

THE VOTE.
JULY 27, 1917.
ONE PENNY.

Woman Candidate for Parliament.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1917

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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NO SHAM ELECTION! PASS THE BILL!

The political crisis of the end of the week has passed, and the Government's three-line whip to their supporters had the desired effect of securing a majority of 199 in the critical division of Monday night on the Labour amendment to raise the minimum wage of the agricultural labourer from the Government's figure of 25s. to 30s. a week. The cry of "Dissolution imminent!" has changed to "Government safe!" The safety of any man-elected Government is not the concern of unenfranchised women, but we protest emphatically against the possibility of a sham election, for a sham election it would be if the much-belauded "business" and "national" Government "rode for a fall." The crisis will have opened the eyes of the House of Commons and of the country to the one solution which can prevent so discreditable a party manœuvre as an appeal to the country before the Representation of the People Bill becomes the law of the land. The man-elected Parliament and Government have declared continuously for more than twelve months that an election on the 1913 register would be not only ridiculous but dishonest; it would not even represent the wishes of the male voters, as hundreds of thousands of them are disfranchised owing to the war and removals.

"Get on with the Bill!" is our message to the Government. "Stick to your work; suspend the eleven o'clock rule; no shirking of full Friday and even Saturday sittings; deal fairly and squarely by the country; enough of party manœuvring!" The

Prime Minister, in his speech on "Belgium's Day," cried out for truth from the German Chancellor. We need truth at home and fair words translated into fair deeds. In the middle of June the leader of the House thought six weeks a long time to give to the completion of the Representation of the People Bill, but of late the go-ahead Government of experts has slackened down to a jog-trot, which gives credit to the belief that it loves office rather than true national service. One newspaper critic writes: "The suggestion is that now the Bill has safely passed the danger points, the Government will keep it hanging up over the Recess, to preserve the support of a considerable number of Members who do not want to take any action, even on other things, that might imperil its passage. This theory is certainly held by many Members, and the sudden apparent loss of anxiety about the Bill on the part of the Government tends to confirm it."

The next election must be an advance towards real representation of the people by the inclusion of six millions of women. Excuses as to the time necessary for the Boundary Commissioners to complete their work cannot be tolerated. According to the Parliamentary correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* the Commissioners are proceeding "rapidly and smoothly" with their work. They, as well as Parliament, must work overtime. The women demand that there shall be no slacking, and that this legislation, imperatively needed, shall be completed before the Recess.

Women's Freedom League.

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

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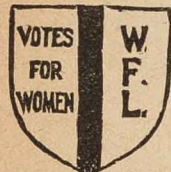
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.



LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, August 18.—Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1. Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.

N.E. COAST CAMPAIGN.

From Monday, July 30, to Saturday, August 4, meetings will be held in Whitley Bay, Blyth, Ashington, and other places.

DARE TO BE FREE.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Representation of the People Bill.

In the House of Commons, on July 18, Mr. Bonar Law said:—

As regards the Representation of the People Bill, although the Commissioners have made great progress, their Reports are not ready, and I am informed that in any event, for that reason it would not be possible to finish this Bill before the Adjournment, as their Reports are necessary in order to complete it. As regards the Corn Production Bill, the position is different. As the House knows, the minimum wage can only have legal effect after the Bill has become law. In addition to this, the whole object of this Bill, which is to secure that the largest amount of food shall be produced in this country next year, will be defeated if there is any doubt as to the Bill actually becoming law. After making very careful inquiries we are informed that there is a danger of this fear being felt by farmers, and therefore of our object being defeated. In these circumstances the Government have come to the decision that it is necessary to ask the House of Commons to sit until all the stages of this Bill have been gone through. The House will, therefore, see that it is impossible for me to state even an approximate date for our Adjournment, but I regret to say that I see little prospect of an Adjournment taking place until the end of next month.

Mr. Houston: Can the right hon. gentleman say whether it is intended, before the Recess, to prolong the life of this Parliament?

Mr. Bonar Law: That is not necessary, as I believe the present Parliament comes to an end in November.

Mr. Asquith: May I ask whether any further progress will be made with the Representation of the People Bill before the Adjournment?

Mr. Bonar Law: We hope to get as far as Clause 26.

Mr. Pringle: Does the Government regard it as more important to subsidise farmers than to see that there is an efficient registration?

Mr. George Terrell: Is it intended to proceed with the Munitions Bill before the Adjournment?

Mr. Bonar Law: I have already said so.

Mr. Goldstone: Is it intended to introduce the Education Bill before the Adjournment?

Mr. Bonar Law: I should very much like that to be done, if it is possible, but I cannot absolutely say that it will be.

We would point out to the Government that the Speaker's Conference, the result of which is the Representation of the People Bill, was decided upon nearly twelve months ago, long before the Government's Corn Production Bill, their Munitions Bill, or their Education Bill were thought of, and we certainly think that this Representation of the People Bill, which ensures an efficient registration for the men and women of the country should be given precedence of these other Bills. We have often been asked by those who criticise us for advocating votes

for women while the country is at war "What is the good of a vote if we have no country in which to exercise a vote?" We have never been unpatriotic enough or sufficiently pessimistic seriously to consider the fact of having no country, not even when those in authority over us have blundered most egregiously; but we think we have a right to ask "What is the good of a Government which represents no one?" and we urge our suffragist friends in the House of Commons to make it impossible for the Government once more to betray the woman suffrage cause and to wreck the clauses of an effective register by the unnecessary delay and the drifting policy which it has inherited from previous Governments in regard to women's enfranchisement.

A forecast of the possible dangers to the Bill appeared in the London Letter of *The Yorkshire Post*, July 18, as follows:—

In the House of Lords this evening, we were told that the Franchise Bill is not expected to arrive until September or October. Lord Curzon was very angry at the suggestion that the Government were hurrying it through. They are not, at present, hurrying it at all, but they certainly did try to hurry it at the beginning of the Committee stage by suspending the eleven o'clock rule, and making the progress of other Bills dependent on progress with the Franchise Bill. The reason for the subsequent delay has several times been hinted at in this column. The Bill has become a Government asset in their relations with the Commons, and Ministers want to keep it till they get through some of their present difficulties. It was plain from the discussion in the House of Lords to-day that the Bill will encounter difficulties there. Many Peers hold that the datum line of the Speaker's Conference included Proportional Representation, and that when this was abandoned, the agreement went with it. Others, mindful of the place of the House of Lords in the Constitution, give fair warning that they will do their best to prevent any reform of the House of Commons until the previously promised reform of their own Chamber is in sight. Lord Curzon saw the danger signal, and he will, no doubt, report to his colleagues.

Replying to Commander Bellairs, on July 23, Mr. Bonar Law said that the delay in setting up the Conference on the House of Lords had been due to pressure of war work, and that he hoped shortly to be able to make the announcement.

Night Work Boys and Girls

Colonel Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck asked the Minister of Munitions how many boys of under sixteen years of age and how many girls of between sixteen and eighteen years of age are employed on night work at the present time in the national and controlled factories?

Dr. Addison: As a general rule boys and girls of this age are not employed. Such employment may, however, be allowed subject in each case to the approval of the superintending inspector of factories, under the General Order issued by the Home Office. But every effort is made to confine night employment within the narrowest limits possible. Considerable labour will be involved in obtaining the figures for which my noble friend asks, but I will endeavour to obtain them.

Lord H. Cavendish-Bentinck: Will the hon. gentleman explain why other firms working under exactly similar conditions can get on very well without night employment of boys and girls, and why it is allowed in the case of these other firms?

Dr. Addison: Perhaps it will be best to get a Return.

We hear a good deal about the expediency of placing tiresome young girls in the "Homes" proposed by the Government in its Criminal Law Amendment Bill, but we suggest that the Government should first set its own house in order and refuse to sanction the employment of any boy or girl under 16 years of age for night work. If the Government is really solicitous about the health of the people, and by its proposal to set up a Ministry of Health it would lead us to suppose that this is the case, why does it deliberately undermine the health of children under sixteen years of age by all-night work in factories? This is altogether inexcusable even for a greater output of munitions.

F. A. U.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

In reference to the joint deputation to the Home Secretary, organised by the Women's Freedom League, and including the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, the Independent Women's Social and Political Union, the London Women's Council of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, the Manchester, Salford and District Women's Trades and Labour Council, the National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society, and the United Suffragists, to demand that the above Bill should be dropped, a free use of the telephone brought the following answer:—

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1.
July 19, 1917.

MADAM.—With reference to your letter of 6 July on the subject of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, I am desired by the Home Secretary to inform you that he is prepared to receive a deputation, in accordance with your request, on Friday, July 27, at 5 p.m., at the Home Office. Will you please let me know the number of representatives who wish to attend?—Yours faithfully,
Miss F. A. Underwood.

S. W. HARRIS.

Meanwhile, on July 18, Mr. Dillon had asked in the House of Commons, "Does the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Bonar Law) propose to take the Criminal Law Amendment Bill before the adjournment," and received the reply: "That will be taken after the adjournment." The adjournment itself was expected at the end of August, and the Bill was thus shelved until October or November.

Information of what the Government had decided to do slowly filtered through to the Home Office, and the following day produced the following:—

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1.
July 20, 1917.

DEAR MADAM.—With reference to my letter of yesterday on the subject of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, I am desired by the Home Secretary to say that he now understands that, owing to the pressure of Parliamentary business, this Bill cannot be taken before the Parliamentary Recess, that is to say before the House of Commons meets in the autumn.

In these circumstances, and in view of his numerous official engagements, he would be glad to postpone receiving the proposed deputation until later. He will, however, bear the request well in mind and communicate with you again before the Bill comes on in the autumn.—Yours faithfully,
Miss F. A. Underwood.

S. W. HARRIS.

Seeing that our protest would have double weight when made at the proper time when the further progress of the Bill might become likely, we agreed to postpone our joint deputation on the understanding that "we should be received before the Bill was again proceeded with in the autumn."

Now we have ten weeks to educate the country, to see that all women and working men whose own daughters and sisters will bear the pains and penalties introduced in this iniquitous measure understand what its effect will be. We shall welcome the support of all who wish to help in this fight, and shall be glad to hear from new sympathisers.

E. K.

Salaries for National School Teachers in Ireland.

Miss Dora Mellone writes:—"The increases for these teachers under the new scheme were announced by Mr. Duke in the House of Commons on July 20. They are satisfactory in many ways, but unfortunately fall far short of the 'equal pay for equal work' standard. The Irish National School Teachers have consistently and unanimously pressed for this standard to be enforced, and it is much to be regretted that the Government did not see its way to

such an obvious concession to justice, as well as expediency. Take an instance from the higher ranks. If £127 for men teachers in Grade 1 Division 2 is insufficient under present conditions, why is an increase leaving the woman teacher's salary at £123 deemed satisfactory? Has there been some recent order, overlooked among the multiplicity of such decrees, by which the price of food varies according to the sex of the purchaser? If £63 be too low a salary for a man entering one of the lowest posts, Grade 30, is it satisfactory to increase the woman teacher, doing the same work with the same qualifications, to a salary of £64, while the man's pay is increased to £78? We shall expect to change all this in the near future, but delays are deeply to be regretted."

Deputation to the Minister for Education.

The following letter has been sent by the Women's Freedom League to the Minister for Education:—
19 July, 1917.

Rt. Hon. Herbert A. L. Fisher, M.P.,
Board of Education, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

SIR,—I write at the request of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League to ask whether you will receive a deputation on the subject of the differentiation between the minimum salaries of men and women teachers and the constitution of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider the principles which should determine the salaries of teachers in Elementary Schools.

Hoping you will see your way to accede to this request.

Believe me, Sir, Yours faithfully,

ADA MITCHELL

(on behalf of National Executive Committee, Women's Freedom League).

NO VOTE! NO TAX!

Persecution of Miss Evelyn Sharp.

Miss Evelyn Sharp again appeared before the Registrar at Bankruptcy Buildings last Tuesday morning, and her case was once more adjourned, this time until October 23, in spite of the fact that she told the Registrar that she needed no further time for reflection, and was prepared to take the consequences of her refusal to make a statement of her affairs, on the ground that she was a voteless woman, and considered that taxation without representation was tyranny.

We cannot condemn too strongly the petty persecution of Miss Sharp by the authorities. They have taken away her furniture and have refused to sell it, although the Official Receiver declared in court that its sale would cover the amount of the tax and the cost of the proceedings; they intercept all her correspondence, which they open and read, and return to her at their leisure, and keep her in the position of an undischarged bankrupt, unable to transact business of any kind. We understood that the Government had declared a truce with suffragists, but while it is dilly-dallying with women's chances of enfranchisement in the Representation of the People Bill, it is apparently as eager as ever to persecute suffragists for their principles whenever an opportunity occurs.

All suffragists should be at the Court at 11 o'clock on Tuesday, October 23.

The President and the Office Staff.

By kind invitation of the President, the office staff spent a delightful afternoon with her and Mrs. Harvey last Tuesday, in her fascinating bungalow almost in the tree tops in the grounds of Brackenhill. The quiet and beauty of the surroundings were keenly enjoyed after the hurly-burly of High Holborn, and but for the aeroplanes we should have forgotten the war. The visit came to an end all too quickly, but remains as a most pleasant memory.

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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, July 27th, 1917.

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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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.

AGENTS.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross, W.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall and Co., Temple-avenue, E.C.; City and Suburban Publishing Company, St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; E. Marlborough, Old Bailey, E.C.; A. Ritchie, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Orange-street, Haymarket; John Heywood, Manchester. Can be obtained at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son and all newsagents.

THE SUPREME NEED OF THE HOUR.

It is urgent. If, indeed, it is not immediately supplied, the whole civilised world will find itself in a maelstrom of ruin, from which there will be no escape.

Here are some statistics from France and Germany, supplied by a Danish Society. The estimated loss of life for the three years of war is 3,700,000 in Germany, 2,200,000 in France. If these figures are approximately correct, it will only be possible now for every sixth French woman to marry. In addition to these must be reckoned the thousands of men who will return home crippled and diseased, and hosts of children and adult non-combatants. In our own country, although, owing to our insular position, we have not suffered so much as France or Central Europe, the losses have been momentous. Moreover, in this and other belligerent countries, a process of unsettlement has been going on as inimical to the future of the world as the loss of life.

In fact, there is no such thing as stability anywhere. Complaints are made; incompetence and unrest are revealed, and commissions of inquiry are set on foot—on industrial unrest, on treatment of the disabled men to whom, at the beginning of the war, such large promises were made; on finance, on food prices, on the mismanagement of special campaigns, and nothing is done. The public is aroused, but the public, it is assumed, will forget.

From time to time there are kaleidoscopic changes in the distribution of power and responsibility. Sir Edward Carson has not been, to say the least of it, a brilliant success as First Lord. Let him give the misapplied genius to the War Cabinet. Dr. Addison, though a good organiser, does not seem to have the confidence of labour. Give Winston Churchill a turn. So it runs. Then followed a threatened Tory revolt, which might result in a defeat of the Government, a sham election, and an indefinite adjournment of electoral reform.

This at home. When we look abroad the confusion is even worse. The words: "A mad world, my masters," must have sprung to many of our lips last week as so much of the awful drama as we are per-

mitted to see unfolded itself before us. In the West our papers amused themselves—we wonder if they amused the public—by accounts of sham-fights before royalty and amazing feats by tanks and aeroplanes, while strong men in the real fight were falling by shot and shell. In the East the Russian army, manifestly weary of the war, making forward plunges, and taking prisoners and munitions one day, on the next, in great numbers, if we are to believe the reports, refusing to fight. In the Balkans and in Greece, continued uncertainty. In Germany the Government playing upon the people the same *léger-de-main* tricks that have been found effective by other powers. They ask for democracy: they shall have it. Therefore down with one Chancellor and up with another!

As we women, beholding the destruction of that which is "bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh," try to catch the meaning and reason of it all, we find ourselves wondering how long the peoples, men and women driven like sheep to death and ruin, will continue to tolerate the tragic mistakes and ignoble subterfuges that, accepted as heaven's own truth, are making of our fair earth a hell. How long they will be deafened by outworn shibboleths and dazzling falsehoods.

Yet others are awaking. Above the din of battle still, small voices are being heard. One such came from Lord Hugh Cecil, in his notable speech on the projected League of Nations, where he asserted that there is something higher than nationalism, and foretold the coming loyalty which will go to far wider organisations, finally to an all-inclusive brotherhood.

That was well said; but the speaker should have gone further. As a politician, he should have shown how his vision could be brought down from heaven to earth. The pity of it is that the modern statesman deals in generalities, and we women, with the workers of the country, who are, above all things, practical, want definiteness. When, across this weltering chasm of hatred, blood-lust, greed, and misery, we are shown a distant world established in peace, and having love for its bulwarks, we ask: "How is the chasm to be passed? Show us, we say, the bridge across, and in our multitudes we will follow."

Will any of our politicians answer? Not, we venture to predict, until they can grasp what the supreme need of the hour is.

It can be summed up in a few words: Commonsense first, a return to reason; the use for the common good, not for class or individual, or party interests, of that high intelligence which is humanity's choicest possession. How that would clear the air! And, with commonsense, giving it strength and substance, such moral courage as would enable those who rule to speak fearlessly, and, having spoken, to act consistently.

This, then, is the Supreme Need of the Hour. Simple, it may seem from the point of view of woman, but, we know, only to be attained by tearing old-world sophisms to pieces, and returning to first principles.

For this we are waiting; for this we have been working. Shall we work and wait in vain?

C. DESPARD.

French Honours for Brave British Nurses.

The Croix de Guerre (with palm) has been awarded to Miss Margaret Dewar, a staff nurse at an English hospital, who was mortally wounded during the bombardment of the hospital whilst protecting a patient's head with a pillow. The decoration has also been awarded to Miss Mary Marshall, who was killed in the same aerial bombardment.

WOMAN CANDIDATE FOR THE ALBERTA PARLIAMENT.

Another daughter nation, Canada this time, is giving the Mother Country a lesson. We have already seen Australian nurses on active service voting "on equal terms" with Australian soldiers on the Conscription Referendum and for a Parliamentary election. Now the Province of Alberta, Canada, which has enfranchised its women during the war, is to hold an election for two representatives of the interests of those on military service; the voters are Alberta men serving in the fighting forces and the nurses on active service, and candidates must be in the Army. There are twenty-one candidates for the two seats, and Lieut. Roberta Catharine MacAdams, of the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, is the only woman candidate.

That she is an excellent candidate may be seen from her record. She was attached to the Department of Agriculture, and was organiser of the Women's Institutes of the Province of Alberta; these important and helpful Institutes are concerned with the interests of women and children throughout the Province, and do much to alleviate loneliness. Lieut. MacAdams knows Alberta from end to end, and the conditions under which women and children live. For two years before she enlisted for war service she was supervisor of household science in the schools and University of Edmonton, the capital of Alberta. She is a trained dietician, and lectures on food and food values. She took a post-graduate course in household science at the University of Chicago. She is now "Diet Sister" at the Canadian Hospital at Orpington, her duties being to look after the diet of the wounded men. Curiously enough, she is sister-in-law of the Hon. W. J. Hanna, Canada's Food Controller.

An election leaflet has been issued; it is very simple. Soldiers (about 38,000 enlisted) and nurses (about 100 are on active service) from Alberta, are informed that they will have two votes at the forthcoming election under the Alberta Military Representation Bill, and are asked to give one to the man of their choice, the other to the Sister. "She will work not only for your best interests but for those of your wives, mothers, sweethearts, sisters, and children after the war." A further appeal says: "Remember those who have helped you so nobly through the fight!"

Miss MacAdams's brother, Capt. MacAdams, who has been fighting for two years in France, is keenly interested in his sister's candidature, and his vote may be counted upon as a certainty. It was at the eleventh hour that Lieut. MacAdams decided to stand, and her nomination-papers were completed a quarter of an hour before the lists closed. Polling begins on August 6, ends on August 16, and the result will be made known from the London Office of the Agent-General for Alberta on August 28.

Lieut. MacAdams is a living refutation of the anti-suffragists' dictum that if women concern themselves with politics the home must suffer. Here is a "womanly woman," so beloved of the male critic of woman suffrage, an expert housekeeper and trained dietician, who is standing as the representative of the interests of the fighting men and trained military nurses! We wish her a great victory and the best success in her work as member of the Alberta Parliament.

At the recent General Election in Alberta a woman member was returned.

REPRESENTATIVE RANKIN

It is a pleasure heartily to congratulate *The Woman Citizen* (171, Madison-avenue, New York, U.S.A., 5 cents.), the official organ of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, on its attractive appearance and interesting contents, and we wish it a most successful career in educating the unenfranchised States in the value and importance of the woman citizen. The new weekly continues the world-famous *Woman's Journal*, founded in 1870, which has done such magnificent service for the enfranchisement of women, and also the able assistance of its untiring and irresistible editor, Alice Stone Blackwell, whose initials are familiar to suffragists in all countries; *The Woman Voter* and *The National Suffrage News* are also combined in the new publication, which is equipped to do valiant service to the woman's cause not only in the United States but far beyond its extensive borders.

From a recent number to hand we take, with warm appreciation, the following article by "A. S. B.," on "Representative Rankin," knowing it will make a strong appeal to THE VOTE readers:—

"A pleasant sidelight upon Miss Jeannette Rankin was given in a speech made at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Woman Suffrage Association the other day by Mrs. Minnie Dwight, of Holyoke.

"Mrs. Dwight lately visited Washington, D.C., and while there she had a talk with Congressman Treadwell, of Massachusetts. He told her that no new Representative in Congress had ever made so fine an impression upon the other members in so short a time as Miss Rankin.

"She is always womanly in everything that she does," he said, "and at the same time she is always the Representative from Montana, perfectly competent for all her Congressional duties. The other members go over to her seat to visit her and consult with her about public measures, just as they do with one another."

"Does she ever go over to visit them?" asked Mrs. Dwight.

"She has had no chance to, as yet," answered Congressman Treadwell, "for there is always a waiting list of them wanting to talk with her."

"Is it true that she shed tears when she cast her vote on war?" said Mrs. Dwight.

"I don't know, and it doesn't matter a bit whether she did or not," answered Mr. Treadwell. "There were sixty of the men crying. It was the moment of most tense emotion that there has been in Congress for fifty years."

"Later Mrs. Dwight tried to go in and get a look at Congress, but that day the space open to the public was full. She saw the doorkeeper occasionally opening the door a crack, however, to give somebody a peep inside, and it was always Miss Rankin whom the people wanted to see. Mrs. Dwight herself got a peep in this way.

"I was delighted," she said, "to see that she was so good-looking and also that she wore such beautiful clothes—beautiful and yet so simple."

"At a suffrage banquet given to Miss Rankin in Washington recently Julia C. Lathrop mentioned that Representative Rankin was the only member of Congress who had sent to her for all the publications of the Children's Bureau. This indicates afresh that women's work in public affairs will not be a mere duplication of the work hitherto done by men, but will introduce a new element, with a distinct and important value to the nation."

The same issue contains an account of the meeting with Miss Rankin in Washington of the Confederate Veterans, Sons of Confederate Veterans and Daughters of the Confederacy, numbering many thousands

of the representative men and women of the South. It was an auspicious opportunity to introduce the South to the first woman member of Congress.

"The Woman Citizen" warmly congratulates the six million British women on the prospect of their enfranchisement, but recognises that the victory will not be complete until women vote in this country "on equal terms with men."

The Latest News from Washington.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News*, cabling from Washington, on July 19, reports that "Friends of President Wilson who have discussed with him the subject of woman suffrage declare that he will shortly have the suffrage amendment brought out, and will urge Congress to pass it. The President's views were not altered by recent rioting in front of the White House, when militant suffragists paraded and maintained that America was not a democracy because 20,000,000 women were not allowed to vote. Sixteen of these women were sentenced to sixty days in the workhouse, or pay a small fine. To-day the husband of one of the women called on the President, who declared himself shocked at the imprisonment, and issued a pardon for the sixteen. He hinted that he would take up the suffrage question, and that the Bill would probably come before Congress soon. Hitherto he has held that each State must pass the necessary Bill, not Congress." According to an Exchange message from New York the following day, "The suffragists have refused the pardon granted to them."

OUR OPEN COLUMN

ENGLAND AND THE SALIC LAW.

To the EDITOR OF "THE VOTE."

DEAR MADAM,—Has the Salic Law been established in England? The King, advised by his Ministers in Council, has initiated a new principle which is, that the term "Royal" shall only descend to the children of his male heirs, and that "all the descendants in the male line of our said Grandmother, Queen Victoria (of blessed and glorious memory), who are subjects of these realms other than female descendants who may marry or may have been married, shall bear the said name of Windsor."

Nothing can alter the natural law that if a Prince born of the Royal seed is "royal," a Princess born of the same seed is equally "royal," and if she is born at Windsor, say, and of the House of Windsor, she is a Windsor of the House of Windsor, whatever Ministers in Council may say or do. And is it not setting up a new and unnatural sex distinction to declare that she does not equally with her brothers inherit royalty and should not equally with them transmit it to her progeny.

Should the male line become extinct, as it did in the case of King George III.'s numerous male descendants, would not the children of Princess Mary, not being royal, have to make way for an interloper, a "royal" alien, perhaps, who knows, another German? The possibility is not so remote that the principle at stake should be forgotten. Few would have imagined in George III.'s reign that the throne would so soon pass out of the male line of succession, and the point at issue is: Could Queen Victoria, not being of the "Royal" house as she would not have been, under the new decree, have ascended the throne or passed on its succession to her progeny, they being "unroyal"? If not, the royalty which she restored to a decaying throne, and the grandeur of a great reign would have been lost to the credit of England.

It is a curious fact that though Parliament, forced by public opinion, is about to establish the Sovereignty of a proportion of British womanhood,

His Majesty's Ministers in Council are proposing to jeopardise the throne of its rights to female sovereignty. And this, too, in the country of great Elizabeth, good Queen Anne, and Victoria of glorious memory. Public opinion is asked to look upon the action as "democratic," but it savours rather of a bureaucratic despotism wrapped in sweetmeat to palliate a public opinion which is already greatly suspicious of these methods. It is to be hoped that public opinion will consider the matter, and will maintain a greater regard for the prestige of its womanhood than the Government has done. The nation has never had cause to mistrust its woman-kind on the throne or off it.—Yours obediently,

M. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

More Official Blundering.

The Middlesex Women's War Agricultural Committee is in revolt; several chief officials and sub-committees have resigned because "of the domination of the Committee by the officials of the Board of Agriculture." We do not see that they could have done anything else after such disclosures as the following: Out of a batch of eight, who came before the Committee on May 5, the report on four of them was:—(a) Not physically strong enough. (b) So small that no farmer would accept her, and very young. (c) Too small, and otherwise physically unsuitable. (d) So stupid as to be almost mentally deficient. The Board's officials, in the face of this report, insisted, it is said, upon the acceptance of all four girls for service. Three of these recruits were found to be under 18, and one under 17—a plain breach of the regulations. Subsequent experience proved that all four were complete failures owing to lack of physical strength. The greatest and worst failure was to pass the unfit women—as has been the case with the men. Let the Labour Ministry, which is soon to take over the expensive and ineffective National Service Department, note that the need of the moment is commonsense!

Ministry of Health.

The Association of Approved Societies under the National Insurance Act is pressing for the promised but delayed establishment of a Ministry of Health, and at a meeting on July 18, urged that the Ministry should be independent of any existing Department, and under its own Minister directly responsible to Parliament. The resolution, unanimously adopted, desired the co-ordination, under the Ministry, of all Health Services, such as:—

Local Government Board.—Infectious diseases and hospitals, housing, drainage and water supply, sanitation, inspection of food and drugs, the medical care of the sick and poor, supervision of infant welfare centres, health visitors, etc., etc.

Home Office.—Lunatics and feeble-minded, inebriates, alien immigration, lead poisoning, factory inspection.

Board of Education.—The medical side of school work, supervision of schools for mothers.

Privy Council.—Control of the medical profession and of midwives.

National Insurance Commission.—Administration of medical and sanatorium benefits to insured members of the community, and to uninsured disabled soldiers.

War Office, Admiralty, India Office.—Certain services under the control of these Departments.

Board of Trade.—Immigration, Port Sanitary Authority, industrial diseases.

The Sale of Literature in Hyde Park.

In a case before the King's Bench Divisional Court, on July 23, with regard to selling literature in Hyde Park, the Lord Chief Justice said it was a matter of public interest, and granted a rule nisi, so that the case of Mrs. Linda Corrie might be argued.

ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Teddy, R.N.D. By Edith Mary Moore (Hodder & Stoughton, 6s.)

Readers who look solely for a "good story" will probably be disappointed in "Teddy, R.N.D."; but those who appreciate sparkling wit, shrewd insight and delicate pungent characterisation will read it with zest. The only fault they will find is that there is not enough of it, but, as the author explains in the very first sentence, that the present span of Teddy's existence is only a score of years, they will realise that the brevity is more or less inevitable. Teddy—fearless, jocund, handsome—is the "secret son" that hides in every woman's heart. He is a joy from his cradle to his aeroplane, where Mrs. Moore leaves him "companied with glad things of wind and light and joy, and the high heart of eternal youth." Before he sets sail in the winged thing, however, he has tilted an effective lance in the great adventure; has seen—in company with numberless others of his age, alas!—things that cannot be told to those who love him; has garnered memories that have worked subtle changes in his frank, young face. But "it is better to be overborne by big things than smothered in little" is the brave comment of Teddy's mother when she marks them, and all who have true vision will agree with her, in spite of their aching hearts. Certainly women must, as she says, think of war as a great artist, limning with the brushes of life and death, and stirring a people from the lethargy of a too-luxurious tranquillity to starry ideals, fierce impulses of sacrifice, and the high pride of renunciation; or how else could they yield up their sons?

The lives of the three—for fascinating glimpses are given of Teddy's brother Jeremy—an engineering genius who proposes running his house, when he has one, by mechanical devices, including an amazing automatic beater for the children!—and Joy, the sister, who is so modern that she has outdated "Edwardian," and can only be justly described as "New Georgian"—proceed on normal happy lines until the great call comes, and the account of their childish pranks and sayings will be read with chuckles of appreciation by all who love healthy, natural youngsters. But it is the intimate revelation of the mother heart that runs like a plaintive minor strain through the main theme that will most charm the discerning reader. All who have mothered sons have felt the same thrills and fears and joys as Teddy's mother—though few could crystallise them in the limpid revealing phrases that seem to spring spontaneously from Mrs. Moore's pen—and it is these that make "Teddy, R.N.D." a book—slight though it is in one sense—provocative of both enjoyment and reflection.

M. H.

Clyde Coast Campaign.

Organiser, Miss B. H. McLelland, 18, Windsor-place, Rothesay.

The busiest "Fair" for three years has just ended, and most of the thousands of Glasgow folks who thronged Rothesay for a week have returned to work. The meetings have been most successful; Miss Hodge's addresses on "Our Overseas Dominion" created the greatest interest. Unfortunately her last evening (Wednesday) was so stormy that no meeting could be held, and many disappointed questioners turned up on Thursday. Saturday's meeting was especially large, and at the close 80 copies of THE VOTE and pamphlets were sold. Misses E. Scrymgeour, J. Smith, and E. McLelland have kindly come in turn to assist, and offers of further help will be most welcome. We gratefully acknowledge donations of 15s. from the Misses Scrymgeour and 17s. from E. McLelland.

N.E. District: Organiser, Miss Dorothy Evans, 9, Stonehurst-road, S. Gosforth, Darlington.

A very large audience stood to hear Mr. Stone, of Leeds, and Miss Evans in the Market, on Thursday. Enthusiasm was shown for the woman's cause, though only grudging acceptance was accorded to the present terms offered as a

first instalment. We were delighted to find in our collection the now unfamiliar coin, a sovereign, and wish to tender our thanks to the generous but unknown donor.

Newcastle.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill was criticised by Miss Evans on the Moor on Sunday night, and a very large audience gave enthusiastic assent to her demand for an equal standard of morality for men and women, involving another chance for our girls who have lost control, as well as for boys who have "sown their wild oats." Our literature was completely sold out long before the meeting closed.

The industrial problems of the future were discussed at our meeting in Bigg Market on Monday. Miss Evans contrasted the modern chivalry of trades unionism with that of the knights of old, and highly amused her audience. Monday meetings to follow, with "How men mind the Baby" and "Petticoat Government" as subjects for the address were announced. Great help is rendered by the regular support of so many of our friends, and we invite others to rally round and bring waverers to hear us.

Outside the munition works on Tuesday our third weekly meeting was held, at which Mrs. Bates made her maiden speech, for which we thank her. Serious consideration was given by the women munitioners to the fact that unless women were able directly to influence our Food Department very soon the only way to stop profiteering on food would be to withhold their labour till the Government took strong action. It certainly needs women to stop profiteering.

Will members and friends write and offer help for our coast campaign, July 30 to August 4? For list of fixtures see Forthcoming Events.

Reading.

A well attended branch meeting was held on July 12 at 100, Hamilton Road. Miss Anna Munro, our President (whom we are always delighted to have with us), was the speaker, and dealt in an interesting manner with the present political situation regarding woman suffrage. Discussion followed, in which several speakers emphasised the need of constant vigilance until the vote was actually won. A collection was taken for the Birthday Fund.

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

Peace has descended on the Settlement for the next few weeks. The Guest-children have gone, some of them to permanent country homes, the rest back to their parents, and the staff are taking a five weeks' holiday, covering the time when the closing of the schools sends Nine Elms children out for long days in the parks, and we find our dinners therefore less in demand. Through the kindness of our Treasurer and Mr. Delbanco, two delicate little girls are to have a fortnight in the country; it was difficult to choose among so many that need fresh air to make them strong, but it seemed best to take the two poorest, and they shall have as rich a holiday as we can give them. The Misses Triplett, Miss Lawrence, Miss Wearn and Miss Riggall are thanked for jumble goods, Mrs. Tritton for rhubarb, Miss Tollemache for vegetables, Miss Riggall, 1s.; Miss Colthurst, a picture; Mrs. Thomas, 2s. and wash-up cloths.

The Despard Arms, 125, Hampstead-road, N.W. 3.

We hope everyone is collecting goods for our Jumble Sale on Saturday, August 18, at 3 p.m., as this kind of help is easy to give, urgently needed, and warmly appreciated. Please address all parcels to the Manageress. Our bedrooms are now ready for temporary or permanent women occupants, who can have meals as and when they wish, and hot baths on giving notice. Tell your friends about The Despard Arms, and bring them to breakfast, dinner, tea, supper, and pleasant evenings.

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Hand woven materials for sale, made in the Dauntless Hall Workroom. Children's Frocks from 6s. 6d., Sports Coats from 14s. 6d.

WE CAN WEAVE YOUR HAND-SPUN WOOL.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 304.

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FRIDAY,
JULY 27,
1917.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THE HANDICRAFTS, 82, High-street, Hampstead, N.W.—Hand-weavings, Hand-made Laces, Home-spuns, Jewellery, Basketwork, Pottery, etc.

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ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR is made from best materials, is comfortable, durable and guaranteed unshrinkable.—Write for free book, with patterns, and buy direct from makers, Dept. 30, Atheenic Mills, Hawick Scotland.

MISCELLANEOUS.—cont.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—TRIMMELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-rd., Cardiff. Est. 1879.

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TO LET, FURNISHED, for 10 months or more, very desirable furnished lower-floor Maisonette; two reception rooms, two bedrooms, servant's room, kitchen; plate and linen; 3 minutes from Earl's Court Station; large, lofty rooms; bath (h. and c.).—Write F. E. S., c/o "THE VOTE."

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FOR SALE.

EVENING COAT of pale grey bengaline, wadded and lined with white silk; Empire shape, revers and buttons of rose-coloured velvet; seams outlined with lace; only worn once; 3 guineas (half price).—Write H. 2, c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

VERY HANDSOME MAHOGANY DRAWING-ROOM SUITE; one oval couch, two arm-chairs, two small, upholsterer violet damask; will be sold very reasonably.—Can be viewed at 10, Kilburn-square, N.W. 6.

A SHAWL-SHAPED CARACUL CAPE, with musquash flounce, very wide, falling in full godet folds; with revers, high collar that turns down, and brocade lining; perfectly new; only worn a few times; price 10 guineas.—Box 22, "THE VOTE" Office.

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