

THE VOTE,  
MAY 23, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

## Women a Political Force.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 23, 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.

### WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

"It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

**NO SHIRKING !**

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by  
**MR. LLOYD GEORGE**, Prime Minister. **MR. BONAR LAW**, Chancellor of the Exchequer

### EQUAL FRANCHISE FOR WOMEN. GOVERNMENT DEFEAT IN COMMITTEE.

The Women's Emancipation Bill was discussed in Grand Committee on May 14. A number of women were present.

On the consideration of Clause 1, which reads:—"A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from holding any civil or judicial office or place of profit or trust under his Majesty, his heirs and successors, or under any authority or body corporate or unincorporate, deriving powers directly or indirectly from any Act of Parliament, Order in Council, charter, or franchise whatsoever,"

COMMANDER BELLAIRS said that some protest should be made against what he regarded as the emasculation of what were the pledges of the Labour Party at the General Election. Personally, he was in favour of opening the ranks of every profession to women, free of all restraints, on the basis of equal pay and equal outlook.

The clause was ordered to stand part of the Bill.

#### The Equalising Clause.

In the absence of the President of the Local

Government Board Sir KINGSLEY WOOD moved to leave out Clause 2, which reads: "Any special franchises conferred upon women by the Representation of the People Act, 1918, notwithstanding, a woman shall have and may exercise under that Act all such franchises as are therein conferred upon men which she would have been entitled to have and to exercise if she were a man, and in that Act, save where the context otherwise requires, the word 'man' shall include 'woman': Provided that where a woman by reason of this section has conferred upon her any franchise now conferred only upon men, any special franchise now conferred upon her as a woman which does not now extend to men shall to that extent cease and determine."

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD said this clause endeavoured to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1918, and the views he was expressing were the views of the Government. So far as he was personally concerned he had always endeavoured, both in his profession and in other walks of life, to get that equality for women which he was sure most members of the

**I**F you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

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Committee desired. The Government had taken this present course because, when this matter was dealt with on second reading, the President of the Local Government Board explained that, while the Government were prepared to give all the facilities they could in respect of this Bill, it was on the understanding, so far as they were concerned, that they could not support Clause 2, which proposed to alter the electoral franchise given to women under the Representation of the People Act, 1918. In accordance with the stand then made, notice of the amendment to reject this clause has been given.

#### Women Might Get Wider Powers than Men!

Briefly stated, the reasons, as he understood them, were:—First, it was only last year that Parliament gave the franchise to women; secondly, that the concession was given as the outcome of the Speaker's Conference, and was in the nature of a concordat in which all parties concurred. In the view of the Government, it was too early in the history of this Parliament to attempt to upset the understanding which was then arrived at. Women, in fact, had secured a very large measure of electoral franchise under the Act of 1918, and substantial progress had been made. The Government were advised that if this clause was passed in the terms in which it appeared, the Bill, while, no doubt, aiming at giving women equal rights with men, would, in fact, give them considerably wider electoral powers than men.

MR. B. G. SPOOR, in supporting the clause, said it would be a very good thing indeed if this Bill became an Act of Parliament some time before there was a General Election, so that they would have an opportunity of getting a register which was very much more fair than the register on which the Government went to the country at the last election.

COLONEL C. R. BURN thought it was only right that the women should be granted the franchise on the same terms as the men; and that all disabilities should be removed.

MAJOR S. G. HOWARD, opposing the amendment, said he could not see why in matters political the women should not be equal to the men.

COMMANDER BELLAIRS, supporting the amendment, said that a franchise question should be dealt with by a Franchise Bill. On the question of the lowering of the age at which women could vote, he considered it would be a good thing if, on future registers, the age of male voters could be raised to 25. The reason why the women did so well at the last election was because it was a reasoned vote. If the men had the franchise at an older age, they would always give a more reasoned vote.

#### In the Hands of a Woman!

MAJOR A. C. FARQUHARSON supported the clause, and, speaking as a medical man, said that if he had to decide whether he would put his personal fate in the hands of a man or woman—his honour, rights, privileges, hopes—he would a thousand times sooner put it under the final decision of a woman than under that of any man living. (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

MR. ADAMSON regretted the absence of the President of the Local Government Board. Had he been present he would have had his eyes opened at the common agreement regarding this question shown by both those in opposition to and those in support of the Government.

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD promised that the views expressed should be faithfully represented to the President of the Local Government Board. He had no authority to withdraw the amendment.

The clause was ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3, enabling a peeress in her own right to sit and vote in the House of Lords, was ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Committee agreed that the Bill should be reported to the House.

## Women's Freedom League.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Tuesday, May 27.—Drawing-room Meeting, 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin), at 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn. Subject: "Women as Magistrates and Jurors."

Wednesday, May 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinston. Subject: "The Future of the Home."

Thursday, May 29.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

Saturday, May 31.—Clapham and Herne Hill Branch Jumble Sale, Morris Hall, Clapham, 2.30 p.m. See Branch note.

Sunday, June 1.—Visit to Hampton Court. Lunch and tea at the Maze Parlour. Further particulars next week.

Monday, June 2.—Discussion Meeting on "Equal Pay for Similar Duties," to be opened by Mr. Fred Hughes (National Union of Clerks), Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 5.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

Wednesday, June 11.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject: "Who fears Revolution?"

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, May 26.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Shields. Subject: "Child Welfare."

Saturday, May 31.—Manchester, Jumble Sale, Grosvenor Street, Baptist School, 2.30 p.m. Contributions to be sent to Mrs. Sharples, 9, Hughes Street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

Monday, June 2.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Education."

Wednesday, June 11.—Ashford Women's Club. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "The Endowment of Motherhood."

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, May 23.—British Dominions' Women Citizens' Union (Indian Section). Meeting at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., at 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Bonarjee, B.A., LL.B., Mrs. Bhola Nauth, Mr. Henry S. L. Polak. Subjects: "Legislation as far as it affects Indian Women." "Extracts from an Indian Lady's Diary." Chair: Mrs. Despard. Admission 1s., including tea. 3-6 p.m.

Saturday, May 31.—Reception, to meet the Garden Suburb Women Councillors, Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., Mrs. Bannister and Miss Hodge, at The Institute, 7.45 p.m. Short speeches by Rev. J. H. Rushbrooke, M.A., and Alfred Baker, Esq., L.C.C. Musical programme by Miss Enid Rose.

Thursday, June 5.—Cotherstone B.W.T.A. Public Lectures afternoon and evening. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Thursday, May 29, at 4 p.m.—Middlesex County Council Meeting at the Guildhall, Westminster, when Councillor Edith How Martyn will probably move a resolution on widows' pensions.

#### Special Note.

Will readers kindly note the meeting arranged for June 4 in the Minerva Café is cancelled owing to the illness of Miss Ingram?

### WORK-SHY M.P.s.

The *Daily News* of May 20 reports that it is very difficult to get Members of Parliament to attend the meetings of the Standing Committees to which they have been appointed, and that a delay of 40 minutes was occasioned last Monday before a quorum came together to consider the Civil Service Estimates. One of the Members (who doubtless had to waste time until the necessary number of laggards appeared) unkindly said, "Some Members do not like to work in the shades of Committee, but prefer the limelight of the House"! Eventually the chairman of Standing Committee C, Mr. Macmaster, was instructed to ask the Committee of Selection to increase the number of members of the Committee so as to facilitate the getting of a quorum. It seems to us that there should be an automatic timekeeper to register the attendances of Members at Committee meetings and in the House, and this register should be open to the public. Until this reform is carried through we hardly think that members can expect their pleas for higher salaries to be taken seriously.

### NURSES' REGISTRATION.

Readers of THE VOTE will remember that a few weeks ago the State Registration of Nurses Bill had a triumphant Second Reading in the House of Commons. It also passed the Standing Committee stage, and its supporters generally believed that the Bill would become law without delay. Now, however, another Nurses' Registration Bill, drafted by the College of Nursing, Ltd., has been introduced into the House of Lords by Viscount Goschen, but this Bill does not safeguard the direct representation of the nurses on their own governing body, which might therefore consist entirely of the employers of nurses. The Society for the State Registration of Nurses is in opposition to the undemocratic policy of this Bill, and has organised a protest meeting, to be held to-day (Friday) at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W., at 5 p.m. The public are invited to attend.

### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

London Research Studentship for Canadian Woman. The Council of Westfield College (University of London) has offered a research studentship for next year to an overseas graduate, Miss Julia Grace Wales, A.M. Miss Wales, who is a Canadian, graduated at McGill University, Montreal, in 1903, obtaining First Rank Honours and the Shakespeare gold medal. In 1904 she obtained a scholarship at Radcliffe College, and took her A.M. degree. In 1910 she was awarded the Mary M. Adams Fellowship in English at Wisconsin University, and in 1912 she was appointed instructor in English at that university.

#### Police Department Directed by Woman.

According to the *Christian Science Monitor*, Mrs. F. H. Wilder, of Fargo, who has been honoured by being appointed to the position of Police Commissioner of the City of Fargo, will have control of the police department in the biggest city in North Dakota. Fargo has the commission form of government, with each City Commissioner in charge of an individual unity of city government. After the election of the Commission Mrs. Wilder's friends began the circulation of petitions urging her appointment as Police Commissioner, and action by the Commission was unanimous. Mrs. Wilder is a prominent official of the North Dakota Women's Christian Temperance Union.

#### Five Day Week.

The five-day week at Bryant and May's is immensely popular with the employees. "They would never go back if they could help it to the six days,"

Mr. George W. Paton, managing director of the company, said to a member of the *Daily News* staff a few days ago. "The King was very pleased with the system when he paid us a visit, and said it only showed that Mr. Lloyd George was right in refusing a proposal that was made during the war for Sunday work."

"In the five days we work 47 hours. On the first four days of 9½ hours we begin at 7 in the morning and stop at 12; resume at 1 and stop at half-past five. There are two breaks during these hours, one of ten minutes in the morning and the other of 15 minutes in the afternoon for tea. On Friday the hours are nine."

"The girls on piece work are earning as much in the 47 hours as they were in 50, if not more. They get time to do their shopping. I wish the shorter week could be followed universally."

There are some factories in other parts of England, we understand, where the girl workers have refused the five-day week on the ground that by being home on the sixth day they are expected to do the housework. But no objection of this kind has been raised at Bow.

#### Women Success on the Land.

The Board of Agriculture has received the results of the inquiry conducted by the Women's Agricultural Committees. Farmers in Staffordshire were asked whether they employed any women whom they thought of sufficient value to retain permanently. There were 120 replies, giving the names of 83 members of the Land Army as suitable for retention.

A few suggested that women should be specially trained in horse-keeping, thatching, hedging, and ditching.

### Victory for French Women.

By 344 votes to 97 the Chamber of Deputies on May 20 decided that in future the women of France and Algeria should be allowed to vote and to be nominated to all elected bodies.

### No Votes for Indian Women—Yet!

The Franchise Commission of the Montagu-Chelmsford Indian reforms has reported against votes for Indian women as premature. After five years there will be a reconsideration of the situation, and we hear that the university women and others, indignant at being left out, are determined to put up a good fight between now and 1924. Events are moving with such rapidity in India that we think constant and determined work may bring them victory.

### German Women's Enfranchisement.

We have received from the Consultative Committee of Women's Societies Working for Equal Citizenship the following reply received from the German National Union for Women's Suffrage to the letter sent to them by the committee congratulating them on their enfranchisement:—

Honoured Ladies,—Will you permit me, in the name of the German National Union for Women's Suffrage, to express to you and through you to your great organisations our warmest thanks for your congratulations received a few days ago on the liberation of German women. Among the various expressions of sympathy and community of thought which have reached us from abroad on this occasion, this in particular pleased and touched us as a proof that beyond all the painful separating causes of the last terrible years the common striving and equal enthusiasm for our great cause always draws us women together again and unites us permanently.

In the confident hope that this solidarity of women may develop more and more into the solidarity of mankind, as more women in all countries are enabled to exercise their influence as fully qualified citizens, and with best wishes for the speedy full political equality of the women of Great Britain, I greet you as your devoted servant.

(Signed) MARIE STRITT,  
President, German National Union of Women's Suffrage.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 23rd, 1919.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

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### WOMEN A POLITICAL FORCE:

Women are now a political force. We learn from the daily Press that Mr. Balfour is expected to retire from political life, and that there will be a bye-election in the City of London at an early date. Rumour also has it that four candidates will be in opposition to the Coalition nominee, and that one of these candidates will be a woman. Nothing would please us more than to see a woman candidate at every bye-election, and if the various political parties do not make the way easy for women candidates, then Independent women candidates should fill the breach every time. By this means women can build up political machinery of their own, and we do not think it will take women electioneering agents very long to rival the men, who until comparatively recent times have held the monopoly of this particular part of the machinery.

As the Session advances it becomes more and more pressing from women's point of view that women should be on the House of Commons Committees which have to deal with Bills of such vital importance to women as the Health Ministry Bill, the Housing and Town Planning Bill, the Women's Emancipation Bill, the Nurses' Registration Bill, and a host of others, which will be dealt with by men alone until women are duly elected as Members of Parliament. There is force enough in the women's organisations to secure the return of suitable women to Parliament, and a great number of women in those organisations who would, if elected, render immense service to the State. Women should, therefore, at once organise this force, adopt their candidates, secure the necessary funds to run them, build up their political machinery, and enter the contests without delay.

At a conference recently convened in London by the Women's Freedom League, and which was attended by representatives of women's organisations and several women parliamentary candidates, it was suggested that classes or discussion meetings of women should be held up and down the country and addressed by experts on the most important matters connected with electioneering campaigns, so that women may gain an accurate knowledge of the way in which an election campaign should be run, the divisions of the district, the work in committee-rooms, what a canvasser may or may not do, the arrangement and holding of public meetings, etc., etc. All this should prove a valuable training ground for women in political life.

The women's cause secured a great triumph last week, when the Women's Emancipation Bill passed successfully through the Committee Stage with Clause 2, which extended the franchise to women virtually as it applied to men under the Representation of the People Act, 1918. The Government, for reasons best known to themselves, were apparently the only opponents of this clause, but the Government's amendment to delete it was negatived without a division! The other clauses had no opposition. This Bill is of the utmost importance to women, who should lose no opportunity to win every possible support for it among Members of the House of Commons before July 4, when it will again come into the House for its Report Stage. No reader should omit writing to her local Member, urging him to be in his place that day, and to vote for the Bill as it stands, both on the Report Stage and at its Third Reading. No meeting of any women's organisation should be held without passing a resolution which calls upon the local Members to render this service to women, and as members of other societies, not necessarily women's societies, our readers can most likely get similar resolutions passed and forwarded to the proper quarters. Women have power enough to insist on the Women's Emancipation Bill being passed into law if they will exercise that power. It means individual effort. Let no reader of THE VOTE fail the women's cause in regard to this Bill, the object of which is "to remove certain restraints and disabilities imposed upon women to which men are not liable."

In reply to a question by Mr. Clough in the House of Commons on April 1, Mr. Bonar Law said that the appointment of women magistrates had not yet been considered by the Government. Further, he could not say when it would be considered, but supposed it would have to be some day. In the past women have often found the House of Lords more sympathetic than the House of Commons to measures asserting the rights of women, and certainly much more sympathetic than any Government that happened to be in power; so it is not surprising to learn that Lord Beauchamp has introduced a Bill to provide for women being appointed and serving as Justices of the Peace. This will probably pass through the Upper House. Will the Government find time for it in the House of Commons? The Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill has not yet made its appearance there, and the House proposes to take a holiday from June 6 until the end of that month. Women must make it very clear to the Government that they expect the Women's Emancipation Bill, the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, and Lord Beauchamp's Bill to become law before Members of Parliament take this holiday. Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P., has told us that he will agitate for the annual salary for M.P.s to be £4,000 (instead of £400), free of Income-tax. Women electors' reply is that they insist on having value for money. What contribution has Mr. Kennedy Jones made to women's interests in the House of Commons?  
F. A. U.

### Women and the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

We are pleased to see that in *The Accountant*, dated May 3, Mr. O. F. Odell has a letter in which he invites forty or more members of the Institute to join him "in signing a requisition in accordance with Bye-law 91, to place before the members a resolution with the object of opening the Institute to women, after serving articles and passing the usual examinations in accordance with the bye-laws."

Needless to say, we wish every success to the enterprise of Mr. Odell!

### OUR "WEDNESDAYS." Women Eligible on the League of Nations.

A very interested audience listened on May 14 with deep attention to Miss S. Margery Fry and her graphic account of "The Women's Deputation to the League of Nations Commission."

Miss F. A. Underwood, from the chair, reminded the meeting of the long queue of women waiting for admission to hear the proceedings on the Women's Emancipation Bill, but "it was not as silent members of the public, but as responsible Members of Parliament that women wanted to be in the People's House."

Miss Margery Fry insisted that it was useless to possess the machine without using the machinery, and little use could be made of it without knowledge upon which to act. President Wilson seemed to be the person to whom the idea first came that it would be useful to have some women in conference during the Peace Conference. The French suffrage societies took this up, and assumed that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies would help. Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Strachey, and Miss Rosamond Smith first went out. M. Clemenceau was very sympathetic; the women arrived too late to press for admission to the Peace Conference itself, and a question arose whether to press for the establishment of a special women's body or for the admission of women to the League of Nations. After full discussion the latter plan seemed the best and fairest. The three Englishwomen were then joined by Lady Aberdeen, from the National Council of Women.

The full Peace Council refused to receive the deputation, but allowed it to apply to those Commissions which specially concerned women: (1) Labour, (2) Reparations, (3) League of Nations.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby at this point joined the deputation. The Labour Commission officials proved to be exceedingly friendly, and allowed the women to see all their confidential papers before their visit. Equal pay for equal work was carried, and unhealthy work was restricted alike for men and women. The question of payments to women before and after confinement, said Miss Fry, would be brought up at the first Conference under the League of Nations at Washington. Women might be there as delegates or as expert assessors, whom delegates might ask to take their place and vote for them. At this point the lecturer herself was able to join in the negotiations.

An interview was obtained with Lord Robert Cecil, and he was faced with the demand for women on the permanent body of the League of Nations. This he thought would not be wise or just, but that it would be better to have the positions open to either women or men. In accordance with this view he drafted an amendment, which was accepted by the Commission, that women shall be eligible for appointment as National Representatives or as Members of Councils or as Secretaries. For this decisive step in establishing political equality without distinction of sex women can never be too grateful to their old champion, Lord Robert Cecil, and it is a far better method of putting forward the women's view than any Special Women's Council would be, especially as far as relates to the more backward nations.

The deputation was later on received by the League of Nations Commission. Only half an hour could be spared. President Wilson shook hands with all the women. Speeches were condensed to two minutes each, and were delivered at record speed. Admission was claimed for women to the League of Nations, and that they should be real representatives of women, not nominees of Governments. Two French women spoke eloquently against the Eastern customs of the buying and marrying of girl children, and called for the exclusion of these nations from the League. Miss Fry asked for an expression of sym-

pathy with women's enfranchisement, and urged that women should have equal voting power with men in any referendum deciding the fate of their country.

President Wilson sent for the records, and said that so far this had been done. The Commission thought it wisest to make their first sketch of the League of Nations as wide as possible, leaving the details to be filled in later.

The eligibility of women on the permanent bodies has been granted, said Miss Fry, without a fight. It remains for us to see that they actually get there, and we must at once proceed to pester the Government to get a woman on to the permanent secretariat. This body is important, because it draws up the programmes for the Commissions.

Now that women have the vote their responsibility for justice to other nations is the heavier, and apathy towards international affairs is a disgrace.

### THE HEALTH BILL IN THE LORDS.

On May 13 the Bill continued its Committee Stage. In the interests of economy and democracy the Peers came to the rescue of our oppressed country, labouring under the bureaucratic yoke, and reduced the number of Parliamentary Secretaries to the new Ministry by 50 per cent.

#### Economy.

LORD DOWNHAM moved an amendment that the Minister might appoint one Parliamentary Secretary (the Government intended to appoint two, and they were both allowed to be members of Parliament). The Government in Grand Committee had slipped into the Bill this second M.P. Secretary on the ground that it "might be advantageous to the Minister to be able to appoint two." No doubt this might be an advantage to every Minister, but that was not the question, and the two were not necessary. It was much more convenient to have one official of the Ministry in the House of Lords, and it also reduced expense.

LORD CREWE said the creation of minor Ministers in great numbers had become almost a disease. He suggested that when the Minister sat in the House of Commons no Parliamentary Secretary was necessary, and his salary should be saved.

VISCOUNT MIDLETON complained that four years ago, as soon as their House passed the resolution inculcating the severest economy on Public Departments, and as soon as the Government appointed a Committee, presided over by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Government itself added nearly 100 per cent. to its parliamentary representatives and to M.P.s paid to represent it. It was a grave danger to the State that there were now 70 or 80 Members of Parliament attached to the Government whose votes were on ordinary occasions already decided. It was most demoralising to the House of Commons. The public purse was strained to the uttermost, many officials had not work to fill the day, and it was the worst possible example for public and private economy.

LORD BLEDISLOE feared the proposed three Ministers would be very uncomfortable sitting together on the already overcrowded Front Government Bench. Every additional Minister gathered round him a company, a platoon, or a battalion of permanent officials, and the result was a heavy outlay, the hanging up of business, with extreme and unfortunate delay.

On the division 56 peers held the fort for economy and efficiency, and 21 opposed the amendment.

#### Equality.

LORD ASKWITH then raised the banner of Equality by his amendment that the Minister in appointing all officials "shall give equal consideration to the suitability of persons of both sexes." The Bill was peculiarly interesting to very many women, and women were peculiarly fitted to deal with it. There was no reason why the House should wait for the

Civil Service Committee (on women's employment). Either this was a shuffling Bill, where women might come in on the reshuffle, or it was a preliminary Bill, and its fixed groundwork very desirable. Many Peers had experienced the advantages of women in their offices, and knew how well their work was done. It was natural for women to want a hand in the appointments under the Bill.

VISCOUNT HALDANE observed that, although the rules of the Civil Service Commissioners prevented women from qualifying themselves for appointments in the Civil Service, still during the war many women had been employed in the Civil Service and had been educated in the work, and many had done very well indeed, and were quite fit to occupy high posts.

VISCOUNT SANDHURST, to cut matters short, "gladly accepted the amendment," and so escaped similar amendments standing in the names of the Earl of Selborne and Lord Muir Mackenzie. Acts of Parliament cannot be too plain where they affect the rights and liberties of women, and it is satisfactory to have the existence of women stated in black and white instead of lying hidden in the subconscious mind of Ministers of State.

#### The Watching Council.

In this connection the following letter from the Ministry of Health Watching Council (with which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) is of interest:—

121, Victoria-street, London, S.W. 1,

Once again the House of Lords has shown itself more liberal in regard to women's questions than the House of Commons.

It will be remembered that at the Committee Stage of the Ministry of Health Bill Mr. George Thorne moved an amendment to the effect that in the appointment of officers no discrimination should be made on the grounds of sex between men and women. This was opposed by the Government, but carried by 26 votes to 22.

Nevertheless, in spite of an understanding that no attempt would be made by the Government to overthrow it, the amendment was deleted at the Report Stage.

In the House of Lords, however, Lord Askwith moved the insertion of an amendment providing that in the making of appointments equal consideration should be given to the suitability of persons of both sexes, and Lord Sandhurst, on behalf of the Government agreed to accept the amendment in this form.

The Government will now accept the amendment when the Bill again reaches the House of Commons, but the history of this clause shows how little confidence women can have either in the professions of Ministers or in their administrative impartiality.

#### Irish Women Complimented, but no more of them Required.

THE MARQUESS OF ABERDEEN AND TEMAIR moved an amendment raising the number of non-official lay members of the Irish Public Health Council from six to ten, and providing that half the number should

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be women. He spoke for very many women's political bodies and health societies, and urged the changes on the grounds not of sex, but of efficiency, to secure the best material for the work, because in Ireland women had already taken such a prominent part in public health. He preferred a declaration and enactment instead of an option on the part of the Chief Secretary.

LORD MEATH had great pleasure in seeing the spread of the idea of the larger share of women in public affairs. They should grant the first demand made with a united front by the Irish people.

LORD SHANDON would like to see women forming not half, but the whole of this body of outside opinion. Practical enthusiasts would be of more use on the Council than any merely official representation.

VISCOUNT SANDHURST objected that any change would upset the delicate balance of conflicting interests which had been arranged. The Irish lady Insurance Commissioner would probably be one of the official members, and the Consultative Councils would include women. Therefore women's interests and representation were already amply provided for. Amendment withdrawn.

#### ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"At Last." By A. E. Metcalfe.

All suffragists will welcome Miss A. E. Metcalfe's little book, "At Last," which, coming as a supplement to "Woman's Effort," takes up the story of our struggle for citizenship from the outbreak of war down to the passing of the Parliament (Qualification for Women) Act of November 21 of last year. Both now and in the future it will prove to be an invaluable book of reference for this momentous chapter in our history. It describes the different courses adopted on the outbreak of war by all the chief suffrage societies, and records in clear and interesting detail the passage through both Houses of the various Election and Franchise Bills which culminated in the famous Reform Bill of 1918. Also, lest we should be too ready to accept the assurances of some of our recent supporters in the House that they have "always been in favour of Woman's Franchise," there is added in the appendix a list of those members who constituted the Speaker's Conference, together with a record of their votes for all the Franchise Bills since 1910 and the Cat and Mouse Act! In these circumstances we can distinguish at a glance the real from the fair weather friends. Particularly interesting are the excellent accounts of the debates about the Reform Bill itself. With the memory of last December's polling day in our minds, it is more than ever amusing to be reminded that Mr. Gulland was afraid that women, "quite sufficiently agitated" when they came to vote, would be frightened away; and that Sir F. Banbury, also referring to the confusion that would reign in the mind of a woman when called upon to use her vote, said: "What she will say I do not know, but she will be extremely confused!" We wonder if Mr. Gulland and Sir F. Banbury visited the polling booths to witness the confusion they had predicted. However, let us hope that in another few years Miss Metcalfe will be able to give us a record of the effect of feminine influence on legislation that will justify the expectations of our supporters and prove unfounded the dire forebodings of our opponents. In the meantime, "At Last" is a book which should be in the possession of all who are interested in the woman's movement.

E. N. PARSONS, B.A.

["At Last" can be obtained from our Literature Department, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Price 1s. 6d. net, post free 1s. 8d.]

#### MILK—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Councillor J. T. Mustard follows up his articles by sending us the following letter:—

I enclose a letter from one of the largest dairy farmers in Cheshire; the points are so clearly and forcibly put that it is worthy of publication during the present milk crisis. Moreover, the writer is in every sense intensely patriotic. During the war he has done all that was possible under most adverse conditions to increase his supplies of milk, not that he might make profits, but because he felt he was best serving his country by doing so. Formerly he was a large producer of cheese, and to carry on milk production all the former plant, etc., had to be scrapped *pro tem*. He recognised his duty to his workmen by putting up admirable cottages, to each of which were allotted two to three acres of land, and the rent charged was ridiculously small. Farmers are expected to house their workpeople. How many employers in towns, e.g., the milk distributors, do the same?

Finally, I ask all milk consumers, before they rail against the farmers, to take the trouble to go into all the items of costs of production and to take a long view, viz., if we want milk in the future in good quantities, we must see that the *producer is encouraged to produce*. And there are many producers like the above, but we have no right to trade upon their patriotism and ask them to work hard for very little return.

May 14, 1919.

DEAR MR. MUSTARD.—Many thanks for your kind letter with enclosures. Your article (No. II.) on the milk question is very good. It will be an education to consumers, who have no idea of the cost of production. I think if the Food Controller had fixed the price at 1s. 6d. for May and June, and left July, August, and September at present prices, farmers would have been satisfied and all this unrest would have been avoided. *The consumer need not have paid any more.* We have had a dreary and most expensive winter and a very late spring, and, although the fields are beautifully green, we have very little grass and cows are not up to full strength yet. I quite agree that you will never get a pure milk supply until you have sealed cans. I shall be very interested to read your other articles, and I feel sure that if the people really understood the trouble and cost of production they would realise the advantage of a direct supply from producer to consumer. They would then be in a position to fix the crime in cases of adulteration.—I remain, yours very sincerely,  
N—D—

We urge upon our readers the importance of bringing the subject of the supply of pure milk at reasonable cost before all meetings, and of passing a resolution similar to the following:—

In view of the scandalous increase of milk adulteration, and especially of the number of cases in which the warranty is taken as a sufficient defence and the culprits are dismissed, this meeting calls upon the Government to take speedy action to remedy this intolerable state of affairs.

Also of calling the attention of all societies and organisations to the subject. Now is the time to act and to sweep away the present bad conditions. Copies of the resolution should be sent to the Prime Minister, the Local Government Board, and to local M.P.s.

#### Women as J.P.s.

The text of the Bill introduced by Lord Beauchamp in the House of Lords to provide for women being appointed and serving as Justices of the Peace has been published. Its one clause provides that "A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being appointed or being or becoming by virtue of office, a Justice of the Peace."

#### Everybody's Business!

The moment has come for:—

#### WOMEN BARRISTERS WOMEN SOLICITORS

Men have done their part in bringing in our Bill and the House of Lords has passed it.

Women must now do their part in bringing the reform out of the region of theory and into practical politics by focussing and demonstrating their demand for it.

If you want it ask for it, and if you ask loudly enough it is yours.

The Prime Minister will bring the Bill forward and carry it through the House of Commons if he knows you are determined to have it. He is waiting for you to tell him.

Remember we can have AT ONCE:—

#### WOMEN BARRISTERS WOMEN SOLICITORS

and these will bring after them very quickly:—

#### WOMEN MAGISTRATES WOMEN on JURIES

A WOMAN PUBLIC DEFENDER  
and many other improvements.

The Women's Freedom League is organising a strenuous campaign, other Societies are co-operating with us.

#### EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON YOU.

Liberal contributions to the expenses of the campaign are necessary. Every member has a chance to help, and without your support we can do nothing.

144, High Holborn.

E. KNIGHT.

#### Revolt Against Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The *Daily Chronicle*, May 19, reports that several hundreds of London schoolmasters have formed the London Schoolmasters' Association to oppose the policy of equal pay for men and women as applied to the teaching profession, and arrangements are being made for a mass meeting of men teachers to evolve a plan of campaign.

We hardly think that this collection of Mrs. Partingtons will long be able to resist the growing tide of equal pay for equal work, but we shall watch the activities of the London Schoolmasters' Association with much interest.

#### UNREST IN INDIA.

Readers who wish to understand the position of affairs in India will do well to attend the meeting to-night (Friday) at the Kingsway Hall, at 8 p.m., to protest against the Coercion Bills, which are largely the cause of the trouble. Mr. Holford Knight will preside, and among the speakers are Colonel Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., Mr. George Lansbury, and Miss Maude Royden. Various organisations, including Britain and India and the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, are joining in the meeting.

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MAY 23,  
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# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Ashford.

Everyone enjoyed Miss Janet Gibson's visit to the Women's Club on May 14. She gave a clear statement of the policy of the Women's Freedom League, which was listened to with special interest. Much amusement was caused by a "Mock Election," which Miss Janet Gibson managed in a masterly manner. We were unprepared and nervous, but she very quickly pounced on "likely" material, and before we knew what we were doing four candidates were on the scene. The Labour candidate secured most votes. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, when we hope Mrs. Mustard will speak on the "Endowment of Motherhood."

### Clapham.

At its meeting on Tuesday, May 13, at 113, West Side, Clapham Branch decided to co-operate with Herne Hill Branch in running a jumble sale at Morris Hall, Clapham, Saturday afternoon, May 31, at 2.30. Volunteers to help from 10.30 that day are urgently required, and should send in their names at once to Mrs. Sutcliffe, 113, West Side, Clapham Common, S.W., or to Miss Spriggs, 69, Danecroft Road, Herne Hill, S.W., both of whom will be glad to receive old clothes, boots, books, furniture, ornaments, or indeed anything saleable, before the 31st inst. The proceeds are for headquarters' organisers' fund, and every contribution (however large or small) in money or in goods will be most acceptable. Everyone from far and near, please send! The members of Clapham Branch also decided to write to local M.P.'s urging them to be present in the House of Commons on July 4 and to vote for the Women's Emancipation Bill as it stands, both on its report stage and at its third reading. They also resolved to invite Viscount Curzon to address a meeting of his constituents, in accordance with the resolution passed at our annual conference.

### Herne Hill and Norwood.

On May 13 we had the very great pleasure of hearing Miss Abadam in an interesting address on "Feminism Up to Date." The meeting was held at 161, Croxted-road, Dulwich, by kind invitation of our very good friend Miss Davis, who was somewhat disappointed that there was not a larger gathering to welcome Miss Abadam. Those who were present, however, were well rewarded, for the speaker clearly showed how wide and far-reaching is the subject of "Feminism." Her very strong and oft-reiterated cry was for more *World Balance*. She demonstrated how the world must neces-

sarily be misgoverned while everything is dominated by the masculine mind. Feminism, she said, was the effort to put woman back in her rightful place.

Mrs. Mockford presided very ably, and after the meeting Miss Davis kindly gave us tea. And so a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon came to a close. A practical outcome of the meeting was the enrolling of two new members.

### Manchester.

A jumble sale will be held on May 31 at 2.30 p.m. at Grosvenor Street Baptist School. Contributions will be gratefully received by Mrs. Sharples, 9, Hughes Street, C.-on-M., Manchester. The help of all friends far and near will be warmly welcomed. Send all the jumbles you can find to Mrs. Sharples without delay.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, London, S.W. 8.

The sale at Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Miller's studio was another brilliant success, nearly £100 being added to the Settlement funds as a result. Two coster-carts with flowers and garden stuff outside the studio made a novel advertisement, the "Nine Elms" figuring on a signboard specially painted by Mr. Miller. Mr. Jerome K. Jerome opened the sale, and he and the 20 stallholders are heartily thanked for their co-operation. There will be a supplementary sale at Mrs. Miller's country home, "Moyleen," Marlow, on Saturday, May 24, 4 to 6, and 7.30 to 9.0 p.m., to which readers in the neighbourhood are invited. General Sir George Higginson, K.C.B., will open it in the afternoon. One of our Play Club members is out of town for a few weeks, and we want someone who would take her place on Tuesdays from 5.30 to 6.30. Our children enjoy these evenings hugely, and it is really nice "work" playing with them.

## THE CHURCH SET FREE: A Vision.

This subject will be discussed at a meeting to be held at Moorfield Hall, Whitefield's Tabernacle, Tottenham Court Road, on Tuesday, May 27, 7 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Strickland, Rev. Seaward Beddow, B.A., and Rev. Humphrey Chalmers, B.A. A violin and pianoforte recital by Signora Graf and Signor Luigi Meo will precede the meeting at 6 p.m. Cards of invitation can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Free Church League, 30, Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road, Holborn.

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CITY TEMPLE.—Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN will PREACH at the CITY TEMPLE next Sunday, May 25, at the Morning Service, 11 o'clock.

ATHENIC SCOTCH WOVEN UNDERWEAR. Made in all sizes in finest wool. Silk and wool and merino. Guaranteed unshrinkable. Write makers for patterns and prices.—DEPT. 26, ATHENIC MILLS, Hawick, Scotland.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines; large garden, cricket-field, sea bathing; small classes; special care given to delicate girls.—Principal, Miss RICHARDSON, B.A.

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

WANTED, Organiser for the Women's Freedom League.—Apply, by letter only, giving full particulars, to the SECRETARY, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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