

THE VOTE,  
OCTOBER 25, 1918.  
ONE PENNY.

## Women Teachers' Message to the Government.

E. PHIPPS, B.A.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVII. No. 470.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 25, 1918

**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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### THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND WOMEN M.P.S.

Open letters to statesmen do not always receive prompt replies, but here are two significant facts: Our open letter to the Prime Minister urging him to open to women the way to Westminster was sent on October 4; October 23 was given to the first attack on behalf of women on the masculine stronghold of the House of Commons. The official statement ran thus:—

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL, Sir WILLOUGHBY DICKINSON, Mr. ADAMSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE:—

Members of Parliament (Women).—That in the opinion of this House, it is desirable that a Bill should be passed forthwith to make women eligible as members of Parliament.

Sir J. D. REES.—Members of Parliament (Women).—That the enfranchisement of women makes it necessary to decide at an early date on what grounds those who are qualified to elect are unqualified to sit as members of Parliament.

Together with the above stands another significant notice of motion:—

Colonel Sir JAMES CRAIG.—Galleries (House of Commons).—That this House is in favour of all available galleries being open to men and women equally and impartially, and requests Mr. Speaker to make arrangements accordingly.

We go to press as the debate is in progress, but we shall publish a summary next week, and also the division list! The effect of the watching millions of women voters will be considerable, especially on those members who look forward to "surviving the unknown"—the coming General Election.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that the motion with regard to the eligibility of women as M.P.s, if carried, as there is every probability will be the case, does not conclude the matter. It will register an opinion of the House of Commons in favour of the women, but a Bill will be necessary to give effect to the decision of the

House. Great power is in the hands of the Government; it can act or not as it sees fit; but no Government, with its eyes on the electorate, now to include six millions of women, as well as on the members of the House of Commons, can, with safety, ignore a strong indication of the wishes of the elected representatives of the (male) people.

The Labour Party, having published a Bill to make women eligible, is pledged to support the motion; the National Liberal Federation demanded a Bill from the Government; the Conservatives have, as yet, made no declaration. The voting will be free—that is, every member will vote as he likes, no Whips being on duty to shepherd him into the "Aye" or "No" lobby, according to the Government's wishes. It will be remembered that similar procedure was followed when the question of votes for women came before the House of Commons, and the great victory of the past augurs well for triumph for this further vital question.

The Press is both grave and gay on the subject; even *The Times*, in an able article giving facts about actual and prospective women M.P.s, points out that, with women at Westminster, the King can no longer ask for financial supplies from "Gentlemen of the House of Commons"; other knotty points are how will women be, hatted or hatless, as present procedure requires, and what will the House of Lords do in face of Lady Rhondda's determination? We wish her a notable triumph—a seat on the comfortable red benches of the Gilded Chamber as a pioneer of other peeresses well qualified to bring their abilities to the service of the nation.

The "equal and impartial" admission of women to all the public galleries of the House of Commons will doubtless herald their appearance on the floor of the House.



### WOMEN TEACHERS' MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT.

The women of Great Britain have secured a measure of political freedom, but industrially they are, to a great extent, still slaves. It is now their duty and their privilege to use the power they have obtained to compel the Government and private employers to give them equal opportunities and equal remuneration to that enjoyed by men, when their work is of equal value.

In 1908, when the Woman Suffrage movement was making a great stir, Mr. Lloyd George, speaking at the Albert Hall on the unequal rates of pay for men and women in the civil service, said that the Government would never be able to maintain that inequality when women had the vote. Now, as the responsible head of his Majesty's Government, he is to be called upon, from the same platform on which he made that historic pronouncement, to justify it by his actions. Deeds, not words, were demanded from him then. The demand continues to-day!

At the mass meeting at the Albert Hall, at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, organised by the National Federation of Women Teachers, in which twenty societies have promised their co-operation, including the Women's Freedom League, the National Union of Clerks, the National Federation of Women Workers, the Federation of Women Civil Servants, the National Union of Trained Nurses, a resolution will be put calling upon the Government to establish the principle of

#### Equal Pay for Equal Work

for all branches of its service.

A few months ago Mr. Whitehouse, M.P., on behalf of the National Federation of Women Teachers, moved an amendment in the House of Commons to a certain clause of the Education Bill, to the effect that local Education Authorities should be required to pay men and women teachers of equal qualifications and experience at equal rates. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Education, refused to accept this amendment, on the ground that the Government itself had not adopted the practice of equal pay, and therefore could not logically require local authorities to adopt it. The next step, then, is to make the Government change its attitude to its own employees, and to this end the National Federation of Women Teachers has arranged the Albert Hall demonstration.

The present time is singularly opportune for the holding of a mass meeting from which a strong demand for equal pay for equal work shall go forth. The London Education Committee is resuming its sittings, and will have to consider the drawing up of a new scale of salaries for teachers, in accordance with the understanding arrived at between the women's representatives and the committee in July last. A successful meeting in the Albert Hall will be a sign of great significance.

Still more important is the bearing of the meeting on the coming momentous General Election. If the women workers of this country really feel that they must put an end to the indignity of always being relegated to inferior positions in the industrial world, and of always being paid less than men for similar work simply because men are men and women are women, now is the time to let the Government know that they are

**At the end of their patience.** E. PHIPPS.

#### The Institute of Hygiene Moves Forward!

It has been decided, at a general meeting of the Institute of Hygiene, to elect women to the governing bodies of the institute.

#### —And the Incorporated Society of Accountants.

The Incorporated Society of Accountants and Auditors has now decided to admit women on equal terms with men.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.  
Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."  
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Hon. Head of Literature Department—Miss MARGARET HODGE.  
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

**Saturday, October 26.**—London Branches Council Discussion Meeting on "A League of Nations," **Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m.** Opener: Miss Lindaf-Hageby. Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. Tickets from 144, High Holborn. Tea can be obtained in the Cafe after the Lecture at 6d. each.

**Wednesday, October 30.**—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood, on "The House of Commons and Ourselves." Chair: Miss A. A. Smith, 3 p.m. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Cafe if desired at 6d.

**Wednesday, October 30.**—Working Party for Green, White, and Gold Fair at 144, High Holborn, 5 p.m.

**Thursday, October 31.**—Golder's Green Branch Drawing-room Meeting, at 13, Temple Fortune-court, 3.30. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "The Practical Working of Regulation 40D."

**Wednesday, November 6.**—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., "Some of Our Young War Poets." 3 p.m. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Cafe if desired at 6d.

**Wednesday, November 13.**—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 20.**—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Madame V. N. Polovtsev, Ph.D., on "The Social Conditions in Russia." Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Cafe if desired at 6d.

**Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23.**—Green, White, and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 2 p.m. Admission 1s.

**Wednesday, November 27.**—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.; 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., on "My Election Policy."

#### PROVINCES.

**Tuesday, October 29.**—Sheffield. Meeting of Members at 8 p.m. at Mrs. Roberts', 10, Binfield-road, Meersbrook, Sheffield.

**Wednesday, October 30.**—Southsea. Practice Debating Class, at Girl Guide Headquarters, 2, Kent-road (side door), 3.15 p.m. prompt.

**Tuesday, November 5.**—Bournemouth. Members' Meeting, at 234, Old Christchurch-road (by kind permission of Mrs. Hull), 3—6 p.m. Speaker: Miss Jessie Marsh (Sister Jessie).

**Tuesday, November 5.**—Manchester. Political Meeting, for women only, Milton Hall, Deansgate, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Bawden (Conservative Women's Organiser). Subject: "Why I Vote Imperially." Open discussion. Admission free; silver collection.

**Wednesday, November 6.**—Southsea. Public Meeting, Girl Guide Headquarters, 2, Kent-road (side door), 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mr. W. J. Willis, "The Political Programme of the Co-operative Party." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

**Wednesday, October 30.**—Meeting at Montrose House, 155, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge (W.F.L.) on "The Child as the Chief Asset of the State."

**Wednesday, November 13.**—Meeting at Montrose House (as above), 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood (W.F.L.) on "The Need for Women Magistrates."

**Sunday, November 24.**—Kingston Church of Humanity, Fife Hall, Fife-road, Miss Margaret Hodge (W.F.L.) "The Divorce Laws of the British Dominions Overseas."

#### We call special attention to—

The League of Nations discussion on October 26, at the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Opener: Miss Lindaf-Hageby.

The Public Meeting on Wednesday, October 30, at the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, when Miss F. A. Underwood will speak on "The House of Commons and Ourselves," 3 p.m.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

### REGULATION 40D. CASES OF THE WEEK.

#### Westminster Police Court—Public Prosecutor Scorns the Law.

A YOUNG WOMAN, charged on remand (October 18) with infecting a soldier. She pleaded ignorance of any disease. Mr. Muskett declared there were reasons for believing that the prisoner knew she was ill. *The Holloway prison doctor found no disease, but it was notorious that examination in such circumstances was in no way conclusive.* He asked the Court to hold that a *prima facie* case was established (i.e., I say you are guilty, so you must be convicted). The prisoner said that at the date in question she had no idea she had anything the matter with her. A week or two later, when arrested, she was proceeding to hospital to ascertain her state of health. Mr. Cecil Chapman discharged her, but said she had been guilty of serious misconduct. "There must have been a doubt in her mind, though, perhaps, she did not positively know."

This seems, judging from the evidence in the *Times* report, an exceedingly unfair stricture. The girl was healthy when examined in prison; there was never any evidence of disease. The weapon used against her was that at a later date she intended to apply at a hospital for advice, as the public is so strongly urged to do "immediately on incurring the risk of infection." On her way thither she was seized by the police. She is now free to continue her journey, and has learnt that the road to hospital (even if one never reaches it) is the road to jail.

Special venereal disease centres have been established, and great expense incurred in advertisement to induce the public to attend them, but can anybody in their senses expect women to seek them and put a halter round their own necks?

#### Guildford Police Court.

EMILY GLUE (sister of Violet Glue, twice sentenced under 40D—see *THE VOTE*, page 426), charged (about October 10) with infecting a Canadian soldier. Police evidence charged her with an immoral life for the past two years.—Three months' hard labour.

Penal measures and 40D have been singularly ineffective in reforming the Glue family.

#### Ramsgate Police Court.

MRS. ELIZABETH CHAMPION, 25 (see *THE VOTE*, page 426), charged on remand (about October 10) with infecting a Royal Engineer. Medical evidence was given of prisoner's disease, of which she said she was totally ignorant.—Two months' imprisonment.

#### Brighton Police Court.

DORA CARE, 20, a quiet-looking girl, charged on remand (October 8) with infecting Lance-Corporal Rohs, of the Canadian Forces. The girl declared that, so far from having infected the soldier, she had been infected by him, and asked for a further remand to instruct a solicitor.

On October 9, Mr. G. Francis Donne, defending, said his case, if untrue, was a grave injustice to the soldier, but if true, as he hoped to prove, was a most criminal injustice to the girl. Employed in a well-known business house, she was engaged to be married to a British soldier. In July he was reported killed. Lonely and unhappy, she then became acquainted with the Canadian. Immorality occurred on one occasion only. She was not a consenting party, and struggled to prevent it. A few days after, hearing that her "boy" was not killed, but was a prisoner in Germany, she at once wrote to the Canadian, telling him she was no longer free and could have no more to do with him. *He thereupon prosecuted her.*

Mr. Donne suggested a remand, that the soldier might attend again to meet this defence. The soldier had already admitted immorality with another woman a fortnight before the date in question. The girl gave evidence in support of her case, and her married sister said she had always been a most respectable girl. After a good deal of consideration, the magistrates decided that, looking at all the evidence, the case must be dismissed, the soldier's evidence being uncorroborated and the girl's evidence equally uncorroborated, and adjournment being useless, as there could be no corroboration.

#### RESOLUTIONS DENOUNCING 40D.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE UNION OF WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS demand its immediate withdrawal.

COMBINED MEETING OF WOMEN'S SOCIETIES, at Manchester, October 14, demanded the raising of the age of consent to eighteen and withdrawal of 40D. Mr. Lees Smith, M.P., declared that it was the Government provision of controlled and recognised opportunities for vice. If it was not to be extended to the nation as a whole in time to come, it must be defeated now by the women.

For the strong demand for withdrawal made at the Labour Conference of Women, see page 437.

We call attention to the Queen's Hall Protest Meeting, on November 6, organised by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, in which the Women's Freedom League is co-operating, particulars of which will be found on page 439.

#### PRESS COMMENTS.

"The strong public agitation against the abominable Regulation 40D has apparently made some impression upon the War Cabinet. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY SEEMS TO BE TO PROVIDE AN EXCUSE FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE REGULATION TO THE COLONIAL AND AMERICAN FORCES IN THIS COUNTRY. The agitation for the complete repeal of this vicious regulation should not be slackened."—*Labour Leader*.

"But few words are needed to express our indignation and disgust at the decision of the Government to retain the notorious Regulation 40D. Women voters should at once combine to secure the abolition of this outrage on their sex. Though the abomination stands for the moment, we trust that its doom is near."—*The Challenge*.

"We deeply regret that on this grave question little or no lead comes from the churches or the organised religious forces. The moral leadership passes from organised religion to the 'secular' Press. We trust that no time will be lost by women's organisations—and all men who can exert any political influence—to put further pressure on the Government."—*Christian Commonwealth*.

#### The Women's Political League (Ireland) and the General Election.

With the possibility of a General Election in November the League has begun work at once. Its policy is decided and clear. Its definite demands begin with the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Regulation 40D, and includes a comprehensive scheme of education reform, based on the principle of free and compulsory education. These demands will be pressed in the first instance on the organisations responsible for the choice of candidates, and it will be urged that candidates should adopt the programme of the League and embody it in their election addresses. Later the candidates themselves will be approached. There are over 69,000 women voters in Belfast, forming more than one-third of the total electorate. It will be the business of the League to put its programme before these electors, and to acquaint them with the attitude of the different political parties to the specified points.

It is a sign of hopeful augury that the first M.P. deputed by the League accepted its programme. Mr. Devlin happened to be in Belfast during the last week end, and the opportunity was taken to put the League's programme before him. The proceedings were private, but the League was authorised to state that Mr. Devlin was in entire sympathy with the policy outlined, and would state the fact in his speeches. The Women's Freedom League, which has fought so steadily for the withdrawal of 40D, will be interested to note that the demand for withdrawal was especially emphasised, and Mr. Devlin's pledge was quite clear and unconditional. Other candidates will be waited upon in due time.

DORA MELLONE.

### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

#### A DEMONSTRATION

(Organised by the National Federation of Women Teachers) of Men and Women of all Parties, Trades, and Professions.

**Royal Albert Hall, on Saturday, Oct. 26th, at 7 p.m.**  
Chair—Miss A. S. BYETT, L.L.A., Pres. N.F.W.T.

#### SPEAKERS:—

Miss NINA BOYLE (Voters' Council), Miss HILDA CROSSON (London Unit of the N.F.W.T.), Rt. Hon. Sir WILLOUGHBY DICKINSON, M.P., Mr. HARRY GOSLING, L.C.C., Mr. FRED HUGHES (National Union of Clerks), Mr. W. J. MAYHEAD, Miss E. PHIPPS, B.A. (Ex-Pres. of N.F.W.T.), Councillor ALBERT SMITH (Secretary London and Provincial Union of Licensed Vehicle Workers), Mr. J. H. WHITEHOUSE, M.P., and Mrs. LAMARTINE YATES.

Organ - - - Mrs. MARY LAYTON, F.R.C.O.

TICKETS FREE to all parts of hall. Apply to Ticket Secretary, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN TEACHERS, Memorial Hall, Farringdon St., E.C. 4



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, October 25th, 1918.

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### 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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.

## THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE OF WOMEN AND OURSELVES.

The Women's Freedom League was represented at a Conference called by the Labour Party on October 15 and 16, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to consider women's civic and political rights and responsibilities. The resolutions appearing on the agenda were framed, moved, and seconded by members of the Labour Party. The first one on the Civic Rights of Women, proposed by Miss Mary Macarthur, and seconded by Mrs. Sidney Webb, was as follows:

That this Conference of Women declares:

(1) That all legal restrictions on the entry of women to the professions on the same conditions as men should be abrogated;

(2) that women should have all franchises and be eligible for election to all public bodies, and shall be eligible to sit on juries and for all offices of State on the same conditions as men;

(3) that systematic provision should be made for the representation of women on all committees and commissions, national or local; and, with a view to carrying out these principles, demands—

(a) that the Government should immediately on the re-assembling of Parliament introduce and pass through its stages Bills enabling women to be elected to, and vote in, the House of Commons, and to be jurors and be eligible for all offices of State;

(b) that further legislation admitting women to professions from which they are now excluded should be passed;

(c) that the Representation of the People Act, 1918, should be amended so as to give the Parliamentary and Local Government vote on a short residential qualification to all men and all women of twenty-one years of age.

### Women's Disabilities Removal Act, 1890.

The amendments pressed by the Women's Freedom League were:

(1) An addition to paragraph (a) as follows:

"That the Labour Party should concentrate on passing through all its stages an amending Bill to the Interpretation Act of 1889, which would state simply and definitely, and without any limitations, that 'In every Act on our Statute Books words importing the masculine gender shall include females, and this shall apply also to customary or common law.'"

The legal adviser to the Labour Party, Mr. H. H. Slesser, declared that, in the opinion of lawyers, this proposed Amending Bill would not secure the equal position of women which the Women's Freedom League demanded—for example, it could not apply to Regulation 40D. Our contention, of course, has always been that it is iniquitous to pass special legislation for the persecution of women, and if women had equal power in the State with men such special legislation would be impossible. Mr. Slesser suggested that a short Bill might be brought in which, perhaps, could be called the Women's Emancipation Bill, the purpose of which would be the removal of women's disabilities, just as Acts were necessary for the removal of the disabilities of both Catholics and Jews. On March 21, 1890, a Bill was brought in, in the names of Mr. Haldane, Sir Edward Grey, and Mr. Howorth, entitled "A Bill to Remove the

Disabilities of Women," the provisions of which were:

Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. In all Acts of Parliament relating to the right to vote at parliamentary, municipal, local, and other elections, words importing the masculine gender shall include women.

2. No woman shall be subject to legal incapacity from voting at such elections by reason of coverture.

3. No person shall be disqualified from being elected or appointed to, or from filling or holding, any office or position, merely by reason that such person is a woman, or, being a woman, is under coverture.

4. This Act may be cited as the Women's Disabilities Removal Act, 1890.

This Bill, moved in the House of Commons twenty-eight years ago, apparently found little favour among our legislators. It would be interesting to know what support it would find among our present Parliamentary representatives.

The Women's Freedom League's second amendment to this resolution was that paragraph (c) should read:

That the Representation of the People Act, 1918, should be amended so as to give the Parliamentary and Local Government vote on a short residential qualification to men and women on equal terms.

This amendment, through a regrettable misunderstanding arising between the chairman of the Standing Orders Committee and the chairman of the Conference, was not allowed to be moved. The view of the Women's Freedom League is that the age 21 is an arbitrary one. At present youths of 19 and all other men over 21 have the right to a Parliamentary vote on a short residential qualification, whereas a woman, no matter what her qualifications are, cannot secure this vote before she is 30 years of age. What the Women's Freedom League has always demanded, and still demands, is that women and men should receive the Parliamentary vote on equal terms.

The second resolution, on the Ministry of Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Act, proposed by Miss Margaret Llewelyn Davies, and seconded by Miss Margaret Bondfield, was as follows:

That this National Conference of Women declares that the organisation and development of a unified Health Service for the whole community are questions of urgent importance, and that steps should be taken without delay to establish a Ministry of Health based upon Public Health Services, entirely dissociated from any Poor Law taint, and making full use of the services of women in all departments. And, further, this Conference, while regarding the establishment of a Ministry of Health as essential to the proper development of these services, welcomes the passing of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, and urges that immediate action should be taken to secure that representatives of industrial women's organisations shall be included on all local maternity committees.

The Women's Freedom League amendment was: That the words "and making full use of the services of women in all departments" be deleted, and the following words substituted: "Making provision for the appointment of a woman Minister of Health, and securing that women shall have equal control with men in all departments."

Mrs. Mustard made an admirable speech in support of this amendment, showing clearly the need of women having equal control with men in such a Department as the Ministry of Health, and the advantages which would accrue by having a woman at the head of this new Ministry. Mrs. Sproson ably seconded this amendment. The chairman, however, left the chair in order to urge the Conference not to support the amendment, but to vote straight for the resolution.

### Housing Demands.

The Women's Freedom League delegates supported the following resolution on Housing, which was proposed and seconded by Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Sanderson Furniss in two admirable speeches:—

That this Conference, believing that the good housing of

the people is an urgent social reform, demands that the Government take immediate steps to compel local authorities to prepare adequate housing schemes, to be financed out of public funds, in order to provide the million cottages which will be needed at the end of the war, but that no private enterprise shall receive public money for such a purpose.

That in all such schemes the Government should insist on full consultation by the local authorities and the central housing authority with representative working women before any plans are adopted, and the following minimum requirements should be observed: Each house to contain not less than three bedrooms, which shall each be large enough to hold two beds, a separate bathroom, with fitted basin and hot and cold water supply, a parlour, living room, and kitchen-scullery, together with a larder having a suitable aspect, and a w.c. on the ground floor.

Further, that no houses built out of public funds should exceed twelve to the acre, and that overcrowding in the large cities should be dealt with by the establishment of new towns on the garden city principle.

### Maintaining Women's Organisations.

The most interesting discussion in the Conference arose on the following resolution of the Political Organisation of Women, proposed by Dr. Marion Phillips, and seconded by Miss Ellen Wilkinson:

That this Conference recognises that the political power of the women's vote is dependent upon the extent of organisation amongst them, and urges them, in considering the methods of organisation to be adopted, to throw their strength into the development of a strong political organisation, embracing both men and women, and not to follow the lines of sex division.

The amendment moved by the Women's Freedom League and seconded by the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, was as follows:

That this Conference recognises that the political power of the women's vote is dependent upon the extent of organisation amongst them, and is of opinion that it is advisable for women to work in political organisations with men, but that, until women have secured political, social, and economic equality with men with regard to their liberties, status, and opportunities, separate women's organisations are also necessary to develop the political experience of women, and to influence public opinion and bring pressure to bear on political organisations to support the establishment of such equality.

Miss Underwood, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, and Mrs. Despard championed this amendment, and contended that although six million women had gained the Parliamentary vote, they were certainly not yet recognised as co-partners in the State, and still had a very long way to travel before they secured equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities with men throughout all branches of our national life. Most women would probably belong to the political parties with which they were chiefly in agreement, and use the party machinery with men to secure the reforms in which they were interested; but until women were much less handicapped than at present, it was essential that they should maintain their own organisations, and use the political machinery which they themselves had built up through so many years in order to act as a watching brief for women's interests. Mrs. Despard explained that no anti-man policy was involved in this; women could work both inside political organisations with men, and outside in their own organisations in order to bring pressure to bear on political parties at any rate until women's status in the nation was equal to that of men.

### Withdrawal of 40D Demanded.

The next resolution dealing with the Prevention of Venereal Disease, was proposed by Dr. Ethel Bentham, and seconded by Mrs. Salter. It read as follows, and was supported by Dr. White on behalf of the Women's Freedom League:

That this Conference records its deep conviction that the effective prevention of venereal disease cannot be gained by repressive and unequal legislation, and must depend upon the education and social environment of the men and women citizens of the community.

It demands the immediate withdrawal of 40D under the Defence of the Realm Act, because it believes it to be:

- (1) Unequal in its treatment of the sexes;
- (2) dangerous in the power it gives to the police;
- (3) ineffective in gaining any reduction of the evils against which it is directed;

(4) a return to the principles of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

This Conference further protests against the provisions of the Sexual Offences Bill and the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, now before a Joint Committee of the two Houses, which maintain an unequal standard between men and women and require medical examination in the case of those charged or convicted under certain of their provisions.

The last resolution on the agenda, referring to Food Problems, was proposed by Mrs. Reeves, and seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the text being:

This Conference expresses its agreement with the methods of the present food administration, which have aimed at securing fair distribution and the prevention of profiteering, and urges further development of the principles of public control of production and distribution. It demands that the consumer shall be protected by the continuance of these methods, both during and after the war, from exploitation at the hands of those who seek private profit. In especial it urges that the consumers' direct control of distribution should be secured by the recognition and development of the Co-operative Movement to its fullest extent.

The Women's Freedom League amendment, moved by Mrs. Sproson, and seconded by Mrs. Mustard, called for the deletion of the words "This Conference expresses its agreement with the methods of the present food administration." We could not possibly express agreement with the methods of an administration which raised the price of milk to 10d. a quart, and put this essential food for children beyond the reach of the working-class mother. There are scores of other points in which, as practical women, we are in emphatic disagreement with this administration, and our delegates forcibly expressed our views on some of them.

### Women as Co-partners with Men a National Need.

We would like to offer our congratulations to the Labour Party for convening this Conference of women, and for inviting outside women's organisations to attend it. The Conference itself was an object lesson to men and women of all parties of women's potential political value. No one who took part in its proceedings could fail to see that women were as capable as men in dealing with the affairs of our nation, that it was sheer prejudice and an unpardonable waste of an enormous amount of brains and energy in our national life to keep women any longer out of their rightful position as co-partners with men in the State.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### Mrs. How Martyn as Candidate for Parliament.

Our readers will remember that Mrs. How Martyn has been adopted as an independent Parliamentary candidate for the Hendon division, which extends from the Hampstead Garden Suburb and Child's Hill to Pinner and Elstree. Frequent meetings, addressed by Mrs. How Martyn, are being held throughout the constituency. We ask for volunteers at the earliest possible date to help in canvassing the Child's Hill district to arouse interest in two meetings: the first on October 31, at 869, Finchley-road, at 8 p.m.; the second on November 5, at the Park, at 2.30 p.m. The secretary of the Women's Freedom League will be glad to receive at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, the names of all who can help in any way. Mrs. How Martyn will explain her election policy at "Our Wednesday," on November 27, at 3 p.m.

### A Good Example: Other Branches Please Copy!

We congratulate our Manchester members on the series of women's political meetings which they have arranged. The subjects to be discussed are: "Why I Vote Imperially," "Women's Problems in the next Election," "Peace—and After," "Why we should have an Independent Women's Party." These are to be open discussion meetings.



**GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.**

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23, 1918.

**Four Weeks To-day!****Buy Your Christmas Presents at the Fair!**

Ho! Freedom Leaguers and Friends!

Please to Remember 22 and 23 November—

In two ways: Make presents for the Fair and buy your Christmas presents there!

**Stalls and Stallholders.**

**GENERAL STALL.**—Useful and fancy articles of every description, Christmas presents, presents for soldiers, sailors, and nurses.—Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner.

**HANDKERCHIEF STALL.**—Handkerchiefs of various kinds, and articles made of handkerchiefs; brushes, and all kinds of pretty, useful, and cheap Christmas presents.—Miss Underwood.

**LITERATURE STALL.**—All kinds of books, calendars, etc.—Miss Hodge and Miss Bergman.

**MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS STALLS (3).**—These will come up to the usual standard of quality for which this Branch has always been famous.—Miss Clark, Mrs. Evans, Miss Baker and Montgomery Boroughs members.

**NORTHERN BRANCHES STALL.**—Names to be announced later.

**PARCELS STALL.**—Miss White and S.E. Coast members.

**TOY STALL.**—Dolls, books, and toys of all kinds.

**"VOTE" STALL** (in memory of Mrs. Snow).—The proceeds of the stall go to the funds of THE VOTE.

**WHITE STALL.**—Ladies' and children's under-clothing, tea-cloths, d'oyleys, household linen.—Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Lloyd, and Mrs. Holmes.

Stalls have been taken by the following societies: British Country Homestead Association, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, Friends of Armenia, Independent W.S.P.U., Nine Elms Settlement.

**How Everyone May Help the Bookstall.**

It is now impossible to have books on sale or return, so we ask every reader to help the Fair and the League in two ways:—

(1) To send for sale books of all kinds lying unused on bookshelves in the home.

(2) To order from the W.F.L. Literature Department books for Christmas, birthday, and un-birthday presents. The books will be on view at the Fair, and then handed over to their purchasers, having served the purpose of prompting others to order these or different books.

Give thought to these suggestions—Help the League and yourselves at the same time!

**New Attractions Grave and Gay!**

In this year of our political victory we shall have political attractions at the Fair to interest and entertain everyone—without limitations of age or sex—and to add to the financial results.

We have pleasure in announcing the following

**COMPETITIONS.****I.—How I Would Reform the House of Commons.**

Competitors, we know, have clear ideas on this important subject, and therefore will not feel that the limitation to 50 words is irksome! Much in little is the method of the competition, and "Wisdom in a nutshell" appeals to the public and the authorities nowadays.

Each competitor must adopt an assumed name to be written on the top of the M.S., and send, with the famous fifty words, six penny stamps, also a sealed envelope containing the correct name and address. The envelope will not be opened until the judges have given their verdict.

Competitions may be sent in from November 1-20 inclusive. The envelope must be marked "Fair: Competitions," and addressed to—

The Editor, "THE VOTE,"  
144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

The result of the competition will be announced at the Fair on Friday, November 22, and the prize handed to the winner. The successful 50 words will be published in THE VOTE. The judges will be a woman and a man, both voters.

**II.—A Short and Merry Competition,**

To be done "on the spot," will be announced at the Caxton Hall on Friday, November 22. It will be to supply a "missing word" in Parliamentary procedure. Slips will be handed to competitors, in return for 3d. in cash. They will be collected in the hall, then considered by the judges, and the result announced before the Fair closes on November 22.

**A PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.**

On Saturday, November 23, there will be an experimental Parliamentary election with women candidates. *Everyone attending the Fair who has attained the age of 21 will be enfranchised.* The candidates will make five minutes' speeches; questions will follow, and replies—with a strict time limit; voting by ballot will then take place, and the result announced immediately the votes have been counted. There will be no difficulties with registration officers in this election, and there will be a large electorate.

**BE SURE TO MAKE THESE FACTS KNOWN!**

ALIX M. CLARK.

Hon. Sec. Green, White, and Gold Fair.

**OUR POINT OF VIEW.****The Man Speaks.**

To hear, as a member of the public entitled only to listen, the deliberations of the Joint Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons with regard to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill and the Sexual Offences Bill is a liberal education in the need for women in Parliament, and on all Government Committees. Last week Mr. Macpherson was called as a witness to give the point of view of the War Office. It was quite simple; it regarded the matter solely from the point of view of manpower; it considered the soldier who concealed—not communicated—venereal disease was sufficiently punished by military discipline, and that the age of consent should remain at sixteen. The proceedings were entirely lawyer-like and polite, without expression of human feeling; but there were indications that the Committee realised that the world consisted of women as well as men. The presence of women in the committee room was a step in the right direction, but only by women's active co-operation on such committees can justice be done.

**Are Women Persons?**

An interesting point was raised by Mr. Handel Booth on the Second Reading of the Midwives Bill, the first clause of which reads as follows:—

The Central Midwives' Board may at any time represent to the Privy Council that it is expedient to modify the constitution of the Board either by

(a) Increasing or diminishing the number of persons appointed by any body or person; or

(b) Abolishing the power of appointment by any body or person; or

(c) Conferring on any body or person a power of appointment of one or more persons, etc.

Mr. Booth said: I desire to draw attention to Clause I, and to have it clearly understood that the

word "person" in Clause I includes women. It may be a technical point, but the Law Courts have held that the word "person" does not, in certain circumstances, include a woman. If this clause includes the appointment of women it will enable the Government to increase the number of women upon the Central Midwives' Board. As things are developing now, there is, I think, a general recognition that women must more and more be called into the counsels of the nation, and this is peculiarly a province in which it is natural that women should be asked to assist. If we could have an assurance from the Government that they contemplate under Clause I having the freedom to appoint more women—I suggest, possibly, a midwife, providing a suitable candidate came forward—on to the Central Midwives' Board, I think the House would regard it as a distinct step in advance.

Mr. Hayes Fisher, in his reply, gave no opinion on the vexed question as to whether the word "person" should include a woman, but said:—

My hon. friend asked whether it would be possible under Clause I to increase the number of women on the Central Midwives' Board. Yes, that will be possible, and I entirely share his view that in all this Maternity and Child Welfare legislation we shall need more and more the services and the special knowledge of women. It will be possible, if it is thought desirable, to give the midwives themselves direct representation upon that Board.

And Men Legislators call this a Midwives Bill !!!

**WOMEN'S INTERESTS IN PARLIAMENT. HOUSE OF COMMONS.****Criminal Law Amendment Bill.**

MR. KING, on October 15, asked the Prime Minister whether it is intended to pass the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill [Lords] this Session; and whether it is the policy of the Government to maintain Regulation 40D till this or some similar Bill becomes law.

MR. BONAR LAW: The Bill and Regulation are now being considered by committees, and it is obvious that no announcement as to the policy of the Government can be made until those committees have reported.

**Regulation 40D.**

SIR G. CAVE, Home Secretary, on October 17, informed Mr. H. B. Lees Smith that up to October 8 there had been 201 prosecutions under Regulation 40D. Convictions were obtained in 102 cases, in 51 of which the defendants pleaded guilty, three other defendants were bound over or placed on probation, and six cases were under remand.

LORD H. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK: In view of the futility of this Order, will the Government consider the propriety of withdrawing it? (Cheers.)

SIR G. CAVE replied that the subject is under the consideration of a Committee, and in reply to Mr. H. Samuel he added that he had no doubt the Committee would report as soon as possible.

MR. DILLON gave notice he would raise the question at the first opportunity. (Cheers.)

Answering a further question, Sir G. Cave said the Committee was appointed to consider the Regulation and what

Food Reform is at the Root of all Social Reform.

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CHARLES MONTEFIORE.

modifications, if any, should be made in its terms or in the procedure for enforcing it. He did not think they would be precluded from considering the question of its withdrawal.

**Supply of Teachers.**

MR. KING, on October 15, asked the President of the Board of Education the number of teachers from elementary and secondary schools, respectively, who have passed into the Army or Navy; what is the number required of additional teachers to secure the working of the Education Act, 1918, at the end of five and of ten years respectively; whether adequate means are being taken to attract and train such teachers; whether any large number of female teachers have left teaching during the past four years for war services; if so, how many; and whether he expects the return to teaching of any large number of these on the termination of the war?

MR. FISHER: I informed the hon. member on 16th May last that it was estimated that over 20,000 had been released for military and naval service from elementary schools and about 2,500 from grant-aided secondary schools. The number of women teachers who have left the teaching service for war work during the last four years is not large, and is far less than the number of women who had left the teaching service before the war but have since returned to the schools. I hope that the improved prospects of the teaching profession, resulting from steps which I have already taken and from the Measure which I hope Parliament will pass this Session, will secure not only the return of the great majority of teachers, but a very large accession of additional teachers. The remainder of the question cannot be suitably dealt with within the limits of a question and answer. I can assure the hon. member, however, that the supply of teachers is engaging my most careful attention.

**Luxury Tax Suspended.**

On October 17 Mr. F. D. ACKLAND, who was chairman of the Committee which considered the proposed luxury tax, asked whether the Government proposed to make any progress in the matter this Session.

MR. BONAR LAW: During the recess the preliminary steps necessary for the introduction of this Bill have been largely taken, but in view of the present situation I do not think I should be justified in asking the House, at this stage of the Session, to devote the time required to carry it. (Laughter and cheers.) I have very reluctantly come to this conclusion, and I trust the useful work performed by the members of the Committee, to whom I desire to express the warm thanks of the Government, will not be thrown away, for I have every hope that such a tax will be included in next year's Budget. (Cheers and laughter.)

Several members inquired whether the right hon. gentleman referred to the military or the political situation, but obtained no information on the point.

**Women's War Services (Pensions).**

MR. P. A. HARRIS asked the Pensions Minister whether members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Women's Royal Navy Corps, and the Women's Auxiliary Flying Corps, who are incapacitated because of service overseas, either through shell shock or other causes, are entitled to pensions; and, if not, whether he will consider making representations to the Treasury to include them in the Royal Warrant?

SIR A. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN: Members of these auxiliary services do not come within the Warrants administered by the Ministry of Pensions. They are, I understand, entitled to compensation under the Injuries in War Act, for which they prefer their claims against their respective Departments.

MR. HARRIS: Is the hon. and gallant gentleman aware that there are many women who have been overseas and have suffered from being under fire who have received no pension? Does he consider it right that women should be in a worse position than men when they volunteer for service overseas?

Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

**JOINT PROTEST MEETING**

Against Reg. 40D, D.O.R.A.,

At QUEEN'S HALL,

Wednesday, Nov. 6, at 7.30.

SPEAKERS: Rt. Rev. The Lord Bishop of Kensington, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Mary Macarthur, Mr. E. B. Turner, F.R.C.S., Mrs. Bramwell Booth, Monsignor Provost Brown, and others.

CHAIR: Mrs. Henry Fawcett.

ADMISSION FREE.

Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. & 1s., from the Secretary of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tot Hill Street, S.W. 1.



FRIDAY,  
OCT. 25,  
1918.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

SIR A. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN: I do not think it at all right, but they have their remedy now through their respective Departments.

MR. HARRIS: Will the hon. and gallant gentleman consider bringing them in the same position as men?

SIR A. GRIFFITH-BOSCAWEN: I will certainly consider it.

## Galleries, House of Commons.

COL. SIR JAMES CRAIG asked the Prime Minister whether he will grant time for discussion of the following motion: "That this House is in favour of all available galleries being opened to men and women equally and impartially, and requests Mr. Speaker to make arrangements accordingly."

MR. BONAR LAW: I propose to give an opportunity for this discussion on Wednesday next (October 23).

As our readers know, on this same day Mr. Herbert Samuel's resolution will be taken in favour of allowing women Members of Parliament. Let us hope our legislators will show their good sense by granting women equal access with men both to the floor and the galleries of the House of Commons!

F. A. U.

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Mr. J. W. Williams, speaking on October 16, on "The Empire's Greatest Menace," gave facts "calculated to make one shudder," as to war conditions which conduce to the spread of venereal disease, and figures of its incidence which justify the title of his address. He declared that men were not fit to tackle this great evil. By man-made law a girl of sixteen is responsible if she gives herself body and soul to a man, though she may have no responsibility as to property till she is twenty-one, and may not vote till she is thirty. This "scandal and disgrace" must be removed, and it is, in his opinion, the women voters who can do it. He desires to see a great campaign of education and enlightenment throughout the country, in large towns and in small villages, and he insists that the penalisation of women by 40D and a return to the Contagious Diseases Acts must be stopped. The appeal to men and women must be to the best, not to the worst that is in them, emphasizing the moral and spiritual side of the matter. He advocated sex teaching in schools by qualified and trained men and women; a truer appreciation of the other sex amongst girls and boys, and an understanding among young men

and women, before they go into the world, of the meaning of parenthood. Mrs. Mackenzie, a Canadian, supported Mr. Williams, and Madame Anna Carola presided.

## BRANCH NOTE.

### Edinburgh, Office, 13, South Charlotte Street.

At the Branch Meeting on October 17 the following committee was elected: Hon. secretary, Miss Jacob; hon. treasurer, Dr. Aimée Gibbs; hon. literature secretary, Miss Wilson McLaren; Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Hogg, Miss Harvey, Mrs. Stevens, Miss McGilchrist Gilchrist, Mrs. Kennedy Fraser, Mrs. Magowan, Mrs. Frances Johnstone, Mrs. Stirton, and Miss McLaren. It was decided that our work should be the calling of large public meetings as the necessity for political action should arise. A delegate, Mrs. Johnstone, was elected to represent us on the committee, initiated by the Women's International League, for the holding of a public protest against State regulation of vice in all forms. A club meeting, at which members could meet together for tea in our rooms, was arranged for every Thursday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Informal discussions are to take place, and it is hoped all members will take part. In response to the earnest appeal of the chairman, Dr. Aimée Gibbs, and of the outgoing treasurer, a generous response in the form of guarantees and promises was obtained. Our thanks to Mrs. Frances Johnstone, whose letter and offer set us the example. Members willing to share in this effort are asked to send guarantees to our hon. treasurer, Dr. Aimée Gibbs, 10, Manor Place. Anything from sixpence a month will be welcome.

Miss Dorothy Evans reported that her visits to trades unions to talk about a joint Equal Pay Conference had resulted in the Trades Council considering taking the matter up. Failing that she had a powerful little committee ready and willing to call such a conference, and she anticipated universal support for it. She reported also that Councillor McMichael had promised to introduce a joint deputation of women's societies to the City Council to protest against 40D. The meeting decided that the W.F.L. should approach all the women's societies of Edinburgh and organise this.

Our new literature secretary, Miss Wilson McLaren, 11, Newington Road, is most anxious to extend the sale of THE VOTE. Members are asked to have their copies posted from Headquarters, and should send their subscriptions to her without delay. Three shillings and threepence for six months, 6s. 6d. per year. She has had great success in selling THE VOTE to the public at large meetings, and would like help with this work.

N.B.—Some Branch Notes and other usual items are held over this week owing to special pressure on our space.

**64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM,** post free 2d.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

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