

THE VOTE,  
NOVEMBER 28, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

THIS IS FAIR WEEK!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XVIII. No. 527.

*(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)*

FRIDAY, NOV. 28, 1919.

**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.

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.  
PROBLEMS CONFRONTING WOMEN.  
"LITTLE WOMEN" AT THE NEW THEATRE.  
GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

EMBARGO ON WOMEN'S PRODUCTION.  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL. E. Knight.  
PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN PRACTICE.  
BOOK REVIEWS. [M. Hodge.]

**GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR,**  
FRIDAY and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th and 29th,  
At 3 p.m., at  
**CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.**

(See Page 411.)

## STALLS AND STALLHOLDERS.

**General Stall**—Useful and fancy articles of every description and Christmas presents.—Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner.

**White Stall**.—Hand-made, hand-embroidered lingerie, by members of the League. Ladies and Children's underclothing, teacloths, d'oyleys, household linen, etc.—Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Holmes and Miss Mustard.

**Variety Stall** (kindly provided by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes).—Fine pictures. Choice pieces of china and glass.—Miss Raleigh, Mrs. and Miss Presbury and Miss Freda Maunder.

**Handkerchief Stall**.—Handkerchiefs of various kinds; useful, saleable articles of all descriptions; Christmas presents.—Miss A. Underwood, Miss Marian Reeves, and Miss A. C. White.

**Toy Stall**.—Dolls and toys of every kind.—The Misses Stutchbury and Miss Avila.

**Montgomery Borough Stall**—General Stall (1): Knitted goods, warm woollen clothing, under-garments, fancy articles, Welsh costume dolls, toys. Home-made and farmhouse produce Stalls (2 and 3): Christmas puddings, mincemeat, cakes of all kinds, groceries, preserves, fruit. Alix M. Clark, assisted by Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Earengy, Mrs. and Miss Elias, Mrs. Dixon, Misses Codd, Miss Felix Jones and Miss Alice Kirkham,

**Manchester Stall**.—Splendid selection of attractive goods.—Miss M. I. Neal, Miss Anna Munro, and Miss Sackur.

**South-Eastern Branches Stall**.—Charming variety of fancy and useful articles.—Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Kither, Mrs. Taylor Sabin, Mrs. and Miss Perry, Mrs. Brock Lane, and Miss White.

**Penny Stall**.—An entertaining novelty for all.—Miss White.

**Literature Stall**.—Books, calendars, diaries, writing pads, varieties of cigarettes as Christmas presents, etc.—Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Bergman, Miss B. Woods, Councillor Ada Broughton, and Miss Telling.

**Vote Stall** (in memory of Mrs. Snow, kindly provided by Mr. Snow).—Blouses, dressing gowns, fancy drapery, teacloths, lace, etc.—Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, Mrs. Newsome, Mrs. Northcroft and Miss Jacob.

Miss Pierotti as the Old Lady of a Hundred Pockets, with wonderful presents for sixpenny dips.

Other stalls at this Fair have been taken by: **The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement; League of the Church Militant; Free Church League; Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; Women's International League; the Independent W.S.P.U.; the Friends of Armenia; the Handicrafts; Divorce Law Reform Union; and the London Vegetarian Association.**

## IN PARLIAMENT.

## Mothers' Pensions.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons on November 18th, the Minister of Health stated that the Government did not feel able to undertake legislation on this subject. Mr. Stanton informed Dr. Addison that thirty-five states of America concede adequate mothers' pensions; that three provinces out of the nine in Canada pay mothers' pensions; that New Zealand allows £30 per year for the widow with children, under the 1913 Act; and that Queensland, Australia, allows 15s. per week for all widows, and from 8s. to 10s. per week for each child. Mr. Swan enquired if it would not be wiser and more economical, in view of the cost of maintaining the children, to grant these pensions rather than to allow them to go into the workhouse. Dr. Addison reminded him that the question under consideration was mothers' pensions, not the children; but Mr. Swan maintained that his enquiry referred to both the mothers and their children.

## Women's Wages

On November 19th, Major Hills asked the Minister of Labour whether the Government intended before September 30th next to pass special legislation, beyond that contained in the Industrial Courts Bill and the Trades Boards Acts, dealing with women's wages; or whether he intended to leave them unregulated except for the provisions in those Acts? In reply, Mr. Wardle stated that there was a Bill now before the House to establish a Minimum Wage Commission, and if that Commission were set up he hoped that it would have made considerable progress before next September, and that it would be possible to see more clearly in the light of its recommendations what measures, if any, were required of the kind indicated.

## Discharged Women (Medically Unfit).

Captain Loseby asked the Pensions Minister if he was aware that many women who served their country in various capacities on different fronts during the war, and were thereby incapacitated by sickness and other causes, were not in receipt of Government aid; and if he could give any information in regard to any contemplated action on his part. Sir Laming Worthington Evans replied that women discharged from the corps attached to the Army, Navy and Air Service were not pensionable by his department. They were, he understood, granted compensation in some cases under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and in others under the Injuries in War Compensation Acts. The grants were administered by the Service Department concerned—by the Admiralty, War Office, or Air Ministry, as the case might be. He had no satisfactory evidence that the legitimate claims of these women could not be met under existing arrangements. Captain Loseby urged that many of these women, who, before their gallant service were quite fit, were now totally incapacitated, and in many cases destitute, and asked if the Minister of Pensions would use his influence in bringing them, if possible, under one department? The latter replied that he was not aware officially of the statements made by Captain Loseby, because he had nothing whatever to do with the claims of these women. Questions concerning their claims should be addressed to the War Office, the Admiralty, or the Air Ministry.

F. A. U.

## THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

## A SOCIAL

will be given at the

Central Hall, Westminster,

On TUESDAY, 9th DECEMBER, at 7 p.m. followed by a LECTURE at 8 p.m.,

ON MACHINERY &amp; ART—A NEW TRADES UNION,

By Mr. S. B. CAULFIELD, F.R.I.B.A.

Chair, Miss R. M. PARSONS. Admission by ticket only, Non-Members 1/3. For Tickets apply, Secretary, Women's Engineering Society, 46 Dover St., W.1.

## The PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY CONFRONTING WOMEN.

In her address to the Women's Freedom League on Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Keevil Rickford said that one of the greatest problems at the present time was to get the ordinary suburban woman, the woman who had recently got the vote but who did not go to meetings, or even to church, to take a live interest in political and municipal matters, so that she could exercise her vote intelligently. After all, it was the ordinary woman who had hitherto taken no part in progressive movements who would, through her vote, wield a great political influence in the near future. As she would not come to meetings, and did not join clubs to discuss political matters, women who were keen on these subjects must make it their business to call on her in her own home, and somehow arouse her interest in the questions of the day which are of vital interest to women, and make her determined to improve the conditions of life for the succeeding generation.

The greatest dangers to our race, said Mrs. Rickford, were war and impurity. Both these dangers could be averted by the force of Public Opinion, and the ordinary woman could be the backbone of that Public Opinion. Who could tell? A granddaughter of one of these ordinary suburban women might become the President of the League of Nations!

What was wanted was to start the mental machinery of the ordinary woman in the direction of Peace and Purity, the Housing conditions, the high prices of food, the education of her children, and the economic position of women. The speaker promised great changes in the world when once this machinery succeeded in getting into good working order.

With regard to the question of morality, Mrs. Rickford urged women to insist on a high standard of morality for both men and women. For the sake of the race women must not be tolerant of moral slackness, whether in members of their own sex or in men.

## "LITTLE WOMEN" AT THE NEW THEATRE.

Lovers of Miss Alcott—and these must be very numerous—will be glad to see the skilful rendering of her famous "Little Women" and "Good Wives," now staged at the New Theatre. The story of the March family has been dramatised by Miss Marian de Forest and staged by Miss Jessie Bonstelle, and though the scenery has been specially designed for the occasion by Mr. Oliver Bernard, the dresses, etc., are the same which were designed and used in the original production at the Playhouse, New York.

The sitting-room of the March Family in Concord, Mass., forms the *mise-en-scène* of the first three acts—"a comfortable old place though the carpet was faded and the furniture very plain." Within this homely setting follow in quick succession the well-known events of Jo's success as a melodramatic writer, Meg's love affair with Mr. Brooke, Amy's growing distinction as an artist, and Beth's illness and death. Henrietta Watson, as Mrs. March, is motherly and capable; Katharine Cornell's Jo is original and boisterous; Aunt March, snappy and wealthy, is admirably portrayed by Kate Phillips; whilst the faithful Hannah, gaunt and angular, finds in Miss Ada Palmer a congenial representative.

In the last act, in the apple orchard at Plumfield, Mr. Leslie Faber's Professor (tactfully transformed into a Frenchman) performs a picturesque wooing of the incorrigible Jo; Laurie and Amy become united in similar suitability, and the story "ends happily ever after" with a general dance of goodwill round the lovers by the remainder of the family, and with the familiar piping of little dead Beth's robin sounding in the dim distance.

## EMBARGO ON WOMEN'S PRODUCTION.

\*REPORT ON WOMEN IN ENGINEERING AND OTHER TRADES.

This report is compiled from the replies received from 1,400 firms to a circular letter containing a questionnaire sent by the Women's Industrial League to 5,000 firms in England, Scotland and Wales, and is a remarkable tribute to the skill of women in these particular trades. It also reveals the keenness of many employers to continue to employ women and to increase the numbers of women employed, but they are debarred from doing so by the Trade Unions!

The following are one or two extracts from these replies:—

## ENGINEERING AND ALLIED TRADES.

"We have before us a particular class of work which, if we could get into it successfully, would fully employ almost as many female hands as we had during the war. . . . It is a branch of the engineering business which has been almost exclusively done in Germany prior to the war . . . but owing to the great feeling there is in the area that female labour should be dispensed with we have very little hopes of success."

"We could gradually use some (women) in the engineering section if this were permitted, but bad feeling results; hardly open defiance, but just as effective."

"We still employ women on brass turning and drilling, and last week received a deputation . . . with regard to this, and we then had to give an undertaking that we would dispense with their services as early as it was possible for us to do so, and they would be substituted by male labour."

"We would be quite willing to give women equal opportunity with men, and, indeed, on the cessation of war work, made a selection of the most efficient machinists whom we had trained for war repetition work to continue this on our own class of trade, but the men in the shop objected, and gave us the choice of either dispensing with these women or they would probably leave their work. In any case they absolutely refused to have any of these girls in their squads and to render them any supervision help."

## WOODWORK.

"With regard to the manufacture of furniture, I am confident that a works could be successfully conducted employing about 5 per cent. of skilled men and 95 per cent. of women."

"You do not ask us our opinion regarding women's work, so we venture to express the opinion that women's work is infinitely better than men's for many branches of our work, and seeing that they have shown their fitness during the war, we think some agreement ought to be made, enabling employers to employ women where suitable, and under proper conditions."

"Since the Armistice the A.S.E. has insisted upon our dismissing the women working on armature work, because we were not employing women in the same room or department as formerly. We don't think the decision was a fair one, and we made our protest accordingly, but without avail."

The above statements from employers not only show the injustice of men Trade Unionists towards women workers; they also show that because of their crass stupidity work is being driven out of the country, and that the whole nation is the poorer because of their embargo on women's production.

\*Published by the Women's Industrial League. Price 6d. nett. (Can be obtained from this office.)

## REMEMBER!

OUR  
GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR,  
AT  
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,  
Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th,

Opened at 3 p.m. by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu on Friday.  
Lady Buckmaster, on Saturday.

Chairman each day: MRS. DESPARD.

Admission:

FRIDAY: 2/6 from 3-6 p.m.; 1/3 after 6 p.m.

SATURDAY: 1/3 all day.

Mrs. Besant is leaving England earlier than was expected, so will not be able to open the Fair on the first day. Her place has most kindly been taken at a moment's notice by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Poetess and Feminist, who is now in England to urge the claims of Indian women to the suffrage.

## AN ENTICING PROGRAMME.

The Fair Committee has arranged a most interesting and varied programme for Friday and Saturday. Madame Anna Carola will sing and recite on both days. On Friday there will be songs contributed by Mrs. Corner, Miss Bunch, Miss Langston, Madame Bernard, Miss Eileen Moyses, and Mr. V. Hewetson, and Miss Price will give some of her well-known whistling solos. Miss Angela Clark and Miss Muriel Davis will take part in a Costume Dance. On Saturday there will be recitations by Miss Livingston and Miss Ethel Reeves, and songs by Miss Procter, Miss Etheridge, Miss Ethel Wright, and Miss Langston. Little Miss Betty Lowe will contribute a Russian dance. At the piano: Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Cissie Rosenfeld, Miss Van Ralte, and Miss Ethel Wright.

All members will be glad to know that Mrs. Thomson Price has most kindly consented to give her well-known unique Psychic Delineations on Saturday. Mr. D'Arcy-Denny, Psycho-Dietist, and Madame Luke, Character Reader from the hand, will also be there on both days, for public and private demonstrations in head and hand. Parents will welcome this opportunity of obtaining valuable information.

## A MODEL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

On Saturday afternoon, at 4.30, a Model Parliamentary Election will be held. There will be seven women candidates, each of whom will give an election address of five minutes length, after which each candidate will be exposed to five minutes heckling. Then polling will take place. Chairman: Miss Janet Gibson.

## THE CANDIDATES.

Miss Nina Boyle (Constitutional).  
The Hon. Mrs. William Cecil (Conservative).  
Miss Froud (Women Teachers' Candidate).  
Councillor Beatrice Kent (Nurses' Candidate).  
Miss Anna Munro (Independent).  
Mrs. Keevil Rickford (Labour).  
Miss F. A. Underwood (Ind. Liberal).

The Proportional Representation Society are providing the ballot papers, and taking the count. A short explanation of the system will be given, and the voting will provide a practical demonstration of the working of the method. All over 21 are urged to vote.

Refreshments at moderate prices will be served during each afternoon and evening.

## A SALE

of Dainty Lingerie. Children's Frocks, and Christmas Presents, at very moderate prices will be held at

4 WILLIAM STREET, KNIGHTSBRIDGE.

(by kind permission of Madame Pascaline)

From MONDAY, Dec. 1st, to SATURDAY, Dec. 20th,  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th, 1919.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### EDITORIAL

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BILL!

### Joint Committee insults the Women.

The Joint Select Committee of Lords and Commons which has for the past months been considering the Government for India Bill, has just issued its Report.

Our readers will no doubt remember the history of this Bill. How on August 20th, 1917, the Government made the historic declaration for self-government for India. The Montagu-Chelmsford Report followed, then Lord Southborough's Committee, which drew up a franchise scheme on which the present Bill is based.

At first the official mind seemed to have thought the population of India exclusively male, but Lord Southborough's Committee, which toured India, had witnesses before it who advocated or objected to the inclusion of women in the new electorate. The Committee was astonished to find that there was a keen demand on the part of women and strong support on the part of men, but they proposed the disqualification of women "in accordance with the preponderating weight of the evidence," though no particular efforts seem to have been made to find out the relative values of the suffragists and the antis. So the Bill came before the House of Commons with the women left out, and passed on to the Joint Committee for consideration.

Before this Committee came very many witnesses, Indian men and Indian women, both eminent in themselves and sent to voice the demand of great organised bodies for women's right to vote. These witnesses explained how difficulties which seemed formidable to British minds were very easily overcome. "Purdah never prevented an Indian woman from doing what she wished to do." On the other side was very little evidence indeed.

But what is the result of all the tremendous work and enthusiasm of these great associations of organised Indian women? Men once more failed to understand women, so they feared to give them justice, and the Committee leaves the disqualification standing in the Bill, but tries to appease the women by the ridiculous expedient of "leaving the question of enfranchising women on the same terms as men to the newly-elected legislatures of each province to settle by resolution," because "the question goes deep into the social system and susceptibilities of India, and can only with any prudence be settled in accordance with the wishes of Indians themselves as constitutionally expressed." So the Mother of Parliaments is to be asked to shift her responsibility for seeing that this great Empire of India starts well-equipped upon the path of self-government, on to newly-elected pro-

vincial legislatures which have had no experience and are only rudimentary representative bodies; a ludicrous position for this country.

India asked for votes; a certain number of Indian men are to have them but no Indian women, because Britain is afraid that Indian men will not be pleased. All Indian history is open to us to prove that in India equality has existed through the ages. If we will not take the trouble to become acquainted with India's standards and ideals we have no right to govern her.

*Shall ignorance and stupidity and timidity be allowed to lose us India?*

The Bill comes back now to the House of Commons with the suggestions of the Joint Committee. It will be considered on Thursday, November 27th, and following days. The good sense of the House of Commons, elected by women and men alike, will prevent this absurdity from becoming law, Indian women want the vote now to help to choose the best representatives for the provincial legislatures at the all-important start of the new era; they cannot afford to wait three years at least to get their vote from the provincial legislatures. They cannot afford to waste their energies for years and years in propaganda and further agitation till the last provincial legislature gives them the vote. There will be many non-progressive elements in these first legislatures, and the fight would be unequal, and India cannot wait long years for her daughters' help.

This Bill is held out as providing "a step forwards in an ordered progress to self-government"—but the step can only be a clumsy stumble if one foot is tied.

Mrs. Naidu writes to us: "The Committee's decision is clever and plausible enough to deceive the casual critic, but it evades the urgent issues and fails to establish or acknowledge a clear principle." We cannot have this said of us, and for what our Government does each one of us is responsible. The Committee may have done its best and failed; it is for us, as responsible citizens, not to evade issues but to face them.

Mrs. H. A. Tata, sent here by Bombay women and 45 branches of the Women's Indian Association, also writes: "The Committee has not shown enough initiative and statesmanship on the question of the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men. . . . It is of the utmost importance that this question should not be left over to the future, but be decided by the Parliament here. . . . It is worth the attention and labour of the Parliament to tackle this question at the present time. *India has already spoken, and yet she is to be made to wait. . . . All the deputations which came to give evidence from India, composed of educated men, without exception have shown their desire to enfranchise Indian women. The educated classes of India of all the various communities have already expressed their desire in favour of the enfranchisement of Indian women, in response to the Requisitions sent by women to their respective provincial conferences held in various parts of India. And then the National Congresses raised no objection but passed resolutions in favour. These Conferences and Congresses are constitutionally held in India in accordance with the wishes of Indians themselves.*"

Last spring representative Indian men and women came to the Women's Freedom League to ask our help, as enfranchised women, for our unenfranchised sisters. Since then we have been doing our utmost in their support, and we are now writing to every progressive Member of Parliament urging him to vote for the amendments to the Bill which will enfranchise women. Each member of the Women's Freedom League must write at once to her or his M.P. with the same request. Do it at once, and you may still be in time to prevent this great wrong and shame from being done by your Country in your name, and to share in giving Right and Justice to this great and ancient Empire, the brightest jewel in the British Crown.

E. KNIGHT.

## PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AS A PRACTICAL PROPOSITION.

Mr. J. Fisher Williams, Treasurer of the Proportional Representation Society, speaking on November 19th to a meeting convened by the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union, at their office, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, upon the subject of Proportional Representation, began by stating that the subject was thought by many to be as dull as the multiplication table, and it was certainly as indispensable. He then spoke of the discontent which was universally felt with the present system, and urged the necessity for its substitution by one more adequately representative.

Our present system only represented the majority in one particular area. With two political parties this system was inadequate, but when a third, the Labour Party, is added as a powerful factor, it was a farce.

### The object of Proportional Representation

is to make representation of the people accurate and secure. One form of this system has been adopted already in Belgium, Germany, Italy and Sweden, and will shortly be in force in Norway. With regard to our dominions overseas, the little State of Tasmania has had it in practical operation for 15 years. The Hare-Spence system of voting is universally acknowledged as the most effective. New South Wales has followed the example of Tasmania in adopting it for the State Parliament, and there is a large party in favour of its adoption in South Australia. New Zealand has already put it in practice for her legislative Council. In Canada the next election for Alberta will probably be held on the proportional system, and possibly also that for Ontario. At the Union of South Africa it was proposed to adopt the proportional system for both Houses, but it has only been put into practice for the election of the Senate. It is, however, in force for the municipal Council of Johannesburg. The proportional, rather than the local, system of representation is essential where there are two distinct races in the population. This is the reason why it has been adopted in Belgium, where the Walloons and Flemings differ materially in every respect. This is also why it should be adopted in South Africa.

It is interesting to note that the system is now compulsory for the Irish local elections.

### The great advantage of the system

is that elections are a real reflection of the people. There are no such violent changes of popular opinion as are shown under our present system. Changes as complete as that which led to the Liberals sweeping the country in 1906, and has led to their practical extinction in 1918, would be impossible under the better method of election. Such extraordinary revolutions in public feeling have led us to regard the popular verdict with contempt, and to agree with Pope that "the people is a many headed beast" while we readily accept the word Mob (*mobile vulgus*, the fickle crowd) as an apt name for the proletariat. The system, too, gives minorities a chance of expressing their views, for we must remember the voice of the majority is not always the verdict of wisdom, for "The most may err as grossly as the few."

MARGARET HODGE.

## THE NEW ERA CALENDAR.

We have received a copy of The New Era Calendar (price 1s. 6d. net, by post 1s. 7½d.) from the New Commonwealth Fellowship, 133, Salisbury Square, E.C. 4. This is the seventh of a series of Fellowship Calendars created by members of the Fellowship. It contains "live" quotations from writers and speakers of every age and every clime, from Tagore to General Smuts, and Laotze to Miss Maude Royden.

## WOMEN'S NIGHT WORK.

At the International Labour Conference now being held at Washington the Committee on Women's Employment unanimously agreed to prohibit night work in industry to all women except those engaged in home industries. This prohibition is to apply in the industrial undertakings of all countries represented at this Conference, and to be recommended in those countries which are still undeveloped industrially. It is claimed that the adoption of this prohibition will constitute a valuable advance in the protection of the health of women workers, through them of their children, and thus of the general population in each country. We do not advocate night work either for men or women. In cases where it is harmful and not necessary we should like to see it abolished for both sexes, but when it is necessary we would urge that it should only be continued under the best possible conditions; for the health of the children and of the community depends on the men as well as the women workers. We strongly oppose a one-sided prohibition imposed on women workers only. Men Trade Unionists were not solicitous about the health of the women workers whom they recently, through their Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act, excluded from those trades and sections of trades in which women had become skilled workers during the war and, incidentally, had received fairly adequate remuneration; and men generally, including Members of Parliament have shown not the slightest concern for the health of the capable women who they insisted should be turned out of Government offices and other employment to make way for less experienced men. Last July the Home Office prohibited women's employment on night shifts in this country. In one firm alone the result was that fifteen hundred women were dismissed, and it would be difficult to calculate the enormous number of women thrown out of work through this piece of grandmotherly legislation. Are they likely to be less unhealthy while unemployed than when in work? Women are out to secure the same measure of industrial freedom that men enjoy, and do not recognise the right of their male competitors to undermine their claim for equal pay for equal work by hampering them with fresh handicaps in that work. Women doctors, women journalists, women nurses, and women in the home have no such restrictions placed upon them, and we do not learn that their health has suffered in consequence—it is left to working men to render the struggle for existence even more intolerable than it is at present for women of their own class, simply because they are their competitors. Women are tired of the cant of men's protection; all they ask for is an equal right with men to protect themselves and their own interests.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE IN DOWNING STREET.

A deputation of members of the League, consisting of Dr. Knight, Mrs. Metge, Mrs. Tanner and Miss Gibson, bearing a heavy petition with ten thousand signatures from the British Isles and all parts of the world—Egypt, Palestine, India, France, and the Overseas Dominions—obtained from men and women of every profession and class, soldiers and sailors, women in the Services, doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers, business men and women, lawyers, and the general public, stood last Thursday and Friday on the doorstep of No. 10, Downing Street, waiting to put the case of Elsie Smith before the Prime Minister. As Mr. Lloyd George went out of town for the week-end, the deputation returned again to their post on Monday and Tuesday. So far, however, the Prime Minister has refused to receive the petition or to see the deputation. The Press and the public recognise our responsibility in this matter to the ten thousand men and women who look to us to make their demand for Elsie Smith's release effective, but Mr. Lloyd George treats us and the ten thousand with contempt.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

(To the Editor of THE VOTE.)

Dear Madam,—It is unnecessary to call attention to the desirability of women members in the House of Commons. Women helped to elect the present House, but their collective vote is greatly in a minority as compared with the collective vote of men, and no woman Member (ignoring for the moment our Irish woman Member) sits in our House of Representatives.

Yet a House of Men Representatives only cannot be said to effectively represent the nation. Questions which intimately concern the domestic life of the nation are more and more occupying the consideration of our legislators, and many amongst us are of the opinion that the woman's point of view on these and on other matters would be helpful and of value.

It will, however (and this is a view which is shared by many) be difficult to get women elected to the House of Commons, as there still exists a good deal of prejudice against voting for a woman. The electors are not used to the idea of returning women to Parliament, and one senses a certain dislike on the part of the average man to voting for a woman, and a feeling that it is *infra dig* for him to do so. This prejudice will undoubtedly be gradually overcome, but it may take some considerable period; and in the meantime are women to go unrepresented by any Woman Member, and is the governing body of the nation to remain bereft of the help which a woman's experience, capacities, and special outlook essentially fit her to give?

Under these circumstances would it not be desirable and advisable to seriously consider, as a temporary measure, the introduction of some system of special representation of women? This could be done in either of several ways which suggest themselves, as follows:

1. By Government nomination.
2. By the reservation of a seat in plural member constituencies.
3. By the formation of a special electorate for this purpose. This electorate could be formed of all bodies of organised women, such as Women Teachers, Women Co-operative Guilds, Women Suffrage Societies, etc., who would nominate candidates. The number of women in organised bodies is considerable, and would form a solid electorate, which could be considered as a constituency or constituencies, for the returning of several women Members. This method would also have the great advantage of ensuring the nomination of capable and experienced women whose services would be of appreciable value.

The idea of special electorates is not new. The Indian Franchise Committee, presided over by Lord Southborough, appointed to enquire into and report upon electoral reforms in India, recommended that in certain cases communal electorates should be formed in order to secure representation of the people concerned on the Indian Legislative Councils. Thus a separate electoral roll and separate constituencies are recommended in the case of Mohammedans (where they do not form a majority of electors), Sikhs, Indian Christians, Europeans, and Anglo-Indians. This principle of communal representation is also supported in the Report of the Select Committee on Indian Reforms, which has just been issued.

In making this suggestion one is aware that communal electorates are not desirable as permanent institutions for many reasons, but as a temporary expedient they may well be considered until such time as women attain equality of social as well as political freedom and recognition. This scheme would not interfere with the adoption of women candidates at general and bye-elections. It would be merely a method of ensuring the presence of at least some women in the House, and which could be discontinued when no longer necessary. I would like to commend this scheme to the thoughtful consideration of all Women's Societies, and to all readers of THE VOTE.—Yours truly,

OLIVE STEVENSON HOWELL.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Musings of a Laywoman.* By Edith Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E. (John Murray.) 3s. 6d. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This little book is a powerful plea for the renewal of the Spirit of Christ in the churches. It is written primarily from the Anglican point of view, by an Anglican Churchwoman, but the truths it embodies may be applied alike to any religious organisation where the Letter is substituted in place of the Spirit. Miss Picton-Turbervill draws attention to the fact that whereas twenty years ago people criticised religion in order to cavil, to-day it is the finest and most spiritual types of men and women who usually apply themselves to setting their religious house in order. Our national Church, asserts Miss Picton-Turbervill, has failed of its *raison d'être*, which is essentially that of interpreter of the mind of Christ. It is out of tune with the aspirations of the people, particularly with those passions for freedom and fellowship which are some of the strongest characteristics of the human race. The Church, she believes, has set up two great artificial barriers against these aspirations; one, its insistence upon Dogma, and the other, its teaching and attitude on Orders and the Episcopate. She pleads for the abolition of negative teaching, and for a recognition of the essential Divinity in even the most depraved, instead of so much wearisome insistence on the doubtful doctrine of original sin, and the consequent penalising of humanity. Need for the revision of much that is now obsolete in the Prayer Book is demonstrated, and the anomaly of including the Ten Commandments and their Jewish conceptions of the Deity when we already possess the fuller revelation of Christ's teaching. The chapters concerning "Women and the Ministry" contain nothing very new upon a now burning question which the Church is already being called upon to solve, and some of the chapters are a little marred by a too apologetic attitude on the part of the author. This little book is a very sincere attempt to restore to present-day orthodoxy the spirit and atmosphere of the first century after Christ, and as an accurate index of the prevailing religious views held by non-Churchgoers—an ever-increasing number in the present day—will be a somewhat disturbing revelation to those official representatives of Anglican orthodoxy who consent to study it.

*The New Needlecraft.* By Mrs. L. Glasier Foster. P. S. King and Son.) 2s. net. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This attractive little brochure, with its boldly coloured designs of children's frocks and overalls, is graced by a charming preface from Miss Margaret Macmillan, of nursery school fame. In it she begs for the application of imagination to the problem of children's clothes, and the substitution of stout, durable, fast-dyed materials in place of flimsy "readymades." The book itself is the outcome of an educational experiment by the Edu-Craft Association, 307, Evelyn Street, Deptford, where lessons are given daily in "The New Needlecraft," and from where visiting teachers are sent out to all parts of the kingdom. Simplicity, durability, beauty, are the distinguishing features of the new craft. The children in Miss Macmillan's school practise the art from four years upwards, and delight in an exercise which condemns white stitching as injurious to eyesight and nervous system alike, and which gives scope to artistic invention and the choice of colour schemes. The mothers, too, have been pressed into service, and have learnt the joy of making simple and inexpensive garments, which not only wash well, but do not fade, and last on indefinitely year after year. This new needlework enterprise, founded at the beginning of 1918, in the darkest period of the war, bids fair not only to create a revolution in conventional dress-making, but to usher in an era of simplicity and economy in wearing apparel so badly needed in these post-war days.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES.

'VOTE' Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK

Literature Department—

Hon. Heads: Miss H. NORMANTON, B.A. (Literary);

Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

DARE TO  
BE FREE

Through Sneezing."

Wednesday, December 10.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. E. S. P. Haynes. Subject: "The Divorce Law as it Affects Women."

Saturday, December 13.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, December 1.—Westcliff Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject: "State Endowment of Motherhood."

Monday, December 1.—Bexhill. Public Meeting, Room over Kahveh Café, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3.—Portsmouth. Afternoon Whist Drive, Unitarian School Room, High Street, 3 p.m. Tickets 1s. 3d. each.

Monday, December 7.—Middlebrough Social Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Jumble Sale, All Saints' Schoolroom, at 3 p.m.

Monday, December 8.—Middlesbrough. Branch Meeting, Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, at 8 p.m.

Monday, December 15.—Middlesbrough. Social Evening, Suffrage Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, 7.30 p.m. Silver collection. Miss W. M. Jones will read a play written by herself entitled, "Gains and Losses."

Monday, December 15.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend-on-Sea, 7.30 p.m.

## SCOTLAND.

Thursday, December 4.—Edinburgh. Social Meeting at 44, George IV. Bridge, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Aimée Gibbs. Subject: Miss M. P. Wilcock's "New Horizons."

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, December 7.—Public Meeting, Canning Town Public Hall, Barking Road, 11 a.m. Speaker: Miss Glidewell. Subject: "Women's Right to Work."

Tuesday, December 9.—Women's Co-operative Guild, Bloxhall, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton. Speaker: Miss Newsome. Subject: "Women as Magistrates."

Thursday, December 11.—S.W. London Women's Question Group. Meeting at 72, Thurleigh Road, S.W. (by kind permission of Miss Fryer). Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Magistrates." 8 p.m.

W.F.L. LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.—Attractive 4to writing blocks, with pretty Christmas cover and good linen paper, suitable for writing on both sides, to be cleared at the specially low price of 1s. 4d.; post free 1s. 6d.

## OUR TREASURY.

## NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 1s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged				1,296	12	5
Special Emergency War Fund—						
"A Friend"						1 5 0
Special Protest Fund (Elsie Smith)—						
Miss C. E. Price		5	0			
"Finsbury"		2	6			
Mrs. H. M. Thomson		2	6			
						10 0
Green, White and Gold Fair—						
Mrs. Northcroft		5	0			
E. G. Clayton, Esq.		1	6			
						6 6
Aberystwyth Campaign (per Alix M. Clark)—						
Dr. Knight		5	0			
Mrs. Schofield Coates		2	2			
Mrs. Nevinson		1	1			
Miss Davies		1	0			
Mrs. Despard		1	0			
Miss Mabel Watkin		10	0			
Collections		17	19	10		
						28 12 10
Miss Bertram and Miss Booth Scott						14 6
Miss M. I. Saunders						5 0
Miss Bisset Smith						3 6
Miss B. Berry						2 6
Mrs. K. M. Emery						1 0
Mrs. E. K. Lidsey						1 0
Mrs. Bertha Light						1 0
Deaconess B. M. Relton						1 0
Tickets						4 0
Collections						3 9 4
Collections (per Miss White)						12 0
Sundries						18 4 5
						£1,351 6 0

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London, Provincial and South-Western Bank, Ltd."

The Women's Freedom League Settlement,  
93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

Our bazaar stall is not getting furnished as fast as we could wish, but we have to thank the various friends who have helped, and are helping, us, either with goods or work. We have had parcels of Guest House clothing (which came in excellently for our new family of four children) from Mrs. Allen and Miss Davies, and sweets from Miss Walford, and promises of various necessary things, but we do need some nursery chairs. Naturally, as a war measure, not too much money was spent on furniture, but it seems now that the Settlement has come to stay, and the greatest necessity is the aforesaid chairs for the little ones. During the week china has been presented to us by Mrs. Hughes, £1 by Mr. Simmons, 2s. by Miss Riggall, and a box of biscuits by Mrs. Clark. We are still in need of a Guest House helper, honorary or otherwise, and would be glad if someone could take out a baby or two into the park occasionally.

A. M. COLE.

## SPECIAL APPEAL.

Contributions are specially needed for:—

(1) SPECIAL INJUSTICES FUND.

To get Elsie Smith out of Prison, and for immediate action when similar cases occur.

(2) GREEN, WHITE, &amp; GOLD FUND.

The only satisfactory way to conduct a money-making enterprise is to have all the expenses guaranteed before the opening.

Hall, printing, advertising and postage are each and all heavy items and I look to all readers of the "Vote" to send me enough money to cover them before the end of next week.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY,  
NOV. 28,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### EDINBURGH.

On Wednesday, November 19th, a Joint Meeting of the W.F.L. and the N.U.E.C. was held at 40, Shandwick Place, on the subject of "Industrial Equality." Miss Rackstraw, of the N.U.E.C., was in the chair. Miss Jacob, B.Sc., of the W.F.L., gave a paper on the Pre-War Practices Act, and urged some common action to open to women the doors of such industries and careers as were closed to them by this Act, even more securely closed in that any employment of women in such avocations was by Act of Parliament illegal, and laid the employer open to a fine of £100 per day of such employment. There was a good deal of very useful discussion, the chief tangible outcome being the conclusion that it was a matter that lay primarily with the Trade Unions, and hence that these should be the bodies to approach and constituted a democratic solution of the impasse between the sexes.

G. H. JACOB, *Hon. Sec.*

### MANCHESTER.

We are busy working up our stall for the Fair. On Monday, November 24th, we hold a Study Circle Meeting on "The Land Question," when we expect a most interesting and enlightening discussion. On Wednesday, November 26th, we are arranging a Dance at the Women's University Union, from 7-10.30 p.m. We hope very soon to be able to form a Branch of the League in Southport. One of our Southport readers writes that she is on the local Committee of the Suffrage Society there, which is about to be dissolved, and is going to suggest that members should transfer their interest to the Freedom League. We hope to arrange a preliminary meeting before Christmas.

Organiser—Miss SACKUR, 149, Plymouth Grove, C.-on-M.

### PORTSMOUTH.

Owing to a cold and loss of voice Dr. Marie Grigsby was unable to speak at our Public Meeting on Wednesday, November 19th. At very short notice Mr. Albert Williams kindly gave us

an address on Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure," which was greatly appreciated by a large audience, and the desire was expressed that he would give us another lecture in the near future. Dr. Grigsby will speak on "Sex Hygiene" in January. A Whist Drive in aid of the Branch funds will be held on Wednesday afternoon, December 3rd, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street, at 3 p.m. Tickets 1s. 3d. each. We are sending a parcel of goods valued at £5 to the Green, White and Gold Fair.

*Hon. Sec.*—Mrs. WHEATON, 80, Festing Grove, Southsea.

### RYE.

A Members' Meeting was held at 4, High Street (by kind permission of Mrs. Wells) last Friday. The chief business was the formation of the Committee. Mrs. Wells was chosen to act as President, Miss Maud L. White, Secretary, and Miss Freshwater Treasurer. The following were elected to serve on the Committee: The Rev. S. H. Wing (Chairman), Mr. and Mrs. Hook, Mrs. Blackman, Miss Wontner, Miss Sinden, Miss Freshwater and Mr. Steele. Arrangements were made for Mrs. Despard's meeting on the 17th of next month.

### BEXHILL.

All our members wish Mrs. Meads success next Tuesday. The Rye Election for the Egerton Park Ward takes place on that day, and we earnestly hope that our woman candidate will be successful. An urgent meeting of the W.F.L. members was called at almost a day's notice, and ardent canvassers were secured to do the necessary work.

### HASTINGS.

A Public Meeting will be held at 7, Havelock Road (Women's Citizens' Association Room) on Monday, December 8th, at 3 p.m. Subject: "Why we need Women Magistrates." A Committee Meeting will be held at the same place on Wednesday, December 3rd, at 3 p.m. Many thanks to Mrs. A. Strickland for her kind offer to arrange for our monthly speakers to address the Mount Pleasant Sisterhood.

Organiser—Miss WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS  
AND HOW TO USE THEM,  
2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The  
Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff.  
Established 1879.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs,  
underwear, gentlemen's and  
children's clothing, house furnishings.  
Specially good prices given.—HELENE,  
5, Hanover Road, Scarborough.

### Prepaid Classified Advertisements

Number of Words.	Once.	Three Times.	Six Times.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
20	1 6	4 0	7 6
30	2 3	6 3	12 0
40	3 0	8 6	16 0

Displayed Advertisements,  
8/- per Inch.

CLARA REED'S Studio of Elocution  
and Dramatic Art. Day and evening  
classes in Elocution, Public Speaking, etc.  
21s. per term, 12 lessons. Classes limited  
to 10 students to insure individual tuition.  
Special classes Tuesday 3-5 p.m. Friday  
2.30-4.30, 7-8.30, and 8.30-10 p.m.  
Private lessons, ten half-hour, £3 3s. All  
communications to—Miss CLARA REED,  
c/o Weekes, 14, Hanover Street, Hanover  
Square, W.

## Just facing the W.F.L. is the CAMEO CORNER,

With its wonderful selection of Barbaric  
Beads, lovely Pebbles, Engraved Gems, and  
all sorts of things for the most refined Tastes.

Selections sent on approval to all parts of the Country.  
Please mention "The Vote."

GOOD'S CAMEO CORNER,  
1, New Oxford Street, W.C. 1.

## Suffrage Health Food Stores,

231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough

BUY OUR GOODS & HELP THE MOVEMENT.

Send for New List. Carriage Paid on  
orders over £1. Large Stock of  
Vegetarian and other Health Foods.

## THE HANDICRAFTS, 82 HIGH STREET, HAMPSTEAD, N.W. 3.

Handweavings, Leatherwork, Jewellery, Basket-  
Work, Hand-made Lace, Pottery, etc.

COLOURED HAND-WOVEN COTTONS from 4/- per yard

PATTERNS OF MATERIALS SENT FREE ON APPLICATION.

POTTERY PACKED AND DISPATCHED.

### ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY

68 UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

M. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.

Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man, Fee 7s. 6d.  
Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.  
Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door.  
CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone: 3795 North.

LET US SEND YOU "THE VOTE" EVERY WEEK  
POST FREE.

Rate: 6/6 Twelve Months; 3/3 Six Months.

Published by the MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD., at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1., and Printed for them by  
PAGE & PRATT, LTD., 151-2 Gt. Saffron Hill, London, E.C. 1.