Hon. Sec.) Mrs. KITCHER.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women's Right to Maiden Surname.

The *Times* reports that the Bolshevik Commissar for Internal Affairs has issued regulations at Moscow legalising the retention by a woman of her maiden surname after marriage, if she so wishes. The regulations state that a man and woman when registering their marriage may choose to be known henceforth (a) by the surname of the man, (b) by the surname of the woman, or (c) they may both retain their own separate names. In the third case, their children must be registered in the name of either the father or mother. If the parents cannot agree as to which name the child shall take, the registrar chooses for the child the name of the parent whose surname begins with a letter nearer in the alphabet to the initial of the first name chosen for the child than is the first letter in the surname of the other parent. The regulations do not explain how the registrar must proceed if the parents cannot agree as to what the child's first name shall be.

Women Barred.

The *Daily Express* reports that Hull Licensing Committee has decided to refuse to accept women as managers or assistant managers of cinemas in Hull. The Chief Constable considered it necessary that a man should be in charge in case of fire or other emergency. After reminding us that Hull Watch Committee recently objected to Women Police, *Time and Tide* points out that it is not only in cinemas that fires may occur, and inquires if the Hull Watch Committee think it really safe to leave women in charge of their homes?

The Food Council.

The first meeting of the Food Council takes place to-day (Friday), under the Chairmanship of Lord Bradbury, and it is proposed that the Council shall meet at regular intervals. The main object is to watch prices and advise the Government, and periodic reviews will be published. The address of the Council is 3, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, S.W.1.

AUSTRIAN WOMEN'S HOUSING EXHIBITION.

By GISELA URBAN.

Austrian women's organisations of all political parties, including the National Council of Austrian Women, have for long been exercised as to the best way to attract the great mass of housewives into the ranks of the Woman's Movement. They early perceived that a common evolution of women cannot be achieved without including the purely housekeeping women, who, overburdened by home duties, cannot find time to cultivate their personal development and to participate freely in social and political life. Austrian progressive women therefore decided to work more intensively for household reforms in order to acquire a more up-to-date standard of housekeeping, and free housewives from unnecessary drudgery. They finally decided to hold a housing exhibition in Vienna, contemporary with an International Hygienic Exhibition, and the result has been eminently successful.

In this Exhibition all the latest labour-saving devices were shown, also a great number of kitchens with stoves showing different methods of heating were exhibited. In one of these, a big gas-kitchen, cooking went on all day, so that women could see how to prepare and cook different dishes with the most moderate fuel expenditure. In other departments information was given on food adulteration, and best methods of washing and ironing clothes, and keeping the home clean. Sanitary bathrooms, furnished according to various estimates, were much admired, also various furnished rooms in grades to suit all purses. In this department of the exhibition, the modern architect showed furniture which could be used for different purposes so as to save house room. There were also some models of well-designed small flats.

Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek, an Austrian woman M.P., undertook the arrangement of a special exhibition called "The Peasant's Household," including an ideal country cottage which combined the best old and new traditions. Another special exhibition was a table laid for a meal, arranged to educate working-class women to higher standards of living, and to display the newest and most practicable appointments for the table. There was also a display of "Needlework and Toys," which showed many tasteful and original objects contributed by middle-class women who formerly lived in good circumstances and who now are forced to earn.

During the whole three months the Exhibition was open, lectures on problems of housekeeping were given by well-known women. Also lectures with practical demonstrations were arranged, and, it is satisfactory to state, were attended by women of all classes. The Exhibition was certainly an unqualified success, and the Austrian women intend to continue their efforts to interest the great mass of women in the progress and modern developments of housekeeping. They hope that women in other countries will do the same, so permanent establishment of up-to-date household labour saving will be achieved, thus freeing the ordinary housewife to fulfil new duties in public life.

W.F.L. PAMPHLETS.

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