

THE VOTE,
OCTOBER 18, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

THE VOICE OF THE WOMEN.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, OCT. 18, 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 NEW OFFENSIVE.

Parliament is back at work. The Government wants the Contagious Diseases Acts back. It is determined to get a little Bill to penalise the transmission of venereal disease. Armed with this the whole system of regulated vice will be enforced; without it our foes are comparatively helpless as 40D has proved a broken reed.

Now is the time for every patriot to be up and doing; the Women's Freedom League will not compromise with the War Cabinet. We are completely determined to abolish 40D, and to prevent the threatened worse disaster. The one obstacle to victory is ignorance. Once enlightened, women and men everywhere are up in arms. We are taking a very active part in dispelling this ignorance by meetings and literature and in the Press. Much money has been spent and much more is needed, but we cannot pay too highly for the freedom of women and the honour of men. The need now is most urgent; in a few weeks you may be too late. All donations, large and small, for this special purpose, will be at once acknowledged.

E. KNIGHT.

REGULATION 40D.

40D has reappeared in the London police courts, but in both the cases noted below the prosecution ignominiously collapsed. Again we urgently press all our readers to search their local metropolitan or country papers, and immediately to forward cuttings with date to the Women's Freedom League, also to attend in their local police court as much as possible. The policy of the authorities still is to keep reports out of the Press, and to pretend that no prosecutions occur. Even the Bishop of Lichfield last week, while denouncing the Regulation, declared that it was a dead letter. On the other hand we have the Government's own figures of October 5-78 convictions up to the end of August. This, taken in conjunction with the War Office figure several months ago of 200 prosecutions, would apparently give us up to the present time some five hundred wretched women hauled up on the word of a soldier before male magistrates, prosecuted by eminent male solicitors like Mr. Muskett, usually helpless and undefended themselves, forced to submit to a vile outrage, finally, in the great majority of cases, and often after weeks in prison, flung out of court discharged, and therefore guiltless, without redress or apology, their characters defamed, their work lost, to be avoided by neighbours and acquaintances for the disease from which they are free. "A useful regulation," says the *Pall Mall Gazette*! A shameful, useless, and mischievous trick, says the Women's Freedom League.

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

Join the Women's Freedom League.

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

Name _____

Address _____

CASES OF THE WEEK.

Clerkenwell Police Court.—Playing to the Gallery.

NELLIE MORRIS, a dressmaker, aged 28, charged on remand (about October 3) with infecting a Canadian soldier on August 13. During the remand she had exercised her "right of examination by the prison doctor." Mr. Muskett was again in good form, and said he "wished to show our Colonial friends that we were doing our best in these cases, so he would not withdraw the case offhand without offering any evidence." The prison doctor found no evidence of disease and prisoner was dismissed. Did Mr. Muskett again let the cat out of the bag and mean what he seemed to mean, and what has always been maintained by us, that 40D is being used as a simple Contagious Diseases Act for the official inspection of prostitutes.

Marlborough Street Police Court.—A Husband's Malice.

Mrs. VIOLET SIMPSON, aged 19, charged on remand (October 8) with infecting her husband, a Canadian private, on August 11. She denied her husband's accusation, and asked to be examined. The police surgeon and another medical man selected by her agreed that she was healthy. The only evidence against her was her husband's statement. The prosecuting solicitor said he might have been infected from some other source, and in other courts the uncorroborated evidence of a man affected had not been accepted as sufficient. Mr. Denman discharged the prisoner.

Newmarket Police Court.—An Unbelieving Bench.

Mrs. MAUD WARDLE, aged 24, charged (about October 3) under 40D. She produced a certificate from the Medical Officer of Health for Newmarket to say that she was perfectly free from disease. The magistrates refused the certificate and insolently dragged the doctor into court for verbal confirmation.—Dismissed.

Guildford Police Court.—Effect of Previous Conviction.

VIOLET GLUE, charged (about October 3) under 40D. Sentenced in May last to three months' hard labour for a similar offence, now sentenced to six months' hard labour.

Ramsgate Police Court.

Mrs. MAUD WATSON, aged 40, pleaded guilty (about October 3) under 40D.—Four months' hard labour.

Mrs. ELIZABETH CHAMPION, charged (about October 3) under 40D, remanded for a week, at her request, for examination by her own doctor.

Falmouth Police Court.

Mrs. MYRA BUTLAND pleaded guilty (October 3) under 40D. The main witness was in hospital at Plymouth, and the naval authorities absolutely refused to allow him to come out.—Two months' imprisonment.

Mrs. DOROTHY TRUSCOTT, also charged (October 3) under 40D.—Two months' imprisonment.

LILIAN ADA LAITY, aged 19, pleaded guilty (October 3) under 40D. The police superintendent's statement that she would not stay in any situation where her evenings were not free appeared to have shocked the Bench; result three months' imprisonment.

Resolutions Denouncing 40D.

The Hon. Mrs. Walter Roch presided over a well-attended meeting, organised by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, at the Caxton Hall on October 12, at which the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40D, which was passed without the consent of Parliament, was unanimously demanded, and uncompromising opposition was pledged to this kind of legislation. Dr. Alice Vowe Johnson showed that the exercise of the Regulation was no guarantee of safety. Rev. Vincent McNabb, O.P., denounced the methods pursued in India, and described the Act as a regulation of sin. Miss Alison Neilans strongly protested against panic legislation, which brought with it the worst features of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

At the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers last week a resolution was passed demanding the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40D.

Derby Women Citizens' Association, on October 7, called for the immediate withdrawal of the Regulation as a grave menace to the liberty and civil rights of all women.—Sir William Collins, M.P., in his address, held that everything that was right and could be justifiably applied to both sexes should be done to remove the danger of contagious diseases. The matter of the compulsory examination of women was now being considered by a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, of which Committee he was a member. The Regulation had never received the sanction of Parliament, and he doubted if ever it would. It was a grave question whether the Home Secretary had acted constitutionally in applying it seeing that he withdrew a somewhat similar provision in the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill of 1917. Sir William looked with mistrust and misgiving on all kinds of penal legislation of this character. 40D was the result of hasty action inspired by laudable motives, but not directed by knowledge or based upon experience.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, October 19.—Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1. Jumble Sale, 6 p.m.

Sunday, October 20.—Herne-hill Branch. Drawing-room Meeting at 69, Danecroft-road, 4 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard on "Women and the Future." Chair: Miss Kate Brown. Admission free.

Wednesday, October 23.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge on "Child Welfare." Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café, if desired, at 6d.

Working Party for Green, White and Gold Fair, at 144, High Holborn, 5 p.m.

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 Lind-af-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 Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood on "The House of Commons and Ourselves." Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., "Some of Our Young War Poets." 3 p.m.

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

PROVINCES.

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).

SCOTLAND.

Friday, October 18.—Edinburgh Suffrage Society, Goad Hall. Debate on Equal Pay. Miss Evans and others. 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 20.—Edinburgh. N.U.R., Ardmillan Hall; Equal Pay Council. Speaker: Miss Evans. 3.15 p.m.

Leith. N.U.R., I.L.P. Halls, 1, Smith-place, "Equal Pay." Miss Helen McLachlan. 3.15 p.m.

Tuesday, October 22.—Stockbridge, North, I.L.P., Inverleith Hall, to protest against 40D. Speakers: Mrs. Johnstone and Miss Jacob.

We call special attention to—

The Public Meeting on Wednesday, October 23, at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, when Miss Margaret Hodge will speak on "Child Warfare." 3 p.m.

"IN SIGHT."

Sunday morning: the news has just reached me in the northern town where I am spending the weekend, and I feel I must write a few lines of hope and encouragement to my friends and dear colleagues—the readers of THE VOTE, and those who have kept this torchlight burning through the heat, fury, and misery of these last awful years.

Peace in sight! If the news is true—an almost immediate cessation of fighting! It seemed to me when I heard it that I had not realised until then the weight, the awful tension, that had been upon us. But in a few moments other thoughts came. The door of hope is open; that is a glorious achievement to have reached. The question now is: How are we to enter in; and what is the spirit that moves us?

We women have had our full share in the suffering, the toil, the unspeakable anguish of the past four years. A small measure of long overdue justice has been granted to us on the one hand; on the other we have been used, hectored, made responsible for hideous evils which, having existed long before the war, were aggravated and brought into prominence by war conditions, for which we were in nowise to blame; and more than once we have seen the effect upon public men, forced to realise our new power of a united front and quiet determination. We have been learning in a hard and bitter school. To-day we have to ask ourselves: How are we going to use the education we have gained?

I venture to bring before you certain points which the experience of the past has made clear to some of us.

Union, and the organisation which makes union effective, must be preserved. To slacken now would be to lose much, if not all, for which we have worked. As far as possible, sinking slight differences, women's societies all over the country should come into closer working. In this way public opinion can be formed on questions of high importance to ourselves and our children, and men and women, who desire to act as our representatives, may be made to understand that we mean business, and do not intend to be played with. These are the practical issues we must consider.

Further, we should distinctly realise that what we shall acclaim as Peace—a cessation of slaughter—has its dangers. Unless the workers, men and women, and the mothers of this country are watchful and determined, the Peace may prove to be a simulacrum or worse. There was such a thing in old times as a "Holy alliance" of kings, and it wrought nothing but disaster. An alliance of governments, using fear as their instrument, preserving militarism, educating our children to arms, and passing on, as would be inevitable from military to industrial conscription, is one of the possibilities which face us; and we must know that such a state of society would mean the subjection of woman and the consequent degradation of men for many generations. Standing where we now stand on the verge of great events and momentous changes, we must be true to the high ideals which, in the years of conflict, drew and held us together. No need for me to define them, as they are present to all of us; they can never be forgotten, for they form a part of our spiritual being. That which most deeply concerns us now is to reach out to and grasp the power that can make of our vision a reality.

Later, I hope, we shall take up in detail the questions with which the nations will be called upon to deal: Peace conditions; if the peoples are to have self-determination; how the sufferings of those who in health and fortune have given themselves can be alleviated; whether, and how soon, our

primal liberties—freedom of conscience, of speech, and personal liberty—are to be restored; how armament and munition factories can be transformed into useful, self-controlled workshops, men and women receiving an equal reward for their work, and neither suffering unnecessarily from the changed conditions. These are immediate problems. Many more remain, to mention but one: the family, its relations towards the State, and the duty and responsibility of the State with regard to it; these, and kindred matters, will have to be treated far more wisely than hitherto. And in order to do this, women as well as men must have a place in the new Parliament.

Finally and emphatically the call is for action. If we, members of the Women's Freedom League, sit by idly now, allow events to drift, and take no leading part in them we shall be untrue to ourselves and to our country. But I am convinced this will not be. The abating of the storm, whose one note was confusion, the sighting of land, the prospect of success crowning our efforts, will make us ready for every sort of sacrifice.

My sisters, I salute you. I trust in you. I believe that those of us who live to see the great changes which will be in social and political life will move forward together, strongly, boldly, and thus their work will be for the joy of the world.

Yours always,
CHARLOTTE DESPARD.

Women's Civic and Political Rights and Responsibilities.

As we go to press the National Conference of the Labour Party on "Women's Civic and Political Rights and Responsibilities" is in session. The Women's Freedom League has sent four delegates to this important Conference, who will move the various amendments which the League proposes to resolutions on the agenda. They cover many subjects, including equal pay for equal work, women in the Ministry of Health; women and political parties; the prevention of venereal disease; and food problems after the war. The Conference is a significant sign of the times, and demonstrates to the world at large that a new power, the direct influence of women, has entered into public affairs. Next week we shall devote space to a review of the Conference, welcoming, in the meantime, the fact that it is taking place.

Women as Ministers of State and in Judicial Offices.

The Executive Committee of the Labour Party has decided to draft a Bill to remove the existing legal disqualifications which prevent women becoming Ministers of State or holding judicial office. A Bill has already been drafted which deals with women's right to be elected to and sit in the House of Commons.

WOMEN M.P.s.

Mr. Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons, on October 15th, that the Government would give a day for the Bill to enable Women to stand for Parliament, and would leave the decision to a free vote of the House.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, October 18th, 1918.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
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 VOICE OF THE WOMEN.

Rumours of an impending election are strongly persistent, and the six millions of women voters are for the most part keenly alive to the importance and responsibility of the franchise; many of them, conscious of ignorance and inexperience, are doing their best to educate and fit themselves for a wise decision. All over the country meetings are being held, and the working women are especially eager to hear and understand the political questions of the day—a good example for many men to follow! It seems as if there is small demand for any separate women's parties; the country is at one in the strain and suffering of the war, and the wrongs of the disabled and mutilated soldiers will be of the deepest concern to the mothers and wives of England. Women will be at one in their passionate desire to support the League of Nations so that mankind shall not lightly blunder again into the dark and obscure wood of warfare.

The thoughts of mothers are long thoughts; they will look to the future and remember we want a long peace and the death of Prussian militarism which, for the fourth time in the memory of man, has disturbed the peace of Europe and drenched its fields red with blood.

On all questions, especially those that concern women—among them the health and welfare of children, maternity, housing, the prevention of venereal disease, etc.—we shall probably find a solid women's vote. All over the country organised women are meeting together in conference, weighing and discussing questions affecting the well-being of the community, and as we read the reports and the sane and sensible conclusions arrived at we feel hopeful for the future because of the enthusiasm and practical wisdom that the trained housekeepers of the nation will bring to our many problems.

All of us, high and low, rich and poor, are suffering from our houses that men have built so carelessly, indifferent to stairs and steps, and the aching legs of women; cupboards lacking or placed in the wrong positions, and larders, even in big and expensive dwellings, often carefully planned to face south or south-west, so that in hot weather no meat, fish, or perishable goods can be kept sweet even through one night. We read the report of the Women's Housing Sub-committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction under the chairmanship of Lady Emmott, and if we are young we give thanks; if we are old we try not to feel bitter at the premature weakness and weariness of an old age brought on by the homes men made. We note with special approval the recommendations for the provision of a hot water system, a coal-house under cover, good ventilation, a scullery as the working centre of house, where the housekeeper should have space to move about freely, and a garden.

At Harrogate last week nearly 700 delegates of the National Union of Women Workers passed many important resolutions, demanding women in Parliament, the appointment of a Government Commission to consider the whole question of prostitution, the abolition of 40D; equal pay for equal work, and equal status in professions, business, and industry for women. The latter resolution was moved by Mrs. Tanner, of the Women's Freedom League, and passed *nem. con.* Mrs. Tanner's report appears below.

At an unofficial conference between leading trade union women and employers of labour, arranged by the National Alliance of Employers and Employed, the question of the demobilisation of women after the war was considered. It was the general opinion that though there might be temporary dislocation there would later be work for all, including all women in industry. A minimum wage was advocated based on a reasonable standard of life varying in different areas. It was decided that it would be better to employ all the workers on a part-time system, rather than that some should be dismissed to swell the ranks of the unemployed, whilst others reaped the full benefit of whole time. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the delay of the Government in formulating plans, and it was decided that the Conference should meet again shortly either to consider the proposals of the Government with regard to demobilisation or to bring forward its own.

This week the Labour Party is holding a National Conference at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Women's Civic and Political Rights and Responsibilities, at which many women's societies are represented. Questions relating to the greater liberties and opportunities of industrial and professional life for women are being discussed, and the Women's Freedom League is expressing its views in the form of amendments strengthening the resolutions.

Although forming no separate sex party, most of the women's societies are holding together for various special reforms, and the recently formed Women's Citizens' Associations are increasing and multiplying in a rapid and spontaneous manner on non-party and educative lines. Women do not mean to leap in the dark, but to learn and understand and use their vote wisely, discreetly, soberly for the good of the community and the glory of the nation.

We commend this practical wisdom and resourcefulness of women to the Government and to Parliament, and repeat our insistent demand for the removal of all sex disabilities, so that the nation shall have the benefit of the best service of its women and men.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

WOMEN'S DEMANDS.

Conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Harrogate.

For the first time since the outbreak of war the annual conference of the National Union of Women Workers was held out of London. The beautiful town of Harrogate was chosen this year, and thither some hundreds of delegates from various parts of the British Isles journeyed on October 7.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon was returned unopposed as President, making the third year in which she has held that position. The presidential address was a masterly résumé of the activities of the Union during the past, and an outline of those it hopes to undertake in the future. It was a perfect piece of English, beautifully phrased and admirably lucid.

The Conference lasted three days, the morning sessions were devoted to revising the constitution. Among other important points it was decided to change the name from National Union of Women

Workers of Great Britain and Ireland to National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. The afternoon sessions were by far the most interesting, when the delegates considered various resolutions on matters which affect women's position in our national life. All Freedom Leaguers will rejoice to know that a resolution was passed calling upon the Government to introduce a Bill declaring women eligible for Parliament, and also one demanding the immediate withdrawal of 40D D.O.R.A.

The Union is also pledged to work for the establishment of a League of Nations. The resolution sent in by the Women's Freedom League pressing for equality of opportunity and training, for equal pay for equal work of women with men, and for the recognition of their equal status in all branches of professional, business, and industrial life was passed *nem. con.* My speech in moving, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey's in seconding, were followed with keen interest, and many delegates spoke in support.

We also passed resolutions in favour of admitting women to trade unions; amending the laws of Naturalisation so that women can retain their British nationality on marriage with an alien; increasing the number of women on Government Committees; establishing hostels where the mothers of illegitimate children can live without being separated from their children, and at the same time work for their support; and the appointment of a Government Commission to consider the whole question of prostitution in its legal, social, and medical aspects, the Commission to consist of an equal number of men and women. We also reaffirmed our resolution of last year insisting on an equal moral standard for men and women.

Altogether the Harrogate Conference was most inspiring, and showed quite plainly how our recent enfranchisement has quickened women's sense of responsibility, and the public spirited way women are shouldering their responsibilities. We were kept so busy that there was very little time left for exploring the beauties of Harrogate. The local Branch did all that was possible in these difficult times to make our visit pleasant and comfortable. They entertained us on Wednesday evening in the beautiful Winter Gardens, and arranged for us to be shown over the Pump Room and Baths. I tasted the famous Harrogate sulphur water, and have not quite recovered yet!

K. S. TANNER.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOTES.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, at its meeting held in London last Saturday, passed the following resolutions, which have been forwarded to the Prime Minister:—

"The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League, now in session, calls upon the Government immediately to introduce a Bill into the House of Commons, supporting it through all its stages, so that women may be eligible to a seat and a vote in the next Parliament."

"That this meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League denounces the prevailing custom of paying a double standard of wage to men and women for the same type of work, and calls upon the Government to give a lead to the country by establishing the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' in all branches of its service."

Support for Mrs. How Martyn as Parliamentary Candidate.

The committee also considered the possibility of running or supporting women candidates for the next General Election, and definitely decided to support Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.S.C., B.Sc. (Economics with Honours in Public Administration and Political Science) for the Hendon division. Mrs. How Martyn was the first hon. secretary of the

Women's Freedom League, and, as those who had the privilege of listening to her address at a meeting convened by the London Branches Council in the Minerva Café, on September 28, agreed, is in every way fitted to be entrusted with the confidence of the Hendon electors. We must all give her all the help and support that is possible. Volunteers for this work should send in their names at once to the secretary of the Women's Freedom League. Readers will be interested in the following extracts from Mrs. How Martyn's election address:—

TO THE ELECTORS OF HENDON.—

The Hendon Women's Parliamentary League has invited me to stand as a candidate at the next General Election. I accept the invitation because I consider it a duty for women to respond to the calls which the new needs and circumstances of to-day make upon them. I am firmly convinced that the electors will do well to return some women members to the next Parliament, as during that Parliament the peace settlement will be arranged and the lines of social reconstruction laid down. Even a few women inside Parliament will give greater reality and meaning to women's enfranchisement.

WOMEN AND RECONSTRUCTION.

Many of the difficult problems of reconstruction which will have to be solved after the war affect women as vitally as men, and I believe these will be more satisfactorily dealt with in a Parliament composed of men and women working in friendly co-operation.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS.

War conditions have subjected the industrial and commercial life of the nation to severe tests. Workers have laid aside their hard-won trade union rights, women have carried on the work of the absent men, individual interests have been sacrificed to national needs, and in most departments of life and industry both producers and consumers have gladly submitted to ever-increasing Government control. To readapt industry to peace conditions and to treat men and women workers with justice and equality will be a gigantic task, and it is unthinkable that we shall ever again tolerate a return to the deplorable economic conditions of pre-war days.

THE WAR AND A LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Our first duty with our Allies is, in President Wilson's phrase, "to make the world safe for democracy." Our next duty is to prevent a recurrence of this world tragedy by bringing into existence some type of international organisation binding on all peoples. A League of Nations, as proposed by President Wilson and approved by many of the Allied statesmen, will be the best guarantee of future peace. Women have a special interest in the maintenance of peace and the development of the highest possible type of civilisation.

A PIONEER EFFORT.

My candidature being an independent one, there are no party funds or party machinery to support me, but Hendon, being a new constituency, unhampered by political ties, should be a favourable place in which to put this pioneer effort to the test of public opinion. Success depends on the energy and enthusiasm of those who want to see women in Parliament. It is for them not only to vote for me themselves, but also to persuade as many others as possible to do the same. I shall be addressing meetings throughout the constituency, and will gladly answer questions on any points of policy.

Questions for Parliamentary Candidates.

It was decided to send a letter to all Branches of the League, and to urge members to ask candidates for Parliament before the next General Election if they are in favour of the following:—

1. Equal voting rights for men and women.
2. The eligibility of women to a seat and a vote in the House of Commons.
3. Equal representation of women with men on all peace and reconstruction committees.
4. Equal opportunities and equal remuneration for equal work of women with men, and the recognition of their equal status throughout all branches of professional, business, and industrial life.
5. An equal moral standard for men and women, and determined opposition to all legislation in sex matters which, in operation, is unfair to women. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Activity in Jamaica.

A mass meeting of prominent women was held in Kingston, Jamaica, to support the movement for votes for women. Lady Probyn, the wife of the Governor, presided. Enthusiastic speeches were made in favour of the Bill prepared for the Legislature.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER,

Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23, 1918.

Five 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!

Remember that useful articles, such as overalls, underclothing, children's garments, etc., always find a ready sale. We cannot have too many of them.

The Lady of the Hundred Pockets will be at the Fair, also the Violet Clarke Orchestra, which has proved so delightful a feature of the Fair on previous occasions, and our good and able friend, Mrs. Thomson Price, has again most kindly consented to give psychic delineations on Saturday, November 23, from 3 p.m.

How Everyone May Help the Bookstall.

It is now impossible to have books on sale or return, so we ask every member 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 MS., 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.

THE HOUSE OF THE FUTURE.III.

Having settled the essential conditions for the site and planning of the exterior of the dwellings, attention can be turned to the consideration of the minimum requirements of the interior.

Taking the lower rooms first in order, there should be:—

(1) A good living room running through the house with large windows back and front, and (where houses are built in pairs) at the side also. Sliding or folding doors should be fitted for dividing rooms when necessary, and racks fixed with pulleys to the ceilings for drying wet clothes and boots.

The windows should be wide and deep, each with a fanlight to open independently of the lower part, and so constructed that the outside of the windows can be easily cleaned from within. Attention should be given to the provision of folding and sliding windows. All windows, too, should be built low enough for the inmates of the house to look out easily when seated in any part of the room. Many otherwise quite good rooms to-day are spoiled by the windows being badly arranged. Another important point is the quality of the wood used in construction, especially in doors and windows. How familiar we all are with the window that will not open or close smoothly and easily, but will insist in jamming all askew at a most awkward point. Only properly seasoned wood should be used.

(2) A scullery leading from the living room, fitted with a large earthen sink with hot and cold water supply, good waste and overflow pipes, tiled walls, and a portable copper (adapted for either gas or coal) for boiling clothes should be provided. Space should also be given for a wringing machine to stand where it can be easily used without strain or risk of bruised knuckles against the wall. From the scullery there should be access to the coal store. The opening for putting coals into the store should be outside.

(3) A larder with through ventilation, situated in the coolest part of the house, should be filled with stone shelves.

(4) A parlour not necessarily running through the house, but with ample light, and a window on two sides if the house is semi-detached.

(5) A room opening immediately inside the entrance either to left or right, fitted with a good supply of hat and coat pegs, and a lavatory basin with hot and cold water. Bicycles and perambulators might stand here if necessary. Outside accommodation could, however, be easily provided by the erection of dry, well-built sheds high enough to take the bicycles, but not high enough to block the light from the windows.

Upstairs there should be: (1) Three bedrooms, with a fireplace in each, and the rooms so planned as to make it possible for a bedstead to be placed between the window and the door, or the window and the fireplace, without blocking either, and with space to get round the bed, so that the housewife should not necessarily be reduced to the straits of

the mother of a family who was obliged to make the beds with a "toasting fork." Why is it that bedrooms are usually so hopelessly out of proportion in relation to the beds they contain? Perhaps to keep in countenance the scullery which will not hold a wringing machine; the entrance way which will not hold a perambulator; the house, where there is no place to keep food. It is time that those who have borne the brunt of these inconveniences should take a more lively interest in housing schemes. An Australian lady said: "It is perfectly marvellous how the English women can make homes out of nothing, and with no more mechanical aid than that possessed by the savages in the wilds."

(2) A bathroom, with tiled walls if possible, fitted with hot and cold water for both bath and wash basin, with good waste and overflow pipes. A hot air cupboard or room should adjoin the bathroom.

(3) A water closet, separate from the bathroom, with a large window and through ventilation.

Other general points are that china knobs and finger-plates should be fitted throughout to all the doors, that corners of door panels, window frames, and skirting boards should be rounded and made plain and smooth, and good cupboards in every room. Stairs should have wide, complete steps, with square landings at turns.

These are the minimum requirements of any house, for they represent the elementary comforts of a civilised home.

O. A.

OUR "WEDNESDAY'S."

Mrs. Hall Simpson, who has spent many years in India, brought before the audience on October 9 interesting proposals for a scheme of co-operation between British and Indian women, and aroused so much interest that there was general approval of the further suggestion to hold a conference on the subject at a convenient date. The initial idea is to draw together the women of India and of the rest of the Empire in work which will serve the double purpose of ensuring a better and more understanding knowledge of each other, and of rendering useful service both to India and Britain. Mrs. Simpson pointed out the vast field for co-operation in medicine and medical service in a country where women doctors only can treat women effectively; in education, as the facilities open to girls are disastrously limited. In horticulture, she declared, there was wide scope not only in designing and planning gardens, but in nursery gardens, in the cultivation of herbs, medicinal plants, in bottling fruits, in jam and pickle making as a commercial scheme on co-operative lines. The same principle applied to arts and crafts, to dairy farming, to afforestation; and other industries promised wide possibilities, beneficial to the women and to the country, not in the sense of exploitation, but of national service. The suggestions would have to be discussed both in this country and in India, but Mrs. Simpson looks to the women of the Empire to work out a happier and more useful future. Miss A. A. Smith, who presided, read the historic request of the All India Women's deputation to the Secretary of State urging their claims to equal franchise rights with the men of the country.

READING WOMEN'S COUNCIL.

In May the Women's Freedom League asked all the women's societies in Reading to meet to consider the formation of a Women's Council for collective effort. The hall was quite full and a unanimous decision was arrived at in favour of a council. Owing to the sad loss of our secretary, Mrs. Penrose, and later the illness of the chairman and speaker, the meeting to confirm the decision and appoint officials was not held until October 10. Miss Anna Munro

presided, and Mrs. Schofield Coates rendered practical help by giving an account of the experience of the Middlesbrough Council, which has been in existence for four years. She was able to tell of many successful activities; the excellent results in Middlesbrough through joint action, and the great possibilities for the future inspired all present with a hope of doing likewise. Many societies intimated their intention of affiliating with the Council, including:

The Women's Freedom League, the National Union of Women Workers, the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Adult Schools, the Workers' Educational Association, the Women's Co-operative Guild, the Railway Women's Guild, the Independent Labour Party, the British Socialist Party, the Guild of Social Welfare, the National Federation of Women Teachers, the National Union of Teachers, the Class Teachers' Association, the Tailoresses' Union, Park Institute, etc.

The Council decided to elect a chairman from each meeting. Miss Cottrell was elected secretary, Mrs. Justin and Miss Maplesden assistant secretaries, Councillor Edith Sutton treasurer. Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month; they will be open to all women interested, but only delegates will have voting powers. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Schofield Coates terminated the proceedings.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Albert Hall Demonstration, Saturday, Oct. 26, 7 p.m.

Make a note of this important demonstration, organised by the National Federation of Women Teachers, and support it by your presence! These are the women who compelled the L.C.C. to revise its estimate of salaries rather than face the strike which would have taken place, and are continuing the fight for equal pay for equal work. All seats will be free. Readers of THE VOTE, who have University degrees, or who wear uniform in national service, in nursing, etc., are invited to sit on the platform with their section; all that is necessary is to apply for tickets to the Secretary, National Federation of Women Teachers, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, E.C. 4. The President of the Federation, Miss A. S. Byett, L.L.A., will take the chair, and the speakers will include Miss E. Phipps, B.A., Miss Hilda Croxon, Mr. Harry Gosling, L.C.C., Sir Willoughby Dickinson, M.P., Mr. J. H. Whitehouse, M.P., Mrs. Lamartine Yates, Miss Nina Boyle, Mr. J. W. Mayhead, and Councillor A. Smith.

BRANCH NOTES.**Bournemouth.**

At a meeting held by kind permission of Mrs. Hull at 234, Old Christchurch-road, on July 9, this branch was reformed, and officers and committee chosen; arrangements were made for a meeting in the autumn. A fine meeting was held on Tuesday, September 24, at Freedom Hall, Loughton-hurst, West Cliff-gardens, when Mrs. Tanner gave a most interesting address on "How to Use the Vote." Arrangements have been made to hold members' meetings, by kind permission of Mrs. Hull, at 234, Old Christchurch-road, on the first Tuesday in the month throughout the winter. The speaker on Tuesday, November 5, at 3 p.m., will be Miss Jessie Marsh (the Local Rescue Worker). Mr. Laurence Housman will speak for the branch on Thursday, November 21, or Tuesday, November 26.

Edinburgh. Organiser: Miss Dorothy Evans, 37, Warrender Park Road.

As this issue goes to press a branch meeting is being held for election of a new committee, and the names of those elected will be published next week. A great deal of interest has been aroused in the proposal to form a Joint Equal Pay for Equal Work Committee in Edinburgh. Miss Evans has appeared before a number of trade union branches, which have promised to support the enterprise. The branch is forming a deputation of women's societies to wait upon the City Council, with a view to getting them to protest against 40D, the Sexual Offences Bill, and all such legislation. For meetings arranged see "Forthcoming Events." Miss Evans is to speak at Forfar, Arbroath, and Montrose, replacing Miss Maude Royden.

FRIDAY,
OCT. 18,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Hastings. Organiser, S.E. Coast: Miss White, 15, Cornwallis Gardens, Hastings.

At a meeting held by the Mount Pleasant Sisterhood, at Hastings, on October 7, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Sampson, Miss F. A. Underwood spoke against Regulation 40D. The following resolution was carried unanimously, and afterwards sent to the local M.P., the Home Secretary, and the Prime Minister: "That this meeting views with grave disappointment the decision of the War Cabinet not to withdraw Regulation 40D, and in the interests of morality and of the prevention of venereal disease calls upon the Government to enforce its withdrawal without further delay."

The Women's Freedom League co-operated in a public meeting held at Hastings to protest against Regulation 40D. Mrs. Nevinson spoke on behalf of the League. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence was the other speaker. Both addresses were specially enlightening, and received full support from the large audience. The Rev. J. Lloyd Davies presided.

Bexhill.

Lady Henniker Heaton presided at a public meeting at the Town Hall, at which Mrs. Nevinson gave a very able address on "The Necessity for Teaching the Physiological Facts of Life to Growing Girls and Boys," on October 4. She maintained that the facts of life must be told children of average intelligence, otherwise they get wrong ideas which often entail serious suffering. A very eager discussion followed which showed the keen interest of the audience. *THE VOTE* sold well, and a collection was taken to help expenses.

Swansea.

We appeal to all our members to remember the Green, White and Gold Fair, in London, on November 22 and 23, and to help us by sending any kind of saleable articles or contributions in money. Parcels should be sent to Mrs. Hutton, 9, Sketty-road, before November 15.

Women's Freedom League Settlement,

93, Nine Elms Lane, London, S.W. 8.

The lady almoner of a London hospital sends us this testimony to the value of our Guest House in the case of a mother undergoing special treatment to enable her to nurse her new-born baby: "Thank you very much for keeping the children; it has made all the difference to Mrs. H. She is delighted to find that after all she will be able to suckle this child. If you had not come to the rescue, we should not have been able to send her (for treatment). If she had not been happy about her children, nothing would have induced her to leave home." As the children tell us that their mother was sitting up in bed directly after her confinement, cutting up the bread for the family breakfast—the lady next door not being available so early in the morning—it would perhaps have saved some trouble had she heard of the Guest House in time to send her children to us *before* the baby was born, but better late than never! Miss Riggall is thanked for providing material for overalls for five little boys, and she and Mrs. Whitlock, senior, for making it up into very pretty little garments. If any friend would make us some more by the time of the Women's Freedom League Fair, they would be most acceptable. Ages from two to seven, and they should have sleeves. Jerseys for the same size are also much needed.

The Despard Arms.

123, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1.

At the eleventh hour we make our last appeal for "jumbles" for our Sale to-morrow (Saturday), October 19, at 6 p.m. Please send all parcels to the Manageress as quickly as possible. Pieces of linoleum and carpet are badly needed, and every kind of garment for men, women, and children. NOW IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO HELP.

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

WANTED, WORKING HOUSE-KEEPER, for small house; two in family; salary £30 per annum.—Mrs. F. E. Smith, 83, Earl's Court-road, W. 8.

WILLESDEN, HARLESDEN, and NEASDEN.—Health Food Stores, 445, High-road, Willesden (halfway between Pound-lane and "White Hart"). Price-list on application. Parcels sent to all parts. Carriage paid on orders over £1. Proprietress: Lilian Wolfe.

REAL PONY SKIN THREE-QUARTER COAT; 10 guineas; seen by appointment.

FINE NATURAL MUSQUASH COAT; 35 guineas.

SET OF CIVET CAT FURS, as new; £3 5s.

SILVER HAND-MIRROR; 17s. 6d.

BLACK NET AND SILVER JUMPER; 27s. 6d.

BLACK PONY CLOTH COAT, with New Black Fur, 4½ guineas.—Apply The Minerva Exchange.

NEW BLACK-AND-WHITE PIN-STRIPE COAT-FROCK, tailor-made; 3½ guineas.

DARK SAXE VELVET SPORTS COAT; 18s. 11d.

NEW SET OF VERY FINE SKUNK FURS; 29 guineas.

VERY FINE NEW SEAL MUSQUASH COAT, with large skunk collar; 55 guineas. Seen by appointment.

NEW SET OF WHITE FOX; fine skins; 10 guineas.

NEW PAIR OF SHOES, size 5; 19s. 11d.

NEW BLACK-AND-WHITE CHECK COAT-FROCK; medium size, superior quality, all wool; 39s. 6d.

SEVERAL NEW SILK and CREPE-DE-CHINE BLOUSES; from 11s. 9d.

LARGE - SIZE BROWN SILK DRESS; 37s. 6d.

DARK MAUVE SILK DRESS; 39s. 6d.

The Articles for Sale are on view at the Minerva Exchange, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, 10 to 5.30. Saturdays, 10 to 12.

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