

THE VOTE,
DEC. 1, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN ?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 1922

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

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OUR WOMEN MAYORS.

V.

MRS. ADA SALTER, MAYOR OF BERMONDSEY.

Mrs. Salter is the first woman Mayor for London, and the first Labour woman Mayor in the country. She was also the first Labour woman to be elected on a London Borough Council. She sat on the Executive of the Women's Labour League, and has been a member of the National Executive of the London Labour Party for many years.

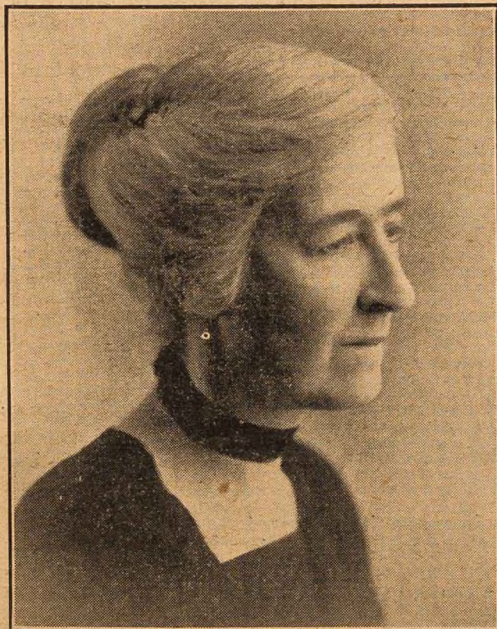
As the first woman in London to be offered the position of Mayor, I am proud that I live and work in a borough, the elected representatives of which are prepared to choose an individual who belongs to what is sometimes described as the weaker sex. As a woman, I am naturally eager that the woman's share in responsibility of government should be a *direct* one. There is still a tremendous leeway to be made up in all departments of life that affect women, but the failure to catch the vision of a free humanity, where men and women can act together, and not in antagonism, is not confined to one sex.

By common consent, the Bermondsey Borough Council has for some years dispensed with the wearing of the Mayoral and Aldermanic robes, but I do not intend to wear the chain of office. This, of course, is a purely personal matter. For brilliant colouring, and for the brightness of gold, I have the greatest admiration, but I desire them not as symbols of place and power. The ideal for which we must strive is to secure respect for the authority and decisions of the Chair, rather by personality and character, than by the decorations of office.

In my capacity as Mayor, I shall not accept invitations to attend any function which appears to me to tend to the glorification of militarism. Frankly, I am a convinced Pacifist. I know that some people feel that any effort connected with specially caring for the interests of the Army, Navy, or other war services, is a work *set apart* and particularly sacred. I do not share those views. There are only two paths before us as individuals, or as a nation. One path leads to other wars by efficient military, economic, educational preparedness for war. The other is traversed by those who desire disarmament by common consent of all the nations, and who demand definite organisation for peace. We cannot possibly follow both paths, but I feel that, in loyalty to my own land, and to the mothers and sisters of my race, it is my duty definitely to follow the second path. It has been, and still is, a thorny road to tread.

The whole purpose of local government for us must be to make the borough in which we live a worthy home for all of us.

ADA SALTER, Mayor of Bermondsey.



IN PARLIAMENT.

Teachers, Gateshead.

Replying to a question by Mr. BROTHERTON (Gateshead) concerning the closing of all elementary schools in Gateshead since October 31st, and affecting 23,000 children, Mr. WOOD (President of the Board of Education) said he understood that the local education authority for Gateshead proposed that the scale of salaries for teachers in these schools should be reduced from Standard Scale III. of the Burnham Committee's Report to Standard Scale II. The teachers concerned did not agree to the proposal, and the authority therefore decided to give them notice for the termination of their engagements, intending to re-engage them at the lower scale. The teachers had not consented to this, and the schools were closed. The attitude of the Board had always been that it was not their province to impose the Burnham Scales on local authorities if they were not willing to adopt them.

Honours (Recommendations).

Replying to COMMANDER BELLAIRS (Maidstone), the PRIME MINISTER said that he hoped that the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Honours would be received before any further Honours List was submitted.

Mothers' Pensions.

Replying to a question by Mr. D. SOMERVILLE (Barrow-in-Furness) in regard to the cost of mothers' pensions in all cases where there was no male bread-winner, and an inquiry by the Government into the advantages of such a scheme, Mr. BALDWIN (Chancellor of the Exchequer) said that it had been estimated generally that any practicable scheme for mothers' pensions would cost at least £50,000,000 a year. In those circumstances, the financial condition of the country would not warrant the Government in instituting an inquiry. He added that of 142,015 children of husbandless women (i.e., widows, deserted and separated wives, and single women) relieved on January 1st, only 7,405 were in institutions.

Juveniles and Unemployment.

Sir MONTAGUE BARLOW (Minister of Labour), replying to VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, said that the number of juveniles (under 18 years of age) registered during the 13 weeks ended November 6th at Employment Exchanges in the London area was 38,921, and in England and Wales 124,517. The corresponding numbers remaining registered on November 13th were 15,960 in the London area, and 70,904 in England and Wales. He pointed out that, for various reasons, and particularly because boys and girls under 16 were not insured against unemployment, the figures given fell considerably short of the total number of boys and girls out of employment.

Women Police Patrols.

MAJOR KELLEY (Rotherham) asked the Home Secretary whether he proposed to reconsider the case for the employment of women police; and whether he would investigate the possibility of altering the police court practice of convicting women for social offences on the sole evidence of police constables? Mr. BRIDGEMAN said he was considering the matter in the first part of the question, but was not yet in a position to make a statement. In regard to the latter part of the question, it was for the courts before which these cases were heard to decide what evidence was necessary to justify a conviction.

We give below brief extracts from speeches delivered by Members in the House of Commons last week in the Debate on the Address:—

Mr. Margesson (West Ham, Upton), who seconded the Address to His Majesty:

"I most fervently hope that the results of this examination will be to relieve the suffering and distress of those men and women who, through no fault of their own, are unable to find regular employment."

Mr. Newbold (Lanark, Motherwell):

"Eighty per cent. of my constituents live in houses of not more than two rooms for each family. Great numbers of them live in not more than one room."

Viscountess Astor (Plymouth, Sutton):

"I have fought in this House for better housing. I fought against the last Government, and will fight against this Government unless they have a progressive housing programme."

Major Attlee (Stepney, Limehouse):

"You see men who were fit to be sergeant-majors in the Army—fine, upstanding men—reduced to dragging along the streets with their hands out for anything they can get. That is an enormous waste. It is not only waste, but absolute folly. . . . We do want an economy campaign, but it must be a true economy campaign—economy in mankind, economy in flesh and blood, economy in the true wealth of the State and of the community, namely, its citizens."

Mr. Wheatley (Glasgow, Shettleston):

"You have cut off at home a greater market than the one you are trying to set on its feet abroad. . . . Why not put on their feet the millions of women and children who are helpless, and who are the innocent victims of the Society of which you are defenders?"

Mr. Kirkwood (Dumbarton District):

"The women of the working class, our wives, our mothers, know how to pinch. They know how to economise; they are the greatest Chancellors of the Exchequer the world ever saw. . . . In Glasgow, as declared by our Chief of the Health Department, we have 13,000 houses unfit for human habitation."

Lt.-Com. Kenworthy (Central Hull):

"During most of the afternoon and evening the Government Benches have been practically untenanted. There are now on the Treasury Bench three Ministers, two of whom have just come in, and one of whom is, I believe, Treasurer of the Household."

Mr. Pringle (Penistone, Yorks):

"I want to put a specific question to the Government. I think it is a vital question, and I am sorry that there are only one Law Officer, two Under-Secretaries, and one subordinate Minister present to deal with it. I think it is treating the House of Commons with contempt. . . . When an important Debate is going on, dealing with most urgent, vital issues, there is no Minister who can answer a question."

Mr. Muir (Glasgow, Maryhill):

"Had certain Sections of the 1918 Education Act been put into operation, you would have kept at school those boys and girls who are to-day running the streets wild, learning bad habits at the most impressionable period of their lives, when their characters are being formed. . . . There are in Glasgow to-day between 7,000 and 8,000 boys and girls over 14 years of age who left school at the last leaving period, and there are due to leave at the next leaving period another 7,000 or 8,000 boys and girls. There is no employment for them. . . . Our late enemies did not cut down their educational facilities. In spite of all their oppressive burdens, they have still maintained their standard of education."

Mr. Sullivan (Lanark, Northerne):

"I have taken a keen interest for many years in the housing conditions of the people of Lanark, where 12 per cent. of them live in houses of one apartment, and over 60 per cent. in houses of two apartments. We have been anxious to do something to improve those conditions, but step by step we have always been met by the opposition of the Government."

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD. FRENCHWOMEN AND THE SUFFRAGE

Woman A.R.A.

Mrs. Annie L. Swynnerton, painter, has been elected Associate of the Royal Academy. Mrs. Swynnerton is the first woman to be actually elected to the Royal Academy. There were two women members when the Academy was formed in 1768—Angelica Kauffmann and Mary Moser. Mrs. Swynnerton, who is the daughter of a Manchester lawyer, is in her 78th year. She began her training at the Manchester School of Art, and went to Rome in 1874. Since then she has divided her time between London and Rome.

Portuguese Women's Progress.

The National Council of Portuguese women held a fête last October in commemoration of its foundation. The Feminist review, *Alma Feminina*, the organ of the Council, is maintaining a brisk campaign against alcohol. A woman Treasurer has been appointed by the Municipality of Alvaiaesere in place of her father, who was ill. Women in the shipping industry have lately been reorganised, and are to receive, with the men, equal pay for equal work.

French Feminist Daily.

The Paris Feminist weekly, *La Voix des Femmes*, is now appearing as a daily. This is the first daily paper in any country devoted to the Feminist movement. It is noteworthy that the French Press has shown itself unanimously in support of French women's enfranchisement. The *Journal* organised a referendum amongst its readers, of whom 224,155 expressed their desire for the vote.

Women in Engineering.

At a Conference of Engineering Societies, convened by the Society of Engineers last September, a Committee was appointed to consider the question of their amalgamation into one general Association. One woman (Miss Haslett, of the Women's Engineering Society) was elected on this Committee for the first time in the history of engineering.

Scandinavian Women and Lloyd George

The President of the League of Scandinavian Women (1914-22), Madame Augusta Caret Ettar, has sent an "open letter to Lloyd George," asking that Mr. Lloyd George, as the "most prominent champion of the whole of humanity," shall be named President of the League of Nations at Geneva.

The Best Girl!

The *Echo de Paris* has set itself the task of finding the most meritorious young woman in all France! Already Mayors, Prefects, and other responsible people, official and otherwise, are sending in the dossiers of girls who, in their opinion, are entitled to consideration. There is no age limit! A committee will judge the merits of candidates, and a substantial award awaits the happy paragon who is finally selected.

Woman President.

Miss Mary E. Esslemont, M.A., B.Sc., has been appointed president of the Students' Representative Council of Aberdeen University. It is the first time in the history of a Scottish University that a woman has held this office.

Frenchwomen and Commerce.

Following a proposal by M. Louis Martin, the French Senate has conferred on women the right of election to Chambers of Commerce, provided they are really eligible, and can show that they conduct a business or commercial undertaking.

Woman Director.

Miss Griff, A.M.I.A.E., Member, Iron and Steel Institute, has recently become director and proprietor of the Stainless and Non-Corrosive Metal Co., Birmingham. She is hoping to adapt stainless metals to various new and original purposes.

Frenchwomen are by no means disheartened at the defeat of the recent Suffrage Bill in the Senate, by 456 votes to 134. They have a strong body of male supporters in the Chamber of Deputies, who have formed themselves into a Suffrage group, 138 strong out of 500 members, and who concentrate their attention almost entirely upon women's interests. The President of this group is M. Godart, who recently succeeded to this office on the death of M. Jules Siegfried, the former President. M. and Madame Siegfried, as is well known, were lifelong workers for the women's cause.

Frenchwomen have been accused of being apathetic over the Suffrage question, and it is true that there was no definite Woman's Movement in France before 1900. But this may possibly be due to the fact that in the old days, and especially at the time of the Revolution, it was the men of France who espoused most heartily the women's cause, basing their exertions on the Marquis de Condorcet's famous maxim, "There can be no Government without the representation of women." Another reason for the apparent apathy of French women probably lies in the fact that they already have considerable political power, though this is wielded unofficially. Each Minister in France has his own special list of Committees, and upon these women invariably sit. Women have also taken part in various Royal Commissions.

Interest in the suffrage is now, however, remarkably keen amongst Frenchwomen of all classes, and as a proof of this there has lately been issued from Paris the only Feminist Daily in the world.

Frenchwomen, in spite of their votelessness, are amongst the most advanced women in the world. The law was opened to them in 1900, and French women lawyers were not only the earliest to become qualified, but have since won for themselves brilliant successes at the Bar. Their skill in commercial life has for long been proverbial, and, now that French women are eligible for election to tribunals and Chambers of Commerce, it is highly probable that more than one great French woman financier will shortly make her appearance in the business world.

French women are also enormously interested in the League of Nations. One well-known public woman—Madame Avril de St. Croix—sits as a woman assessor on the Commission dealing with the Traffic in Women and Children, and a yet more noted name, that of Madame Curie, the scientist, has been appointed as a member on the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation. The appointment of a French woman delegate to the League itself cannot be long delayed. The only surprise is that such an appointment was not made in the early days of the League.

PAY FOR THE FAIR.

Many thanks to all our members and friends who have during the past week sent donations for "Fair" Expenses; the "Fair" accounts are not yet quite completed, so please continue to send in your contributions. I have not yet received donations enough to cover expenses.

Women-in-Parliament Fund.

We have done a great deal of work and must now pay the bills; please send in to me as soon as possible. We have spent a considerable sum and done all we possibly could to help the Women Candidates, relying on our members and friends, who never fail us, to do their part and make up the deficit.

E. KNIGHT,

Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn,
London, W.C.1.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1922.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

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.

PARLIAMENT RE-ASSEMBLES

Last week Parliament re-assembled. The King's Speech was, in the words of Mr. Asquith, "more free from embarrassing commitments and promises than any King's Speech I have ever known in the whole of my Parliamentary experience." It only deals with three topics—Ireland, unemployment, and the near East. There was the Debate on the Address last Thursday and Friday; the Irish Bills were dealt with in the early part of this week, and the Debate on the Address is to be resumed towards the end of this week. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that with the good will of the House it might be possible to rise not long after December 6th. In that case we expect the House will meet again next January. In the meantime, Mr. Bonar Law has refused to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League, which was to put before him the importance of, and the urgency for, an Equal Franchise measure, on the grounds that he cannot add anything to the statement of his views which he has already made. The object of our deputation was, of course, to put *our* views before Mr. Bonar Law, which would include the views of the young women on the proposed deputation who were between the ages of 21 and 30 years of age. The present views of any human being on any subject are not necessarily final, and if the Prime Minister would listen to the arguments of the people who have a definite grievance, it is just possible his own present views on the matter might be modified. If we cannot this Session get a better answer to our request than Mr. Bonar Law's recent letter to us, we must be prepared for further strenuous work next Session, and we shall confidently rely upon all our supporters in the House of Commons, to whichever Party they belong, to bring pressure to bear upon the Prime Minister and his Government to secure for us an early passage into law of a measure which will confer the Parliamentary vote upon women at the same age and on the same terms as men. We have among our own members, women under 30 years of age who have high scholastic attainments, others who are working as women doctors and as members of other professions, many women in business and controlling large offices, many nurses, and many mothers with children—all doing responsible and efficient work, and it is ridiculous that they should be disfranchised while any inexperienced youth of 21 can record a vote. It is even more absurd that professional, working, and other women over 30 years of age should not be able to vote because they happen to have their meals with the family from whom they rent their room, or for other equally stupid but technical reasons. We believe fervently in representative Government. It is the only true safeguard for democracy. Women have all the responsibilities of citizenship, the younger women have as great a stake in this country as the younger men, and as much right as the latter to political power. The Women's Freedom League is determined to leave no stone unturned to secure during the life of the present Parliament the equal enfranchisement of men and women.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

"The state of trade and employment continue to cause Me deep concern. The ameliorative measures prepared by My late Government are being examined afresh, and you will be asked to make provision for their continuance and extension."

The above formed part of the King's Speech last Thursday. According to the latest returns, the number registered as totally unemployed in Great Britain is 1,377,100, an increase of 10,326 over the previous week. The present number working short time, and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment, is 50,200, also a slight increase over the previous week. It must not be forgotten that the actual number of unemployed men and women is far in excess of those registered at the Employment Exchanges. Fifty thousand unemployed men demonstrated in the streets of London last week, and, because the Prime Minister has refused to receive a deputation from the unemployed, we are told that armies of unemployed men are being organised to come to London to make further demonstrations. We cannot see why the Prime Minister should not see these men, any more than why he should refuse to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League of voteless women under 30 years of age. Workless men have a definite economic grievance; the grievance of voteless women is political. We think Mr. Bonar Law is carrying his theory of tranquillity too far when he neglects his duty as Head of the Government. The total unemployment of nearly one and a half million of our people, together with the partial unemployment of more than fifty thousand, is the cause of an untold amount of national misery. Workless men and workless women with children depending upon them have suffered hunger and ill-health almost to breaking point. To whom are they to appeal, if not to the Head of the Government? The Minister of Labour cannot initiate a new policy; the local authorities in many districts have already saddled themselves and their ratepayers with enormous debts which it will take many years to pay. Payment without work, inadequate though that payment is for the maintenance of the family, is being denounced on all sides as harmful as well as uneconomical. A Cabinet Committee is considering schemes of work, and road-making is among the chief of those schemes. The winter is now upon us, and the schemes should be put into operation without delay. Workless men, with their wives and children practically starving, with no coal in the house, and little prospect of getting any, insufficiently clad, with rent getting into arrears, and their furniture being taken piece by piece to the pawn-shop, may perhaps be excused if they can see no reason why the Head of the Government should not consent to discuss with them this vital matter of unemployment. We do not forget that the wives and children of these workless men are helpless victims of this widespread distress. Nor do we forget that, although workless women rarely demonstrate in our streets, there are quite half a million unemployed women who receive less unemployment benefit than the men, and are reduced to the direst straits at the present time. We urge that these women shall not be forgotten when schemes are being devised for providing work for men. If road-making is decided upon, at least let the Government employ women in the clerical work connected with it, for there are numerous unemployed women clerks. The Government might also consider the possibility of starting laundries, poultry farms, toy-making establishments, needlework rooms—all for the employment of women. If, too, the Government decides to build houses, women could surely make the wooden framework for windows, etc. Women were employed in many factories during the war, and the knowledge, training, and experience gained then ought to be made use of in the service of the community. We yield to no one in our sympathy with the hardships endured by workless men, their wives and children; but we must also remember the hopelessness of the position of unemployed women.

WOMEN M.P.s. IN GERMANY.

Lecture in the Minerva Café by FRAU SCHREIBER-KRIEGER, M.P.

A most interesting and instructive Lecture on the work of women M.P.s in Germany, was given in the Minerva Café on Saturday of last week, by Frau Schreiber-Krieger, a member of the Reichstag, and President of the German Red Cross for women and children.

Mrs. Mustard, who presided, referred to the series of Lectures on Women and Foreign Politics, which the Women's Freedom League was hoping to inaugurate in the near future, and to which to-night's Lecture was introductory, and expressed a hope that everyone present would concentrate on getting the system of Proportional Representation established in this country, so as to ensure a much larger percentage of women Members of Parliament being returned at the next General Election.

Germany's New Constitution.

Frau Schreiber-Krieger, speaking in admirable English, paid a glowing tribute to the work of English suffragists in the past, and contrasted it with the easy victory which German women had achieved. German women, said Frau Schreiber-Krieger, might aptly be termed Daughters of the Revolution, for it was immediately after that upheaval that equal suffrage for both sexes became established. Proportional Representation was the electoral system adopted, and there were no fewer than 17 political parties in the first Reichstag after the Revolution. To-day these had dwindled to eight.

In the first National Assembly, 41 women M.P.s were returned, and 400 men members. The German Constitution, which had been built up since the Revolution, was one of the best, if not the best in the world, but, unfortunately, owing to the economic crisis, it was at present more theoretical than practical, for there was no money to carry out the reforms. The women M.P.s, however, took a very active part in the proceedings of the Reichstag. The new progressive Constitution also had to battle with the lingering remains of the old reactionary Code, which had hitherto prevailed in Germany. The Constitution laid down the principle of equality between the sexes, whilst the Code still enjoined a married woman to be subservient to her husband. The Constitution affirmed that illegitimate children should receive the same rights and privileges as children who are well-born, whereas the Code would considerably curtail these in the case of illegitimate children. The Constitution proclaimed that women, equally with men, were eligible for all public positions, but the Code would have none of this.

Germany's New Laws.

The first Reichstag after the Revolution remained in power 2½ years, and during that time a number of very excellent laws were drafted and carried out. Amongst these was a new Marriage and a new Divorce law. A specially good law concerning Children's Welfare was also passed, on the Commission for which, women M.P.s did some excellent work. This law enacted that every German child, whether legitimate or illegitimate, was to be under the care of the State. Another great reform was in the direction of Education. Under the old method, each class of Society was kept rigidly to its own particular schools, and no intermingling permitted, but now an attempt was being made to unify all schools into one system for all classes alike. This new scheme had been most successful in Saxony. Cinema reform in Germany owed much to women M.P.s, for these had seen to it that women sat upon all the Censorship Committees. The scientific cinema was now being very greatly developed in Germany. The insurance of home workers and their unemployment benefits had also been effected. These had formerly been left out of insurance schemes.

In Germany the various women's organisations could now formulate their demands, and lay them directly before their women representatives in Parliament. In a Bill for the Prevention of Venereal Diseases, which was now under consideration in the Reichstag, the Commission sitting upon this Bill was composed of equal numbers of women and men. The abolition of the State Regulation of Vice was also under consideration in the Reichstag.

Germany's Distress.

Every political party in Germany now contained women members, who voiced the point of view of their own particular party. But on any common interest, all the women members joined and worked with each other, and brought pressure to bear in the necessary direction on the men members of Parliament. All the German women M.P.s worked very harmoniously together, mainly because all had previously bought their political experience in the various women's organisations.

The women members, however, did not limit themselves only to the interests of women and children, but took a broad view on all questions. The present economic crisis in Germany was to-day far worse than just after the Armistice. The country was struggling for its mere existence, and was on the brink of starvation and bankruptcy. She could no longer grow the amount of food she did formerly, and had to import almost everything, which had the effect of still further reducing the exchange. The wonderful relief work carried on immediately after the war by the Americans, English, Norwegians, Swedish, and Swiss was now all going to pieces, and the German children were again showing signs of starvation. People were living in hidden misery even in large houses. Professional men were selling in the streets, or dismantling their homes bit by bit. At present there was no unemployment, but this was bound to come before long. Taxation pressed unbearably. People were taxed on their income, fortune, increase of fortune, lodgings, profession, war costs, increase of property, on everything they saved, and everything they spent!

Germany and the League of Nations.

There was profound disappointment in Germany over the League of Nations. The policy of the Allies was reviving the reactionary party. Progressive people in Germany regarded the League as a splendid name for a most imperfect scheme. The allocation of the Saar Valley and the occupation on the Rhine were very sore points with Germany. To be of any practical use, the League ought to include *all* nations, and develop into a democratic Inter-Parliamentary body, based upon the wishes of the people, and not pressed upon them by their Governments. It should be the United States of the whole world. It should enforce Disarmament, and an international settlement of all financial difficulties. It was far better economics to help Germany than to insist on impossible Reparations. There could be no worse policy than hatred. Germany had the power to construct itself into a most progressive and peaceful Republic, if other countries would hold out to her the hand of fellowship.

Many questions and an animated discussion followed Frau Schreiber-Krieger's Lecture, for which she was warmly thanked at the close of the evening.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3982.

WOMEN PLEADERS IN INDIA.

We take from *The Times* the following interesting case which came last week before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the members present being Lord Buckmaster, Lord Phillimore, Mr. Ameer Ali, Sir Lawrence Jenkins, and Lord Salvesen.

Their Lordships accorded the petitioner special leave to appeal from an order of the High Court at Patna rejecting the application of Miss Sudhansa Bala Hazra for enrolment as a pleader. Sir George Lowndes, K.C., and Mr. B. Dubé were counsel for the petitioner.

The petition stated that Miss Sudhansa Bala Hazra applied to the District Judge at Patna for enrolment as a pleader in his Court, and her application was forwarded by him to the High Court, which rejected it on the ground that the Indian Legal Practitioners Act XVIII. of 1879, and the rules made thereunder, applied to men only. She submitted that the High Court in that respect were in error. By the General Clauses Act, 1868, it was provided that unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context, words in statutes importing the masculine gender should be taken to include females. This provision was repeated in the General Clauses Act X. of 1897. Under these Acts the University of Calcutta had granted degrees to women as well as to men in all the faculties. The petitioner herself was, after examination, granted the degree of Bachelor of Laws of the Calcutta University. The Indian Legal Practitioners Act used the word "persons." Her application was heard by a Bench of the High Court composed of Chief Justice Miller and Justices Mullick and Jwala Prasad, who, in separate judgments, decided that, notwithstanding the provisions of the General Clauses Acts, 1868 and 1897, a woman, although fully qualified to be a pleader, was not entitled to a certificate to practise under Section 7 of the Indian Legal Practitioners Act. The petitioner now contended that there was no prohibition in the Hindu and Mahomedan law against women as lawyers, nor did the British legislative authorities ever impose such a prohibition. She was, she also submitted, entitled to the benefits of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919.

HOURS OF THE HOUSE.

The following motion was made by the Prime Minister last Friday:—

"That during the present Session, the House do meet on Fridays at 11 o'clock, and that 4 o'clock and half-past 4 o'clock be substituted for 5 o'clock and half-past 5 o'clock respectively, as the hours for the interruption of business and adjournment of the House on that day."

Commander Kenworthy said he would like to know whether the time had not come when the hours of the sittings of the House should not be reconsidered. He believed the usual reason put forward for the present arrangement of meeting at 2.45 p.m., and sitting until 11 or 12 o'clock at night, was that it suited the legal profession. He thought they had less lawyers in the House now than in any previous House, and, therefore, it was to be hoped they would get on better with the business. In any case, the present hours of the sittings of the House were unhealthy. They were bad for good legislation. He did not mean that nothing good could be done after 11 o'clock at night; but at 11 o'clock people were tired.

The Speaker ruled that the question of sitting in the House on days other than Friday did not arise on the motion, and refused to allow the words "on Fridays" to be left out on this motion, which would then mean that the House should meet every day at 11 o'clock. The motion was agreed to.

In spite of the Speaker's ruling on this occasion, the Women's Freedom League heartily supports Commander Kenworthy's proposal, and maintains that M.P.s should meet at 11 a.m. and rise at 10 p.m.

BOOK REVIEW.

Fragments of Life. By Margaret Wynne Nevinson, J.P., L.L.A. (Allen & Unwin.) 4s. 6d. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Mrs. Nevinson has again delighted us with a book of short stories, this time entitled "Fragments of Life," and a very true title this seems to anyone who reads these short sketches carefully. Unlike her first book, "Workhouse Characters," people of a rather higher class of life, with more intellectual resources, are here described, and the lot of the lonely middle-aged woman, with failing health and narrow circumstances, or the disillusioned wife, is sympathetically treated, with delicacy and insight. The painting of landscape, sombre or beautiful, is also good. The keynote of some of the heroines' experiences is struck in the charming little poem by Anna Wickham, quoted as preface, "When love is over, we are most alone," which ends, however, on a note of high resolve, the treading of "God's cold hill," which raises man "high in life and proud in death." Here indeed is no useless sentimentality or bitterness, but the finding of satisfaction after, or even through, sorrow and loneliness, in better things than earthly gains alone can give.

The clerical characters are well described. Especially clearly is that of the Reverend Richard Norman visualised; while the amusing suffrage scenes, with their touches of satire, fill up a realistic and vivid picture. "The Beauty Show" and "The Story of a Lonely Woman" are, perhaps, the most powerful sketches in the book, although those in which incidents of the war years appear are had to beat. Perhaps there is a little too much melancholy in some parts of the book for a young and inexperienced reader of life, but those of us who have been through the mill can find the genuine touch throughout. It is to be hoped that the author will not stop here, but give us a third volume of stories, or perhaps a longer romance. In any case, we of the Women's Freedom League can feel proud of our literary sister. J. M. T.

In Memoriam.

MISS ALICE MEYNELL.

We deeply regret to announce the death from heart failure of Mrs. Alice Meynell, poet, prose writer, and suffragist. She was the younger daughter of J. T. Thompson, the elder being Lady Butler, the noted painter of "The Roll Call" and other battle scenes. The reputation of both sisters was assured at an age when most artists are only beginning, the elder by the painting of "The Roll Call," and the younger by a remarkable volume of poetry entitled "The Preludes." It is interesting to recall that their combined successes made Ruskin say his dictum that no woman could paint, and Coventry Patmore his saying that no woman could write. For many years after her marriage (an ideal one lasting 45 years) to Mr. Wilfrid Meynell, she wrote nothing, but with the beginning of the 'nineties Mrs. Meynell launched another slender and exquisite volume. She also contributed about the same time to the columns of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, during Mr. Harry Cust's editorship. The best of these articles were afterwards reproduced into a half-dozen or so volumes of delicate and minutely observant essays. Francis Thompson, whom the Meynells befriended at an acute crisis of his life, dedicated practically all his poetry to Mrs. Meynell, and the great men of the day vied with one another to do her honour. Rossetti learned her poem on "Renouncement" by heart as "one of the three finest sonnets ever written by women." Coventry Patmore and George Meredith wrote poems to her which still remain unpublished. Mrs. Meynell's poetical output was small, compared to its rare quality.

Mrs. Meynell was an ardent suffragist, and gave a life-long devotion to the women's cause. She was a member of the National Executive of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and was amongst the 5,000 women who marched in procession during the famous "Mud March" in the earlier days of the struggle.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, December 1st, at 6 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Saturday, December 2nd, at 10 a.m., 144, High Holborn, W.C.1., National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, December 4th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser. Subject: "Domestic Drudgery; Woman's Failure."

Wednesday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Public Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss V. V. J. Acheson. Subject: "Current Events Abroad."

Tuesday, January 23rd, 1923. Social, 7.30 to 10 p.m., at the Isis Club, Rockeslea, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W.3. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speech 8 p.m., by Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." Coffee.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, December 7th, at 8 p.m. Wallasey. Public Meeting in the Small Hall, Liscard Congregational Church, Rake Lane. Speakers: Councillor Nurse Mcfall and others. Subject: "Some inequalities in the Law as affecting Women." Questions invited. Collection.

Tuesday, December 12th, at 7 p.m. Portsmouth. Social Evening. Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Short speech, Coffee and an Entertainment. Silver Collection.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, December 4th, at 8 p.m. Public Debate. Caxton Hall, Westminster. "That it is desirable that Women should be called to serve as Priests in the Church of God." Affirmative: The Rev. F. M. Green, B.D. Negative: Mr. R. K. Cowie (Federation of Catholic Laity). Admission 2/- (reserved), 1/- and 6d., from the League of the Church Militant, Church House, Westminster.

Wednesday, December 6th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union's Speaker: Councillor Ethel Bright Ashford. Subject: "Women and the Law."

Saturday, December 9th at 3 p.m. The Women's Group of the Ethical Movement. Meeting at Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "A Woman's View of the Recent Elections."

BRANCH NOTE.

PORTSMOUTH.

The Whist Drive on November 22nd was very enjoyable. Thanks are due to Mrs. Mackey, Mrs. Binley, and Mrs. Whetton for the prizes, and to Miss Mottershall for managing the refreshments. Instead of a Public Meeting there will be a Social Evening on Tuesday, December 12th, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street, at 7 o'clock. There will be a short speech by Mrs. Whetton, coffee, music, and a sketch arranged by Mrs. Elliott. To defray expenses, a silver collection will be taken.

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

NEW BRANCHES.

Preparations are being made for the formation of new Branches as follows:—

- (1) Croydon, Sanderstead, Woldingham and district.
 - (2) Stroud Green, Hornsey, Finsbury Park, Harringay, Crouch End, Highbury and district.
 - (3) Teddington, Richmond, Kingston and district.
- Will readers living in any of the above neighbourhoods, interested in the formation of these Branches, kindly communicate at once with (1) The Secretary, Women's Freedom League Office; (2) Miss Jamieson, 3, Oakfield Road, Stroud Green, N.; (3) Miss Underwood, 26, Cedar Road, Teddington, Middlesex?

JUMBLE SALE.

A Jumble Sale is being arranged by our Montgomery Boroughs Branch, the proceeds of which are to come to Headquarters. It will be held on December 16th, and Miss Clark still has empty "Fair" cases at our Offices. These she wants to take back with her to Wales, and appeals to all our readers in London to bring or send this week any old clothes, boots, hats, household goods, books, etc., so that she can return with cases filled for this Jumble Sale. Readers outside London are urged to send goods direct, addressed to her at The Hut, Severn Street, Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1921, £37,191 12s. 10d. £ s. d. £ s. d.

Amount previously acknowledged 266 5 11
Special Emergency War Fund:—
A Friend 5 0 0
Mrs. Angold 4 0 0

Women in Parliament Fund:—

Dr. Knight	5 0 0	
Mrs. Sloane	5 0 0	
Mrs. A. Udry Atkinson	2 0 0	
Miss Ada Farmer	1 10 0	
Mrs. Buchanan	1 0 0	
Miss Rosa F. Cox	5 6	
Councillor Ballard Dawson	5 0	
Mrs. Gatty	5 0	
Miss Edith L. Hodgson	5 0	
Mrs. Minnie Moss	5 0	
Miss Newsome	5 0	
Mrs. Northcroft	5 0	
Miss Cantlin	1 0	

Clyde Coast Campaign:—

per Miss Alix Clark—		
Collections	31 0 0	
Donations	14 14 9	
Edinburgh Branch	10 0	

National Union of Teachers Campaign:—

per Miss Alix Clark—		
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Despard Arms 24 4 0 | |

Dr. Knight 50 0 0 | |

Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. 20 0 0 | |

Organisers' Fund 4 0 0 | |

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Mrs. Saul Solomon 10 6 | |

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Mrs. M. Sloane 10 0 | |

Miss H. G. Whitton 6 9 | |

Miss Eleanor Mardon 6 6 | |

Miss Howitt 5 0 | |

Miss L. E. Knight 5 0 | |

Mrs. Lawrence 5 0 | |

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Mrs. E. G. Posener 5 0 | |

Miss L. F. Secor 5 0 | |

Mrs. Trafford Williams 5 0 | |

Mrs. Zoondelevitch 5 0 | |

Miss S. L. Mann 5 0 | |

The Misses McKinley 4 6 | |

Mrs. M. S. Whelen 4 0 | |

Miss Brouneau 3 6 | |

Miss Ida Davies 3 0 | |

Councillor Ballard Dawson 2 6 | |

Miss R. C. Dawson 2 6 | |

Mrs. Imlach 2 6 | |

Mrs. A. J. Lane 2 6 | |

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Miss W. V. Morgan 2 6 | |

Miss A. Wadley 2 6 | |

Mrs. Fannie Lord 2 0 | |

Mrs. Amy Mann 2 0 | |

Mrs. M. A. Cheesman 1 0 | |

Miss Lily Cockerill 1 0 | |

Miss A. M. A. Hillier 1 0 | |

Mlle. C. A. Jacquot 1 0 | |

Miss V. Key Jones 1 0 | |

Madame Kubler 1 0 | |

Miss Mercer 1 0 | |

Nurse Raie 1 0 | |

Mrs. I. G. D. Shedden, M.A. 1 0 | |

Mrs. M. Shedden 1 0 | |

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Ditto, per Miss Brimson (Southport) 12 8 | |

Literature Department 16 10 0 | |

Tickets 2 4 0 | |

Refreshments 1 0 0 | |

Sundries and Office Sales 6 8 6 | |

Sundries per Minerva Café 42 2 3 | |

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "The Unemployed."

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MEMBER, School Yorks.; French, diplômée, Music, Needlework. Urgently seeks holiday post, December 20 to Jan. 16, References.—"ESPOIR," VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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