

THE VOTE,  
DEC. 8, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

IRISH WOMEN WIN THE VOTE AT 21!

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 8, 1922

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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## THE FIRST WOMAN SOLICITOR.



Four women were successful in the Final Solicitors' Examination, in November, the results of which were announced last Saturday. They are:

**Miss Carrie Morrison,**  
**Mrs. Maud Isabel Crofts (Honours),**  
**Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Pickup (Honours),**  
**Miss Mary Elaine Sykes (Honours).**

Of these, Miss Carrie Morrison has won the distinction of being the first woman solicitor, as her articles expire early this month, when she will be fully qualified to practise. Mrs. Crofts,

Mrs. Pickup, and Miss Sykes will not be eligible until early in the New Year.

Miss Morrison pursued an extraordinarily varied career before finally settling down to legal work. She was taken to Spain at a very early age, and made a tour round the world when only 12 years old. Later, she spent three years in Germany, at Hanover, three years at the Manchester High School for Girls, and three years at Girton, where she took First Class Honours in the mediæval and modern languages tripos. She is an excellent linguist, speaking French, German, and Spanish fluently, and knows sufficient Italian to translate for the firm to which she is articled. She finds her knowledge of languages of inestimable benefit in legal work.

The war, however, provided her with the most interesting experiences of all, for, after a period spent in the Military Permit Office in London, Miss Morrison worked on the Organising Committee for the Inter-

national Labour Conference of the League of Nations, where she worked under Miss Sophie Sanger, who now controls an important position in the International Labour Office at Geneva. At a later date Miss Morrison went out to Constantinople as a member of the Branch, "General Staff Intelligence" Army of the Black Sea.

Miss Morrison did not definitely make up her mind to become a solicitor, until after the war, when the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act directed her attention to the possibilities of the law as a profession. Entitled to three years' exemption from the articles of her training, two as a University graduate, and one for War Service, she has only studied two years before taking her Finals, and, indeed, has performed the almost unprecedented feat of taking her Intermediate and Final Examinations within six months of each other, working all the time as well in the firm to which she is at present articled, Messrs. Kenneth Brown, Baker, Baker, of London.

It is interesting to note that, of the other three women who passed the final solicitors' examination, all have some legal family connections. Mrs. Crofts, who, as Miss Ingram, revives memories of the famous test case of *Bebb v. The Law Society*, in 1913, is the daughter of a barrister, and the wife of a solicitor, with whom she intends to set up in partnership. Mrs. Pickup is also the wife of a solicitor, in Birmingham, to whom she is articled, and Miss Sykes was originally articled to her late father.



## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Fiji (Indian Hospital).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the retrenchments proposed by the Government in Fiji include the closing, wholly or in part, of the Indian hospital at Suva, and the dismissal of Dr. Staley, whose work during the past two years for the Indian women and children in the Fijian group of islands had been repeatedly and publicly pronounced to be of the highest value to the whole community. MR. ORMSBY-GORE replied that Dr. Staley was engaged by the Government of Fiji for two years only, and the term of her temporary appointment would expire shortly. Retrenchments in medical and other establishments in Fiji were urgently necessary for financial reasons, and, although the final recommendations had not yet been received, the Secretary of State would not be justified in urging the continuance of any particular appointment against the wishes of the Colonial Government. LADY ASTOR inquired if it would not be a waste, instead of an economy, to send Dr. Staley away? MR. ORMSBY-GORE answered that he would be very glad to receive further evidence on that point, but the situation, even with the suggested economies, was that the expenditure at Fiji was £420,000, and the revenue was only £360,000, and they had got to cut down everywhere they could.

### Married Women Teachers.

Replying to a question by MR. SPOOR (Bishop Auckland), MR. E. WOOD (President of the Board of Education) said he understood that the Manchester Local Education Authority were dismissing a relatively small number of married women teachers, but he had no reason to believe that their action would deter women from entering the teaching profession. He was not disposed to interfere with the authority's discretion.

### Old Age Pensions.

Replying to a question by CAPT. WEDGWOOD BENN (Leith), MR. BALDWIN (Chancellor of the Exchequer) said that the Departmental Committee on Old Age Pensions, set up in 1919, estimated the additional cost for the United Kingdom of the adoption of the Income Tax exemption limit at £14,500,000. The Committee came to the conclusion that the adoption of this limit was impracticable.

### Juvenile Unemployment.

Replying to a question by MR. LANSBURY (Poplar), SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW (Minister of Labour) said that the number of boys and girls of ages up to 18 on the live registers of Employment Exchanges in Great Britain was 111,138 on January 31st, 1922, and 78,776 on October 30th, 1922. Separate figures could not be given for those between 18 and 21. The question whether any special steps could be taken for the benefit of unemployed boys and girls was receiving the careful consideration of the Government. MR. LANSBURY asked the Minister of Labour if he would hurry up that consideration, because at each school-ending age another set of boys and girls were tumbled out on to the labour market; and LADY ASTOR also asked if he would consider any money spent on those children not as waste, but as national economy? SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW promised to bear those considerations in mind, and that any money devoted to that object would certainly be used to the best possible purpose. LT. COL. HALL (Manchester, Hulme) wanted to know what proportion of those young people were girls, and what steps were being taken in view of the shortage of domestic servants; but the SPEAKER ruled that that was too large a matter for a supplementary question.

### Unemployment (London).

SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW, replying to a question by MR. GILBERT (Central Southwark), said that during the four weeks ended November 6th, 1922, 68,860 men and 18,533 women registered themselves at Employment Exchanges in the Greater London area, as compared with 97,697 men and 31,370 women in the four weeks ended November 4th, 1921.

### Unemployment (Lace Trade).

SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW, replying to LORD HENRY BENTINCK, said that on October 23rd the number of unemployed persons in the lace trade in the Nottingham and Long Eaton areas, as shown by unemployment books lodged at Employment Exchanges, were as follows:—Nottingham: 519 men, 5 boys, 383 women, and 19 girls; total, 926. Long Eaton: 1,032 men, 10 boys, 462 women, and 30 girls; total, 1,534.

### Prisons Administration.

MR. FOOT (Bodmin) asked the Home Secretary whether, having regard to the public demand for an inquiry into the prison system and the administration of His Majesty's Prisons, he would appoint a Royal Commission for this purpose at an early date? MR. BRIDGEMAN said that the Government would give careful consideration to the suggestion, but he was not in a position to make any announcement at present.

### Poor Law Institutions (Children).

MR. D. SOMERVILLE (Barrow-in-Furness) asked the Minister of Labour what was the average annual cost of the 7,405 children maintained on July 1st in Poor Law institutions? MAJOR BOYD-CARPENTER (Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour) said he regretted that the information asked for was not available. No separate accounts were kept as to the cost of the children referred to, many of whom were newly-born babies or infants in arms.

### Cambridge University (Women).

MR. SPOOR asked the President of the Board of Education whether he was aware that the resident members of Cambridge University were overwhelmingly in favour of the full admission of women on equal terms with men, but that the non-resident vote was the cause of delaying the reform; that the late President, on June 15th last, viewed the matter very favourably and encouragingly; that women had been admitted to full university rights at Oxford; and whether he still considered making any Government grant to Cambridge conditional upon equality of treatment as between men and women? MR. E. WOOD said he was aware of the previous history of the very difficult and controversial question of the position of women in the University of Cambridge. In accordance with a decision of the late Government, the University now received an annual grant of £30,000 from the Treasury. Whether it would be possible for the Government to make any addition to this grant, and, if so, whether any special conditions should be attached to it, were questions on which he was not at present in a position to make any statement.

### Royal Parks (Regulations).

Referring to the Parks Regulations Act, 1872, and replying to a question by SIR WILLIAM DAVISON (South Kensington), MR. BRIDGEMAN said that those Regulations, in so far as they dealt with matters of importance relating to the behaviour of users of the parks, differed but little in effect from the provisions of the ordinary law. They were prominently displayed at every entrance to the parks, and he had no reason to think that the requirements they imposed were less well known to the public than were the similar requirements of the ordinary law. MR. LANSBURY inquired if the Home Secretary, when considering this matter, would consider making the law equal as between men and women? LADY ASTOR asked if the Home Secretary realised that thousands of women were arrested on the evidence of the police without a word being said, but that when one man was arrested, the whole nation was roused? MR. BRIDGEMAN said he was quite aware that a great many difficulties beset this question, and he did not think that the present was a very convenient time to debate it. He was considering the matter. F. A. U.

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD. WOMEN AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

### Woman Barrister's First Case.

Miss Monica M. G. Cobb can claim to be the first woman advocate to plead in an English court of law. This was at the Birmingham Assizes, where she prosecuted a man for bigamy and won her case, the man being sentenced to six months' hard labour. Miss Monica M. G. Cobb was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple on November 17th. She had, therefore, been qualified exactly a fortnight when she received her first brief.

### Mrs. Orford's Kiosk.

The refreshment kiosk in St. James's Park, S.W., was demolished last week to make way for the Guards' war memorial. Mrs. Orford, tenant of the kiosk for 25 years, has failed to secure the contract for the new refreshment house built near by. She and her ancestors, known as "the Mall milkmaids," have sold refreshments in the park for 300 years. An attempt, however, is being made to find her a tea shop near by, and she is meanwhile writing her reminiscences.

### American Business Women.

The New York League of Business and Professional Women recently organised a Women's Activities Exhibit at the Hotel Commodore, in New York City, which drew big crowds, and was pronounced so great a success that it is now to be held annually. Everything in the Exhibit, from a sample of a home savings department of a savings bank, to a sample of a candy-making school (the only one in the country), was managed entirely by women.

### Woman Cattle Expert.

Madame Zonia Tseudorf, a Russian refugee, has been appointed by the Armenian Republic chief veterinarian and director of stock-farming for the American Near East Relief Organisation in Armenia. Madam Tseudorf was formerly the wife of one of the largest stock-farmers in Russia, and assisted her husband in the management of seven big estates in Southern Russia. She received the title of Veterinary Surgeon from the Government College of Moscow.

### Woman Wine Taster.

Mrs. M. I. Fisher, who carries on, as sole proprietress, the old-established wine business of Maurice Meyer, her father, now dead, is probably the only woman wine taster in the wholesale trade in London. Her palate is so sensitive, that while blindfolded, she can tell the difference between Macon and St. Julien or Margaux.

### Japanese Women and the League.

Japanese women for the first time are organising for a political purpose. This is due to the fact that until last year it was illegal for Japanese women to unite for political purposes. Women are now exercising their new freedom by uniting in a general demand for a reduction of armaments through the League of Nations.

### Afghan Women.

A Woman's University, for the study of medicine, has been begun in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, with 500 women students in attendance. Pashtu, Persian, Urdu, and Russian are also taught in the University.

### Woman Air Pilot.

The latest recruit to enter aviation is the Hon. Elsie Mackay, third daughter of Lord and Lady Inchcape, who has received her certificate as pilot. She is the twelfth woman to qualify as a pilot.

### State Registration of Nurses.

Over 15,500 nurses have already applied for State registration in accordance with the provisions of the Nurses Registration Act.

### Sex Equality on the Land.

Wives and daughters of farmers are to be admitted to debates on agricultural matters in Buckinghamshire.

Mr. Baldwin, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, replying last week to a question by Mr. Ammon, said that the Government intended, in accordance with the Resolutions passed by the House of Commons on August 5th, 1921, to give the fullest possible opportunities to women in the Civil Service, subject always to the interests of efficiency and economy and the just claims of ex-Service men. This, of course, sounds fairly satisfactory, but other questions in the House revealed the fact that some women in the Civil Service still have grievances. Mr. Wignall asked the Minister of Pensions if he was aware that many supervisory women officers in his Department received less money than those supervised, and that general dissatisfaction existed among the higher grades in consequence of this and other anomalies in their position, and whether he would consider referring to the Industrial Court the present differences of opinion as to the appropriate rates for the Departmental classes of divisional and assistant divisional superintendents, group supervisors, and checkers? Major Tryon replied that the rates of pay of temporary divisional superintendents, assistant divisional superintendents, and group supervisors were in all cases higher than those of the grades whom they supervised; there were, however, a few instances where a temporary clerk was temporarily drawing less pay than a clerk in the grade below. That was due to the fact that the minimum pay of the higher grade was below the maximum pay of the lower; but the scales of pay were common to the temporary clerical staff of all Government Departments, and there were no grounds on which a special concession could be made to the staff affected in the Ministry. Mr. Wignall further asked the Prime Minister if he was aware that, before the Dissolution of the last Parliament, petitions with several thousand signatures, including numbers from taxpayers not concerned, were sent to the Treasury appealing for an Industrial Court hearing of the case for and against further reductions in the rates of pay of temporary women Civil Servants; and whether he would consider allowing such a hearing to take place now, in view of the fact that it could be proved that the majority of women who would receive the proposed December reductions in salary already had insufficient food and clothing for full efficiency to be maintained, having to contribute to the support of others on inadequate wages. Col. Newman also appealed for an Industrial Court hearing of the case of these women, pointing out that an Industrial Court had recently been permitted to hear an appeal from His Majesty's dockyard manipulative workers against wage cuts, and that the women had in many cases to support others on even lower wages than those paid to the dockyard workers? The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said he had been asked to reply, stated he was aware that a petition containing between two and three thousand signatures had been submitted before the Dissolution of the last Parliament, but he did not think that the cases of the dockyard workers and the women were similar, and he saw no reason for arbitration in the case of the women.

## AMERICAN WOMEN & THE ELECTIONS.

In the recent National Elections in the United States, 28 women stood as candidates for Congress, six of whom stood for the United States Senate. The only woman elected, however, was Miss Winifred Mason Huck, of Illinois. Mrs. Huck, however, will be in Congress only until next March, as she was elected to complete the unexpired term of her father, William E. Mason. Until that time there will for the first time be two women in Congress, but after that none, as Miss Robertson, who formerly stood for Oklahoma, has been defeated. This defeat, however, is not regretted by progressive women, as Miss Robertson was an anti-suffragist, and in no sense a woman's candidate. She has opposed the Sheppard-Towner Bill and other measures promoted by the progressive women's group.



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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.

## THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

The Irish Free State Constitution Bill and the Irish Free State (Consequential Provisions) Bill have both passed their Third Readings in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords. We profoundly hope that this means that henceforth there will be Peace between Great Britain and Ireland. The Debate on the Address to His Majesty is being continued in the House of Commons. On November 30th Mr. Clynes moved an amendment to this Address on the question of Unemployment, which was fully debated both Thursday and Friday, when it was lost by 303 votes to 172. Last Monday Sir John Simon moved another Amendment to the Address, regretting that no mention was made in the King's Speech of the repeal of the Safeguarding of Industries Act, and of other protective measures, which were raising prices, hampering trade, and limiting employment. This amendment was also lost by 269 votes to 207, the Government majority on that occasion being only 62. On the 28th of November Mr. Lansbury succeeded in getting the House adjourned to discuss the Unemployed March to London, and again appealed to the Prime Minister to receive a deputation from the unemployed; but the latter declared he could not go back from the position he had taken up. The following day the House was again adjourned to discuss Housing conditions, and the question of ex-Service men who had been put into asylums, and who were being treated as mental paupers. The next day it was adjourned to discuss the inadequacy of disability Pensions to ex-Service men, and also of pensions to the widows and mothers of men who had fallen in the war. Numerous questions have been asked during the week by Members of all parties in the House, which has all the freshness and vigour of a new Parliament. Lady Astor has taken part in the debate on Unemployment, and has shown that she is fully prepared to hold her own, and eminently capable of doing so, on questions of policy, when there is a conflict between the creeds of the various political parties. She is certainly a force to be reckoned with, and we look forward with confidence to the time when there are more women of the various parties in Parliament to give expression of a new vitality in all political creeds. Before long, women will give all parties a new meaning. Already, through the influence of women politicians, the old idea of Party is changing. Women are forcing the pace and making us recognise that it is not mere Party, nor the members of one's Party, that matters. The important thing is what the Party stands for, its principles, its creed. Women have little use for the trimmings of Party politics—the essentials, the creed itself, are the things that matter—and women are humanising and vitalising the different political creeds which they adopt. The first aim of women in politics, of women of all parties, too, is reality; and when they cannot discover reality in the creed of their own Party, they will have no hesitation at all in crossing the floor of the House to another Party. This, in our view, is just as it should be.

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee was held at the Women's Freedom League office last Saturday, those present being Miss E. Berry, Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Dr. Knight, Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Mustard, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, and the Secretary. Mrs. Schofield Coates was appointed to the Chair.

Reports were considered and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, and from the Political and VOTE Sales Departments. Reports were given of the work done by our members for women candidates in Westminster, Acton, East Surrey, Waterloo (Lancashire), and S. Edinburgh at the recent General Election, and cordial letters were read from Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, and several of the unsuccessful women candidates. Replies to our questions, which our Branch members had received from their local men candidates, were also considered by the Committee. Letters were read from Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George in reply to questions sent to them from headquarters, both of which were considered wholly unsatisfactory. A letter was also read from Mr. Bonar Law, declining to receive our proposed deputation on Equal Franchise for women and men. The Committee decided that we should write to him again, asking him to receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League before the opening of Parliament next Session, so that women could place before him further arguments for including an Equal Franchise measure in the King's Speech. Arrangements were discussed for a Police Court Rota, the members of which were regularly to visit London police courts, and report to us on the cases dealt with in which women and girls were involved. Plans for keeping in our office records of Members of Parliament—the divisions in which they take part or from which they are absent, their votes and speeches on matters of interest to us, and supplying our Branches with this information about their local Members, were gone into and passed by the Committee. Mrs. Mustard reported on the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, which she and Mrs. Holmes had attended as our delegates. Both Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Holmes had been placed on the Executive Committee of this Council. Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Pierotti were appointed to represent us at the next meeting of the Consultative Committee. A letter was read from the Hon. Secretary of the Pioneers, Margate, cordially thanking Mrs. Mustard for addressing their crowded meeting of women on the eve of the General Election. Arrangements for forming new Branches in Croydon and district, North London, and the Thames Valley, were discussed, and the Committee decided that Miss Brimson should be sent to work in Glasgow in the New Year. With regard to the VOTE Sales Report, Branches were to be asked to have our paper, THE VOTE, and Women's Freedom Literature on sale at every meeting they held, and a Sub-committee was appointed to devise means for increasing THE VOTE circulation. It was decided that each woman who had recently stood as a Parliamentary candidate should be invited kindly to send a message to THE VOTE for our Christmas Number, and that each member of our National Executive Committee should be asked to send a New Year's message for our paper. The Committee agreed that the Women's Freedom League should run a campaign at Brighton next year, during the Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers, and that Miss Alix M. Clark should run the campaign, the subjects suggested for our meeting were being Married Women's Right to Work, and Women Police.

The date of our next Annual Conference was fixed for Saturday, April 28th, and the next meetings of the National Executive Committee are to be held on February 3rd, March 10th, and April 27th.

## HOUSING DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT.

The following are extracts from speeches made in the House on November 29th, on its adjournment to discuss the question of Housing:—

**Mr. Lansbury** (Bow and Bromley):

"Look at the waste of the money you spend on education. You do not have to provide schools for the mentally deficient in St. George's, Hanover Square, but you do for Poplar, Bethnal Green, Canning Town, and those kind of districts, because the children there never had a chance. It would be economy for the nation to spend a big sum of money on this business of housing."

**Mr. Ammon** (N. Camberwell):

"Within twenty minutes' tram ride of this House of Commons there are houses where there is no separate sanitary accommodation, no separate water accommodation, and where the rain comes through the roof, and they are occupied for the most part by the families of men whom you were cheering in the streets of London a few years ago. . . . We had far better spend the money which we are paying in Unemployment Insurance by putting men to build houses."

**Mr. Trevelyan Thomson** (Middlesbrough):

"According to a house-to-house canvass of the whole town (Middlesbrough), made last year, over 25 per cent. of the population are living in houses with two people in each room, and there are over 1,000 families who have to share one small house with other families, and in some cases there are as many as five families living in one house."

**Mr. J. Stewart** (St. Rollox, Glasgow):

"In the City of Glasgow last year we spent nearly £100,000 on the health problem, in order to deal with the bad conditions arising out of housing. A thousand people died from tuberculosis alone. They did not die in the well-to-do portions of the city. This year the Corporation is engaged in building a new sanatorium at a cost of over £300,000, to contain 200 or 300 beds. It has built a hospital which is now occupied by 440 patients. It has hundreds of cases in our Poor Law hospitals, all arising from tuberculosis. Our fever hospitals are crowded. There is not a patient within any one of those hospitals who is not costing over £2 a week to maintain, allowing nothing whatever for the rent of the building."

**Mr. Whiteley** (Durham):

"At a practically new colliery in our county we have a large percentage of houses with only two rooms, with no through draught, and with the old step-ladder leading upstairs, and they are absolutely overcrowded. At one of our old collieries the overcrowding is extraordinarily serious. The sanitary conditions are in an awful state. In a good number of cases the people have beds in the pantries and no water, which has to be carried from the middle of the street."

**Lady Astor** (Sutton, Plymouth):

"There is no woman, certainly no mother, who knows of the conditions under which children are born and bred but who must be keen about housing schemes. If hon. Members on the opposite side of the House will use their heads as much as their hearts, and if hon. Members on this side of the House will use their hearts as well as their heads, I think we can get on very well. You must have a combination of head and heart. . . . If housing reformers on that side of the House will combine with housing reformers on this side to press the Government to go as far as it can, we can make progress. . . . I hope that, no matter how much the Government may have to economise in other things, they will allow nothing to stop them from progressive housing reform."

**Mr. March** (South Poplar):

"We want the Government to understand that we are surprised and disappointed that they have not mentioned something about housing in the King's Speech. . . . I could quote case after case in our own district of six children, a mother and father in one room, with

a boy and girl, the oldest of the family, from 16 to 17 years of age, and all living and sleeping in one room, and it is continually the case of one of the children at least being ill in that same room. And I could tell of a case of one of the children dying in one of these rooms, and having to be taken out to a shed, where a watch had to be kept to prevent the rats from gnawing the dead child's body before the funeral. Is that the kind of thing to encourage the British race or the British Empire?"

**Mr. W. Hutchison** (Peebles):

"It shall be my endeavour as long as I am on these benches to urge the Government, of which I am a humble supporter, to do everything possible to solve the housing problem, especially in the country to which I belong. . . . I recognise the sincerity of my hon. Friends on the other side of the House, and I hope that we shall have their hearty co-operation with the Government, rather than their criticism."

**Mr. Paling** (Doncaster):

"The last census figures show that in the urban area where I live, our population increased 107 per cent. We started just over three years ago as an Urban Council to build houses. We built 300 houses. We wanted 1,100. To-day we want 2,000 houses. The only advance we have made on the 300 has been 18 houses about six months ago, and 26 houses about a month ago. We have found that local authorities can build better than, and as cheaply as, private enterprise, and can give more attention to the amenities, and even to the look of the houses."

**Mr. Charles Roberts** (Derby):

"We all know that the housing conditions are intolerable, and that they ought to have been remedied long ago. . . . What did State action produce? It has produced up to date one-fifth of the houses we admittedly required. Each one of those houses on the average cost £1,150. Each of them entailed upon the taxpayer an annual loss of £55, and an eventual liability on the nation in the next 60 years which will run up to £600,000,000. . . . I think it is not beyond the powers of the Government, while leaving the municipalities a free hand, while calling upon them and expecting them to clear away the slums, at the same time to encourage private enterprise."

**Mr. Wheatley** (Shettleston):

"There was in my neighbourhood a piece of land about ten acres in extent. That land had stood in the valuation roll of the city for forty years as having no value. Immediately we wanted the land the owner said, 'You can have it on condition that you pay me £714 per acre.' We had to pay it. Then we only got a sort of backward portion of it. When we wanted a front portion facing the main street, the owner wanted for that £2,500 an acre. . . . If local authorities were paying 80s. for bricks, and the private enterpriser wanted to erect a cinema or a public-house, he only required to offer 85s. a thousand for the bricks, and the Government would let him have them; and in Glasgow the Appeal Court, in every single case, overturned the decision of the local authority against the private enterpriser."

**The Solicitor-General** (Sir Thomas Inskip):

"There are already signs of revival in private enterprise in building. Thirty-five local authorities have already undertaken to build houses without State assistance, and another sixty local authorities are considering proceeding on those lines. The Government are considering every proposal, but they will proceed upon the lines that private enterprise, with the assistance and encouragement and good will of the State, may be able to solve the problem. If all parties co-operate with head and heart, I am sure that we may, in the course of a short time, hope to see happier conditions in our big cities."



## WOMEN IN THE CITY.

It used to be said a few years ago that "Ladies did not understand business," but many women now share in extensive business transactions. As shareholders, women are perhaps of a less trusting nature than men, and more prone to ask the reason why, when their investments do not prosper. Naturally, their inquiries are not welcomed by directors and officials, but they persist, and never relax their efforts until they get an answer. In this connection, our readers will be glad to hear news of our old and valued member, Mrs. Thomson-Price, who took a leading part in the reconstruction of Messrs. Skaters, Ltd., a few years ago.

Mrs. Thomson-Price, as a shareholder in the Smithfield and Argentine Meat Company, Ltd., considered over a year ago that the affairs of that company were unsatisfactory, and vainly pressed for a Committee of Inspection. Last July, after a still less satisfactory report had been submitted to the annual general meeting, she again proposed a Committee of Investigation, and carried the day, the shareholders insisting that she should be one of the five persons appointed. The Committee elected Mrs. Thomson-Price its chairman, and met frequently, "putting in four months of hard labour on behalf of the shareholders," and on November 28th brought to the shareholders at the adjourned meeting a very drastic report, condemning mismanagement and the system of commissions to directors, and recommending the retirement of several officials. The shareholders agreed to all the suggestions of the Committee of Investigation, and recommended that Mrs. Thomson-Price should be added to the Board of Directors.

## TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The Times reports that a meeting of the Burnham Committee, which deals with the salary scales in elementary schools, was held last week under the chairmanship of Lord Burnham, to receive the report of a sub-committee appointed to consider a suggested temporary abatement from the scales, in view of the existing condition of national and local finance. The report was based upon the following proposals:—

"That during the financial year commencing April 1st, 1923, the teachers consent to a reduction of 5 per cent. of the salaries payable during that financial year under allocated scales; this to apply to each teacher individually, and be calculated on the gross salary of the teacher.

"That the reduction shall also apply within the areas of those local authorities which have not yet, but may as from April 1st, 1923, put into force the allocated scales."

It was agreed that both panels, in the spirit of mutual good will, should present these proposals to their constituent bodies, with the hope that a satisfactory solution of the problem may be found.

## MARRIED WOMEN TEACHERS

Reynolds' Newspaper reports that the question of the employment of married women teachers is likely to come into the High Court soon after Christmas. Some months ago the Rhondda Urban District Council held a meeting, and passed a resolution that they would no longer continue to employ married women teachers, and they gave notice to about sixty of these teachers. Two or three days before the expiration of the notices—October 31st—after legal advice had been taken by the teachers, the Court of Chancery was moved for an injunction restraining the Council from enforcing the notices. As a result of this motion the Council gave an undertaking not to enforce them pending judgment in the action, and it was arranged that the case should be tried as early as possible. The sixty married women teachers are, therefore, carrying on their duties for the present.

In the meantime, we learn that Tunbridge Wells and Hastings Councils are discussing the dismissal of their married women employees.

## JAPANESE WOMEN.

Mme. Kikuyi Yamahawa has written for the French Feminist paper, *La Voix des Femmes*, an account of the position of women in Japan, from which we reproduce the following extracts:—

Notwithstanding the radical changes which have been made in Japanese social life during the last decades, the education of women has shown a by no means proportionate development. Even in primary schools, girls do not receive the same instruction as boys; in the secondary schools the difference is still more striking. Although both boys and girls go through a five-year course, the standard reached by the girls at the end of their five years is not equivalent to that of the boys after three years. Higher education is practically non-existent for women. Recently a few women have been permitted to attend literary or scientific lectures, but they cannot be registered as regular students. Consequently, they are unable to qualify for the higher professions.

The increased cost of living has, however, obliged more women to earn their living, even after marriage. Hitherto the cheapness of living in Japan, and the numerical predominance of men over women, has made the position of women in Japan in some respects better than that of European women.

The profession into which women have mostly entered is that of teaching. There are about 60,000 women teachers, but only about 50 university professors. Many of these teachers are married women, and have home duties in addition to their professional occupation. School teachers in Japan often work eight or ten hours daily, as they are often responsible for administrative work, as well as for actual teaching. Owing to the insufficiency of schools and teachers, they often have classes of 50 to 60, or even 70 to 80 children.

Salaries have doubled since 1915, but they are still insufficient to meet rising costs. The physical and moral health of these teachers is, therefore, frequently affected; indeed, 6 per cent. are said to suffer from consumption, and three times the normal proportion.

There are also about 400 women doctors, 40 dentists, 120 chemists, 35,000 midwives, 35,000 nurses; 20,000 are employed in post and telegraph offices. In all cases their earnings are scarcely enough to keep them. As a natural outcome of this state of affairs, prostitution is rife. The official number of geishas is 150,000, but the actual number of women who live more or less by this means is reckoned at 500,000. The Women's Temperance Society and the Salvation Army are working—without much hope of success—for the abolition of State prostitution. The public in general is apathetic.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Wednesday, December 13th, at 3 p.m. Public Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss V. V. J. Acheson. Subject: "Current Events Abroad."

Tuesday, January 23rd, 1923. Social, 7.30 to 10 p.m., at the Isis Club, Rockeslea, Fitzjohn's Avenue, Hampstead, N.W.3. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Harverson). Speech, 8 p.m., by Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., on "The Experiences of a Suffrage Speaker." Coffee.

DARE TO BE FREE.

### PROVINCES.

Tuesday, December 12th, at 7 p.m. Portsmouth. Social Evening. Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Short speech, Coffee and an Entertainment. Silver Collection.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, December 9th at 3 p.m. The Women's Group of the Ethical Movement. Meeting at Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Subject: "A Woman's View of the Recent Elections."

Wednesday, December 13th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union. American Tea Party for special effort to raise funds. Admission to visitors. 1/-.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH AS A NATIONAL ASSET.

A Lecture by Mrs. Gatty, on "Women's Health as a National Asset," was held in the Minerva Café, on Wednesday of last week.

Mrs. Tanner, who presided, introduced Mrs. Gatty as an old Suffrage campaigner, and impressed the importance of her Lecture that afternoon. The desire for an A1 nation could not be accomplished unless we had A1 mothers.

Mrs. Gatty, who prefaced her address by quoting Emerson's aspiration, "Give me health and a day, and I will make ridiculous the pomp of Empire," referred to the important progress achieved by women during the last 100 years. In spite of this progress, however, women were still referred to as "the weaker sex," although in primitive times both sexes shared an equal allowance of physical strength. Modern women needed to be educated to become stronger than they now were. A great deal of interest had been aroused of recent years as to whether games and athletic exercises had a detrimental effect upon growing girls, and one progressive Headmistress of a large High School for Girls had compiled a questionnaire on this subject, and sent it out to 37 of her married pupils. The replies, with one or two exceptions, were entirely satisfactory. Rickets in childhood were a great handicap to the future mother. Muscle development was most important, and could be acquired by deep breathing. The death rate of illegitimate children was three times greater than that of children born in wedlock. According to recent statistics, the birth rate of illegitimates remained about the same, but the birth rate of legitimate children was steadily falling.

## WOMEN IN HOLY ORDERS.

A Public Debate, organised by the League of the Church Militant, on the subject, "That it is desirable that women should be called to serve as Priests in the Church of God," was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, last Monday, at 8 p.m.

The Rev. F. M. Green, B.D., opening the Debate in the affirmative, claimed that a Priest's main office was the cure of souls, and that a love for souls was the chief desirability of the priestly office. Women possessed this love of souls equally with men, and had demonstrated it for some time past. Though excluded from the priestly office, it was impossible to deny them the priestly heart. From an intellectual point of view, women had also shown themselves eminently fitted for the Priesthood. The Church needed women Priests, especially with the present dearth of candidates heard of on all sides. Abroad, especially in Indian and Mohammedan countries, the Church needed women Priests still more, where women converts in harems were shut off from all spiritual ministrations. Until women were called to the Priesthood, the Church was utterly failing to express in its corporal life the principles committed to it. Although the equality of the sexes had not been directly expressed by the Founder of Christianity, it was everywhere tacitly assumed by Him, especially by the institution of Baptism in place of the male rite of Circumcision, by Communion in place of the male rite of the Passover, and by a mixed mode of worship, as in the Upper Room, in place of the Services of the Synagogue, in which no woman was permitted to take part.

Mr. R. K. Cowie, President of the Federation of Catholic Laity, who replied in the negative, confined himself chiefly to historical arguments, quoting from the Nineteenth Canon, the Apostolical Constitutions, and the Council of Nismes, in support of his contention that women had never, even qualified as Deaconesses in the Primitive Church, much less as Priests. Later in the evening, however, these quotations, unfortunately for the speaker, were invalidated by Miss Maud Bell, who drew attention to the fact that Mr. Cowie had quoted without any reference to the context, which in every instance clearly proved that women acted as regularly ordained Deaconesses in the Primitive Church.

Numerous questions, and an active discussion followed the speakers' addresses. No vote was taken at the close, but to the ordinary onlooker it was easy to surmise the direction it would have taken!

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested to know that at a recent meeting of the National Council of the Women's Party (Washington) the following statement of principles was adopted:—Whereas women to-day, although enfranchised, are still in every way subordinate to men before the law, in government, in education, in the professions, in the Church, in industry, and in the home—

"Be it resolved, that, as a part of our campaign to remove all forms of the subjection of women, we shall work for the following immediate objects:—

- Recognition of the equality of the sexes.
  - Equal participation in government.
  - Equal educational opportunities.
  - Equal opportunities in every occupation and profession.
  - Equal opportunities in foreign trade and in the consular and diplomatic service.
  - Equal compensation for equal work.
  - Equal participation in the Ministry and government of the Church.
  - Single standard of morals.
  - Abolition of prostitution.
  - Equal treatment of sex diseases and equal punishment for sex offences.
  - Jury service.
  - Equal inheritance laws.
  - Recognition of the separate identity of the wife and her right to contract with her husband.
  - Equal right to retain her own name after marriage.
  - Recognition of the mutual contribution of the husband and wife to the support of the family.
  - Recognition of the wife as co-equal head of the family.
  - Equal right of the wife to choice of residence.
  - Ownership and control of her own services, earnings, and property by the wife.
  - Equal control of joint property by the husband and wife.
  - Equal grounds for divorce.
  - Equal contract rights after marriage.
  - Equal rights to choice of citizenship.
  - Equal treatment in the economic world after marriage.
  - Equal guardianship rights.
  - Abolition of all Common Law and Civil Law disabilities."
- This Declaration of Principle will be voted upon by the officers and founders of the Party at the Conference.

## JUMBLE SALE.

A Jumble Sale is being arranged by our Montgomery Boroughs Branch, the proceeds of which are to come to Headquarters. It will be held on December 16th. Readers are urged to send any goods they can spare to Miss Clark at The Hut, Severn Street, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, Wales.

## IRISH WOMEN WIN VOTES AT 21!

The Royal Assent has now been given to the Irish Acts, and the Irish Free State came into being at midnight on Tuesday, December 6th. This means that the women of the Free State have their political freedom equally with Irish men, and that both the men and women in the Irish Free State can vote at 21, and on equal terms. We warmly congratulate our Irish sisters on this victory. It brings nearer our own triumph.

## PAY FOR THE FAIR.

Many thanks to all our members and friends who have during the past week sent donations for "Fair" Expenses; the "Fair" accounts are not yet quite completed, so please continue to send in your contributions. I have not yet received donations enough to cover expenses.

## Women-in-Parliament Fund.

We have done a great deal of work and must now pay the bills; please send in to me as soon as possible. We have spent a considerable sum and done all we possibly could to help the Women Candidates, relying on our members and friends, who never fail us, to do their part and make up the deficit.

E. KNIGHT,

Hon. Treasurer.

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**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, Dec. 10th, 3 15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

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5.30 p.m.—Tea and Conversation. 1/-

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