

THE VOTE,
JULY 4, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

A Feminist at the Labour Conference.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1919.

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

K. S. Tanner.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

PEACE!

A FEMINIST AT THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

STATE REGULATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

THE POLITICAL WORK OF THE WOMEN'S
FREEDOM LEAGUE.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

"It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

NO SHIRKING!

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by
MR. LLOYD GEORGE, Prime Minister. MR. BONAR LAW, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE!

The Government has decided to hold out the hand of equal friendship to the massed multitudes of India, and has introduced the rudiments of Representative Government into its Indian Reform Bill now before Parliament.

The Bill will create
10,000,000 Indian Voters.

These are to be

MEN 10,000,000

WOMEN 0



Will the 6,000,000 Women voters in these islands allow such a Bill to pass as it stands?

NO!

Indian women are working their hardest for the inclusion of women, but India is a long way off and its women, our sisters, are calling to us who are here upon the spot to do what they cannot do, and to secure the insertion of an amendment which will enfranchise 1,000,000 women.

Not only are we English, Scotch, Welsh, or Irish women, we are also the citizens of the British Empire. We inherit the wealth of its glory and the burden of its responsibilities. The welfare of our country and the liberties of our fellow subjects are our sacred trust.

We demand for Indian women votes on equal terms with men.

Now is the time for action. Come to the big public meeting at Essex Hall next Friday, and hear all about India's women and their need for enfranchisement, and then discuss it everywhere you go.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

A particularly interesting feature of the Leicester Conference (June 24th—27th) was the presence of a considerable number of foreign delegates—ladies from Denmark, Holland, France, Ireland, Australia, and Serbia—who, with the exception of Madame St. Croix, who spoke in French, all used the English language as their medium of expression. The veteran delegate was Mrs. Haslam, from Dublin, who, although over 90 years old, attended most of the meetings, even those held in the late evening, and spoke at several. She spoke in support of the resolution sent in by the Women's Freedom League, on Equal Pay for Equal Work, and proposed a rider to our resolution on Barristers and Solicitors (making provisions apply to Ireland).

International Council of Women.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon's presidential address, which was marked by deep feeling and passionate sincerity, dealt almost exclusively with the ideals of the League of Nations and the absolute necessity, in order to ensure its success, that women should be made full partners with men in responsibility for its control. Mrs. Gordon pointed out that women had been among the first to organise themselves on international lines, and that the formation of the International Council of Women in 1888 was in those days a great step in advance. Experience of the working of that body had taught women, amongst other things, that it was the duty and privilege of the more enlightened nations to help forward the less advanced, so that general progress could be maintained. It was peculiarly the function of the International Council of Women to help forward the League of Nations, and the President went on to enumerate various ways in which this might be done. The address ended with a very fine and dignified peroration, in which Mrs. Gordon expressed the hope that women might prove worthy of the fine insight into the future that marked the genius of the first international stateswomen, and that the womanhood of the nations might now be enabled to assume with calm and dignity its due and proper share in national and international councils of reconstruction.

Women's Freedom League Resolutions.

The most important part of the Conference, i.e., the discussion on the various resolutions and amendments thereto, took place during the morning sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. There were no fewer than five emergency resolutions, all of them dealing with important matters, which is to be regretted as it gave no opportunity of discussing with any particular branch or affiliated society all the resolutions to be moved at an annual conference. The two resolutions moved on behalf of the Women's Freedom League were carried unanimously, with slight amendments.

"That this meeting of the Representative Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland calls upon the Government to redeem its election pledge to the women of Great Britain, by granting in the House of Commons full facilities for the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, which has already passed through its stages in the House of Lords, so that the provisions of this Bill become the law of the land at the earliest possible moment."

"That this Representative Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland presses for equal opportunities and equal remuneration for equal work of women with men, and the recognition of their equal status throughout all branches of professional, business, and industrial life."

A third resolution on Income Tax, another subject in which the Women's Freedom League is specially interested, was carried with only one dissident (Lady Nott Bower).

An urgency resolution urging the Government to see that the Restoration of Pre-War Practices Bill imposes

no restriction upon the employment of women beyond those promised in the Treasury Agreement, and in particular begging that the right of women to work in new trades may not be taken from them, was passed unanimously.

Topical Discussions.

The longest and most animated discussions of the whole Conference took place when the resolutions dealing with Pure Milk, Organised Play, Local Veto, and kindred subjects were under discussion.

At the Thursday afternoon meeting, dealing with Widows' Pensions and Endowment of Motherhood, no resolution was proposed, but in the discussion which followed the feeling of the meeting was evidently pretty strongly against the Endowment of Motherhood. There seemed no opposition to Widows' Pensions.

In the evening at a public meeting to uphold women as patrols, police and magistrates, on juries and in police court work, Mr. Holford Knight was one of the speakers, and also Miss Helena Normanton, who gave a racy as well as illuminating address on Women as Magistrates and on Juries.

There was also a public meeting on Agriculture and Outdoor Employment, when F. L. C. Floud, C.B., Assistant Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, was one of the speakers, and provided the audience with a feast of statistics. The Conference was undoubtedly a success, though there is little doubt that it was overshadowed by the Labour Conference meeting at the same time in Southport. This resulted in the Women's Council receiving less notice than usual in the Press.

K. S. TANNER.

A British Woman's Nationality.

One of the reasons why the Women's Freedom League urged so strongly that representative women of all nations should take part in the proceedings of the Peace Conference was that the right of a woman to her own nationality should be established, and that she should not be dispossessed of that right by the mere fact that she married a foreigner. Until 1870 a British woman could claim this right; but, without any woman being consulted on the subject, in that year a few men secured that by the law of our land a woman should automatically take the nationality of her husband if she married a foreigner. This was certainly treating a woman as her husband's chattel, and destroyed what we consider to be her inalienable birthright. When the Aliens' Restriction Bill was discussed last year in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords, the Women's Freedom League exerted all its efforts to get this right of nationality restored to British women; but without success, although Sir Willoughby Dickenson did everything that was humanly possible to get the law altered in this respect. We all know the unnecessary suffering inflicted on the British wives of alien enemies during the war because the law insisted that they had no right to their own nationality. When Mr. de Lazlo's case was recently before the courts Mrs. de Lazlo, in giving evidence, was asked: "How would you regard the loss of British nationality?"

Witness: "I should regard it as a very great disaster—a terrible thing in fact."

Mr. Branson (for the Crown): "You realise that when you married him you lost your British nationality?"—Witness: "I did."

"Did it seem to you a very terrible thing?"—Witness: "Yes."

In our opinion it was also an intolerably silly thing, and British women should work hard to remove this indignity and injustice imposed on them by law in 1870.

F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women and Foreign Politics.

The potency of women in cementing international goodwill is just now attracting a good deal of attention. Miss Helen Fraser, since her return from the States, has been eloquently insistent upon the subject. She prophesies that the future of women will be intimately bound up in the international life of the various nations, and that the League of Nations, once it is in proper working order, should enable women to meet with women without the barrier of trade rivalry, and other matters, which so frequently separate men. A similar note prevailed in the National Council meetings at Leicester last week. Lady Aberdeen told the assembled delegates how General Smuts had said to her recently in Paris that if the world was to be rebuilt the women would have to build it, and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon made the important announcement of a proposal to form a Committee or Clearing House of Information to advise an authoritative committee outside the League of Nations.

A Female "Carpentier."

Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, the French girl champion, who is still in her 'teens, has triumphantly smashed up all our insular conventions respecting the game of lawn tennis since her arrival in England. Her amazingly facile conquest of Mrs. Larcomb still lingers as a nine days' wonder in the minds of spectators at Wimbledon last week. Apart from pace and severity, she is splendidly accurate in her volleys. Her father has been her chief instructor from her earliest years—when only fifteen she won the French open championship—and when at home she plays chiefly against men opponents. Mlle. Lenglen naïvely ascribes her success to the fact that when she plays she "throws dignity to the winds, and thinks of nothing but the game."

Emigration and Middle Age.

The normal cry is for the young and healthy when founding new populations overseas, but it appears there is a vocation for the mature woman also in the Colonies of the future. Colonel Obed Smith, a Western Canadian, speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Overseas Nursing Association, urged the great necessity for experienced women's help in maternity cases on the prairie stations. Five hundred capable middle-aged midwives, he said, would be of far greater value to the community than any number of skilled nurses. Returning Colonial soldiers were taking back some 50,000 wives from this side of the Atlantic, and these were probably only the vanguard of a great army. The evidence of Commissioner Lamb, of the Salvation Army, speaking before the National Birth-rate Commission, last week, is interesting in this connection. The disproportion between the sexes in this country before the War, he said, was causing grave disquietude to many. Now it had assumed a menacing aspect. Any plans of future reconstruction which overlooked the necessity for a more equal distribution of the sexes throughout the Empire would fail in one of the most important details.

Baby Week.

This is Baby Week in London. On Tuesday a three-days' conference will open at the Kingsway Hall, and the remaining part of the week will be spent by delegates in visiting the chief institutions dealing with infants' welfare and allied subjects. Wednesday's meeting especially is a sign of the times. On that day members of the Permanent Bureau of the International Union will meet to discuss the welfare of infancy. Baby Week ends on Sunday with special addresses in the churches.

An Equal Division of Labour.

Mrs. Gordon Stables, writing in the *Daily Express*, voices a popular grievance amongst hard-worked professional women, in her brisk recommendation to "Teach the boys to sew." Small boys, she says, are almost always taught some sort of handwork, darning with bass or wool, netting, basket work, weaving and sewing, etc., up to the ages of nine or ten years, but such tuition invariably ceases when they pass on to a larger school. If, however, boys were expected to continue doing their own darning and mending even in the higher forms, not only would they make far more efficient citizens in countries overseas, but their wives and sisters, who are frequently nowadays working as long hours as their menfolk, would be relieved from an irritating system of double duties which invariably await them at the close of the day, whilst their male relations are enjoying relaxations to which they are denied access by this double share of labour.

Women and Medicine.

At last week's prize-giving at the London School of Medicine for Women, Miss Aldrich Blake prophesied that the new Ministry of Health would mean a great increase in women doctors. Miss Frances Ivens, who gave away the prizes, said that a great opportunity was coming for medical women in the period of reconstruction now following after the war, and expressed a hope that it would not be long before a medical woman was appointed Minister of Health. There are 480 students at present working in the school. Amongst the prize-winners of last week were Miss Marjorie Back, who was awarded the Gant Medal for surgery, in addition to several prizes; Miss K. Field, who won the Dean's Medal for clinical work, and Miss Lena Adam, to whose share fell a number of prizes. Miss Lewis, administrator in anatomy at the school, has recently been made a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. This is the second time a woman has been awarded this distinction.

Women as Chairmen of Railway Companies.

Most of us are incensed at the continued high railway fares, and lately we have been acutely conscious of the defective management in railway companies, which is responsible for so much delay, and so many losses of connection in railway travelling. Men who have had experience of managing railways in distant parts of the world fiercely condemn the muddle and mismanagement which are rampant in so much of the railway administration in this country. It is, therefore, comforting to learn that two women have become chairmen of two comparatively small companies—Mrs. Daniell, of the Mumbles Railway and Pier Company, and the Hon. Elaine Jenkins, of the Swansea and Mumbles Railway. We wish them both success, and hope it will not be long before women are appointed chairmen of some of the bigger railway companies of the United Kingdom.

A Woman Inventor.

The working of the anti-gas fans or beaters designed by Mrs. Ayrton, widow of the late Professor Ayrton, for driving off poison-gas, was demonstrated by the inventor before the Royal Society last week. During the last two years of the war large numbers of these fans were used in France for repelling gas attacks, and especially for clearing trenches and dug-outs. When beaten half-a-dozen times in rapid succession on what represents the parapet or trench, the fan is propelled forwards, checking the flow of smoke. It is amusing to learn that when this weapon of defence was first introduced to the War Office it was turned down as "not a military proposition."

THE VOTE.

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EDITORIAL

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

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Peace!

After a world-war of nearly five years the Peace Treaty has been signed, and the peoples of the earth have now to turn their minds from the creation of destruction and devastation to the great work of reconstruction within their own countries. The British nation has known how to wage and to win the war, and women's share in this victory has been fully recognised. We are confident that British women will know how to gather in the fruits of Peace and that they will do all in their power to see that the seeds of future wars are not sown in our land.

Women of all races, of all colours and creeds, have had in these years of conflict one common sorrow, an overwhelming sense of the wrong that war has inflicted by its incalculable sacrifice of precious human life, and its immeasurable waste of the resources of civilisation. It is true that women had no part in the actual making of the war, and they were given no share in the Peace counsels; but we believe that women will take their full share in the healing processes of Peace, and will be among the first to realise that a genuine Peace on earth involves a consciousness of goodwill to the women and men of all lands.

Women now, no less than men, must take stock of their country's resources of material, intellectual, and moral wealth; and they must be prepared not only to work in the development of this wealth, but to insist on sharing the results of their labours with men. The cessation of war has not brought about a Millennium in any country; in every land there are thousands of men and women seeking employment and the wherewithal to keep body and soul together. It is the business of women to see that their fellow-women get fair play in the industrial market. Industry is threatening to dominate the life of nations, and women, who are year by year coming into the labour market in increasing numbers, must secure some controlling power of this industrial machine. Their influence will certainly tend to restore its balance. Then, too, women must secure equality with men in the high positions of Church and State, the two strongholds of masculine prejudice and presumption. Men have preached to women, made laws for them, and governed them for centuries; and it has taken the holocaust of the last five years to convince many men that they had no Divine right to keep women in subjection. The door is now ajar for women's freedom, but it will need much strength of purpose, and a great deal of organised effort on the part of women to push open that door which leads to their full emancipation. This is a task for the women of all lands; in each country there will be special and particular obstacles to their advance; but we have every faith in the women's victory which will ensure, we believe, the peace of the world.

The Magic Age of Thirty.

The House of Lords has succeeded in creating a new disqualification against our sex by passing Lord Strachie's amendment to the Justices of the Peace (Qualification of Women) Bill, the effect of which is that a woman cannot be appointed a Justice of the Peace until she has attained the age of thirty. In Lord Strachie's opinion it would be very disagreeable for any noble lord, sitting at the hearing of such cases as bastardy cases, to have a young *unmarried* (the italics are ours) woman sitting with him on the Bench! Lord Strachie did not suggest that there might be cases in which women being implicated or interested, might object to a young *unmarried* man being on the Bench. It is high time that these absurd restrictions on women under thirty were removed. For centuries men have constructed barriers against women's progress; it has been left to the wizards of the twentieth century to exclude women from spheres of usefulness because they are under thirty years of age. Only the other day the combined ages of seven magistrates who were trying a case in which a girl was involved came to over five hundred years of age. Does Lord Strachie believe that seven women under thirty years of age would have dealt with this particular case less sensibly than these seven well-intentioned old gentlemen? Mr. Bernard Shaw's declaration, that no magistrate should be allowed to sit on the Bench when he had passed the age of thirty-five finds more favour with us than Lord Strachie's argument. In any case, let us have done with this new and special disqualification of age in regard to women!

The Unequal Yoke.

We hear that in the divorce courts there are about 800 suits down for hearing, and of these more than two-thirds are suits by husbands against wives. This fact gives occasion for pointing out the depravity of women and the laxity of moral decorum due to the abnormal conditions created by the war. The argument would be telling if we did not remember (1) that the ground upon which a man and a woman can claim a divorce are not equal, and (2) that diatribes on the corruption of modern society do not date from 1914. Some years ago Father Bernard Vaughan caused a sensation by his thunderings from the pulpit on this subject, and playgoers of the last half century will remember the satire which has been expended on the profligacy of the period, while to some people at the present time the condemnation of other people's sins seems to afford a peculiar satisfaction.

There are those who regard the loosening of the marriage tie as the root of all the moral evil of the day. Naturally, those who oppose divorce from religious conviction will lose no opportunity of demonstrating the evils which they hold to arise from its practice. In early days the Church claimed control over the whole question of marriage, and the only divorce it recognised was equivalent to what is now known as judicial separation, carrying with it no right to re-marry, though it granted decrees of nullity of marriage. It seems now, however, too late in the day to discuss whether or no divorce shall be permissible, since nearly every civilised country has found it expedient to grant some measure of release from conditions which have become intolerable to one or both of the married partners. It was pointed out in the Report of the Royal Commission on Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, published in 1912, that Great Britain and some of her Colonies stand alone in differentiating between the grounds of divorce which are permitted respectively to husband and wife. As is well known, in England a man can divorce his wife for adultery alone, while she must, in addition to adultery, prove cruelty or desertion. This is not necessary in Scotland, where adultery alone can be pleaded by the wife as a cause for obtaining a divorce. In that country, desertion for four years entitles either party to their freedom.

A Feminist at the Labour Conference

It was disappointing to see very little increase in the number of women chosen as delegates this year. It seems only by very slow degrees that even enfranchised women are making their way to an effective position in any political party.

The conference of the Women's Section (held earlier in the week) testified that vigorous work had been carried on by the energetic spirits among the women, and many weighty questions concerning the Ministry of Health, Housing, and the Coal Commission, were discussed in a very practical manner. On the last two questions Mrs. Hart summarised her evidence before the Coal Commission in a particularly vivid speech. Mrs. Andrews, who also gave evidence, quoted a case in South Wales, where a woman had gone through her confinement in a cellar dwelling of one room because of the shortage of houses, although on the same estate the lord of the manor possessed elaborate dog kennels lit with electric light.

It was very evident that the union of the Women's Labour League and the Labour Party was a marriage of the old sort—resulting in subservience and economic dependence of the wife. A certain enthusiastic section of the women were planning action to be endorsed by the Women's Conference, but the platform toned it down to a recommendation to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party for their consideration. In reply to protests, their Chairman, Miss Lawrence, said: "We cannot do anything of ourselves. We haven't the money."

The National Labour Conference bore testimony, however, to a number of outstanding characters among the women. Only a few of these spoke, but all were worth hearing. This cannot by any means be said of all the numerous men speakers.

An emergency resolution was passed in support of the Women's Emancipation Bill. The tone of the women who moved and seconded this was, unfortunately, almost apologetic. This is the attitude that will certainly encourage the Labour Party to make of its spouse a drudge and down-trodden wife.

A really fine resolution on Education was passed after a brief but spirited speech from a Gloucestershire woman, a member of the Dock, Wharf and Riverside Workers' Union.

It was not at all easy for a woman to catch the Chairman's eye. This fact evoked a question from a feminine voice at the back: "May women speak to any of these resolutions?" His reply was, "Yes, if the Conference wants to hear you." As he never named a woman, except when she was put down to move or second a resolution, he evidently judged the feeling of the Conference by his own, i.e., unwilling to hear a woman raise her voice in a public assembly. The reception accorded to the women speakers, however, was a denial of this. Mrs. Annie Besant held a packed hall spellbound by her fervent appeal for a free India.

D. E.

Women and the Health Ministry.

The Ministry of Health, from July 1st onward, is now an established feature. The idea really originated with the late Lord Rhondda, whose great ambition, when at the Local Government Board, was to centralise all health functions under one Ministry, to be associated with the Local Government Board, but under another name. Thus that great apostle of Food Rationing will also be associated in the minds of posterity with the benefactions of Health. It has been officially stated that a number of women are to be members of the four Consultative Councils, Dr. Addison, as Health Minister, is proposing to set up, but no names, so far, have yet been announced. Housing is one of the new Ministry's most important duties. Already several thousand houses are being built under the new schemes. The advice of those who spend the larger part of their lives within four walls is badly needed in this connection.

Notable Nurses.

The impending retirement of Dame Ethel Becher, G.B.E., matron-in-chief of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and Dame Maud McCarthy, G.B.E., matron-in-chief in France, closes an important epoch in the nursing world. It is very seldom, even in such a crisis as the last war, that two such distinguished women should have been in such close contact for so long a time. Both were trained together at the London Hospital by another famous woman, the late Miss Eva Luckes, both volunteered for service in the South African crisis, and both directed their respective departments throughout the entire period of the world war.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 the regular nursing service consisted of 290 members, and the reserve of 173, making a total of 463. At the close of the war, in the autumn of that year, there were 5,000 nurses working in the reserve of the military service. This amazing result was entirely due to Miss Becher's administration. Abroad, in France, Miss McCarthy carried out equally astonishing feats. Abbeville, officially the nursing headquarters, saw her but seldom, for Miss McCarthy and her car were practically all over the country at all times, visiting the various military hospitals and the most advanced casualty clearing stations, more often than not in danger of her life.

Between them these two indefatigable ladies furnished the hospital staffs, not only in France, but in Gallipoli, Mesopotamia, German East Africa, and latterly Murmansk, manned the hospital ships with suitable selections, and organised the nursing of the overseas troops, when nurses came over from Canada, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, literally by hundreds.

State Regulation of Trained Nurses.

No experienced reformer is ever discouraged, under any circumstances. The spirit of Liberty is indomitable, and overcomes all difficulties in the end. This is the spirit—the *no-surrender spirit*—which inspires the supporters of the Central Committee's Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, or, in other words, the *Workers' Bill*, in contradistinction to the *Employers' Bill*. The former, it will be remembered, has passed the second reading and the committee stage, with satisfaction to its supporters, as the amendments introduced did not imperil the vital principles for which they had consistently and persistently stood for so long.

At this point in the proceedings the Council of the College of Nursing Company induced Lord Goschen to introduce a rival Bill into the House of Lords, the principles of which are in direct opposition to that now before the House of Commons. In this Bill—known as the *Employers' Bill*—it is laid down that the direct representatives of the nurses on the General Council shall not be "nurses" but "*persons*." In other words, not a seat on the Council is secured to a nurse! This is what they call democracy! Suffragists will fully appreciate the significance and danger of such a clause. Moreover, the primary object of this Bill is to secure the incorporation of this limited liability company into the Act for State Registration. This would have the effect of giving monopoly of power by this one body over the entire profession, which would mean unjustifiable subjugation.

On Friday, June 27th, the *Workers' Bill* reached the report stage. The opposition party, bent on wrecking it, had handed in certain "wrecking amendments." Dr. Addison, on behalf of the Government, proposed that both Bills should be dropped, and made a suggestion that the Government should bring in a measure of their own. This would have been equivalent to a weak surrender, but, fortunately, Major Barnett, who is in charge of the *Workers' Bill*, repudiated the suggestion, and the Bill was consequently not withdrawn, but the consideration of it was adjourned until next Friday, July 4th. We earnestly hope that readers of THE VOTE will use all their influence to get their Members to support the Bill of the Central Committee—the *Workers' Bill*.

BEATRICE KENT,
 Royal British Nurses' Association.

The Political Work of the Women's Freedom League.

During the past week we have sent a memorial petitioning for facilities for the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, to the Prime Minister. This memorial was signed by a great number of distinguished and well-known women—doctors, scientists, writers, the principals of women's colleges, actresses, women county councillors, and officials of most women's organisations. We are now trying to secure two hundred signatures from Members of Parliament to a similar memorial, and hope that with the pressure of public opinion the Government will see that this Bill is passed into law without delay—in any case before the House rises for its summer holidays.

We have asked Sir Robert Horne (the Minister of Labour) to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League to put before him our views on this Bill.

We have sent the following three-lined whip to every Member of the House of Commons:—

URGENT.

30th June, 1919.

WOMEN'S SOCIETIES WHIP.

Dear Sir,—*You are earnestly requested to be in your place Friday, July 4th, or on any other day when the Women's Emancipation Bill will again be discussed in the House of Commons, and to vote for this Bill as it stands: that is, with the inclusion of Clause 2, which will extend votes to women on the same terms as to men.*

The whip is signed by the following fourteen societies:—

Actresses Franchise League, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Fabian Women's Group, Federation of Women Civil Servants, Free Church League, Hendon Women's Election League, Independent Women's Social and Political Union, National Federation of Women Teachers, National and Industrial Women's Suffrage Society, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Petersfield Society for Equal Citizenship, Women's International League, Women's Freedom League.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

The Women's Labour Charter.

The investigations of the Women's Employment Committee, appointed in August, 1916, under the guidance of Major Hills, M.P., has now been issued as a Blue Book. Amongst the various suggestions put forward by the Committee the following are perhaps the most important: free entrance for women to clerical posts in Local Government service, and a large extension of Trade Boards, with better organisation in order to secure adequate wages; a 44-hour working week, with an annual fortnight's holiday on full pay; a new Shop Hours' Act to limit the existing long hours and long spells; a shorter working day; continuation of the welfare work originated in the war, and the appointment of women superintendents where women are employed in large numbers; training at State cost, and one department only to be made responsible for its administration.

The Committee are strongly opposed to the employment of married women outside their homes. It urges much greater facilities in medical and midwifery services, both before and after confinement, and recommends the adoption of the system of Mothers' Pensions as carried out in America. This system would enable widows and deserted wives, including the wives of men serving long terms of imprisonment, to remain at home and care for their children, and these benefits might even be extended to the wives of men, who, by reason of disability, would otherwise be obliged to transfer the support of their families to their wives.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE TAX RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN GREAT BRITAIN.

(from W.F.L. Literature Department, 1s.; post free, 1s. 1d.)

Not long ago, at the final meeting of the Women's Tax Resistance League, it was decided to present the famous John Hampden Banner (which did such magnificent service at so many women's protest meetings against the Government's unconstitutional practice of taxation without representation), to the Women's Freedom League. We treasure this standard of former days, and now we are the grateful recipients of an edition of "The Tax Resistance Movement in Great Britain," written by our old friend, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, with an introduction by another of our friends, Mr. Laurence Housman.

This little book is charmingly produced, and on its outside cover appear a figure of Britannia and the colours of the Women's Tax Resistance League. Every reader of THE VOTE knows that it was the Women's Freedom League which first organised tax resistance in the year 1909 as a protest against women's political disfranchisement, and all our readers should be in possession of a copy of this book, which gives a history of the movement, tracing it back to 1870, when two sisters, the Misses Priestman, had their dining-room chairs taken to the sale-room, because, being voteless, they objected to taxes being levied upon them. Dr. Octavia Lewin is mentioned as the first woman to resist the payment of licences. It is refreshing to renew our recollections of the tax resistance protests made by Mrs. Despard, Mr. Wilks (who was imprisoned in Brixton Gaol for a fortnight), Miss Housman (who was kept in Holloway Prison for a week), Mrs. Darent Harrison, Mrs. Harvey (who had a term of imprisonment), Miss Raleigh, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Dr. Patch, Miss Brewster, Dr. Knight (who was also imprisoned), Mrs. Sargent Florence, Miss Gertrude Eaton, and a host of others too numerous to mention, and last, but not least, Miss Evelyn Sharp, who, as Mrs. Parkes says, "has the distinction of being the last tax resister to suffer persecution at the hands of unrepresentative government in the women's long struggle for citizenship." The full list of tax-resisters appearing at the end of this pamphlet will be found to be of special interest to all suffragists.

THE UPWARD SPIRAL.

"The Spirit of the New Age." By Rose Hungerford. (Headley Bros.). 1s. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

The author adheres to the old mystic theory that all through the ages Spirit has been steadily working its way downward through Matter in order to reach a turning-point from which to begin to ascend. This turning-point has now been reached; force has exhausted itself, and materialism has had its day. The future of the human race is to be no longer downward, but upward. Spirituality, not materialism, is now to be the ruling trend of life and action. Not that Miss Hungerford condemns materialism. She recognises that, like the problem of Suffering, it has its appointed order in the Divine Cosmos. Amongst the human family she believes this phenomenon is especially represented by the masculine element, and that it forms the rungs of a ladder of which the finer and more spiritual forces—the feminine—compose the topmost steps.

The great task of transforming the ancient "masculinity" of the Universe on to a higher, more spiritual plane, the author assigns to woman, "the incomprehensible, the devoted, the self-sacrificing, the being who before all else is the creature of Love." But she takes care to point out that only through a fuller and wider development of the sex can such a task be successfully accomplished.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

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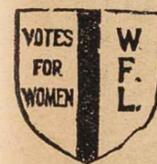
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Wednesday, July 9.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 10.—Political Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, 12 noon. Open-air Meeting, opposite The Clock Tower, Regent's Park, 7 p.m. Golder's Green Branch Meeting, 13, Temple Fortune Court, 8.15 p.m.

Friday, July 11.—Lecture by Mrs. Annie Besant, on "Indian Women as Citizens," Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. Chair, Mrs. Despard. Admission, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Wednesday, July 16.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 17.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 12 noon, 144, High Holborn. Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, July 9.—Ashford: Women's Club Meeting at "Woodbrooke," 2, Jemmelts Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Banks), 2.30. Speeches by members of the club.

Thursday, July 10.—Hastings and St. Leonards: Mrs. Darent Harrison will be at Home to members and friends at 1, St. Paul's Place, 4.30 p.m. Speaker, Councillor Edith How Martyn. Subject, "Local Government." Chair, Councillor T. Samson. Swansea: Garden Party at Cwm Garw (by kind permission of Mrs. Dawson).

VOTES FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

A Lecture by Mrs. Annie Besant on "Indian Women as Citizens," will be held at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Friday, July 11, at 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Admission 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Branch Notes.

Bexhill.

A most successful concert in aid of local funds was held at 19 Marine Mansions last Wednesday, by kind permission of Mrs. Williams. The Secretary, Mrs. Bryan Gippis, whose classical concerts are well known, delighted everyone with her beautiful rendering of pianoforte solos. Mrs. Faylor Sabin and Miss Hubbard contributed songs and violin solos very efficiently, and we warmly thank all three ladies for their very kind help. Members of the local branch had willingly bought tickets, so the room was full. A very small boy energetically sold programmes, and a considerably big sum has been handed to the Treasurer for local expenses. A delightful tea, arranged by those two energetic members, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Hart, was partaken of at a small cost. THE VOTE was bought by many, and several new members were made. Mrs. Bryan Gippis, in a short speech, thanked all present for their help, and said she would be glad to hear of those who were willing to help the Women's Freedom League in the autumn by giving drawing-room meetings, etc. Several promises were made—one from the Bexhill Sisterhood was excellent. The Secretary of the Sisterhood promised to pay half expenses if we would send W.F.L. speakers to their Monday evening meetings.

Ashford.

A successful garden meeting, arranged by the President of the Ashford Branch, Mrs. Kither, was held last Friday at Glangariff, Albert Road. Mrs. Kither, who presided, briefly introduced the speaker, Mrs. How Martyn, who made an excellent speech on "Local Government." Many questions were asked at the close of the meeting, which showed the keen interest felt by the audience.

THE OPEN-AIR CAMPAIGN.

"So you're at it again!" exclaimed a man, as the Freedom League platform made its appearance in Hyde Park for the opening meeting of the Open-Air Campaign.

"You've got the vote! What d'yer want now?" he asked, impatiently, as the Chairman began her address.

His question was soon answered. He learnt that item No. 1 on the programme of the Women's Freedom League is to work for the extension of the franchise to women under thirty.

At this meeting and at ensuing meetings special stress has been laid on the situation with which women will be faced if the Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill is allowed to become law. We find that the question of the retention of women in industry is one which never fails to awaken the liveliest interest and controversy. In fact, feeling for and against the Bill is so strong that it is sometimes expedient to request contending members of the audience to fight out their differences of opinion at the conclusion of the meeting!

"Why do all these thousands of women—who were not on the labour market before the War—want work now?" is the stock poser of the man in the crowd, whose thinking apparatus has been marking-time for the last five years.

The speaker reminds him that his knowledge of economic conditions is pre-War, and he is lucky if someone in the crowd does not add:

"Pre-historic, you mean, Miss!"

Equally out-of-date is the heckler who insists that the only place for women is the home.

"I ain't got a home; I ain't likely to get one either till there are a few women in Parliament, to see that these here Housing Bills they're always talking about comes to something," a tired woman worker declared angrily to a small group of men who were testing their old-time stock arguments.

Thus our meetings are not lacking in humour, interest, or enthusiasm, and we feel that a great educational work lies before us. To make this Open-Air Campaign a success, stewards and paper-sellers are urgently needed. Will those willing to assist kindly communicate with Miss E. Hambling, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Scottish Council: Clyde Campaign.

The Clyde Campaign will this year be run by the Scottish Council, with Miss Anna Munro in charge. It will open at Rothsay on July 9th, and Miss Munro makes a special appeal for help of all kinds for this campaign. She wants speakers, volunteers for collecting and selling literature and THE VOTE, and donations for the expenses of the campaign. She will be assisted by Miss Dorothy Barrs, Miss Gilmour, and Mrs. Forrest. All offers of help will be gladly acknowledged by Miss Munro at Park Farm House, Thatcham, Berks.

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THE BIRTHDAY FUND.

If you have not yet sent in your contribution to the Birthday Fund, you may still be in time to give it to me at the Party or to send it to me to be added to the list. But do not put it off any longer, for delays are dangerous, and your League requires all your support.

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn,
W.C.1.

Hon. Treas.

FRIDAY,
JULY 4,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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WANTED, Organiser for the Women's Freedom League.—Apply, by letter only, giving full particulars, to the SECRETARY, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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IF you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

Join the Women's Freedom League.

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

Name _____

Address _____