

THE VOTE,
APRIL 23, 1920.
ONE PENNY.

A CANADIAN WOMAN LEGISLATOR.
Interview with Mrs. McKinney, M.P.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XX. No. 548.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1920.

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

DIVORCE LAW REFORM. E. Knight.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.
WHY WE OPPOSE THE BASTARDY BILL.

A CANADIAN WOMAN LEGISLATOR.
Interview with Mrs. McKinney, M.P.
DOMINION UNIVERSITIES. By a London Visitor.
BOOK REVIEW. E. Hambling.

DIVORCE LAW REFORM.

EQUALITY CARRIED IN THE COMMONS.

"It is desirable to place the sexes on a footing of equality in regard to divorce, but any change which would impair the permanence of marriage would be harmful." This was the net result of the three hours debate in the House of Commons on April 14th, on Mr. Rendall's motion that:—"Legislative effect should be given without delay to the Recommendations of the Majority Report of the Royal Commission on Divorce." Mr. RENDALL referred to the two to one majority in the House of Lords for the Second Reading of Lord Buckmaster's Bill embodying these proposals—equality between men and women, cheaper and easier legal arrangements, several new grounds of nullity and five new grounds for divorce:—desertion, habitual drunkenness, incurable insanity, cruelty, and imprisonment under a commuted death sentence. Justice was denied to thousands of persons because the cost of proceedings was beyond them. Desertion practically always included unfaithfulness, but without money the necessary evidence was unobtainable, so we had one law for the rich and another for the poor.

When marriage had ceased to be a reality it was the duty of the State to end it, not to please the parties, but in the real interests of the State and the children; he was certain that these proposals would "put marriage upon an unassailable rock."

Mr. RONALD McNEIL, moving the Amendment which was finally carried by 134 to 91, said it was a mistake to sacrifice much valuable reform that could be got by consent in order to grasp at what must inevitably provoke bitter controversy.

The common ground between them was the Minority Report upon which all the Commissioners agreed, this included the cheapening of divorce, the grounds of nullity, and the equality of the sexes, and it would practically satisfy the real demand in the country. The emotional eloquence of the Lord Chancellor had

been met by detailed evidence from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We must not rely too much on the opinions, views, and experiences of judges and counsel of the Divorce Court; naturally they look on marriage from the standpoint of its hopeless failures. Day after day these are spread out before them and they see individual miseries which they desire to remove.

Still more important it is to look at marriage from the other standpoint of those that are not failures, this was what that House should do. They comprised the very vast majority of the nine or ten million married couples in the kingdom. How would these proposals affect them? In fundamental matters standards of conduct are created by instincts built upon the settled law.

Conduct must be readjusted to the disturbances of these foundations which result from alterations in the law.

At the root of our thoughts upon life, both consciously and sub-consciously, accepted by the people for centuries, lies the idea that marriage is as irrevocable as death, the sole exception, divorce for unfaithfulness, only enforcing and emphasising the rule. The vast majority of marriages are neither ideal nor dismal, they are midway between the Brownings and the Carlyles, they are humdrum, in them countless numbers avoid failure, because, realising that it is irrevocable, they make up their minds to give and take, and acquire the habit of tolerance of each other's failings till mutual consideration brings the esteem which makes them indispensable to one another.

But if from the first that instinct of permanence did not exist in their minds, in many cases the first quarrel and angry words would end the union which even now results in average contentment and happiness. These changes were often advocated as mainly and principally in the interests of women, but women would

suffer most from them. Men were less constant than women, but women lost their attractiveness earlier. (Lady Astor: "Hear, hear").

The older women would be the victims and he thought this had been intuitively grasped by women and that they were hostile to Lord Buckmaster's Bill. Women were vitally interested, and had only just been enfranchised; it would be an absolute outrage upon them to pass such a Bill till they had pronounced upon it in the ballot boxes.

MR. EVELYN CECIL thought he had been asked to second the Amendment because he had been an anti-suffragist. He wanted the Divorce Laws made equal for both sexes and accessible to all classes. Hard cases made bad law. With desertion as a cause of divorce an unscrupulous man might have a large number of wives and what would be his children's position? In other countries easy divorce did not improve the standard of the family or the national life. Both in private and public life he wanted a high moral standard.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND said the dice were no longer to be loaded against the woman. Since 1573, in Scotch Law, desertion for four years had been a cause of Divorce. Why should the English woman be denied her Scottish sister's right? Her rights to the Vote, to the Jury-box and the Bench, were a sham and a mockery till she shared this equality.

LADY ASTOR felt most strongly that the inequality between men and women should be swept away. They would never get real morality anywhere so long as they recognised a double standard for men and for women. The present divorce law emphasised it. The expense of divorce too should be reduced. Weakening of the divorce laws was always hard on the women and children and life was always more difficult for women. In America easy divorce had not benefitted the women. Women wanted to preserve the dignity of marriage, they did not clamour for the Bill; she took the national and the home point of view. The world was too loose altogether, we needed tightening up, she wanted to tighten up the men as well as the women.

MR. SEXTON told the mover of the Resolution that the opinions of working class women on this question would surprise him. What made many marriages unhappy today were bad conditions and filthy housing.

COLONEL SIR ROBERT WILLIAMS said there had been much talk of unhappy marriages, but who made them? The people themselves who married thoughtlessly. Easier divorce would bring more reckless marriages and the sufferers would be the children.

MAJOR ENTWISTLE obligingly continued the debate till requested to desist by the mover of the Resolution and only 225 of our representatives took the trouble to visit the division lobbies. E. KNIGHT.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Law Students.

The results of the Easter examinations of the Council of Legal Education contain the names of women for the first time. There were four successful women candidates of whom one passed Second Class in Constitutional Law, two Third Class in Constitutional Law and Real Property, and one Third Class in Criminal Law. They were Miss M. A. Geikie Cobb, daughter of the Rector of St. Ethelburga's, Bishopgate, Miss O. C. Clapham, Miss A. Doherty, and Miss C. G. Bruce. All were Students from the Middle Temple.

Income Tax on Marriage.

Dr. Marie Stopes the well-known scientist, is organising a League for Removal of the Tax on Marriage. Dr. Stopes estimates this tax on marriage at £20,000,000 a year. She contends that it would not be lost to the Exchequer, but replaced by equitable assessment of all individuals. Dr. Stopes says she is prepared to refuse to pay any tax based on a joint assessment, and to go to prison if necessary. She hopes that women will unite together to secure this reform.

The Geneva Conference.

Interest in the forthcoming Women's Conference at Geneva, June 6-12, grows apace. The Press is, too, keenly alive to its importance, and many offers of practical support from distinguished women and men of all schools of thought, have been received at headquarters. A special British Geneva Congress Committee is now hard at work, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Recording Secretary, is now in Geneva making many necessary preparations. The sum of £5,000 is needed for the organisation of the Congress, and for the carrying on of the International work, and all interested in the cause of women's-world wide emancipation are asked to help towards raising the necessary money. A large contingent of American women are expected, Spain is to be represented as well as representatives from India, China and Japan, whilst the Uruguayan Republic has already appointed an official delegate, in the person of Dr. Paulina Luisi, a well-known leader of the Woman Suffrage movement in South America. We are delighted to learn that our Government has officially appointed Lady Astor to represent this country at the Conference.

Conference of Labour Women.

The National Conference of Labour Women, which is to be held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on Wednesday and Thursday of this week, will be the largest conference of its kind yet organised. Over 400 delegates, with working women in a large majority, will attend. Miss Mary MacArthur is the chairman. The conference will be held under the joint auspices of the Labour Party and the Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations, which include the Women's Trade Unions and the Co-operative Women's Guild as well as the Labour Party, so that it is the most representative democratic gathering of women that has yet been held. Amongst other matters the special attention of the Conference will be called to the continued injustice of excluding women under 30 from the franchise, demanding votes for women on the same terms as for men, and equal opportunities for women in all branches of the Civil Service.

Women's Temperance Week.

Hundreds of women from all over the world have come to the convention of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union at the Central Hall, Westminster, this week. Delegates have arrived from India, Ceylon, Burma, Japan, the Straits Settlement, Australia and Canada, Armenia, France, Belgium, and the Scandinavian Countries. Among the Canadian delegation is one of the woman M.P.s. of the country, Mrs. McKinney. Special services were held on Sunday in Westminster Abbey, the City Temple, and Westminster Chapel, and the Conference continues until the end of the week.

Women Candidates.

We offer our very warm congratulations to Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Susan Lawrence for the magnificent fight they put up for parliamentary honours in Northampton and Camberwell, and we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that next time they will both be successful in representing their constituencies in the House of Commons. We only wish that there were women candidates, no matter what their party, fighting at the other bye-elections.

Sex Equality in Sweden.

The new Marriage Law was recently passed by 83 votes to 41 in the First Chamber and by 126 votes to 26 in the Second Chamber. Its principal provisions strengthen the matrimonial independence of the wife, abolish the husband's personal guardianship over the wife, deprive the husband of the legal right to dispose of his wife's personal property, and afford to the wife the possibility of obtaining increased legal protection. The general aim of the measure is to ensure matrimonial equality for both sexes.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women Magistrates.

In reply to questions by MR. CLOUGH and MR. RENDALL in the House of Commons last week, MR. BONAR LAW stated that forty-three women magistrates had been appointed up to date, one of whom had since died. He was not prepared to say that it should be the policy of the Government to see that at least one woman magistrate was appointed to every bench; and was informed by MR. HUGH EDWARDS that no woman magistrate had been appointed in Wales. A fortnight previously DR. ADDISON stated in the House, that no woman had been appointed to the Board of Health in Wales, because no woman could be secured "with appropriate responsibilities and experience." We suggest that a deputation of Welsh women interview the Lord Chancellor together with his Women's Advisory Committee and the Minister of Health, and discuss with them the qualifications of Welsh women.

M.P.'s Salaries.

MR. STANTON has applied for an increase of salary for Members of the House of Commons, and because MR. BONAR LAW stated that he did not think it would be the general desire of the House to increase the present payment, this intrepid gentleman threatened to raise the question again this week. We repeat—the lowering of the present prices of necessities has a prior claim on the time and consideration of the House.

Income Tax.

MR. GODFREY LOCKER-SAMPSON enquired from the Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the estimated penalisation of marriage if the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Income Tax were adopted of not treating married people as separate taxable entities; but the Treasury refused to deal with the matter until the Finance Bill came under consideration.

Poor Law Children.

MR. PALMER asked the Minister of Health, how many Boards of Guardians were devising schemes by which a workhouse was cleared of its adult inmates and set apart as an institution for the boarding and education of Poor Law children over three years of age. DR. ADDISON replied that there were four cases in which such schemes had been suggested, but only two in which they were actively under consideration. He claimed that these schemes were not inconsistent with the provisions of the Poor Law Institutions Order, and in the present abnormal conditions they might provide the only practical alternative to leaving the children in workhouses.

Lady Astor's Seat.

SIR WILLIAM JOYNSON-HICKS has added to the gaiety of nations, if not to that of the House of Commons, by disputing Lady Astor's right to her accustomed seat. MR. T. P. O'CONNOR expressed the view that technical rules might sometimes be set aside, and that the only lady member should be accorded every possible courtesy and consideration. Some Hon. Members ("gallant" is not added to their parliamentary description), apparently disputed this by shouting "No, no!" and SIR FREDERICK HALL, unexpectedly adopting the rôle of a doughty champion of the equality of the sexes, asked, "whether, if ladies come as members to this House, they should not be amenable to the same Regulations as other Members? They claim equality on all points!" The Speaker left things much as they were, so Sir William said he would make a personal explanation. He informed the House that he had had some correspondence which he was willing to produce, adding, that he did not think it at all necessary!

The Government and Economy.

In the debate on supply, which took place in the early part of last week, Mr. Hopkins voiced the opinion of most people when he said, "I for one am a little tired of hearing the Government exhort us to observe both publicly and privately greater economy, exhort the workers to produce more, and point out the necessity of greater saving, while at the same time the Government are not taking those steps which they might reasonably take to do their share towards restoring the exchange and so cheapening the cost of living."

MR. BALDWIN, for the Treasury, could only suggest that "we must work, and we must save," whereupon SIR FREDERICK BANBURY pointed out that if the Government's advice is to be followed, the Government itself, instead of bringing in a Bill to limit working hours to forty-eight per week ought to bring in a Bill to compel people to work sixty hours! He explained that he was not in favour of that course being taken because he was a lover of freedom; but as Sir Frederick and other members called attention on more than one occasion last week to "the very small House" when important questions were being discussed, we would suggest that the Government bring in immediately a Bill to compel Members of Parliament to put in a reasonable number of hours each week in the transaction of the Country's business.

Army and Air Force (Annual Bill).

When women in numbers get into the House of Commons we are convinced that they will subject this Army Annual Bill to incisive criticism. Very inadequate time was given last week for the discussion of important clauses dealing with the death penalty, soldiers' right of appeal, the retention of Field Punishment No. 1 and No. 2, and the kind of accommodation and amounts allowed for soldiers' food. We congratulate Mr. Hayday for challenging the clause relating to a soldier's liability to maintain wife and children which reads:

"Where the soldier is a Warrant Officer (class II.) not holding an honorary commission, or a non-commissioned officer who is not below the rank of a sergeant—in respect of a wife or children, two shillings and sixpence, and in respect of a bastard child, one shilling and sixpence."

We agree with his comment, "To suggest a figure of 1s. 6d. for the maintenance of the unfortunate illegitimate child is nothing short of scandalous."

MR. BILLING also protested against the discrimination which is made between legitimate and illegitimate children, and asked "Is it the little child's fault that it happens to be illegitimate, and why should the stigma always be put upon the child and not upon the parents?" Far worse than the stigma in our opinion is the fact that all that the unmarried mother of a soldier's child can claim for its maintenance is 1s. 6d. per week in these days when the price of milk is round about 1s. od. a quart, and a quarter loaf is 1s. od! The recent discussion on the Army Annual Bill, the Third Reading of which was taken after eleven o'clock last Thursday night, is the most convincing argument we have recently come across for the urgent necessity of more women members of Parliament. F. A. U.

A WORKER FOR WOMEN.

The death last week of Adeline Marie, Duchess of Bedford, removes an ardent enthusiast in the cause of prison reform for girls and women. In conjunction with Lady Battersea, she was one of the first lady visitors appointed to convict prisons, and when in 1899 some changes were made as to methods, she was nominated to the chair of the Board of Visitors of Aylesbury Prison, and retained that post until 1918. From 1900 until her death, the Duchess was President of the Association of Lady Visitors of Local Prisons. Not the least of her innovations at Aylesbury was the appointment of a medical woman as deputy-governor, and to her perhaps more than to anyone else, was due the application of the Borstal Detention System to Women.

Her death means a very real loss to the Commissioners of Prisons, for they had the most complete confidence in the Duchess regarding the whole subject of dealing with women offenders. In her direct interviews and dealings with women prisoners she chiefly aimed at helping them to win back their lost self-respect as a necessary corollary to a fresh start in life.

Miss MAUDE ROYDEN'S

Sermons are Published in the
"COMING DAY"

Copy 2½d. post free, Monthly.
Salisbury Agency, 133, Salisbury Square, E.C.

THE VOTE.

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

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

WHY WE OPPOSE THE BASTARDY BILL.

When the Criminal Law Amendment Bill of the late Government was before the Country, some people supported it because, while they could not approve of all its clauses, they considered that one or two of them might be beneficial. We, on the other hand, offered the whole Bill our uncompromising opposition. Whatever might be the possible advantage of one or two of its clauses, there were others in it which, in our opinion, were entirely mischievous, and we insisted that no legislation was infinitely preferable to bad legislation. We take up the same position in regard to the Bastardy Bill, 1920. We sympathise with its attempt to make the father, when paternity is acknowledged or proved, responsible for the maintenance of his child and for the expenses incurred at its birth; but we are absolutely opposed to its other provisions which seek to penalise the mother if she refuses to disclose the name of the father; which would make the child a ward of the Court, thus connecting it with the Police Court from its earliest infancy; and which would treat the mother, so far as her rights over her child are concerned, merely as a guardian on sufferance. We are strongly of opinion that everything that can be done should be done to persuade the expectant or actual mother to name the father, but we stop short very definitely at compelling her to do so. We also fully agree that if a mother, married or unmarried, neglects her child, the law should step in; but we already have a Children Act on our Statute Book, and this Act should be put into operation to protect all children whether they are legitimate or illegitimate. We strongly object, too, to the use of the word "bastard," which, in our opinion, ought not to be applied to any child.

The Bastardy Bill, 1920, proposes to continue and extend, with shadowy ameliorations in some directions, and further victimisation of the woman in others, our present system of dealing with the unmarried mother and her child—a system which we consider wholly bad. We are not at all sure that the inquisitorial methods which it suggests should be adopted to obtain intimate knowledge of the mother's private affairs, as well as the attempt to penalise her under certain conditions, will not lead to a considerable increase in the cases of abortion, and to a great danger of blackmail. We advocate a complete change in dealing with the problem of the unmarried mother and her child. When a girl or woman finds that she is about to become a mother, it should be possible for her to consult a member of the local Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Committee who, through this Council's authorities, ought to be able to get in touch with the putative father and to secure from him, when his responsibility can be proved, assistance for the girl before her confinement, and subsequently adequate maintenance for the child. It should be the duty of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to see that the girl has every care and attention at the birth of her child, if necessary in the Committee's Maternity Hospital. When she has recovered she should not be thrown entirely on her own resources, but should be able to find a home for herself and her child at a municipal hostel, at any rate for some months, where she could leave the little one during the day to be well cared for, while she herself went out to earn her living. In this way the unmarried mother and her child, while still free to claim the help of a responsible authority in case of need, would have a chance of securing the ordinary independence to which every British citizen has a right; and both would, in ordinary circumstances, be kept out of the clutches of the workhouse authorities, the magistrates, and the police courts.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

From the perusal of the Budget we certainly cannot gather that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has any intention of excluding women under thirty years of age from taxation. He evidently means to get a good deal of money from them through increased postal rates and from Income Tax. We should like to take this opportunity, therefore, of reminding him, the Government, and those Members of Government, who are dealing with the Committee stage of the Amending Bill to the Representation of the People Act, that taxation and representation should go together. Apparently there is a concerted effort in this committee to delay its progress, and amendment after amendment is being proposed to deal with most of the ages of a woman between thirty and twenty-one years of age. It is clear that these are simply obstructionist amendments and we protest against the waste of parliamentary time which they involve and the shelving of this question of the equal political Enfranchisement of men and women. We would particularly recall to some of the Committee Members the fact that women do not want pleasantries but votes. In the manifesto issued at the last General Election and signed by The Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, we were told that—"It will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

To secure the carrying out of this pledge by this Government, which can no longer claim to be either new or fresh, we urge that it should bring in without further delay and pass through all its stages into law a Bill to remove all inequality of voting rights as between men and women. This is all the more urgent now, because after four meetings of the Committee, Colonel Archer Shee and Sir Frederick Banbury, both Coalition Unionists, have put forward the argument that as the Labour Party's Bill, if passed, will involve an additional expenditure of £300,000 or £400,000 this Bill cannot be proceeded with. If this is correct, why did not the Government inform the House of Commons of this difficulty when the Bill passed its Second Reading and save the time of the members who attended the Committee's meetings, and the money of the country paid by the Government for the reports issued of these meetings?

MRS. BARNETT AS ALDERMAN.

Mrs. H. O. Barnett, C.B.E., has been approached with a view to her standing for the vacancy for a County Alderman for Middlesex, and has consented. Her name will be brought forward by Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., at the forthcoming Council Meeting on April 29th.

Mrs. Barnett was a nominated Poor Law Guardian for the Whitechapel Schools for over twenty years, and the founder and Hon. Secretary of the State Children's Association, the objects of which are to remove children from Workhouses, and to secure better care of mental defectives. All Canon Barnett's work at Toynbee Hall was done in co-operation with her. Mrs. Barnett has enthusiastically supported schemes for open spaces, amongst them being Angel Alley and Baker's Row, Whitechapel, and Parliament Hill Fields and Hampstead Heath Extension. In Housing Reform she has been a pioneer, and the Hampstead Garden Suburb is a result of her initiative and public spirit.

Her work for Education has been, and still is, very extensive, combining a knowledge of residential as well as day schools. The Girls' School at the Garden Suburb is called the "Barnett School" as some slight recognition of her services in this field. During her career Mrs. Barnett has made a brilliant use of her pen to give publicity to out of sight causes of the oppressed, and has won support from every class of people. Her biography of her husband, the late Canon Barnett, will become in the opinion of literary people a classic.

Women should be present in the Public Galleries of the Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) when this election takes place next Thursday at 4.15 to show their keen interest in the chances of the appointment of a distinguished woman to a high civic honour.

A CANADIAN WOMAN LEGISLATOR.

Interview with Mrs. McKinney, M.P.

Amongst the hundreds of women delegates from all over the world who are met together this week at Westminster under the auspices of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, is Mrs. McKinney, M.P., one of Canada's four women legislators of Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. Mrs. McKinney, and Miss MacAdam together represent Alberta, and an interesting feature of the latter's election lies in the fact that she was one of the two overseas representatives permitted by the Dominion during the war and at the time of her election was over in this country, at Orpington Hospital, in the Canadian Nursing Service.

"We are fortunate to have one another's company during the legislative sessions," Mrs. McKinney told a representative of THE VOTE. "We work together with the utmost cordiality, as also with our men colleagues. There has never been the slightest approach to sex-antagonism of any kind since our election in June, 1917. There are no women so far in the Federal Legislative Council, but they are now eligible, and have been since last year. The reason of their non-election at present is because we have not had an election since the Bill was passed which made them eligible as members."

Mrs. McKinney is the wife of a farmer and also the daughter of one, and she represents an eminently agricultural constituency in the waving grainlands of Alberta. It is interesting to note that women voted for the first time in her election three years ago, and it is easy to see therefore which way the ballot tended.

"Miss Macadam and I do not profess to concentrate solely on women's topics in the House," explained Mrs. McKinney. "We give equal consideration to men's interests so-called. Women have been far too local in their outlook during the past. The great lesson we must all learn nowadays is the mighty fact that however important local affairs may be, each and all bear an influence which spreads indefinitely and with far-reaching results. Of course, women will always have special interests of their own, and in our case, we are much drawn to problems with an economic bearing, women's wages and so forth, and the effect of this upon morality. As you know, of course, the two are very intimately connected. During the legislative sessions my time is naturally very much occupied, and sometimes at intervals between the sessions. But I manage to keep my home going all the same. I am a great home woman, with a profound recognition of the enormous value of home life. I could not have done this work when my son was tiny, for nothing would have induced me to leave him in those days. But to-day he is grown up and at college, and now I have leisure to spare for other things."

This is Mrs. McKinney's first visit to England, and in spite of the forbidding weather she is prepared to like our country very much. Her husband has accompanied her on the trip across, which occupied a full fortnight, travelling all the time. Their delight in the fresh green of spring time was all the more accentuated by the fact that they left behind them an entirely snow-bound region, and a thermometer below zero.

"My chief interest this week," said Mrs. McKinney, "lies of course in the various meetings of the Temperance Convention. It is six years since the last one was held in New York. I am the President of the Alberta Women's Christian Temperance Union, and Vice-President of the Dominions W.C.T.U. You know, of course, that we have some measure of Prohibition in all the Canadian provinces. There is not a single open bar throughout the country, and except in Quebec, the retail sale of alcoholic liquors is everywhere forbidden. Even in Quebec there are restrictions as to the degree of alcohol in beverages."

MORE WOMEN PREACHERS.—The names of two Women Local Preachers appear for the first time upon the quarterly page of the Bournemouth Congregational Church Village Mission—Miss Peach and Mrs. Gerald Mooring Aldridge.

DOMINION UNIVERSITIES.

By a London Visitor.

The Otago University at Dunedin celebrated its fiftieth birthday last February. Dunedin, in the province of Otago, South Island, has always been recognised as the centre of educational activities, though to-day there are many first-class schools and colleges in both Islands, and two additional Universities, Auckland and Canterbury.

Thoughtful visitors who travel from Auckland in the North to The Bluff in the South, are much impressed that such excellent and somewhat exceptional men and women preside over the educational destinies of the children as heads of the important schools and colleges of which New Zealand is so justly proud. This bids well for the future of the country, as character is being built up day by day, side by side with the progress of intellectual development. The same may be said of many university professors, most of whom were gathered together in Dunedin for the jubilee celebration of the oldest university in the Dominion.

The history of its growth and development is an impressive one, but the outstanding fact is that it was established only twenty years after the first Scottish families came out and made their little settlement around the beautiful harbour, and planned to model their little town as much as possible upon their beloved City of Edinburgh. On the site where the group of University buildings now stand there was nothing but the grandeur of the surrounding hills and the beauty of the waters beneath. In the short space of twenty years education had so wonderfully developed as to justify the demand to establish a university and to create sufficient public spirit to respond and to provide the necessary funds.

In April, 1868, the Provisional Council of the High School appointed a select committee to consider the question of founding a university. A Bill was presented to the Council and was passed unanimously and without amendments—"surely a notable performance," as Sir Robert Stout, Chief Justice of New Zealand and ex-Premier said, commenting upon it in his Jubilee speech. The University made no distinction of sex in its educational programme, both men and women were eligible as students, and, a fact worthy of very special note to-day is, that it was the first British university that adopted that system.

The Jubilee celebrations, which lasted for a week, were well attended by delegates from other Australasian universities. Addresses of congratulation from their own universities were presented by professors belonging to Oxford, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Dublin, Victoria, Toronto, etc., and letters and greetings received from universities unable to send representatives, special interest and sympathy attaching to those from Louvain, Brussels and Strasburg.

The Medical School in connection with the Otago University—the one medical school of the Dominions—is of exceptional excellence. Men and women graduating from this School of Medicine occupy already fine positions in their profession. The good School of Domestic Science, under a woman professor, has grown so much during the last two years that very fine new college buildings are in process of erection.

Important Meeting in Support of The Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5th, 1920, at 4.45 p.m.,

SPEAKERS:

THE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON, THE REV. SCOTT LIDGETT, D.D.,
VISCOUNTESS ASTOR, M.P., Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, Mr. C. G. MONTEFIORE

Chair: Miss PICTON-TURBERVILLE, O.B.E.

Admission Free. Reserved Seat, 1/6. Tickets and all information from C.L.A. Committee, 19, Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

EAST AND WEST.

Councillor Margaret Hodge, Hon. Sec. of the Indian Section of the British Dominions Women Citizen's Union, gave an "At Home" to guests from India and the British Self-governing Oversea Dominions at the Minerva Café, on April 14th.

Mrs. Abbott, Secretary of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance, gave a most interesting address upon the Geneva Congress, which is to take place in June, and urged the necessity for representatives from the British Empire in the East and in the West to attend it. This Congress would afford a unique opportunity for the women of the Western World to become better acquainted with the needs of their unenfranchised Eastern sisters and it was hoped that Egypt would be represented as well as India. Mrs. Tata, representative from the Women's Indian Association of Bombay, spoke eloquently on behalf of the women of her country and Miss Tata, B.A., confirmed what she said, showing how pressing was the need for woman's co-operation with man in the Eastern lands, where infant mortality was so high, the laws of hygiene so inadequately understood, and the economic condition of the workers, especially women and children, so utterly deplorable.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the well-known poet and orator, fervently supported the claims of her country women to a complete equality with men, and expressed her belief that the revival of that equality, which had been such a striking feature in the past history of India, would not long be postponed. She concluded by stating that as she had a much greater faith in example than precept, she intended herself to lead a party of young Indian students out to the Congress, where they could speak for themselves, and show the need for the emancipation of their sex.

Miss H. C. Newcomb, Hon. Sec. of B.D.W.C.U., closed the meeting with an appeal to the women of the Self-governing British Oversea Dominions to attend at the Geneva Congress, and to endeavour to help their less fortunate sisters in all parts of the world to obtain political enfranchisement, which most of them now enjoyed.

THE NEW EDUCATION ACT.

Speaking at the Minerva Café, on April 14th, Mrs. Tanner said that it was interesting to note that in this Act there was no sex differentiation; throughout the Act the words "child" and "young person" were used to the exclusion of "boy" and "girl." The Act forbade any work for profit by children under 12 (13 in the London area), any paid work by children after 8 p.m., and restricted Sunday work for children to two hours; child performers were not to appear after 8 p.m. The "half-time" system was at last abolished, for no child could now leave school until the end of the term after its fourteenth birthday.

Two entirely new types of school were to be created. The Nursery Schools would cater for children from 2 to 5 in districts where amelioration of social conditions was most and sorely needed. Attendance would be voluntary and the schools would, as far as possible, be in the open air. The London County Council had already made arrangements for six such schools.

The day Continuation Schools (at which attendance would be compulsory) would cater for young persons from 14 to 16 who were not already receiving full time education between those ages; ultimately the age would be increased to 18. Each child must attend for a minimum of 280 hours a year, which would generally mean for two half days a week. In rural areas there would probably be special arrangements. Compulsory attendance was not to take place on Sundays or holidays, after 6 at nights, or before 8 in the morning. These schools should take an important part in the work of reconstruction; the scholars would be at an impressionable age and could now best be taught the wise use of that leisure which the workers were getting in greater abundance than ever before. Such schools would undoubtedly pave the way for more higher education in the future.

BOOK REVIEWS.

Ward Tales. By E. Chivers Davies, V.A.D. (John Lane). 5s. net. (To be obtained from this office).

Once more the war with its mingled tragedy and comedy is brought before us in this little collection of tales. We have all admired the tremendous pluck of the women who volunteered to work in military hospitals when the supply of trained nurses was exhausted. It is impossible to read "Ward Tales" without realising how great was the strain thrown on these women who left their comfortable homes to undertake the arduous toil and responsibility of hospital life.

The humours of the ward kitchen, of the strenuous yet amusing preparations which precede an inspection by a high official, and of incomplete kits, are told once more, but with a freshness which excuses their repetition. If the British Tommy is not brilliant, he is courageous and very tractable if you know how to manage him. Most of the V.A.D.'s did, hence their popularity and success.

The V.A.D.'s greatest drawback was that she was untrained, and without any kind of "guarantee." She was "just dependent on people's moods and indigestions, and whether their love affairs were prospering." So the V.A.D. had her share of the "You are a worm and I am a trained woman" attitude to put up with. One week she might have the responsibility of a large ward, and the next, a change to another ward might mean that she would be set to wash walls and polish floors for three months.

The splendid courage and endurance of the women, who "were pitchforked into the life with no sort of preliminary" pervades the whole book. Overworked and deadly tired as these women often were, they were always ready with a kind word and a smile for a patient.

The determination, endurance, and courage of the V.A.D.s is shown in "The Night Round." Margaret, a fragile girl, worn out with night duty, is left in charge of a ward. Her nerves are on edge, and she has reached the stage when she can "see and hear things." Her great fear is that she will fall asleep at her post. Her tiny office seems to be slipping—her eyelids are so heavy that it seems as if an iron band is pressing into her head. Her eyes "must be kept open, wide open or else—one would go—to sleep—to sleep—to sleep." She slept for less than three minutes, "but to Margaret, as she came back into consciousness with a ghastly jerk, which set every fibre of her body trembling, it was an eternity." She hastened into the ward and went to the bedside of a patient she knew to be in danger and whom she had watched at intervals throughout the night. He had hæmorrhage and was about to call. Margaret was her calm, capable self again, and by her prompt, cool behaviour saved the man's life.

E. HAMBLING.

FOR THE FUNDS!

White Elephant Sale.

MINERVA CAFÉ.

Friday, April 30,—3.30—5.30 and 7.0—8.30.

Ladies and Gentlemen! clean out your homes and bring us all your unwanted goods, books, china, furniture, toys, clothing for men, women and children, boots, etc. Address to Mrs. McLeod, at 144 High Holborn.

Arrange to meet your friends here on April 30th and Come and Buy. Tea always ready.

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES.

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

Literature Department—

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

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, April 23.—National Executive Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 2.30 p.m.

Friday, April 23.—Dinner to Conference Delegates, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 6.30. Tickets 3s.

Saturday, April 24.—Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 10 a.m.

Sunday, April 25.—Reception to Conference Delegates at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 3—5 p.m. Special Tea, 9d.

Wednesday, April 28.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson. Subject: "The Bastardy Bill, 1920." 3 p.m. Chair: Miss Raleigh.

Wednesday, April 28.—Procession Women Employees of National and Municipal Authorities to demand Equal Pay. Line up Marble Arch, 5 p.m. Meeting Kingsway Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, April 30.—White Elephant Sale; Minerva Café, afternoon 3.30—5.30, and evening 7.0—8.30. Please send goods to Mrs. McLeod at the Office.

Wednesday, May 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speakers: Miss Helen Ward, Mrs. Abbott. Subject: "The Geneva Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance." 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 26.—Public Meeting, Belmont Hall, Belmont Road, Clapham. Debate: "That the interests of this country would be best served by the return to power of a Labour Government at an early date." Proposer: Mrs. Samuel. Opposer: Mrs. Marshall (Sec. Clapham Women's Liberal Council). Admission 3d. 8 p.m.

Friday, May 7.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Debate: "That only very exceptional women are fitted to sit in Parliament." Opener: Councillor Margaret Hodge. Opposer: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Admission 1s. 7.30 p.m. Chairman: Dr. G. B. Clark.

Monday, May 17.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Horniman, M.A. Subject: "Theatrical Reminiscences." 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, October 2.—Dance, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster.

PROVINCES.

Monday, April 26.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Labour Hall, South-end. Mrs. Stafford Bailey on "The Uselessness of Vivisection," 7 p.m.

Friday, April 30.—Rye. Model Election. Miss Elsie Morton.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, May 21.—Kingsway Hall. International Women Suffrage Alliance. Public Meeting to prepare for Geneva Congress. Chair: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Speakers: Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mrs. Philip Snowden. 7.30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

BRANCH NOTE—(BEXHILL).

We held a very enjoyable Meeting at the Káhveh Café, last Monday Evening, when Miss Elsie Morton came down to give an Address on Proportional Representation—A Model Election took place after the address—The following candidates addressed the audience—Mrs. Lambert Walker, Conservative; Mrs. Meads, Independent; Miss Richardson, B.A., Labour; Miss Elsie Morton, Proportional Representation; Rev. A. Osborne, Liberal. The Conservative Candidate secured the highest number of votes. The Independent and Proportional Representative Candidates were the next elected by their hearers. Mrs. Meads very kindly presided at the meeting.

A Members Unity was held last Friday, at the Tower House, by kind permission of Mrs. Perry, when it was again suggested that a Delegate should be sent to the Conference. As no member seemed able to spare the time on the 24th, the Organiser was asked, to represent Bexhill, and she was thereupon instructed how to vote. Miss Richardson is putting up for the Bexhill Town Council—the Members are all prepared to work for her election as in the case of Mrs. Meads. A Members Meeting will be held shortly, as soon as we know she is ready for us and Canvassers will be found ready and willing to canvass on her behalf. We all wish Miss Richardson every success.

Organiser:—MISS WHITE, Magazine House, Winchelsea.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1919, £33,542 6s. 2d.

Table with columns for 'Amount previously acknowledged', 'Special Emergency War Fund', 'Women Members of Parliament Fund', 'National Union of Teachers' Conference Campaign', and 'Branches, Capitation Fees'. Includes sub-totals like £253 11 5.

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

BRANCH NOTES—(MIDDLESBROUGH).

Another very successful Whist Drive and Social was held in the Suffrage Café, Linthorpe Road, on Wednesday, April 14th. Twenty tables were filled with whist players who all thoroughly enjoyed the whist and the musical programme that followed. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Walker, Miss Freda Claxton, and Mr. Ed. Snowball, whose songs were much appreciated. Much merriment was caused by Mr. Jock Beilby's humorous recitals, "Press Cuttings," by Bernard Shaw, and "Nomination day," Mr. Walter Robinson and Miss Dorothy Barrs contributed by giving pianoforte duets entitled "A Rustic Dance" and "The Hunters." Miss Smith rendered on the piano a Presto from Betoben. Six prizes were given for the whist, all of which were won by the ladies, except the lowest score by the gentlemen. Mrs. Deucker collected from members and friends a sufficient sum for these, which helped considerably towards making the evening a financial success.

We are greatly indebted to Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Harrison, and Mrs. Deucker, who, as usual, so willingly helped with the refreshments; we should like to thank the friends that came forward and also rendered service in this way. Regrets were expressed that our President, Mrs. Schofield Coates was not able to be present, as she was away from home, and it was hoped that next season these Whist Drives and Socials, which have proved so successful, might be continued.

Hon. Sec. MISS D. BARRS, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

BOURNEMOUTH.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Hume, a very successful Meeting was held in Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, on Tuesday, April 13th, Miss M. Clark presided. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu needed no introduction to a Bournemouth audience, she spoke with her usual passion and intensity about the Women of India, also about the Poetry of her Country; her address was much appreciated. Miss Hausa Mehta also spoke on Education in India, and a very interesting discussion closed a most delightful meeting.

EQUAL PAY.

The Women's Freedom League is sending a contingent to the Great Procession of Women's Employees of National and Municipal Authorities. The procession will line up at the Marble Arch, at 5 on Wednesday, April 28th, and will march to Kingsway Hall, where a meeting to demand Equal Pay and Opportunities will be held at 7.30. March and show your belief in this principal. Look out for the Women's Freedom League banner.

FRIDAY,
APRIL 23,
1920.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

MODEL ELECTION AT MINERVA CAFÉ.

On Friday last a Model Election was held at the Minerva Café, the candidates being Miss Gibson (Independent), the Rev. A. Graham Barton (Liberal), Miss McDonald (Labour), and Miss E. E. Froud (Teacher). As no Conservative candidate was present the name of the Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour was placed on the ballot papers. Lots were drawn to decide the order of speaking, and each candidate was allowed five minutes in which to expound the policy of her party. Three minutes' heckling followed each speech, but the audience did not take full advantage of its privilege except in the case of the Labour candidate. The Chair was taken by Mrs. Tanner, who also made a short speech on "The Need for Women M.P.'s." After the ballot-papers had been marked, Miss Morton, of the Proportional Representation Society, declared the poll, and explained the working of the P.R. System. The first count showed that Miss McDonald and Miss Froud had been elected; the final count, after the transfer of votes had been effected, showed Miss Gibson as third member.

BRITAIN AND INDIA ASSOCIATION.

Public Lecture, April 29th, "India's Social Problems as affecting England," by Sir Sankaran Nair, C.I.E. Chair, Ernest Rhys, Esq., at the Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Tea, 4 p.m. Lecture, 4.30 p.m. Indian Music by Mrs. Tata. Admission 1/-, including tea.

MISS MAUD ROYDEN.

Kensington Town Hall, Fellowship Services on Sunday, 3.15; Dr. Percy Dearmer, 6.30; Miss Maud Royden, Subject: "Why should we label ourselves Christians?" Master of the music, Mr. Martin Shaw.

In Memoriam.

METGE—Suddenly at Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. Lillian Margaret ("Gwenn") Cole, daughter of the late Robert Harr y Metge, LL.D., M.P., Athlumney, Navair, and Lillian Margaret Metge, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, aged 24 years.
"Pas morte : déivree."

BRITAIN AND INDIA MAGAZINE,
Edited by Mrs. Josephine Ransom.
A unique and popular Monthly Magazine containing articles of real value to all who realise the vital necessity of encouraging the varied and mutual interest of Britain and India. The Magazine has already an international circulation. Annual subscription 13/6 post free. Single copies 1/- or 1/1½ post free.—7, Southampton St., High Holborn, W.C.1.

The Poetic Players Company.

Patron: Miss EDITH CRAIG.
Directors: MAIE HOEY & CLARA REED
The Directors have pleasure in announcing that a Special Series of Three Performances have been arranged as follows:—
At King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Rd. W.C. 1.
Friday Evening, April 16th, at 8 o'clock.
Shakespeare's Tragedy "HAMLET."
(Miss MAIE HOEY will play Hamlet.)
Tuesday Evening, May 11th, at 8 o'clock.
Ibsen's Historical Play "THE PRETENDERS."
(Miss CLARA REED will play the original part of Bishop Nicholas.)
At The Cripplegate Institute, Golden Lane, Barbican, E.C. 1.
Monday Evening, May 31st, at 8 o'clock.
Charles Dickens' "A TALE OF TWO CITIES."
(Arranged as a Narrative-Drama by MAIE HOEY & CLARA REED)
Tickets 4/-, 2/6 and 1/3 (including tax).
Obtainable from Miss CLARA REED, Rogers' Studios, 60, Bowers Street, Oxford Street, W.

The Minerva Pen. Unleakable. Gold Nib.

If you have been worried by pens that leaked and blobbed and required to be carried upright, and unscrewed to fill and joggled to start, the Minerva Pen will be a revelation to you.
It may be carried full of ink upside down or anyhow, it cannot fail to write instantly and demand, and it is filled in a flash without unscrewing any part.

Prices, 7/6 to £2 2s. THE IDEAL PRESENT.

To be obtained from the Minerva Publishing Co., 44, High Holborn, W.C.

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

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMEN CITIZENS UNION. Central Hall, Westminster, Monday, April 26th, 4—6.30 p.m. Reception to Lady Astor, M.P., and the Delegates from the British Dominions Overseas to the W.W.C.T.U. Convention. Admission, 2/6 including Tea.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.

HOME School on Progressive Thought
Lines: Large Garden; Cricket Field; Sea Bathing; Small Classes; Special care given to backward and delicate girls; Coaching for advanced pupils. Principal: Miss RICHARDSON, B.A.

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

COTSWOLD HILLS! Take your HOLIDAYS at "Rosemary," the Food Reform Guest House.—Apply to BERTHA RYLAND, "Rosemary," White-way, Stroud, Glos.

BUSY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board-Residence at Miss TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702.

Just facing the W.F.L. is the

CAMEO CORNER,

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



Selections sent on approval to all parts of the country. Please mention "THE VOTE."

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

Suffrage Health Food Stores,

231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough
BUY OUR GOODS & HELP THE MOVEMENT.

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

THE HANDICRAFTS,

82 HIGH STREET, HAMPSTEAD, N.W. 3.

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

COLOURED HAND-WOVEN COTTONS from 4/- per yard
PATTERNS OF MATERIALS SENT FREE ON APPLICATION.

POTTERY PACKED AND DISPATCHED.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY.

68 UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

M. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon
Established 35 Years.

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