

THE VOTE,  
FEBRUARY 28, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

**March, 1919, Vote for WOMEN**

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE**

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**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.

## 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."

**NO SHIRKING !**

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by  
**MR. LLOYD GEORGE**, Prime Minister. **MR. BONAR LAW**, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

## WOMEN WANTED

ON THE

**London County Council and on the County Councils throughout the Kingdom.**

### EDUCATION AND HOUSING.

"The London County Council has power to give a far better education than it gives to-day. It should provide more teachers so that the people's children can be better taught in smaller classes, and the teachers should be better paid, and throughout receive 'Equal pay for equal work.'

"It has power to build houses and schools for the people. It has power to order the insanitary ones to be pulled down. The London County Council must be made to put up proper houses for the people."

From Mrs. Lamartine Yates's Election Address to the Electors of North Lambeth.

### WOMEN'S SPECIAL INTERESTS.

"Women members should be on County Councils in order that the administration of the Acts dealing with Children, Midwives, Mental Deficients, the Insane, National Insurance, War Pensioners, Licensing, Inebriates, and Old Age Pensioners may have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of women. The women's point of view will supply a need."

From Mrs. How-Martyn's election address to the Electors of the South-West Division of Hendon of the Middlesex County Council.

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

Polling Day, Thursday, March 6th.

From Mrs. Lamartine Yates's Address.  
MEN AND WOMEN VOTERS,

In the coming London County Council Elections, on Thursday, March 6th, you each have two votes. I ask you *all* to give me *one* of your two votes.

Though I have probably been hitherto unknown to most of you I do not feel a stranger amongst you. As a practical woman and mother I know what you need in your homes and for your children. As a citizen I know what you need in the great London community.

You are not content with conditions as they are; you ought not to be content, because they should be, and can be, better, infinitely better. Many of these conditions the London County Council have it in their power to alter, but you and others *must* return the right candidates to ensure their alteration. The chief of these are:—

**TRAMS.**—The 3d. fares, children's fares, and the transfers were taken off as war measures. They *must* be given us again. No one knows so well as a woman what this means to the family purse. **THE BUSES** which use and wear out our public roads must be taken over by the London County Council and run for the benefit of the people at cost price.

**EDUCATION.**—The London County Council has power to give a far better education than it gives to-day. It should provide more teachers so that the people's children can be taught better in smaller classes, and the teachers should be better paid, and throughout receive "equal pay for equal work."

It should provide special nursery schools for the tiny ones to be cared for, fed, and amused while mother is out at work or busy at home.

Children who win scholarships should be provided with maintenance and travelling passes.

The people's children should have the fullest opportunity of the best teaching from the nursery to the university.

**HOUSING.**—*You know* the London County Council has power to build houses and schools for the people. It has power to order the insanitary ones to be pulled down. The London County Council must be made to put up proper houses for the people. These houses must at least have windows with daylight, no living rooms in basements, proper coal cellars, ladders, automatically flushed w.c.s for each household, electric light, bathrooms, hot-water supply, washing troughs and drying rooms. Where houses with many floors are adapted, service lifts. In the new houses and schools only the best materials must be used. Every labour-saving device should be incorporated to relieve the overworked housewife.

**COAL, MILK, ETC.**—The London County Council must ensure a regular supply of coal, pure milk, etc., to the people's homes at reasonable rates directly, or through Borough Councils.

**COST OF ALL THESE IMPROVEMENTS.**—You may think these improvements will mean increase of rates. This *must* not be. These must be National and not Local charges. Since the whole nation reaps the benefit of the health and education of its people, all must contribute according to their means. Instead of rates, therefore, I would press for a steeply graduated national Income-tax, to be collected by the State, and handed to the various County Councils for expenditure according to their need and population. In this way a poor district would not pay more and get less, as it does to-day.

**INDEPENDENCE AND EXPERIENCE.**—I am an Independent candidate because I want to press for the greatest improvements unfettered by party control.

Will you give me your practical support in votes?

ROSE LAMARTINE YATES.

## MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

Polling Day, Saturday, March 8th.

Mrs. Edith How Martyn is standing for the S.W. Division of Hendon (comprising the West Hendon, Mill Hill (west of railway), Child's Hill, Golder's Green, and Garden Suburb districts). Recognising that "there are many well qualified persons who are at present debarred from standing for election by the excessive financial cost," Mrs. How Martyn's campaign is being conducted on new lines to avoid incurring great expense.

Mrs. How Martyn recently stood as a candidate for Parliament in the same district for which she now stands for election to the Middlesex County Council. In addition to possessing practical experience of public affairs, Mrs. How Martyn is an Associate of the Royal College of Science and a graduate of London University. She first took the B.Sc. in physics and mathematics, and later in economics, with Honours in public administration and Political Science, and at present is chairman of the Hendon Women's Local Government Association and a member of the Hendon Education Committee. The following is her election address:—

### TO THE ELECTORS.

**FELLOW CITIZENS,**—I have accepted the invitation of the Hendon Women's Election League to stand as a candidate at the forthcoming election for the Middlesex County Council. My experience in the recent parliamentary election showed me that many reforms are needed in the conduct of elections, and I am glad of the opportunity to stand as a candidate in an attempt to conduct the campaign on less costly lines. I hope the experiment will be well supported by the electors.

### My Policy as a Progressive Candidate.

If elected I shall attend the Council meetings regularly, and when invited will address meetings in the constituency on the Council's work. I shall support and promote all the efforts made by the Council on behalf of:—

- Housing and Town Planning.
- Maternity and Child Welfare.
- Public Health.
- Pure Food Supply.
- Education of all Kinds.
- Provision of Allotments and Small Holdings.
- Travelling Facilities and Good Roads.
- Preservation of the Natural Beauty of the County and of Public Footpaths.
- Protection of Wild Birds and Flowers.

### Women's Special Interests.

Women members should be on County Councils in order that the administration of the Acts dealing with children, midwives, mental deficient, the insane, national insurance, war pensioners, licensing, inebriates, and old age pensioners may have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of women. The woman's point of view will supply a need.

### A New Experiment.

Middlesex has not hitherto had a woman Councillor, but the voters need not hesitate to make the innovation, as the work done by women on the London and other County Councils is sufficient guarantee that the interests of a district will be well served by a Council on which men and women are working together. The difficulty is to put the case for women Councillors before the electors without a large expenditure of money.

I appeal therefore to all who approve of my candidature to help me by putting my claims before their friends and neighbours. If they will do this, their initiative and public spirit will do much to ensure my successful return.—Believe me, yours sincerely,  
EDITH HOW MARTYN.

## LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

The following is a list of women candidates standing for election to the London County Council:—

POLLING DAY, MARCH 6th.

Battersea.—Mrs. C. S. Ganley (Labour).  
Camberwell, N.W.—Mrs. Dunn Gardner (Municipal Reform Party).  
Deptford.—Miss Margaret Macmillan (Labour).  
Fulham, East.—Mrs. Hudson Lyall (Municipal Reform Party).  
Hackney, Central.—Miss Adler (Progressive).  
Hackney, North.—Lady Trustram Eve (Municipal Reform Party).  
Lambeth, North.—Mrs. Lamartine Yates (Independent).  
Poplar.—Miss Susan Lawrence (Labour).  
St. Pancras, S.E.—Mrs. Hopkins (Municipal Reform Party).  
Shoreditch.—Miss Rosamond Smith (Municipal Reform Party).  
Southwark.—The Duchess of Marlborough (Progressive).  
Woolwich.—Miss Margaret Bondfield (Labour).

### PROVINCIAL COUNTY COUNCILS.

The following is a list of women candidates standing for election to English County Councils:—

Bedfordshire.—Miss Walmsley.  
Cambridgeshire (Heston, Madingley and Girton Division).—Mrs. Marcus Dimsdale.  
Cambridgeshire.—Mrs. Adeane (for re-election), Miss Briscoe, Miss Constance Cochrane, Mrs. Russell Jarman.  
Cornwall (Truro Division).—Miss Paul, R.D.C.  
Cumberland.—The Lady Mabel Howard (for re-election).  
Hertfordshire (Walford Division).—Miss Evelyn Bradford.  
Middlesex (S.W. Division of Hendon).—Mrs. How Martyn.  
Nottinghamshire.—Mrs. Merrick (Labour).  
Kent.—Mrs. Heron Maxwell.  
Sheffield.—Mrs. Barton (Labour).  
Suffolk, W.—Mrs. Marshall (for re-election).  
Somersetshire.—Mrs. Cooke-Hurle (for re-election).  
Surrey (Barnes and Mortlake Division).—Miss Attwell, P.L.G.  
Surrey.—Mrs. Le Peronne.  
Warwickshire.—Mrs. Dykes.  
Yorkshire (W. Riding).—The Lady Mabel Smith (Labour) (returned unopposed).

### WORKERS WANTED.

#### London County Council.

#### Mrs. Lamartine Yates for North Lambeth.

Workers are urgently wanted every day and night until and including March 6th, at the Committee Rooms, 10, Hercules-road (opposite the North Lambeth Bakerloo Tube Station). There is work of every description to be done, especially acting as postmen, as we must deliver all the election addresses and polling cards by hand. We shall also be very grateful for the help of speakers, canvassers, and poster paraders.

#### Middlesex County Council.

#### Mrs. How Martyn

#### for the S.W. Division of Hendon.

Offers of assistance for canvassing, etc., should be sent at once to the office of the Women's Freedom League. Members are urged to make this campaign a success. A meeting has been arranged for March 6th. (See Forthcoming Events.)

The Women's Freedom League have addressed the following questions to candidates for the London County Council:—

Are you in favour of

1. Equal pay for men and women for equal work?
2. An equal number of scholarships of equal value for girls and boys to learn trades and professions?
3. The abolition of the regulation which forbids married women to be employees of the London County Council?
4. The establishment by the Council of common lodging-houses for women?
5. The maintenance of the right of public meetings in parks and open spaces under the control of the Council, and of the right of organisations to sell literature at these meetings?
6. Additional facilities for healthy recreation for young people by organised games, skating, country excursions, dancing, etc., under approved control?
7. A good housing scheme—the houses to be so constructed that every room can be flooded with light and air and fitted with cupboards and other arrangements for saving unnecessary labour to the housewife?

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH BILL, 1919.

This long-promised Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on February 17 and read a second time on February 24. Briefly, its provisions include:—

Appointment of a Minister of Health (salary £5,000), "for the purpose of promoting the health of the people."

The Health Minister is to do all that may be desirable for the prevention and cure of diseases, the treatment of physical and mental defects, elaboration of statistics, and training of persons engaged in health services.

The Health Minister will take over:—

All the powers and duties of the Local Government Board, replacing those hard-working elected representatives of the people, the Guardians of the Poor, all the powers and duties of the Insurance Commissioners, the powers of the Board of Education which concern the health of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five, the powers of the Privy Council in the regulation of midwives, the infant life protection department of the Home Office.

An Order in Council may from time to time transfer additional powers and duties, such as the medical inspection and treatment of children and young persons (from the Board of Education), the health of disabled ex-officers and men (Ministry of Pensions), but this is not to begin within one year after the termination of the war; the powers of the Secretary of State under the Lunacy Acts and the Mental Deficiency Act, or any other powers from any department which appear to relate to matters affecting or incidental to the health of the people.

An Order in Council may also transfer from the Health Minister to any other department any duties which turn out *not* to affect the health of the people.

It is the intention of the Bill to free the Health Minister of those duties of the Guardians not relating to the health of the people, as soon as an Act of Parliament may provide for other authorities to carry them out.

An Order in Council may establish Consultative Councils, including persons of both sexes having practical experience of the matter in question, to give advice and assistance in special matters of health.

The persons employed under the Local Government Board and Insurance Commissioners are transferred to the Health Ministry.

In Scotland the Health Minister is replaced by a Scottish Board of Health.

The Act is to come into operation as appointed by Order in Council, and may become operative piecemeal.  
E. K.

### "The Vote" and the House of Commons.

In reference to the Speaker's inability to admit a representative of THE VOTE to the Press Gallery of the House of Commons, the secretary of the Women's Freedom League has addressed a letter to Admiral Sir Colin Keppel, asking him to bring to the notice of the Speaker that

a woman's paper, the organ of a woman's political organisation, stands in rather a different category from the general daily newspapers. As women now have political power, we suggest that there should be a woman reporter for a specialised woman's paper to give a woman's point of view on the proceedings in the House and to deal particularly with matters which concern the interests of women.

It is further suggested that if there is no room for a representative of THE VOTE in the Press Gallery, perhaps a definite place could be assigned to her in some other part of the House, and accommodation found for the representative of the Women's Freedom League in the rooms where the Standing Committees meet.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

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FRIDAY, February 28th, 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 Vote orders, 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 responsible in case of loss.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.

## THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

During the past week members have taken themselves very seriously in the House of Commons. Throughout the weary wrangles over the Re-election of Ministers Bill and the Government proposals for the reform of procedure in the House, member after member has proclaimed the great importance of that Assembly, which, "with all its demerits, is the great legislative example of the world," or words to that effect.

The Government has come in for a good deal of criticism from private members in attempting to get through a Bill which would render it unnecessary for any member who accepted an office of profit under the Crown to seek re-election before taking office, the difficulty being eventually surmounted by the Government's concession that re-election should only be unnecessary if the appointments were made within nine months of a General Election.

With regard to procedure, the Government has made a very definite attempt to economise time in the House of Commons previously given to repeated discussion of measures, and has succeeded, in spite of opposition from members of all parties in the House, in securing that after the second reading of Bills they shall be dealt with by Standing Committees upstairs, and passed through their final stages as quickly as possible. The Local Elections (Expenses) Bill has passed its second reading, and has been considered in Committee. It provides that the sum which candidates are allowed to spend on each elector is to be 2d. instead of 3d., which will bring the average expenditure in each division up to £197, instead of £241.

Many interesting questions have been asked in the House of Commons during the past week. One of them was asked by Sir Kingsley Wood, and related to the restoration to litigants of their rights of trial by jury suspended by the Juries Act, 1918. The Attorney-General explained that this Act was only to have effect during the continuance of the war and for six months thereafter. We are again urging that women should be in equal numbers with men on all juries.

Mr. Bottomley asked the Home Secretary if he would consider the advisability of appointing a public defender of prisoners awaiting trial. The answer was that under the Poor Prisoners Defence Act such prisoners can obtain legal assistance at the public cost. This hardly works out in practice, and so far as women prisoners are concerned we should like to see women lawyers in every Court who could

be called upon by women prisoners whenever they are bewildered by the Police Court proceedings.

Major Hills asked the Prime Minister whether the Government will give facilities for the passing of the Solicitors (Admission of Women) Bill. Mr. Bonar Law, in reply, said, "If my hon. and gallant friend will repeat this question in two or three weeks it will be possible to see more clearly what time will be available in the House, and I shall hope to be able to give him an answer." As usual, women must wait! Will Mr. Bonar Law and the Prime Minister remember the joint manifesto which they issued just before the Election, in which they said with one voice, "It will be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

In reply to a question put by Mr. Kennedy Jones to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Parker stated that on February 7th the number of unemployed was 734,090, of whom 254,648 were men, 24,538 boys, 428,114 women, and 26,790 girls. Among women in engineering and ironfounding 103,443 were now unemployed, and in ammunition and explosives 46,837.

The most important business before the House, so far as the nation is concerned, is, of course, the Coal Industry Commission Bill. When last week people caught sight of newspaper placards in London bearing the legend "What Lloyd George said to the Miners," their instant thought was that the really important thing would surely be "What the miners said to Lloyd George," for surely the pressing question is one of coal, not the Premier's eloquence! However, "a Bill to constitute a Commission to inquire into the position of and conditions prevailing in the coal industry" was read a second time on Monday and committed to a Committee of the whole House for Tuesday. We can only hope that the accumulated wisdom of the 707 members assembled in the House of Commons will result in more coal in the grates of the homes of the people.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## INCOME-TAX.

On February 17th, Mr. Baldwin, Joint Financial Secretary to the Treasury, made a statement in the House of Commons to the effect that a Royal Commission was to be appointed to make a comprehensive inquiry into the incidence of the Income-tax. It was intimated at the same time that a wife's right of separate assessment, relief, and abatement of Income-tax, without reference to the husband's income, would fall within the scope of the inquiry. In view of these statements, the following letter, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, has been sent to the Right Hon. J. Austen Chamberlain, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer:—

February 24, 1919.

Sir,—With reference to the forthcoming Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Income-tax, we understand that this is to be an exhaustive inquiry, and that the persons who will inquire into the existing anomalies will be financial experts, members of the trading community, of the Chambers of Commerce, etc.

May we urge that women be included on this Commission of Inquiry? There are, as you probably know, women financial experts who could render valuable service in this matter. There are also many women of the trading community whose experience, we think, would be very helpful. Women contribute a large sum of money to the revenue each year by the payment of Income-tax, and we think, therefore, that you will see the justice of women being included on this Commission of Inquiry, the results of which will be of equal interest to men and women.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FOLK DANCING IN FRANCE.

[The scope of women's activities is continually being enlarged, and our readers will be interested in the following account of a new profession for women. Military authorities have spoken in the highest terms of the success of the folk dancing, and have testified to the good influence which this form of recreation has had on the men.—ED.]

For me it all began on Christmas Day, 1917. Miss Daking, a member of the English Folk Dance Society, had gone to Havre some months before, under the direction of Miss Lena Ashwell. There she had done splendid work, and had many classes of enthusiastic folk dancers in the various camps near Havre. I arrived just in time for the Christmas festivities, and found that Miss Daking had arranged that a demonstration of folk dances should be given in the Y.M.C.A. huts at a different camp every evening during the week. There were six men, all soldiers, and six ladies (Y.M.C.A. workers), who performed to wildly enthusiastic audiences. At the end of each demonstration the audience itself took the floor, and, with a little assistance, danced one of the simple country dances called "The Butterfly." These were great evenings. How the men enjoyed them! How we enjoyed them!

At the end of the week I went on to Trouville, which was to be my zone of work for the next four and a-half months. I arrived on a Sunday with one of Miss Ashwell's concert parties, and after lunch went up to the camp, where a concert was to be given. The convalescent camps were about 2½ miles from Trouville—right on the hill top—with a perfectly wonderful view of the country and the sea. I cannot imagine a better place for convalescents. The first dépôt I visited was No. 13, and there I met Lieut.-Colonel Cowey, the commanding officer. He was an enthusiastic advocate of folk dancing from the very beginning.

On the 3rd of January my classes began. There were three dépôts to visit—Nos. 13, 14, and 15. At No. 13 I soon had large classes every morning in the Y.M.C.A. hut, and occasional classes in the afternoon for the Army Gymnastic Staff. Dépôts 14 and 15 soon followed suit, and in a few days I had as many classes as I could manage. At first the men danced in their heavy army boots, but the noise was too appalling, and we bought rope-soled shoes for them to dance in, which made an enormous difference both to the dancers and the teacher!

There were about three to five thousand men at each dépôt, so there were plenty of men to form classes, and there was no difficulty in getting volunteers. The Y.M.C.A. huts held comfortably forty dancers, but we could have sixty or even more with a little careful management.

At Dépôt 13 Colonel Cowey arranged that on Tuesday evenings I should have an hour or more of games and dancing for the men who did not go to Trouville. We called this "The Crush"—for very good reasons! At five o'clock the hut was opened, and when seventy or eighty men were in the doors were closed; but they came in through the windows and any other available opening, so that I found myself coping with, not eighty, but a hundred and fifty men. We had the band on the stage, and usually began the evening with a waltz, danced by about twenty couples. Then we had a country dance, when nearly everybody took part, except for a few sitting round the room and on the window ledges. I think the men thoroughly enjoyed those evenings. I know they were always sorry when I stopped the dancing, and always asked to have another "Crush" the following evening. Unfortunately that could not be done, as on the other evenings the hut was required for lectures and concerts. There was no doubt which kind of dancing was the

most popular. The waltzes, etc., were danced by a few men, but the country dances were done by nearly everybody, and were always encored.

As time went on the classes at Dépôts 13 and 15 improved. During morning parade I found myself teaching 60 to 100 men, and once or twice I had 180 and 200 men dancing on the parade ground with the fife band playing the tunes. The Army gymnastic instructors learnt the dances as well as the men, and they were able to assist me in teaching the larger classes.

I also had a special class of men (volunteers) who had a lesson every day for three or four weeks. At the end of that time they gave a demonstration of sword, Morris, and country dances in one of the large dining halls, to enthusiastic audiences of about two thousand men. On these occasions I usually managed to get the assistance of other teachers of folk dancing and Y.M.C.A. workers from Havre. They took part in the country dances, and with their pretty blue dresses, greatly added to the picturesque effect. When we had a demonstration I followed Miss Daking's good example, and made all the men (demonstrators and audience) dance one of the simplest country dances. The demonstrations were always quite informal, and the dancing was not, perhaps, of a very high standard. This was because the men never stayed in the dépôt for more than six weeks, sometimes less, and so did not have very much time to perfect their dances. I found that the men enjoyed seeing the dances, particularly the newcomers. They wanted to dance themselves, which they did. Thereby the object of the demonstrations was achieved.

Of course there were difficulties to contend with. The men did not stay long in the dépôts, and it seemed to me that, no sooner had I a keen set of dancers really getting on, than they were all evacuated, and I had to begin all over again. It was always a case of beginning again, so that I never could get very much beyond the simplest dances; but the keenness did not wane, and I found the work intensely interesting and enjoyable every minute of my time in Trouville.

A great deal of the success depended on the support from the commanding officer. At Dépôts 13 and 15 I had every help and encouragement. The commanding officers considered the dancing of great benefit to the men—physically and mentally—and encouraged them to dance.

Colonel Cowey, of Dépôt 13, when he returned to England in April, 1918, to take command of No. 1 Infantry Command Dépôt, Ripon, had such faith in the good effects of folk dancing that he asked me to go to Ripon as soon as I came home from France. I did so, and began work at Ripon in the middle of May, and remained there till the end of November, when the dépôt was disbanded. At Ripon a dancing class was held at every physical training parade—four a day—on every day in the week save Sunday. Not only did it form a part of the training for convalescents, approved by commandant and medical officers, but it was also part of the recreation enjoyed by men and W.A.A.C.s.

The acknowledged success of folk dancing has enabled Miss Daking to form folk dance classes under the Y.M.C.A. in several parts of France, and she has members of the English Folk Dance Society teaching under her supervision.

HELEN D. KENNEDY.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,  
9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. 1. For men and women.  
Subscriptions: London members, £1 11s. 6d.; country members, £1 5s.; Irish, Scottish, and foreign members, 10s. 6d. per annum. Entrance fee, £1 1s. LECTURES, HOUSE DINNERS, etc. Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte.—All particulars, Secretary. Telephone, 3932 Mayfair.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women's Suffrage in Italy.

The General Association of Italian Women has presented a petition to Signor Orlando in favour of Woman Suffrage. Three hundred deputies are said to have declared that they are in favour of the reform.—Wireless Press.

### M. Clemenceau on the Suffrage.

M. Clemenceau has stated to a recent deputation of women from the Allied countries that, as a matter of principle, it was impossible not to grant women the same rights as men. We remember in this country that it took a considerable time for politicians to translate their professed principles into action. M. Clemenceau went on further to say that the municipal suffrage would at once be granted to French women.

### The Isle of Man and Woman.

The Isle of Man Legislative Council has considered an Adult Suffrage Bill, sent to them from the House of Keys. The Bill goes much further than the recent English Act, granting parliamentary votes to all adults over twenty-one years of age. The Council decided to limit the Bill to the provisions of the British Act, making it necessary that women should attain the age of thirty before being entitled to vote.

### In the Land of the Chrysanthemum.

Suffrage agitation is said to be rife in Japan, but at present the demand is almost entirely for votes for men. The correspondent of *The Times* is not very hopeful of the success of the limited agitation for women suffrage.

### Dr. Mary Walker.

America has lost one of her earliest suffragists by the death in extreme old age of Dr. Mary Walker, who was one of the first women to enter the medical profession and to receive an official position from the American Government. She was a surgeon in the Army during the Civil War. She was also well known as a dress reformer, and received permission to clothe herself in masculine attire.

### The Demobilisation of Women.

America has also its demobilisation problems, and the chivalrous principle, "Women first" there, as well as in this country, is being translated to mean that women workers are to have priority of discharge. On this subject a writer in the American magazine, *Life and Labour*, says:—

It is folly to say that since a large number of women entered industry for patriotic reasons, it is now their equally patriotic duty to get out. Let us be honest and place the "duty" exactly where it belongs. It makes no difference why women got into industry; the fact that they want to remain, and in most cases must remain, makes it a patriotic duty to find a means of keeping them there.

### Women and the Eighty Club.

The Eighty Club was an exclusive political club formed in 1880 to promote the objects set forth in the Gladstonian programme. It was the happy hunting ground of young barristers and budding politicians. The change in the political position of women is clearly shown by the recent opening of the membership of the club to them, though we understand that, as yet, no women have taken advantage of the invitation to join the club, though several were present as guests at the dinner to Sir John Simon last Monday.

### Indian Woman as Ship's Surgeon.

There were two doctors on a P. and O. steamer returning recently to India. Owing to illness, one

of these, the ship's surgeon, had to be put ashore at Port Said. A young Indian woman doctor, who had studied medicine at Edinburgh, was asked to take charge as physician and surgeon. Miss Mula Devi was probably the first woman to serve as a doctor on board an important liner. In addition to her medical studies she has found time to write poems in five different languages.

### Queen Helena of Montenegro.

"Let us resolve to use every atom of our influence so that there will never be another war. The Peace Conference will begin soon. The greatest desire of my heart is that, through a League of Nations or some such medium, instituted at this gathering, the men and mothers of all nations, big and small, may gather around their hearths and enjoy the fruits of their labour, unafraid of the future, their contentment untroubled by the shadow of the bayonet."

### Judicial Approval of Policewomen.

A communication was received from the Paddington justices expressing their high appreciation of the work of the Paddington policewomen.

### Ellen Sullivan.

The Women's Freedom League has repeatedly urged that an inquiry should be held into the sad death of Ellen Sullivan, aged 17½, which occurred when she was on remand at Holloway for using bad language. When brought before the magistrate her mother had appealed to him to give bail, representing to him that the girl was pregnant. But Mr. Bros refused, and Ellen Sullivan was locked quite alone into an infirmary cell, where she was found by the wardress in the middle of the night, with a dying infant lying on the concrete floor. She had been unattended in her confinement, and later, when she was dying, her mother was only allowed to stay 20 minutes with her. In reference to this case the secretary of the Women's Freedom League has addressed a letter to the Home Secretary, in which she says:—

In our opinion this particular case calls for a searching inquiry into the administration of justice in our Metropolitan Police Courts, and we think we are amply justified in asking for the dismissal of Mr. Bros, the magistrate at Clerkenwell Police Court, and, further, that he should be charged with manslaughter for causing the death of both Ellen Sullivan and her child. We think that his callousness in this case was wholly unpardonable. It not only resulted in the death of Ellen Sullivan and her child and incalculable sorrow to the girl's mother and relatives, but it has tended to undermine women's respect for the administration of the law by men like Mr. Bros.

We suggest that the Home Office can show its genuine desire for the administration of justice in our Police Courts by taking the necessary steps to secure the appointment of a woman magistrate on every magistrate's Bench. We desire no further tragedies of this nature, and we should like to see Mr. Bros' place filled at once by a woman who would show more understanding with girls like Ellen Sullivan, who, you will probably remember, was not even convicted of an offence, but was remanded to Holloway for indulging in bad language.

### Veneral Disease—Government Departments Consulting.

SIR KINGSLEY WOOD asked the President of the Local Government Board (February 18th) whether he will appoint a committee to inquire and report upon the best methods of combating venereal diseases.

MAJOR ASTOR replied that Dr. Addison had recently appointed, in conjunction with the Admiralty, War Office, and Air Ministry, an Inter-Departmental Committee to consider how to prevent the spread of infectious disease, including venereal diseases, in connection with demobilisation,

## Women's Freedom League.

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Hon. Head of Literature Department—MISS MARGARET HODGE.  
Secretary—MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Sunday, March 2.—Herne Hill and Norwood Branch Meeting at 69, Dane-croft-road, 7 p.m., to consider conference resolutions.

Tuesday, March 4th, at 7.30, at Child's Hill Council School, in support of Mrs. How Martyn's candidature. Speakers: Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Margaret Hodge. Chairman: Mrs. Nevinson.

Wednesday, March 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margery Fry. Subject: "Penal Law Reform." Admission free. Discussion. Tea can



DARE TO BE FREE.

be obtained at the Café at 6d. each.

Sunday, March 9.—Hackney Branch Meeting, at 49, Moresby-road, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss G. Dyce Sharp. Subject: "Strikes and the Alternative."

Saturday, March 15.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 19.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 22.—London Branches Council Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 5th.—Women's Freedom League Annual Conference. Caxton Hall, 10 a.m.

### PROVINCES.

Tuesday, March 4.—Bexhill. Speakers' Class at 19, Marine-mansions, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Pertwee. Chair: Mrs. Williams.

Wednesday, March 5th.—Southsea. Public Meeting, 2, Kent-road, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Miss Friend (Ryde). Subject: "The Need for Preferential Tariffs." Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Hastings.—Speakers' Class at 51, Marina, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Pertwee. Chair: Mrs. Jowers, Ashford. Speakers' Class at Glengarriff, Albert-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Pertwee. Chair: Mrs. Kither.

Monday, March 10.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro on "Housing."

Wednesday, March 19.—Ashford. Women's Freedom League Club, at the Co-operative Hall, 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. W. S. Corlett.

Wednesday, April 2.—Middlesbrough. Café Chantant and Sale, Suffrage Club, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, March 16.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "Savage Survivals in Modern Life."

Ashford.—P.S.A., Wesleyan Church, Bank-street, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mr. H. Lee, J.P.

## National Union of Teachers' Conference, Cheltenham, Easter 1919.

Hon. Organiser, 1919: ALIX M. CLARK.

The Women's Freedom League are running a campaign in Cheltenham during the conference. "Equal Pay for Equal Work!" will be the battle cry. A teachers' number of THE VOTE will be issued dealing with special educational subjects. An appeal is made to all members, friends, and teachers who have so generously supported this campaign in the past to renew their support and sympathy this year. Please send your cheques, Treasury Notes, postal orders, and offers of service to Alix M. Clark, The Hut, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs.

## Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Resolution of Edinburgh Trades Council.

On Saturday, February 15th, the Edinburgh Trades Council held the second meeting of a Conference on Demobilisation, and the Women's Freedom League was permitted to send delegates to support the Women's Freedom League resolution demanding the right of entry by women into all trades, professions, etc., and deprecating the lowering of wages all round should women continue to receive for the same work a lower rate of payment than men. The resolution appeared on the agenda with "if suitable" in the first part. The Women's Freedom League, of course, objected to speak to the resolution in that form, and the chairman allowed the deletion of the words "if suitable." Three members of the branch spoke, viz., Miss Mewhort, Miss Melrose, and Miss Jacob. There was a very lively discussion, chiefly turning on the bone of contention, "if suitable," but when put to the vote the resolution was carried. There was no expressed opposition to the principle of equal pay for equal work. It was unfortunate that the discussion on such an extremely important subject should have come up last, when all were tired after nearly a three hours' sitting.

## Meeting to Support Women Candidates for County Councils.

Last Saturday the London Branches Council held a meeting in the Minerva Café, the purpose of which was to forward the candidature of women in the coming local elections. Mrs. Mustard presided, and emphasised the importance of getting women on to the County Councils.

Mrs. Lamartine Yates gave a delightful survey of her work as a candidate for the North Lambeth Division for the London County Council. In that constituency the chief subjects of interest were the trams, education, and housing. People wanted halfpenny fare stages restored, reduced tram fares for children, and short-distance trams—the trams always being filled by the time they reached North Lambeth from any of the termini. With regard to education, Mrs. Yates said that more nursery schools would be of great benefit to the mothers in that district. The schools were understaffed and economies effected in them which were not to the advantage of the scholars. For instance, in one school *one towel* was apparently considered sufficient for 300 pupils!

The chief owners of the property in North Lambeth were the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, but the housing conditions in some of its districts were appalling. Yet the people were in terror lest their rents or rates would be raised.

Miss Berry said that women candidates would have a hard fight to get on to the London County Council. Very few had been assigned "safe" seats by the different parties, and independent candidates would find the contest a costly one. She urged the supporters of the women candidates to concentrate their energies on canvassing and small parlour meetings. She briefly outlined the qualifications for women voters at local elections, and summarised the work of the London County Council, which had more powers than any other County Council.

Miss Bright Ashford, B.A. (of the London Reform Union), outlined an interesting scheme for preventing the overlapping of work done by many governing bodies within and just outside London, and for having a uniform government and control within this area.

An interesting discussion followed these speeches, after which a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the speakers.

FRIDAY,  
FEB. 28,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Last Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Metge appealed for women to attend Police Courts and to watch the interests of women and girls charged there, and gave a summary of some of the cases which she had seen tried in some of the London Police Courts. She was convinced that, if women undertook this work regularly, they would do their best to arouse public opinion in the direction of improving much of our police court procedure.

Miss Underwood spoke on the need for a revival of the militant spirit among women—the spirit which led women to pounce on injustice at once, and, regardless of consequences, to protest and work until the injustice was put right. That spirit which, although not the monopoly of members of the Women's Freedom League, was shared in the old days, and in these days also, by every genuine Freedom Leaguer. It had inspired Mary Astell to demand education for women in 1667, Mary Wollstonecraft to assert the vindication of the rights of women, Dr. Sophia Jex Blake to study medicine at Edinburgh in spite of the opposition of the authorities and of the stones and insults of male students, and Miss Helena Normanton to seek to break down men's monopoly of the legal profession. It was this spirit which had animated the Women's Freedom League in all its trials of strength with the authorities. It was safe to say there would be many opportunities for further contests with these authorities. Justice for women might be in sight, but it was certainly not at present within reach, so that the militant spirit must be ever in readiness for direct action whenever the necessity for it arose. An interesting discussion followed, in which Miss Tooke, Miss Raleigh, Dr. Knight, Miss Jerram, and Mr. Everett took part.

## Tuberculosis Service.

Suggested Department of the Ministry of Health.

At a conference of tuberculosis officers held last week at the Royal Society of Medicine it was stated that there are at least one hundred and fifty thousand consumptives in the kingdom, and that the death-rate from pulmonary tuberculosis in England and Wales since 1914 has risen 12 per cent. There are at present more patients than beds available for them in sanatoria.

## King's Speech Meeting.

On the evening of February 11th, the day on which the present Parliament was opened by the King, the Women's Freedom League held a meeting in the Minerva Café to consider the King's Speech. The speakers were Miss Spriggs, Mrs. Mustard, and Dr. Knight, the chair being taken by Miss F. A. Underwood. Miss Spriggs dealt chiefly with the omissions of the King's Speech, Mrs. Mustard with the urgent need for more and better housing accommodation, and Dr. Knight with the necessity of a higher national moral standard, the standard to be the same for both sexes.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement,

93, Nine Elms-lane, London, S.W. 8.

One of our Zoo Trips went off most successfully last Saturday, when three helpers managed to get forty children in and out of trams, trains, lifts and moving staircases without any casualties. One felt well repaid for the anxious afternoon's work by the parting words of one of the guests, "I loves you, Miss, because you took me to the Zoo," and in spite of the cheerless weather every one of the children had a perfectly happy time, finishing off with tea at the Settlement. A gift of children's clothing from Miss Mary Smith (per Miss Greenville) is gratefully acknowledged. We badly want some overalls for little boys of from three to seven years, also jerseys and socks.

## The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

The annual meeting of the above Society was held at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, on Saturday, the 15th inst., when the future work of the Society in the campaign to remove the inequalities existing between men and women was discussed. At the close of the meeting the following emergency resolution was put from the chair: "That this Society pledges itself to press for immediate legislation by which a scheme for widows' pensions shall become law." The resolution was carried unanimously.

## Bad Housing Conditions.

Bethnal Green has a public-spirited vicar, the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, who has convened a meeting to discuss the local housing problem. It is stated that many of the existing houses—60 per cent. in one street alone—have been condemned by the sanitary authority as "absolutely unfit for human habitation"; whole areas are described as "veritable plague spots"; much of the property is infested with rats, and about one-third of the populations are living in one or two unhealthy rooms. As Head of Oxford House, the vicar himself lived in one of the condemned areas.

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