

THE VOTE,
MAY 16, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

George Bernard Shaw and the Judges!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 16, 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.

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

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Progress in Holland.

A Woman's Suffrage Bill passed the Dutch Second Chamber on May 10.

The French Chamber and Votes for Women.

On May 9 votes for women were discussed in the French Chamber. M. Flandrin introduced "a half-way measure," conferring on women the right to vote in communal and departmental elections. M. Bracke opposed, declaring that it was not necessary to be a man of genius to be an elector, or even to be elected. Other deputies supported the right of women to full political recognition, no one wishing to speak against the proposal, and the debate was adjourned. According to Reuter, women suffrage will be passed by a large majority.

Wages of Women Cable Makers.

Women and girls employed in the cable-making trade, including the electrical section, are under an award of a court of arbitration to receive an advance

in wages of 5s. and 2s. 6d. respectively, provided the total advances over pre-war rates shall not exceed 20s. and 10s.

Nurses' War Gratuity.

A Royal Warrant has just been issued granting a new and more generous rate of gratuity to members of the Military Nursing Services in recognition of their war services.

The Q.A.I.M.N.S. (Regular) have been given a war gratuity on the same lines as regular officers, *i.e.*, nurses below the rank of principal matron get a lieutenant's gratuity (£40) for the first year's war service and increments of £1 or 10s. a month (according to whether they have served overseas or only at home) for each subsequent year or part of a year. Principal matrons are classed with captains (£45), and matrons-in-chief with lieutenant-colonels (£75), while all receive the same increments for service subsequent to the first year.

The temporary nurses (Q.A.I.M.N.S.R. and T.F.N.S.) now get a more generous gratuity than that previously provided. Staff nurses get £20 for the first year, sisters £30, and matrons £40; while all get 10s. a month increment for

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 _____

each subsequent year or part of a year, irrespective of whether their service has been at home or overseas.

A gratuity has also been given to V.A.D. nurses and assistant nurses employed by the War Office. They are to get £10 for the first year, with increments similar to those for the reserve or the T.F.N.S.

Women's Industrial Charter.

We hope to deal next week with the report of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry, which recommends equal pay for equal work.

WOMEN'S VILLAGE COUNCILS.

With a success that would be surprising but for a faith that from the beginning has characterised their pioneer efforts, the number of Women's Village Councils is steadily rising month by month and year by year. They were first started in the extreme South of England less than two years ago; they spread over the neighbouring counties, and have since taken root in the Midlands; it is impossible to think that the progressive Northerners will long remain uninfected with the same enthusiasm. Their object is to break through the crust of habit and custom that has caused stagnation in the life of villages, and to make that life, in its small and necessarily limited way, responsive to and in harmony with the thrill of the new time.

While "everything that makes for the good of our village" is the first aim in forming a Council, this soon grows to mean the betterment of all villages, linking them together in social service so that each one shall do its part in the recreation of the rural life of England. Rural needs are apt to be lost sight of in the concern that is felt for the overcrowded cities, but the villages have their slums and their squalid stories, and a picturesque exterior often hides an interior which the sanitary officer avoids. The Parish Council of the past studied the landlords, and the village councils of the present are studying the tenants, and between them the word "Duty" is having a very wide interpretation!

The propaganda circulated by the Women's Village Councils and the meetings they have held have caused a stirring of the pool that has troubled many—and healed not a few. Decisive in action, resourceful, determined, they are able to record successes achieved in such diverse matters as housing schemes, road repairs, water supply, hospital equipment, maternity and infant welfare, co-operative markets for produce, communal allotments, children's school dinners, clothing clubs, not to mention a variety of social movements that bring together all kinds of varied talents. To carry out the betterment of their own village and to link its needs with neighbouring villages, the women are recognising that the first step is to educate themselves to take their place on Parish, Rural District, and County Councils. Short of this they are not likely to rest content; with less than a full representation on every responsible board or authority they may not be satisfied, for "the woman's cause is man's; they rise or sink together."

The Women's Village Councils make a bold claim to the woman's right to a share in government and administration, and though the claim is made in a limited area and on a comparatively small scale, it is typical in its assertiveness, and in its successfulness, of her claim to a still more responsible share in still larger concerns. Proving herself faithful in a few things, who shall dare to say she will not be faithful as a ruler over many things? L. H. Y.

Mock Election.

We regret that the Mock Election, arranged for Tuesday, May 20, has had to be postponed. It is hoped we shall be able to hold it shortly after the Whitsun holidays. The date and full particulars will be announced later.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Nevinson. Subject: "The Future of the Home."

Thursday, May 29.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

Sunday, June 1.—Visit to Hampton Court. Lunch and tea at the Maze Parlour. Further particulars next week.

Monday, June 2.—Discussion Meeting on "Equal Pay for Similar Duties," to be opened by Mr. Fred Hughes (National Union of Clerks), Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss M. I. Ingram (Law Tripos, Cambridge), "Why Women Workers Need Women Lawyers."

Thursday, June 5.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

PROVINCES.

Monday, May 19.—Middlesbrough. Social Meeting. Address, music and refreshments. Members and friends invited. The Suffrage Rooms 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21.—Portsmouth. Practice Debating Class, 21, Kent-road, 3.15 p.m. prompt. Discussion: "A State Bonus for All." Opener: Miss Maynard. Chair: Miss Bilney.

Thursday, May 22.—Bournemouth. Public Meeting, St. Peter's Hall, 5.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., "Women and the Administration of the Law." Chairman: Mr. J. Cameron Grant.

Saturday, May 31.—Manchester. Jumble Sale, 2.30 p.m. Contributions in money and goods will be gratefully received.

Monday, June 2.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Education."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, May 23.—British Dominions' Women Citizens' Union (Indian Section). Meeting at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., at 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Bonarjee, B.A., LL.B., Mrs. Bhola Nauth, Mr. Henry S. L. Polak. Subjects: "Legislation as far as it affects Indian Women." "Extracts from an Indian Lady's Diary." Chair: Mrs. Despard. Admission 1s., including tea. 3-6 p.m.

Saturday, May 31.—Reception, to meet the Garden Suburb Women Councillors, Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., Mrs. Bannister and Miss Hodge, at The Institute, 7.45 p.m. Short speeches by Rev. J. H. Rushbrooke, M.A., and Alfred Baker, Esq., L.C.C. Musical programme by Miss Enid Rose.

Thursday, June 5.—Cothelstone B.W.T.A. Public Lectures afternoon and evening. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Visit to Hampton Court.

All members and friends of the League are asked to keep free the first Sunday in June for a visit to Hampton Court. The arrangements as to time and meeting-places will appear in next week's VOTE. We shall have lunch and tea at The Maze Parlour, the new teashop opened by our good friend, Miss Reeves, of the Kensington Branch. Further particulars from Miss Janet Gibson, c/o Women's Freedom League Office.

Solicitors and Barristers (Qualification of Women) Bill.

LIEUT.-COL. SIR S. HOARE asked when the Solicitors and Barristers (Qualification of Women) Bill, which has passed the other House, will be taken in this House?

MR. BONAR LAW: I hope very shortly to find time for this Bill.

In reply to the resolution sent from our meeting, held in the Central Hall last week, the following letters have been received from Mr. Bonar Law and the Prime Minister:—

Dear Madam,
Mr. Bonar Law desires me to express his regret that owing to his absence in Paris your letter of May 7 has remained so long unanswered. He wishes me to say, however, that as he has already promised to give facilities for the passage of the Bill referred to, he regrets that it is not possible for him to receive the deputation from the Women's Freedom League.

Yours truly,

(Signed) E. M. WATSON.

The Chairman, Women's Freedom League.

Dear Sir,

I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 7, forwarding a resolution passed at a meeting held on the 5th inst. regarding Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill. As Mr. Lloyd George does not expect to be in London for some time, he regrets he is unable to receive a deputation on this subject.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ERNEST EVANS.

Miss E. H. Martyn.

Isn't there a curious sign of inefficiency evident in the Prime Minister's office? The letter begins "Dear Sir," but at the foot of it is "Miss E. H. Martyn."

Women Preachers.

Truly the masculine mind is a mystery. What can be thought of the Bishop of London's answer to the request of seven women to present to him a memorial of over a thousand signatures, collected in ten days, on the subject of women preachers. He replied: "Convocation will issue formal regulations on the subject in July. When the decision is taken the deputation will be received." It was then pointed out to him that the psychological moment would have passed. The latest is: "Send three, not seven!" Who are to be the Jonahs cast overboard?

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Petition to the London County Council.

The following petition, signed by 11,680 men and women teachers, was formally presented to the London County Council at its meeting at Spring Gardens last Tuesday afternoon by Mrs. Lamartine Yates. The petition was framed and the signatures collected in six days by the London unit of the National Federation of Women Teachers:—

We, the undersigned, in the London Council service, urge the London County Council to adopt immediately the principle of equal pay for equal work by raising the salaries of the women teachers to the level of that of the men teachers.

London County Council Impertinence.

The following is an extract taken from *The London County Council Gazette*, May 5, the italics being ours:—

The London County Council invites applications for the appointment of a Woman Medical Inspector under the Public Health Department. The salary will be £400 a year, rising by annual increments of £25 to £500 a year, together

with a temporary war addition. Candidates must be qualified medical practitioners, and must be unmarried or widows. The duties will consist mainly in the inspection of the practices of midwives certified under the Midwives Act, 1902, inspection of lying-in homes under the L.C.C. (General Powers) Act, 1915, and other work of a similar character.—Apply, etc.

The London County Council, the majority of whose members are presumably married men, has a curious prejudice against legal husbands, or at any rate against the women who want employment under the Council and are unfortunate enough to possess these legal encumbrances. Women teachers, women nurses, women doctors, if they happen to have husbands living, are all excluded from taking any work under the L.C.C. We should have thought that a married woman's experience would not have been a hindrance, but rather a help, to her in the special work which this particular woman Medical Inspector advertised for will have to perform.

We are always expecting the L.C.C. to send a strong resolution to the Houses of Parliament calling for the abolition of marriage or husbands. That might clear the air a little; but, meanwhile, we want to know what right the L.C.C. has to penalise women for being married, and to dictate that only single women or widows shall have the right to undertake the education and care of children and the inspection of lying-in homes?

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

The subject of Dr. G. B. Clark's lecture on May 7 was "Land Nationalisation." He pointed out that this question formed part of the Chartist programme, and that there must be a limitation to private property. Land, air, and water were necessary to life. No man created any one of these, and no man therefore had any moral right to a monopoly of any one of them. This island of ours was one of the richest agricultural countries in the world, but produced less than other countries. Our production, with the advantage of better soil, produced only one-third of the production of Germany, where there were three times more men employed in cultivating land than in this country. Our land was, in fact, starved for want of labour and capital. From 1861 to 1911 the men employed on the land in this country had been reduced by 50 per cent. Dr. Clark did not advocate the confiscation of land, but that the State should take over the land and be prepared to pay a fair price for it. This price could be fixed by the amount of death duties paid by landlords—twenty years' purchase would be the economic rent of the land. He did not consider it should be under the control of bureaucrats from the centre; but preferably under the County Councils, the members of which should be paid for their services, plus their travelling expenses. In Scotland there were three and a-quarter million acres of arable land, while four million acres were used for sport only. The war had made great changes. Our foreign trade would not be in the future what it had been in the past. Just before the war America and Germany had captured a great deal of our iron trade. India was developing much of the cotton industry which used to come to us; so were America and Japan. In future we should have to depend more and more on our home trade, and it was essential to get people back to the land. The only solution for these problems was the nationalisation of the land. In presiding, Mrs. Mustard said that the nationalisation of many things was at present before the politicians of this country. The housing question had become acute, but it could not be tackled without dealing with the land. She did not think that the mere taxation of land values would provide cheap land. A good discussion followed Dr. Clark's lecture, among those taking part in it being Dr. Vickery, Miss Evans, and Mr. Crawford.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 16th, 1919.

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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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THE LAST ROSE OF SUMMER.

We have all heard of the enthusiastic young male students who strenuously opposed women sharing their medical studies, and the last scream of Sir Almroth Wright against the enfranchisement of women is within the memory of most of us. It is not, therefore, very surprising that there should still be left one, Mr. Justice Younger, who seized the occasion of the annual dinner of the Union Society of London, held at the Trocadero Restaurant last week, to oppose the entry of women to the Bar. The following report of his speech proposing the toast of "The Bar" appears in *The Times* of May 10:—

Alluding to the prospect of women entering the profession, he said that probably one of two things might happen—either by their presence they would lower that high standard which had hitherto characterised the profession in the hands of one sex, or, failing to do that, but failing also themselves to reach the ideal obtained without an effort by those who had been accustomed to it, they would cease to be a force. If eventually they reached that traditional high standard which had become a commonplace among the members of the Bar, so much the better, but unless and until they did he thought that the advent to the profession of women would not be to the advantage of the Bar.

He thought they would all agree that, although the Bar was called and was in fact a trade union, with rules stricter even than those of the miner, nevertheless those rules had in the main been justified up to the present by reason of the fact that, strange as it might seem, they had not to any material extent conflicted with the public interest. He was satisfied that no rule of the Bar or of the profession ought to be tolerated for an instant if it was contrary to the public interest, but he was equally satisfied that, as had been shown by long experience, the public interest had been well served and he believed had been best served by the maintenance of those strict rules which, in the eyes of the outsider, were supposed to constitute the Bar one of the closest and, from that point of view, one of the most unjustifiable trade unions.

These statements were well answered by Judge Mackarness, who in *The Times* of May 12, wrote as follows:

Sir,—I think it would be a misfortune if Mr. Justice Younger's remarks upon the admission of women to the Bar, as reported in *The Times* to-day, should be taken to be the opinion of anyone but himself. I cannot believe that there is any other Judge—or, indeed, many members of the Bar—who thinks with him that there is a likelihood of women "by their presence lowering that high standard which has hitherto characterised the profession in the hands of one sex."

This is surely neither a happy nor a courteous reflection to make upon the sex to which the mothers and wives and sisters of all of us belong, and the sex which during the last four years produced thousands of brave, capable, and devoted women of the highest quality.

But, apart from that, is not the learned Judge speaking upon a matter with which he can have little practical acquaintance? In the Chancery Division, where he presides, witness actions are the exception, and a woman litigant in person must be a *rara avis*. In the County Court, which is less costly, more expeditious, and therefore more

popular, I have often heard women conduct their own cases in a very competent manner; and I have no hesitation in saying that they give their evidence with an intelligence and lucidity not one whit inferior to that of men. But in this as in most things one ounce of fact is worth a bushel of opinions, and I would venture to commend to the learned Judge, as well as to your readers, the quite recently published statement of a Judge in Canada, before whom women have been practising for some years. This is what he says:—

"In my own experience, as in that of other Judges I have consulted, when a woman appears in Court, she conducts her case with dignity and propriety, exhibiting as much legal acumen, knowledge of the law, and sound sense as her male *confère*, and she does not trade upon her sex."

He adds this remarkable testimony:—

"So far as I can find out, there has never been a charge of dishonesty or unprofessional conduct made against a woman practitioner of law in Ontario or elsewhere."

Thus Mr. Justice Riddell. Can Mr. Justice Younger say as much of all the male practitioners who have appeared before him?

There is one other point we would wish to make, and that is that the exclusion of women from the Bar is entirely against the public interest. The trained legal intelligence of qualified women ought to be at the disposal of the public, and the time has gone by when credence can be given to the views of men that, in the interests of women themselves and in the interests of the public, the competition of women should be prohibited. In the legal profession, at any rate, organised professional opposition has been withdrawn. The Lord Chancellor is no longer an opponent; the public can see no reason at all why women should not become barristers and solicitors. The House of Lords has passed a Bill to enable women to enter both branches of this profession, and Mr. Bonar Law has promised to give facilities for the passage of this Bill through the House of Commons. So, unless Mr. Justice Younger can persuade himself to change his mind on this subject, we are afraid he must soon find himself "left blooming alone." F. A. J.

Everybody's Business!

The moment has come for:—

**WOMEN BARRISTERS
WOMEN SOLICITORS**

Men have done their part in bringing in our Bill and the House of Lords has passed it.

Women must now do their part in bringing the reform out of the region of theory and into practical politics by focussing and demonstrating their demand for it.

If you want it ask for it, and if you ask loudly enough it is yours.

The Prime Minister will bring the Bill forward and carry it through the House of Commons if he knows you are determined to have it. He is waiting for you to tell him.

Remember we can have AT ONCE:—

**WOMEN BARRISTERS
WOMEN SOLICITORS**

and these will bring after them very quickly:—

**WOMEN MAGISTRATES
WOMEN on JURIES
A WOMAN PUBLIC DEFENDER**

and many other improvements.

The Women's Freedom League is organising a strenuous campaign, other Societies are co-operating with us.

EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON YOU.

Liberal contributions to the expenses of the campaign are necessary. Every member has a chance to help, and without your support we can do nothing.

144, High Holborn.

E. KNIGHT.

MILK—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.—III.

BY COUNCILLOR J. T. MUSTARD, F.R.H.S.

"Who is the guilty party, the producer or the retailer? We do not get pure milk."

On reading my article a friend wrote the above, and the question in the main has already been answered. In the majority of cases the milk is tampered with after it leaves the farmer. Where steps have been taken to trace adulteration and the milk leaving farms has been stopped and analysed the farmers have hardly ever been the guilty parties.

There has been a travelling Commission inquiring into the costs of production, and as a result producers in some parts of the country are not allowed 1s. 4d. per gallon, but 1s. 2d., as is the case of several counties in the South-West.

Why was there not a full inquiry into the costs of distribution, which was and is more important? For just as the costs of production vary within a narrow limit the costs of distribution vary largely. Take another type of milk seller—the man who has farms on the outskirts of London, for example. He can bring in his milk direct from his farm and sell it at the price of any retailer, viz., 2s. 4d. per gallon. He thus gets both profits, yet the producer remote from a big town has to send his milk a good distance to the railway station, and only gets 1s. 4d.

How to solve the problem in these days of

PROFITEERING

is a big task, as we have got a long way from the mediæval "economic doctrine of a just price." However, we do find that farmers as a body are more patriotic than the average townsmen, owing perhaps to the facts that (1) they have a stake in the country; (2) contact with the soil tends to honesty; (3) the vile profiteering so rampant in industry and commerce has not gripped them.

We do not get pure milk. Agreed! To obtain it we must have more labour on the farms to secure cleanliness in every detail of milk production. Shortage of labour is largely responsible, because so much work has to be done in a short time. Yet, visiting many farms during the past five years one is struck with the amount of care and cleanliness, which all means work. Directly the milking is done the milk is passed through a cooler in a room as clean as water and work can make it; and when this process is finished the place and all utensils are thoroughly cleaned.

Clean milk, not graded milk. Milk, like water for domestic use, must be above suspicion. Those who suggest grading milk must have a vague idea of what British people, and especially the workers, are going to have. Is the poor mother with a big family to have grade C3 milk, whilst the rich, childless woman is to have A1 milk? No! Let all our milk be clean and wholesome whether supplied in Belgravia or along the Thames side.

MILK CONTROL.

Before coming to any decision I earnestly urge all public-spirited individuals and organisations, before it is too late, to realise that already much of the milk distribution, especially in London, is now in the hands of a big combine. I believe they have got a big pull with the powers who are considering this question of control. In fact, it was whispered some time ago that the Government were going to take over one very big combine (at the present enhanced price of their shares which you and I as consumers have helped to create), or else to get them to take over the distribution of milk. I hope that idea has been scotched, but—

May I ask all readers this question: "Is your milkman under a combine or not?" Try to find out, and if you follow up the question you will find something out that you never dreamt of.

Some time ago a local Food Control Committee went into this question of distribution, and agreed that milk sold over the counter in customers' jugs

should be 7d., and 8d. delivered at the house. It was decided that this order, among many others relating to other foods, should be issued. *The milk order never went out*; the others did. At the same time one retailer in the district, who was selling milk over the counter at 7d., had to cease doing so, as the combine gave him to understand that if he continued he would get no more milk. He had to submit or lose his business. How farcical it is to read on the agenda of the Public Health Committee a resolution from another Metropolitan Borough asking us to agree to their resolution that milk retailers should buy direct from the farmer. As I pointed out at the time such action should have been taken at least two years ago, when the combines were getting ahead.

BUY DIRECT FROM THE FARMERS.

Nearly two years ago I suggested that the milk supplied to our Infant Welfare Centres and similar institutions should be got direct from farmers under seal. I was told it would be the thin end of the wedge, etc., etc. Yet I told them that some farmers I had spoken to about the inferior milk supplied to such places would willingly see that such places got good milk.

That is one way of securing supplies of milk. Buy direct from farmers under seal, and the chances of adulteration, etc., are reduced to a minimum. Also, the milk being sealed up, when the cans are moved about there would not be that waste in spilling; and it is the creamy part on top that comes out.

How delightful it would be if every group of Baby Welfare Centres in London were to get their milk direct from a farm where there was also accommodation for sending two or three sickly children at a time to see where their milk came from, and incidentally to get sunny and bonny. We could take this as the thin end of the wedge if you like, and let each municipality, or part thereof, get direct from some well-known grazing district. It might even bring country and town into closer touch, which would be all to the good.

DISTRIBUTION.

Whether the distribution should be in the hands of the municipal authorities is a debatable question. At any rate I believe milk control in some limited form at least has come to stay, and we must find the best and most practical way of securing good, wholesome supplies.

1. Is the municipal authority to take over distribution? Many object to this; but municipalities already control bigger undertakings which are less vital to the health of a community, e.g., electricity stations for producing and distributing electric power, heat, and light.

2. Shall the municipal bodies prepare registers of all milk retailers in their areas, also the sources of their milk supplies, and be empowered to strike off any registered dealer when convicted of infringing the Food and Drugs Acts or of breaking any of the local by-laws.

No. 2 is already in operation, in a sense, by local Food Control Committees in that they register retailers and have power to strike off any name should they think the public interest is thereby best served.

There are other methods of distribution, but the two I have given are what I consider practical solutions of the present *distribution scandal*. They take for granted that the octopus' middlemen, whether acting as a huge combine or otherwise, shall be entirely eliminated. To do this means educating the general public as to the morass into which milk distribution has got, which can only be done by the most patient and searching investigation into the present state of affairs, which have come like a thief in the night during the past three years or more.

Less than a month ago I was discussing this question with a group of farmers who were producing about a thousand gallons of milk daily, and most of whose milk is taken by a big combine. One turned to me and said: "You take my word for it, they'll

squeeze you and us as well." Of course they will. Combines are not out primarily to do service for their country (if they have one). They are out for profit all the time.

This is very largely a *Woman's Question*. As youngsters we often walked a mile or more to a neighbouring farm each morning and got a quart of milk for 2½d. It was milk! I remember its delicious taste now. How many children in London or our big cities have *tasted real milk*? To many such a treat, like a paddle in the sea, is yet to come.

In conclusion, let me appeal to the Women's Freedom League and all readers of *THE VOTE* to give this matter their most serious and persistent attention. It is a matter of the first vital importance to our public health, and also is typical of that growth of the combination of financiers and others who will stop at nothing to secure profits and live ostentatiously. The best war memorial we could establish would be to secure for the families of the fighting men a supply of wholesome pure milk.

Within an hour after the completion of the above article I met a gentleman who is in the wholesale provision business. My statements about the pernicious grasping of combines are very mild indeed to those he made. Let me utter a word of grave warning. Keep both eyes sharply upon this new growth in our midst of the *non-British financiers* coming to this country to *kill our production of home-grown food* as far as possible so as to obtain a more ready market for their preparations in tins, etc. Milk preparations may be good as a stand-by, but you cannot beat good, wholesome milk as a reliable food. We have been knocked out as a country producing pigs and the many foods the porker gives us. Are we to be also knocked out as a producer of milk?

In calling attention to Mr. Mustard's important article we suggest to our members to bring pressure to bear on all societies and organisations to consider the pure milk question and to pass a resolution similar to the following:—

In view of the scandalous increase of milk adulteration, and especially of the number of cases in which the warranty is taken as a sufficient defence and the culprits are dismissed, this meeting calls upon the Government to take speedy action to remedy this intolerable state of affairs.

Copies of the resolution should be sent to the Local Government Board and the local M.P.s.

Whitsuntide Campaign.

New Brighton—June 4th to June 14th.

An open-air campaign will take place during the Whitsuntide holidays, and meetings will be held on "Women and Reconstruction," "Women and Housing," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Women and the Law," "The Need of Women Magistrates," etc. Miss Mary Neal and others will speak.

Helpers and *VOTE* sellers are urgently needed, as these holiday campaigns are far-reaching in their results and effects, touching a large number of people who often find it impossible to attend indoor meetings. But it is impossible to carry them on without the sinews of war, so I shall thankfully receive your Treasury notes and postal orders as soon as possible.

ALIX. M. CLARK, Hon. Organiser,
The Hut, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs.

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G. B. SHAW AS PENAL REFORMER. Send the Judges to Prison.

Speaking at a meeting of the Police and Public Vigilance Society, held at the Essex Hall on May 8, George Bernard Shaw declared that "our prison system is horribly wicked. It leaves every man who touches it worse than it found him. It is hideous and stupidly cruel. But now it is becoming comparatively easy to convince people, because it seems to me that in a very short time every honest man in the country will have done six months and got to know something about it. Every magistrate, every judge, every Lord Chief Justice, and every man in this country concerned in sending men to prison ought to do three months' imprisonment in order to learn what it means.

"Most of our judges are far too sentimental. When a man gets to 40 he is guided by his passions, which get worse as he gets older. But there is a purity of intellect and a passion for justice about youth. No man over the age of 35 should be allowed on the Bench. After that age he should come down to the Bar, where he can give free vent to his temper. The idea that age and experience are a guarantee of justice is not true. Judges are mostly too old. But a juryman chosen from a list of ratepayers is more impartial and representative. He is not elected by an elaborate system of lies, like Members of Parliament. There is a continual conflict going on all through the country between judge and jury. The judge is continually trying to take away the jury's power, and is always trying to persuade the jury to find on facts and not upon the point of the morality of the fact—a very different thing."

Dr. Clifford moved a resolution urging the extension of the provisions of the Court of Criminal Appeal to give judges power to order a new trial "whenever by doing so they would in their opinion further the interests of justice." The resolution also asked for the extension of the provisions of the Act of 1907 to cover appeals from police-courts to Quarter Sessions.

Miss Underwood, addressing the meeting, said that the Women's Freedom League had not been much enamoured with the quality or the quantity of British justice dispensed to their members in the police-courts when they came into conflict with the authorities during the days of struggle for women's political enfranchisement, and perhaps still less so since their members had visited police-courts in London and in the country, more or less regularly, to watch the cases against the girls and women who appeared in these courts, and she contended that we wanted safeguards for British justice. What chance had an ordinary poor friendless girl who was brought into a police-court on a charge of soliciting? She was charged and convicted on police evidence only, the man whom she was supposed to have annoyed not appearing in the court. The magistrates, too, in many instances were apparently prejudiced against these girls, and treated them very differently from the way in which they would have treated boys. Miss Underwood insisted that women magistrates were necessary if we wanted justice for women. We had a Public Prosecutor; why not also a Public Defender? But there must be women as well as men Public Defenders. In fact, in every court in the land there should be a legally trained man and a legally trained woman to whom accused persons could apply for legal aid. The magistrate, too, should not be supreme in the court. He should remember that he was the servant of the public, and should be responsible to the public for the administration of justice. She supported very warmly the resolution that whenever it was considered that a magistrate had given a wrong decision a commission of suitable men and women should be appointed to review the case and make a serious attempt to get justice done.

The Health Bill in the Lords.

In the House of Lords, the Health Bill's Committee stage began on May 8, and was adjourned to May 13.

In answer to a question by the EARL OF SELBORNE as to what women had been given appointments in the housing administration, LORD SANDHURST stated that no women had so far been appointed; the work was administrative, professional and technical, and no women with the requisite qualifications and experience had presented themselves for appointment. (*But what steps were taken to inform women of these appointments and to invite them to apply for them?*)

LORD TENTERDEN's amendment introducing the dangerous principle of compulsory treatment was fortunately lost.

The same fate overtook another amendment by the same Peer, that "one Consultative Council should be composed of women only." In support of this he affirmed that women were vitally concerned in the health of the whole nation, in housing, preparation of food, nursing, sickness, and medical inspection of children, etc., and that they found discussion of many subjects in the presence of men distasteful and difficult.

To this theory we cannot agree. Members of public bodies must be content to sit and work on those bodies, not as men and women, but as human beings, viewing the world from a slightly different standpoint, and such human beings can find no difficulty in the discussion of any necessary subject.

What we want is an equal number of men and women on each Consultative Council, and there is no force in the argument that since at present there are more men doctors than medical women, and more men than women on the Local Authorities and on the Insurance bodies, therefore men must outnumber women by three to one on the Medical, Local Government, and Insurance Consultative Councils. Each Council only consists of twenty members, and needs only ten women, and there is a wide choice for the selection of these ten.

The Bill, when passed, will intimately affect the whole population, the majority of whom are women, and it is on the democratic principle that the governing shall represent the governed, that the Women's Freedom League is still calling for *equal numbers of men and women upon all the Councils of the Health Ministry.*

HOUSING.

Representatives of local authorities of the Greater London area, appointed in connection with the national housing and town planning scheme, report as follows:—

"The committee states that if Greater London is to be treated on equal lines with the other great areas of the kingdom so far as the population basis is concerned, then it needs at least 50,000 houses; 12,500 houses should be built in the North-Western, 10,000 in the East and North-Eastern, 7,500 in the South-Eastern, 5,000 in the Southern, 7,500 in the South-Western, and 7,500 in the West of London area. The committee urges that on no account should purely working-class areas be developed, and except where this is inevitable the great working-class districts formed on the North-Eastern borders of London should not be further added to."

WHO GETS THE PROFIT?—In the debate in the House of Commons on import restrictions, Mr. Holmes stated that a few months ago Japanese key-switch lampholders, which are used in practically every factory and private house fitted for electric lighting, came in here at 11s. 3d. per dozen, and were sold at 36s. per dozen. At the present time they were coming in at 10s. per dozen and being sold at 25s. per dozen.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 ls. 5d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	239	12	1
Special Emergency War Fund—			
Miss M. Fox	1	10	0
"A Friend"	1	5	0
		2	15
National Union of Teachers Conference Campaign—			
Per Alix M. Clark:—			
Mrs. Schofield Coates	5	0	0
Dr. Knight	5	0	0
Mrs. Despard	1	0	0
Miss Neal	10	0	0
Miss Bisdee	5	0	0
Mrs. Fisher	5	0	0
Miss Gibson	5	0	0
Miss N. E. McMunn	5	0	0
Mrs. Mustard	5	0	0
Mrs. Pierotti	5	0	0
Miss Smith	5	0	0
Miss Underwood	5	0	0
Miss Mardon	3	0	0
Miss S. G. Barnet	2	6	0
Miss Evans	2	6	0
Miss Hodge	2	6	0
Mrs. Hanscombe	1	0	0
Mrs. Metge	1	0	0
Miss Mitchell	1	0	0
Miss Munro	1	0	0
Mrs. Whetton	1	0	0
Collection	1	12	0
Montgomery Boroughs Branch (Sale of Cakes)	3	5	0
Montgomery Boroughs Teachers	3	0	0

Minerva Café, per Mrs. Fisher	22	2	6
Mrs. Schofield Coates	30	0	0
Mrs. Bunton	16	0	0
Miss Buntin	5	0	0
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck	5	0	0
Mrs. E. R. Napier	5	0	0
Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett	5	0	0
Miss Juliet Reckitt	3	3	0
Mrs. Sharman	3	3	0
Mrs. K. Thomson	3	3	0
F. J. Gordon, Esq.	2	2	0
Miss M. Hare	2	2	0
E. A. Bell, Esq.	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Delbanco	1	1	0
Mrs. H. M. Nidd	1	1	0
Miss Bisdee	1	0	0
Miss Esther Bright	1	0	0
Miss Amy Hicks	1	0	0
J. Y. Kennedy, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. L. M. Lloyd	1	0	0
Mrs. D. B. Montefiore	1	0	0
Miss Maude Smith	1	0	0
Mrs. Thomson	1	0	0
Mrs. Crosland Taylor	1	0	0
Mrs. Darent Harrison	10	0	0
Mrs. Cobden Sanderson	10	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
Miss Mary Marshall	5	0	0
Miss E. Mardon	5	0	0
Misses Sprentall	5	0	0
Mrs. Tritton	5	0	0
Miss G. A. Moore	2	6	0
Tickets	8	0	0
Collections	5	13	0
Sundries	5	14	9
Branches—			
Tottenham and Stamford Hill	15	3	0
Capitation Fees—			
Ashford	1	0	0
Tottenham and Stamford Hill	10	0	0
	372	14	1

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League and crossed "London Provincial and South Western Bank, Ltd."

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FRIDAY,
MAY 16,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

Ashford.

Miss White, South-East Coast organiser, reports as follows:—

The Debating Class held at Glengarriff, Albert-road, on May 6, was a great success. The room was filled to overflowing, and an animated discussion took place on "Weak Laws with Regard to Women." Mrs. Pertwee dealt mainly with the divorce laws, also with the laws regarding the mother and the children. She insisted that much remained to be done before women had gained their freedom. She dealt also with the leaflet, "What We Are Working For," published by the Women's Freedom League. Her hearers were much impressed by the work done by the League. Several joined the local branch and promised to give help in the future. Warmest thanks are given to Mrs. Kither, who so kindly placed her room at our disposal.

WOMEN'S CLUB.—The Club is still going well. We congratulate those women who came forward to speak at the last meeting; local talent is sometimes hard to find, but we certainly have it at Ashford. Miss Janet Gibson will speak next Wednesday. It is to be hoped that she will have a good meeting. A large garden meeting is being arranged for July. We hope to give further details in the next issue of THE VOTE.

Bexhill.

Mrs. Pertwee spoke on "Weak Laws with Regard to Women" at the Debating Class on May 7. Will members take note that a Thé Chantant is being arranged to take place in June? Time and place to be announced later. It is with great regret that we say "Good-bye" to Mrs. Teebay, who is leaving Bexhill for a time. She has long been invaluable in selling THE VOTE every week. The organiser will be glad to hear of someone who will undertake this piece of work. It means that she must spend a day in Bexhill every week until someone is found to sell the paper.

Hastings.

The Debating Class held last Wednesday was fairly well attended. We were pleased to see new faces. The time was altered to 5.30, which seemed to meet with general approval. We warmly thank Mrs. Jowers for her kind offer to let us have her drawing-room for meetings every month in the future.

Bournemouth.

The Bournemouth Branch of the Women's Freedom League is co-operating with other local women's organisations in a public meeting, to be held at St. Peter's Hall, Thursday, May 22, at 5.30 p.m., when the following resolution will be moved: "This meeting declares its conviction that grave miscarriage of justice frequently occurs in cases involving charges of offences alleged to have been committed on women and girls, and that these would be minimised by the appointment of women to share in the administration of the law." Speaker: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Chairman: Mr. Cameron Grant. Both men and women are urgently asked to attend.

Manchester.

The branch passed resolutions urging the City Council to acquire, without delay, all unused land and unoccupied premises in or near Manchester, to meet the need of housing the population, and to co-opt at once a number of representative women equal to the number of men on its Housing Committee.

On May 31, at 2.30 p.m., we shall hold a jumble sale. Contributions in money and in goods will be gratefully received by the hon. secretary.

Portsmouth.

At our monthly public meeting on Wednesday, May 7, Dr. Marie Grigsby, from the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease, gave a very fine address. Mrs. Whetton, from the chair, welcomed Dr. Grigsby as an old worker in the suffrage movement. There was a good attendance, a good discussion, and a good collection. The Practice Debating Class will be held as usual on the third Wednesday in the month (May 21), at 3.15 p.m. Miss Maynard will open a discussion on "A State Bonus for All." Mrs. Bilney will take the chair.

UNREST IN INDIA.

PUBLIC MEETING

to protest against

COERCION IN INDIA,

Friday, May 23rd, at 8 p.m., Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C. 1.
Chairman: Holford Knight, Barrister-at-Law. Speakers: Col. J. Wedgwood, M.P., D.S.O., Geo. Lansbury, Maude Royden, R. Williams.
Sec. to the Meeting: Mrs. Josephine Ransom, 7, Southampton Street, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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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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