

THE VOTE.  
OCTOBER 19, 1917  
ONE PENNY.

# Of Ministers and Ministries.

C. NINA BOYLE.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 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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## THE REOPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

### The Representation of the People Bill and its Prospects.

As we go to press Parliament is reassembling, and after a preliminary skirmish on the opening day with such Bills as the Petroleum (Protection) Bill and the Titles Deprivation Bill will turn its attention to the Representation of the People Bill. Before the recess the House of Commons, in Committee, had passed Clauses 1-26, leaving the parts relating to the redistribution of seats, definitions, schedules, etc., and the question of Ireland and the Bill, still to be considered. The report of the Boundary Commissioners on the redistribution of seats has now been published, and some opposition is likely to the suggested increase of members from 670 to 701. The general expectation, however, is that the Bill will be through the House of Commons by the end of November; that the Lords will have dealt with it by the third week in December, and that it will reach the Statute Book by Christmas.

#### Press Forecasts.

The Press has been busy discussing the prospects of the autumn session. With regard to the Representation of the People Bill, *The Times* Parliamentary correspondent writes:—

It is important that the Bill should reach the Lords in good time, and there will be little disposition in the Commons to raise new issues on the Report stage. Except for the dropping of proportional representation, the Bill, as it stands to-day, is substantially the compromise which emerged from the Speaker's Conference. Any upsetting of the balance then arranged might be prejudicial to the prospects of the Bill as a whole and the position should be considered very carefully before any attempt is made to extend the scope of the Bill.

*The Daily Telegraph* says that the Bill will be the staple subject for discussion in both Houses before

Christmas, and urges the Commons to conclude their deliberations upon it speedily enough to avoid throwing the Bill at the Lords a few days before the vacation. "The House of Lords will certainly desire to discuss this measure in all its bearings," adds *The Telegraph*, which makes a further strong appeal to the Commons to oppose the increase of the number of its members. It hopes the peers will reintroduce the principle of Proportional Representation into the Bill, and so bring it back to the form recommended by the Speaker's Conference. It observes:—

There is an interesting prospect, therefore, of many important debates and divisions, which we hope will be accompanied by an authoritative statement as to the views of the Government on the grave constitutional questions which have remained in abeyance during the war, but which the Representation of the People Bill has brought back into the field of political vision.

*The Daily News* considers that in the near future the House of Commons will be called upon to exercise more decisively its authority, allowed to become latent, and says:—

Among the immediate domestic tasks which will command its attention is the completion of the stages of the Reform Bill. That measure must be put on the Statute Book without delay, for, though the present Parliament must now have a further lease of life, it is highly undesirable that the renewal should be for long, and before a new election can be held the new electoral scheme must be in operation.

A. P. N., writing in *The Daily News*, points out that:—

Next week the Irish crux will arise on the question of the operation of the Bill being confined to Great Britain. The Government will probably urge that to apply the Bill to Ireland would prejudice the sittings of the Irish Convention, which has the question of electoral reform on its agenda.



The Parliamentary correspondent of *The Daily Chronicle*, dealing with the question of Ireland and the Bill, points out a danger to the Bill thus:—

Only one question of real difficulty is likely to arise in the Committee stage of the Franchise Bill. That is, the application of the redistribution principle to Ireland. At present Ireland is included in the Bill for franchise purposes, but excluded for the purposes of redistribution. The reason for this differential treatment was, of course, the fact that the Home Rule Act is on the Statute Book, and that when it becomes law the representation of Ireland in the Imperial Parliament will be more than halved. There is, however, a strong feeling in Unionist circles that if this Franchise Bill is to extend to Ireland its redistribution provisions, as well as its enfranchising ones, should apply in Ireland equally with Great Britain. Otherwise, contend these Unionist critics, the only result will be to aggravate the gross disparity already existing between Irish and British voting values. Either, they say, extend the principle of one vote one value to Ireland or else leave Ireland out of the Bill. It is obvious that this question is one of considerable delicacy. There are many implacable foes of the Franchise Bill in the Conservative party, and they would rejoice if this Irish difficulty resulted in its sacrifice. On the other hand there is a very strong body of opinion in favour of the Bill in the House, and with wise leadership its passage into law is assured.

*The Chronicle*, in its leading article, discusses the prospects of the Bill at some length. It describes the Bill as "the principal legislative work before Parliament," and says:—

This measure has unquestionably an exceedingly strong backing throughout the country, and public opinion is determined to see it become law. The morrow after peace is concluded will see the British nation and Empire confronted with gigantic problems. If their solution had to wait while a preliminary task, like the reform of our admittedly out-of-date franchise and distribution, were hammered out in a violent party conflict, the future would be black indeed. The commonsense of all thinking men among all the parties is fully alive to this, and would assert itself very strongly against any attempt to wreck or delay the present most hopeful prospect.

*The Chronicle* hopes that on the Report stage the House of Commons will carry the amendment by which the wives of electors will have the municipal as well as the Parliamentary vote.

*The Westminster Gazette* writes:—

We shall be sorry if the Bill leaves the House of Commons with five million married women given the Parliamentary, but not the municipal, vote. This would be to create an indefensible anomaly, and that in a measure the whole object of which is to effect a settlement on the question of the franchise. We refuse to believe that the Reform Bill will be prevented from reaching the Statute Book by the end of the year, and, if we are right, the further extension of the lifetime of the present Parliament is merely consequential. As things stand its life ends on November 30, but an appeal to the present constituencies is almost unthinkable at the very moment when these are being recarved and the number of electors increased from eight to sixteen millions, with six out of eight millions of the new voters women.

#### The Life of Parliament.

There is general expectation in Parliamentary circles that the Government will ask for an extension of the life of the present Parliament for a further period of six months. The last measure, passed in April, expires at the end of next month, and this further extension would prolong the life of Parliament until the end of May, when the new register under the Representation of the People Bill may, it is thought, be ready. The present register has not been revised since 1913. The following table explains the alterations which have been made from time to time in the maximum duration of the present Parliament:—(1) When summoned in January, 1911, under the Septennial Act, 7 years; (2) As reduced by Parliament Act, 1911, 5 years; (3) As extended by the Act of January, 1916, 5 years 8 months; (4) As further extended by the Act of August, 1916, 6 years 3 months; (5) As still further extended by the Act of April, 1917, 6 years 10 months.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS,

#### The Vanished Grille.

*The Times* draws the attention of its readers to the disappearance of the grille during the recess thus:—

When the Commons reassemble to-morrow they will find that a domestic revolution has been effected during the recess. The grille of the Ladies' Gallery has been removed, and the Commons, probably the most conservative Assembly in the world, have at last come into line with the Lords in establishing equality of the sexes in their public galleries.

### Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.  
Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."  
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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 19.—Political Rally, Caxton Hall, 6.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Dorothy Evans. Admission free.

Sunday, October 21.—Members' meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. Mustard, at 49, Moresby-road, Hackney. Speakers: Miss Dorothy Evans and others, 4-6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 24.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mrs. Despard. Chairman: Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café, if desired, 6d. each.

Friday, October 26.—Croydon, Sewing party meets at 32A, The Arcade, High-street, at 3 p.m. More workers are wanted.

Wednesday, October 31.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Abadam, on "The Feminist Revision of Theological Values," and Miss Boyle. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.

Friday, November 9.—Croydon Public Meeting, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans, on "How Men Mind the Baby."

Sunday, November 18.—Discussion Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Miss Rebecca West on "The Real Sources of the Inequality of the Sexes." Tea 4.15 to 5 p.m. Lecture 5 p.m., admission by ticket only, prices 2s. 6d. and 1s., from W.F.L., 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m.—9 p.m. To be opened on first day by Miss Lillah McCarthy—on second day by Miss Eva Moore.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, October 22.—Middlesbrough, Suffrage Centre, 231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 24.—Portsmouth, Work Party, 14, Festing-grove, 3 p.m. Middlesbrough, Suffrage Centre Democratic Club, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28.—Newcastle, Branch Meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. Anderson, at 129, Sandringham-road, South Gosforth, 7.30 p.m.

#### SCOTLAND.

Thursday, November 1.—Glasgow Branch Meeting, 212, Bath-street, 7.30 p.m. Housing Question.

Friday, November 9.—Glasgow, Miss Kate Evans' Concert for the Funds, Central Halls, 7 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 4d., 1s. 3d., 8d.

#### We draw special attention to

Friday, October 19.—Political Rally, Caxton Hall, 6.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Nina Boyle, and Miss Dorothy Evans.

Wednesday, October 24.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Miss Nina Boyle.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

British Dominions Women's Suffrage Union.—Saturday, October 27.—"Indian Tea," at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. N. C. Sen, on "The Education of Indian Women."

North London Branch, National Secular Society.—Sunday, November 4.—Debate, St. Pancras Reform Club, Victoria-road, Kentish Town, 7.30. Subject: "Should an Industrial Conscription Scheme include Women?" Negative: Miss Dorothy Evans.

### REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS.

The report of the Boundary Commissioners in connection with the Representation of the People Bill and the redistribution of Parliamentary seats has been issued to the following effect:—

ENGLAND.		Present	New	Aver. pop.
		Constituencies.	Constituencies.	per member.
Counties	231	230	68,287	
London	59	62	72,871	
Boroughs	166	193	73,644	
WALES.				
Counties	22	24	71,604	
Boroughs	12	11	73,177	
SCOTLAND.				
Counties	39	38	62,925	
Boroughs	31	33	71,394	

"England," says *The Daily News*, "thus gains 29 new members, Wales one, and Scotland one. Where these are to come from is not stated, and the rule was laid down that the number of M.P.s was to remain substantially the same. The new Redistribution Bill will no doubt provide for the changes." No doubt the great minds at Westminster will be able to solve the puzzle of how to produce more representation without increasing the numbers of members or decreasing the number of constituencies; we are glad we have not got to undertake it at headquarters office!

"London" is to have 62 members; Glasgow 15. Several changes, such as that giving Plymouth three members by including Devonport as one of its divisions instead of a separate constituency, and by which Chatham and Rochester become "Medway Boroughs" with two members, do not really change much. Chester, Durham, Dover, Stafford, Warwick and Leamington, and Pontefract become county constituencies instead of boroughs; while fifteen county constituencies become boroughs. The new boroughs created are Accrington, Barnsley, Blackpool, Bootle, Bournemouth, Bromley, East Ham, Eccles, Edmonton, Ealing, Hornsey, Ilford, Kingston (Surrey), Leigh, Leyton, Medway, Morley, Morpeth, Nelson, Richmond (Surrey), Rossendale, Rotherham, Smethwick, Southend, Southport, Tottenham, Wallasey, Wallsend, Walthamstow, Willesden, Wembleton, of which only Leyton and Medway will return two members.

In defiance of every consideration applied to other districts, the little corner which returns the Prime Minister to Parliament has been exempted from all alterations.

#### POLITICAL NOTES.

Sir George Cave is believed to be sympathetically disposed towards an amendment of the Representation of the People Bill which will give Local Government votes to women on their husband's qualifications. The husband's local government vote qualifies a wife for the Parliamentary franchise, but not for the lesser franchise. The amendment will put them on the same footing in England. Scotland, whose Local Government vote is wider than England's, had obtained an undertaking that her condition in this respect should remain unchanged; but she will benefit enormously by this amendment, as will Ireland, who, although her franchise is the same as Scotland's, has not obtained an undertaking that it shall not be curtailed, but is seeking it. She also has much to gain by the married women's franchise. It is not a sound position for the Local Government vote to be an undemocratic one, as it inevitably must be by the wholesale exclusion of married women.

The report of the Boundary Commissioners on the Redistribution of Constituencies will come on for consideration as soon as Parliament meets. There will be some opposition to the new suggestions, but nothing dangerous enough to wreck the Bill. The danger, as has been pointed out at some of our recent

political meetings, will come from Ireland. Mr. Healy is convinced that Sir Edward Carson and the Unionists are engineering a plot to wreck the Government rather than let Ireland be included in a wider franchise, unless she also has redistribution (which has not been arranged for Ireland) and thereby loses members. The Nationalists will not oppose any extension of the Franchise, even to women; but would strenuously oppose any reduction of seats. The Sein Feiners, in any case, are going to attack the Government on account of Thomas Ashe; and others are going to attack it on account of the same slackness of administration that obliged Mr. Birrell to retire. So there is a pretty kettle-of-fish brewing; and from that quarter danger must be expected.

*The Daily Telegraph*, which started, on its own authority as it now appears, the idea that the House of Lords should make the House of Commons wait for its new electorate until the Upper House had got its reformed peers, is still hammering at its echoing anvil. It now urges the House of Commons to make all haste in its deliberations so that the House of Lords may have time to give the Bill consideration. It is not a measure "that can be thrown at the Lords," cries this organ. They must have time; and we gather from this that the special form of attack devised has not found wide or influential support.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, about which the Government is keeping very quiet, will probably be pushed on. Suffragists must unite to protest against this measure, with its insufferable penalising of girls and not boys, with all the force of the movement.

#### OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Malcolm verdict has not been long in bringing its sinister harvest of murder and public disorder. We hope the jury involved in that most disgraceful blot on our record will feel easy when they read the tale of victims. The wife shot by a soldier (who rejoiced in the good old British name of Hermann Falkenstein) was reported to be "delirious and unable to speak," while the witnesses airily described her injuries as "merely flesh wounds," and inflicted for the purpose of preventing her leading an immoral life. Other soldiers, at Manchester, Norwich, and Bristol, are now charged with the murder of their wives whom they accused of infidelity; and we wonder whether the private's uniform will shield them as effectually as the officer's did.

But this is not the only result. A Belgian case on lines very similar to the Malcolm imbroglio (except that the victim did not die) has been removed, under circumstances entirely discreditable, from the jurisdiction of British Courts to the Belgian Army authorities, and the Attorney-General, unabashed and in open court, has admitted that the Treasury sanctioned this—in defiance of all precedent and of all law—"because the interests of justice would thus best be served," and because it was "inadvisable" to risk a repetition of so disgraceful a performance in our courts. There is no attempt to deny the fact that the Belgian military authorities intend to acquit the offender under the "unwritten law" emotion; and the British Courts, apparently, would not dare convict, or even try him. In a recent issue of THE VOTE we affirmed that it would be long before our courts recovered their lost prestige. We did not expect confirmation of our words to follow with such swift and dramatic completeness.

READERS WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW that the dressmaking and millinery department at 144, High Holborn (top floor) is in the full swing of its autumn business. The comfort of the workers would be greatly enhanced if the floor of the workroom were covered with linoleum. Will any well-wisher provide six square yards?

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 16.

THEY SUPPORT US,



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.  
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FRIDAY, October 19th, 1917.

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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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### 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.

### OF MINISTERS AND MINISTRIES.

Of the writing of books there is no end, complained a wearied scribe, many long years ago; and the same might be said—with a difference—at the present moment, of the making of new "Ministries." We pause in our comments to call attention to the uncouth phrase, un-British, unauthoritative, and we believe illegal; for "minister" has been used in English diplomatic parlance to mean the British representative in countries of not sufficient importance to demand an ambassador. It has never been used for specific Cabinet appointments, and we marvel at the persistence in this ungainly nomenclature in preference to our old-established and far more stately Chancellors, First Lords, Secretaries of State, and Presidents of Boards.

In the opinion of the writer, all the internal affairs of the country, below the Home Secretary, should be in the hands of Presidents of Boards. Health, Industry, Trade, Education, Agriculture, Local Government; the Presidents of these Boards should have real, not sham Boards, chosen from representative members of the House, and employers and employed from outside; so as to bring the people actually into their governing machine and give them control of it.

The ill-advised Lord Buxton, when President of the Board of Trade, allowed it to be known, in connection with the *Titanic* disaster, that the so-called "Board" was himself alone, with his permanent officials. This is hopelessly wrong; just as wrong as allowing Attorneys-General and Postmasters-General—the servants of the Government—to hold Cabinet rank. The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police will be the next public servant to find his way into the charmed circle—and he has just as much right to be there as some of these others!

Mr. Lloyd George has, however, called for a pause in the breathless formation of new ministers and ministries. He has declined to give his attention to a "Ministry" of Public Health. We do not share the general indignation on this score. We do not believe any mere ministry, formed under present auspices, will do anything practical to stem any evil. We believe that the only result would be the maximum amount of expenditure with the maximum amount of irritation and inconvenience, joined with

the minimum of relief. We have not forgotten the hubbub about infantile mortality during the early part of Mr. Walter Long's period of office at the Local Government Board. That talented gentleman, like Mr. Herbert Fisher and Lord Rhondda, suddenly "discovered" the problem of infantile mortality. These political Prometheuses, who, without one word of acknowledgment, stole the suffragists' fire and used it to warm their own feet, are no more likely to meet the difficulties fairly now than they were then. Mr. Long thought that he had settled the question when, with one emergency measure, he killed the Pure Milk Act and with another extended the Notifications of Births enactments. At the time THE VOTE said how unutterably puerile this was. *The Daily News* hailed it with delight—on the ground, if we remember rightly, that it would only cost the nation £100,000! Now *The Daily News* and its compeers are booming Lord Rhondda as the baby's would-be champion. They have forgotten all about Mr. Long; but realise that the babies are still dying. A "Ministry of Health," guided by such minds as direct our departmental energies now, would probably substitute for the Pure Milk Act and the Notification of Births, an Act to make bottle-babies registrable, so that their mothers, not the adulterating milkmen, can be conveniently harried.

We have protested in season and out of season at the Government's unseemly neglect of all these matters; and it is useless now for these belated gentlemen to try and acquire merit by dealing with them in haste—to prevent our dealing with them ourselves! As we have had to wait so long, we prefer to wait a little longer, and to know that the thing will be well done when done. The Reconstruction, the Housing, the Food Control, the peddling and tinkering in different directions—always a year too late and a century too ignorant—by men alone, makes us sick with its wastefulness and inefficiency, its superficiality and lack of information. We want all these matters held over for the new electorate, the new House, the new Government. We want Education, Criminal Law, Housing, Health, and Wages dealt with by women as well as men; and, above all, we do not want the best places filled by the residue of the nation—those who lack youth, energy, and a vigorous, progressive outlook. When the millions of men and women who have learned new lessons and trodden new paths are released from the demands of war work, we may find among them capable public servants free from the old hampering bonds of party and custom and vested interests; and then we may get our new "Ministries" staffed by people who will give us some reconstruction in good earnest. And we say here, what we have said many times before, on platforms and in the Press, it is not women's suffrage alone, any more than men's suffrage, on which we pin our faith. It is Equal Suffrage, the joint Vote of Humanity itself.

C. NINA BOYLE.

### Mrs. Despard at Dundee.

Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League were delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming their President in Dundee, and notwithstanding the inclement night there was a good attendance at the meeting, at which Miss Husband presided. Mrs. Despard paid a tribute to the enthusiasm and devotion of women in this war; but speaking personally, she expressed regret that women were engaged in munition works making weapons of destruction, their mission was not to destroy but to create. Dealing with the political situation and the Representation of the People Bill, she said the Women's Freedom League would not rest satisfied with the enfranchisement of women of 30, but would push on towards their goal—the granting of the vote to women on the same terms as to men. A period of reconstruction, difficult for men and women alike, lies in front of us, and the League will find many problems awaiting its attention and energy. Mrs. Despard also hoped the day would soon come when women would be members of Parliament. Votes of thanks concluded the meeting. THE VOTE and other suffrage literature were sold.

### A MODERN CHINESE HEROINE:

#### Ch'iu Chin, Revolutionist for her Sex and her Country.

At a meeting of the China Society, London, held at the Caxton Hall—for so long associated with the stern struggle of British women for freedom and citizenship—Dr. Lionel Giles, hon. sec. of the Society, told the thrilling story of a modern Chinese heroine, Ch'iu Chin. All who heard it will rejoice that his vivid and sympathetic paper is published in full in the last issue of the "Asiatic Review," 3, Victoria-street, London, 2s. 6d. net.

To put Ch'iu Chin's story in its proper setting, Dr. Giles pointed out that the revolution which changed the face of China in 1911 was only the culminating phase of a movement which had grown steadily in volume for several years, and was heralded by a number of sporadic outbreaks, the significance of which was not altogether apparent at the time. He observed, too, that "the 'Boxer' explosion of 1900 was directed at first against the throne, and it was only by consummate craft on the part of the Manchu Government that it was turned into a war of extermination against the foreigner." When China emerged from the fray she realised that the real enemy was within the gates, and "it became the aim of every patriot to shake off the Manchu incubus which had been the cause of such bitter humiliation. The year 1907," said Dr. Giles, "brought forth several uprisings, one of which, ineffectual though it was at the moment, is likely to find a permanent place in history, if only because it was engineered from start to finish by a woman."

#### Why She Fought Against Foot-Binding.

Ch'iu Chin was the daughter of an official of Shaohsing, in the province of Chekiang. Her name means "a lustrous gem of autumn"; later on she took the sobriquet, Ching-hsiung, which means "Vie-with-male." She received the education of a scholar, wrote poetry, and held advanced views on the emancipation of woman. It is not surprising that she was a keen crusader against foot-binding. Dr. Giles quoted a summary of a public lecture which she delivered on the subject. Here is an extract:—

We women, who have had our feet bound from early childhood, have suffered untold pain and misery for which our parents showed no pity. Under this treatment our faces grew pinched and thin, our muscles and bones were distorted. The consequence is that our bodies are weak and incapable of vigorous activity, and in everything we do we are obliged to lean upon others. . . . Rouse yourselves, my sisters, to act with resolution and refuse to submit to the domination of man, asserting your own independent authority and so ordering things that the status of women may rise daily higher, whilst their dependence on others grows less and less. Let there be thorough enlightenment on the subject of foot-binding, and progress in the matter of equal rights for men and women will surely follow.

#### Experiences in Japan.

Ch'iu Chin was married at the age of eighteen to a gentleman named Wang, and went with him to Peking, but two or three years after the Boxer rising husband and wife agreed to an amicable separation. Ardent and self-reliant in temperament, Ch'iu Chin determined to continue her education on modern lines in order to be better equipped for the struggle of life. She raised money by the sale of her hair ornaments and other jewellery, and in April, 1904, left China for Japan. "To most Chinese eyes her enterprise must have appeared in the light of a grave impropriety. Truly, it was a great adventure on which this dauntless young woman of twenty-eight was embarking." When she arrived in Tokyo sheer force of character soon brought her to the front. As a member of a Chinese students' debating club she trained herself as a speaker and afterwards formed a secret society, with ten other women, for the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty. She became

acquainted with other reformers, and when she was obliged to return to China owing to the exhaustion of her slender financial supplies, she obtained a letter of introduction to the leaders of the revolutionary party in order to work with them. She was enrolled in the ranks of the Glorious Restoration Society, a branch of the Sworn Brotherhood founded by Sun Yat-sen.

Some months later she was able to return to Tokyo and there met Sun Yat-sen. Her studies at a training college for women were cut short, however, by an unexpected occurrence. The Manchu Government got wind of the revolutionary plans which were being arranged in the Japanese capital and at their request stringent police regulations were put in force against the Chinese students. A storm of indignation arose, and Ch'iu Chin, ever ready to fight against oppression, was active in organising mass meetings, at which she herself was one of the principal speakers. She was also the moving spirit in the formation of a league, the members of which pledged themselves to return to China unless the obnoxious regulations were rescinded. After a time things quieted down, but Ch'iu Chin's indomitable spirit refused to be coerced; she kept her word, and shook the dust of Japan off her feet for ever.

#### "We of the Female Sex are in Love with Liberty."

Knowing her to be an accomplished scholar two of her friends begged for a memento. Ch'iu Chin responded by copying out a number of her poems. To this fortunate incident, remarked Dr. Giles, we owe the preservation of her poems which after her death were printed and published. Only a few are concerned with current events, he explained, but he gave his own translation of one of them, written in irregular metre after the fashion of an ode, and illustrating Ch'iu Chin's ardent aspirations for the full emancipation of her sex. It is as follows:

#### ON THE STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS.

We of the female sex are in love with liberty:  
Let us pledge our resolve to win liberty in a bumper of wine!  
By the dispensation of Nature men and women are endowed with equal rights;  
How can we be content to abide in our inferior position?  
With all our energy we must raise ourselves up and wash away, once for all, the shame and degradation of the past.  
If only men will acquiesce in us becoming their comrades  
They shall see our white hands toiling in the great task of winning back our beloved country.  
Full of dishonour is the ancient custom  
By which women are allotted to their respective mates like cattle.  
Now that the light of dawn is visible, ushering in a new area of civilisation,  
Man's claim to stand alone, usurping the first place,  
And to hold the other sex in slavish subjection, must be utterly abolished.  
Wisdom, understanding, mental culture—all will come by dint of training and practice.  
O my heroic countrywomen, shoulder your responsibilities!  
I am confident that you will not flinch in the task that awaits you.

Dr. Giles lamented that the beauty and power of the verses have evaporated in his translation, but said that they "rang like a trumpet blast through the literary and political world of China at a time when the land was still groaning under the humiliation of a foreign yoke. The veiled allusion to the coming revolution and the eagerness of women to take their share in that struggle, shows the direction in which Ch'iu Chin's thoughts were tending. In truth," added Dr. Giles, "she soon realised that the winning of political liberty was the necessary preliminary to sex emancipation."

On returning to China it was necessary for Ch'iu Chin to earn her living, and she was recommended for the post of teacher in a girls' school at Nanzin, in the extreme north of her own province of Chekiang. She



was not accepted, however, and, although annoyed by the decision, determined to call on her successful rival, Madame Hsu Tzu-hua. No sooner had the two women met than rivalry gave place to friendship, and Madame Hsu insisted upon keeping Ch'iu Chin with her to share the work of the school. After six months spent in the closest intimacy, Ch'iu Chin found that the drudgery of a school was unsuited to her temperament; the fever of revolution was in her blood. She paid frequent visits to Shanghai and helped in the foundation of a new Chinese College there, sparing no exertion to make it a success.

**Editor of "The Chinese Women's Journal."**

Her activities also found a new outlet in starting and editing *The Chinese Women's Journal*. Dr. Giles gave a summary of the contents of the second issue of this interesting monthly, a copy of which is in his possession. It contains a photograph of the editor, unfortunately a poor one; a statement of the aims and scope of the publication; articles on "Moral Philosophy," "Female Education," "Hints on Nursing," translated from English by Ch'iu Chin, who in the midst of her busy life had acquired a considerable knowledge of our language. Poems by the editor are included, also the verses on "Women's Rights," already quoted, set to music. The last section was devoted to the education of girls, also an essay urging the necessity of organisation and mutual co-operation amongst women, with notes upon the practical results already achieved and interesting items of news from various quarters. Certainly a production worthy of the woman who edited it and of the great cause to which it was dedicated: the advancement of women.

**Martyr.**

The story of the next few months, from the winter of 1906 to July 15, 1907, when she was taken prisoner and condemned to death, is one of premature or abortive outbreaks, of one province moving and others holding back. Ch'iu Chin charged herself with the direction of affairs in Chekiang, toured the interior of the province, almost wholly mountainous and without railways. Her work included a secret survey of roads and paths and a map of the country for military use. She visited other important centres, rallying the drooping spirits of her party, reorganising the Glorious Restoration Society from top to bottom, and turning her attention especially to the army and to the student population. In the midst of all this work she was publicly appointed Principal of the College of Physical Culture at Shaohsing; the Prefect, a Manchu, accompanied by two district magistrates, went in person to the College in order to present Ch'iu Chin with a complimentary address. It is recorded that she and her friend, Madame Hsu, visited the tomb of Yo Fei, a Chinese General (1103-1141), who fought to save his country from the Tartars but was betrayed, and both women promised that whoever outlived the other would see that her friend was buried near the hero's tomb. Finally the date of the rising was fixed but, as so often happens in such cases, the explosion was premature, and desperate deeds were done. The Manchu troops gained the upper hand, and eventually marched on Shaohsing. At a last hurried meeting of students they begged Ch'iu Chin to escape, but she remained in her room and was taken prisoner with six others. When brought before the district magistrate she refused to utter a word lest she might implicate her associates, but simply traced a line of poetry, containing a play on her surname Ch'iu, which means "autumn." "Autumn rain and autumn wind fill the heart with melancholy sore." Sentence was pronounced, and on the morning of July 15, at day-break, she was executed at Shaohsing. The executioners and onlookers, it is related, shuddered with

emotion, but Ch'iu Chin went tranquilly to her doom.

The news of Ch'iu Chin's martyrdom was received with an outburst of grief and horror, not only by her friends but by all who believed in the cause for which her life was sacrificed. Public opinion was stirred to its depths, and elegies bewailing her fate were circulated in all parts of China. One of the most touching was composed by Madame Hsu, from which the following lines are taken:—

In what family will a girl again bring herself to seek education?  
In what household will a wife again be willing to become a leader of men?

Lo! I was overcome with an inarticulate yearning of sympathy over thy talents and aspirations, which proclaimed thee a heroine among women.

Clever as thou wert in life, after death thou hast surely an angel's intelligence.  
O spirit of Ch'iu Chin! Come back to me and ease my aching heart.

It was not until the summer of 1912, after the dawn of the new era for which she had striven so passionately but had not lived to see, that her body was finally laid to rest where she had desired. It was felt that a national memorial was the only fitting tribute to one who had worked and suffered so heroically for the nation's cause. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people, and a pavilion was erected bearing the name of "Wind and Rain." The commemorative inscription on her tomb calls upon after generations "to reflect on her noble example as they pace to and fro, moved to shed hot tears and finding it hard to tear themselves away. Thus may her tomb stand imperishable even as the tomb of the princely Yo Fei." So it comes about that the modern heroine of China rests by the side of the hero of bygone days.

**OUR "WEDNESDAYS."**

In introducing her subject of "Women in the Government of London," Mrs. Stanbury drew attention to the English love of self-government, and insisted on the advisability of working along lines of historical development. To govern the five millions of the Administrative County of London (approximately the same number as the present inhabitants of Belgium) was a task offering endless opportunities to women. We are faced with the problem of how to apply law with speed and intensiveness.

Local Government falls roughly under three heads. (1) The Poor Law. The great curse of poverty hangs over this country, and work under the Poor Law is overshadowed by tragedy, both on account of the material with which the Guardians have to deal and the obsolete laws under which they have to work. Fortunately, in a great number of Poor Law Unions the State children have been taken away from the immediate surroundings of the Poor Law system. (2) While the work of the Poor Law is almost entirely remedial, the work of the Sanitary Authorities (in London represented by the Borough Councils) is of a preventive character. This work did not appeal to women to the same extent as Poor Law work, and there are only twenty-four women serving as Borough Councillors in the twenty-eight London areas, while the whole number of Borough Councillors is 1,350. Since the war began the Government has thrust new duties upon the Borough Councils. They have been instructed to draw up schemes for Baby Welfare and to study the question, and to take action in the matter of venereal disease. It is the duty of Borough Councillors to make a survey of the houses in their district to see if they are in a habitable condition, but they have never carried out this part of their duties. (3) Educa-

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**POLITICAL FUND.**

The return of our Political Organiser to "THE FRONT" and the reassembling of Parliament calls for the **POLITICAL FUND**. We must have more money for the **BIG PUSH TO VICTORY** which will change **OUR BILL** into **OUR ACT** and give us the **VOTE**.

The Political Rally is timed for **October 19**. Please send your contribution for the Fund before that date or bring it with you to the meeting, and the larger it is the more certain you will make the victory. **E. KNIGHT.**

tion is in the hands of the County Councils, upon which women were not eligible to serve until 1907, though they had done excellent work on the School Boards. It was a disappointment to the speaker to find that the women members of the L.C.C. did not agitate for equal pay for the men and women teachers of London. She thought women should attend the weekly meetings of the L.C.C. on Tuesday afternoons. These, unlike the meetings of committees, are open to the public without any formalities. She felt that the technical education of girls was being neglected. We have to bear the burden of a great debt, and we can only meet it through the children of the nation.

Miss Boyle insisted on the necessity for immediate agitation that the Local Government register under the new Franchise Bill should be identical with the Parliamentary register.

**North-Eastern District.**

**Newcastle.**

The interest shown in the recent campaign in the N.E. augurs well for our new Branch. Mrs. Metge, who initiated the campaign, enlisted a number of helpers, and good meetings were held. Mrs. Metge opened a largely attended meeting in Bigg Market on Sunday evening, and Miss A. Broughton afterwards spoke. She dealt ably with the Hartlepool restriction on women drinking in bars, pointing out that wherever there is a conviction of drunkenness there should also be a prosecution of a publican. Her long service in the temperance movement gives her authority to protest against such a restriction on the sober sex while total prohibition is still held to be against the public interest. Miss Dorothy Evans also spoke at the Gosforth Adult School on "The Duty of Civil Disobedience," and to the I.L.P. meeting on Sunday evening. A dinner-hour meeting was held on the Tuesday after Miss Davison's case had been dismissed, and she demonstrated her unalterable determination to work for her cause by collecting for our funds with the box which the police had held for some weeks, and just restored to her.

Mrs. Anderton very kindly undertook to act as secretary *pro tem.* when Miss Dorothy Evans left for London. She called a members' meeting on Friday, at which the Branch was formed, Mrs. Anderton being elected as hon. secretary. Miss Ada Broughton as hon. Press sec., and Mrs. Blanche as hon. treasurer. Good wishes to Newcastle Branch!

**Hartlepool.**

As a result of the activity of the Women's Freedom League in Hartlepool there is a movement on foot to get the resolution rescinded in which the Trades Council took it upon themselves to congratulate the chief constable on "his courage" in excluding all women from public-houses. They realise that Hartlepool has become the laughing stock of the North-East by acting up to the old spirit among men of "Off the face of the earth with women!" The saying of the Suffragists has been bandied about: "If there is a shortage of beer, why not cut off supplies from all red-headed people. It would be as logical as excluding women."

DON'T MISS THE CHANCE of obtaining excellent notepaper and envelopes stamped with the words "Votes for Women" in the Freedom League colours. This is pre-war stationery at pre-war prices: 8d. per box of 20 sheets and envelopes. There are only a few boxes left; delays are dangerous!

**GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.**

One of the attractions of the Fair will be "The Lady with a Hundred Pockets." Every member is asked to send something suitable to fill these pockets. We have been fortunate enough to get Miss Lillah McCarthy and Miss Eva Moore to open the Fair. The following societies have taken stalls:—The United Suffragists, the Independent W.S.P.U., the Free Church League for W.S., and the Nine Elms Settlement. Mrs. Thomson Price has very kindly promised to give her popular *Psychic Delineations* on the second day.

**BRANCH NOTES.**

**Croydon Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.**

Our autumn session commenced on October 12, when a very successful gathering met to hear Miss Boyle, and gave her a very hearty welcome. Dealing with the political situation, she spoke of the hopeful chances of women's enfranchisement under the Representation of the People Bill. On the subject of "What is Reconstruction?" she considered various ideas of "reconstruction," and suggested that the reconstruction of the social system appealed to women, and it is to this form of reconstruction that they should give their thought, influence and work. The remark of one member of the audience that she was going away refreshed with new ideas well illustrates the feeling of appreciation of the able way in which Miss Boyle handled her subject.

**Glasgow Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road.**

Will members please note that our Jumble Sale in aid of the Funds will take place on Saturday, November 3, and that old clothes and furnishings of any description are eagerly desired? On receipt of a postcard a van will call near the date, and take heavy stuff, but donors of small parcels are asked to bring them to the office any afternoon from 2 to 5.30 p.m., or on Saturday forenoons. A concert in aid of the funds will be given in Central Halls, 25, Bath-street, on Friday, November 9, for which a splendid array of local artistes are giving their services. It is a special effort of Miss Kate Evans, and should evoke the wholehearted support of members.

A draft programme of the future work of the League was discussed and amended at the members' meeting on Thursday, October 11, and a resolution passed urging on the Bill. Miss McLelland was authorised to rearrange the districts of the city according to the new Parliamentary boundaries. Will members volunteer to convene those new districts?

A very large meeting at Partick on Saturday afternoon passed a resolution asking Government to grant the municipal franchise to wives of Local Government electors.

**Scottish Council Meeting.**

The Scottish Council met in Glasgow on September 29. Delegates were present from Edinburgh, Dundee, Paisley, Dunfermline, and Scottish Scattered. Miss Eunice G. Murray was called to the chair. Satisfaction was expressed at the great success, under Miss McLelland, of the Clyde campaign, and the Council sent heartiest thanks to the members who so willingly sacrificed their holidays to help. Interesting discussion took place regarding the future policy of the League, and a strong recommendation was issued to Branches to insist at the present time on representation on all public bodies and committees formed in connection with questions relating to social welfare. Branches were also urged to hold a "Representation of the People Bill" meeting on October 20, and the hon. secretary was instructed to ask Miss Boyle to make a Scottish tour early in 1918. Delegates were asked to impress these matters on their members, and also to urge the Branches to be as liberal as possible in financial help to the Organiser Fund.

The following donations to this Fund up to date are:—

	£	s.	d.
Miss Murray	20	0	0
Miss Sarah L. Munro	10	0	0
Miss G. H. Jacob, B.Sc.	1	0	0
Miss A. C. McLaren	15	0	0
Miss A. P. McLaren	10	0	0
Miss M. P. McLaren	10	6	0
Miss Shaw	2	0	0
Mrs. Dundas-Grant	3	3	0
Miss A. B. Jack	10	0	0
Mrs. Paterson	5	0	0
Mrs. Dr. Aimee Gibbs	1	0	0
Edinburgh Branch	5	0	0
Dundee Branch	1	1	0
Anonymous	20	0	0

£51 6 9

A. B. JACK, Hon. Sec. and Treas.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 16.



FRIDAY,  
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# THE VOTE

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