

THE VOTE,
JULY 14, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

SHELLEY CENTENARY NUMBER.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1922

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

SHELLEY, THE CHAMPION OF WOMAN. By C. Despard.	CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT.
WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES.	THE RIGHT TO WORK. S. M. Mustard.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.	A SUFFRAGE TOUR.
IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.	THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

SHELLEY, THE CHAMPION OF WOMAN.

By C. DESPARD.

It is impossible that the Centenary of Percy Shelley, our sweetest lyric singer, should pass without a word, not only of admiration,—for that will be potured out by many, but of ardent gratitude from a Society that has the proud title of Women's Freedom League, and I, who am one of the Founders of our Society, have been asked to bear a part in the celebration.

Perhaps in all literature there is no more fascinating story, especially to the young, than that of Percy Shelley; his brief and chequered life, its sorrows, its mistakes, its swift repentances, its great achievements and its tragic end; his aloofness from his generation (he was like one born out of due time!), his deep compassion for the oppressed, and his unmeasured wrath against the oppressor—these, with the almost magical gift he possessed of clothing his impressions in divinely beautiful words, make of Shelley one apart. Concerning these sides of his life and work many will be speaking with far more knowledge and eloquence than I can command. That which specially appeals to us will perhaps be less noticed. Shelley was emphatically the champion of woman: he was in

a certain sense her discoverer.

In order to make this clear, let me give a word or two out of my own experience.



Reproduced from Frontispiece to "Poetical Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley," edited by Edward Dowden, by kind permission of Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

My childhood and youth were spent in the Mid-Victorian era. Those who have read such life stories as that of Mary Woolstonecraft, and the Hon. Mrs. Norton, will understand what it meant to be an exceptional woman in those days. The belief in witchcraft was scarcely dead. The woman who had unusual talent or ability was careful to hide it. We were brought up to accept as a truism, the natural, god-given superiority of man. He had always the heroic rôle. A few good women, such as Elizabeth Fry and Mrs. Hannah More, were offered to us as ensamples. Of great women we heard little or nothing. Our greatest poet put into the lips of the Earth-Mother in her address to the first man:

"God is thy law—thou mine."

Upon this education there came to me like a shining light from worlds invisible the glory of womanhood, as seen by Shelley.

That was my apprenticeship, that opened to me the door of opportunity.

It was a discerning boy friend who said to me—I was about eighteen years of age—"why don't you read Shelley? He would just suit you."

I had learned some of his exquisite lyrics at school—"The Skylark," "The Cloud," "The Sensitive Plant." The longer poems did not form part of our curriculum. They were considered dangerous, especially to the young. So much the better for me—I entered upon my new delight unbiassed. And what a delight it was!

Vividly I remember my joy over Cythna—the heroine of the "Revolt of Islam," how she pleaded with her poet-lover to let her bear her part in the revolution of the future. "Can man be free," she said, "and woman be a slave?" A thousand times no, was Shelley's teaching. If woman is a slave, man is slavish.

Her probation, her escape, her splendid leadership, her inspiring power, her reunion with her lover before the altar of liberty, her invocation to freedom, her heroic death, and her reception with Laon, her hero and lover, in the glorious Temple of the Spirit—all these live as vivid scenes in my imagination, all these have given of their colour to my life.

Later I read the "Witch of Atlas," and the most wonderful of Shelley's poems, "Prometheus Unbound." I worshipped at the Shrine of Asia, the sorrowful Earth-Mother, and rejoiced in her triumph over age-long woe, and what had once seemed "Almighty Tyranny." I saw woman taking her part, not as idol, drudge or slave, but "frank, beautiful and kind, from custom's evil taint exempt and pure" in the risen and regenerated world.

It is because of this that to-day, when woman has won much, but not all, I bow my knee to the poet, who, in those days of darkness, revealed us to ourselves. And that knowledge of ourselves, of our gifts, of our possibilities, is the greatest boon the gods can grant us.

I have often said that Shelley, neglected and despised by his own generation, though discovered by the next, has not yet come into his own, and it is my hope that this year's celebration will do much to give him his true place in the hearts of liberty-loving Peoples all over the world.

(Percy Bysshe Shelley was born August 4, 1792, and was drowned off the Bay of Spezia, in Italy, on July 8, 1822.)

WOMEN'S SUCCESSES.

OXFORD (MODERN LANGUAGES HONOURS).

Class I.—Gertrude L. Spencer (French), Society of Oxford Home Students.

Class II.—Nancy Baker (German), St. Hugh's College; Florence L. E. Camons (French), St. Hugh's College; Margaret Gaunt (French), Somerville College; Margaret Hinckley (French), Lady Margaret Hall; Marjorie Hudson (French), St. Hugh's College; Iris Le Blond (French), Society of Oxford Home Students; Rose M. K. Madden (French), St. Hilda's Hall; Phyllis H. B. Palmer (French), Lady Margaret Hall.

Class III.—Margaret C. Bown (French), St. Hugh's College; Mildred E. Cousens (French), St. Hugh's College; Enid Reynolds (French), St. Hugh's College; Margaret Sinclair (French), St. Hugh's College; Esmé N. Todd Naylor (French), Somerville College.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

At the annual Assembly of College Faculties at University College, Gower Street, last week, Sir Gregory Foster (the Provost), in presenting the report, said that the total number of students registered during the session was 2,996, of whom 1,961 were full-time students, 39 per cent. being women. Miss M. O. Murray, lecturer, Department of Egyptology, was among the newly elected Fellows then admitted.

DURHAM.

The following are among those who have secured entrance scholarships awarded in the Colleges:—

English and History.—Stella Jacks, St. Margaret's School, Bushey, £50.

Mathematics.—Vera G. Saunders, Technical Institute, Consett, £70.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women Against War.

Amongst the speakers in Hyde Park, at the International No-More-War Demonstrations, on the afternoon of July 29, are Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, Lady Bonham Carter, Dr. Marion Phillips, Miss Violet Markham.

Austrian University Women.

Austrian University women and certified High School teachers have founded a Union for academic women, and have elected as President, Frau Elise Richter, the first woman University Professor in Austria. The Union intends to affiliate with the International Federation of University Women.

First Austrian Woman Solicitor.

Dr. Marianne Beth, who was the first woman to obtain the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Law at the Vienna University, has made her first appearance as a solicitor in the Vienna Courts. She represented a woman whose husband had deserted her, and she succeeded in getting the case postponed, in order to call the necessary witnesses.

Canadian Women Doctors.

The first five women graduates in medicine have received their degrees at the McGill University. Two out of the five were prize-winners. The fight for the right of women to study in the Medical Faculty of McGill began twenty-five years ago.

Women's Progress in S. America.

Women are free to enter any college or university, to choose any profession, and, after qualifying, to practise it, in practically all the South American republics, in Mexico, the West Indian republics, and the Philippines. Women doctors, lawyers, consuls, inspectors, etc., are said to abound, and in Chile a woman civil engineer is employed by the Government.

Hungarian Women in Parliament.

A woman M.P., Anna Kethly, has been elected on the list of Social-Democrats in the first district of Budapest. Two women have also been elected as alternates, Vilma Schmidt-mayer, a Social-Democrat, and Marie Spillenber, a Christian Socialist.

Traffic in Women and Children.

Dr. Paulina Luisi (Argentine) and Dr. Estrid Hein (Denmark) are the two women Government delegates on the Advisory Committee on Traffic in Women and Children, and four women have been appointed assessors representing international organisations: Miss Baker, Mme. de Sainte-Croix, Mme. Baronne de Montnach, and Mme. Studer-Steinhauslin.

Women Egyptologists.

Mrs. Flinders Petrie shares her husband's enthusiasm for Egyptian antiquities, and has made independent discoveries on her own, the latest being the excavation of a hermit's cell near Abydos. The cave itself was discovered by another woman, Miss Caton Thompson, who is an authority on Palaeolithic flints.

American Women's Nationality.

American women are protected against loss of citizenship in their own country, through marrying foreigners, by a Bill which recently passed the House of Representatives. If, however, they marry foreigners and live abroad for two years, they lose their American citizenship. Women of foreign nationality who marry American citizens will not become Americans themselves until they have lived in the United States for a year.

Brighton's New J.P.

Miss Margaret Hardy, who has been elected J.P. for Brighton, is ex-President of the Free Church Council Sunday School Union. She did valuable Red Cross work in France during the war.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Borstal Sentence.

LORD HENRY BENTINCK asked the Home Secretary whether his attention had been drawn to the sentence of three years' detention at Borstal, passed on a girl of 19, at the Chelmsford Quarter Sessions, for breaking her recognisance subsequent to stealing a bicycle and handbag; whether he was aware that two mental specialists had stated that she was in need of detention in a home for mental treatment; whether he was aware that her former employer had made arrangements whereby she could have been placed in such a home; whether he was aware that a fund had been raised by a local paper to enable the cost at the home to be met; and whether he would now take steps to have her removed, so that she might be treated for her mental abnormality? SIR JOHN BAIRD said that the Home Secretary's attention had not been previously drawn to the case, but he had made inquiry and found that the girl, who had four previous convictions, was committed to Borstal after the usual inquiries by the police and prison authorities as to her suitability for Borstal treatment. The police stated that she had been examined by various doctors and specialists, but she had not been certified. The communication sent by her former employer to the prison authorities did not indicate that arrangements had been made to place her in a home; on the contrary, he said, "I am afraid this cannot be done." He had no knowledge of a fund having been raised. The girl's mental condition would receive special attention in the Borstal Institution, but at present there was no reason to think there was any better place available for her. LORD HENRY BENTINCK asked if the hon. Member was aware that the Essex Justices omitted to consult a mental specialist on this girl's condition? Was it not very important that the Essex Magistrates should consult a mental specialist before committing to Borstal a girl whose mental condition was gravely in question? SIR JOHN BAIRD said he was not aware of the circumstances mentioned, but would have the matter looked into.

Domestic Service.

MR. HURD asked the Minister of Labour why unemployment benefit was still paid to 30,000 women in London, and to thousands of girls over school age, when for most of them domestic service was immediately available in good homes at good wages; and whether he would take steps to remedy this? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW said that the figure, 30,000, did not refer to the number drawing benefit, but to the number registered as wholly unemployed on May 29th, as he would see by referring to the answer given on June 28th. The number of women actually drawing benefit in the Greater London area on June 19th was estimated at about 14,000. In addition, there were about 7,600 temporarily suspended owing to the "gap." The number of girls drawing benefit at the same date was about 800, and in addition there were 140 on the "gap." As had been stated in reply to a number of questions during the Session, applicants who were suitable for and refused domestic service would not be granted unemployment benefit. If his hon. Friend wished, he would send him a list of the occupations of the women unemployed and drawing benefit. MR. HURD then inquired: "Seeing that the abuse of the unemployment benefit being applied to domestic servants is causing misery in thousands of homes in different parts of the country, will the hon. Gentleman invite the Select Committee to inquire into the mischief, and see how it can be rectified?" SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW said he could not accept the term "abuse." The Minister of Labour and himself were examining the matter, and gave it close attention daily. If his hon. Friend would come to the Ministry, he thought he could put before him figures which would relieve his mind on the subject. MR. HURD then asked if the hon. Gentleman would go into the thousands of homes and see the position for himself. *No reply was given.*

Housing (Condemned Houses).

MR. T. THOMPSON asked the Minister of Health the number of houses in the United Kingdom which had been condemned by Local Authorities or their Medical Officers of Health as unfit for human habitation, and still remained occupied, and the population of the areas covered by such reports? SIR J. GILMOUR replied that the Annual Reports for 1920 of Medical Officers of Health for 1,500 Local Authorities showed that out of 1,085,000 houses inspected during the year, 24,210 were reported as unfit. Information as to the number of persons inhabiting those houses was not available.

Customs and Excise Department.

MR. G. BARNES asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury if he would cause inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the dismissal of Mrs. E. Elliot from her employment under the Customs and Excise Department at Brook's Wharf, E.C., solely in order to employ an ex-Service man; and, having regard to the special circumstances of Mrs. Elliot being a widow, and having lost her only son in the war, could he get her retained? And could he get the terms of the Lytton Committee applied in future with some discretion in such cases? SIR JAMES BAIRD replied that notice had been given to Mrs. Elliot in common with certain other non-Service temporary employees, in consequence of reduction in the staff of the Customs and Excise Department. She had made an appeal for retention, which would be considered by the Departmental Appeals Committee set up under the recommendations of the Lytton Committee. The last part of the question did not, therefore, arise. F. A. U.

SUPERANNUATION BILL.

The Government secured its Second Reading of the School Teachers (Superannuation) Bill by 210 votes to 54. The curious thing is that Major Gray, although he said he disliked the principle underlying the Bill; that teachers regarded it as an unjust imposition; that it might just as well be called a "School Teachers (Super-tax) Bill," or a "School Teachers (Income Tax) Bill," for it was a special measure imposing an income tax of 5 per cent. on a special class of the community, did not oppose the bill. His speech indicated an arrangement with the Minister of Education, and he contented himself in the latter part of that speech by asking for concessions. One of these was an assurance that the Bill should operate for only two years, when the proper basis for a contributory superannuation scheme would be laid. Another was that favourable consideration should be given to teachers wounded in the war, who were unlikely to qualify for full pension; and a third that provision should be made to relieve, from the payment of 5 per cent. on salary, those teachers who did not enjoy the benefits of the Burnham-Scale. Mr. Fisher promised to do his best to meet the teachers in all these matters. The teachers' representatives may believe they have made the best of a bad job, but we hardly think that will be the unanimous opinion of teachers.

SECURE YOUR VOTE!

The Autumn Register is now being prepared. The qualifying period is the 6 months ending on June 15th, and the Electors' Lists will be out to-morrow, July 15th.

In London the Borough Council Elections will be fought on this list next November, and it may also be the basis of the General Election, so

Make sure you are on it!

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, JULY 14th, 1922.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT.

We entirely agree with the following statement of Sir Donald Maclean in the House of Commons, last week, in the discussion on the Second Reading of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, introduced by Mr. Shortt on behalf of the Government:—"I am quite certain that in passing this Bill the House will be legislating, not in advance of public opinion, but far behind its high-water mark"; and with Lt.-Col. Hurst when he said: "Parliament is not going ahead of public opinion in this Bill. Public opinion is ahead of Parliament; we are trying to catch up with public opinion." Mr. Shortt explained that there was very little in the Bill that had not already been thoroughly debated in the House. The first provision raised the age of consent for indecent assault to 16, the same as the age of consent for criminal assault. Clause 2 provided that reasonable cause to believe that the girl in question was over 16 should no longer be a defence. He admitted that there was considerable opposition to this clause, and that there had been much negotiation about the exemption from this provision of young men who might be tempted by girls who were more to blame than they. The Home Secretary said that those who were very strongly in favour of the clause were willing to consent to some such exemption as this, that where the accused person was under a certain age—say, 21 or 23, or whatever age might be agreed upon—the magistrate might treat the case under the Summary Jurisdiction Act, and merely bind him over, and there need be no conviction. That, however, was a Committee question. In spite of this concession, Major Lowther moved the rejection of the Bill, on the grounds that it would be a charter to blackmailers, and that it was really not necessary. Lt.-Col. Moore Brabazon also opposed this Bill. In his opinion, it was the thin end of the legislative wedge with regard to Eugenics in this country, and he did not think it was right to impose penalties upon the present community for the possible benefit of the future. In the Bill was the fundamental assumption that one sex was vicious, and the other was entirely pure. He was convinced that it would make criminals of boys who did not deserve it. Sir Donald Maclean pointed out that the general position in regard to the protection of girls under 16 was settled by the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885. Up to 1885, any young child, any infant, could be deemed to have consented to an act of indecency by any man. We were making progress very slowly, much too slowly for his taste. Clause 2 received the overwhelming support of most experienced police-court officials in the country. He had personal knowledge of not fewer than 200 cases of this special kind which he had conducted, and could not recollect a single case in which blackmail arose. Major Sir George Hamilton's chief plea was that young men up to 25 should be protected under this Bill. The protection of boys was all that he wanted, and he was convinced that blackmail was going to be increased under the Bill. Mr. Wignall strongly supported the Bill, and said that among the people with whom he had lived and been associated, young men when they reached 25, and long before that, were expected to be able to look after

themselves and to live a clean and decent life. He was not prepared to give even the boys full and free licence to do wrong. Mr. J. F. Green opposed the Bill because he had no belief in promoting morality by Act of Parliament. He ranged himself on the side of a distinguished Prelate of the Anglican Church, who had said that he would rather see England free than sober. He also wanted protection for boys. Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland said this was a Bill in favour of public welfare as a whole. Of course, everybody knew a man could not be made moral or sober by Act of Parliament. But it was really an old game nowadays to profess that legislation could not be passed to punish a certain gross class of case of immorality or indecency. Mrs. Winttingham said that girls between the ages of 15 and 16 needed protection, and quoted Sir John Dickinson and Mr. Bigham, representing the Commissioner of Police before the Joint Select Committee of 1920, in support of raising the age of consent, and of doing away with the defence of "reasonable cause to believe." Mr. Kidd and Mr. Dennis Herbert both opposed the Bill, but they were followed by Sir Thomas Bramsdon, who, from his 33 years' experience as Chairman, at Portsmouth, of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, as Chairman of the Probation Committee of Justices at Portsmouth, and his 32 years' magistracy, was able to give convincing evidence of the need of protection for young girls. Lt.-Col. Hurst made a trenchant speech in favour of the Bill. "We were told," he said, "that the Bill was an offence against English liberty. Liberty to do what? Liberty to commit sexual offences upon young girls, liberty to have carnal intercourse with female idiots, liberty to keep brothels? Is that the sort of liberty we want to preserve?" Mr. Hohler and Mr. Macquisten opposed the Bill, but its rejection was negated without a division, and it secured its Second Reading.

The Women's Freedom League does not, of course, oppose this Bill, but it certainly professes no great enthusiasm on its behalf. We desire that the Age of Consent for criminal assault shall be 18 for girls, and that a similar protection shall be afforded to boys. After reading this debate, we can only repeat what we have said all along—there would have been no more active opposition to a Bill embodying our demands than there is to the present unsatisfactory Bill.

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH.

The National Assembly of the Church of England and the Convocation of Canterbury, which have met at Westminster during the last two weeks, have been discussing matters of serious import to Church women, *quæ* women. The Bishop of Gloucester introduced into the former the report of the Prayer Book Revision Committee, which suggests that a book be drawn up for alternative use. This must not be considered as a final stage of revision. If this were so, there would be reason for serious discontent, but it is something achieved that alteration is now considered possible. The report will be considered in detail at the autumn group of Sessions. Among other proposed changes, the Marriage Service has come in for revision, the most important alteration being the statement of the causes for which matrimony was ordained. The second "cause" has been drastically altered, and is not now open to the criticism that the Church teaches that marriage obviates all need for self-control, or consideration of the one partner for the other. "And obey" still stands, and will, no doubt, be the centre of much controversy.

The Canterbury Lower House of Convocation discussed the "Report on Deaconesses." This report was drawn up on the lines of the Lambeth Resolutions of 1920, but it went through a process of mutilation before emerging in its final form, suffering severely in the process. Two amendments were introduced, taking from the Deaconess the function of reading the Liturgical Services of Matins, Evensong, and the Litany, and preaching to a "mixed" congregation. The phrase, "normally to women and children," crept in once more.

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

By S. M. MUSTARD.

The Sex, Disqualification (Removal) Act passed into law on December 23rd, 1919, and enacted that:—A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to, or holding, any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering, or assuming, or carrying on, any civil profession or vocation.

This Act was presented to the women of the nation as a Charter of Freedom. Women were to have equal opportunities and equal rights with men. This was of course a reversal of the custom of ages, and a revolutionary piece of legislation, but it was only the carrying out of the pledge made to the women just before the last General Election, and signed by both Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George: "It will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women."

Now for what are Laws made? Are they to be carried into effect, or are they, like the proverbial pie-crust, made to be broken? The Government itself refuses to carry out the Act, and make it possible for Lady Rhondda, and other Peeresses in their own right, to take their places in the House of Lords; Local Authorities up and down the country defy the Act by dismissing married women teachers from their professional work in the schools, and that for the sole reason that "they have husbands who can support them."

The most recent case is that of the Kingston Education Committee, which states "that its policy is to cease to employ as far as possible married women teachers," and calls for the instant dismissal of six married women.

The public, including the Women's Freedom League, naturally wants to know the reason of this wholesale law-breaking. Are we to understand that the present Government neither stand, nor intend to stand, for Equality of the Sexes, and that their words and acts are mere camouflage?

If this is the case, then women must be prepared to come out and fight as they have never done before for the right to work, and to live. We must make the Government and the public realise the demand of women, whether they are married or single, to be treated as human individuals. We protest against the tendency of some men, and many departments, to think that the world

of work, and particularly the well-paid posts, belong to men only, and it is man's prerogative to decide whether women shall be allowed to work.

The legal position of married women must be brought up to date. The modern wife refuses to be the chattel of her husband. The law gives her, when living with her husband, no right to any part of her husband's income, and he is compelled only to supply her with food, shelter and covering, whilst at his death he may leave his possessions to others, whilst his wife and children may be left destitute. Nor does a beneficent State grant her or her little ones a pension, though it may rob her of some of her children in the guise of helping her to rear them, by sending them to expensive cottage-homes.

The question of the work of married women is not whether their husbands can keep them, but whether a wife *wishes* to be kept. No decent woman is "kept," either by husband, father or brother, for she contributes an equal share of work and maintenance as a house-keeper, or as a rearer of young children, or works at her own occupation outside the home. Wives may act as secretaries, cashiers, caretakers, etc., in partnership with their husbands, and no one seems to mind, but the moment they take a wage outside their home there seems to be objection.

Local Authorities say just now that they require the married women's jobs for the unemployed as a matter of justice. Let us have justice by all means, but why always at the expense of the married woman? If these authorities were consistent they would institute enquiries equally into the incomes of men employees. If all the men in public positions with private incomes were turned out of their paid posts, and also the husbands of rich wives, there would indeed be many good jobs for the out-of-workers.

The threat to turn married women out of paid work is a serious menace to the stability of women's work as a sex, and as such has a very definite effect in keeping down all women's wages.

Lastly, is it economy for the State, through its grants to Schools, Colleges, and Universities, to help train women for teachers, and then when they become experts, and are in their prime as workers, to dismiss them, and begin training a fresh batch of people?

A SUFFRAGE TOUR.

Mrs. Trounson, Headquarters Secretary of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, gave an interesting account of her tour through Canada and the United States, at a recent meeting of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, at the Minerva Café. It was her first suffrage tour, and, apart from attending the Pan-American Congress, she spoke at 35 meetings in less than two months, many "round table" teas, and various other social gatherings, explaining the position of woman suffrage in all the countries of the world. On one strenuous day she even managed to speak at two public meetings, three luncheons, and six "round table" teas!

Mrs. Trounson was much impressed by the work of the Women's Immigration Committee. As the women and children immigrants came off the boat, they were received by this Committee and their helpers in a delightfully bright and cheerful room, where they could have a good wash themselves, and give their children a wash, or even wash out some of their children's things. There was an atmosphere of happiness and cheerfulness about this room that must have created a wonderful spirit of welcome to immigrants from a foreign land.

At least one woman was on every Canadian public organisation, though in every case there seemed to have been great trouble in getting her there. Mrs. Trounson had an interesting talk with the woman on the Cinema Censor Board, who gave her a particularly happy im-

pression of being the right person in the right place. She told the lecturer that she was always in "hot water," but got her way after a tussle. Not only films are censored in Canada, but the posters describing them!

Mrs. Trounson visited several factories in Canada, and studied the welfare arrangements. There appeared to be a plentiful supply of hot water in each, that English people might envy. In one girls' hostel, which was unpopular among its inmates, she was asked to say frankly if she could detect the reason. As the whole place was plastered with long lists of rules—22 in number—Mrs. Trounson said the reason was not far to seek. Also, no dancing was allowed, as the proprietor of the firm did not approve of dancing.

Mrs. Trounson also made an interesting study of the various arrangements for juvenile departments of libraries. At St. John's, she found a delightful one, where the children sit at separate round tables looking at their books, and where on Saturday fifty to sixty listen to story-telling for hours at a time, told very delightfully by a young woman.

Mrs. Trounson had less to say about America than about Canada. But what she said about Prohibition was illuminating, and confirmed Miss Maude Royden's view that the laws governing it seemed to work very well except in New York, which, being the news distribution centre, gave a false impression to other countries regarding the working of the Prohibition laws.

THREE MONTHS FOR SLEEPING OUT!

Laurette Coyne, aged 16, of South Shields, was charged at Southport Police Court, on June 27th, with sleeping out in a garage at Southport. She was remanded in custody till July 1st; she was then brought up again, but refused to go into a Home, and refused to go back to her mother and stepfather. The mother then refused to take her. After discussion, the Magistrate sentenced her to three months' imprisonment, "to protect her against herself."

This was the girl's first offence, if offence it can be called, for a girl who was sleeping out with her in the garage, who happened to have a little money in her pocket, did not commit any offence, and was not arrested.

Indignation is felt in Southport, and the local Press has inserted the following letter from Miss Brimson, our local organiser:—Sir, It was with astonishment I read the report in your Tuesday's issue of the sentence passed in Southport Police Court, last Saturday, on Laurette Coyne, for sleeping out in a garage on June 27th. The sentence of three months' imprisonment on first conviction for such an offence is surely most extreme for a girl of 16. Even if the prisoner did not go voluntarily to a Home, it should surely have been pointed out to her that the alternative option to be given her was prison. Also, the suggestion that prison was the only means of 'protecting the girl against herself,' failing her mother's agreement to take her back home, seems a very short-sighted view to the lay mind, and to be stigmatising a mere child with the prison taint when no 'crime' has been committed. This taint will surely be most detrimental to her chance of securing honest employment after her release, to say nothing of the loss of self-esteem and injury to her moral nature. Surely public opinion would make an appeal against the maximum sentence being passed on a 'first offender,' who has only just missed being tried in the Juvenile Court. Is not this a case where Women Police would have been most effectual?"

NO MORE WAR.

In company with nearly all political and social women's organisations, and industrial, political, and religious bodies, the Women's Freedom League is taking part in the great International No-More-War Demonstrations of Saturday, July 29th. This is the Saturday preceding August 4th, the anniversary of the outbreak of war.

In London there will be four processions to Hyde Park, finishing up with a great mass meeting at 4 p.m. in the Park. The Women's Freedom League contingent will join the procession starting from Regent's Park. Our banners and colours will be carried, and we must have a big muster of our members and friends to represent the League.

Simultaneous demonstrations will be conducted in most of the large towns of Great Britain. All over Europe the same thing will be done, on the same day, in France, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Switzerland, and Spain, and in the United States and other places.

Full particulars next week.

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THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at 144, High Holborn, last Saturday, at 10 a.m., those present being Miss Berry, Miss Alix Clark, Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P. (Chair), Councillor Ballard Dawson, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Munro, Mrs. Mustard, Miss C. Neal, Miss M. I. Neal, Mrs. Pierotti, and the Hon. Treasurer. Great regret was expressed that the Secretary's illness still prevented her from being present, but the Committee was pleased to hear that she was improving.

It was decided that the Women's Freedom League should join officially in the International No-More-War Demonstrations on July 29th, marching in the northern procession under our own banners and colours, sending a representative to the decorations committee, and having a speaker at the meeting in Hyde Park.

The Treasury, Organisation, Secretarial, Political, Literature, and VOTE reports were presented and adopted. The date of the next Committee Meeting was altered to September 23rd.

The Organisation Sub-Committee met the previous evening, and reported satisfactory work by our organisers, Miss White in Ashford, Bexhill and Hastings, and Miss Brimson in Southport.

"Fair" Sub-Committee—Miss Berry, reported progress with the "Fair" arrangements.

Propaganda—Miss Kirby reported Autumn Meetings arranged for Mondays at 7.30 p.m., and Wednesdays at 3 p.m., beginning on Monday, September 18th.

Clyde Coast Campaign—Miss Alix Clark reported that she was starting at Rothesay on July 24th with Dr. Lillias Hamilton as speaker.

Waterloo and Crosby Branch reported its programme for the winter, of monthly public meetings, beginning in September, to which each member would try to bring one new member.

A number of new members were reported at headquarters, and in our Swansea, Bexhill, Portsmouth and Hampstead branches.

Political Sub-committee—Miss Hodge has joined; Mrs. Nevinson has been unable to accept nomination.

Day Continuation Schools—Much correspondence was reported with political, social, professional and industrial bodies, and with local authorities, to bring united pressure in support of the schools.

National Council of Women Annual Conference in September—Three Conference resolutions were sent forward, (1) for an age of consent of 18, (2) for the married woman's right to work, (3) for the establishment of the father's responsibility in infanticide; other Societies had kindly sponsored our resolutions on education, separate taxation of married persons, and widow's pensions; we were supporting satisfactory resolutions on equal franchise and prophylaxis sent in by other Societies.

Women Parliamentary Candidates—Possibilities of help were discussed.

Correspondence with M.P.s and in the Press was reported on Women Police and Honours for Women.

Resolutions were passed relating to Women Peers, Honours for Women, Women on Lunacy Visiting Committees, Prison Reform, the savage sentence on a Scotch boy, of 4 years in a Reformatory, Day Continuation Schools, and the replacing of Infant School Teachers by "Motherly Women."

Proofs of our new leaflet on Women Police and our revised Constitution were submitted.

OUR LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

"My Experiences as an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax. The Literature Department of the W.F.L. is prepared to lend this book at the rate of 6d. a week.

"Woman: A Citizen." By A. E. Metcalfe, B.Sc. (2/6). This very useful little book, which is intended more especially for the guidance of voters, and which deals with Government, both Municipal and Parliamentary, is a perfect mine of information, and can be obtained at this Office.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 22nd, at 3.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch "Pound Tea" at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Full particulars later.

Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

PROVINCES.

Friday, July 21st, at 3 p.m.—Bexhill. "National Baby Week." A Fête will be held at Ancaster House (by kind permission of Mrs. Burrows). Dr. Octavia Lewin will speak on "The Importance of Training Children in Nasal Hygiene."

Saturday, July 22nd, at 3 p.m.—Hastings. A Garden Party will be held at Rossiana, Pine Avenue, Ore, nr. Hastings (by kind permission of Mrs. Prelooker). Display of Dancing by Miss Dorothy Cannon's child dancers. Two stalls, fruit and vegetable, strawberries and cream, competitions, etc., will be some of the chief attractions. Speakers; Miss Elsie Morton, M.B.E., and Dr. Octavia Lewin. Tickets, 1/-.

BRANCH NOTE.

HAMPSTEAD.

Dr. Knight very kindly entertained members and friends of the Branch on Wednesday evening, July 5th, at 7 Gainsborough Gardens, when Mrs. Mustard gave a most interesting address on the "Work of the League, and occupations open to women." Mrs. Mustard referred to the excellent work done by the two women members of Parliament, and the urgent need for additional women in the House of Commons. Owing to the inclement weather it was impossible for the meeting to be held in the garden, and doubtless there would have been a record gathering if the evening had been finer. A keen discussion followed Mrs. Mustard's address. Dr. Knight most kindly provided refreshments before the meeting. (Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road, N.W. 3.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT.

DESPARD HOUSE, 2, CURRIE STREET, S.W. 8.

Our family increases, and, so naturally our house linen and children's clothing is badly on the decrease, shoes especially, so we should be very grateful if friends who are throwing away old house-linen of any description would think of the Guest House when doing so. We can make good use of anything, and old blankets, sheets, or other housekeeping items, would be very helpful if they only served for one set of guest children. The same applies to clothing, and as we are hoping to have a Jumble Sale as usual about holiday time, we shall be glad of any old clothes from grown ups, old furniture, coats, or indeed anything that would be useful to ourselves or our poor neighbours, who are, many of them in great straits through unemployment, or ill health, the result of the war. Another thing that would help us would be for someone to take a baby (of two) to the seaside to finish building up her system, which we have been engaged upon for 3 or 4 months.

(Hon. Superintendent), Miss A. M. COLE.

VOTELESS WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE.

Readers of THE VOTE who remember that the Women's Freedom League initiated organised tax resistance on the part of voteless women, as a protest against their continued disfranchisement in this country, will be specially interested to learn that the Women's Enfranchisement League of South Africa has started a tax-resistance League, with the object of protesting against the payment of income tax while women have no voice in the way in which their money is spent. Members will delay returning their assessment forms till the last possible moment, and when compelled to send in the forms they will add a written protest. It is expected that some enthusiasts will refuse to pay income tax, says the Times correspondent. The Women's Freedom League wishes the members of the Women's Enfranchisement League every possible success in this protest.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Women Solicitors.

At the annual meeting of the Law Society held last week at the Society's Hall in Chancery Lane, the Chairman, Mr. J. J. D. Botterell, retiring president, announced that two women would present themselves for final examination next November. If they were successful, and wished to be admitted to the Roll, they would be admitted to it.

International Prison Commission.

According to *The Times*, the work of the International Prison Commission, which has been in obedience during and since the War, is about to be actively renewed. A meeting will be held at Berne at the end of this month, at which the British Government will be represented by Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, the President of the Commission, Lord Polwarth, chairman of Prison Commission, Scotland, and Mr. M. A. J. Wall, secretary of the English Prison Board. It is expected that Sir Basil Thomson, formerly secretary of the English Prison Board, will also be present. Why, in the name of common sense, is no woman to be sent to represent the British Government on this Commission?

Unemployment Returns.

The number of persons on June 26th, recorded in the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain as wholly unemployed was 1,404,900. This was 30,399 less than in the preceding week, and 418,833 less than the figure recorded at the beginning of last January. The number working short time, and drawing benefit for intervals of unemployment, was 105,900 on June 26, as compared with 102,958 on June 19 and 934,786 on July 1, 1921.

Milk Supply.

In the House of Lords recently the Earl of Onslow moved the second reading of the Milk and Dairies Amendment Bill, which seeks to postpone for a further period the operation of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, and the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914, to make further provision with regard to the sale of milk, and for purposes connected therewith. He said that the reason for the postponement of the operation of the Consolidation Act was, that at the present time it was impossible to afford the cost which would be entailed. The Act imposed new duties on county councils, and the cost of the working of the Act was estimated at about £700,000. In addition it was considered that about £150,000 would be necessary for paying compensation. The present Bill sought to protect the consumer from milk being sold contrary to the interests of health, to provide milk at, he hoped, a cheap rate, and to prohibit the sale of milk from cows suffering from tuberculosis of the udder. The Bill was read a second time.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P., has been re-elected to the Middlesbrough Education Committee.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN

Our Clyde Campaign starts on July 24. Miss Alix Clark (Hon. Organiser) and Dr. Lillias Hamilton (Speaker), both busy people with their own work, will be giving up their summer holidays and working very hard to spread the ideas of the Women's Freedom League among the thousands of men and women who disport themselves at Rothesay during the summer. The expense is very large, so please remember to send me your contribution to help while you are enjoying your own rest and recreation.

E. KNIGHT,

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EDUCATIONAL.

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, July 16th. 12 Noon, Children's Rally. 3.15, Dr. Percy Dearmer: "The Argument from Design." 6.30, Rev. Harold Anson: "Mental Healing."

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