

THE VOTE,
MAY 21, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

THE GENEVA CONGRESS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1920.

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

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WHY I AM GOING TO GENEVA.

By A. SCHOFIELD COATES.

The International Women's Congress is the occasion on which we can measure our achievements and aspirations as Suffragists, nationally and internationally. The interval 1913-1920 has been so tragic, and so subversive of theory that collective experiences of delegates from all countries were never so necessary in laying plans for the future. We all realise that we have failed lamentably in the past, despite the wonderful gains recorded in the advancement of women, and we shall continue to fail so long as any section of humanity is shackled, and particularly if the mother instinct, which works for the preservation of life, is excluded from our international relationships. A system which has produced the world tragedy is fundamentally wrong, and it is in freedom of development that the hope of the future lies.

Theories of advancement have in the main been conceived from the male standpoint. It is seen in Trade Unionism to-day, where the working

woman is looked upon as a menace to the working man. It is a danger from which Guild Socialism is not free, and which can only lead to a perverted and distorted view of human progress. The doors to the wealth of learning and information must be opened for all equally. The opportunity for using knowledge and skill must not depend on sex. Education which instils the theory of the predominance and privilege of men must be scrapped and a true and generous education evolved, which recognises the equality of men and women and their right to full development in varied ways.

It is for these things the Women's Freedom League has stood since its inception, and throughout the war it has been in the forefront against oppression of women. It is for these things I intend to be present at Geneva, where I hope it will be decided to include the League in the Representation of Great Britain in re-planning the lines on which the Alliance shall work in the future,



WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

THE 1920 EXHIBITION.

The idea of the Women's Institute, as most people know, originated in Canada, but it soon extended to the United States, and eventually reached Great Britain by way of Wales in 1915. So rapidly did the movement advance under the guidance of the Agricultural Organisation Society, that early last year there were nearly 900 institutes in the kingdom, and the number now stands at 1,600. During the war the Ministry of Agriculture took over the propaganda and placed the organisation under the women's branch of the Food Production Department. An institute is a real democratic body. The Committee elected by the members represent all the women in the village who join, and it is speedily demonstrated that life can be made as attractive in a quiet village as in a busy town.

The second annual exhibition and sale of county produce and handicrafts, held at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, from May 15th—19th bore eloquent testimony to the vitality of the Movement throughout the countryside. Every stall was literally crammed with produce; soft toys and doll's furniture, home-cured rabbit and mole skins, gloves, slippers, basket work, cakes, jam, cheese, needlework, etc., all of which have been produced under the direction of skilled teachers at the various classes or competitions held in rural districts.

One of the rules amongst Women's Institutes is that each member must give of her best. The keynote is

co-operation.

The successful jam-maker tells her secret recipe, the best bread-maker demonstrates the reason for the lightness of her loaves, the shoe-mender shows how boots and shoes can be mended, the student unfolds and revitalises the forgotten local history of the past. So, at the recent Exhibition, though the stalls bore a certain similarity as regarded their general contents, each county displayed in addition its own local industry peculiar to the district. The rushes of the Norfolk broads were transformed into mats and baskets. The skins of rats (the great pestilence of East Anglia) passed down to posterity in the shape of bedroom slippers and poke-bonnets for little girls. The mineral wealth of Cornwall was converted into graceful pendants and rings.

Thrift and Economy is another rigid observance of the Women's Institutes, and a faithful compliance with this regulation was an accepted feature on every stall. Articles made from waste occupied a proud position, and each county contributed special examples of ingenuity. Warwickshire produced some excellent cakes of carbolic and eucalyptus soap, made from waste fats at a total cost of 5 lbs. for 8d. ! Norfolk displayed a number of ingenious kitchen utensils, fish slices, candlesticks, flour scoops, saucepans, etc., made out of empty cocoa tins; also the wires of an old flue brush converted into a toasting-fork.

The problem of the

Plumage Bill

was solved by dwellers near shooting estates who had collected the waste feathers of game and peacocks for hat mounts and millinery trimming. Wales exhibited waste wool gathered from the fields and hedgerows, dyed with home-made crotal, and spun with a home-made spindle manufactured at a cost of 6d. Gloucestershire showed some amusing little bird toys made out of fir cones, and a wonderful hen covered with iridescent plumage from an old-fashioned hat. Cornwall had some ingenious art rugs made from the selvedge edges of flannel woven on a hand loom with a string warp, and West Suffolk showed ornamental hat trimmings made of acorns, stuffed and painted.

Princess Beatrice opened the Exhibition last Saturday, and Mrs. Lloyd George and Lady Astor presided on two out of the four days the Exhibition remained open. Each afternoon displays of English Folk Dances were given by Women's Institutes Teams and Girl Guides. The prize exhibits of successful competitors occupied a table running the entire length of the hall.

D. M. N.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Venereal Disease.

In reply to CAPTAIN ELLIOT, the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR said that he was aware that there had been a rise in the incidence of venereal disease amongst the British troops in France and Germany since the Armistice. The subject had received anxious consideration for some months past, and he was satisfied that the authorities on the spot were taking all possible steps to combat it.

Maisons Tolerees.

MR. INSKIP asked the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR whether his attention had been called to statements recently made in the Lower House of Convocation, to the effect that houses of ill-fame were officially recognised by the military authorities in certain military establishments abroad, and that the War Office had information concerning confidential orders or circulars, issued under military authority, permitting and regulating resort by members of his Majesty's Forces to such places; and whether he could make any statement on that matter?—MR. CHURCHILL replied that no such orders had been issued or authorised by the War Office.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MR. WATERSON asked the Minister of Health if he was aware that many municipal authorities found it impossible to develop the work of the maternity and child welfare as it ought to be developed because of the heavy financial burden it entailed; and, under such circumstances, could he make any recommendations to the Government for financial assistance to carry out a national obligation, and from which the State would benefit?—DR. ADDISON replied that the Government already distributed through his department a grant of half the expenditure of local authorities and voluntary agencies on maternity and child welfare.

Railway Passes for M.P.'s.

MR. BOTTOMLEY asked the Prime Minister whether, as an alternative to increasing the salaries of Members, he would favourably consider the issue of railway passes and a reasonable allowance for expenses in the case of Members representing provincial constituencies? He pointed out that the expenses of these provincial Members were heavy, and suggested that a small grant was at least worth as favourable consideration as the supply of motor-cars to Government Departments; but MR. BONAR LAW said that the Government were not prepared to take any action in the matter.

Married Women Teachers.

LT.-COL. MALONE asked the PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION whether the case of married women being debarred by the local authorities from continuing their work as teachers, although they were properly qualified, came within the scope of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919; and, if so, whether he would take steps to put his views before the local authorities concerned?—MR. FISHER replied that he was advised that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act did not affect the question.

The Bastardy Bill.

This Bill has been referred to Standing Committee D. We have received many letters in support of the position we have taken up in regard to this Bill; and with reference to the comments made on us last week by the *Woman's Leader*, with whom we are usually in cordial agreement, may we use the retort courteous, that we also cannot congratulate our contemporary on its acquiescence in the creation of a new criminal charge for women only, and in the permanent connection of all illegitimate children with the Police Courts from their earliest infancy? Now that women have the vote, we, at any rate, see no reason why we should support what we consider to be a thoroughly bad Bill because it includes one or two provisions for which we have always pressed. We can see no sense in allowing new abuses to spring up and then wasting time and energy in attempts to remedy them.

F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

King's College for Women.

The death of Dr. Burrows, Principal of King's College, London, removes a firm friend to women and their higher education. When he became Principal in 1913, King's College for Women was an outlying department in Kensington. He first admitted it into the main college as a separate department, and then completely incorporated it by the full adoption of co-education. After a struggle he carried his point of admitting women even to Medicine. He believed firmly in co-education.

Women and Cambridge Degrees.

The Special Syndicate appointed to consider the relation of women students to the University have been unable to come to an agreement, and the two sides have presented independent reports, six feminists (who include Canon Parry, Mr. C. R. Fay and Mr. J. R. M. Butler) recommending the admission to full membership of the University, and six Antis suggesting the setting up of a new University for women to be federated to Cambridge. There is to be no official discussion of the Report until the October term.

Housing Congress.

An Inter-Allied Housing and Town-Planning Congress will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, from June 3rd—9th, when delegates will attend from Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A., Belgium, Cape Colony, Canada, Czecho-Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Holland, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Four days will be devoted to the study of actual housing schemes, and the delegates will visit two important regional centres of housing activity in Bristol, which is the headquarters of the Housing Commission for the West of England, and Birmingham, which is the headquarters for the Midlands.

Women Smallholders.

The Women's Farm and Garden Union will have a members' tent at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show to be held at Darlington in June. Two lady delegates from the affiliated society in the United States are coming over this month, and will visit agricultural and horticultural schools and colleges and the shows of the Royal Horticultural Society and Royal Agricultural Society. The Farm and Garden Union has acquired a suitable farm in Surrey, where a colony of women smallholders will be established in the autumn.

Manx Paradise.

Manx people, partly as a result of an extraordinary surplus in the Customs revenue—80 per cent. over the estimate—are now enjoying a "free" breakfast-table. When the tea duty is formally abolished, as decided upon, the price of tea, ordinarily 2s. 6d. a lb., will be reduced by 8d. Other prices are as follows: Sugar, 8d. per lb.; butter, 3s. per lb.; milk, 7d. per quart; beef, 1s. 8d.—1s. 10d. per lb.; mutton, 1s. 6d. per lb. Bread, however, is as dear as on the mainland. Income-tax starts at 10d., and finishes at 1s. 5½d. !

Ideal Cottage.

Dundee Corporation are to build a model cottage, consisting of a living room, parlour, three bedrooms, with accommodation for cooking and laundry appliances on a larger scale than is usual for a house of this size. The great feature of the experiment is the introduction of electrical appliances for practically every domestic duty. It will be a servantless house. Refuse will be disposed of within the premises in the most scientific manner, and to get washing done will simply be a matter of pressing the button. Clothes for the wash need not be carried downstairs to the laundry apartment. A chute will be installed. The housewife will not require to curtail her afternoons out because she is expecting the errand boy. The plan prepared by Mr. James Thompson, city engineer, shows a convenient receptacle into which parcels can be safely placed when there is no one at home. The public will be invited to inspect the house.

Girton's Jubilee Number.

A jubilee number of the "Girton Review" has been issued in commemoration of the anniversary of the College celebrated last July. It is compiled by Lady Stephen and Miss Giles, and comprises an extremely interesting and valuable contribution to the whole history of the movement for women's higher education. Miss Lumsden, LL.D., the only survivor of the three pioneers who in 1873 "dared put their fate to the test of a Tripos," contributes some reminiscences, and a notable record of the war work of past and present students is also included.

Woman Road Sweeper.

The oldest woman "roadman" in the country is believed to be Mrs. Annie Chilton, a widow, of Ketton, Rutland. Although she is between 70 and 80 years of age, she can be regularly seen sweeping the streets in the villages of Ketton and Tinwell, and she can do as good a day's work as a young man. Prior to taking up this employment under the local Council, she did gardening and general work for farmers.

The Plumage Bill.

Contrary to expectation the Importation of Plumage (Prohibition) Bill reappeared in the House of Commons on May 14th. The second reading was triumphantly carried by 61 to 8, and a despairing motion by Lieut.-Colonel Archer-Shee, to refer it to a Select Committee having been defeated by 10 to 62, the Bill was committed to a Standing Committee.

ST. JOAN OF ARC PROCESSION

Last Sunday's procession in honour of the canonisation of Saint Joan of Arc was most impressive from first to last. Most of the religious orders of women were represented in it, besides children's organisations, such as the boy scouts and girl guides, while the striking costume of the "Little Brothers of the Oratory" made their contingent noticeable amongst the men. The object to which all eyes were directed, however, was, of course, that of the charming young girl who so perfectly represented the Saint. She was entirely the ideal Joan, seated on her charger in her glittering armour, and attended by her pages in quaint old French costumes. The pageant took half-an-hour to pass a given point, and was witnessed by an immense crowd, and though probably the greater number of these onlookers was non-Catholic, there was no sign of any feeling but interest, and, even one might say, reverence. By far the most imposing part of the ceremonies was not the procession, but the grouping in the Cathedral yard, where an altar had been erected and where the beautiful service of Benediction took place, after a striking and eloquent sermon by the Rev. J. Bampton, S.J. The preacher pointed out how France and England, equally concerned in the cruel wrong inflicted on St. Joan, were now sharing equally in the act of reparation offered to her, and concluded his discourse with the expression of a fervent hope that through her prayers the two countries might be united in a real "Entente Cordiale."

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EDITORIAL

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

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PATIENCE!

The National Federation of Women Teachers is to be warmly congratulated on the influential deputation which it sent to the President of the Board of Education on May 13th, to put before him the claims of women teachers to equal pay with men for equal work. The deputation consisted of representatives from women's organisations, among them being the Women's Freedom League, and other public-spirited women and men, including some Members of Parliament, who have publicly upheld this principle. Major Hills, in an admirable speech, introduced the deputation to Mr. Fisher, and he was ably supported by the speeches of Sir Samuel Hoare, Miss Susan Lawrence, and Miss Agnes Dawson, whose arguments for this just demand of women were unanswerable. In his reply, Mr. Fisher conceded unhesitatingly the fact that the work of women teachers had been and was now as strenuous and quite as efficient as that of men teachers. He contended, however, that the Board of Education had no power to compel the local authorities to give the men and women in their employ equal pay. Nor could the Board of Education strongly advise them to do so because the Government itself did not grant equal pay to men and women in the Civil Service! Mr. Fisher also pointed out that twelve millions of pounds had to be found by the Government for paying the increased cost of education in this country, and a great proportion of that amount had to go in salaries. He urged the women teachers to remember the financial burden which the country had to bear at the present time, and as a final remark recommended them to exercise patience! Mr. Fisher did not explain why the increased emoluments under the new Education Act should be shared unequally between men and women when their work was equal; nor did he say one word which would lead the members of the deputation to infer that he himself would give any support to women's just claim to equality. Patient Griselda was not a member of the teaching profession; she had not been to college and had received no certificates which would be of any value in the scholastic world. Women, too, have an uneasy recollection that there is such a thing as the patience of the ass. But for that virtue the modern professional woman has no kind of use. The mere thought of it tears away her last shred of patience. We suggest that Mr. Fisher's recommendation should meet with the result it deserves—increased agitation on the part of women teachers and women civil servants, and their active opposition at all elections to every supporter of this Government which, through its members, steadily refuses to keep its election pledge to remove all inequalities of the law as between men and women. Only in this way can women secure the recognition of a principle of justice which alone will secure a firm basis for any genuine scheme of reconstruction in the future—for the new world, in the building of which all progressive men and women will unite.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT.

The Speaker has again distinguished himself in regard to a proposal for women's enfranchisement by his treatment of Sir R. Park Goff's one-clause Bill, the object of which was to grant the franchise to women on equal terms with men. He summarily refused to have it read a second time, on the ground that the Labour Party's Bill, which was still being considered in Committee, contained a similar clause. Mr. Brace disputed his ruling because, in his opinion, it did not follow the precedent of the Trades Disputes Bills which were before the House in 1906; but the Speaker was adamant, and claimed in an English House of Commons the infallibility of the Pope! It is regrettable also that the Speaker has decided not to have the discussions in its Committee stage of the Labour Party's Bill officially reported, for we venture to say that several of the members of this Committee apparently take advantage of this refuge from publicity to make slighting and insulting remarks about women, particularly those between 21 and 30 years of age, which would not be tolerated in the whole House. The Committee has met twice since April 22nd, and on each occasion the Bill has been treated by certain of its Members in an entirely irresponsible way. The Committee has at last accepted the principle of equal franchise for men and women of 21 years; but there are also a number of other provisions to be dealt with which will doubtless encounter much opposition and delay the progress of the Bill. The Labour Members on this Committee generously offered to withdraw those provisions and to expedite the passing of the Bill through its remaining stages as a one-clause Bill conferring equal suffrage on men and women. The members of the Committee who have obstructed the Bill at every stage refused, however, to consider this proposal, so that there seems but little chance of it going through all its stages during the present session, especially as there is a general feeling that the Government, for reasons best known to itself, are averse from taking such steps as would secure the passing into law of an equal franchise measure.

INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

It may be a little comfort to some people to have an authoritative statement from the General Secretary of the National Federation of Launderers that he is not aware that prices are to be increased for laundry work. But, one can never tell! The miners are asking for an increase in wages because of the increased price of coal, so probably the latter will mount still higher. Meanwhile it has been stated in the House of Commons that a suit of clothes may cost from twenty to twenty-five guineas next winter. The Food Controller has told us that all the indications point to prices "at a very high level," and that there is no prospect of a fall in food prices, taken as a whole, this summer. Jam will probably be sold only at a prohibitive price, and housewives will in the majority of cases be prevented from making jam because of the increased price of sugar, which is now 1s. 2½d. per lb. for loaf, and 1s. 2d. per lb. for granulated. We are told that sugar for domestic preserving (yellow vouchers) will be issued at the approved retail price of 1s. 2d., and that the maximum "reasonable" price for all licensed "free" sugar from now until June 12th for domestic preserving only will be 1s. 7½d. per lb. The cost of living has increased during the past month; and we are informed officially that the general level of retail prices (including food, clothing, fuel, light, as well as rents) is about 141 per cent. above the level of July, 1914.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

Its Origin and History.

The conception of an International Woman Suffrage Alliance first originated from Mrs. Chapman Catt, the well-known American suffragist, and an informal meeting was held at Washington in 1902 to discuss the method of campaign. A committee was appointed to meet in Berlin in 1904, just before the meeting of the International Council of Women, with which the Suffrage Alliance is sometimes confused by the inexperienced. The International Council, however, is the older society of the two, having been formed at Washington, U.S.A., in 1888, and represents all lines of women's activities, whether educational, industrial, or social, whereas the Alliance represents the suffrage interest primarily. At first the plan of the Committee was not welcomed by the International Council; there was even a suspicion that its purpose was to start a rival organisation. But it met, nevertheless, and framed a constitution,

Mrs Chapman Catt

being elected President, an office she has retained ever since.

Since 1904 the International Woman Suffrage Alliance has met at intervals of two or more years in Copenhagen, Amsterdam, London, Stockholm, and Budapest, the eighth Congress taking place in Geneva on June 6th—12th of this year. At its first inauguration, sixteen years ago in Berlin, there were in all the world only ten countries in which Woman Suffrage organisations could be found. Seven years ago, when the last Conference was held at Budapest, the actual vote had been won in Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand, and eight of the States of the American Union. To-day women are enfranchised in Great Britain and Ireland, Canada, British East Africa, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Iceland, Poland, Rhodesia, Jamaica, whilst in the United States the Federal Amendment, which will give the vote to women on the same terms as men throughout the country, has been ratified by 35 out of the necessary 36 States, so that the full success of the Movement can be expected any day.

As an evidence of the value and importance now given to women's point of view with regard to public affairs, six Governments so far have appointed official delegates at the forthcoming Congress at Geneva. Mr. Lloyd George has asked Lady Astor, M.P., to represent the British Government; the United States Government has appointed Mrs. Josephus Daniels, wife of the Secretary of State for the Navy; Miss Anna Whitlock, the first President of the National Swedish Women's Suffrage Society, is going officially from Sweden; the Uruguayan Government has nominated Dr. Pauline Luisi; Germany is sending Frau Marie Stritt, and Czecho-Slovakia a delegate.

The League of Nations

is also to be officially represented.

Now that the vote has been won in half the countries in the Alliance, the international organisation will be directed to securing for women equality of status and opportunity in all the spheres of public life, as well as helping the more backward countries in their struggle for emancipation. A special feature of this year's Conference will be a meeting addressed by delegations from the East, notably from India, Egypt and Japan, where the Woman's Movement is rapidly spreading. This is the first time that women of other races have been present as delegates to speak for themselves.

Other features of special interest at this year's Congress will be an inaugural sermon by Miss Maude Royden, delivered from Calvin's pulpit in the Cathedral at Geneva, on the opening Sunday of the Conference, and a Public Meeting addressed by Women M.P.'s, at which Fru Furufjelm, M.P., from Finland, will pre-

side. The speakers on this historic occasion will include Lady Astor, M.P., Mrs. Elna Munch, a member of the Danish Parliament, who was largely responsible for the passing of an Act giving equal pay to women in the Civil Service, and Mrs. King Robinson, a former member of the Colorado Senate. Another interesting Public Meeting will be one on "Woman Suffrage in Practice," when representatives of various enfranchised countries will give an account of the effects of women's enfranchisement in their part of the world.

The adoption of a Women's Charter will be urged by the British and Dutch delegations, the provisions of which will include: Equal suffrage, abolition of the slavery of women, equal nationality rights for married women, equal guardianship rights for women over their children, civil rights for married women, an equal moral standard, equal pay for equal work, mothers' pensions, etc. There will be Conferences on Municipal and Local Government Work; on the position of women with regard to political parties; the economic position of wives and mothers; and the fight against Prostitution in connection with Venereal Diseases.

Resolutions

will be passed with reference to the conditions of work of pregnant women and women's night work, urging that legislation with regard to pregnancy should be on the lines not of forbidding women to select their own work, but of providing for them such economic conditions as should make it possible to give birth to their children without facing either ill-health or starvation, and that regulations concerning night work should be based on the type of the work and not on the sex of the worker. The League of Nations will be pressed to adopt as its policy the abolition of the State Regulation of Vice as long practised in certain European countries and British Dominions and Dependencies, and the condemnation of any proposals for dealing with venereal disease which would have the effect of reintroducing regulations in new and dangerous forms. It will also be urged to recommend to its constituent States the adoption of a similar policy, and only to grant mandates for the administration of undeveloped countries subject to the condition that within the mandatory area there should be no regulation, segregation, or official toleration of vice. The Congress will also demand in connection with the League of Nations the establishment of a Women's Department with the same status and powers as the International Labour Department of the League of Nations.

D. M. N.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT FUND.

We must have Women in Parliament, and if we want them we must send them there. The best of Candidates cannot do everything. Election expenses have to be met, and they are very heavy. Remember it takes several hundred pounds to run one election, but it has to be done. I must therefore call upon you who understand our aims and read our paper to send me your contribution (as much and as often as possible) so that our special Women in Parliament Fund will be all ready for immediate use.

E. KNIGHT,

Women's Freedom League, Hon. Treasurer,
144, High Holborn,
London, W.C.1.

THEATRICAL REMINISCENCES.

Speaking at the Minerva Café on Monday last, Miss Horniman gave an amusing account of her early theatrical experiences. Miss Horniman was impressed by the idea of having her own theatre so far back as 1893, in the days when "Widowers' Houses" was being produced by Grein, and when the Ibsen plays (which were considered the essence of wickedness) were beginning to trickle into London. She started at the Avenue Theatre, Manchester; her venture was a secret one, known only to three people, and great were the efforts of the inquisitive to fathom it. Among the most curious were W. B. Yeats and G. B. Shaw. Miss Horniman acted practically as secretary to the former for several months, and their work was much disturbed by his tentative efforts to learn the secret. Mr. Shaw adopted a more dramatic plan, and told her that he had had a vivid dream in which she appeared as the proprietor of the Avenue Theatre! Nevertheless, Miss Horniman kept her own counsel.

Miss Horniman gave her audience two pieces of practical advice: first, that success can only arise on a foundation of failures; secondly, the necessity of always retaining the rights of a play. She had never ceased to regret that she had given up the rights of "Arms and the Man" to Shaw. It had since been successfully produced in Europe, America and in London. She herself had seen it in Prague, where the scenes were represented with rather startling realism.

Miss Horniman gave instances of her encounters with the Press, and commented on the change which had taken place in theatrical taste. She was horrified to find, on taking a young friend to the revival of "Claudian" that she laughed at the parts at which Miss Horniman had wept when, as a student, she had seen the same play.

A good discussion followed, the chair being taken by Mrs. Earengy.

WOMEN'S ADVANCE IN INDIA

Travancore State has taken advantage of the Rule of the Reform Bill which allows the new Legislative Councils to extend the franchise to women. It is the first State in India to grant voting powers to women on the same conditions as they have been given to men.

The municipal vote which was taken away from women in the Madras Presidency in 1908, for no reason which was ever explained, has now been restored to them, and a large number of women voted at the last elections for the Madras Corporation, but it is a matter of keen regret that by a majority of two the Madras Legislative Council has voted against women being allowed to become County Councillors. The Government of Madras has also decided to exclude women from the franchise for the Legislative Council.

Sri-Dharma, the official organ of the Women's Indian Association, also reports that the women of Poona are making an attempt to secure Compulsory Primary Education for girls. Certain members of the Poona Municipal Council want to make education compulsory for boys first, postponing compulsory education for girls to the future. The women of the city felt that this was not just, especially in view of the fact that only one girl was now educated as compared with ten boys. Several Indian ladies therefore addressed meetings of women, arranged a deputation to the President of the Municipality, and finally organised a magnificent procession, of nearly 2,000 women, with flags and music, who marched together through the town to the Municipal office and attended the meeting at which the subject was discussed. The question has now been referred to the Government, and meetings in support of the compulsory education of girls, as well as boys, have been held in Madras, Bangalore and Mangalore.

THE MAID OF ORLEANS.

Religion and Politics.

Women in all ages and in all countries have been expected, and indeed required, to take an interest in Religion. They have been looked to as somehow being more apt for its requirements than men, and Religion may be said to have actually suffered under a kind of concealed contempt, as being only suitable for those inferior beings—women. Politics, however, have from all time been men's special pre-occupation. Yet how can we look steadily at the great celebrations that have been going on this past week—in Italy, France, Spain, and our own country—in honour of a girl of nineteen, whose whole soul was wrapped up in these two subjects, and not see how there must be the most intimate connection between the two, if either is to have its full and proper influence over the lives of men and women alike?

St. Joan was religious to a remarkable degree, even from her earliest childhood. When only thirteen she began to hear the voices of heavenly messengers who spoke to her—not of heavenly, but of earthly matters and those matters essentially political, and such as we should be told in this so-called enlightened century that no young girl could possibly understand and should not dream of interfering with. We all know that she did interfere in the politics of France, and in spite of the ridicule and scorn of the men of her time succeeded in impressing on a few of them a belief in her sincerity and her real power. In the end, as we know, her enemies, unable to deny her power, could only attribute it to witchcraft. It has taken 500 years to bring about her complete rehabilitation, although only 25 years after her cruel execution the Pope caused to be annulled the decree of which it was the result.

Now, may not we women, who are working as hard for the purification of society as ever Joan worked for the purification of the soil of her beloved France from its foreign invaders, take encouragement from the wonderful example of this most noble girl? We have to fight against the ridicule and scorn of men quite as energetically as if we lived in the fifteenth century and had to fight the enemies of our country. We have got to establish the reign of equality and justice for women and men, not in one country merely, but all over the world. The men who were not too proud to take advice from a woman in Joan's day succeeded in their aims, and the men who do not refuse the help and counsel of women in our own day will find that they are working with the powers of Heaven itself on their side.

ISABEL WILLIS.

(Hon. Press Sec., Catholic Women's Suffrage Society).

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

The procession of animals on April 30th was not a very long one, as we had all been very busy with the Conference just before. The next White Elephant Sale has been arranged for

EARLY IN JUNE.

We shall also have some Jumble Sales, so that no animal will be too decrepit to receive a welcome. Please turn out all your cupboards and drawers during

THE NEXT FORTNIGHT

and send the contents to Mrs. McLeod at the office, who will be grateful for everything.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Friday, May 28.—Dinner to Mrs. Despard. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1. 7 p.m. Tickets 3s. Apply early.

Saturday, May 29.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 10 a.m.

Monday, May 31.—Public Meeting in Cocoa Tree Hall, High Street, Pinner, on "The Need for more Women in Parliament and on Local Councils." Speakers: Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. County Councillor How Martyn, B.Sc. Chairman: Mrs. M. R. Verden. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 2.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park. 7.

Saturday, June 5.—Jumble Sale, Morris Hall, Old Town, Clapham. 3—6.

Thursday, June 10.—Public Meeting, Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, W. 1. Speaker: Miss Leila Lewis. Subject: "Opportunities for Women in the Film Business." Chair: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. 8 p.m. Tickets 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s.

Friday, July 2.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party. Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 7 p.m.

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

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

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, June 1.—Bexhill. National Kitchen, St. Leonards Road. Miss Jessie March on "The Bastardy Bill." Chair: Mrs. Boldero. 4—6 p.m.

Wednesday, June 2.—Ashford. Women's Club Meeting, Guild Room, Co-operative Hall. Miss Jessie March on "The Unmarried Mother." Chair: Mrs. Kither. 2.30 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, May 20.—S.W. London Women's Question Group Meeting, 72, Thurlough Road, Clapham Common (by kind permission of Miss Fryer). Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Health Through Sneezing." 8 p.m.

Friday, May 21.—Kingsway Hall. International Women Suffrage Alliance, Public Meeting to prepare for Geneva Congress. Chair: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Speakers: Viscountess Astor, M.P., Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mme. Suzanne Grinberg, Miss Yana Shidachi, Mrs. Edward Gauntlett. 7.30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets from 144, High Holborn, and 62, Oxford Street.

Wednesday, June 23.—Garden Party and Concert (in aid of Nine Elms Settlement) at Buccleugh House, Petersham Road, Richmond. Speaker: Mrs. DESPARD. Tickets (including refreshments), 1s. 6d. If wet at Ormond Lodge, Ormond Road, Richmond.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,

93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

We have to thank an anonymous donor for a varied selection of dolls and toys; Mrs. Bell Lloyd for 5s., and Mrs. Fish 5s.; also a parcel of china from Miss Riggall and two bath aprons from Miss K. Holmes. We have commenced our much-needed renovations, and find that our curtains are dropping to pieces, our beds need new covers, and our tea-cloths and towels are nearly all worn out. We should be so grateful to anyone, spring-cleaning, who could help us in this matter; also to anyone who would send jumble goods for our Sale at Whitsuntide. Mrs. De Vere Summers and Mrs. De Vere Smith have kindly sent a parcel this week, but of course much more is needed. Anything will be acceptable; nothing is too old or worn, as kind friends are willing to patch and do anything up. We should be most glad just now of presents of rhubarb for jam. We have a little sugar, and our stock of preserves has all but run out.

Hon. Superintendent—Miss A. M. COLE.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN.

Kensington Town Hall. Fellowship Services on Sunday, May 23rd. Dr. Percy Dearmer, 3.15; Miss Maude Royden, 6.30. Subject: "Signs." Master of the Music, Mr. Martin Shaw.

PROTEST MEETING.

A meeting called by the Women's Freedom League to protest against the action of the Hendon Council in displacing Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Hodge from the Hendon Education Committee was held at Goldershurst School, Hoop Lane, on Monday evening, May 10th.

Mrs. Keevil Rickford, who presided, said it was one of a series of meetings to be held to express indignation at these exclusions from the Hendon Education Committee. She read the following letter from Mr. J. Douglas Young:—"I regret that I am unable to be present. I am entirely in sympathy with the object of your meeting, and think it to be a very regrettable thing that at a time when education is more important than ever, we should be deprived of the services of such an educationalist as Mrs. How Martyn. This is not a question of the Women's Freedom League at all. It concerns both sexes equally, like every other matter of importance."

Mrs. Rickford, continuing, said they could not help feeling that the reason these two women were displaced was because they were looking to secure for the children of Hendon the full benefits of the Fisher Act. Education was the foundation of everything else. Workmen were getting more leisure, and the great thing was to educate them how best to use that leisure. They were always being thrown back on education, and must recognise that if it was a matter of the purse they had got to face it. They must see that the children of Hendon got the best possible education, and they must get back to the Committee the two women who had been displaced.

Miss Neilans moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting of residents in Golders Green protests strongly against the action of the Hendon Urban District Council in general, and in particular the three members thereof who represent this ward, in displacing the two best educationalists on the Education Committee, Miss Councillor Hodge and Mrs. How Martyn, and demands their early reinstatement. We also think that Miss Hodge should again take her seat on the Public Health Committee." Miss Neilans said they could not afford the waste of such good material as these two were. There were none too many people qualified to perform public duties, and they were fortunate in getting on the Committee two such women. The action of the Council was a vote of censure on them, and she wanted to know in what way they were regarded as unsuitable. If they had been dispossessed in the public interest then she had nothing to say, but she wanted to know as she could see no reason for the Council's action. It was necessary to show their disapproval so that such a thing would not happen again. They were not indignant because it was two women who had been displaced; if it had been men instead she hoped they would have taken the same action. They wanted the honest critic and a fair field.

Mr. Van Raalte seconded, and said it was a question of education. Although he was opposed politically to Mrs. How Martyn, he wanted to see her on the Education Committee. He hoped the two ladies would be reinstated.

Mrs. Crump and others supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

A deputation of ratepayers invaded Hendon Town Council on May 17th and demanded to be heard on the question of the non-election to the Local Education Committee of Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Hodge. The views of their ratepayers did not interest the Council, and they took the undignified course of ringing up the police, who cleared the hall.

A HUSBAND'S RESPONSIBILITY.

In summing up a case of domestic difficulties which arose between a couple of servants and their master and mistress, Mr. Justice Darling is reported to have said that: "Mr. Petre (the husband) is responsible in law for any wrongs done by his wife. That is one of the privileges of a husband. I have heard of women going about wanting all sorts of alterations in the law, but I have never heard of any of them wanting that arrangement altered."

The Women's Freedom League has always asked for equality before the law for both sexes, and we have never heard of any of our members wanting to be protected by what Mr. Justice Darling is pleased to call the husband's privilege. After all, it is men alone who have up till recently made the laws, and even now by the majority of their votes, both inside and outside the House of Commons, they have the controlling power in our legislation. There is a good deal of the old Adam in the composition of our Judges.

WOMEN LIBERALS DEMAND EQUALITY.

We congratulate the Women's National Liberal Federation on its consideration at its Conference, which took place at Scarborough last week, of women's social, professional and economic position, and on its unanimous adoption of a resolution proposed by Lady Haworth and seconded by Mrs. Alderton, which demanded equal pay for equal work, the removal of sex barriers to the professions and the higher branches of the Civil Service, the police service, and the admission of women in the proportion of one-half to juries sitting on cases where women were arraigned. Lady Haworth laid stress on the fact that women asked for no favours, but simply that sex alone should be no bar to their advancement and usefulness.

FRIDAY,
MAY 21,
1920.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

OUR WEDNESDAYS.

In speaking of her experiences of Indian life during a sojourn of 25 years, Mrs. E. S. Mayne said there were three main sources by which a knowledge of India could be obtained, viz., missionaries, social reformers, and Anglo-Indian officials, but some false impressions were bound to arise from each and all of these. The missionary did a lot of good, but looked at things in a one-sided way, not realising that the unity of God was the fundamental basis of all religions. Social reformers, again, lacked the historical sense, and could not see that eight hundred years of history could not be forced on a people all at once. Hatred of all things British also biased the mind and clouded perspective. Anglo-Indian bureaucracy also lacked the historical sense, and was slow to realise that human beings were constantly evolving, so that changes were bound to take place. In the speaker's opinion, the Montagu-Chelmsford Report had admirably expressed the truth about India. India was made up of a vast congeries of races and peoples, all of whom remained isolated from one another. The country, too, was so vast that no two districts were exactly similar. The native states occupied one-third of India, all the rest being under British bureaucratic control.

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One-tenth of the population of India lived in the towns. The remaining 90 per cent. occupied the villages and country districts. Life in these villages was the same to-day as it had been for centuries, and out of a population of 315 millions, only 2 millions were educated, and these were chiefly in the towns. A new political awakening was going on in the educated people, fostered by the Indian National Congress, now 35 years old, of which Mrs. Annie Besant had recently been elected President, the Home Rule for India League, and the Muslim League.

W.F.L. CONFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Photographs of the Conference are now on sale. Postcards 1s. each; mounted, 12 x 10, 3s. each. Apply Literature Department, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.

The W.F.L. offices will be closed from Friday, May 21st, at 5.30 p.m., and will re-open on Tuesday, May 25th, at 9.30 a.m.

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