

THE VOTE,  
MARCH 22, 1918.  
ONE PENNY.

# Put a Woman Educationist in Parliament!

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVII, No. 439.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1918

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

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

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UNITED VICTORY CELEBRATION. JUSTICE.

IN MEMORIAM: MRS. WOLSTENHOLME ELMY.

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A. Schofield Coates.

### FREEDOM LEAGUERS!

Now is Your Chance to Support Women Teachers in Their Great Protest Against Unequal Pay at

THE ALBERT HALL, LONDON, on SATURDAY, MARCH 23, at 2 p.m.

REMEMBER, YOU HAVE THE POWER OF THE VOTE NOW!

We call the special attention of our readers to the great protest meeting, organised by the National Federation of Women Teachers, to take place to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon at the Albert Hall at 2 p.m. A member of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Emily Phipps, B.A., who is president of the Federation, will take the chair, and will be supported by two other Freedom League speakers, Miss Agnes Dawson and Miss Anna Munro. The Federation and other women teachers have expressed their warm appreciation of the support already given by our League in their fight against injustice. Now is the moment of the Big Push. Let everyone who sympathises with the great principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work be present on Saturday. A battle-cry will sound forth in trumpet tones. Miss Phipps, Miss Dawson, and Miss Anna Munro will have the able assistance of other speakers, including Mr. Fred. Hughes, of the National Union of Clerks; Mrs. Ogilvy Gordon, of the National Union of Women Workers; Miss Margaret Bondfield, of the

National Federation of Women Workers; and Dr. Christine Murrell.

The purpose of the meeting is to protest against the retrograde proposals of the Departmental Committee on Salaries, which differentiate unfavourably against women.

Women teachers intend to acquiesce no longer in a dual system of payment. Their acquiescence reacts most unfavourably on the wages of the lowest forms of woman labour—always sweated labour. To-day, all Women Workers' Unions are struggling for a recognition of equal rights between men and women workers in the economic world, and on this principle the National Federation of Women Teachers has taken its stand.

A resolution will be moved calling upon the Government to give a lead to the country by establishing the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work in all branches of its service.

Come in crowds to support the resolution!

Admission free to upper balcony and gallery; stalls, 2s. 6d.; balcony, 1s.

**I**f you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men

**Join the Women's Freedom League.**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.  
 Telephone—MUSEUM 1429, LONDON.  
 Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429."  
 Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.  
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 Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss ANNA MUNRO.  
 Hon. Head of "Vote" Street Sales Department—Miss ALIX M. CLARK.  
 Hon. Head of Literature Department—Miss MARGARET HODGE.  
 Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS



**Friday, March 22.**—Political Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Dorothy Evans, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Tooke, Mrs. Whetton. Subject: "The Women's Freedom League Conference." Admission free. Collection.

**Wednesday, April 10.**—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Aldridge on "Serbia." Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café if desired (6d. each).

**Thursday, April 11.**—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m. Delegate's Report of Conference.

**Wednesday, April 17.**—Women's Freedom League Settlement Sale, by kind permission of Mr. P. H. Miller.

#### PROVINCES.

**Tuesday, March 26.**—Nottingham. People's Hall, Heathcote Street, 7.30. Discussion on "Equal Pay for Equal Work." Speakers: Walter Wesson (President, Nottingham and District Trades Council), May Burgis, M.A. (Assistant Mistresses Association), — Chambers (National Union of Shop Assistants), and speakers from National Federation of Women Teachers, the National Union of Clerks and others. Admission free.

**Saturday, March 30.**—Letchworth. Howard Hall, 3 p.m. Miss Anna Munro on "The Parliamentary Vote for Women—What it Entails."

#### We draw special attention to—

**Friday, March 22.**—Political Meeting at the Minerva Café, 6 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Dorothy Evans, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Tooke, and Mrs. Whetton. Subject: "The Women's Freedom League Conference."

#### EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The offices of The Women's Freedom League, the Minerva Publishing Co., and the Minerva Café, will be closed from Wednesday, March 27, at 5 p.m., till Tuesday, April 2, at 9.30.

### National Union of Teachers' Conference at Cambridge, Easter, 1918.

#### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser-in-Charge: Alix M. Clark

The Women's Freedom League campaign at Cambridge will open on Monday, March 25. Miss Anna Munro will be one of the principal speakers, and will assist Miss Clark in organising the campaign; Mrs. Mustard and Miss Margaret Hodge will also speak. Will teachers and members of the Women's Freedom League who are spending their Easter holidays at Cambridge kindly communicate with Miss Clark, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1, *immediately*, as helpers are urgently needed? Another imperative need is £20 for this important work. Please send your donations as early as possible to the Hon. Treasurer at Headquarters.

### More Thanks to the Women's Freedom League.

It is gratifying to receive such letters as the following with regard to the Women's Freedom League's help in the teachers' fight:—

Glanaber, Llanfyllin, March 15, 1918.

MY DEAR MISS UNDERWOOD,—On behalf of the Assistant Teachers of Montgomeryshire we wish to express our gratitude to The Women's Freedom League who, through their excellent medium THE VOTE, are doing so much to rally round the women teachers in their fight against injustice.—Yours very sincerely,

MABEL WATKINS, President,  
 MAGGIE HUGHES, } Secretaries.  
 E. ARNOLD, }

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

### MAKE SURE OF YOUR VOTE!

An Order in Council of March 5 gave the following dates for the new Parliamentary Register:—

April 15.—End of qualifying period.  
 June 15.—Publication of lists of voters.  
 July 5.—Last day for claims.  
 July 8.—Publication of objections.  
 July 13.—Publication of claimants.  
 July 26.—Last day for objection to claims.  
 October 1.—The new Register comes into force.

The thing to be done by all members of the Women's Freedom League who are over 30 is to make sure at once that they are qualified as voters.

The qualifying period is the six months ending on April 15, 1918; this applies to women occupiers, joint occupiers, tenants of business premises, partners in businesses, owners of business premises, and lodgers living in unfurnished rooms.

Any member requiring advice as to her qualification is invited to write at once to Headquarters.

#### The Form to be Filled In by Women.

Twelve pages of the *London Gazette* of March 15 are occupied by forms prescribed by an Order in Council which householders, occupiers, owners, agents, &c., must fill up under the Representation of the People Act and send to the registration officer to assist in compiling the Parliamentary and Local Government registers.

Each woman over 30 who is an occupier in her own right must state her name, whether she is a British subject, and whether her present occupation began on or before or after the first day of the qualifying period. If after, she must give addresses (with dates) of "previous occupation since that date so far as known." Married women over 30 have to state whether the husband's occupation began on or before or after the first day of the qualifying period. Similar information is required from women entitled to the Local Government franchise, but here the 30 years' limit does not apply, although women under 21 are not to be entered.

A woman who claims the Parliamentary vote for premises in her own occupation will fill in and sign the following form:—

I hereby declare:—

- (1) That I claim to be registered as a Parliamentary elector of the above constituency in respect of the occupation of the following qualifying premises .....
- (2) That I was in occupation of the qualifying premises on the.....(Here insert last day of qualifying period)..... day of ..... last, and have been in occupation of them during the whole of the six months ending on the said day.
- (3) That the annual value of the qualifying premises is not less than five pounds.
- (4) That I have attained the age of 30.
- (5) That I am a British subject.
- (6) That I reside at .....

Where a woman claims in respect of her husband's occupation she fills in a similar form, but stating that he was in occupation on the prescribed date.

#### Badge for London Telephone Girls.

The London telephone girls are to receive a badge as a tribute to their pluck in carrying on their important duties during air raids. In the centre are the initials "L. T. S.," above are the words "Air Raids," and below the words "Ducit Amor Patriæ." The badge is surmounted by a crown.

The *Daily Telegraph* gave the following interesting facts about the courage of the telephone girls during the recent air attacks on Paris:—

Those Parisians who mostly use the telephone, and who in peaceful days have not usually had much praise for the Paris telephone girls, owe them a tribute for their pluck the other night. They stuck throughout to their posts, answered calls without any apparent sign of nerves, and, in fact, gave one one's number perhaps with less delay than usual. Yet the girls in the Central Exchange are in a huge hall, with nothing above them but a glass roof, and with electric machines beneath their feet.

THEY SUPPORT US!

### THE UNITED VICTORY CELEBRATION.

I will not cease from mental fight,  
 Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
 Till we have built Jerusalem  
 In England's green and pleasant land.

It was with prophetic enthusiasm that the vast audience in the Queen's Hall, London, on March 13, sang these lines of William Blake, led by the composer, Sir Hubert Parry, the London Symphony Orchestra, and members of the Bach Choir, who also gave a delightful musical programme, including Beethoven's *Leonora Overture*, No. 3. Thanksgiving and rejoicing were the dominant notes of the great gathering, in which the Women's Freedom League and seventeen Suffrage societies supported the National Union, but marked also with seriousness of purpose and responsibility for the future.

The Representation of the People Act, said Mrs. Fawcett, who received a rousing welcome, is the first Reform Bill carried without party triumph; it proved Britain to be a great nation because in the midst of the greatest war in history she could re-lay the foundation of her Constitution.

Only two of the three Parliamentary parties were represented, as Sir John Simon had been unexpectedly called back to France, but his great service with regard to Woman Suffrage and the Speaker's Conference was warmly acclaimed and his letter of congratulation and confidence heartily applauded. Lord Lytton received a great welcome; he congratulated women that they received their enfranchisement without embarrassing obligation to any political party, and said that there was still plenty of work for the Suffrage Societies to do before women had won equal pay for equal work and equal rights and facilities with men. The vote has been given to women, said Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., at a moment when it brings the greatest responsibility, and he urged women to set themselves as flint against a cynical peace at the expense of Russia. The Act recognises the direct partnership of men and women in the State. In a speech full of gladness and humour, Miss Maude Royden expressed the joy of women in their enfranchisement and the personal debt they owed to the men who had fought for them in Parliament. How could the brother of Lord Lytton's sisters be other than a woman's champion? she asked, amid loud applause. To the men of the Liberal and Labour Parties she bore tribute, and to Suffragists of all societies. "We want to see women continue the education of the country from the Benches of the House of Commons!" (Great cheering.) "If there had been one woman in the House, the Under-Secretary for War would not have dared to have spoken as he did about *maisons tolérées*." Politics will be humanised by the coming of women; to them life is essentially sacred, for they know the price demanded.

### THE EXPECTED HAPPENS.

#### The Prime Minister and Women Liberals.

In a message to Lady Aberconway, who presided at the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation at the Central Hall, Westminster, last week, Mr. Lloyd George regretted his absence owing to "duties of State," and added: "I should like to take this opportunity of saying once more how much this country owes to the unselfish and patriotic efforts of women, and that I am confident that their continued co-operation and support can be counted on to sustain all efforts, to bear all necessary burdens, until the righteous cause for which we entered the war in August, 1914, has been fully realised."

Sir Edward Clarke states that it has been recognised that women are now eligible as members and officers, and will be welcomed at all meetings of the Staines Conservative and Unionist Association, of which he is president.

### WOMEN AND THE BAR.

In taking the chair for Miss Normanton on March 13 Dr. G. B. Clark described the fight which she had put up against the exclusion of women from the legal profession as one of the preliminary skirmishes women would have to engage in before they won their sex complete equal opportunities with men. Dr. Clark, it will be remembered, has always been in the forefront of the fray against women's political and professional disabilities. He worked with John Stuart Mill for the women's enfranchisement amendment to the Reform Bill in 1867, and in 1872 he was Senior Surgeon at Edinburgh when Miss Sophia Jex Blake and Mrs. Thorne encountered so much hostility when they studied for the medical profession. Dr. Clark contrasted the treatment meted out to those women and the treatment Miss Normanton might expect from the members of the Bar, and he urged women, and members of the Women's Freedom League particularly, to press for the removal of all sex disabilities imposed on them by men, and never to rest until they had got rid of all privilege and monopoly wherever it was found in the State.

At the close of Miss Normanton's lecture, a summary of which appeared in last week's *VOTE*, an animated discussion followed, in which representatives of the Bar and friends of the League took part.

### The Protection of Women in Law Courts.

Organised by the Nottingham Branch of the Women's Freedom League, a meeting was held on March 14 on "The Need for the Protection of Women in the Law Courts." Miss Gunston presided, and Miss Dorothy Evans, in an interesting and able speech, pointed out that the discussion emanated from the desire to give woman's high standard to both men and women, and so to sweep away the double standard of morality. The constant discovery of venereal disease in soldiers made politicians anxious to avoid nature's punishments; but every attempt to do so has failed. Women oppose the licensing of vice because of their horror of the degradation of the women concerned. The Criminal Law Amendment Bill would put licensed houses and compulsory medical examination on the Statute Book. So long as there is no official legal position open to women there is special need for women to go to the Courts, in groups if possible, to listen to cases in which women are concerned, and to insist on staying in the Court under all circumstances. Miss Evans read a letter from Headquarters emphasizing the lenient manner in which assaults on women are dealt with, and spoke on the need for the protection of little girls who have to give evidence against a bully after the order to clear the Court has been given. She also referred to the efforts that are being made to open the legal profession to women.

An interesting and animated discussion followed. Mrs. Bolton mentioned the case of a little girl who was assaulted by her father; every woman was ordered out of court, even the mother and the probationary officer at whose house the case had been prepared, leaving the child alone to face the criminal who was also her father. The British Women's Temperance Association heartily supports the Women's Freedom League in this work. Mr. Watts suggested a test case of wrongful medical examination in gaol. He added, "Women have an equal right with men to stay in court; either both or neither should stay."

The literature sales at the meeting were good, also the collection.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 192.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
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FRIDAY, March 22nd, 1918.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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

### EDITORIAL.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

## PUT A WOMAN EDUCATIONIST IN PARLIAMENT!

One result of women's enfranchisement is that women are now more frequently mentioned in the House of Commons! In the debate on the Education Bill on March 13—the Bill which Sir Charles Bathurst described as "a real Education Bill," and which proposes among other things to establish "a national system of education, a more generous system of continuation schools at which attendance shall be made compulsory for young persons up to the age of eighteen years, and which provides the power to promote physical training, further medical inspection of schools and educational institutions, and nursery schools"—Mr. Peto said, in moving the rejection of the Bill "The outstanding feature of that Act which has so recently become law is that it places some 6,000,000 women upon the register, most of whom are mothers. Surely they have some rights still left, even in our semi-Socialist State, to have a say in the education of their children and to have the proposals of such a Bill as this put before them at a General Election."

Members of Parliament have certainly grown in grace since our pre-enfranchisement days, and we are sure that Mr. Peto is grateful to us for providing him with a new argument for his point of view. We cannot help thinking, however, that in this particular case his point of view is a mistaken one, for women, and especially mothers, have every reason to desire an improved education for their children, and, in Mr. Acland's words, are "convinced that the truest possible national economy is wide and wise expenditure on a system of education."

The next reference to women in the discussion was made by Sir Charles Bathurst, who said: "I cannot help thinking that one effect of women's suffrage, bearing in mind that the majority of teachers in this country are women, will be a demand, in a somewhat clamant way that cannot be refused, for far greater remuneration for the teaching profession." We ourselves could hardly have expressed this better! Women teachers and the women suffragists who support them are determined to see both the status and the remuneration of women teachers raised, for we believe, with Mr. Whitehouse, that this system of education "will fail if we have not great men and great women to teach in our schools." We regret that no reference to the equality of status and remuneration of women and men teachers was made in this debate. It seems to us that the dual system of payment of women and men teachers is directly responsible for the present status and low remuneration of all members of this profession, which has had for years

its own Members of Parliament to look after its interests. We cannot but believe that if these Members of Parliament had been women instead of men those interests would have been safeguarded with much better results than they have been hitherto, and that education itself would to-day have been in a much better position in this country.

We are glad to see that women teachers no longer intend to acquiesce in the present system, but we would urge them, and especially the National Federation of Women Teachers, to whose efforts the victory over the London County Council was solely due, to run their own women candidates at the next General Election. They have splendid educationists among their members, women who do not consider that the present system of education endured by the mass of the people is in any way adequate to their needs or worthy of the richest country in the world. Women at any rate are not enamoured with the arrangement by which children of twelve or thirteen are thrown out into the world to get their own living as best they can, without any continuous supervision (to use Mr. Fisher's words) "except that which is supplied by their industrial masters and foremen"; and as the great majority of those who are entrusted with the education and training of children are women, is it not feasible that women educationists should be in Parliament to supervise legislation for education in this country? Not only will women's interests not be safeguarded until we have women representatives in Parliament, but we are equally sure that the interests of children and young people will not be properly looked after until women are in the House of Commons and also in control of the Ministry of Education itself to deal with these matters.

In the meantime we look to our friends in the House of Commons to press for equal educational facilities for girls and boys. The number of scholarships for girls is infinitesimally small compared with the number for boys. We want to see the number of both increased, but we must demand that this number shall be equal. The future welfare of our country depends as much on the present generation of girls as of boys, and they should have equal opportunities for good citizenship.

We are greatly disturbed by the following subsection to Clause 8 in the Education Bill:—

In section seventy-four of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, as amended by section six of the Elementary Education Act, 1900, fifteen years shall be substituted for fourteen years as the maximum age up to which bye-laws relating to school attendance may require parents to cause their children to attend school, and any such bye-law requiring attendance at school of children between the ages of fourteen and fifteen may apply either generally to all such children, or to children of a particular sex, or to children other than those employed in any specified occupations.

We would like to know exactly what "or to children of a particular sex" means. It is certainly likely to cause trouble in the future, and women educationists, especially if they were in Parliament, would strongly oppose girls of fourteen becoming domestic drudges, either in their own homes or in other people's homes, while boys had the advantage of remaining at school until they were fifteen years of age.

It is strikingly evident that the Education Bill and the discussion upon it in the House of Commons prove the need of women representatives in Parliament. The Women's Freedom League is pledged to support women Parliamentary candidates who are in agreement with our policy, and we look forward with confidence and hope to seeing a woman educationist returned to the House of Commons at the next General Election.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## WOMEN AND HOUSING.

The appointment of a Women's Sub-committee of the Advisory Council by the Ministry of Reconstruction, "to collect information and to give advice on house plans from the point of view of the housewife," is a new and important step in the right direction. Everyone who has assisted in housing investigations has marvelled at the inconveniences which the housewife has endured. In the workshops the elimination of unnecessary labour has been a studied feature, and has revolutionised industry. In the home, the antiquated methods have persisted because the ideas of intelligent housewives have rarely been considered. In the past the planning and constructing of houses has been entirely the work of men; until recently no attempt has been made to canvass women as to the kind of house they wish to inhabit or the internal fittings and conveniences they desire. How often we have been told that elimination of labour would mean lazy women with too much time on their hands!

Married women's hours of labour are undefined, and their work often lasts through the twenty-four hours of day and night when young children have to be tended. The reduction of their particular burdens ought to be achieved, as it is well within the possibility of accomplishment, especially in State-aided schemes.

### Some Needful Improvements.

The Women's Sub-Committee, it is hoped, will secure many improvements, such as, among others:

1. The elimination of dust-traps in the form of unnecessary ledges and groovings.
2. The general use of rounded corners.
3. The placing of all water-taps and ladders in suitable, sanitary positions.
4. The situation of cupboards and shelves within easy reach.
5. The avoiding of dampness in walls.
6. The insistence upon baths and gardens for all houses.

Given civilised, decent conditions there will be little need to dictate as to cleanliness, for already in such garden cities as Bournville, Port Sunlight, etc., the dirty tenant is practically non-existent.

During the war the overcrowding in munition areas has compelled attention to the housing question. Prior to the war the national conscience was gradually being roused in the matter by enthusiasts, but local authorities were slow to move. The Garden City movement has been a lesson and an inspiration in the right direction. Its influence, at least architecturally, can be seen in the suburbs of our large towns; but much has been omitted which would make these suburban houses desirable within. This is where the women will have a wide field for operations.

Where houses are to be built in new districts there are excellent opportunities for carrying out the best ideas. It is in the housing of the population at present inhabiting the slums that the most serious difficulties arise. Selfish ends must be entirely absent if the best results are to be obtained. It will be necessary to build houses offering every inducement for cleanliness and pride in the home, and rented at a price which the tenant can afford. In addition, there must be facilities for quick transit to works and shopping areas. The question of transit facilities is bound up very closely with that of housing, and authorities cannot afford to neglect it if success in housing is genuinely sought.

### Suggestions Invited.

The Local Government Board is now advocating the preparation by local authorities of housing schemes, as it is estimated the shortage of houses is at least one and a half millions, and is offering direct inducement by a money grant if schemes are submitted within a certain period. Plans of working-class houses have been sent out, and a certain standard will be required if a national housing

scheme is adopted. Building materials will be scarce for some years, especially wood, and it may be that new and distinct types of houses will be evolved, owing to the necessary use of different materials (for example, concrete in place of wood), as well as to the necessity of constructing houses to conform to new ideas and requirements.

The Women's Labour League recently circularised plans of houses, and invited women to state what they desired in a house without first considering the rent they could afford. The results are interesting and enlightening. Separate houses and not tenements are universally desired. To most wives of working-men tenements are an abomination. There is a longing for space and sufficient rooms to ensure decency and health. No woman would choose for herself and her family the tiny rooms of the monotonous dwellings which go to make the soul-destroying regularity of most of the streets of our towns.

The question of an economic rent has been a great stumbling-block in the solution of the housing problem. The general public is slow in understanding the intricacies of estimating real benefits apart from pounds, shillings, and pence, as expressed in "the rates." Overcrowding and insanitation mean disease and immorality, with its far greater cost to all than decent housing. One of the suggestions for saving the cost falling on the rates is that the rent of a suitable house shall be the basis for wage calculation, though it is becoming more generally accepted that all must contribute through rates and taxes to a good standard of housing, just as we do for education, health, etc.

### For the Sake of the Children.

Many circumstances have worked to bring the question of housing to the fore; not the least is the desire and need for infant welfare. In the slums, where food will not keep, and where insanitary conditions prevail, we have the highest infant mortality; but in our garden cities, where housing and sanitation reach a high standard, the death rate is low. Infant welfare centres can only educate and relieve; housing and sanitation are root-factors in bringing about conditions where the good health of the population can be secured from birth to old age.

It is for women now both to inform themselves as to what can be done and to watch and direct the public on a question which is so largely their own. They must use their vote for a definite scheme, of which good housing is part; they must get on the public bodies which deal with these matters; and they must enter the professions and trades which design the plans and carry out the processes of construction.

ALICE SCHOFIELD COATES.

## A VETERAN SUFFRAGIST: Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy.

More than a month after the attainment of the great victory, for which she worked with zeal and devotion during her long life, Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy passed away on March 13 at Manchester at the age of 84. Suffragists of all ages and countries honour her as a great pioneer and an untiring worker for justice to women in politics and education, in social reform, and in the eyes of the law. Some will remember the picturesque little figure, recalling the days that are gone, in various suffrage processions in London; and again, on later occasions, when, unable to walk with them, Mrs. Elmy occupied a window to watch the marchers, who saluted her as they passed, and treasured the remembrance of her splendid service.

Mrs. Elmy was one of the founders of the original Manchester Women's Suffrage Society and was closely associated in her work in the North and in London with Lydia Becker, Josephine Butler, and other leaders of the suffrage movement. She was

one of a party of women who attended when John Stuart Mill first addressed the electors of Westminster. So unusual was it for women at that time to attend political meetings that the daring supporters of Mr. Mill were roped round and guarded by the police. She was one of the signatories to the great Women's Suffrage petition which John Stuart Mill presented to Parliament and a staunch supporter of the movement. Mrs. Elmy was an energetic, persistent, and undaunted worker in getting the Married Women's Property Act and the Guardianship of Children Act (1886) placed on the Statute Book. She did good service, too, in education, and while teaching at Boothstown, near Worsley, and also at Congleton, she was successful in inducing the University of Cambridge to institute local examinations for schools. She married Mr. B. Elmy, of Congleton, and her brother was Dr. Joseph Wolstenholme, the eminent mathematician, of Cambridge.

**Coming Events Cast their Shadows Before.**

We welcome the notice taken in the Press of the report that Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett may be a Parliamentary candidate in Edinburgh at the next General Election. The Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage, which she founded and of which she is President, have done splendid service to the woman's cause. We hope they will achieve the still greater triumph of ensuring the return of their President to the House of Commons. They may be sure of the hearty support of men and women who have known and valued Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett's service in the long fight for justice to women.

**Candidate for Senate.**

Miss Anne Martin, of Nevada, is a candidate for the United States Senate for the seat left vacant by the death of Mr. F. Newlands. Miss Martin is vice-chairman of the National Women's Party, and a suffrage leader for a number of years. She is Professor of History at the University of Nevada.

**Wife Replaces Husband M.P.**

Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, of Vancouver, British Columbia, is the first woman to hold her husband's seat in Parliament.

**"AT LAST!"**

In a blaze of enthusiasm and congratulation on March 16 at Caxton Hall our friends and fellow-workers the United Suffragists welcomed the victory and came to an end.

At the crowded gathering of members of many suffrage societies the Women's Freedom League was well represented. Tea all the time (no sugar, no butter, no margarine) and smoking all the time (no matches) were combined with lightning speeches from Miss Brewster, H. J. Gillespie, George Lansbury and others.

Miss Evelyn Sharp, gentlest of rebels and most indomitable of foes, had a rousing reception. She rejoiced that never again would it be necessary to make a suffrage speech and to convince other people that we ought to have a vote. "The happiest moment of her life came with the clang of the door of her prison cell, but her proudest triumph was in catching the rotten egg aimed at her."

Mrs. Baillie Weaver then presented Miss Evelyn Sharp with a bouquet in the colours and a testimonial from her many friends, in her own society and out of it, as a token of their appreciation of her splendid work for the cause.

We are glad to say the Women's Freedom League is welcoming into our ranks many members of the United Suffragists who will continue to fight for women's freedom.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

**JUSTICE!**

The strong action taken by the Women's Freedom League with regard to the distressing cases of Mary Lewis, sentenced with callous remarks by Mr. Justice Bailhache at Shrewsbury Assizes to three years' penal servitude for drowning her illegitimate child, and Margaret Travers, sentenced at Westmeath Assizes to be hanged on March 28, also for drowning her illegitimate child, is being fully justified and strongly supported. The following letter has been received from the Home Office relative to the case of Mary Lewis:—

The Home Office, Whitehall.  
March 16, 1918.

MADAM,—In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, relative to the case of Mary Lewis, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say that the sentence of three years' penal servitude passed on her was amended by the Court to one of three years' detention in a Borstal Institution. The aim of such a sentence is reformatory, and if the discipline at Aylesbury is productive of the desired result the girl will be discharged to such employment as can be found for her before the expiration of her sentence.—I am, Madam, Your obedient servant,  
H. B. SIMPSON.

Resolutions calling for the immediate release of these girls—Margaret Travers is eighteen years of age; Mary Lewis twenty—have been sent to 44 women's organisations. We have already heard that many are taking immediate action. The resolutions are being passed at Women's Freedom League meetings and at the meetings of other societies and forwarded to the Home Office and the Irish Office, and questions are to be asked in Parliament. Details of the cases were given in last week's VOTE.

**The Case of Margaret Travers.**

The following letter from the Irish Office is satisfactory as far as it goes, but we look for still further consideration for the distracted girl. We are asking for information with regard to the revision of her sentence, and will keep our readers informed on the matter. We shall continue to urge the imperative need for equal treatment under the law of both father and mother in such cases.

Irish Office, Old Queen-street, S.W. 1.  
March 18, 1918.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by the Chief Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of the 14th instant relative to the case of Margaret Travers, and to say that she has been reprieved and her sentence commuted. The sentence in her case will come up for revision after the usual interval.—Yours faithfully,  
A. P. MAGILL.  
Miss F. A. Underwood.

**STANDING TOGETHE : Honour to Bradford!**

Bradford has set the nation an example in many forward movements, including the welfare of infants and educational progress, in which Miss Margaret Macmillan was an inspiring pioneer. Now we hear that the men and women of the tramway service are standing together on the important matter of the war bonus. The women workers are claiming equal war bonus with the men, and in this case the men are standing firmly by the women. The citizens of Bradford are having the doctrine of equal pay for equal work forced home upon them through the inconvenience of a strike of more than one thousand men and women in the service of the Bradford Tramways.

**Indian Teas.**

The speaker at the Indian Tea on March 14 was Mr. H. S. L. Polak, who dealt with indentured Indian labour within the Empire. So strongly did his facts appeal to his interested audience that they passed a strong resolution of protest against the recent official report putting forward a new scheme which is almost the old abhorred slavery system under a new name and perpetuates many of the old wrongs. The resolution was sent to the India and Colonial Offices.

THEY SUPPORT US!

**EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.**

**THE WAY TO GET IT.**

**URGENT!**

The Women's Freedom League has always seen the necessity of obtaining equal pay for equal work and never ceased to demand it.

Now the idea is in the air, and in the case of teachers it is to-day a practical question which must be settled one day or the other.

A great impetus to our demand will be given by the splendid Women's Freedom League Campaign this Easter at Cambridge (National Union of Teachers' Conference).

A big push now will bring success.

Miss Alix M. Clark and Miss Anna Munro will be straining every nerve at this holiday season to carry our Flag to Victory. Who will come forward to help them in the fight?

Expenses must be met at once, and all members and friends are specially urged to send in their contributions at once, so that I may have £20 this week for this purpose, and the work be started without anxiety.

144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1. E. KNIGHT.

**OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.**

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1917, £29,465 2s. 11d. 1918.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amount previously acknowledged ... ..	...	168 10 8
Special Emergency War Fund—		
A Friend ... ..	1 5 0	
Mrs. Sholl ... ..	5 0	
Mrs. Despard ... ..	1 10 0	
Mrs. M. Lester ... ..	5 0 0	
Mrs. Guest (Victory Fund) ... ..	10 0	
Miss M. I. Saunders ... ..	5 0	
Miss D. Bracewell ... ..	2 6	
Miss S. Keen ... ..	2 6	
Dr. Mary R. Wilson ... ..	2 6	
Miss F. Davies ... ..	1 0	
Mrs. A. B. C. Davy ... ..	1 0	
Mrs. L. L. Kirby ... ..	1 0	
Miss S. A. Rowell ... ..	1 0	
Miss T. R. G. Taylor ... ..	1 0	
Free Church League for Woman Suffrage (Press cuttings) ... ..	1 7 0	
Office Sales ... ..	1 0 6	
Collections ... ..	5 4 6	
Branches—		
West Sussex (Balance of Branch Funds) ... ..	2 14 2	
Middlesbrough ... ..	1 6 0	
		£188 5 4

The Special Celebration Fund is held over till our next list.

**The Moscheles Memorial Exhibition.**

The memorial exhibition in the house and studio, so long associated with the name of Felix Moscheles, at 80, Elm Park-road, Chelsea, has shown the wonderful versatility and skill of the famous artist. It has also reflected the many interests of his long and active life and the way in which, in his desire to bring about international understanding and goodwill, he attracted men and women famous in the world of art, literature, politics, philanthropy, and all progressive movements. Among the notable portraits in the exhibition are Mazzini, Rubenstein, Gounod, Passmore Edwards, Keir Hardie, Abdul Bahah; his Browning series—pictures of Venice, Asalo, the poet's study in London, etc.—should remain intact; they are of special, unique interest historically as well as artistically. His "Pictures with a Purpose" carry a straight message on the subjects of sweating, long hours of labour, war, social conditions, etc., and others in which the artist's power and appreciation of beauty in many parts of the world run riot with sheer exuberance, add to the interest of the exhibition even while they make more poignant the loss of so notable an artist and seer.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 192.

**IN PARLIAMENT.**

**Ministry of Health.**

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL asked the Prime Minister whether the Government intend to proceed this Session with a Bill for the establishment of a Ministry of Health, and, if so, whether the Bill will be introduced at an early date.

MR. BONAR LAW: I regret that I am not yet in a position to make any statement on this subject.

SIR W. COLLINS: Has any progress been made with an agreed scheme as between the Government departments concerned and the Ministry of Health, to which the right hon. gentleman referred in a reply some months ago?

MR. BONAR LAW: Consultations have been taking place regularly. They are still going on, and those who are conducting them are sanguine enough to hope that there will be an agreement.

MR. ANDERSON: Is it not a very serious thing that all this infantile mortality should be going on, and cannot the Government give us any hope that a scheme of this kind will be brought forward at an early date?

MR. BONAR LAW: Notice has been given of the introduction of a Bill especially dealing with that, but it does not affect in one way or other the larger question of the Ministry of Health.

**The Women's Freedom League Open to Men.**

Mrs. Anne E. Corner, writing to the Editor to call attention to the omission, in the report of the Conference, of the decision to admit men on equal terms with women, says:—

I consider it advisable to publish as widely as possible the fact that now the barrier of sex is broken down women are prepared to abide honestly by their own demand, namely, equal rights for men and women, and to stand always for the principle of justice as against prejudice.

[All resolutions passed by the Conference were fully reported to our branches and made known to members, but those dealing with the internal affairs of the League it was not considered necessary to publish in THE VOTE, our aim being rather to emphasize the demands of the Women's Freedom League than to draw attention to the details of its constitution.]

**BRANCH NOTES.**

**Anfield.**

A meeting of the branch was held on March 15, at which Miss Appleton, of Bootle, gave a most helpful address on "Woman in the New Age." She urged us to look forward beyond the present time of pain and distress to the new life of which these days were as the birth throes. The meeting was very ably presided over by Mrs. Ridgway. Several members spoke of the need of alertness on the part of women, now that they are citizens, to ensure justice to the community.

**Nottingham.**

An account of our public meeting on "The Need for the Protection of Women in Courts of Law" is given in another column. The meeting has aroused considerable interest. It was followed by a members' meeting, at which Miss Armitage and Miss Milne joined the committee. A Press Committee was also formed, and will meet at intervals to discuss news of interest to women which members find in the special papers they undertake to read.

**Portsmouth.**

To celebrate the enfranchisement of 6,000,000 women, a suffrage rally, taking the form of a social evening, will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 7.30 p.m., at the Unitarian schoolroom, High-street. Mrs. Owen has undertaken the arrangement of a musical programme; there will be short speeches and refreshments. Suffragists of all societies are cordially invited. Admission free; collection. The next work party will be held on Wednesday, April 3, at 17, Duncan-road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Speck.

**Women's Freedom League Settlement, 95, Nine Elms-lane, S.W. 8.**

The date of the sale at Mr. P. H. Miller's studio in aid of the funds is fixed for April 17, and we hope to receive many contributions between this and then. For our own stall we ask specially for children's clothing of all kinds and sizes, suitable for use in the Guest House if unsold. Two sturdy small boys of two and three are coming to us this week, and we should be glad of knickers or jerseys, new or old, for them; also warm frocks with long sleeves for two little girls, two years old, who complain daily and bitterly that their sleeves only reach to the elbow. A toy wheelbarrow and books have been sent by Mrs. A. M. S. Russell, artichokes and marmalade by Mrs. Tarrant and Mrs. Miller, and ls. by Miss Riggall.

FRIDAY,  
MARCH 22,  
1918.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## THE HIDDEN TRAGEDY.

By EUNICE G. MURRAY.

EVERYONE interested in the Woman's Movement should read this book, in which the injustice to women of our present unequal laws is set forth in a brightly written story. It can be obtained from the Literature Dept. of the WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Price 2s. Post free 2s. 3d.

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THREE FURNISHED ROOMS, with attendance (slight); rent about 30s. per week.—Write or call, THE SECRETARY, "THE VOTE" Office.

RESIDENTIAL STUDIO REQUIRED, immediately, in Chelsea, near river.—Write Miss N. R., c/o "THE VOTE" Office," 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

A THREE-ROOMED COTTAGE on the Thames.—Write "COTSWOLD," c/o "THE VOTE."

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VERY NICELY FURNISHED FLAT; sitting-room, two bedrooms, bathroom (geyser), and kitchen; overlooking common; will be let most reasonably to a careful tenant.—Write or call, THE SECRETARY, "THE VOTE" Office.

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