

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 27, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S VICTORY!

THE VOTE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1920

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

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OUR BRIGHTON WOMAN MAGISTRATE

Interview with Mrs. E. J. Smith.

Our representative was warmly greeted by Mrs. E. J. Smith, one of the newly-appointed J.P.s for Brighton, and a member of the Women's Freedom League of some years standing, when she sent in her request for an interview last week.

"I am only too delighted to do anything for the Women's Freedom League," Mrs. Smith said. "My public life? Well, it seems to go back a good long way, and I have no pretensions as to birth or special qualifications! I was born of working-class parents at Horsham in Sussex, and had nothing but the ordinary school education all girls of my class had then; there were no national schools, and I went to the church schools, working for my living in various ways till my marriage.

"Always interested more or less in politics, I joined the Social Democrat Party, and it was a branch of this that ran me for the Board of Guardians just 14 years ago. My husband is a keen worker for the Trades Unions, and has been secretary for his district, so that we are a very busy couple, yet I find time to keep my home going, and make my own blouses, etc., in spite of my public work! I worked for over two years on the children's canteen dinners at a time of great distress; also on the local Committee of the Food Council, on the Mental Deficiency Committee under Brighton Borough Council, and on the Distress Committee for the Unemployed. I have been a Brighton Poor Law Guardian over 13 years, and an active member of all the principal Committees of the Poor Law Guardians—in particular that for the Warren Farm Schools for the children, whose education, happiness and comfort lie close to my heart. I have always considered myself as a guardian of the

interests of the poor, and have always made the comfort of the old people—both men and women—in the workhouse my special concern. I am a frequent visitor at the Brighton Workhouse; and I always make it a rule to visit the patients in the Asylum for the district.

"Did I have any difficulty in getting nominated in those days, as you imagine women very rarely held such posts? Yes; it was a hot fight—a three-cornered one, the two other nominees being two well-known Brighton men, but I won, and soon found there was a pressing need for women Guardians. It was very uphill work in the early days. We found much corruption, and I fear I was considered a nuisance, for I was determined to see many things righted and public money properly used. Also, I felt more humanity was needed in the handling of the inmates, in so many ways that a woman best understands."

"And the children, Mrs. Smith? I hear you take a great interest in them, and Brighton seems to have set an excellent example in the Warren Farm Schools. Where do you draw these children from?"

"They are Poor Law children, who, in one way or another, come under our supervision. Their parents have been in and out of the 'Institution' time after time. Some are of unknown parentage, and we find they respond splendidly to the opportunities given them, and where there is a possibility of taking scholarships every encouragement is given. They are taught all kinds of housecraft; the boys are apprenticed, and I hope before long the girls will be too, for I believe in vocational education for both sexes alike."

"How are you going to find time for your new work? I hear your name was suggested by the National



Federation of Women Workers."

"Yes, I am an hon. member of the Brighton Branch—I have been President, and am now a Vice-President—and they did me the honour of sending up my name for the J.P. list, knowing something of my work for the Labour Party for so many years, I suppose. I represent that Party on many Committees—the Relief, Mental Deficiency, Canteens for Children, Distress Committee for dealing with the unemployed. As a Guardian, I am on the Management, General Purposes and Relief Committees, and I am very keen on equal pay for men and women, and a standard rate for officers. Sex should be no bar for any post, and efficiency the only standard, and I think more Women Police are very much needed in Brighton. My future work on the Bench will deepen that conviction, I expect."

WOMEN THEOLOGIANs.

The gradual emancipation of women which has taken place during the last fifty years, and the consequent broadening of their sphere in all directions, has naturally led to an enormous increase, among women, in the desire for scientific instruction in all branches of learning. Medicine, economics, law—all have their women students now, and to these of late years has been added the study of theology. Women now hold the London B.D., the Manchester B.D., and can take theology both at Oxford and Cambridge, while the Archbishop of Canterbury has instituted the "Archbishop's Diploma in Theology" to meet the need for specially trained women in this science.

Though this shows in some measure the interest taken by women in the study of the Bible, in order to judge fully of the spirit behind this interest it would be well to visit Oxford during the first fortnight in August. Lodged in Somerville and St. Hugh's Colleges are a number of women teachers, missionaries and church workers of all kinds who have come from all over the country to attend the "Vacation Term for Biblical Study." Lecturers, who are all specialists in their subjects, lecture day by day at Somerville, and opportunity is given of becoming acquainted with the latest results of modern Biblical scholarship. The basis of the scheme is Christian, and lecturers are invited, apart from the consideration of their special religious position.

Coupled with the high standard of the lectures is the spirit of fellowship among those attending the course, a spirit which was never more needed than it is to-day in our troubled world. Some years ago such a gathering would have appeared to have little bearing on the problems of the world at large; to-day this combination of intellectual perception, theology and the spirit of fellowship seems to hold within it a great potency for the days to come, a force which, if only it is allowed free play, must be of great weight in the task of restoring the nations to peace and order.

CICELY M. ELLIS.

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WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Police in Ireland.

The women police who are now being employed in Ireland as searchers of women when the R.I.C., by whom they are temporarily employed, consider this necessary, are not those working at Scotland Yard, but members of the much older body founded by the late Miss Damer Dawson. There is such a demand for these last-named that the training school, which has already trained over 1,700 women, is starting another training course in October, and opening a training school in Scotland.

Women Fighters.

The *Manchester Guardian* quotes numerous precedents of British women soldiers in confirmation of the recent news from Poland that a feature of the army of resistance is the large number of women now in the firing line. The case of Christiania Cavanagh is mentioned, who fought beside her husband as a private soldier, and was buried with full military honours in 1739. Others quoted are Anne Chamberlayne, who "fought gallantly against the French"; Phoebe Hessel, who served for many years as a soldier and was wounded at Fontenoy; and Mary Ann Taylor, who served not only as a soldier, but as a sailor as well.

Ukrainian Women.

Women in the Ukraine have had the same political rights as the men since the Revolution of 1917. Nine women members have been elected to the first Ukrainian Parliament, and several women have been elected members of municipal councils. All posts in the Civil Service are accessible to women, and the principle of equal pay holds good between the sexes. Several women also occupy important posts in the Ministry of Public Education and other Ministries.

Women at the Church Congress.

Mrs. Cyril Bailey, Miss Maude Royden, and Miss Sybil Thorndike, the actress, will be amongst the speakers at the Church Congress, October 19th—22nd, at Southend. "Christ and Womanhood" is down as one of the subjects for discussion.

Woman Assistant-Attorney General.

Mrs. Annette Adams, of San Francisco, the first woman to occupy the office of Assistant Attorney General of the United States, has begun her duties at the Department of Justice in Washington.

A Disciple of Helen Keller.

Miss Sadie Isaacs, the blind student of the Central Foundation School, Spitalfields, who has distinguished herself by passing the London Matriculation Examination with honours, is to proceed to University College, London, for a three years' course. Her training has been due to the care of Miss Hanbridge, M.A., and the staff of the school named.

Honour for Mrs. Lloyd George.

The King is conferring upon Mrs. Lloyd George the honour of Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire, the highest distinction of the Order. This is in recognition of her services in connection with various funds raised during the war and since. In particular she was instrumental in raising a sum of over £200,000.

A Pioneer in Italy.

The death is announced of Anna Maria Mozzoni, the *doyenne* of Italian suffragists, at the age of 84. Since 1865, Madame Mozzoni had been working as lecturer, polemist and writer in the feminist cause. Her literary achievements included a compilation of the sanitary code in collaboration with Agostino Bertani, and a translation into Italian of John Stuart Mill's "Subjection of Women."

Successful Woman M.P.

Frau Elna Munch has been re-elected for the third time to the Danish Parliament.

WOMEN ON STRIKE.

As we go to press Lyons' girls are still on strike, the immediate cause being the dismissal of a kitchen hand, after fifteen years' service, for wearing her trade union badge. It has been stated in the Press that the girls had agreed not to wear this badge; but Mrs. Thring, an organiser of the Caterers' Union, declared emphatically to a representative of THE VOTE that neither Mr. Cann, the secretary to the Union, nor the girls themselves had ever agreed to this condition. It is, of course, quite usual for men trade unionists to wear their union badge when at work, and as the girls at Lyons' teashops are obliged to wear the firm's badge and separate number so that they can be reported by customers for any incivility, it is not unreasonable, they think, that they should be allowed to wear their union badge.

Interrogated as to the wages and conditions of Messrs. Lyons' employees, Mrs. Thring said that the average wage of the waitresses, kitchen girls, counter-girls and steam girls (those looking after the urns), is 30s. a week. Out of that amount 1s. 6d. is deducted for food, 4d. for State Insurance, 3d. for sports' club (of which it is stated the girls cannot make use, because the grounds are at Sudbury and they cannot afford the fare), and 1s. 6d. to 2s. for laundry. In addition, Mrs. Thring said that the girls had to have three shop dresses a year, which they bought from the firm at 37s. 6d. each. The class of people who get their meals at Lyons' tea-shops are not very lavish in their tips. At one of their busiest centres the tip-box is opened once a month, and the average amount shared out is 3s. each. Immediately afterwards a dress inspection is usually made, and the girls instructed as to whether or not they require a new dress.

As regards the food, Mrs. Thring did not think the allowance was over-generous. At one shop where there are 22 girls and a man, she assured our representative that the head kitchen hand was allowed 7 lbs. of meat for two days! Sometimes two vegetables are supplied, but generally only one. When the dinner is hot no pudding is provided; when cold there is pudding, but $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of rice has to do duty for 23 people!

Under such conditions no one can expect the girls to be contented in these days of high prices, especially when it is remembered that numbers of these girls have to live in lodgings. We must add that three irreproachable references are asked for when any of these girls apply to Messrs. Lyons for a job.

AUSTRIAN WOMEN VOTERS.

In the days of the old Austro-Hungarian monarchy the women of that country were forbidden to form political associations, or to become members thereof. After the establishment of the Austrian Republic a new election law, voted by the National Assembly in the autumn of 1918, brought in elective franchise for the House of Representatives for female citizens from 21 years of age, and was speedily followed by the same right for the Diet and the Municipal Boards. Austrian women voted for the first time at the elections for the legislative body in 1919, their votes largely outnumbering those of the men.

Great changes for women have also taken place in other departments of public life in Austria. Celibacy, hitherto forced upon female teachers, post office clerks, etc., is no longer demanded. All educational institutions hitherto closed against women in this country have now been thrown open, and the study of law, political economy, technical science, agriculture, and the fine arts made accessible to them.

Night labour of female and juvenile labourers is forbidden, as well as labour in unhealthy manufactures. Women work 44, men 48, hours a week as a rule. Expectant mothers are not called to work for six weeks before and six weeks after the birth of their child.

WOMEN LAWYERS.

Now that Englishwomen are no longer ostracised from the legal profession, it is curious to look back and see how resolutely John Bull set himself to oppose the advent of the woman lawyer, when practically every other civilised country in the world was yielding impartial testimony to the value of her services to the community. The position some years ago was all the more anomalous since women were allowed to read for law degrees at all the English universities, and to sit for all the university examinations in law, whilst all universities, except Oxford and Cambridge, conferred legal degrees on duly qualified women. Yet they were not permitted to practise, except unofficially, as solicitors' clerks!

The famous test case of *Bebb v. The Law Society* in the summer of 1913, with its final decision by the Court of Appeal in December of the same year, though now ancient history, is doubtless still fresh in the public mind. Miss Gwyneth, Marjorie Bebb, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Bebb, Principal of St. David's College, Lampeter, with three other ladies, Miss Ingram, Miss Nettlefold, and Miss Costelloe, all four of whom were duly qualified to practise as solicitors, applied to the Law Society to be examined at their preliminary examination before entering into articles of clerkship with solicitors. The Society refusing, Miss Bebb brought a test action against it, which was quashed by Mr. Justice Joyce, who contended that the Solicitors' Acts did not specifically give women the power to be admitted as solicitors, while the Court of Appeal, to which the case was afterwards carried, upheld the decision on historical grounds, that a woman could not be a solicitor owing to her sex!

The services which a woman of trained legal mind can render, in times of stress and perplexity would seem, nevertheless, too obvious for enumeration. Even in Germany, where the same prohibitions as to practise confronted the qualified woman lawyer, the value of her training was none the less appreciated, especially in matters connected with women and children. Women graduates who had studied law at the German universities were in great demand amongst local women's societies to direct legal advice bureaux, where women could obtain free advice and help in legal difficulties. They were also appointed to take charge of Children's Care Committees, or to act as women trustees and guardians.

In America women practise law in 45 out of the 48 States, and their numbers run into hundreds. Chicago has its woman Judge, as also have some of the Western suffrage States. The mention of India recalls the gracious personality of Miss Cornelia Sorabji, the Government's valued assistant in cases of litigation where the welfare of property of strictly secluded *purdah* women has to be considered. In Canada women may practise law, and a woman barrister pleads in the High Court at Ontario. The Queensland Legal Practitioners' Act of 1905 admitted women as barristers, solicitors, or conveyancers of the Supreme Court under the same conditions as men, and one woman barrister has been appointed Judge's Associate in the High Court of Australia. Referring to the admission of New Zealand women to the Bar, Sir Joseph Ward has put it on record that the clientèle appeared to be always men, not women, and that the ability of women lawyers was clearly proved by the number of cases they succeeded in winning!

Other examples can be elicited nearer home. Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Russia, France with its 80 women barristers at present entered at the Paris Bar, and many more in the provinces, and the Netherlands, where nearly 50 women practise law either as solicitors or barristers. Further north, the countries of Scandinavia, where in democratic Norway, some years ago, the first woman Judge in Europe was elected, in the person of Miss Ruth Sorenson.

D. M. N.

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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AMERICAN WOMEN'S VICTORY.

Last week, by 39 votes to 37 votes, the Women's Suffrage Amendment was ratified in the Tennessee Legislature. This makes the thirty-sixth State to approve the measure, and, unless technicalities intervene, the suffrage now becomes nation-wide, which means that the number of women voters will be raised from nineteen to twenty-eight millions in the forthcoming Presidential contest.

We learn from the *Times* that a fight is being made to nullify Tennessee's ratification, and that the anti-suffragists are loudly calling for a reconsideration of the record, although they have been told by Mr. Frank Thompson, the Attorney-General of Tennessee, that the ratification is valid. These opponents even assert that several legislators were bribed to vote for the ratification, and swear affidavits that an offer of £2,000 was made to one representative at least. Suffragists have often expressed a very poor opinion of men legislators, but they could hardly compete with anti-suffragists in that respect!

We offer our whole-hearted congratulations to our fellow-suffragists in America on securing this victory. We have nothing but unqualified praise for the dogged persistence with which our American sisters have pursued this victory ever since 1869—fifty-one years ago—when Wyoming gave its women equal suffrage with men. Before they could secure votes for all American women, 36 out of the 48 States had to agree to the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution, and during the last few weeks great excitement has prevailed in Tennessee—the last State necessary to secure full suffrage for American women. It is said that the different parties in the United States were not at all anxious that women should secure the vote for the Presidential Election, because women in America were known to be so strongly in favour of the League of Nations and of Prohibition; but, after all, women are as keenly interested as men in their nation's welfare, and have as great a stake in their country, so that it is only fair that they should have an equal say with men in the government of that country. In the Presidential Election of 1916 only three or four million women voted; and now it is expected that twenty-eight million women will be numbered among the electorate. We specially rejoice in this victory of our American sisters. Truly the old order is changing rapidly. Women's direct influence in politics will restore the balance of what has been a lopsided world for countless generations; and the free expression of women's point of view with the power to enforce its acceptance will be responsible for many changes in the near future. American and British women have so much in common in the way of tradition, interests, and outlook; and now that they have another bond of union through their enfranchisement we are confident that their influence on political thought and action throughout the world will be illimitable. In connection with the securing of votes for women in America everyone will remember Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the President of the International Suffrage Alliance, to whose statesmanlike leadership, hard work and persistency suffragists of every land most cordially pay their tribute.

THE PAY ENVELOPE.

Theoretically the women in Czecho-Slovakia have equal rights with men. Before the War women had penetrated into various branches of industry, and during the War wider opportunities were given for the exercise of their activities. They were tried in executive positions, in skilled mechanical operations, and oftentimes in labour which was entirely too heavy for them. Women were munition workers, and so great was the drain of the War upon man power that all kinds of transportation were practically in the hands of women. When the men returned they demanded that the women should give them back their jobs. *The Christian Science Monitor* tells us that public opinion agreed; but the women replied: "We need the pay envelope as much as men," and the public made the astonishing discovery that the wage of a woman, formerly regarded as "pin money," supplementary to a man's wage and parasitic, had become a necessity. Her work was not odd jobs that men had refused to do, but a firmly woven part of the economic fabric. "We must have the pay envelope!" awakened the public. Is it too much to hope that the great British public will do a little thinking on its own account in regard to the position of British women workers? Men are continually striking for higher wages and just as continuously crying out against the employment of women whenever a man is in want of a job. During the past five years the War has deprived thousands of working women of any prospect of marriage, and these women will be permanently in the Labour Market; many other women have been forced there by ever-increasing prices; and great numbers of girls of the middle and working classes have grown up, and through the pressure of economic conditions also find themselves in the Labour Market. They need the pay envelope quite as much as their brothers. Is it fair or human to deprive them of it?

SEX DISCRIMINATION.

The Woman Citizen reports that another proof has recently been given that the Civil Service in America discriminates against women. A woman who is qualified in every way to be either assistant director of pathological laboratories or pathologist and has been certified several times from both of these lists, cannot secure a recognised appointment because the Department refuses to accept a woman. It is stated that she is at present performing all the duties of the position of pathologist—but no recognition! She was advised to carry the matter to court and get a decision against the sex discrimination which is retarding her promotion, but decided instead to join the League of Women Voters in her city because she believes that groups of women banded together against sex injustices are more effective than is any one person single-handed. We are convinced that she acted rightly. It is only by organised effort that women can overcome the walls of prejudice and injustice which impede their progress. Because women did not rely solely on individual effort but co-operated with each other in their determination to obtain political power, they secured a measure of suffrage—in Great Britain it is still far from being equal suffrage for the sexes; but every day brings its proof that women are hampered in all directions by sex discrimination; and until they realise in every fibre of their being that this discrimination will continue to check their advancement, and then unite together to concentrate upon the breaking down of every artificial sex barrier, the great mass of women cannot hope to be anything more than the hewers of wood and carriers of water under the direction of men in our social structure. The lesson above all others that advanced women have to learn is that individual work is poor in result but organised effort is all-powerful in achieving success.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

Quinquennial Meeting in Christiania.

The International Council of Women, representing some twenty million women from all parts of the world, will hold its sixth quinquennial meeting in Christiania early next month. This great Federation, consisting of twenty-eight National Councils of Women, each of which, in its turn, being a Federation of the women's societies and organisations in each of the countries represented, owed its origin in 1888 to Miss Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, together with a group of earnest and far-seeing American women. Its chief object was to provide a means of communication between women's organisations in all countries, and afford opportunities for women to meet together from all parts of the world to discuss the welfare of the commonwealth, the family, and the individual, political and religious questions of a controversial nature affecting the inter-relationship of two or more countries being excluded from the programme. Mrs. Fawcett was elected its first President.

The first quinquennial meeting of the Council was held in Chicago, in 1893, during the great World's Fair, and derived an enormous impetus from this coincidence. The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair was elected President on this occasion, and has held the post ever since. The second quinquennial was held in London in 1899, when representatives of ten organised National Councils took part. The third quinquennial meeting was held in Berlin in 1904, nineteen organised National Councils being then on the roll. The fourth quinquennial meeting was held in Toronto, Canada, in 1909, and the fifth quinquennial in Rome in 1914.

At the sixth quinquennial at Christiania, which is being held from September 8th—17th, the twenty-eight countries sending delegates and representatives include Great Britain and Ireland, the United States, Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, the Commonwealth of Australia, France, Argentina, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Norway, Belgium, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, Serbia, Czecho-Slovakia, Greece, Finland, Uruguay, Iceland, Portugal, Russia, and Roumania. Each of these countries is permitted to send ten delegates and ten proxies to the International Council.

Special interest attaches to the place of meeting at Christiania this year. The National Council of Norway has obtained permission to use the Storting, equivalent to our Houses of Parliament, for the forthcoming sessions of the International Council, but as this building contains an important injunction to the effect that all meetings must be carried on unaccompanied by "sound of applause," delegates and friends will have to restrain any potential demonstrations with due decorum! Many of the Governments have appointed official delegates to attend the Conference at Christiania next month. Great Britain is sending Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, the President of the National Council for Great Britain and Ireland, and the Governments of Finland, Greece, Belgium and Serbia are also sending official representatives. Amongst the delegates will be women from the East, China, Japan and India.

The Federation stands for international arbitration and an equal moral standard for both sexes. It upholds every effort to obtain the vote for women in all countries where representative Government exists; it wages war against the "White Slave" traffic wherever it is known to flourish, and deals generally with questions of women's health, education, trades, professions, emigration and immigration, and laws concerning their legal position. An enormous number of Resolutions, ranging over a vast number of subjects, have been sent in by the various countries federated to the International

Council. These comprise many varied suggestions, such as the interchange of public school teachers; instruction in citizenship; the welfare of children, especially children in the famine-stricken districts of Europe; the rights of children; protests against the loss of nationality of a woman upon marriage with a foreigner, and demands that women shall be allowed the same choice of nationality as men when necessary; the establishment of an International Bureau of Public Health in connection with the League of Nations, provided that an equal moral standard is observed in diseases arising from immorality; a uniform standard of medical examination for emigrants, so that persons travelling to a distant land and certified as medically fit before starting, shall not be in danger of being sent back on arrival by an adverse medical opinion in the land of their adoption; endowment of motherhood; women judges in juvenile courts; improvement in cinema films.

In addition to the sessions held daily in the Storting, various evening conferences will be held in other places. One of these will deal with education, new lines in teaching, leisure hours and facilities for recreation, and instruction in thrift. Another will be concerned with economic and industrial problems affecting women, such as the economic position of the married woman, the food supply, and the position of women in trades, professions and employments. A third will deal with Public Health in its international aspects, the housing problem, and the anti-tuberculosis campaign in Norway. A fourth will demand the raising of the moral standard, the value of women police, and the campaign against venereal diseases. The last public meeting will be devoted to the League of Nations, its appeal to women, and the position of the smaller countries within the League.

The social side of Norwegian life will by no means be ignored in this year's Conference. Queen Maud will receive the delegates and visitors at an afternoon meeting at the Castle. The Minister for Foreign Affairs will hold an Evening Reception in their honour. The Municipality is providing a luncheon, and a special Philharmonic Concert is to be held at the National Theatre. Sight-seeing and visits to various municipal institutions, schools and museums will also be arranged.

D. M. N.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

An article by a French writer in this month's *Jus Suffragi* calls attention to the special hardships inflicted upon married women in nearly every civilised country by the existing laws concerning nationality. This, as is well known, compels a woman married to a foreigner to take her husband's nationality, and it obtains in most of the great and small European countries, and in North America. Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland, the United States, and Russia (before the Revolution) all possess this law in force, and although the legal codes of Denmark, Holland and Sweden make no specific mention of the subject, Denmark, at any rate, follows suit with the countries mentioned above. In the South American States legislation is also silent on this subject, but according to Argentine law the reverse practice appears to hold good—a foreigner who marries an Argentine woman becomes Argentine. One country alone—the Republic of Haiti—has decreed that Haitian women who marry foreigners may still keep their nationality.

In France, during the war, two Bills were put before the Chamber of Deputies on this subject, providing that a woman of foreign nationality who marries a Frenchman keeps her nationality if she wishes.

NORWEGIAN WOMEN.

The Norwegian National Council is now busy for the forthcoming gathering at Christiania next month. Norway, as is well known, was the first constitutional country in Europe to give the right of voting to women. Though the King of Norway executes the power through the Government and the Civil Servants, the balance of power is placed in the hands of the Storting, which consists at present of one hundred and twenty-six members, elected for three years by all men and women who have reached the age of twenty-five years, provided they have lived in the country five years, and have not forfeited their electoral privileges by criminal misdemeanour. Both the legislative power and the control of the national purse are in the hands of the Storting. The next general election takes place in the autumn of 1921 by the system of proportional representation. Constituencies will be larger under the new system, and the voting age will be lowered to 21 or 23.

Norwegian women possess advantages enjoyed by scarcely any other country in the world. The principle of equal pay for equal work has been officially acknowledged in the highest posts, provided women hold the same university degrees as the men. In 1857 daughters were placed on equal terms with sons in regard to right of inheritance. In 1866 women were licensed to trade in businesses of their own. In 1882 the university was opened to women students, and they received the right of passing degree examinations equally with the men students. In 1889 women became eligible to the Board of Education, and two years later as Guardians of the poor. In 1901 they obtained a local government franchise, and a year later became eligible as jurors. In 1904 women were allowed to train as solicitors, and six years later as barristers. In 1910 women obtained the general local franchise on the same terms as men, and a woman, Mrs. Betsy Kjelsberg, was appointed the first woman inspector of factories. In 1907 the women obtained a limited parliamentary vote, which was made general in 1913. Norwegian women are still excluded from the Church, the Army, and the highest posts in the (foreign) diplomacy, but are eligible as members of the Government, though such an appointment has not yet been made. Three women so far have sat in the Storting—Miss Anna Rogstad (Christiania), Miss Sara Christie (Trondhjem), and Miss Karen Platou (Christiania). The last-named is at present the only woman member.

A letter has been forwarded to us from Mr. Harben, the Labour Candidate at the recent Parliamentary Election at Woodbridge, commenting on our paragraph in THE VOTE of August 6th, page 148.

We did not intend in the least to imply that our old friend Mr. Harben had changed his views or become a less keen supporter of women's interests. We had no reason to think it, and did not—and do not—believe it. But every Party candidate is bound by his Party, unless, as does occasionally happen, he feels so strongly on some special question that he is prepared to take his own way on this, and without Mr. Harben's personal assurance we were not justified in assuming that he would, on women's questions, dissociate himself from the Party which, by insisting upon the passage into law of the *Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill*, has turned thousands of women out of the work that they were doing well, and by which they were earning bread for themselves and their dependents.

This same Party, too, it is, that is pressing for the passage of the *Women, Young Persons and Children (Employment) Bill*, prohibiting night work for women, and so making it impossible for women to continue to earn a living in many industries at present open to them.

The other Parties in the political arena allow these measures to pass, and they are equally unsatisfactory to women; therefore it is only by taking up the position of refusal to vote for any Candidate of whom we are not absolutely certain that women will make themselves a serious force in politics.

E. KNIGHT.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Women and Income Tax. By Mrs. Ayres Purdie (Certified Accountant). Price 3d. Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Mrs. Ayres Purdie draws attention to the fact that the special grievance of English wives with regard to Income Tax—viz., that the law regards a woman's income as belonging to her husband—is not shared by married women either in foreign countries or in the Colonies. Even the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are exempt from such a law. And this, notwithstanding the fact that the Married Women's Property Acts have been in force since 1882, that is, for nearly 40 years! Income Tax, by the way, Mrs. Purdie tells us, was instituted somewhere about 1803. Mrs. Purdie rightly contends that the aggregation of two persons' incomes as if they were the income of one person only, and the consequent treatment of the total as if it were one income, creates a penalty on marriage, and of course makes such a joint income liable to heavier tax than would the individual incomes if divided. Mr. Lloyd George, when receiving a deputation of the Women's Tax Resistance League in 1914 on this question, frankly declared that the Crown's position was one of expediency rather than justice.

Women's Right to Work. By L. Lind-af-Hageby. Price 3d. Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Miss Lind-af-Hageby contrasts the universal praise women received for their public work during the war with their wholesale dismissal after the men began to return home, and the passing of the *Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill* by the Government. She instances, amongst others, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, who led a campaign for the dismissal of women workers in many factories. She points out that modern warfare has completely obliterated the old line of demarcation between soldiers and civilians, so that ex-Service women deserve the same consideration and justice in reinstatement in previous work as ex-Service men. The worker behind the lines is equally important with the soldier in the trenches. It is all service. Miss Hageby compares the lowered rate of pay offered to and accepted by female workers in practically every industrial undertaking, and enumerates cases during the war where, though women filled men's posts and did exactly the same amount of work, they received less than half of the men's salary. In conclusion the writer points out that Feminism is at bottom a movement for the restoration of balance between the sexes, and not, as opponents like to declare, a movement to oust men in favour of women.

Elsie Maud Inglis: A Cameo Life-Sketch. By Dr. Aimée Gibbs. 4d. net. Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

This attractive little pamphlet is written by one who knew Dr. Elsie Inglis both as suffragist and as professional colleague. Dr. Inglis was born in India in 1864, and had the advantage of an excellent bringing up, and of parents of marked ability and great strength of character. She received her first medical training at the school that Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake had founded, but completed this in Glasgow, where the facilities were greater than in Edinburgh. Later she started in practice in Edinburgh with Dr. Jessie McGregor, and worked up a large connection. Side by side with her professional work was life-long devotion to the Suffrage cause. When serving in the Scottish Women's Hospitals abroad, Dr. Inglis rapidly acquired great surgical skill from the vast number of operations required by her there. All her work, whether medical or political, was coloured by faith—faith in herself and faith in God. At the outbreak of war she asked for £50,000 to start her scheme of a hospital unit, to the consternation of her friends; eventually she raised over £200,000! Her magnificent services during the war are well known to suffragists, but will bear constant re-reading, as here. One can only re-echo with the sorrowful Scottish women who followed the funeral procession—"Why did they no gie her the Victoria Cross?"

Women's Freedom League.

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

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 24.—Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reception to members of N.E.C. 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Wednesday, October 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Vida Goldstein. Subject: "Election Experiences in Australia." 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker will be announced later.

Wednesday, October 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker will be announced later.

Wednesday, October 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Miss Lind-af-Hageby. 3 p.m.

Friday, November 26, and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Monday, September 6.—Hastings. Whist Drive. Metropole Hotel, Robertson Terrace. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Bexhill. Business Meeting. 19, Marine Mansions. Hostess: Mrs. Williams. 3.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, September 2.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting, 44, George IV. Bridge. Discussion of winter's work. 7.30 p.m.

WALES.

From July 29 and throughout August.—Aberystwyth. Meetings at the Bandstand every night. 8 p.m. Subjects: "League of Nations," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Why Women Should Use the Vote," "The Need for Women in Parliament," etc. Speaker: Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., J.P. Chairman: Alix M. Clark.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 1.—Bethnal Green Women Citizens' Association, 33, Blythe Street, E. Speaker: Miss Kirby. Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work." 8 p.m.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

ABERYSTWYTH CAMPAIGN.

Speaker—Mrs. MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P.

Hon. Organiser—Miss ALIX M. CLARK.

Mrs. Nevinson has addressed meetings on the beach when the wind, rain and rough seas would allow her. The weather this year has not been kind to us, but Mrs. Nevinson has aroused great interest in the subjects which she has spoken on—Equal Pay for Equal Work, The Need of Women on Our Local Governing Bodies, and in Parliament, The League of Nations, etc. I am still unable to take collections, and should be thankful of donations towards the expenses of the campaign. A large number of Votes have been sold, and the new pamphlets, "Women and Income Tax" and "Women's Right to Work" have been very popular and much appreciated.

ALIX M. CLARK.

WHAT OUR WOMEN MAGISTRATES ARE DOING

Mrs. Smith, our Brighton woman magistrate, took her seat for the first time on Monday, and when a man of 65 was charged with being drunk and incapable the Mayor said the magistrates had decided that as it was her first appearance on the bench she should exercise her prerogative and decide the case. Mrs. Smith decided to discharge prisoner, who thanked her very warmly.

In welcoming Mrs. Smith, the Mayor (Alderman Wellman) said the presence of women on the Bench was a long felt necessity in administering justice. No doubt there would be a conflict with personal sympathy, but woman's intuition would fathom many motives obscure to man.

Mrs. Smith said she considered women had never before had a fair chance in courts. She would endeavour to protect or punish her own sex wherever necessary.

VICTIMISATION OF THE WORKERS!

Women's Freedom League calls for later Workmen's Trains.

The Women's Freedom League has sent the following letter to the Minister of Transport:—

Rt. Hon. Sir Eric C. Geddes, G.C.B., G.B.E., M.P.,
Whitehall Gardens, S.W. 1.

Sir,—The Women's Freedom League desire to bring before you the hardship which will fall upon hundreds of thousands of people, a large proportion of them being women and girls, who have hitherto travelled to work from the suburbs with season tickets, but who, now, because of the increased cost of these tickets, will be compelled to travel by workmen's trains. You will probably be aware that the last of these workmen's trains leave the local stations between 7 and 7.30 a.m., reaching London just before or just after 8 o'clock. As many offices and businesses do not open until 9.30 a.m. or 10 a.m., these women and girls will, during the winter months, have to waste between one and two hours on London platforms before proceeding to their work, which, you will agree, will be of no help to them or to their employers. Before the increase in season tickets came into force the last workmen's trains were always overcrowded—twenty to twenty-four people regularly being packed into compartments made for the accommodation of ten people. Now these particular trains will be much more crowded, a matter not only of great discomfort to those who are forced to travel in them, but extremely detrimental to the health of the workers. We urge you, therefore, in the interest of these workers—who do not use cheap trains from choice but from dire necessity in these days of high prices of everything—seriously to consider the possibility of extending the starting time of these cheap trains from outlying districts until 9 o'clock in the morning. The workers, especially the women and girls among them, will not then begin their day's work tired out by the discomfort of overcrowded railway carriages and the useless waste of one or two hours on a dreary platform.

We are, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

E. KNIGHT.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Last Monday one of the London papers, in an interview, reported the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League as saying: "It would be a valuable concession if Sir Eric Geddes would consent to run a few workmen's trains for the benefit of women who cannot afford to travel in comfort."

This, of course, is not at all our idea, and the Secretary at once wrote the following letter to the Editor, which, however, has, so far, not been inserted:—

"LATE WORKMEN'S TRAINS FOR WOMEN?"

Sir,—May I correct what is evidently a misunderstanding in your paragraph under the above heading? The Women's Freedom League has not asked the Minister of Transport to run a few late workmen's trains only for the benefit of women, but for the benefit of all workers who are obliged to travel by workmen's trains for the sake of cheapness, and who do not begin their work in office or business until 9.30 or 10 a.m. We specially mentioned women in this connection because we think that the strain of crowded trains and long waits on platforms is generally greater on women than on men; but these physical discomforts and hardships are detrimental to the health of the workers of both sexes, and will certainly be of no benefit to their employers. We cannot think that the railways will lose much for the concession we ask for. After all, no one, from choice, would travel to London on a winter's morn before 9 o'clock!

DANCE

The coming Dance at Caxton Hall, on Saturday, October 2nd, has been advertised for so long that we anticipate an overwhelming demand for tickets and would advise members to apply as soon as possible.

Although prizes will be given for the best Fancy Dresses, members and friends are not obliged to appear in costume.

Refreshments will be provided by the Minerva Café, and that in itself should prove an inducement, even to our non-dancing members.

Tickets (including refreshments) will be 4/- and can be obtained from:—

Miss LILIAN PIEROTTI,
Women's Freedom League Office,
144, High Holborn, W.C.

Send for Tickets NOW.

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