

THE VOTE,
FEBRUARY 22, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

What the Conference Must Decide.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, FEB. 22, 1918

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

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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

More than One Million Men Replaced by Women.

The official *Labour Gazette* states that it is calculated that 700,000 women are now employed on munition work, and 650,000 on other industrial Government work. There are now 40,000 engaged on work for Government in commercial occupations and transport. Over 1,413,000 men have been directly replaced by women.

Women Tractor Drivers.

The number of women placed in charge of tractors is being constantly increased. During the past week four more were appointed to Berkshire, six to Cheshire, and six to Lancashire for the ploughing.

Women Cheddar Cheese Makers.

In Herefordshire the County Council is again arranging for cheese-making classes amongst the farmers' wives. Over 14 tons of Cheddar were produced in the season last year, apart from smaller cheeses made in the travelling schools.

Farm Run by Women.

A farm belonging to Lord Treowen is being entirely run by women. A year ago when the women took over the place it was in a very bad state indeed. The agent now speaks in glowing terms of the plucky way in which the women have tackled a very difficult job.

The local women in Wiltshire have done excellent work on the farms. In one area they have hedged, ditched and made hurdles. A caravan has been asked for in the Salisbury area to convey a gang of farm women around in April and May.

The Women's Institutes in Villages.

The movement for the establishment of women's institutes in country districts, run by the Women's Branch of the Food Production Department, continues to make most satisfactory progress. During

last week excellent meetings were held, and four new institutes were started in Sussex, six in Durham, one in Lincolnshire, one in Huntingdon, one in Hampshire, and one in Surrey. In Oxfordshire an institute has formed a co-operative Live Stock Society, and in Hertford the institutes are running a propaganda in favour of the formation of Village Rabbit Clubs.

"The Landswoman."

The land army of women has now its own monthly magazine, *The Landswoman*, and, judging by the numbers to hand, it contains information of interest to landswomen, including experiences of timber work, "Cows I have known," "Women's Institutes," and—practical and, let us hope, successful—"Cures for Chilblains." *The Landswoman*, 2d., can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Literature Department.

Heroism on Torpedoed Ships—

Driver H. Bevan, one of the survivors of the *Aragon*, torpedoed in the Eastern Mediterranean at the end of December last, writes in a letter to his relatives in Wales: "We ought to be proud of our women. Fancy seeing a nurse jump overboard saying 'I must save the Tommies!' She saved a dozen by swimming out to them. I did not see one girl give way."

Fullest tribute is paid to the heroic conduct of the two stewardesses on board the *Tuscania*, torpedoed last week off the Irish coast.

—And in Munition Works—

Miss Mary Adams, Hebburn-on-Tyne, has been awarded the medal of the Order of the British Empire for bravery in saving life at the works where she is engaged.

Miss Gladys Elizabeth Herrington has been awarded the medal of the Order of the British

Empire for "courageously volunteering to undertake dangerous work after a fatal accident." Skilful skin grafting and devoted nursing in hospital have restored her after the almost fatal accident which threatened serious disfigurement.

—And During an Air Raid at the Front.

The Military Medal has been awarded to Sister Eileen King, Q.A.I.M.N.S., for bravery and devotion to duty during an air raid on a casualty clearing station, when, although wounded, she continued to give directions for the care of the patients.

Railway Workers.

Women employees on the Great Eastern Railway number 3,600.

Special Constables.

Eight women have been engaged in West Sussex as special constables for clerical work at the maximum wages of 38s. a week and uniform.

New Chief Controller of the W.A.A.C.

Mrs. Burleigh Leach, C.B.E., wife of Colonel Burleigh Leach, has been appointed Chief Controller of the W.A.A.C., in succession to Mrs. Chalmers Watson, whose resignation is based on family calls.

The Nurses' Roll of Honour.

The following eight nurses were reported in the casualty list of February 6 as having been drowned: The Misses C. Ball, W. M. Brown, G. Bytheway, V. Duncanson, L. Midwood, H. Rogers, all belonging to the V.A.D.; Miss N. Hawley, special military probationer, and Staff Nurse M. D. Roberts, of Queen Alexandra's Nursing Service.

Miss Winifred Maud Brown, of Nottingham, Miss Catherine Ball, and Miss Nellie Hawley, of Beckenham, V.A.D. nurses, were drowned at sea while on active service.

Nurses on board the hospital ship *Reva*, torpedoed recently, showed splendid courage and gave their warm cloaks to the serious stretcher cases.

The "Victory" Conference.

We are looking forward with great pleasure to welcoming many friends from all parts of the country at the "Victory" Conference on February 23 and 24, and to rejoicing together over the attainment of a great part of our heart's desire. The door of enfranchisement, hitherto fast barred and bolted against women, is now open; not wide open, it is true, for all to enter, but nevertheless so far open that the ridiculous "barrier of 30" must soon give way. With the rejoicing comes responsibility. In this time of national and international crisis we have to deliberate on the best service the Women's Freedom League can render, and to reach the best decision we need the intellect and effort of all our members.

Rejoicing opens the proceedings in the form of a dinner on Friday evening at the "Economy" Restaurant, 316, Regent-street, W., at 7 p.m., "to do honour to our President and to those who have so devotedly striven to bring the work of the Women's Freedom League to fruition." We look for a great rally of stalwarts of the past and the present, for the gathering will be memorable in the annals of the League.

"Victory."

The Women's Freedom League Literature Department has now on sale the inspiring ode, "Victory," by S. Gertrude Ford, which was published in THE VOTE of January 18. It is in attractive leaflet form, very suitable for enclosing in letters and distributing in other ways. Price 1d., post free 1½d. Miss Ford's untiring and helpful service, through her poems, to the woman's cause is widely appreciated, and no suffragist should lose the opportunity of getting a copy of her eloquent record to the most momentous event of the century.

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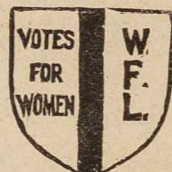
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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.



DARE TO BE FREE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, February 22.—Croydon Political Meeting, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans, on "Enfranchised Women and their Opportunities." Dinner to the President and Freedom League Fighters, at Economy Hall Restaurant, 316, Regent-street, W. (one minute from Oxford Circus, opposite Polytechnic), 7 p.m. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each.

Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24.—Women's Freedom League Conference, in the Library, Teachers' Guild, 9, Brunswick-square, W.C. (near Russell-square Tube, 10 a.m. each day.

Wednesday, February 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Ada Flatman on "Suffrage Campaigning in the United States," and Miss Boyle. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the café if desired.

Wednesday, March 6.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lind-a-Hageby, on "Marriage and Divorce Reform." Chair: Mrs. Despard. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the café if desired (6d.).

Friday, March 8.—Croydon Political Meeting, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, on "A National Programme." Clapham Branch Meeting, 46, Lynette-avenue, 6 p.m. Business: Report of Conference.

Wednesday, March 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. J. King, M.P., on "What the Liberal Party has to Offer Women." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, February 27.—Portsmouth. Work Party, 101, Festing-grave; 5 to 7 p.m. Hostess: Mrs. Owen.

Friday, March 1.—Reading. Annual business meeting of the branch. Committee-room No. 4, Trade Union Club, 40, Oxford-road. Chair: Miss Anna Munro.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, February 24.—North London Branch National Secular Society. Open Debate. St. Pancras Reform Club, 15, Victoria-road, Kentish Town, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, on "Women's Place in the World." Admission free.

We draw special attention to—

Friday, February 22.—Dinner to the President and Freedom League Fighters, Economy Hall Restaurant, 316, Regent-street, W., 7 p.m. Tickets 3s. 6d.

Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24.—Women's Freedom League Conference, The Library, Teachers' Guild, 9, Brunswick-square, W.C., 10 a.m.

Wednesday, February 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others.

Regretful Antis.

The Executive Committee of the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage have passed a resolution expressing regret that Lord Curzon did not sever his connection with the League before taking the line of action he did in the House of Lords.

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

High Mass at Westminster Cathedral.

On Sunday, February 17, the 10.30 High Mass at Westminster Cathedral was offered "as an act of Thanksgiving for the Suffrage Victory, and to beg the blessing of God on the new electors in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities which they are now called upon to undertake."

The south aisle, "the Epistle side" by the High Altar, was reserved for the suffragists, amongst whom were also women of varying creeds representing various societies, among them Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Garrett, and members of the Women's Freedom League, including Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Underwood, and Mrs. Nevinson. After the celebration a procession was formed to the Chapel of Joan of Arc, and Miss Jeffery, the founder of the Catholic Women's Suffrage League, and the Hon. Mrs. Walter Roche, laid a wreath of laurel leaves, tied with the blue, white, and gold ribbon of the League, upon the statue of the Maid.

The religious services of the week have been a genuine reunion of Christendom, bringing together women of all the Churches in one great general Thanksgiving. That women should have thus consecrated themselves to the fulfilment of their new duties as citizens is a good augury for their seriousness and high idealism in politics. I cannot find any record that men organised any religious services after their various Reform Bills, perhaps our historians can tell us; but then women have always been *le sexe pieux*. M. W. N.

A Promise Fulfilled.

Eight years ago, Miss Philippa Fawcett, a former student, promised to give £100 to Bedford College when the suffrage was won. This money is to form the nucleus of a fund to commemorate the vote victory. "Fawcett Scholarships" are to be endowed by the college as a permanent memorial in the University of London to the work of Mrs. Fawcett, president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Bedford College is the oldest of the women's university colleges, and Mrs. Fawcett has been for many years a governor. The work of the college is seriously hampered by the lack of ordinary scholarships and of funds for advanced work and research. A sum of £2,000 invested in National War Bonds will provide a scholarship of £100 a year. It is hoped that at least £50,000 may be raised.

Bravo, Manchester!

Manchester held high festival at the Reform Club on February 9 to celebrate the enfranchisement of women. Mr. C. P. Scott, of the *Manchester Guardian*, pointed to Manchester's association in the long struggle for victory.

Everyone should possess a copy of the February issue of *The International Woman Suffrage News*, which is a double number, celebrating the British victory. Interesting information is given of the progress of woman suffrage in Great Britain from 1832 to 1918, and many historic portraits of pioneers and later workers, women and men. This important international paper also gives news of the progress of the cause and the work of women in many lands, including Uruguay. It is a monthly link between women of the world which should be widely known and read. Copies 4d. (postage ½d.), can be obtained from the W.F.L. Literature Dept., 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY, 17, Tothill-street, Westminster, has issued a useful leaflet setting forth the qualifications of the women entitled to vote under the new Act. 4d. a dozen, postage extra.

THE FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.—The new address of the League is Room 30, Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn-road, W.C. 1.

WOMEN AS BARRISTERS.

The "Londoner," in *The Evening Standard*, discoursed at some length on the question of "Women and the Bar," arising out of Miss Helena Normanton's application to the Benchers of the Middle Temple for admission as a student of the Inn, and indicated that these powerful gentlemen will not move out of their age-long rut of opposition to women unless Parliament gives a big push. When Miss Cave appealed from the refusal of the Benchers of Gray's Inn to admit her as a student about fourteen years ago, Lord Halsbury, the octogenarian who did what he could in the House of Lords last month to prevent the passage of the Woman Suffrage Clause in the Representation of the People Act, said:—"There is no precedent for calling a woman to the Bar, and the judges are not going to create one." The exclusion of women, as Mr. Holford Knight has pointed out, "is indefensible in logic and experience." The "Londoner" declared that few lawyers are prepared to deny that women must eventually be admitted to the legal profession, and, with regard to Lord Buckmaster's Bill for admitting women as solicitors, he foreshadowed an extension of its scope by bringing in the admission of women to the Bar. We hope that, unless the Benchers have already shown their recognition of the needs of the country for the mobilisation of all its resources of intellect and ability by breaking down the barrier against women, that the Parliamentary Push will not be long delayed. Every week shows the imperative need for associating women with men in the administration of justice in all its stages.

Representation of the People Bill.

Concerning "Mr. Speaker."

"It is an interesting coincidence" (says a writer in the *Daily News*) "that the Representation of the People Bill, so closely associated with the name of the Speaker, repeats the fragments of two old Acts of Parliament of Henry VI., which were passed about 490 years ago, in connection with the qualification of electors of Knights of the Shire. A hundred and twenty-five years before these particular Acts became law a member of the Lowther family came to Westminster as a Knight of his native shire of Westmorland."

"The coincidence is the more notable in view of the fact that when Mr. Lowther assumed the Speakership in June, 1905, exactly 600 years had elapsed since his ancestor, in the year 1305, sat in the fourteenth Parliament of Edward I. That was only ten years after the assembling of the great model Parliament which formed the precedent for all Parliaments in England."

"Although the earliest rolls of the House of Commons belonged to the year 1278, the official name House of Commons did not appear until the Parliament of 1304-5, in which Mr. Lowther's forbear sat, and it was not until 72 years later that the title of Speaker was conferred on the presiding officer of the House of Commons, then Sir Thomas Hungerford. Mr. Lowther is the 137th Speaker in the line of succession since Sir Thomas Hungerford."

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 160.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, February 22nd, 1918.

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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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WHAT THE CONFERENCE MUST DECIDE.

The Women's Freedom League will hold its Eleventh Conference at The Library, Teachers' Guild, 9, Brunswick-square, W.C., this week-end. For ten years it has consistently worked in the interests of women, its primary object being to obtain the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. From start to finish it has worked strenuously for equal opportunities of women with men in the political, professional, business, and economic worlds, their equal treatment by the law, and the recognition of an equal moral standard for both sexes.

Equality has been the keynote of its activities, and although the first great victory for woman suffrage has been won, women have not secured the Parliamentary vote on equal terms with men, no opportunity has yet been granted them to take a seat in Parliament, and no woman is at present likely to obtain Cabinet rank. It is true, also, that very largely owing to the enterprise and work of the Women's Freedom League and kindred societies, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, with its clauses to penalise women for the safeguarding of men, has been dropped; but the military authorities, the public, and the Bench are very far from agreeing that the law against sex offences should be impartial in its operation for men and women; and no one can claim that women have anything like equal opportunity with men in professions, in business, or in industry.

The question for the Branches to decide through, their delegates at the Conference, is whether, now that 6,000,000 women will shortly be on the Parliamentary register, and the main work of the Women's Freedom League is accomplished, the League itself should dissolve so that the women who have secured the vote should use it and their influence in the parties which they will join; or whether, now that suffragists have gained their first victory after fifty years of effort, the Women's Freedom League should hold itself together, increase its membership and its efforts, and work with renewed energy and brighter hopefulness until men and women have equal opportunities for service and emolument throughout life, until they have equal justice before the law, and until women's views have an equal weight with those of men in all national and imperial affairs.

In this work there is plenty of scope for women's peculiar genius and all their energy. A women's organisation controlled and supported by resolute women could form public opinion on matters of interest to women and focus it on special measures on their behalf which could be adopted by parties anxious for the votes of women. Political parties only dimly reflect public opinion on these questions; a women's organisation could create it. By joining

men's political parties women will not be entering them on anything like equal terms with men, neither in their number nor in the money they can supply to party funds, and their interests will naturally tend to become subordinate to the interests of men in these parties. The questions of housing, education, the care of children, the health of the community, the conditions of women's work, and equal pay for equal work are matters of very special interest to women. Will they also be of very special interest to the men in the political parties which women join, or will they stand a better chance of being considered by men if there is the pressure of public opinion on them outside these parties?

It is, of course, true that women have other concerns besides these in our national affairs, but what they have to decide is whether they will put the furtherance of those concerns first and foremost and work through men's parties for them, or whether, recognising that they are their sisters' keepers, they will place women's interests first and foremost and secure sufficient public support for their objects to compel any or all of the political parties to include them in their objects.

In that way a women's organisation with strong branches up and down the country would be able considerably to influence elections, as well as form public opinion with the swing of the women's vote.

By gaining a first instalment of votes—6,000,000 women have gained power—let them consider the best way to use it, remembering that what is gained on the battlefield is sometimes lost in the Council Chamber, so that wisdom would recommend consolidation of this power and immediate organisation of effort to secure its extension as soon as possible, in order that the aims for which the Women's Freedom League has striven so strenuously during the past ten years—"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"—shall have early attainment.

This is not at all a suggestion for the formation of what is called a "Women's Party," but rather for an organisation of women whose members will show initiative, energy, resolution, and driving power, and thus will force political parties to press forward measures when individual women members would have little effect. It is for the delegates at our coming Conference to decide whether or not the Women's Freedom League shall become such an organisation, not forgetting, of course, that it can only become so by the agreement of its members to work even more vigorously, more devotedly, and more untiringly in the future than they have done in the past.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

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

The annual report of the Settlement's work is now ready. Copies will shortly be sent to all subscribers, and the secretary will be glad to supply them on application to any friends who are interested. Since the move into a larger house last Easter, from 150 to 200 children have dined at the Settlement each day, besides which food has been sent out to the homes. The Guest House has taken in 25 children, some for as long as three months, whose parents were temporarily unable to look after them owing to illness or other causes; 71 nursing mothers and delicate infants have been supplied with milk daily as required at 1d. a pint. The Boy Scouts Troop went well till the two Scoutmistresses had to resign in the autumn. We are most anxious to fill their place. The Troop still hangs together, sheep without a shepherd, and it seems too bad to let them disband. Many thanks to Mrs. Tritton for 10s., Miss Riggall 2s., Mrs. Alvary Gascoigne £1 for milk depot, Mr. Delbanco a knife-cleaner, Miss I. Harvey, Mrs. Delbanco, Miss Greenville, clothing; Mrs. Brend, Mrs. E. V. H. Clark, and an anonymous giver, groceries. There is no food hoarding at the Settlement; we live from hand to mouth, and any surplus stores sent along to us will much relieve the catering department.

LEGALISED ROBBERY OF WOMEN. Our Next Big Push.

"The enfranchisement of women," said Sydney Smith, nearly a century ago, "is the law of the land. Not the law but the lawyers keep it from her." Since the day of the witty and high-minded divine, his saying has become more and more true. An Act—called, we believe, the Simplification of Acts of Parliament Act—passed by Lord Brougham in 1850 decreed that "words importing the masculine gender" should be held to include the feminine in all Acts, unless the Act specifically declared the contrary and limited the meaning to one sex. So, when the Reform Bill of 1867 abjured the phrase "male persons" and put "man" without expressly excluding "woman," suffragists concluded that the position was established in their favour. When, however, they tried to get their names on the roll, a number of revising barristers threw out their claims, and some Manchester women brought an action against one Lings for so doing. The case—*Chorlton v. Lings*—was tried before three judges of the Queen's Bench in November, 1868. The judges found that the word "man" did not include "woman," and that it could not do so because Parliament, in passing the Reform Bill, had never intended it to do so; and that women had never exercised any political office whatsoever, and suffered from "legal incapacity." The Simplification Act after that became a dead letter; and the position has been since then that words can be used with the utmost caprice; a capital illustration being given by a well-known suffragist in the case of the Charter of the Incorporated Law Society. In one clause you will be gravely told that the word "person" has been held by the Courts and by Parliament not to include women, when it is a case of a person to be admitted; in a later clause unauthorised "persons," who are to be prosecuted if they practise law for fees, include both men and women! That this charmingly erratic standard has its conveniences none will deny.

Later on, in 1889, the Interpretation of Acts of Parliament Act was passed. In this, it is declared that the word "man" includes woman, unless specifically stated otherwise, in every Act since 1850. So women were enfranchised, and it is not the law but the lawyers that have kept them outside the political machine all these years. It would be difficult to imagine or invent anything more cynically and callously dishonest than the attitude adopted by politicians, who have made such a favour, and such a fuss, about "granting" in the 20th century what was ours by right in 1867.

What we should now demand is an amending Act, or a consolidating Act, to enforce the Interpretations Act. We should have an Act framed, amending the Act of 1889, stating that all words of common denomination usable as nouns—man, men, person, people, all, any, none, peer, parent, etc.—should include both sexes; and that, unless an Act states expressly that it is intended to apply to one sex only, it shall be an offence to attempt legally or politically to exclude either sex from its scope. And further, that this shall apply to all Acts, charters, enactments, and constitutions which have received the sanction of Parliament and found a place on the Statute Book.

At one sweep this would clear away a whole cartload of obstructions, disabilities, and anomalies. Women would be admitted to the Privy Council and to Peerages, and peeresses by inheritance would regain admittance to the House of Lords; women would be able to sit in the House of Commons. It would give access to the Cabinet, the great departments of State; the Bench, the Bar, the higher offices of the police, the Church, the Universities; it would

regularise many matters in the laws of inheritance and the home. It would give at one stroke so large a measure of freedom that the surviving obstacles would soon be laid. It would, moreover, be an inspiring objective for the new campaign of enfranchised women.

Mrs. C. C. Stopes tells us ("The Constitutional Basis of Women's Suffrage") that there is plain, incontrovertible documentary evidence that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth Dame Dorothy Packington, widow of the "lord and owner of the town of Aylesbury," did appoint two gentlemen to be her "burgesses," to "do in the service of the Queen's Highness in that present Parliament to be holden at Westminster," which doings Dame Dorothy "do ratify and approve to be my own act, as fully and wholly as if I were, or might be, present myself." For which service she paid them "their wages." And besides returning, and paying, burgesses to Parliament, women in sturdier days filled the offices, in virtue of inheritance, of High Chamberlain, High Sheriff, High Constable, High Steward, Lord Marshal, Royal Champion, Chamberlain to the King, Marshal of the King's Court, Governor of District, of Royal Castles, of Gaols, Marshalsea of the King's Bench, Justice of the Peace, Clerk of the Crown, Governor of Houses of Correction, and Constables. The duties a woman could not perform she was allowed, like infirm or aged men, to perform by proxy.

Lord Peel informed the House of Lords that women could not take their seats in either House by "common law." We will soon see that "common" or "customary" law goes back to where it has been diverted from—equal rights for the sexes if fulfilling the same qualifications, with privileges *not for the stronger but the weaker*, as originally devised in the establishment of the proxy system. We quote two cases related by Mrs. Stopes to show what the law really was and how it was perverted and assaulted long before our day by illegally disposed lawyers.

Sir Symon d'Euees, Clerk of the House of Commons, writes of himself that when, as Sheriff of Suffolk in 1640 (when the autocratic power of Charles I. was broken and constitutional government supposed to be restored), he heard of a number of women freeholders coming to tender their votes. "I instantly sent to forbid the same . . . although in law they might have been allowed." This arrogant man was successful in his illegal attack; not so the Secretary of State who measured swords with Anne, Countess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery. He wanted to rob her of the right of appointing the Member for the Borough of Appleby in 1668; but she, saying with great spirit, "Your man shan't stand," nominated her own, and swore that if he did not stand she would stand herself, and she won. Her motto was: "Preserve your loyalty, defend your rights"—very sound principles both; and her example a good one for all women. The suffragists of to-day are her spiritual descendants.

C. NINA BOYLE.

In each other's faces
Looked the pioneers,
Drank the wine of courage
All their battle years—
Of their weary sowings—
Through the world wide,
Green they saw the harvest
Ere the day they died;
But the grey, grey company
Stood every man alone
In the chilly dawnlight—
Scarcely had they known,
Ere the day they perished,
That the beacon star
Was not glint of marshlight
In the meadows far.

—The Little Grey Company, by Jessie Mackey.

OUR TREASURY.
NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1917, £29,465 2s. 11d.

1918.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Victory Fund</i> —						
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Miss Cooper	1	1	0			
Miss Clayton	1	0	0			
Mrs. Duncan	1	0	0			
Dr. Knight	1	0	0			
Miss J. Maxwell		5	0			
Miss F. A. Underwood		5	0			
Miss Boyle Meyer		1	6			
Mary Elizabeth Knight			1			
<i>Special Emergency War Fund</i> —				13	14	7
"A Friend"	4	7	6			
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0			
Mrs. Mallalue		15	0			
Mrs. Soane		10	0			
Mrs. Sholl		5	0			
Mrs. E. T. Angold		3	0			
Miss Hurry		2	0			
Minerva Café	19	6	8			
Miss Eunice Murray, per	7	0	0			
C. Coates, Esq. (Criminal Law Amendment Bill)	5	0	0			
Anonymous, per Miss Clark	4	0	0			
Miss Eunice Murray	2	16	0			
Hon. Mrs. Forbes	2	0	0			
Mrs. A. Stewart		1	11	6		
A. P. Busch Mitchell, Esq.		1	10	0		
Miss Fryer		1	1	0		
Miss F. Howard		1	1	0		
Mrs. Nidd		1	1	0		
Miss M. Geiler (New Year's gift)		1	0	0		
Mrs. M. M. Pick		1	0	0		
Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (Criminal Law Amendment Bill)	1	0	0			
J. Y. Kennedy, Esq.	1	0	0			
Mrs. H. E. Sloane		13	6			
Dr. Knight		11	7			
Mrs. J. Fitzgerald Ellis		10	0			
Harry Hagne, Esq.		10	0			
"K"		10	0			
Mrs. Murray		10	0			
Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Smith		10	0			
Mrs. A. M. C. Oxlin		10	0			
Miss M. I. Saunders		10	0			
The Misses V., E., and L. Cummin		6	0			
Miss E. E. Sale		5	8			
Mrs. Branch		5	0			
Miss Agnes Husband		5	0			
Mrs. Mallalue		5	0			
Miss Neve (Criminal Law Amendment Bill)		5	0			
Miss C. E. Price		5	0			
Mr. and Mrs. Thompson		5	0			
Miss D. Olive Turton		5	0			
Miss Marguerite A. Sidley		3	6			
Mrs. Tritton		3	6			
Miss Brouneau		3	0			
Mrs. O. M. Aldridge		2	6			
Dr. Damoglou		2	6			
Miss A. Dunley		2	6			
Miss M. H. Saunders		2	6			
Mrs. Sproson		2	6			
Miss Hymans de Tiel		2	0			
Miss B. M. John		2	0			
Miss Boyle Meyer		2	0			
Miss M. M. Bugden		1	6			
Mrs. M. Hatfield		1	6			
Miss E. Elphick		1	0			
Collections	4	2	5			
Office sales				11	8	
<i>Branches—Capitation Fees</i> —						
Anfield		10	0			
Bowes Park		10	6			
Chester		1	5	0		
Clapham		7	0			
Croydon		1	11	0		
Dunfermline		10	0			
Glasgow		7	0	0		
Golder's Green		8	0	0		
Hampstead		8	0	0		
Highbury		8	0	0		
Herne Hill and Norwood		6	0	0		
Kensington		7	0	0		
Sale		5	0	0		
Southampton		3	0	0		
Portsmouth and Gosport		15	0	0		
Tufnell Park		6	0	0		

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OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Speaking on February 13 in the Minerva Café on "The Psychology of Dress," Miss Abadam declared that the question of dress was a very serious one—clothes often conveyed as clear a message to the world as the spoken word. In the Middle Ages, when women had considerable power, men and women dressed with equal richness. Later, when women were deprived of wealth, education and position, and depended more on men for the pleasures of life, the idea of utility in women's dress gave place to suggestiveness while men's dress became plainer. Five years ago, said Miss Abadam, very few women wore uniform, the only ones being nurses, nuns, peeresses and wardresses. The spoken word of women's pre-war dress was often that these women were out to catch or attract men. "There were acres of chest showing in the street as well as transparent stockings and high-heeled shoes. All that women did not expose were their foreheads, because men did not like clever girls," declared the speaker. If Cabinet Ministers had dressed like women with plenty of chest showing, with transparent stockings and high-heeled shoes, with two or three animals on their necks, rosebuds round their hats, and a little rouge on their faces, if Lloyd George, with Rhonda, Derby and Carson had been sent forth in such attire, "Why, the Government would not stand twenty minutes," was Miss Abadam's prophecy. She thought it was really a tribute to women's good sense that they had done so much in spite of the folly of their clothes during so many centuries. But was it not curious that as soon as women donned men's garb to do men's work that they secured the vote? Men's garb was the outcome of the necessity to work, and Miss Abadam said it was an absolute joy to see women coming out in uniform which was an expression of camaraderie and pride in their work.

Miss Boyle, who presided, said that the question of dress was of great importance—to judge by the advertisements in *The Daily Mail* it was of paramount importance. After an animated discussion on the subject she moved a cordial vote of thanks to Miss Abadam for her lecture.

The "Protected Sex."

Outrages on women and girls, and murders of both, crop up with such frequency that we cannot adequately deal with them. There has been quite recently the case of Nellie Trew, found murdered, under circumstances of shocking brutality, on a piece of open ground near Eltham Common last Sunday week. She was 16½ years of age, a brilliant and promising scholar, and of regular and irreproachable conduct. A man has been arrested on the strength of a button, torn from a cloth coat, and a military badge, which served as clues.

Private Thomas Pole, Sherwood Foresters, was charged on the Wednesday of last week, before the Notts Magistrates with the murder of his wife's illegitimate child by drowning.

Mrs. Peterken, of Mitcham, whose case arouses the fiercest sympathy, will appear at the Criminal Sessions on February 23. She is charged with the attempted murder of a grocer and oilman, who was acquitted of indecent assault on her little daughter because the child's evidence was not corroborated. We hope the Director of Public Prosecutions will be moved to treat her no less well than Stephen Canham who shot his wife dead, and withdraw the charge of attempted murder. Common assault would meet the case, in common sense and common justice.

The developments of "Malcolism," which is spreading steadily under the fostering care of our magistrates and judges, presents new features from

THEY SUPPORT US!

THE VICTORY FUND.

Blazing in the sky to-day we see the glorious sun of Freedom. The Victory Fund with which we greet it is mounting up, further contributions are urgently needed, and I should be grateful to receive them as soon as possible, that we may have a goodly sum by the date of the Conference.

A NEW WAY TO HELP.

The Women's Freedom League is taking part in the unique and historic Women Suffragists' Celebration at Queen's Hall on Wednesday, March 13th, at 8 p.m. A combined appeal for funds will shortly be issued, contributions may be ear-marked by the donors for their own Society, otherwise the whole profits from the Collection and the Sale of Tickets will be divided among the 16 Societies joining, in proportion to the value of the tickets sold by each.

So every ticket that is bought from this office will, besides ensuring to the buyer a delightful evening, help to swell the Victory Fund of the Women's Freedom League.

Please order your Tickets at once. 21s., 10s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s.

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

time to time. At first it was the intrusive—and unarmed—lover who was the object of the incensed fury of the husband; then it was the erring wife. This was by far the more popular, since less dangerous, victim of violence. A new turn, however, has been given by a sturdy patriot, one Thomas Pole. Pole has found a still more helpless victim—his wife's illegitimate child, whom he drowned in a paroxysm of righteous frenzy. "I did it!" he replied, when charged. "And if I had done what was right I would have drowned the wife as well." This poor little life lies, quite clearly, at the door of those guilty of the miscarriages of justice that have so shocked us recently; and we feel that Pole would stand a better chance at the hands of Mr. Justices Darling, or Atkin, or Coleridge, if only he had completed the job and finished off his wife as well.

C. N. B.

OUR OPENCOLUMN.

Correspondents are informed that the Editor cannot accept for publication letters which do not bear the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of bona fides.

FOOD OR BEER?

Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., writing to the editor from the House of Commons, after reading last week's VOTE, says:—

MADAM,—May one who has been not inactive in the effort to secure for our home-makers the rights of law-makers venture a word of friendly advice suggested by Miss Murray's article on the waste of foodstuffs in producing drink?

A few days ago a deputation of weary women from all parts of London waited on a group of sympathetic Members in a committee-room of the House of Commons and told their piteous tales of hardship, exposure, and suffering through food queues.

They appeared to think it all due to the unfair distribution of food. They did not realise that in regard to two of the most important, bread and sugar, it was due entirely to criminal waste licensed by the Government—waste that still goes on. When I asked if they were aware that 40,000 quarters of grain that would otherwise be available for bread were still going monthly to the breweries, they were quite ignorant of the fact. It is really 50,000 quarters now. If our Government were as concerned for women and chil-

dren as for brewers' profits, there would have been no shortage and no hoarding, nor any queues.

Now that you have votes, and can make or unmake Members of Parliament, will not you leaders inform the women of the land on these and similar facts, and teach them how to put such pressure on Members and on the Government as will compel them to give food preference over drink and release foodstuffs for human and animal consumption that will make away with shortage of bread and meat and dairy products, and thus drive hunger from the land even during the war?

The waste, if prevented, would have fed our whole population with bread for 47 weeks and with sugar for 38 weeks. It is the women who stand in queues. It is they and the children who suffer. They can save themselves now if they know the facts and learn how to use their newly acquired power.

THE V.A.D.'S POSITION.

[Owing to the pressure on our space of Parliamentary debates resulting in the great victory for the enfranchisement of women, and subsequent events, publication of the following letter has been unavoidably delayed.]

To the Editor, THE VOTE.

MADAM,—Will you allow me to say a word with reference to a paragraph under the above heading in your issue of January 4, in which it is stated that the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley "is intimately associated with the struggle to keep the nursing profession in thrall to groups of men who are not even doctors; and he has steadily opposed the State Registration of nurses."

As a matter of fact, the College of Nursing, Limited, of which Sir Arthur is chairman, has a frankly democratic constitution, and in three months' time the nurses on its register, who now number more than 7,000 fully trained women, will be electing by postal vote one-third of the whole Council, and by May, 1920, the whole body will have been thus elected, and the nurses will have had an opportunity, should they so desire, of ridding themselves entirely of the "groups of men not even doctors" who are now keeping them "in thrall."

So far as Sir Arthur from having "steadily opposed the State Registration of Nurses" that the very first reason given in our leaflet why certificated trained nurses should apply at once for registration by the College of Nursing is that the College is promoting by all the means in its power a Nurses' Registration Bill. As a matter of fact, there have already been four drafts of this Bill, and at the present moment the measure is undergoing careful revision, but from first to last it has been laid down that of the General Nursing Council under our Bill not less than two-thirds shall be directly elected by the trained nurses themselves.

Perhaps, in accordance with the principle enunciated with approbation in the last sentence of the above quoted paragraph, you will see fit to publish these remarks as a reply on behalf of "those criticised."—Yours faithfully,

M. S. RUNDLE, Secretary.

[We would point out that the registration of nurses in a "College of Nursing Company, Limited," which nurses may or may not care to join, is as far removed from the State Registration demanded by organised bodies of nurses as trades unionism is from the voters' roll. The one can never be a substitute for, or the equivalent of, the other.—Ed.]

NOT A NATIONAL FUND.

To the Editor, THE VOTE.

MADAM,—Thousands of trained nurses will regret to see the announcement in the Press that His Majesty the King has subscribed £100 to the Nation's Fund for Nurses, for which the nation, as such, has absolutely no responsibility.

This fund has been initiated by a section of the Actresses' Franchise League, calling itself the British Women's Hospital Committee, which has registered its fund as a war charity, in support of a limited liability company—the College of Nursing, Limited—and the only nurses who are permitted to benefit by the money subscribed for the nation's nurses are those who have been induced to pay a guinea for voluntary registration with this company.

In this connection, had the Press, with some honourable exceptions, not excluded the opinions of the nation's nurses on their own affairs, His Majesty the King would have had the opportunity of realising the indignation of thousands of his loyal subjects at the attempt now being made by wealthy plutocrats, and others, to undermine their economic independence as a self-supporting class of community.

Members of the organised nurses' societies are strongly opposed to the autocratic constitution of the College of Nursing, Limited, and resent the attempt to induce the public to finance this company under the pretext that they are paying a debt of honour for the devoted services of trained nurses during the war.—Yours faithfully,

ETHEL G. FENWICK, President,

Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, 431, Oxford-street, London, W. 1.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 160.

FRIDAY,
FEB. 22,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Felix Moscheles: A Memorial Exhibition

The artist has gone; his work remains. Those who have seen, and those who have a keen desire to see, the paintings of Mr. Felix Moscheles will rejoice to hear that a memorial exhibition will be held in the world-famous studio, the Grelix, 80, Elm Park-road, Chelsea, from February 20 to March 5; it will be open every day, including Sundays, from 11.30 to 6 p.m.

INDIAN TEAS.

The interest of the Indian Tea on February 8, held at the Minerva Café, under the auspices of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, was distinctly political, dealing with "The Relations between India and the Outlying Dominions of the British Empire." Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree, K.C.I.E., was the speaker, and the historical sketch he gave of the treatment meted out to Indians of all classes by the Dominions, especially South Africa, with the knowledge of the Imperial Government, was a surprising revelation to many in the large audience. Racial differentiation, which meant subjecting Indians to indignities, could not make for the unity of the Empire, said Sir

Mancherjee, who urged women, as voters, to use their new power in bringing about a satisfactory understanding. Miss Margaret Hodge spoke of the interest in Indian questions that is growing in Canada, and said that the Editor of *The Woman's Century*, of Toronto, intended to devote space each month to Indian news. The next Indian Tea will be on March 14, at the Minerva Café, 3-6 p.m., when Mr. H. S. L. Polak will lecture on "Indian Labour Emigration within the Empire."

The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1.

Miss Clara Reed's dramatic evening for the benefit of the Women's Freedom League Settlement, Nine Elms, and of the Despard Arms, is postponed from early in March. The date and particulars will be announced later. Bedrooms and bed-sitting rooms are available at the Despard Arms, with use of bath, etc.; meals in the restaurant as desired. Bed and breakfast 3s. 6d. Apply to the Manageress.

MISS JANETTE STEER, whose services to the Suffrage Cause are well known, is giving a series of lectures on Sunday afternoons, February 17 to May 5, at the Steinway Hall, Lower Seymour-street, on "The Bible, Psychology, Biology, and their analogies." 3 p.m. Admission free.

TO LET.

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NEW BLACK VELVET HAT, fashionable; 10s. 11d.

PORTABLE CHICKEN-HOUSE, with three separate hurdles for enclosed run, 6ft. by 4ft. by 6ft.; good condition; on view at 83, Earl's Court-road, S.W.; £3 10s. 6d.

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ANTIQUÉ GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK; £8 10s.

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