

WORKING WOMEN CANDIDATES WANTED ?

# THE VOTE

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

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ONE PENNY.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26, 1924

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

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## A WOMAN M.P. OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.

INTERVIEW WITH MISS MARIE RANDALL.

MISS MARIE RANDALL, the first woman M.P. in the Channel Islands, whose election, last February, to the insular Parliament or States of Guernsey, created a good deal of interest amongst supporters of feminism, is one of Guernsey's most prominent women. The popularity of her election may be gauged by the fact that she secured second place on the roll of eighteen members representing St. Peter Port, the capital of Guernsey, polling 1,041 votes. Three other women stood for election at the same time as Miss Randall, but failed to poll sufficient votes to secure election.

Educated at the Guernsey Ladies' College, Miss Randall soon entered into some of the activities of her native town, and during the war helped in the formation of the Island's Garrison Club, and was among the first batch of 150 V.A.D.s sent to France under the British flag. For the last two years she has done excellent work as an "overseer," on St. Peter Port Poor Law Board, and is also on its House Committee. Women have been connected with the Poor Law Board in Guernsey since 1919.

"In order to understand my position as a woman deputy of the States of Guernsey (for I do not take the title of M.P. as in England), I must first explain the composition of my Government," Miss Randall told a representative of THE VOTE.

"Only 18 out of the 54 Members of the States are directly elected by the people for a term of three years, the remaining 36 being either life members or members elected indirectly for each sitting of the States. The position of Deputy is entirely an honorary one, the States meeting once in every two or three weeks till the work of the Billet is finished. Measures are brought forward by individual members, and are propounded to the Assembly by the Bailiff in a document called a Billet d'Etat. The States have the privilege of

adopting and adapting to their own use any English Act of Parliament or Section of an Act of which they desire to avail themselves. The public are admitted to the deliberations, which are held in the Court House.

"Since my election in February, I have attended about ten States Meetings, and spoken once, on the making of recreation grounds. I also sit on five States Committees—Old Age Pensions, Sanitation, Education, Children's Homes, and Homes for

Workers. I am particularly interested in the housing question, which is just as acute in Guernsey as in other parts of the world. I have not served as an Overseer for 2½ years without continually realising that it is the most important and urgent of all the matters before the States. I am also deeply concerned as to the provisions of better facilities for outdoor recreation for our young people. I feel very strongly that every effort should be made to provide adequate playing-fields for football, hockey, tennis, etc. Games are fostered at school, but very little is done for girls and boys after leaving school. In consequence, many young people deteriorate morally and physically, and through no real fault of their own, become undesirable citizens. We have continuation classes for education during the winter—why not continuation classes for sports in the summer?

"With regard to my election as States Deputy, nothing could have exceeded the cordiality with which I was welcomed into what has been hitherto a purely masculine preserve. I have met with extraordinarily little prejudice on the grounds of sex from my colleagues, and, indeed, I received votes during my election from entirely unexpected quarters. In many matters concerning women's rights, however, we are behind the times in Guernsey, and in my position as woman Deputy, you may be sure that I shall do all in my



MISS MARIE RANDALL.



power to further the progress and freedom of women. "For instance, we have no Married Women's Property Act as yet on our Statute Books, but that will shortly be remedied, as a Bill to improve our position comes before the States shortly. The Laws of Inheritance, too, are still weighted far too heavily on the masculine side. The women of Guernsey, like the British women, are not yet fully enfranchised, but men may vote at 21. Curiously enough, however, Guernsey women who have reached the age of 20 are permitted to ballot for the Douzeniers or Councillors composing the Douzaine, or Parochial Assembly. This principle has been accorded women in Guernsey for centuries.

"Women in Guernsey may enter the medical profession, though, hitherto, very few have availed themselves of the right. But they may not, as yet, study for the law. We have, however, a large number of women teachers, clerks, etc. Women magistrates and women jurors are definitely ruled out in Guernsey, at present, by the peculiar nature of our Government. The magisterial power of the island is vested in a body of men named Jurats, 18 in number, who hold office for life, and are presided over by the Bailiff or Chief Magistrate of the island. Moreover, we have no trial by jury in the island, a small proportion of the Jurats and the Bailiff collectively acting in the capacity of judge and jury. There is nothing, however, to prevent a woman from being elected to the office of Jurat when a vacancy occurs."

#### THE GOVERNMENT AND EQUAL FRANCHISE.

Mr. Stephen Walsh, Minister of War, speaking at a Labour Demonstration at Durham last week, is reported to have said that the Government would in a few weeks introduce a franchise measure which would remove once for all the electoral inequality between the sexes, and provide that men of 21 and women of 21 should have an equal voice in the nation's affairs. From this statement it is not quite clear whether we are to have a new Bill on the Franchise question introduced and backed by the Government, or whether, as Mr. Macdonald stated just before Parliament adjourned, the Government intends to adopt the present Equal Franchise Bill and pilot it through its remaining stages into law. Unfortunately, the Government's intentions on this matter of equal franchise have all along been curiously lacking in clarity of purpose. It seems to us to be a waste of Parliamentary time now to introduce a new measure on this subject, but in any case we expect the Government to fulfil its pledge by seeing that the equal enfranchisement of men and women is on the Statute Book in the early days of the Autumn Session. Women's organisations throughout the country are overwhelmingly in favour of this demand for political justice for women, and we look to our friends belonging to all parties in the House of Commons to see that this is granted without further delay.

#### WOMEN'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION.

We have received a copy of the Thirty-first Annual Report of the Women's Total Abstinence Union for the year 1923-24, the Headquarters of which are at 413, Abbey House, Westminster, S.W.1. This is a bright record of strenuous work, and we congratulate the Union on having such an imposing list of Federated Societies. Like ourselves, the Women's Total Abstinence Union is one of the constituent members of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, and was responsible for resolutions appearing on its Agenda in regard to the Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under Eighteen) Bill, the teaching of the syllabus of the "Hygiene of Food and Drink" in schools, and the Closing of Public Houses in London at 10 p.m. on weekdays and 9 p.m. on Sundays—all of which the Women's Freedom League supported.

#### "PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HEALTH."

The Ministry of Health has just issued a memorandum under the above title by Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry. He states that the two most common causes of sickness are diseases of the respiratory tract and digestive disturbance. "Neglect of the common cold, and behaviour which ensures its direct transmission to others, are widespread and habitual." With regard to digestive disturbance caused by erroneous diet, Sir George Newman says: "On the whole, there are grounds for believing that there is no single subject of more importance to personal and national health, or more crying out for educational treatment, than this one of the proper use and control of food." Not only diet, but dress, has an important bearing on health, and the memorandum states that "more reasonable dress, the disappearance of tight clothing and trailing skirts, a far larger amount of outdoor exercise, more active amusements and athletics, and the open air life have brought an immense improvement in the personal health of men and women, an improvement which has almost abolished a form of anæmia previously common, and has materially affected the whole standard of their health." He also says that in every direction the prevention of disease is becoming a personal concern rather than exclusively a matter dependent upon the central, or even the local, authorities for the supervision of public health. He urges that close and intelligent co-operation between the health authorities and the individual citizen is essential. The memorandum discloses that 3,000 mothers die each year in childbirth, while tens of thousands of young mothers are unnecessarily damaged or invalided; and that much of this maternal mortality and illness could be prevented by proper supervision of the expectant mother's health during pregnancy. "Yet," the memorandum states, "only a small proportion of the 700,000 mothers who give birth to children every year submit themselves to ante-natal supervision." It proceeds: "In 1923, 52,582 infants, in England and Wales, died before reaching the first anniversary of their birthday, and more than 32,000 of them died in the first three months from diseases in large measure preventable." It is Sir George Newman's opinion that upon all local authorities there should be imposed a power or a duty of direct educational work, and he thinks that then the time will have come for the Government to consider whether such educational work is of sufficient importance and value to be assisted financially by an Exchequer grant, under the Ministry of Health, which would naturally take the form of a provision available to local authorities for certain approved types of educational work in hygiene. He says that it is the local authorities who must be directly responsible for undertaking educational health work, direct as well as indirect, suitable to their own district, circumstances and needs, with such supplementary special assistance as the voluntary societies concerned may find themselves able to afford. Sir George Newman's memoranda are always illuminating, and this country is justly proud of its Chief Medical Officer of Health. We agree with all that he says, but we also urge that until a better solution than the present is found to the housing problem, and until decent accommodation for the people replaces our appalling slums, the health of large masses of our people will continue to be in a precarious condition.

## Pass the Women's Bill

### PUBLIC MEETING

IN

Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand,

Friday, October 10th,

At 8 p.m.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#### A Woman Graduate for China.

Miss Mabel Fortune, of Wigan, a graduate of Manchester University, has been appointed Principal of the Girls' School at Ningpo, China, for the United Methodist Missionary Society. She will begin her work in a new school which has been built from the special fund of £30,000 recently raised by the United Methodist body for missionary work.

#### A Woman Alderman.

Councillor Mrs. A. J. Summers has been unanimously elected, by the Stalybridge Town Council, an alderman of the borough in succession to Mr. John Booth, who has gone to reside at Southport. Mrs. Summers has been a member of this Council since 1912, and was mayor of the borough from 1919 to 1921. She is also a magistrate, and was the first woman magistrate to take her seat on the bench. Mrs. Summers is a vice-president of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary.

#### London School of Medicine for Women.

The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women is celebrating its jubilee next month. In 1874, when the School was founded, there were only two women on the Medical Register, and 14 students at the School. To-day, the names of about 2,000 women, of whom 1,100 were educated at the School, are on the register, and 380 are being trained at the School and Hospital.

#### Nurse Cavell's Statue.

Nurse Cavell's last words are to be placed on her statue at the junction of Charing Cross Road and St. Martin's Lane, the additional inscription being: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone." This is in concession to requests from all quarters for the last eighteen months.

#### British and American Exchange of Teachers.

Miss Margaret Brown, B.Sc., of the Girls' County School at Bishop Auckland, has sailed for America, where she will become a member of the staff of Bradford Academy, Mass., as an exchange for an American teacher who has come to England. Miss Brown is the fourth teacher sent this year by the English Speaking Union to study American educational methods.

#### Chinese Women's Progress.

A bank, completely staffed and financed by women, to promote employment of Chinese women and to encourage them in saving, has been organized by prominent Chinese women of Shanghai. Women employees are being sent to a bank training school.

#### American Women on State Committees.

For the first time, Wisconsin women are receiving an equal representation on all committees. This is now required by the Missouri laws governing political committees. In some sections of the State, however, the coming of the equal representation statute was anticipated, and women were placed on the committees two years ago. The law also requires an equal division of the offices of the committees between the women and the men.

#### German Women Voters.

German women vote exactly as their menfolk do; this is the result of statistical investigations of the last Reichstag's vote in the Nuremberg electoral district. When 34.9 per cent. of the men voted for the Socialist ticket, the percentage of women casting their vote for that Party was 33.8 per cent. If 5 per cent of men went with the Stresemann party, there were exactly 4 per cent of women doing the same.

#### Women in the Ministry.

Admission of women to the clergy in Norway is being advocated as a means of relieving the shortage of pastors, and this issue will probably be discussed at the next Storting.

#### Australian Woman Councillor.

Mrs. Clapham, the first woman councillor in Perth, was recently presented by the Cottesloe Municipal Council with a framed group of the mayor and councillors who served during her term of office. The Mayor, in making the presentation, spoke in the highest terms of the efficient manner in which the first woman councillor had discharged her duties.

#### Juvenile Town Council.

A complete juvenile borough council, with mayor, town clerk, officials and members (about 50 in all, half girls and half boys), all chosen from local school children, passed a resolution of thanks to Miss Ishbel MacDonald when she opened an exhibition of children's handicrafts at East Ham Town Hall last Thursday.

#### A Splendid Record.

Miss Williams, headmistress of the Vineyard Infants' School, Richmond, Surrey, is retiring in a few days, after over 40 years' service. Not once has she caned a child, nor has a cane been kept in the school. She has never been absent from school for a single day through illness.

#### American Women Engineers.

Sixty-eight women representatives of electric and gas companies of New York State have organised the Women's Section of the New York State Committee on Public Utility Information. Miss Mary E. Dillon, general manager of the Brooklyn Borough Gas Company, was elected chairman; and Miss Helen Smith, industrial engineer of the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, vice-chairman.

#### Texas Women's Campaign.

The Fifth District Women's Federated Clubs of Texas is launching a campaign to send representatives to the Conference in Geneva, next November, when plans will be made to combat the use of narcotics. As a part of the campaign, the women plan to secure the signatures of 2,000,000 citizens of Texas, or nearly one-half the population, to a pledge to fight narcotics, and this petition will be presented at the Geneva Conference.

#### American Professional Women.

Mrs. Harriet Gunn Roberson, Washington, D.C., educator, addressing a local women's club recently, said that out of 667 distinct professions in the United States, women are engaged in all but 35. There are many women bank presidents, the speaker said, and two women railroad presidents.

#### Women Candidates for L.C.C.

The following prospective L.C.C. women candidates, selected by Local Labour Parties, have been endorsed by the Executive Committee of the London Labour Party:—Camberwell, N., MISS AGNES DAWSON; Lewisham, MRS. BARBARA DRAKE; St. Pancras, N., MRS. F. N. HARRISON BELL; Chelsea, MRS. DORA RUSSELL, MRS. A. L. WALTON; HOLBORN, MRS. HOWSON.

#### Woman Mayor.

For the second year in succession, Colchester is to have a woman Mayor, Councillor Dame Catherine Hunt having been selected to succeed Mrs. Alderton. Dame Catherine Hunt has a splendid record of public service.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Classes and private lessons, also two weekly meetings of Speech Club, beginning end of September.

Apply MISS LUCY BELL.

Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.



## THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th, 1924.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
printing, and merchandise, etc.

### 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.

### MEN'S RESPONSIBILITY.

The Women's Freedom League, from the earliest days of its existence, has always urged that when a girl or woman was charged with taking the life of her illegitimate child, the father of that child should also be compelled to appear in Court to be cross-examined as to what he had done in regard to the support of the mother before the birth of the child, and of the child since its birth—to face in fact, an equal responsibility with the mother for the welfare of the child. We are all the more glad, therefore, to record that Mr. W. G. Burrough, the Coroner for North Somerset, at an inquest at Bath last week on the illegitimate child of a servant girl, said he regretted that the man was not before the jury to hear what they had to say, for there was a man who was just as responsible for the birth of the child as the woman, and he should be just as responsible for inattention at birth. Mr. Burrough added that he hoped juries all over the country would continue to call attention to the fact that they thought the man should bear some responsibility, then some law might be passed by which the man would be brought in as well.

A sentence of three years' penal servitude has been passed at the Old Bailey on Iris Howe, aged 21, for throwing vitriol over her former sweetheart, Donald Bedgood, and a girl who was walking out with him at Muswell Hill. In the evidence, it was stated that Iris Howe gave birth to a child when she was 17 years old. Eighteen months ago she met Bedgood; they discussed marriage and intimacy followed. When she told him of her condition he promised to marry her, but later he said he had married another girl. Annoyed at the treatment she had received, she bought some sulphuric acid with the intention of spoiling his clothes. She did not mean to injure him or his companion, but as he would not stop when she spoke to him she threw the acid at him. This went over his face and, as he seized her hand, some of it went over herself and the other girl, all three being disfigured. Mr. T. D. Cassels, K.C., for the defence, asked the jury to remember the state of mind in which Iris Howe was at the time; he pointed out that her child would be born at the end of the year, and that probably an operation would be necessary to her eye which had been injured by the vitriol. In passing sentence, Mr. Justice Swift said no word of his was needed to emphasise the crime of vitriol throwing, as the features of Bedgood and his companion bore disfigurement which would go with them to their graves. However one may apportion responsibility for this tragedy, one thing is clear—no blame for it can be given to the unborn child. Yet, according to the red tape of the Home Office, this child is doomed to be born in prison with all the stigma attached to one who is prison born. Mr. Henderson has declared that he has no authority to remove a woman temporarily from prison so that her child can be born outside prison walls. We cannot understand Mr. Henderson's complacent inactivity in a matter of this kind. If he cannot himself take the responsibility of having Iris Howe removed temporarily to a nursing home or infirmary outside the prison for the birth of the child, let him ask Parliament at the earliest possible date to give him the necessary power. We think that very few of the

six hundred men members would refuse it to him, and we do not believe that any of the women members would do so. The child will already be handicapped through life because of the conduct of both its parents; it ought not to have the additional stigma of being prison born. If it is a question of expense, let the man who is the father of the child pay for it.

The Rev. J. E. Rattenbury, discussing the work of the West London Mission with a representative of the *Daily News*, declared: "It is difficult to say whether the central district of London shows an actual improvement. The streets are much freer from open solicitation than was once the case. Probably the type of woman who now plies her trade is in a higher social sphere. There is the fear, however, that although these women are not seen so much in the streets, owing to greater vigilance, they are found elsewhere." Mr. Rattenbury is retiring, after a ministry of 17 years with the West London Mission. We have nothing but praise for the devotion of this Mission's workers in their efforts to rescue girls; but we should like to ask Mr. Rattenbury if he does not think it would be advisable to direct more of the Mission's attention to the *men* delinquents? The girls are dealt with after they have fallen, and often through economic difficulties they become the prey of men. Rescue work amongst men, by men like Mr. Rattenbury, might prove more useful in helping to lessen the social evil than limiting rescue work to girls and women. These are not alone responsible for their position, and men who believe that men are equally responsible for it, should bring that responsibility home to the members of their sex. We believe that there is a great need for rescue work amongst men, and we should like to know that men are tackling it.

### WHY NOT WORKING WOMEN CANDIDATES?

Tory Democrats and members of other sections of the Conservative Party have recently been writing to *The Times* urging the Party to select and finance working *men* Parliamentary candidates for constituencies where they have a chance of being elected to Parliament, it being argued that they would make a more direct appeal to electors in some districts than men of wealth or of different position, and that they would in some cases better represent the interests of the electors. *The Times* itself is of opinion that local associations at present prefer candidates who can pay their expenses, but reports that the Association of Conservative Clubs has issued an appeal to the half-million members of such clubs, asking them to contribute a penny a year each to help meet the expenses of working-men candidates, and that £1,000 has already been subscribed by members of clubs in all parts of the country. We ourselves wondered why it had not occurred to the writer in *The Times* to press also for working-women candidates. Are not the questions of prices and general unemployment, questions which ought to be dealt with by women in Parliament, and more especially by working women? For these reasons we were more than usually pleased to see a letter in last Saturday's *Times* from a man who says that he has for a long time tried to induce local Committees to call Conservative working people to their counsels, and rejoiced that "at last our leaders begin to see that we must have working men and women counsellors and M.P.s, or go under . . . and working men and working women must be urged to come forward for hopeful, not hopeless, constituencies." It is a long time since we read anything so cheering about the progress of our cause in an unexpected quarter. We sincerely hope that we shall hear of many suitable Conservative working women coming forward as prospective Parliamentary candidates in the near future, and we appeal to both the Liberal and the Labour Parties to follow suit in this matter, and to put forward as many suitable working-women prospective candidates as they can muster, in places where they have a fair chance of success.

## FOURTH INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS FOR PEACE.

### Impressions of our Delegate.

The great Democratic Peace Congress is at an end. The making of speeches has ceased. Delegates drawn to our capital by a common desire to establish Peace—secure and lasting—between the Nations, have dispersed, carrying back to their home-lands memories and hopes full of encouragement and inspiration. Citizens of one-time enemy countries have met in friendship. It has been our great privilege to receive them in our midst, to learn to know them better, and to help them—we may hope—to understand and appreciate each other.

The first impression was one of joy. Joy that these men and women, boys and girls—for some were no more—were met together as friends and comrades, co-workers for a great cause. From nineteen lands they came to meet here in England for the first time since the world war. Differences of race, language, religion, all were laid aside by those who sought a universal Peace.

The figure of Marc Sangnier stands out. To him was it given to express at the outset the spirit in which we had met. We were discovering that, with fraternal hearts and a common will for Peace, we were united in international collaboration which neither governments nor diplomats can break.

"Those of us who dream of re-creating the world on a new basis of fraternity are many. To create such a spirit is our task. The government does not create public opinion, but it is public opinion that creates the government, and we have already created that opinion at Freiburg, where we were opposed by the spirit of the Government and the Press, who were advanced against us, and created one in accord with this spirit of good will."

Speaking in his native French, M. Sangnier—a wonderful orator—made a deep impression, even those who were unable fully to follow his words, until translated, were swayed by his eloquence. By tone and gesture he helped all to understand his message and appeal.

Dr. Quidde, of Munich, who has suffered several terms of imprisonment for his advocacy of Peace, spoke of the dreams of the German youths, who were "prepared to fight to the bitter end, but then, they said, they would never fight any more, that indeed it was the last war in the world."

A woman—Mrs. Barbara Wootton—a member of the recently appointed Financial Committee of the British Government, dealt with the economic questions involved. She said that now, more than at any time during the last ten years, had we an opportunity,

through the growth of public opinion, of making advances towards the realisation of our ideals. The obstacles which now stood in the way of sufficient production were not those of an economic character, they were political and psychological, and if they were overcome there was sufficient machinery of production to feed and satisfy the whole world. "The countries had always spent a large part of their resources on war. In considering schemes of disarmament they would try to make them economically beneficial." Mrs. Wootton suggested to this Congress that it should propose a scheme of disarmament in which those nations who operated in it would materially benefit in the distribution of their products.

The speeches delivered throughout the Congress period were of a high order, and much valuable work was done in Committee, where various aspects of the situation were considered by members of all the many delegations. Difficulties arising from differences in point of view were in large measure removed, and common understanding arrived at in respect of many most important matters.

Resolutions carefully framed in Committee were adopted by the Congress in Plenary Session and covered questions relating to the promotion of Peace in "Politics," "Economics," "The Education of Youth," and "The State Ethics." Under the last head it was resolved "that the full political rights of women should be claimed in all countries for Peace propaganda."

Of the Youth movement which held its great meeting at the close of the Session, it is a joy to write. The young girls and youths, young men and women were working unitedly, wholeheartedly, in a great cause, for a great ideal—the world free from the fear of war. Shining faces and eager eyes filled one with hope.

Herr Otto Zcheirski—a very young delegate from Frankfurt—striking the high note of the gathering, appealed to every one to realise the power that comes from a knowledge that all things are possible to those who possess the Spirit of Christ.

Early in the Conference Mme. Sangnier made an impassioned appeal to women to take their share in the great work, bringing Peace and Reconciliation. This is indeed our task; we have a point of view quite different from that of our men.

Congratulations are due to Miss A. Ruth Fry, the Hon. Secretary, and her splendid band of workers, who so ably carried out the difficult task of hospitality, and the innumerable duties that attend the successful running of such a Conference as this has been.

## EQUAL PAY IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

By C. NEAL.

The question of equal pay for men and women teachers is again brought to the front as a matter of immediate importance, because the arrangements for salaries, made by the Burnham Committee in 1918, expire next March, and consequently the Burnham Committees are now meeting to discuss and settle salaries for a further period. In this connection it must be pointed out that, in spite of the so-called adoption of the Burnham scales, no teacher in the country is being paid according to those scales. Since their adoption, teachers have been called upon twice to relinquish 5 per cent. of their salaries—the first 5 per cent. was ostensibly towards the cost of teachers' pensions, but in reality the money goes directly into the general Treasury Fund; the second 5 per cent., rather ironically known as a voluntary one, is a direct contribution by the teaching profession towards the supposed financial necessities of the State. Moreover, thousands of teachers have never been put upon their appropriate Burnham scales at all, either

because their local Education Authority refused to adopt them, or, having adopted them, the Local Education Authorities arranged for their employees to arrive at the new scale by stages; the last of these stages had not been reached before the above-mentioned 10 per cent. deductions were made. It is a well-known fact that, in the new arrangements to be made for next April, the Education Committee's Association are trying to enforce still greater reductions in the salaries for all grades.

But a great point of interest for progressive women lies in the amount of differentiation that is made between the salaries of the men and women teachers. The members of the National Union of Women Teachers, together with a large number of the more progressive members of the mixed organisation, and certain sections of the Secondary Schools Associations are united in their demand for equal pay for men and women teachers of the same experience and qualifications. Before the Burnham Committee was ever called



into existence, the efforts of women teachers in this direction had, in many cases, resulted in the adoption of scales of salaries in which the principle of Equal Pay was acknowledged, though not in its entirety. In some cases, the minimum and increments were the same, though the men teachers proceeded to a higher maximum than the women, in other cases the difference in the maximum was decreased in one district, the woman's maximum was six-sevenths that of the man's.

The tide of progress, however, was checked to some extent by the adoption of the Burnham scales in which men's salaries throughout were higher than women's, varying from one increment (£12 10s.) at the minimum to one-fifth of the men's salary at the maximum. The distinctive feature of the Burnham scales was that, for every grade, the woman's maximum was to be only four-fifths that of the man's.

Naturally, this has been greatly resented by the women, who demanded equal pay. We believe that the whole status of women in the professional and industrial world is bound up with this question of payment. The whole idea, that what we can do is lessened in value simply because we are women, is degrading to our womanhood. The value of the woman's work to the State is as great as that of the man, whether she is teaching girls or young children, or whether she is sharing with the man the education of boys in a mixed or boys' school. The woman's grant-earning capacity is the same as that of the man, it is obviously unfair that part of the grant earned by her work should go to provide the extra one-fifth of the man's salary. The woman teacher is essential for some of the subjects taught to girls; she is preferable to the man for young children, just as the man teacher is preferable for older boys. I repeat and emphasise that the value of the woman teacher's work to the State is equal to that of the man, and should be paid for to the same extent.

The stock argument against Equal Pay, by its opponents, is that of the necessity for men to receive enough to maintain their dependents. Leaving out of the question the fact that women teachers also frequently have dependents (as a matter of fact, few women of the class to which teachers belong are without them after the age of 30 or thereabouts), statistics prove that these dependents are by no means as numerous as our opponents would have us believe. According to Miss Eleanor Rathbone ("The Disinherited Family"), the number of men teachers with dependent children probably form one-eighth of the profession. Again, according to statistics, over 51 per cent. of the working men of the country are either not married, or, being married, are childless; amongst professional classes the percentage would naturally be higher. In one industrial town, where a complete census was made, out of 244 men teachers, only 110 were with dependent children, the average number of such children per man teacher working out at .82.

Even so, it is illogical to use as an argument a fact which is not recognised as a basis for payment in any profession or trade in the country. No difference in payment is made between man and man because one has a larger family than the other; the Trade Unions would not hear of it—at the present time, at any rate; they insist upon payment for the job. This, too, is what we demand, and we demand it from the present Government. The Labour Party is committed to the principle of Equal Pay, and, in its election campaign and addresses, said a great deal about the economic and political equality of men and women. It was the enunciation of their faith in this principle, and their promise to put it into practice, that won for the Labour Party a very large number of women's votes. So far, their actions have not been in accordance with their promises. The Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to be overwhelmed with dismay at the cost of putting their Equal Pay principles into effect in the Civil Service and for teachers; he (through Mr. Graham), on July 29th, asserted in the House that the cost (for both the Civil Service and teachers) would be at least £10,000,000 a year, and that the funds cannot be found

for this large expenditure. But £10,000,000 seems a small sum to pay for such a great act of justice, and, as for the funds, what about the forty million pounds owing to the Treasury for Income-tax and Super-tax, in addition to one hundred and sixty-one millions of Excess Profits Duty? Any business house neglecting to pay its just dues, while omitting to collect the money due to it, would be considered most blame-worthy. The money could be found if the desire were strong enough. The principle of Equal Pay has been put in practice with regard to Members of Parliament, and the one woman Parliamentary Secretary. We demand that the Government extend the practice now by ensuring that the new Burnham scales shall be based upon this principle; this, as the beginning of its general application, can be the only means of giving effect to the spirit of the promises made, not only by the Labour Party, but by the Coalition Party before it, and to the spirit of the various Equality Bills now upon the Statute Book.

#### OUR CHAMPION SWIMMER.

Our readers will be glad to have the following account of Miss Gemma Harrison's movements from Mrs. Harrison, her mother:—

After resting for ten days in accordance with the doctor's certificate, Gemma recommenced training on the 20th August, and, we were very glad to find, felt no ill effects from the knock on her leg, although the bruise can still be plainly seen.

We were extremely fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Burgess (who swam the Channel in 1911) as trainer, and he swam with her daily in the rough sea, at times as long as four hours, when it was too rough for a rowing boat to accompany them.

Day by day we waited for suitable conditions; the weather was windy, wet and cold, and the sea rough for a whole fortnight or more. Then there was a slight improvement on the 4th September, and it was decided to start about midnight on the 5th.

The night seemed ideal, there was no wind, and so, although the temperature of the water was only 14½ deg. centigrade, she did not feel the cold as she started from Gris-nez Sands this time, and so avoided the rocks, which are not only dangerous to the swimmer, but equally or more so to the accompanying boat.

Mr. Burgess had mapped out the course on a Channel chart, marking where he considered the swimmer should be at each hour.

About two hours after starting, a dense fog enveloped us, and there was considerable danger of the swimmer being run down by passing boats, so that our tug "Alsace" kept up an almost continuous hooting, whilst even the powerful light from the Gris-nez Lighthouse could not be seen; and when the fog lifted we were far to the north of Calais, and neither the French nor English coast could be seen. In four hours she had reached the place to which she was expected to get in 5½ hours. After swimming regularly twenty-three strokes to the minute breast-stroke for four hours, Gemma, however, was obliged to leave the water on account of sudden indisposition.

It is too late in the season to make another attempt so she purposes staying the winter in England, and has started on a course of physical training at one of the London Physical Training Colleges. She will then try again as early in the summer next year as conditions will allow.

### MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE

has consented to give a special Matinée Performance of

#### Trojan Women

in the

NEW THEATRE, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,

on

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

to help the work of

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Lady Mary Murray will make an introductory speech.

USUAL PRICES.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 26th, at 7 p.m. At "Holmwood," Waldegrave Road, Teddington (by kind permission of Mrs. Foster Lumb), Thames Valley Branch Members' Meeting.

Friday, September 26th, at 8.30 p.m. Minerva Club Branch Meeting at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square.

Monday, September 29th, at 6.15 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, October 3rd, at 8.15 p.m. Whist Drive at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1. Tickets 2/- including refreshments.

Monday, October 6th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. (by kind permission of the Misses Berry).

Friday, October 10th, at 8 p.m. Public Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand.

Saturday, October 11th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 13th, at 3.30 p.m., "Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th. Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White, and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Hilton Phillipson, M.P., and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P.

#### PROVINCES.

Friday, September 26th, at 3.30 p.m. Ashford. Members' Meeting at the Hempsted Street Hall. Tea, 4.30.

Wednesday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Annual Meeting at 2, Kent Road.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, October 1st, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Mrs. M. H. Godfrey. Subject: "The European Situation as it affects the Women of England."

#### WALES.

Thursday, October 2nd, at 8 p.m. Public Meeting at the Y.M.C.A., Newtown. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Alix Clark, and others. Chairman: Councillor A. J. Giles.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

##### MINERVA CLUB.

A branch meeting will be held on Friday, 26th inst., at 8.30 p.m., at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, W.C.1. On Friday, 3rd October, a Whist Drive will be held at the same place at 8.15 p.m. Tickets 2s. each, including refreshments. Hearty invitation given to all readers of THE VOTE.

##### MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS.

A Public Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2nd, at 8 p.m., at the Y.M.C.A., Newtown, "to protest against the Newtown and Llanidloes Board of Guardians in withholding fourteen comfortable armchairs which were given for the sole use and comfort of the inmates by the generosity and kindness of the Newtown Public." Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Alix M. Clark, and others, the chair to be taken by Councillor A. Giles. A collection will be taken to defray expenses, and any surplus will be given to the inmates at Caersws Poor Law Institution. (Hon. Sec.) Miss Alix M. CLARK, The Hut, Newtown.

##### PORTSMOUTH.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1st, at 2, Kent Road, at 3 p.m. Agenda: Annual Report, Financial Statement, Election of Officers, Plans for Winter Work. Members are earnestly requested to attend. Annual subscriptions are now due. Mrs. Brading, Hon. Treasurer, 25, Shaftesbury Road, Southsea, will be pleased to receive donations to the Birthday Fund. Gratefully acknowledged, Mrs. Dober, 2/-.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

##### LETCHEWORTH.

In spite of a pouring wet afternoon, a goodly number assembled in the Co-operative Hall for the No More War Demonstration, and although our Peace Procession was abandoned, the banners of the various sections made a delightful display in the Hall. On the platform, Denmark was represented by three young people in Danish costume. The Chairman was Mr. E. Bryant, J.P., and speakers included Mr. Dugald Macfayden (Liberal candidate) and Mr. Julian Tayler (Labour candidate). Our speakers spoke with a fine emphasis, Mr. Dugald Macfayden having been at Geneva during the Conference. Nearly 50 VOTES were sold.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. EDITH LYNN.

##### SOUTH-EASTERN (BRANCHES) "FAIR" STALL.

The Organiser will be glad to receive gifts in money and kind for the above. If members and friends will send a card to the Glenroyde Hotel, Wellington Square, Hastings, saying that they will help, it will save a lot of writing to members.

### PASS THE WOMEN'S BILL MEETING!

All readers of THE VOTE, in London, should make sure of attending the Public Meeting in Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, Friday, October 10th, at 8 p.m., "to demand that the Government itself shall take charge of the remaining stages of Mr. Adamson's Equal Franchise Bill, and pass it into law in the early part of the Autumn Session."

The Women's Freedom League is organising this meeting, and the societies co-operating with us are the Actresses' Franchise League, Association of Civil Service Sorting Assistants, Federation of Women Civil Servants, League of the Church Militant, London Society for Women's Service, National Union of General and Municipal Workers, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, National Union of Women Teachers, Professional Union of Trained Nurses, St. Joan's Social and Political Union, Six Point Group, Union of Jewish Women, Women's Engineering Society, Women's League of Union, and Women's National Liberal Federation.

The chair will be taken by Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., and the speakers will include Miss D. M. Elliott, Miss Eleanor Fitzgerald, Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Froude, Miss Enid Laphorn, Dr. Lewin, Miss Anna Munro, and Mrs. Mustard.

Doors open 7.30 p.m. Admission is Free. Tickets Reserved and Numbered 2/6. Reserved 1/-, from 144, High Holborn.

#### BRITISH OVERSEAS COMMITTEE PAVILION.

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

#### CHURCH CONGRESS CAMPAIGN.

The League of the Church Militant is organising a Church Congress Campaign at Oxford from September 27th to October 4th. It will have a stall in Block V, Avenue 5, at the Church Congress Exhibition to be opened by the Bishop of Oxford, September 27th, and a temporary office at 1, Blackhall Road. At the Luncheon Hour Service at St. Peter-le-Bailey (New Inn Hall), October 1st, at 1.15 a.m., Miss Maude Royden will give an address on "The Ministry in the Church of To-morrow." At 7 p.m. that day, there will be a Public Meeting in the Assembly Room, Randolph Hotel. The chair will be taken by the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, and Miss Royden will speak on "the Marriage Service of the Church of England: the Need for Revision." On October 2nd, 7.30 p.m., there will be a service in St. Ebbe's Church, when Miss Royden will give an address.

#### NEWS OF AN OLD MEMBER.

Our old member and one-time secretary for the Glasgow Branch, Miss Kate Evans, well known in Scotland as the first woman political agent there, when she organised all Miss Eunice Murray's electioneering in the General Election of 1918, has been over on a long vacation from New York, with her friend Miss Anna Munro. Miss Evans returns to New York this week to resume her vocal studies with the celebrated Welsh teacher, Mme. Clara Novello Davies, mother of Ivor Novello, to whom she was recommended by Dame Clara Butt. Mme. Novello Davies has had to make her headquarters in New York, owing to the great demand there for her own vocal method and breath-locking principle, and has built up as great a connection and reputation there as was enjoyed in Paris by the late Mme. Mathilde Marchese. Many pupils travel to her New York studios from the States and Britain, thus reversing the idea that it is necessary to train in Europe.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK MEETING

The National Union of Women Teachers are organising a Mass Meeting at Australia House, Strand, W.C., Friday, October 3rd, 6.30 p.m., to demand Equal Pay for Men and Women Teachers of the Same Professional Status. The Chair will be taken by Miss M. Conway (Bradford), President N.U.W.T., and the speakers will include Miss E. C. Crosby, L.L.A., Miss Agnes Dawson, Miss E. E. Froude, Miss A. G. Hewitt, L.L.A., Commander Kenworthy, M.P. (Hull), Mr. S. P. Viant, M.P. (Willesden), and Mrs. E. M. White (Federation of Women Civil Servants). The Women's Freedom League is supporting this Meeting, and we urge our members and friends to be present at Australia House, Friday, October 3rd.

#### "TROJAN WOMEN" MATINÉE.

The Women's International League announce that Miss Sybil Thorndike has consented to give a Special Matinée Performance of "Trojan Women" in the New Theatre, St. Martin's Lane, Friday, October 3rd, 3.30 p.m. Lady Mary Murray will make an introductory speech. Usual prices.



FRIDAY,  
SEPT. 26,  
1924.

# THE VOTE

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**A**TTRACTIVE Old-fashioned House, now a residential hotel. Winter, 3 guineas.—MISS BUTTERWORTH, Jesmond Cottage, Church Square, Shepperton-on-Thames.

## NOTICES.

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

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, September 28th. 6.30 p.m. Mr. S. K. Radcliffe: "The Hope from Geneva."

## TRADE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

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

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

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## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1;

Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.