

THE VOTE,
MAY 2, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY.

F. A. U.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1919.

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

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 AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

COME TO OUR

PUBLIC MEETING at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

Monday, May 5th, at 8 p.m.,

To urge the Government to secure Women's right of entry to the Legal Profession without delay.

SPEAKERS:—Miss CHRYSTAL, MACMILLAN, Miss E. E. FROUD, Mrs. FINLAYSON GAULD, Mr. E. A. BELL (of the Law Society), Mr. HOLFORD KNIGHT (Barrister-at-Law), Mr. WM. LUNN, M.P., Mr. DONALD MACMASTER, K.C., M.P.

Chairman: Councillor EDITH HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE.

Monday, May 5.—Women and the Legal Profession, Public Meeting, Central Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Crystal Macmillan, Miss E. E. Froud, Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, Mr. A. E. Bell (Member of the Law Society), Mr. Holford Knight (Barrister-at-Law), Mr. Wm. Lunn, M.P., Mr. D. Macmaster, K.C., M.P. Chair: Councillor Edith How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc. Admission Free. Tickets for Reserved Seats, 1s. each, from W.F.L. Office.

Wednesday, May 7.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W. C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Dr. G. B. Clark. Subject: "Land Nationalisation." Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Discussion. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café 6d. each.

Thursday, May 8.—Golder's Green Branch Meeting, at 13, Temple Fortune-court, at 8.15 p.m.

Saturday, May 10.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 14.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m.

Wednesday, May 21.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. William Aird. Subject: "Possibilities of Permanent Health and Complete Immunity."

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, May 7.—Southsea. Public Meeting, 2, Kent-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Marie Grigsby, from the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Monday, May 12.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans. Subject: "The Male State or Woman Commonwealth."

Monday, May 19.—Middlesbrough. Social Meeting. Address, music and refreshments. Members and friends invited. The Suffrage Rooms 7.30 p.m.

Miss Edith Cavell.

The body of the late Miss Edith Cavell will be brought to this country from Brussels on May 15, and the interment on the same day will be preceded by a military funeral service at Westminster Abbey. The Admiralty will attend to the actual conveyance of the coffin containing the body, which will probably be landed at Dover. A committee is responsible for the funeral. On leaving the Abbey the cortège will pass along the Embankment under military escort, and entrain at Liverpool-street for Norwich.

Hospitals or other societies having claims to be represented should apply before May 8 to the hon. secretary, Funeral Service Executive Committee, 25, Victoria-street, S.W. 1. In no case should application for tickets be made to the Dean or clergy of the Abbey. The accommodation inside the Abbey being limited, individual applications cannot be entertained unless some special claim to be present can be established.

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POTTERY PACKED AND DESPATCHED.

MILK—Production and Distribution.

By Councillor J. T. MUSTARD, F.R.H.S.

On May 1 the high price of milk was reduced from 10d. to 7d. a quart. What is needed is cheap and pure milk. Councillor Mustard's article gives important information on the subject which is particularly valuable at the moment. With a Pure Milk Bill on the Statute Book the Government must realise its responsibility.

Milk is an important article of food, and I believe many babies and young children, and even adults, would be with us now had they received a supply of wholesome, pure, clean milk.

Milk has also engaged the attention of the Government and the Public Health Committees of large towns and cities. As member of one Public Health Committee I find the question on the agenda of every meeting—it may be a case of warranty, or added water, or more usually abstracted cream.

The milk problem has now reached a critical stage, and the time is ripe and urgent for solution, and the question is, *On what lines shall the problem be solved?* The Government has said, "The milk people must control or be controlled." What that may mean one does not know, but those who have studied the trend of affairs in the past four or five years are suspicious of the Government's meaning and intentions. Do they mean an extension of the Food Control methods, which have not only been very costly, but have pandered to food combines and profiteers? Or is it the intention of the Government to hand over the milk control and distribution to the newly formed octopus combines that have got their tentacles spread over the country in the past two or three years and are taking toll from the producer and consumer alike?

The milk question must be watched keenly by all in the next few months who desire good supplies of wholesome milk. Local authorities from time to time pass resolutions as to the viciousness of the warranty defence, and send such resolutions to the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture, which Boards (from the lack of action) evidently consign them to the waste-paper basket.

First and foremost, *Warranty as a means of defence must be abolished without delay.* It is a farce to keep it in being, and is only a cloak to cover the delinquencies of milk-sellers in the main, as farmers usually send out their milk as produced by the cow. Take any case in which the warranty is put before the magistrate as the defence; the prosecution fails, and the milk adulterator leaves the court with his tongue in his cheek and pats his warranty, and exclaims, "Good old warranty!" Should the local authority decide to follow the matter up, will they find the farmer in the end, or some combine? At any rate it is a *rara avis* to get down to an original farmer who has faked his milk.

We town and city consumers want good milk. The question is, What is the best method to adopt? Obviously the present methods have only resulted in milk being reduced by adulteration and abstraction of cream on too large a scale, and since the days of combines coming on the scene warranty defences have flourished in a most brazen manner.

For some time there have been constant disputes about the profits made by farmers and milk producers, as against what *milk distributors* get for their work.

Undoubtedly, if we want good supplies of milk, the producers must be paid an adequate return for all their labour and risks, and for the increased

charges for labour and feeding stuffs. Many town dwellers think that to get a constant supply of milk all you need is to buy a cow, turn it into a grass field, and milk it twice a day all the year round. They forget that the cow is a mammal and only gives milk for a certain time after calving, also that there are such things as losing a cow at calving. You will not get much milk from cows unless their grazing is supplemented by fodder crops, turnips and other roots, cake and other feeding-stuffs.

To realise the trouble and cost of cowkeeping in England one must bear in mind that the cows are kept in for many months, from September to April, during which time they must be fed and attended to in their stalls. You cannot shut them at noon on Saturday and leave them till 9 a.m. Monday morning. No; seven days a week is the order. Moreover, the cowkeeper must be ready to see to his cows at all times of the day and night if he does not want to lose a bit of his productive capital.

What section of the milk producers and dealers are getting the greater share of the profits? Certainly not the producers, and consumers had better be warned in time not to blame the producers lest production be seriously curtailed, with the inevitable consequences of a lessened supply, viz., *increased price.*

In May the milk producers are to get 1s. 4d. per gallon and the seller 2s. 4d. It is only necessary to place these two sums side by side to show the glaring injustice to the producer. N.B., 1s. 4d. is the price delivered to the railway station.

It costs practically as much to *distribute* the milk as to *produce* it. This is certainly a question for the consumer to settle in his own mind. But there is another face to this problem—the milk as it leaves the producer is not what the consumer gets. In the circuitous journey it takes it drops some of its nourishing cream and gathers to itself the addition of water not too clean. I have suggested to our committee that the tankards should leave the farmer under seal, but my proposal has been met with frivolous objections. The time for such objections has gone by and we must get to business.

What is it to be? Shall the farmers send milk under seal direct to the municipalities for distribution?

(To be continued.)

PENALISING THE MARRIED.

Through the courtesy of Mr. G. Locker-Lampson, M.P., who introduced the important deputation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the intolerable way in which the income-tax assessment penalises marriage, we are able to print his speech, in which the points are clearly stated. Mr. Chamberlain will make his Budget speech after we go to press, but our readers may be sure we shall still fight against the injustice, whatever he may say. We understand that Mr. Locker-Lampson will move the necessary amendments to the Budget that the incomes of husband and wife shall be taxed separately, and not jointly as at present, and the Women's Freedom League is urging Members of Parliament to support these amendments.

We come here in connection with two great principles which we ask you to help us in upholding. The first is that married women have a right to complete control over their own property. As you know, when Sir Robert Peel revived the income-tax in 1842, the rate of income-tax was then a flat one, so that it was a matter of indifference whether the incomes were joined or not for the purposes of the

tax. At that time also no married woman had any control over her own property. Directly she married, her property passed *ipso facto* to her husband. That was generally regarded as intolerable, and in 1882 the Married Women's Property Act was passed, under which the married woman, on marriage, got complete control and ownership over the whole of her property. What I submit to-day is that the present system negatives this Act. It treats the woman's income as part of the husband's income, and, as the Income-tax is now graduated and as the tax has enormously increased in recent years, it makes the hardship all the greater.

I need hardly point out that an entirely different system rules in regard to death duties. In death duties the properties of two married people are treated as separate. If the husband or wife dies, the Exchequer comes in, treats their income as separate property, and takes its tax. But if two people are married, the Exchequer comes in and treats their income as joint, and gets its tax in that way. Therefore, we do ask you that, if possible, the Income-tax system should be brought into conformity with the Married Women's Property Act. The Married Women's Property Act is the great charter of married women in this country. It is just as much a charter as Magna Charta was the great charter of British liberties in the past. We feel that the Inland Revenue authorities ought not to step in and upset the rights of married women in this respect.

The second great principle which we have come to ask you to uphold is that marriage is a bond to be encouraged and not discouraged, and I feel that the principle was never more important than it is to-day. But the Income-tax system at the present moment discourages marriage. I should like to quote a few words uttered the other day by a representative of the Government in the House of Commons; not by you, but by another representative belonging to the Exchequer. "I agree entirely that there is a great deal to be said for the case that has been presented to-night. It has always been an intolerable anomaly to feel that so far as taxation is concerned it would be cheaper to live with a woman who was not your wife than with a woman who was your wife. That is an intolerable anomaly." That surely is sufficient condemnation without any further words of mine. To-day, as you are aware, if a man and a woman live together unmarried with separate incomes, each of them just below the Income-tax limit, enjoying the benefit of a joint income, they pay no Income-tax. But supposing they make up their minds to turn over a new leaf and become legally joined in marriage, they immediately pay a penalty tax on marriage. You do not treat two sisters, or a son and his mother, or a father and his son, or an aunt and niece in this manner. It is only in the case of wedlock you step in and penalise the joint income. After all, it may be said—and this is practically the last word I have to say—the reform of this anomaly will cost a great deal. But surely the cost is the measure of the present injustice.

We may also be told that, if the reform is passed, evasions will take place, that there will be great difficulties about allowances to children, and that deserving cases will not come under the benefit. All these are merely questions of administration, difficulties that can be surmounted with sufficient good will. I do not for a moment deny that it may be difficult, but my meaning is that these administrative difficulties are really paltry in comparison with the vital principle that married women ought to have absolute control over their property. We have come to you because we believe that a vital principle is at stake, and that the rights of women under the Married Women's Property Act are being undermined at the present moment.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 2nd, 1919.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY.

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

Since the opening of the present Parliament women's affairs have certainly received some measure of attention, and it is extremely interesting to note how frequently Members in their speeches refer to women's opinions on the matters under discussion. Whenever a Bill of special interest to women, such as the Nurses' Registration Bill or the Women's Emancipation Bill, has been brought forward Members have apparently vied with each other to record their warm appreciation of women's high qualities. Women, of course, are now voters, and as each Member recalls that he probably owed his election as much to the women as well as the men voters, he is bound at least to consider woman's probable point of view on matters that concern both men and women. He certainly cannot afford to treat her interests slightly or to ridicule her demands for equal consideration with men in our national life as his predecessor was often in the habit of doing in the bad old days when women had no political power.

All this is to the good. But do women realise the extent of this new power? And are they making the best of it? Women of over thirty years of age have the parliamentary vote, but how many of these women are actively engaged in trying to secure the franchise for women under thirty? How many, indeed, of the women under thirty are agitating for votes for women on the same terms as men? Women could get this reform if they were in earnest about it. In the coming industrial struggles between men and women workers the latter, and they will mostly be the younger women, will find that they are greatly handicapped because of the lack of this political weapon. It behoves them, therefore, and all those who believe in equal opportunities for the sexes, to set to work at once to win this political power.

The legal profession, which has for so long stood in the way of women's progress, is still closed to women. A few hours alone of Government time in the House of Commons would open both branches of this profession to women. The Government has given no definite promise of this time. Could the Government continue to refuse to do so if women voters showed that they were determined to have this

matter settled in the interests of women? Women must seize their opportunities if their political power is to be a reality. Not only do we want women to become solicitors and barristers, but we consider it is an urgent necessity that they should sit on juries, and that there should be a woman on every magistrates' bench. Public opinion is all in favour of these innovations; women must rouse public opinion to action and compel the Government to come into line with modern views and modern needs, and open up these positions to women.

Mr. Bottomley has recently brought in a Bill urging that there should be a Public Defender as well as a Public Prosecutor in our Courts of Justice. We ourselves have urged this reform for many years, but we hope that provision will be made for a woman as well as a man Public Defender, and women should make this clear to members of Parliament when this Bill is further discussed.

We have pressed that there should be a Woman Minister of Health, women in equal control with men in all departments under this Ministry, and women in equal numbers with men on all its committees. There are, however, well over six hundred men in the present House of Commons, and not one woman, so that the woman's point of view cannot be said to be predominant. We need women Members of Parliament to strike a better balance in our national affairs. But how many women realise this? And what are women doing to ensure the return of women Members at the next election? There is no royal road to success at Westminster except by hard work and strong organisation. This is the time which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune. The Women's Freedom League has all these objects on its programme, and the best way to secure them is to join its ranks at once and work with us to attain equal rights for men and women.

F. A. U.

A New Order for Women.

The New Year's Honours List, issued this week, is entirely masculine; no woman's name appears. According to the Daily Press there is some gossip about the Court that a very exclusive brand new Order is to be founded entirely confined to women, several "really distinguished" women having declined to enter the fold of the O.B.E., already uncomfortably crowded. A similar lack of eagerness on the part of "distinguished" women in seizing additional distinctions may make the new Order even more exclusive than is desired. No, while Orders and Decorations still add to the gaiety and joy of our land, the old Orders are good enough for women—just as the old House of Commons is good enough for women to share with men, and segregation of women is unnecessary.

Success to Miss Clara Reed.

Miss Clara Reed has so often rendered good service to the Women's Freedom League that all friends will wish her notable success in her Browning Birthday celebration on May 7 at the Steinway Hall at 8.15 p.m. She will give a lecture-recital from "Paracelsus," with music by Lieutenant Sivori Levey, accompanied by the composer. Seats 3s. and 1s. 3d., including tax.

"Women who Win."

The British photo play, under the above heading, written by Miss E. Alma Stout, is a story with a moral, namely, that it is the trained and efficient woman who counts. It shows how the Women's Service Training Bureau turns the inefficient into capable workers, able to earn their living and do useful service in the world. In the course of the story Their Majesties Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra, H.R.H. Princess Victoria, H.R.H. the Crown Princess of Sweden, and Lady Patricia Ramsay appear.

THE HOMES OF BRITAIN. THIS IS A WOMAN'S QUESTION.

The following are extracts taken from the speeches of Members of the House of Commons on the Second Reading debate on the Housing and Town Planning Bill.

DR. ADDISON, when moving the Second Reading of this Bill, said:

"We are dealing just now with an actual shortage of houses, and with what I may further describe as a concealed shortage. . . . We have now a war arrear of 350,000 houses for the working classes. . . . A return provided by local authorities in 1914, although it only covers about a quarter of the houses of the working-class type, showed that there were 70,000 quite unfit for habitation, and a further 300,000 were seriously defective. . . . I will take four or five houses next door to one another in a typical slum street in East London. The first house was let out in six tenements, thirty-one people living in it. There was one water-closet for the whole lot, and one water tap down in the back area. The next door house was also let out in six tenements, and twenty-nine people lived in it with the same accommodation. The next house had twenty-seven; the next, thirty-eight; the next, thirty-six. This is not an exaggerated case. You find scores of these streets in London. . . . I have a report from a medical officer of health of 438 persons suffering from tuberculosis one after the other. It was found in 352 cases that all these consumptive patients had to share the bed or bedroom with other people. In the vast majority of cases not only were one or more persons sleeping in the same bed, but there were other beds in the same room, in some instances four other beds in the same room."

MR. DAVISON (Smethwick): There are nearly 1,500,000 people in the country to-day living in one-room tenements, over 2,000,000 in two-room tenements, over 4,000,000 in three-room tenements, and over 8,000,000 in four-room tenements. Two-thirds of the total population of England and Wales have not even one room each. . . . I have myself seen back-to-back houses with one living and two bed rooms, each of the rooms less than 10 feet square, occupied by seven adults and one child. I have seen one living room less than 11 feet square occupied by a father, mother, and six children, a boy of seventeen and a girl of fifteen being among the children. I have seen twenty back-to-back houses, of from one to three rooms each, sheltering 136 people with one common yard and lavatory accommodation composed of four foul privies. Let hon. and right hon. gentlemen imagine the conditions which obtain in that yard on a hot summer's day!

CAPTAIN ORMSBY-GORE (Stafford), quoting from a recent report of a Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture, said that the conditions in some of the rural districts were appalling. In a given area in Oxfordshire—an area of about a thousand cottages—there were over seventy cottages with only one bedroom, with more than a man and wife living in that bedroom. Very often there were five or six children living in a bedroom. One case was given in which boys and girls of fifteen and sixteen slept in the same room with their parents.

MR. CAIRNS (Morpeth): I come from a mining community, and in one of our villages there are forty-four one-roomed houses. And there is a mixed company in those houses. There are 2,120 two-roomed houses and 4,181 three-roomed houses. Sometimes in a one-roomed house we have a father who meets with an accident in the coal pit, and he

is laid on a bed in the kitchen. That room is more dangerous to the man's life than the accident. The family are there in that room, the mother and perhaps two or three children—and the air becomes vitiated on account of the shortness of space and the lack of ventilation. These homes in our mining villages are hotbeds of fever. . . . When I was first married I got what was called a colliery house. There were eighty-four persons who had to go to one w.c. I was born in a house with one room and a garret, and there were seven of us. I had two sisters, who had each twelve children in two rooms downstairs, and they were never summoned for any immorality or wrong-doing. That is how the miner and his family have to live. . . . I have seen stables in the country much better, much cleaner, and with better atmospheric conditions than the homes of the poor. I have seen piggeries built better than the homes of the poor. I have seen dog kennels better than the homes of the poor.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I could give the name of a street in which you can find to-day in one case a dead child and a child born yesterday, and in the same room, a father dying, two other children in the hands of the doctor, and five other children living. That is not very far from Shoreditch. Throughout the whole of the country one can find pictures just as bad. . . . After a recruiting speech which I made in the early days of the war a man came to me and said: "I am living in a room with my wife and five children. We have not a pane of glass in the windows. They are stuffed up with paper and rags. The floor is tumbling to pieces, rain comes through the roof, the staircase is creaking and dangerous. Other families equally situated are all around us in the building. We have not sufficient food to keep our bodies and souls together. Now, tell me, sir, what difference it makes to me whether the Kaiser is to rule over England or the present King?"

MAJOR BIRCHALL (Leeds): I could take hon. Members to some so-called model dwellings, some two or three miles away, which are a model of everything that is bad. I could show them a building six storeys high round four sides of a square. There is a very small courtyard in the centre, and yet in that courtyard there is another huge block of buildings six storeys high. Into some of those rooms in the centre block never a ray of sunlight comes from one year's end to another; yet children are living in hundreds in that centre block, and they have to drag from the bottom to the top of a public stairway, which is never closed at night, and is, naturally, in a most disgusting condition in the day.

MR. SEXTON (St. Helens): We have in Liverpool culs-de-sac rejoicing in such euphonious titles as Rose Hill, the Lover's Walk, Drinkwater-gardens, Paradise-street, and the rest of them. The only sign of horticulture or agriculture in some of these places is a decayed cabbage leaf. We have the Drinkwater right enough, for there is a common tap in the middle of the cul-de-sac where all the

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community drink, and, as for Rose Hill, we have the stench pipes running up beside the windows. We have, too, cellar dwellings in Liverpool. I know something about them. I have lived in them. Men have to when they are employed at the docks. They are the only dwellings they can obtain very often, and there they have to live, in a fetid atmosphere, with no backyard, with wet clothes hanging over their heads, with the whole place reeking of soap-suds from Monday morning till Saturday night; and for these places they have to pay a rent of many shillings a week. . . . We had in Liverpool at one time a place called Kirkdale Gaol. That was built out of bricks made from the clay dug from a field opposite, of which the annual value was about £3 per acre. I understand that the erection of the gaol increased the value of that to £2,000 per acre. A short lease was given on that valuation to a man who was to dig the clay out of which to make the bricks to build the gaol. The bricks were made, the gaol was built, and a big quarry was left. Word was sent round to the manufacturers in the surrounding districts to come and dump all the rubbish into that quarry, and for every load dumped 6d. was charged by the landlord. When it was filled up the land was sold to a jerry builder to build houses at a valuation of £2,000 per acre. Mark the sequel! We had to apply to the Local Government Board for £7,000 to erect an infectious diseases hospital to accommodate the victims of this iniquitous thing.

MAJOR ASTOR, replying on behalf of the Government, said: "The question of the homes of the people is essentially a woman's question. Women understand, as no man can possibly understand, the problems of home and what maternity in less than half one room means. . . . They know the difficulty of rearing a healthy family in crowded surroundings. They know, too, the awful havoc upon the morality of young girls which is wrought by the housing conditions and overcrowding, the huddling of men and women, boys and girls all together in inadequate housing accommodation. We are very apt to talk of the problem of our fallen sisters. Is there any man or woman who faces the problem of our fallen sisters who is prepared to say how much responsibility is due to the woman and how much responsibility is due to the circumstances and conditions in which she has had to live? . . . The way to assist our fallen sister is not to provide her with rescue homes, but to provide her with a decent, clean, healthy home in which she can live. . . . Insanitary and unhealthy surroundings and the problem of venereal disease cause and help to make C3 men and women and C3 children." F. A. U.

KEEP THE FLAG FLYING

The Women's Freedom League calls upon all who will push forward the equality of Women at this very favourable time to give their help and support to secure women solicitors and barristers, women magistrates, women on juries and women M.P.s. Please send donations to me as quickly as possible, and make them as large as you possibly can.

E. Knight,

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

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

The Women's Freedom League campaign during the National Union of Teachers' Conference was unusually successful this year. A public meeting on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" was held in the Rodney Hall on April 22. Dr. Earingey presided. In the course of an interesting speech he said:—

One of the chief planks for which the League stood was to get as many women as possible into Parliament. Some people who had supported the women's suffrage movement in the past seemed to think that when the vote was won everything they had set out to work for was obtained. It was necessary that that apprehension should be removed, because the vote that was given was only a limited vote, and the result of a compromise. What they demanded was that the vote should be given to women on the same terms as granted to men, and the women suffrage societies would continue to work until the present restrictions were removed. Their goal was sex equality. The question of equal pay for equal work had been receiving great attention, and no one more than the women's suffrage societies would rejoice at the result of the referendum taken at the N.U.T. Conference. They did not want women to be debarred from any profession by reason of their sex. If the qualifications and experience of women applicants for any position were equal to or better than those of the men they should not be ruled out on account of their sex.

The following resolution was proposed from the chair and carried: "That this meeting, convened by the Women's Freedom League, strongly supports equal pay for equal work and equal professional status for men and women."

Mrs. Nevinson seconded the resolution, and in a very short time gripped the attention of her audience by her practical and humorous address. Miss Normanton struck a very high tone, and spoke from personal experience as a teacher, and the clever way she handled her subject brought forth repeated applause from the audience. A very interesting discussion took place, in which many teachers took part. A cordial vote of thanks was proposed to Dr. Earingey by Alix M. Clark, seconded by a man in the audience, and carried with acclamation.

The meeting was largely attended by teachers, and many eulogistic remarks were heard with regard to the spirit and pluck of the Women's Freedom League, who year after year visit the National Union of Teachers' Conference. The special Teachers' Conference number of THE VOTE was much appreciated; several teachers, after buying one copy and reading it, purchased several more to send to other teachers. Over 900 were sold during the campaign. Miss How gave most welcome assistance in selling and distributing handbills.

I make an earnest appeal for £5 15s. to pay the expenses of this campaign. I feel sure the readers of THE VOTE will not allow me to present a balance-sheet to our treasurer with any deficit, so I shall confidently await donations as early as possible.

ALIX M. CLARK, Hon. Organiser.

One of the decisions reached by the National Union of Teachers in conference at Cheltenham was that there should be no militarism in the schools, whether in the form of military drill or training. It was also decided emphatically that domestic training for girls should be optional, not compulsory; it was urged that school time was so precious that the whole of it should be available for general education and mental development.

Under the auspices of the Police and Public Vigilance Society

A PUBLIC MEETING

will be held at
ESSEX HALL

(opposite the Law Courts) on 8th May, at 8 p.m., to call attention to the need for better protection of falsely accused persons in the Criminal Courts. Professor Hugh Candy, J.P., will preside, and will be supported by the Rev. John Clifford, D.D., Mr. George Bernard Shaw, Miss Florence A. Underwood, (Secretary of the Women's Freedom League), Miss Vera S. Wainwright, and other Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very limited number of seats will be reserved. Tickets 2/6 each, may be obtained of James Timewell, Hon. Sec., 142, Gower St., London, W.C. 1.

WOMEN AND THE HEALTH MINISTRY.

In spite of the compliments to women which flew about whenever the Health Bill was under discussion in the House of Commons or in its Committee Room, Dr. Addison was determined that women should have no rights whatever to fair treatment under the Bill, and should be entirely dependent on his good pleasure.

The Women's Freedom League has repeatedly corresponded with those Members of Parliament who support equal treatment of women, and has bombarded the Committee, urging that equality should be put into the Bill, that all Consultative Councils should contain an equal number of men and women, and that responsible women officials shall have equal standing with men. Women will never have fair treatment in the Departments till we have women in the Cabinet.

We are glad to see that there is widespread dissatisfaction among representative women. The Ministry of Health Watching Council has sent to the Press and circulated among organisations interested in the subject, the following strong protest against the action of the Government in deleting the clause, inserted in the Committee Stage, declaring that there would be equal treatment of men and women in appointing officers under the Ministry of Health Bill:—

We would like briefly to give expression to the grave disappointment felt by women's organisations at the action taken by the Government at the Report Stage of the Ministry of Health Bill. At the Committee Stage of the Bill Mr. George Thorne moved an amendment that, in the appointing of officers no discrimination should be made on the grounds of sex between men and women. The Government opposed this, but the amendment was carried by 26 to 22 votes. It was understood that as a decision had been definitely given in Committee no attempt would be made by the Government to overthrow it. Nevertheless, Mr. Baldwin, of the Treasury, in spite of Mr. Thorne's protest, moved at Report Stage that this amendment be deleted. This was done.

What are women to think of a Government that, while continually giving lip service to the importance of the presence of women in public affairs, gives no proof by its action of its sincerity in this respect? Hitherto women have had to fight for every inch of ground gained, and it is felt that it is surely now time that a juster policy prevailed.—Yours, etc.,

SYBIL DE V. BRASSEY, FRANCES BALFOUR,
FLORENCE E. BARRETT, M.B., RHONDDA,
MAUD SELBORNE, ISABEL SOMERSET,
EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILL, G. MARY
CHALMERS WATSON, M.D.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 ls. 5d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	221	6	7
Special Emergency War Fund—			
“A Friend” ...	£1	17	6
W. R. Snow, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Counter ...	5	0	
		3	2
Miss B. Kent ...	1	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders ...	10	0	
Mrs. M. E. Legge ...	5	0	
Mrs. McGrouther ...	2	6	
Misses E. & F. Davies ...	2	0	
Mrs. Day ...	1	0	
Miss Newsome ...	1	0	
White Elephant Sale ...	2	1	
Collections ...	2	12	10
Sundries ...	6	13	11
Branches—			
Golder's Green (Middlesex C.C. election) ...	10	0	
Delegates' Expenses—			
Clapham ...	10	5	
Edinburgh ...	1	11	4
Golder's Green ...	10	5	
Hackney ...	10	6	

£239 12 1

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

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The William Gibson Research Scholarship for Medical Women.

Miss Maud Margaret Gibson has placed in the hands of the Royal Society of Medicine a sum of money sufficient to provide a Scholarship of the yearly value of (about) £250, in memory of her father, the late Mr. William Gibson, of Melbourne, Australia. The Scholarship will be awarded from time to time by the Society to qualified medical women who are subjects of the British Empire, and is tenable for a period of two years, but may in special circumstances be extended to a third year. In choosing a Scholar, the Society will be guided in its choice "either by research work already done by her, or by research work which she contemplates. The Scholar shall be free to travel at her own will for the purpose of the research she has undertaken." Applications should be accompanied by a statement of professional training, degrees or diploma, and of appointments, together with a schedule of the proposed research, and must be accompanied by testimonials, one as to academical or professional status, and one as to general character. They should be addressed to Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, secretary, Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole-street, W. 1, and should reach him not later than Saturday, May 3.

A New Association for Business and Professional Women.

An organisation is now being developed by the Association of Advertising Women (established 1912), which will seek to promote mutual interest, co-operation and widening of ideas amongst women already established in business and professional work. Attractive lectures and musical socials are being planned, and those eligible for membership will include women proprietors and directors of business houses, industries, and crafts; heads of departments, managers, accredited representatives, and responsible secretaries and business women; professional artists, illustrators, writers, musicians, architects, doctors, educationists, editors, sub-editors, accountants, welfare organisers, Local Government Board, health officials, etc. A meeting of the Association will take place on Monday, May 5, at the Imperial Hotel, Russell-square, when Mr. Ernest Hunt, the well-known specialist and lecturer on Nerve Control and Mental Development, will speak upon "Psychology and Business," and an informal discussion will follow. The chair will be taken by the President at 7.30 p.m. punctually. Tickets of admission may be obtained upon receipt of a stamped envelope addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Lewer, 62, Oxford-street, W. 2, by all established business or professional women.

Miss Macarthur's Deputy.

While Miss Mary Macarthur is in America, Miss Margaret Bondfield will become acting secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers.

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FRIDAY,
MAY 2,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Woman Wins the Albert Medal.

The King has awarded the Albert Medal to Miss Alice Batt, V.A.D., for gallantry in saving life. Miss Batt is, we understand, the fourth woman to have won this rare distinction. The story of her devoted gallantry is told in the *Gazette* as follows: On October 1 last a fire broke out at No. 36 Casualty Clearing Station at Rousbrugge, and quickly reached the operating theatre, where the surgeon was performing an abdominal operation. The lights went out, and the theatre was filled with smoke and flames, but the operation was continued by the light of an electric torch, Miss Batt continuing her work of handing instruments and threading needles with steadfast calmness, thereby enabling the surgeon to complete the operation. Miss Batt afterwards did splendid work in helping to carry men from the burning wards to places of safety.

Towards Equality in Sweden.

The Constitutional Committee of the Riksdag proposes submitting to the Government a recommendation providing for an amendment of the constitution, so as to remove existing obstacles in the way of women holding official positions under the Crown.

After Equal Suffrage in Florida.

A Bill has been introduced in Florida providing that "from and after equal suffrage has been established in Florida it shall be lawful for females to don and wear the wearing apparel of man as now worn publicly by him."

THE POLICE AND PUBLIC VIGILANCE SOCIETY are holding a public meeting at Essex Hall, Strand, Thursday, May 8, at 8 p.m., "to call attention to the need for better protection of falsely accused persons in the criminal courts." Speakers: Professor Hugh Candy, J.P., Rev. John Clifford, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, Miss F. A. Underwood, and Miss Vera S. Wainwright.

Women's Freedom League Settlement,

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

Easter has been a lively time in the Guest House with six children under six years old; all will probably be here for some weeks longer, and we should be glad of helpers who would come now and then and take them out for walks, or put them to bed in the evening. Mr. Jerome K. Jerome has promised to open a Sale of Work for the Settlement on Wednesday, May 7, 2 to 6 p.m., at Mr. P. H. Miller's Studio, 1, Campden Hill-road, Kensington High-street. There will be garden produce, marmalade, cakes, flowers, children's garments, needlework, china and a doll stall. Contributions will be welcomed by the Secretary at 93, Nine Elms-lane, and it is hoped that many readers of *THE VOTE* will attend the sale. A baby's bath from Mrs. Gibbon is gratefully acknowledged, also jumble goods from Miss Holford, chocolates from Miss Turton, a cake from Miss Ibbotson, flowers from Patty Harrison, Mrs. Miller, Miss M. Holmes, Miss Tollemache, Miss Green; pictures, clothing and flowers from Mrs. Clark.

BRANCH NOTE.

Glasgow: Office. 212, Bath-street.

In honour of Mrs. Despard's visit to Glasgow, a successful and enjoyable "At Home" was held in the Women's Freedom League's rooms on Saturday, April 12. Mrs. Mabel Allan, whose brief but moving speech had for its text Mrs. Despard's services to humanity, presided and extended, in the name of the members, a hearty and loving welcome to our honoured guest, who thereafter treated us to a speech of great power and beauty, showing how much the world of to-day is in need of the spirit of brotherhood and good will, and calling upon us as women and fellow members of a noble League to do what we could to make that spirit the ruling factor among mankind. It was a feast of reason, followed by a flow of soul, for Miss Yuille, Miss Rita Sclanders and Miss Agnes Shennan delighted us with beautiful playing and singing, while Miss Mary Herriot and assistants catered daintily for our creature comforts, and to all of them our hearty thanks are given.

Conference Photographs.

On sale at Literature Department: Postcards 9d. each, post free 10½d.; mounted (8in. by 6in.) 1s. 3d., post free 1s. 4½d.; group of National Executive Committee at same price and size.

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

EXPERIENCED VEGETARIAN COOK or COOK - HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED, for middle of May; small family; comfortable home;

salary £40-£45.—Apply Mrs. F., or call at 11, Mowbray-road, Brondesbury Metropolitan Station, N.W. 6, after 6.30.

ON THE COTSWOLDS, 600ft. above sea-level.—Detached six-roomed COTTAGE TO LET, FURNISHED, for June; rent 5 guineas; main-line station, easy of access Stroud and Cheltenham.—Mrs. COBDEN HOBBS, Skiveralls, Chalford Hill, Gloucestershire.

WANTED, Organiser for the Women's Freedom League.—Apply, by letter only, giving full particulars, to the SECRETARY, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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