THE VOTE. JANUARY 17, 1919. ONE PENNY.

Women at the Peace Conference: Open Letter to the Prime Minister

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

Vol. XVIII. No. 482. (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, JAN. 17, 1919.

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

E EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE CALLS FOR WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AND WHAT WE THINK. A NOTABLE INDIAN WOMAN: H.H. THE MAHARANI OF BHAV-

NAGAR. Women on the Peace Conference: An Open Letter to the Prime Minister. LYCEUM CLUB'S TRIBUTE TO WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDI-

MRS. FAWCETT: 72, NOT OUT! LABOUR'S BID FOR WOMEN'S VOTES.

G. K. Devadhar: A Good "Servant of India." Votes for Indian Women.

A GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE CALLS FOR WOMEN IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

THE REPORT OF THE MACHINERY OF GOVERN-MENT COMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY OF RECONSTRUCTION, PUBLISHED ON JAN. 6,

WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

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

ELECTION MANIFESTO, signed by MR. LLOYD GEORGE, Prime Minister.

> MR. BONAR LAW, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

advising "in what manner the exercise and distribution by the Government of its functions should be im-

proved," and we are strongly of the opinion that among the changes that should be made as conducive to this end must certainly be included an extension of the range and variety of the duties entrusted to women in the Civil Service and in practically all Departments.

Our terms of reference entrust us with the duty of

The absence of any substantial recourse to the services of women in the administrative staffs of Departments, and still more in the intelligence branches, has in the past deprived the public of a vast store of knowledge, experience, and fresh ideas, some of which would for particular purposes have been far more valuable and relevant than those of even the ablest men in the Civil Service.

NO SHIRKING!

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

Join the Women's Freedom League.

Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1. Name

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CLARK.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.



Saturday, January 18, 3 p.m.— Political meeting in Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Five minutes' speeches on "My Suggestions for the King's Speech. Miss Dorothy Evans on "De-mobilisation of Women Workers." Miss mobilisation of Women Workers." Miss Margaret Hodge, "The Preservation of Child Life"; Mrs. Mustard, "Housing"; Dr. Knight, "The State Regulation of Vice"; Miss W. M. Spriggs, "The Law as it affects Women"; Mrs. Clark on "Food Problems," and others. Discussion to follow Admission free

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Clark on "Food Problems," and others. Discussion to follow. Admission free.

Monday, January 20.—London Branches Council Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 21.—Golder's Green Branch. Drawing-room Meeting at 13, Temple Fortune Court, at 8 p.m. Mrs. How Martyn on "My Election Experiences."

Wednesday, January 22.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. G. K. Devadhar, M.A. Subject: "The Poona Seva Sadan as an Example of how Indian Women are Helping Themselves." Chair: Miss A.A. Smith, Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the café, 6d. each. Wednesday, January 29.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "A New Menace."

Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m.—Political Meeting, in

Menace."

Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m.—Political Meeting, in Minerva Café, "What We Think of the King's Speech,"

Wednesday, February 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Whish. Subject: "The Humorous Side of Journalism." Annual Meeting, Golder's Green Branch, at 5, East Holm, Addison-way, 8 p.m.,

Friday, February 7.—Dance at the Institute, Hampstead

Garden Suburb (arranged by the Golder's Green Branch), To p.m. till 11 p.m. Tickets 2s. each. Refreshments at moderate prices.

Wednesday, February 12.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson. Subject:

Election Experiences.'

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, January 22.—Portsmouth. Practice Debating Class, 2, Kent-road, 3.15 p.m. Discussion: "The Use of Serums." Opener: Mrs. Layton. Chair: Mrs. White. Friday, January 25.—Bexhill. Speakers' Class at 19, Marine-mansions, 3.15 p.m. Hostess: Mrs. Williams.

Tuesday, January 28.—Manchester. Political Meeting for Women only at Milton Hall, Deansgate, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Maude Illingworth (Liberal Women's Organiser). Subject: "Peace—and After." Open discussion. Admission free. Silver collection.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS CAMPAIGN.

Friday, January 17.—Town Hall, Llanfylin, 8 p.m. peakers: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A.; Mr. Griffiths, M.A. Chair: Major Dugdale, D.S.O.

Monday, January 20.—Town Hall, Llanfylin, 8 p.m., to protest against State Regulation of Vice, and to advocate and recognise the Maintenance of an Equal Moral Standard." Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, Rev. David Morris, B.A. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Tuesday, January 21.—Town Hall, Welshpool, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., Rev. Howell-Williams, M.A. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

M.A. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Wednasday, January 22.—Assembly Rooms, Berriew,
8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., Rev. H. H. Phillips, M.A. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Thursday, January 23.—Public Hall, Newtown, 8 p.m.
Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., Rev. W. Richard
Morris. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Miss Margaret Hodge's Lectures.—Monday, January 20.

"The Historical Origin and Ethical Value of Nursery Rhymes," Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, 3 p.m.

Monday January 27.—"The Origin and History of Modern Popular Sayings and Some Modern Slang," Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 6.—British Dominions Women Citizens' Union, Indian Section, Minerva Café.—Debate on the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.—Admission 1s., including tea. 3-6 p.m. Church League for Women's Suffrage. Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 6.30 p.m. Service conducted by the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard. Address by the Bishop of Oxford.

Monday, February 24.—Women Writers' Suffrage League Annual Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m.

We call special attention to—

Political Meeting in the Minerva Café Saturday after-noon, January 18, at 3 p.m. Five-minute speeches on Our Suggestions for the King's Speech."

Mr. Devadhar's lecture, Wednesday, January 22, 3 p.m., n "The Poona Seva Sadan, showing how Indian Women are Helping Themselves.'

THE NEW MINISTRY.

The reconstituted Ministry in the new Parliament is as follows; Ministers retaining their old positions are marked with an asterisk :-

Premier and First Lord of Treasury ...*Mr. D. Lloyd George Lord Privy Seal and Leader in Commons: *Mr. A. Bonar Law

Lord President of Council and Le	ader in Lords:
	*EARL CURZON
Minister without Portfolio	Mr G N BARNES
The state of the s	STR ERIC GEDDES
Lord Chancellor	SIR F E SMITH
Home Secretary	
Under-Secretary	STR HAMAR GREENWOOD
Foreign Secretary	*Mr A J BALFOUR
Under-Secretary	Mr CRCH HARMSWORTH
Colonial Secretary	VISCOUNT MILNER
Under-Secretary	
War Secretary and Air Minister .	
Under-Secretary	VICCOUNT PREI
Times and Constant	*Mr H W EODSTED
Financial Secretary	CHARDAI CHELV
Under-Secretary for Air	GENERAL DEELY

The Under-Secretary for Air will be appointed Vice-President of the Air Council, and will preside over the

	Council.)	
	Secretary for India	*Mr. E. S. Montagu
	Under-Secretary	SIR S. P. SINHA.
		Mr. WALTER LONG
	Financial Secretary	*Dr. MACNAMARA
	Board of Trade	*SIR ALBERT STANLEY
	Parliamentary Secretary	Mr. W. C. BRIDGEMAN
+		*SIR ARTHUR D. STEEL-MAITLAND
	Local Government Board	Dr. Addison
	Parliamentary Secretary	*Mr. STEPHEN WALSH
	Board of Agriculture	*Mr. PROTHERO
	Parliamentary Secretary	SIR A. GRIFFITH BOSCAWEN
	Board of Education	*Mr. H. A. L. FISHER
	Parliamentary Secretary .	*Mr. J. HERBERT LEWIS
		become Ministry of Supply):
		Mr. Andrew Weir
	T '- 1 D - 1' and an Con	

Joint Parliamentary Secretaries:
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Mr. G. Wardle
Sir L. Worthington Evans Parliamentary Secretary Minister of Pensions

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TRELAND. ND...., *VISCOUNT FRENCH *SIR JAMES H. M. CAMPBELL Mr. IAN MACPHERSON *Mr. ARTHUR W. SAMUELS. Mr. DENNIS S. HENRY Lord Lieutenant Lord Chancellor Chief Secretary Attorney-General Solicitor-General

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1919.

	Lord Steward of Household	VISCOUNT FARQUHAR
1	Treasurer of Household	COLONEL SANDERS
	Comptroller of Household	SIR EDWIN A. CORNWALL
	Lord Chamberlain	VISCOUNT SANDHURST
	Vice-Chamberlain	Mr. W. DUDLEY WARD
	Cantain Gentleman-at-Arms .	LORD COLEBROOK
	Cantain Yeoman of Guard	LORD HYLTON
	Master of Horse	EARL OF CHESTERFIELD
	Lords in Waiting: LORD STA	NMORE, LORD RANKSBOROUGH,
	VICCOL	TAME VALENMIA EART OF JERSEY

As a result of the appointments to the Government there will be bye-elections in the following six constituencies: —Oxford University, Ross and Cromarty, Liverpool (West Derby Division), Glasgow (Hillhead Division), Colchester, Warwick and Leamington. They will not take place until the new Parliament has met (February 4) and the writs have been issued. There is time for women candidates to enter the lists!

WHAT WE THINK.

Mr. Lloyd George's new Ministry has certainly failed to secure the unqualified approval of any section of the Press. The papers most favourable to his policy are lukewarm in their praise of those appointed to carry it out, while the papers usually opposed both to Mr. George and his policy are more than usually sarcastic in their criticisms of the gentlemen and their connection with the posts they are offered.

We ourselves prefer to postpone what we have to say about members of the new Government until we have had some dealings with them. We note that the Right Hon. Edward Shortt, K.C., has become the Home Secretary. This appointment is of special interest to us, as in recent years we have had a considerable amount of business with successive Home Secretaries, and are likely to have as much or more in the future. It is true that Mr. Shortt was not a conspicuous success as Chief Secretary for Ireland, but "while there's life there's hope," and in any case we shall see before very long the outlines of the policy he proposes to adopt at the Home Office. On that policy we shall base our activities. We hope that he will have a better understanding of the moral question and the way in which it affects the lives of both men and women than that possessed by Mr. Macpherson, who has succeeded Mr. Shortt as the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

All those who are interested in the better education of the children and young people of this country will be glad to see the reappointment of the Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher as President of the Board of Education. We shall urge him in season and out of season to do all in his power to secure equal pay for equal work for men and women teachers. The salaries of both these men and women are far from adequate for the important service which they render to the nation, but we must insist that the first step towards justice is that the scale of women's and men's salaries should be identical.

With regard to the Food Controller, the Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, we can only say at present that, as he knows well the struggles of working-class families to make both ends meet, we hope he will do his honest best to secure that working-class mothers shall be enabled to get proper and adequate food for their children t reasonable prices. Tenpence a quart for guaranteed "milk makes it impossible for poor children to be well-nourished. Sugar, we note, is to be available to caterers very shortly. We certainly hope that this means that there will also be

a larger amount of sugar available per head, especially for children. These two items are essential to the proper feeding of children. Mr. Roberts must remember that working-class mothers with their limited incomes cannot afford the substitutes for these articles with which the more well-to-do section of the community can satisfy their children.

Sir Robert Horne has an important post to fill as Minister of Labour, and we point out to him the necessity of safeguarding the interests of working women. It is true that the majority of these women workers, the competitors of men in the labour market, being under thirty years of age, have no political power; but we strongly urge that the true interests of men and women workers are identical, and that the best solution of the Labour problems will be the universal establishment of an equal rate of pay for the same job, irrespective of the sex of the worker, and the opening of all Trade Unions to men and women on equal terms. trust that Sir Robert will have the courage promptly to adopt and act upon these suggestions.

A Notable Indian Woman.

By the death of Her Highness Nandkunvarba, C.I., Maharani of Bhaynagar, Kathiawar, Bombay Presidency, India suffers a grievous loss and the leaders of the Woman's Movement a stalwart and influential champion. For a considerable period she has been one of the outstanding figures among the Ruling Houses in India, and possessed exceptional talents, always placed at the service of her people.

The daughter of the Chief of Khirasa, she married the Thakur Saheb of Bhavnagar in 1905, abandoned the purdah, and rapidly completed an excellent education. Accompanying her husband on his tours in the State and elsewhere, she exercised a remarkable and beneficent influence on the administrative progress of the model Kathiawar principality. She was especially interested in the spread of education of girls and women, and the progress of medical and sanitary establishments.

By the outside world she will be chiefly remembered for her literary tastes. From the outbreak of the war, says The Times, in a sympathetic notice of her service to the Empire, she edited a weekly Gujarati paper to disseminate correct news of the struggle and to refute German propaganda. The paper was distributed in thousands at the expense of her Highness among Indian troops and the general public in Western India, and it was a most valuable agent in dissipating alarmist rumours.

She also supervised hospital arrangements for wounded soldiers, and sent periodical gifts to numerous charities. Her biographical tributes to Lady Hardinge of Penshurst and to Lord Kitchener attracted much attention at the time of their publication. The latter volume in particular was of more than common interest as indicating the new sense of Imperial responsibility developing in India. She received the Order of the Crown of India in 1911, and the Kaisar-i-Hind medal in 1917. Her last literary effort was a selection from the war speeches of Mr. Lloyd George in English, with translations into Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu, which was completed for publication only a few days before her death. Her Highness has left three sons, to whom the memory of such a mother will ever be an inspiration. The Society of Women Journalists, London, invited the Maharani to become a member on the qualification of her personal work as jourmalist and editor, and she accepted the invitation as a professional member. Her loss will be deeply deplored, and it is well that the West should know that India to-day numbers among her millions of inhabitants women who can and do give such excellent service to community.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, January 17th, 1919.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429. Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London." EDITORIAL.

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

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER (THE RIGHT HON. DAVID LLOYD GEORGE, M.P.) FROM THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Sir, On various occasions we have addressed you by means of an Open Letter, with satisfactory re-To-day we call your special attention to the immediate and pressing need for

Women on the Peace Conference.

You have been returned to power by a majority which is pledged to support you in winning the peace. The way is open to you, cut red-tape and ancient precedents, and strike out in new directions which will bring about the vitally essential cooperation of women with men in national and international affairs. Use your power at once by appointing women to take their part in the peace deliberations.

Many times you have declared that without the work of women the war could not have been won by the Allies, and your declaration has been enthusiastically supported by Parliament, the Press, and Only three months ago you sent a message to the Allied women war workers assembled in Paris to say that the war had given women a commanding position and influence in the public affairs of the world which would be needed for the great work to be undertaken after victory.

Give Women Their Opportunity at Versailles!

Women have the warmest sympathy with the decree now being put into force to search enemy countries for prisoners of war everywhere, including mines, factories, farms, and every imaginable place where they may yet be held in durance vile. demand that a decree shall also be enforced to discover the helpless women victims, tragic prisoners of war and of lust, deported from Allied countries by the enemy in East and West. They have no military value; they had no power to resist; their fate is a hideous nightmare.

Women must be on the Peace Conference to ensure that these unfortunates shall not be entirely lost. Women will be able to suggest and carry out means of search and identification. A peace which leaves out of count these tortured women is not complete. Women are needed to undertake this tragic

You have faith in women. Put it into practice and give them power at the Peace Conference.

You have arranged, wisely and well, that experts on all the great subjects which the Peace Conference will have to determine, shall be at hand to supply

The Conference will not be Complete Without Women Representatives,

with women experts in readiness to supplement necessary details.

In the early stages of the war Madame de Witt Schlumberger, President of the French Union for Woman Suffrage, appealed to women in every country-Allied, enemy, and neutral-to raise their voice in protest against the wholesale deportations of women by the enemy, and circulated documents giving facts. The Women's Freedom League and many other women's organisations united in making an indigmant protest, but war conditions prevented effective results.

Now is the Time and Opportunity

to give effect to many declarations of your championship of women. Do not delay; the need is urgent; the appointment of women to the Peace Conference, after the greatest war in history, will add to the renown you have already gained.

You will be strongly supported. The women of the United States have put forward the same demand. The Women's Freedom League has been urging the need since last spring. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, with Mrs. Fawcett at their head, have made a strong appeal. French and Belgian, Italian, Serbian, Armenian, and Russian women, who have suffered so grievously, will hail with gladness such a step.

Only a day or two ago a Government Committee reported that the absence of recourse to the services of women in administrative positions of responsibility and power had been a serious public loss, and in special positions women's knowledge, experience, and fresh ideas would have been far more valuable than those of the ablest men.

There are other reasons why women should sit at the Peace Conference, among them

Woman's Right to Determine Her Nationality

The world has outlived many creeds, among them that a wife is the chattel or property of her husband, and that, apart from him, she has no legal, social, or national rights. An English woman no more becomes a French woman, a Russian woman, or a German woman because she elects to marry a Frenchman, a Russian, or a German than a man of one of these nationalities becomes an Englishman because he chooses to marry an English woman. A woman on marriage with a man of different nationality must have the right either to retain her own nationality or to adopt that of her husband.

This is an international question, and women of all nations should be present at the Peace Conference to discuss and determine this matter in the interests of women.

You have many times declared that women are tragic sufferers through war. You have also de-clared that the purpose of the Peace Conference is to make war impossible. Call women to take counsel with you, then only may we look for a just and final peace in the interests both of great and small nations and of both sexes.

Here is an opportunity, unique and historic, to make use of the services of women for national and international good. Do not let it slip!

DELAY NOT BUT DO.

Women at Work.

Geological Society's Awards.

The Council of the Geological Society has awarded the Murchison Medal to Miss Gertrude L. Elles, D.Sc. (Newnham College, Cambridge), and the Murchison Fund to Mrs. Eleanor Reid, B.Sc.,

Miss Greta Delleany has been elected an Associate of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers and Engravers.

WOMEN PIONEER PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES HONOURED AT THE LYCEUM CLUB.

Enthusiasm, determination, courage, goodwill, and "the results will be different next time" were the characteristics of the very happy, friendly, and successful dinner given by the Lyceum Club, London, on January 13 in honour of the Women Pioneer parliamentary candidates. Each candidate was invited to make a short speech on "How I was Received by the Public and the Press,' although distance from London, the call of duty, and other reasons, including the first dense, unvielding fog of the winter, prevented some of the candidates from being present, there was a good rally of pioneer women, who delighted a large and keenly interested audience both with their speeches and their spirit. Another special feature of the unique gathering was the pleasure of the candidates in meeting each other and comparing notes.

Rebuff a Clarion Call to Go Forward.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1919.

MRS. MARION HOLMES, who presided, paid a glowing tribute to the women who had so promptly availed themselves of the right to stand for Parliament. British women, like the British Army, do not acknowledge defeat, and regard a rebuff as a clarion call to go forward. The chief difficulties that seem to perturb men with regard to women M.P.s, she said, were: How women should be addressed in the House of Commons, and what they would do with their hats and hatpins? "My honourable friend" she thought would meet the first case, and might be more applicable than in many other instances! The hat difficulty could be solved by the usual indiscriminate interchange of hats. She was sure that as much intellect would be found under Mr. Lloyd George's hat, if worn by Miss Nina Boyle, as when it adorned the head of its legitimate owner. The women in the fight had wielded their lances cleanly and efficiently, and the next time would bring victory.

Women's Votes Won,

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY expressed deep gratitude for the courtesy and support of the Press, and said she met with nothing but kindness and consideration from the public, who, however, did not give her sufficient votes! The fight was an interesting one, and though she was beaten, and badly beaten, as was her party all over the country, her defeat was in no sense due to her sex. She was received as one of the party candidates, irrespective of sex, and sex was not a handicap in the constituency. She considered she lost the party vote on which the organisation counted, but gained the vote of women who were keen on being represented by a woman. The fight had been extraordinarily interesting, and was well worth doing.

MISS ALISON GARLAND, who stood for the constituency represented in the last Parliament by that noted "Last Ditcher," Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, said that, had he continued as her opponent, she would probably have scored a success in South Portsmouth, but he declined the contest, and she had to meet a more formidable rival in the brotherin-law of Lord Jellicoe, a popular hero in the great naval port. That in a three-cornered fight she secured 4,300 votes in spite of this fact speaks well for the future fortunes of women candidates. She hoped that next time, under normal, not abnormal conditions as on this occasion, there would be not 16 but 60 women candidates, and that many would

The Only Annoying Person.

MISS MARY MACARTHUR regarded her defeat as a remarkable victory. "I did not win at Stourbridge because no one could have won under the circumstances. If women are to get into Parliament they they had given to all British women.

must stand, not on their sex, but on their character. their achievements, and the programme they support. I have no complaint to make of the Press or the public; the Returning Officer was the only one who annoyed me. When it was my duty to thank him after the declaration of the poll, I reproached him, in the words of Iago, with robbing me of my good name—for had I been nominated as Mary Macarthur I should have secured many more votes than I did as Mary Reid Anderson," "I regarded the result of the election, at which I scored 7,587 votes, as a remarkable victory," said Miss Mary "I regarded the Macarthur, "and I still so regard it."

Study the Psychology of the People.

MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE declared that candidates should make a closer study of the psychology of their electors. Feeling counts infinitely more than opinions at great national crises. Last month the electors were actuated for the most part by a passion for justice, expressed in the minds of many by the demand for "the hanging of the Kaiser. Appeals to enlightened self-interest, the prospects of better housing, better wages-nothing moved them so much as this passionate devotion to an idea. "We have learnt at this election that we must study the feelings and ideals of the people." Polling day, she added, was the happiest day of her life in seeing women carrying out the rights of citizenship, even though the vote of the young and enthusiastic women is still to come.

MRS. McEwan said that the election had been an experience which none of the candidates would forego; it was an educative campaign. Her success was hopeless from the first. It was a three-cornered contest, and many of the electors would not entertain the idea of voting for a woman. The London Press, however, was uniform in supporting women candidates and regarding women members as additional assets to the State. Women must get into Parliament, and they must vote at 21.

MRS. How MARTYN pointed out that the women who had pioneered in the past in the thorny path of progress for women had made easy the way of the pioneer parliamentary candidates. Women were not likely to be returned simply because they were women, but being good candidates their womanhood would be a great asset. She told how the Coalition candidate for Hendon, after a stammering reply to a question on raising the age of consent, afterwards adopted her reply for fear of losing women's votes. Women were badly needed in Parliament; every day brought evidence of how necessary it was to have their help in legislation.

Tribute to Keighley's Returning Officer last Spring. MISS NINA BOYLE, in a bright and lively speech, echoed the warm tribute of all the candidates in proposing the vote of thanks to the hostesses. She had herself stood for Parliament at a bye-election before the right of women to stand as candidates was legally ensured. She was glad and proud that the question had been forced to the front for decision, and paid high tribute to the sagacity of Mr. Wright, the Returning Officer at Keighley, who had not rejected her nomination on account of her sex.

Empire Wide Acclamation. Miss Margaret Hodge, in responding to the vote, said that the Lyceum Club had the heartiest admiration for the courage and the public spirit which had actuated the women political pioneers for Parliament. She gave a brief message from the self-governing Dominions overseas, through their representatives on the British Dominions Woman Citizens' Union, thanking the women who had stood for Parliament for the inspiration and help that

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

ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD AND THE FAMILY.

"Are you in favour of the endowment of motherhood and the family, and what do you believe would be the effects of such legislation?"

A Symposium of the Opinions, STRONG SUPPORT BY MRS. DESPARD.

Mrs. Despard writes:

I am strongly in favour of some form of State endowment of motherhood and the family. What the form should be will no doubt be settled when the question, which is of overwhelming importance to our nation, has been fully discussed and considered. That which is urgently necessary at the present moment is that the principle should be accepted by a large number of people. That given, details will follow, objections will be swept aside, and a way to what many treat as the impossible will be opened.

I base my contention in support of State endowment of motherhood, : First, on the little-recognized fact that motherhood is not only a craft in itself, but is the craft on which all other crafts depend. It should, therefore, be honoured, trained for, subsidized, and rewarded. Secondly: I maintain that the results of the nation's haphazard policy with regard to motherhood and the family are palpable and convincing. They cannot be ignored or argued away. No one, since 1914, can dare to say that this is a healthy nation. Thirdly: I am profoundly convinced that private efforts, however well-conceived and carried out, are utterly inadequate to meet the great need that exists or to do anything but palliate here and there the failure and consequent misery that have arisen from national neglect to recognize and cope with the difficulties of mothers and the danger and suffering (often life-long) of their children.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1919.

Our earnest desire is to see a strong motherhood, reinforced by science, skill, and sympathy, and made capable of rearing a healthy race. To work for this, not to rest until we attain it, is true patriotism.

JUDGE NEIL SAYS, "MOTHERS PENSIONS FIRST."

Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, writing to Miss Dorothy Evans with regard to the Women's Freedom League Conference on February 13, says:—

In reply to your request for a word about "State Endowment of Motherhood and the Family," may I say that this scheme is in the public mind very often confused with my scheme of "Pensions for Mothers," which is very much more limited in its scope.

I think that the Women's Freedom League should concentrate their effort on pensions for mothers, because it is more likely to be adopted by the State at once. It has already been approved by Government Departments having to do with the care of dependent children by the State.

Mothers' Pensions are maintenance grants made in respect of children under fourteen, to a widowed or deserted mother who is a "proper guardian," but too poor to feed, clothe, and "home" her children adequately. Such pensions have been instituted in thirty-five out of the forty-eight States of the U.S.A., and in those States a marked improvement in the health of mother and children has taken place, as well as a steady decrease in juvenile delinquency. Supervisors, appointed by each State, see that the children are properly cared for. An immense saving of public money has been effected, for in institutions a child costs thirty dollars (£6) a month, whilst the mother can provide for it for ten dollars (£2) a month.

Conference, Thursday, Feb. 13. Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., 1. 7 p.m.

Have you made up your mind?

Come to the Conference, at which a variety of opinions will be put forward and different schemes outlined.

DIVORCE LAW REFORM UNION.

Public Meetings on the Need for the Proposed Legislation for the Reform of the Divorce Laws.

January 18th, at 3 p.m.,

MR. JOSEPH McCABE
on "The Evil Influence of the Church on Marriage,"
FABIAN HALL, 25, TOTHILL STREET, S.W. 1,

January 25th, at 3 p.m.,
MISS LIND-AF-HAGEBY
on "Divorce Law Reform as Social Regeneration."

FOR WOMEN ONLY.
CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, St. James' Park (Underground) Station.
Particulars and Handbills from:
The Secretary, Divorce Law Reform Union, 9, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Mrs. Fawcett: 72 Not Out!

All suffragists will note with keen regret that Mrs. Fawcett has decided not to offer herself for re-election as President or as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies at its annual council meeting to be held early next March. Mrs. Fawcett says that the reason for this decision is to be found in her age. It is very difficult for those of us who have had the pleasure of seeing and hearing Mrs. Fawcett at public meetings to realise that there is any question of age to be considered. We are all justly proud of Mrs. Fawcett as a pioneer in the cause of women's political freedom. She is a great Englishwoman, who throughout her life has urged that the best interests of the country would be served by securing for women equal opportunities with men in education, in all the professions, and especially in the political world. Mrs. Fawcett has well earned some relaxation from committee meetings and from the cares of office, but we should not in the least be surprised that her general activities will now be increased. We send her our most cordial greetings and our sincere wish that she may long live to enjoy the many interests which she has gathered and enriched through half a century of strenuous work.

A Good "Servant of India."

There are two special points of interest with regard to "Our Wednesday" on January 22; they are the lecturer and the lecture. Mr. G. K. Devadhar, M.A., is one of the editors of India who were recently the guests of the nation invited officially to see Britain's war work. Among their exhilarating experiences were a trip over London in an aeroplane visits to the Western front, the Grand Fleet, and munition and other works in various parts of London and the country. The other members of the party have returned to India, but Mr. Devadhar will remain a short time longer to finish work which he has undertaken on behalf of his country. Readers of THE VOTE will find their particular interest in him focused in his lifelong and devoted work for the advancement of Indian women. "My sisters," as he always calls them. As the senior member of "The Servants of India Society," and a true disciple of the founder, Mr. G. K. Gokhale, honoured alike by Briton and Indian in India and the West, Mr. Devadhar is accustomed to the idea of selfsacrificing service for the community, and great as has been his work for men, his work on behalf of women has been even more remarkable. In education, in widening of interest, in securing efficienttraining, in breaking away from crippling tradition, and in holding up a high, yet practical, ideal of public as well as private service, he has helped his Indian sisters forward on a difficult road. He has unbounded faith in their abilities, given educational and other facilities, and maintains that they must be able to fulfil the responsibilities of citizens, as well as those of wife and mother. In his recent addresses to many gatherings in London, including the Conference of Educational Associations at University College last week, he has appealed for the help and sympathy of British women, strong in their new citizenship. His address to the Women's Freedom League on Wednesday will be concerned chiefly with an institution at Poona of which he is one of the founders, and has been hon, secretary since its beginning, known as the Seva Sadan. It is a practical object-lesson in showing how Indian women are helping themselves. India is a foremost and vital question to the Empire at the moment, and everything that concerns the progress of Indian women is of particular interest to us. We look for a large audience to welcome Mr. Devadhar on

January 22, at 3 p.m., and can assure men as well as women that they will have a most enlightening and enjoyable afternoon.

Votes for Indian Women.

Our readers will be specially interested in the following letter from Mrs. Margaret Cousins, formerly of Dublin, who with her husband did such good service to the cause of Woman Suffrage. Through Mrs. Despard she writes to the Women's Freedom League thus:—

Will you kindly bring to the notice of your members, through your paper or otherwise, the great step forward that has been taken towards the emancipation of Indian womanhood by the passing, "by an overwhelming majority," of the following resolution by the Special Session of the Indian National Congress which met to discuss the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms:—

"Women possessing the same qualifications as are laid down for men in any part of the scheme shall not be disqualified on account of sex." (Proposed by Mrs. Sarojini Devi Naidu and voted on by 5,000 delegates.)

There is an attempt being made to leave questions concerning qualification for the franchise in the hands of a Franchise Committee which has been already appointed in India, and it constitutes a menace to the interests of women, as with one exception its members are opposed to woman suffrage. It will help your Indian sisters immensely if all the British and Irish women's societies will insist that effect to the above resolution be given explicitly in the Indian Reform Bill which is soon to be introduced into Parliament, and that the matter of sex disqualification be not left to a subordinate Franchise Committee.

You will be strengthened in urging and demanding this by knowing that Resolution 8 of the same Congress was as follows:—

"That, so far as the question of determining the franchise and the constituencies and the composition of the Legislative Assemblies is concerned, this Congress is of opinion that, instead of being left to be dealt with by Committees, it should be decided by the House of Commons and be incorporated in the Statute to be framed for the constitution of the Indian Government."

In making this matter very public and showing your parliamentary representatives that the fate of Indian women is in their hands, and that you are their champions and advocates at home, you will be doing your sisters here invaluable and timely service. They recognise with gratitude all you have already done to help them, and trust to your cooperation again in this crisis.—Yours faithfully,

MARGARET E. COUSINS (MRS.), Member of the All-India Women's Deputation to the Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P.

Labour's Bid for the Women's Vote.

The Labour Party Executive, at its meeting on January 3, decided to embark upon a bold and comprehensive programme. The executive now propose to make a bid for the support of the women by identifying the party with a broad and generous legislative scheme for the "emancipation of women," or what might possibly be more accurately described as complete equality of women with men both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and in voting power, together with admission to all the professions on equal terms. The Bill, which has already been drafted, and will be introduced during the first session of the new Pariament, extends the franchise to women on exactly the same terms as men, thus lowering the qualifying age to 21 years; qualifies women to sit in the House of Lords as well as the Commons; and extends to them the right of entrance into all the learned pro-

FRIDAY. JAN. 17. 1919.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

REGISTRATION GUIDE

The new register of Parliamentary and Local Government voters is now being made up. The qualifying period of residence is the six months ending January 15, 1919.

Borough authorities are employing official can-

vassers to enquire at every house and gain exact information about qualified electors in order to make the new register complete. This canvass is not being carried out everywhere, so we urge women not to wait for the official visitor, who may not come or may make a mistake. If you are not on the last register get a form at once from your Town Hall, fill it up, and return it to the Town Clerk. Do not wait until February 1, when the register is to be published, and you will have to send in a claim if your name is missing.

In any difficulty write to us, addressing your letter to the Registration Guide, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

W.F.L. Organiser's Work.

Miss Gaynor Roberts is now in Scotland, and we hope to have good news of continued activity in our Scottish branches during the coming months. Miss White is organising for us in Ashford (Kent), Bexhill and Hastings; and we hope that before long she will begin work again in Brighton and Eastbourne.

The Despard Arms.

1 The Despard Arms.
123, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1.

In these days of demand for clean and comfortable bedrooms in London we ask intending visitors to give us as much notice as possible of their arrival. The charge is 2s. a night per bed, and the manageress makes arrangements for long and short visits, also for friends sharing a room. Hot baths whenever needed. Electric light (except top floor); meals as desired in the restaurant. Apply to the Manageress.

Important.

Photograph taken at the Women's Freedom League dinner in honour of our three Parliamentary candidates may be obtained from headquarters. Cost, 3s. mounted, 2s. 6d. unmounted, postcards 6d., postage extra.

BRANCH NOTES.

Ashford.

Ashford.

Mrs. Mustard gave an inspiring address on "Woman the Helpmate" at the P.S.A. last Sunday afternoon. She pointed out how women as well as men must deal with all the intricate problems facing the future. The health of the nation appealed to women even more than to men. On the housing problem she gave some interesting facts. As an instance of the present hopeless state of affairs she mentioned that in one street in Hoxton 50 families are living in seven houses. Our special thanks are due to Mr. Lee for his help to the branch in allowing us to send speakers to the P.S.A. He is a good friend to the League in many ways. Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck's many friends at Ashford will be glad to hear that she is shortly to speak at the P.S.A. on "Penal Reform." A Speakers' Class is being formed for next month; we are fortunate in having secured Mrs. Pertwee to take it. She is coming once a month throughout the winter. Each member will be asked to pay 3d. a week towards the expenses of the class. The organiser has several names of those wishing to join, but will be glad to hear of others.

Glasgow.

Glasgow.

A very successful Branch Party was held on January 9, which was largely attended in spite of bad weather. Games, music, and refreshments were much enjoyed, and a good collection was taken in aid of the branch funds.

Hackney.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Mustard, 49, Moresby-road, Upper Clapton, a drawing-room meeting was held on January 5, 4 p.m. Miss Underwood gave a most informative address on the work of the League in the past and its intended future activities. Mrs. Mustard was in the chair. A new member joined us, and The Vote sold well.

Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck spoke at the Sisterhood on January 6, and the large number of women present followed her remarks with the closest attention. The keynote was "Each for all and all for each," and Mrs. Bentinck urged all to go forward with unfaltering steps, undismayed by whatever happened. A lady who was present spoke to tne organiser after the meeting, and suggested that a Progressive Club for working women was very badly needed at Hastings; she promised plenty of help if one could be formed. The idea has caught on, and soon we hope to have a committee of working women managing such a club. A Speakers' Class is in process of formation. Special thanks to Mrs. Jowers, who is kindly holding the first class at her house on the Marina.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, post free 2d.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

PRIGHTON. - The place for busy women requiring rest; comfortable board-residence, early dinner."Sea View," Victoria-road. Tel.
1702. Hostess: Miss Turner. Tel.:

WANTED, end of January, small, self-contained FLAT, 3 rooms; rent not exceeding 15s.; overlooking or near Hampstead Heath.—Box 40, "The Vore" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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