

THE VOTE,
MARCH 14, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

Government by Advertisement.

HELENA NORMANTON.

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 AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION. Facilities to be Granted for Lord Buckmaster's Bill.

Lord Buckmaster's Bill has passed its Second Reading unanimously in the House of Lords. In giving it his blessing, the Lord Chancellor said that facilities would be found for its passing in the House of Commons. It will be remembered that the Bill to permit women to practise as solicitors passed the House of Lords last year, but was refused facilities in the House of Commons. The present Bill admits women to both branches of the legal profession—the Bar and the Solicitorate.

In the House of Commons last Monday, in answer to a question by Major Hills, Mr. Bonar Law said that he understood a Bill of the kind referred to was to be introduced into the House of Lords, and that when the measure came to the House of Commons he would try to find time for its consideration. (We gather from this reply that Mr. Bonar Law was ignorant of the fact that the said Bill had already been introduced into the House of Lords.)

We congratulate our member, Miss Helena Normanton, on the splendid work she has achieved by her spirited action in persisting in her demand that the Benchers of the Middle Temple should admit her as a student at the Bar, and we congratulate her also on the measure of success, which she has

already achieved, as witnessed in Mr. Bonar Law's reply to Major Hills. There is a widespread demand among women for the removal of this gross and palpable inequality between men and women which prevents a woman's case from being presented by a woman in a Court of Law, and stands in the way of a woman being appointed to any judicial office. Mr. Holford Knight, in an interview with a representative of the *Observer*, gave it as his opinion that "the women's claim to enter the legal profession at this time of day admits of no argument." He continued: "The governing principle of national reconstruction, as I understand it, is to evoke the maximum equipment in every individual citizen, and to place that equipment at what the military writers call the decisive point. By such means we hope to accumulate and concentrate on the disciplined energy which the country can provide, and every assistance that educated women can render should be cordially welcomed."

The thanks of all women are due to both Mr. J. Wells Thatcher and Mr. Holford Knight, who by their courage in sponsoring Miss Normanton's application and constant help in legal technicalities have placed all supporters of this reform under a deep debt.

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

Join the Women's Freedom League.

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

Name _____

Address _____

THE COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

We offer our sincere congratulations to the women who have been elected to the London County Council and to various other county councils throughout the country. Mrs. Lamartine Yates's account of her victory at North Lambeth will be found upon another page. Her campaign was promoted by the London Unit of the National Federation of Women Teachers, and we think it may be taken as a sign of the times that this body should have selected a prominent militant suffragist as its representative.

Mrs. How Martyn's election to the Middlesex County Council must be considered as a notable victory and a vindication of the new lines upon which she ran the election. The expenses were cut down to a minimum. Posters and motor cars were dispensed with, and the result should be a great encouragement to the numerous women who are prevented from serving the community as its elected representatives, owing to their inability to be responsible for the expenses of a campaign run in the old style.

While we congratulate our member, Mrs. How Martyn, and the Hendon Election League on the great success they achieved last Saturday, we consider that still warmer congratulations are due to the electors of the South-Western Division of Hendon and to the Middlesex County Council, who have respectively obtained a representative and a colleague of exceptional ability, knowledge, and clear judgment. There cannot be many members of County Councils who have taken a university degree with Honours in Public Administration and Political Science. Mrs. How Martyn begins her work with a full knowledge of its technique—no small matter in these days when, from year to year, government, both national and local, is becoming more complex and new duties are continually being placed upon the bodies responsible for the health and comfort of the people. This complexity is, no doubt, one reason of the apathy of the voters, which Mrs. How Martyn describes as "deplorable." In the division she contested, out of a total electorate of 14,646, rather less than 2,000 votes were polled by the three candidates—i.e., not one in seven of the electors took the trouble to go to the poll. As Mrs. How Martyn says, it "points to the need of widespread educational work on the duty of citizens to use their votes." Echoes of the suffrage agitation, in which, we think, her first political work was done, are roused by her suggestion that on the occasion of future elections women should go round with a bell, summoning the electors to discharge their responsibilities. The task which undoubtedly lies before women is that of convincing themselves of their responsibilities to the community and of preparing themselves to take part in the government of their town or district. The matters with which the local governing bodies deal and the manner in which they administer the laws are of supreme importance to every citizen, but they are of special importance to women as guardians of the health and happiness of their own families. It must be borne in mind that, when the war began, the budget of our local governing bodies represented a larger sum than that of the Imperial Government, and its debt, at that time, was greater than the National Debt. The duties of the County Councils in the administration of two Acts passed last Session—the Education Act and the Maternity and Child Welfare Act—might alone work a revolution in national life sufficient to remove the stigma that has been cast upon it by the admission that a large proportion of our population must be classed as C3. To take part in local government is to take part in the eternal struggle of the human race between the chaotic

forces which make for degradation and death and those whose activities tend to the fuller and more ordered life—to the building up of a higher and a better civilisation.

The election for the Hendon Urban District Council will take place on April 9. Miss Margaret Hodge is one of the candidates, and will be glad of the assistance of members of the League.

The Guardian elections in London take place on Saturday, April 5.

Women's Freedom League Dinner to Successful Women County Councillors.

The Women's Freedom League is arranging an informal dinner in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, next Tuesday (March 18), at 7.30 p.m.; to which will be invited all the women who have recently been elected to the London, Middlesex, and Surrey County Councils. Dr. Knight will preside. We hope that each woman councillor present will make a brief reply to the toast which will be proposed. Readers who would like to take part in this dinner should apply at once to Mrs. Pierotti at this address for tickets, the price being 3s. each. Naturally, our accommodation is not extensive, so that only a limited number of tickets will be available.

The Case for the Woman on the 'Bus.

In the *Daily News* last week it was reported that 300 'bus conductresses were dismissed and replaced by men, that numbers of dismissals followed daily, and that eventually all the women will have given place to men. This paper showed most fairly the public-spirited attitude taken up by the dismissed conductresses in their protest.

They declare that none of them wish to oust a demobilised 'bus conductor from the job he left. It must be remembered, however, that many of the women stepped in at the outset to take their husbands' vacant places on the 'buses, many of whom will never return to claim their posts. Surely, at any rate, their widows are not to be dismissed to make room for men entirely new to the work?

It is an obligation of the companies to replace their returning ex-employés, but it is neither patriotic nor just to dismiss all those women whose labour alone made the 'bus service possible during war. To say that the women knew that they were only taking temporary posts from the outset makes the matter no better. They desired to render useful national service, and they needed employment; no other alternative to this temporary appointment was offered them. It was an entirely one-sided compact.

The hours of 'bus conductors are too long. It is time their working week was shortened, and this would make room for a greater number to be employed. If this cannot be done by the less prosperous 'bus companies, this necessary transport service ought to be taken over by the L.C.C. and the local authorities, or it should be nationalised and made part of the railway and general transport system.

Let the men in the trade realise that had it not been for the fine stand the women made for equal pay, such readiness to replace them by men would certainly not have been evinced. Had they been content to act as blacklegs and undercut the men they would, for the most part, easily have retained their jobs. Let the men show as good a corporate spirit now and combine to stand for a shorter working week so that the taking on of returning vehicle workers may not mean the dismissal of all the women, and that faithful servants of the public on our 'buses, either men or women, need not be thrown into the growing ranks of the unemployed.

DOROTHY EVANS.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The London County Council.

Eight women have been elected to the London County Council. Of these, two (Miss Adler and Lady Trustram Eve) were elected unopposed. Twelve candidates went to the poll and divided between them 24,663 votes, and the six candidates who were elected by votes (Miss Margaret McMillan, Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Hudson Lyall, Mrs. Lamartine Yates, the Duchess of Marlborough and Mrs. Hopkins) polled an average of nearly 3,000 each. It cannot be said that the election shows a very keen sense of citizenship on the part of the men and women of London; but over 50 per cent. of the women candidates were elected, and a great work lies before them.

Cap and Gown for Woman Councillor.

Mrs. Laney, the first woman councillor to be elected for the County Borough of Bournemouth, was last week presented with a cap and gown, subscribed for by all the local women's organisations, among them being the local branch of the Women's Freedom League. The *Bournemouth Directory* states that "the cap is of the recognised pattern worn by other women councillors throughout the country, and the gown is the regulation gown of the Bournemouth councillors." Mrs. Laney was also the recipient of a leather case as a receptacle for the cap and gown, which was subscribed for by various men's local societies.

The Women's Legion.

Since April, 1916, about 600 women have been engaged in driving motors for the Army. At first the experiment caused some anxiety, but in six months' time fears were laid to rest, and it was acknowledged that the women were a success. Their duties included not only the driving of staff cars containing officers, but also ambulance and van work. The following letter was received from the Quartermaster-General of the Forces, and is one of the finest tributes yet made to the importance of these pioneer women drivers:—

War Office, London, S.W. 1, Feb. 17.

To all Officials and Members of the Women's Legion Motor Drivers.

I desire to place on record my appreciation of the splendid services rendered by all officials and members of the Women's Legion Motor Drivers during the war. It is now nearly four years since your president, the Marchioness of Londonderry, first proposed that the services of women should be utilised in connection with the transport services. The numbers have steadily increased, and to-day you form an important and for the present an indispensable part of the military organisation at home. There have been times when it would have been almost impossible to carry on without your valued and ungrudging service. Knowing, as I do, what this has meant to the Army particularly and to the nation generally, it is a great pleasure to me to be the one to express your country's appreciation. I would take this opportunity of saying that in the state of transition from war to peace conditions your help is still urgently needed, and I appeal confidently for a continuance of your loyal service, trusting that only very urgent grounds will induce you to ask for your release at present.

J. S. COWANS, General,
Quartermaster-General to the Forces.

A Woman Who Refuses to be an M.P.

Countess Markievicz, who was the only woman elected to serve as a member of Parliament at the last election, was released last Friday from Holloway, where she has been imprisoned since last May without trial. She says she has been well treated, and has studied economics and history, and (following the example of the suffragists) she has adorned the walls of her cell with appropriate quotations. She says it is impossible for her to take the oath, so that she will not enter the British Parliament.

Lady Sykes.

Lady Sykes has decided not to contest the constituency of Central Hull, vacant by the death of her husband, Sir Mark Sykes.

Wanted: A Fair Field and No Favour.

On the subject of the demarcation of trades between men and women, a conference promoted by the Fabian Labour Research Department took place last Saturday afternoon. It was stated that a great deal of the work which had been done by women during the war had been too heavy for them. This we can well believe, though the solicitude of the male trade unionist for the health of women cannot always be considered disinterested. In many trades a large proportion of the processes from which women have been excluded cannot be said to be beyond their strength. Mrs. Bernard Drake (author of "Women in the Engineering Trades") well said that she did not wish to see "any artificial demarcation between men's and women's work. If equal pay for equal work was insisted upon, women would exclude themselves from unsuitable work."

Ellen Sullivan.

We dealt in our last issue with the answer given in the House of Commons to Mr. Bottomley's question concerning the death of this poor girl and her baby while she was under remand at Holloway for using bad language. Altogether the Women's Freedom League has addressed three letters to the Home Secretary, protesting against the action of the magistrate, Mr. Bros, in refusing the girl bail in spite of the fact that she was pregnant. Miss Underwood has received a letter from the Home Office stating that the Home Secretary "is satisfied that the magistrate had good reason for remanding the girl in custody instead of admitting her to bail." Official explanations appear to be peculiarly satisfying to the departments concerned, but the more we hear of the case of this unfortunate girl "explained," the greater is our indignation.

Domestic Service.

One of the many Advisory Committees of the Ministry of Reconstruction has reported to the effect that it is "essential that domestic service should take its place as a skilled occupation." A two years' course is recommended, beginning at the age of 14. Such courses are to be organised by the local education authorities, and it is suggested that maintenance grants should be made to the parents during the period of the girls' training. It is an interesting scheme, and well worth discussion, though it seems scarcely likely to solve the problem with which the ordinary housekeeper has to deal.

If the principle of maintenance grants during training is established, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to limit it to any one occupation. Even with the bait of training and grants, only a certain proportion of girls will choose domestic service as their work, and, when this is raised to the status of a skilled occupation, only a proportion of housewives will be able to afford to give the wages which will rightly be demanded by girls who have had the two years' training. It is indeed a question whether the whole subject of housekeeping is not about to enter upon a new phase. Interviewed by *The Daily News*, Mrs. Pember Reeves stated that it was not the rich employers who could pay really high wages who had her sympathy. Nor was it the experienced servants, who had a scarcity value, and were able to enforce their own conditions. "The people," she continued, "who have my sympathy are the poorer mothers, whose husbands can't afford proper help for them. They have to be cook, nurse, bearer of children, clothes maker, washerwoman, and everything. No woman can do it and bring up her children efficiently, and the children suffer in health through neglect. What I want to see established is a system of State service, whereby trained home-helps could be sent to the mothers to relieve them a little, for the mother of children with no help is tied for 24 hours out of 24."

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, March 14th, 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

GOVERNMENT BY ADVERTISEMENT.

"It is a legitimate function of the State, working through the chosen Government of the nation, to supply trustworthy material on which a sound judgment may be formed on social and economic questions." (Memorandum from Captain Guest to the National War Aims Committee on the proposed New Office of Information.)

"Extra Ecclesia, nulla Salus," ran the old theological dogma. No salvation outside the Church. By the fires of persecution, by imprisonment, by exile, and by tortures, the validity of this dogma was tested by those who denied it; until freedom of religious thought became a priceless possession of the individual. But now that the salvation of the individual soul has taken an altered place in the spiritual horizon and the social welfare of the community has become definitely recognised as a part of true religion, we are again threatened with corporate control over our innermost thoughts with regard to "social and economic questions" by means of a State-regulated supply of the "trustworthy material" for such thoughts. An Office of Information is to be set up by the State.

If ever liberty was menaced by any proposal, it is by this. Let us consider what this proposal means. Truth in the last resort is final. There cannot be two truths about the whole being greater than its part, that the Normans conquered this country in 1066, or that the Sistine Madonna was painted by Raphael. There certainly are many "truths" about all controversial subjects, such as the nationalisation of mines or the State regulation of vice. Presumably this new Department of Information will not trouble us again by repeating such facts as those cited, which are beyond all dispute, but will content itself with those areas of information admittedly controversial. Otherwise it would merely compete with legitimate private enterprise in an unnecessary way, and duplicate such national possessions as the British Museum Library and the schools.

Coming then to the controversial subjects, there is food for reflection. Upon what Sinai will the final truth be revealed to the guiding Moses of the new office? Obviously some mode of supernatural revelation is necessary beyond that vouchsafed to ordinary mortals outside the office. Otherwise, any one of us might be already in possession of the facts furnished (in which case we might jib at paying more taxes to get them). Or, what is worse, the

Information Office might give us facts which turned out to be inferior in quality to those supplied by private enterprise, in which case the taxpayer might act even more decidedly. The Albert Memorial represents one phase of a Government's pursuit of Truth in Art. Is it not also a warning?

To take a few concrete illustrations. Imagine that an Information Office had been at work under Edward VI. at the time of the confiscation of the funds of the Gilds. A case would doubtless have been stated for this questionable proceeding. Would the case against it have been put? And if so, with equal force and eloquence? Or consider the pre-war suffrage situation. Imagine the kind of "information" the Government would have supplied about the so-called militant activities. Imagine the Asquith Government with a publicity department for forcibly feeding the public with an official pabulum of "facts" as well as the similar apparatus in the prisons. Think of the position of the women fighting for the franchise compelled to pay taxes for the propagation of subsidised information about themselves and their movement—information not under their control in any way.

To come nearer to our own time; there is the instance of Regulation 40D and the Maisons Tolérées in France. Is anyone so simple as to suppose that the late Government would have issued, on funds controlled by itself, any information damaging to its actual policy? Even if it had done so, let us ask ourselves carefully whether the supply of such information could not be undertaken a thousand times better and more economically by such societies as the Women's Freedom League or the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. And supposing, again, that the Government had made some show of supplying the case against itself it would certainly have supplied the case for itself in addition, thus neutralising the effect of the other information, and making in all a heavy demand upon public funds—and possibly on public credulity and patience also.

Carried to its logical conclusion, the establishment of a Department of Information would really amount to a Nationalisation of Truth—a positive evil compared to which the old merely negative State censorship on books was a mere trifle. Imagine our hoardings covered with posters telling us that the State policy of housing was the best and all others were mere frauds. Imagine our newspapers packed with advertisements all subtly branding the Government herrings as the best that ever were drawn across tracks—and these advertisements not even honestly marked "Advt." at the end! Few of us yet have recovered from that tricked sensation experience on learning that the recent full presentment of the miners' interview with the Premier was inserted verbatim at the cost of many thousands of pounds of public money. It is but fair to admit that all the censure does not fall to the lot of the Government. Much may well be reserved for the ordinary Press, which, by taking money for the insertion of real news, raises the presumption that it would not otherwise have given us a verbatim report of so vital an interview. Yet that same Press willingly inserts full records of such nauseating events as the Carleton case, so it is nonsense to plead lack of space.

But the real remedy for such an admitted evil as Press unfairness should lie in the hands of the general public, which by its insistent demands should create a supply of justly presented information in the public Press. It is an exceedingly dangerous step for the State to become a teaching agency instead of a governing instrument. It is a departure from normal function which is full of peril. It is a menace to the supply of fresh water from the un-

subsidised Well of Truth. How, for instance, can the various women's societies hope to compete, without the gravest difficulties, in the supply of literature on women's questions with what such a department could pour forth with never a difficulty as to cost?

No Tudor or Stewart Government ever devised so subtle an engine of corruption as this proposed office. Even if Charles I. demanded ship money in an illegal way, it was for ships and not for pamphlets to describe the incomparable superiority of Stewart control to what those base fellows, Cromwell and Pym, could offer. It is peculiarly necessary that a society like the Women's Freedom League should not lose sight of the vital and dominant necessity of facing this great issue, and should decide whether freedom of the mind is a cause that is dear to it or not. Remember, the last office which claimed a monopoly over the supply of truth was the Holy Office. Few attach that adjective to its name to-day!

HELENA NORMANTON.

WINNING A SEAT ON THE L.C.C.

Five weeks ago Miss Anna Munro and I walked into North Lambeth, strangers searching for a committee-room—I, as the Independent candidate, intent upon wresting from the sitting "Moderate" member his seat, she as my "clerk in charge." The whole day we tramped, only to meet with insanitary or unsuitable premises. A disused chapel in the main road cried out for habitation. We fixed upon it as a novelty likely to help in the campaign. We waited two whole precious days in the hope that the lady owner would allow it to be used for the purpose. No! The disappointment was great, but it was just as well, for, after considering an old public-house, we ultimately landed amongst the kindest of neighbours and a temporary landlord-host whose parlour walls displayed framed suffrage cartoons of olden days. We were at home at once, and the committee-room soon became a beehive of light-hearted, earnest workers, mostly from the National Federation of Women Teachers. Each day, as the tension of the campaign increased, the workers hurried to and fro on their canvassing journeys, or sat and folded election literature more and more strenuously and eagerly, yet always gay, always willing, despite the rainy days, the crowded room, and the growing strain of ceaseless work. Never a murmur! never a hitch! Never a request from the tactful clerk in charge but was promptly fulfilled. Posters were painted and worn on parades, open-air meetings were held in spite of treacherous weather; 23,000 electors called upon, "deads" and "removes" recorded, and once again the same 23,000 called upon with their polling cards! And away up at the Memorial Hall these 40 odd thousand envelopes addressed and checked. Press work, printing, bill-posting being, so to speak, the punctuation marks in the steadily flowing facts of the campaign.

So much for the workers—what about the "worked upon." Their response was splendid and enthusiastic, and grew in intensity as the poll drew near. They gladly showed the candidate the bad dwellings in which they had to live, freely expressing their indignation with the authorities that considered them fit for human beings, for children—"national assets"—to live in; took her into their confidence on home matters, knowing what they wanted, were humanly entitled to have, and trusting her to make strenuous efforts to gain these essentials of human life. For instance, they resented having to share a w.c. and a tiny wash-house with seven other families. They resented having to dry the family washing over the beds for lack of other space. They resented having to sleep, three chil-

dren and both parents in one small bedroom. They resented these things the more because numberless houses stood empty, condemned; and the Bishop's palace was near by, and most of the property belonged either to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or the Duke of Cornwall! These practical people knew better how humanity ought to live than the authority that stipulates for them how they shall live.

They know the children should have the chance of a cheap tram fare to the nearest common or park, and that this is better and cheaper than trying to resuscitate the sickly children afterwards. They know a woman doctor is not less efficient for being herself a wife and mother, and resent the action of the County Council in excluding them from its service. They know their children are getting no proper education while the classes are so large, and indignantly condemn the increase of salary to highly paid officials while the schools are understaffed and the teachers underpaid.

North Lambeth is not ignorant. It is not asleep. It is cramped physically, and is conscious of the injury to human life which is due to bad environment. Its people are lovable, simple-hearted folk, nicely spoken, well-behaved, and cautious. They are attached to the district, and want to see it improved rather than to be transported elsewhere.

Four weeks' work made us many friends—old and young—whom we look forward to seeing frequently, and the workers will not easily let go the subtle bond of unity which the happy campaign engendered. Polling day was the triumph. Electors and workers became one in the cause of human emancipation. The weather was perfect. Old folk, crippled folk, busy folk grudged not the effort to go to the poll to vote for a woman, and the children shouted their earnest desire for her victory.

The poll was small, but the intensity behind the numbers was inspiring. North Lambeth has chosen a woman, independent of party, as one of its representatives on the London County Council.

ROSE LAMARTINE YATES.

"Ways and Means."

We welcome *Ways and Means*, a new "weekly review of industry, trade, commerce, and social progress." In an article on "Ourselves" it states that "its purpose is to establish a new point of view," and declares its policy to be freedom and economy in finance. Its contributors include the Rt. Hon. J. H. Whitley, the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, and Mr. A. W. Kirkaldy, who writes on "The Future of Women in Industry." He contends that before the war the object of a young woman who entered a factory was to earn the highest possible wage at the earliest moment, hoping for marriage between twenty and thirty, so that it was not to her advantage to undergo a long training at low wages, and not to her employer's advantage to take much trouble to teach her a trade. The writer thinks that "press of circumstances has changed women's outlook," and that they may look forward to competing with men on equal terms for all positions. He concludes his article with the comforting reflection: "After all, there is a great deal of human nature in the average woman!" We agree; there is also a fair amount of common sense which will impel women to demand nothing less than equality of opportunities, conditions, and rewards with men in the labour markets of the world.

A SUFFRAGE SOUVENIR AND JUMBLE SALE

At 5, DUKE STREET, ADELPHI.

On Saturday, March 22nd, at 3 p.m.

Owing to the premises rented by the International Suffrage Shop having been sold over its head.

During the eight years the Shop has been running some thousands of copies of THE VOTE have been sold. Will readers do their best to make the sale a success.

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.

Last Wednesday Members of the House of Commons considered and discussed the Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, and agreed to a Vote on account amounting to £210,310,000 for Civil Services and Revenue Departments. In introducing the subject Mr. Baldwin (Joint Financial Secretary to the Treasury) stated that "If a Government is extravagant, no Chancellor of the Exchequer and no Treasury is going to save it. The Government is dependent on the House of Commons." Sir Donald Maclean criticised the expenditure of the Government, and declared that we were heading straight for national bankruptcy. Many scathing comments were made by other Members on the conduct of the Ministry of Munitions, and especially its policy in regard to national factories. A serious point raised by Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and substantiated by Captain Redmond, was that women workers in the National Cartridge Factory at Waterford had been docked, or done out of, or cut short of their thirteen weeks' unemployment benefit, having been told that they might go to France and obtain it there, and that, unless they were willing to do so they would receive no further unemployment benefit from the Government.

During this discussion Members raised the question of the advisability of increasing the salaries of Members of the House of Commons, or at any rate of providing them with a free railway pass between the House and their constituencies. In replying, Mr. Bonar Law stated that he did not think that Members should ask him just at present to make any change in the existing arrangement. In our opinion, the public might have some sympathy with Members of Parliament in their difficulty in making both ends meet in these times of high prices on a bare £400 a year, yet there is no doubt that the majority of the community would be much more enthusiastic in support of a proposal for drastic reductions in the prices of all kinds of food, and also for a general reduction in railway fares. This would be of assistance not only to poor Members of Parliament, but also to every poor man, woman, and child in the kingdom.

On Thursday, the Naval, Military, and Air Force Service Bill was read a second time and passed by a majority of 304 to 71. It enables the Government to retain such Naval, Military, and Air Forces as are considered by the expert advisers of the Government to be necessary and adequate, first, for the Army of Occupation (900,000 men) in enemy countries, and, secondly, for the maintenance of security and order, both at home and abroad. The operation of this Bill is strictly limited to April 30, 1920.

On Friday the Increase of Rent and Mortgage (Restrictions) Bill was read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

We congratulate Mr. G. Locker-Lampson on his persistent questions in regard to income-tax anomalies, and especially with reference to charging this tax on the joint incomes of married people. The question was also raised on the adjournment last Wednesday, when Mr. Locker-Lampson reminded the House that the Prime Minister, in 1913, received a deputation on this subject. He was then Chancellor of the Exchequer, and promised to do his utmost to see that this grievance should be remedied as soon as possible. Major Tryon pointed out that, under the death duties, husband and wife were treated as two, but under the Income-tax they were treated as one, which to him seemed to be wholly indefensible, illogical, and unjust; whereas Mr. Macmaster maintained that if the purpose of this tax on the joint incomes was simply to bring the income within the higher tax and thus to get more money for the Treasury, well, it was simply the argument of the burglar!

On March 4 Mr. Spoor asked the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture whether his attention had been drawn to the conditions of work of the girls in the Land Army, Women's Forestry Corps; whether he was aware that a number of these girls were employed in the woods at Trenholme, near Hutton Rudby, Yorkshire, from eight o'clock in the morning till 4.30 p.m. for 25s. a week, that frequently they were kept working in bad weather until their clothes were wet through, that out of the 25s. they had to pay 17s. for billet and 3d. for insurance, that the food they got in their billets was insufficient to maintain their health and strength, and that the girls had no facilities for baths; and whether he would cause inquiries to be made with a view to providing better conditions for these girls?

Mr. Bridgeman (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade) replied that, at the camp to which the question referred, there were about ten girls, mostly belonging to the Women's Forestry Corps, who were working for a private employer. The girls were said to be happy and healthy, but a special inspection was being made, and any causes for complaint would be rectified as far as possible. He added that since the Armistice those girls were being allowed to take their discharge if they wished, subject to a week's notice to employer.

We wonder if Mr. Spoor was satisfied with this answer? Readers of THE VOTE will not glean much comfort from it, nor probably will the girls on whose behalf the question was raised.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Women and Demobilisation.

According to a White Paper issued last week there was an increase of 1½ million women engaged in industry owing to the war.

The figures given are as follows:—

Women employed in July, 1914...3,276,000
Increase by April, 19181,532,000
Women directly replacing men ...1,516,000

The number of women employed in munitions in April, 1918, was 701,000, while 774,000 women were employed in other industrial work for the Government.

According to a report from the Ministry of Labour, 633,318 women have taken out donation policies since the Armistice. Of these, 156,438 (roughly 25 per cent.) have been renounced by the holders, and may be taken to represent the number of women who have found new employment or who do not desire employment.

About 63 per cent. of those desiring employment have been placed in work by the Employment Exchanges.

SUPPORT YOUR LEAGUE.

The funds of the Women's Freedom League are again very low. We have therefore arranged an opportunity for all our members and friends to assist by sending all their superfluities to a big sale in the Minerva Café on Saturday, March 29, beginning at 2.30.

AUTHORITY: The Fundamental Problem of Society.

A course of Lectures on this subject will be given by Mr. Homer Lane (of the Little Commonwealth) at the

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, every Tuesday at 8 o'clock,

On March 18th, 25th and April 1st.

Subject: March 18th—"FACTORS IN CONDUCT."

Tickets for the Course, 14s. reserved, 8s. unreserved. Single Lectures, 2s. 6d., can be obtained from the Sec., Women's International League, 14, Bedford Row, W.C. 1.

Women's Freedom League.

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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, March 15.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m. Herne Hill and Norwood Branch.—Whist Drive at 69, Danecroft-road, 6.30 p.m. Admission 1s.

Wednesday, March 19.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Homer Lane (of the Little Commonwealth). Subject: "The Psychology of Freedom." Admission free. Discussion. Tea can be obtained in the Café, 6d. each.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, March 21.—Golder's Green Branch Dance, at Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute (nearest station, Golder's Green Tube). Tickets 2s. 6d. (including refreshments), from Miss Dickenson, 59, Ashbourne-avenue, Hendon, N.W. 4.

Wednesday, March 26.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m.

Friday, March 28.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7 p.m., to consider conference agenda.

Saturday, March 29.—White Elephant and Jumble Sale, Minerva Café, 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Lady Wolseley. Subject: "Our American Cousins."

Friday, April 4.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn.

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

PROVINCES.

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.

Portsmouth.—Practice Debating Class, 2, Kent-road, 3.15 p.m. Discussion: "How to Take the Chair at a Public Meeting." Opener: Mr. Poole. Chair: Mrs. Slatter.

Wednesday, March 26.—Portsmouth Afternoon Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom, High-street, at 3 o'clock. Tickets, 1s. each.

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

Monday, April 7.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson. Subject: "Women and the Law."

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.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

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

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	113	12	5
Special Emergency War Fund—			
A Friend ...	£1	17	6
W. R. Snow, Esq. ...	1	0	0
	2	17	6
Miss H. E. Hudleston ...			10
Miss M. I. Saunders ...			5
Miss F. A. Underwood ...			5
Mrs. Ethel Wedgwood ...			5
Mrs. A. M. Aldridge ...			2
Miss A. Ball ...			2
Mrs. Pertwee ...			2
Miss I. Harvey ...			1
Office Sales ...			5
Collections ...			3
Sundries ...			25
Branches—Capitation Fees—			
Glasgow ...			13
Letchworth ...			10
	148	0	8

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

BRANCH NOTES.

Golder's Green.

The next dance will be held at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute on March 21 (nearest station, Golder's Green Tube). Tickets, 2s. 6d. (to include refreshments), can be obtained from Miss Dickenson, 59, Ashbourne-avenue, Golder's Green.

Manchester.

A well-attended meeting of the members of the Manchester Branch was held in the Milton Hall, Deansgate, on Monday, March 3. Miss Alix M. Clark was voted to the chair, and gave an account of her week's work in Manchester. A discussion took place on the advisability of re-organising the branch, as, now the N.U.W.S.S. had disbanded in Manchester, there was no other women's political organisation except the Women's Freedom League. It was the unanimous opinion that a full-time organiser should be sent from headquarters for this purpose. The resolutions for the conferences were discussed, and Miss Constance Andrews was appointed delegate. One hundred VOTES were sold in the streets, and one hundred paid for by the branch for free distribution.

S.E. District.

Organiser - Miss White.

Ashford.

Mrs. Despard is coming to the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday, March 19, at 2.30 p.m. We want to get as many women as possible to the club on that afternoon, so please sell as many tea tickets as possible. Mrs. J. S. Corlett will take the chair. It is to be regretted that the bad weather kept so many away from the debating class last Wednesday. Those who were present keenly enjoyed Mrs. Pertwee's speech.

Bexhill.

A very successful debating class was held at 19, Marine-mansions last Tuesday. Mrs. Pertwee gave a very interesting speech on "Housing." Her idea that hot water should be one of the most important additions to any housing scheme met with keen approval. Some very good ideas were suggested by the audience and quickly taken up by the new lady councillor for East Sussex, Mrs. Meads, who was present. Several VOTES were sold, and a good collection was taken. The next class will be held at 19, Marine-mansions on Tuesday, April 1, at 3 p.m.

Hastings.

Everyone was pleased to see Mrs. Pertwee at her old work of running a speakers' and debating class at Hastings. Mrs. Jowers lent a room at 51, Marina last Wednesday, and there was a good attendance of members and friends. Mrs. Pertwee dealt mainly with "Housing" and the present industrial strife. Mrs. Jowers has again kindly consented to have the class at 51, Marina next month. Please remember the date, Wednesday, April 2, at 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. 1. For men and women. Subscriptions: London members, £2 2s.; 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.

FRIDAY,
MARCH 14,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

We regret to say that Miss Margery Fry was unable through illness to speak at our meeting last Wednesday on "Better Ways with Prisoners." Her place, however, was very kindly taken at a moment's notice by Miss Gertrude Eaton, vice-president of the Penal Reform League. Miss Eaton pleaded for the reform of our whole penal system, and she maintained that women, especially as they were now citizens, should forward these reforms. She was convinced that the officials in prisons did their best for the prisoners, but these officials were the victims of an iron system in which there was no room for the human sympathetic consideration of the needs of the individual. Our present system aimed at punishing the prisoner, not at reforming him and encouraging him to be a good citizen. In America Mr. Mott Osborn had secured marvellous results by treating the wrecks of our civilisation as human beings capable of responding to human sympathy, kindness, and trust. Mr. Homer Lane, too, at the little Commonwealth in Dorsetshire, had transformed the incorrigible children of our slum districts into boys and girls with a sense of citizenship. Our prisons should be institutions not for breaking, but for re-kindling life and hope in individuals. An interesting discussion followed this address, the silence system and the inefficiency of the chaplains being strongly condemned by some of the speakers. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood, who urged that there should be a woman magistrate on every magistrate's bench, and that both men and women magistrates should receive three months' hard labour as part of their training, which she thought would be one of the quickest ways of achieving the reform of our penal system.

Next Wednesday afternoon, March 19, Mr. Homer Lane has most kindly promised to speak in the Minerva Café on "The Psychology of Freedom," the chair being taken at three o'clock by Dr. Knight.

Miss A. Maude Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn-viaduct, E.C., next Sunday, at the 6.30 p.m. service. Subject: "The Search for Truth."

A "Vote" Representative in the Press Gallery?

NOT YET Says the Serjeant-at-Arms.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested in the following letter received by the Women's Freedom League in reply to the League's request for a place to be found in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons for a representative of our paper:—

Madam,—I am writing to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst.

As I informed you in a previous communication, there is at present no vacancy in the Press Gallery, but your application for a seat for a representative of THE VOTE has been placed on record.

I am desired by Mr. Speaker, in reply to the further request contained in the fourth paragraph of your letter, to say that it is impossible to assign a place in any other gallery than the Press Gallery for a Press representative. The "Members' Gallery" is open to the public (both for men and ladies) after 4.15 p.m. All the other galleries of the House are for the friends of Members, but in none of these galleries is reporting allowed.

With reference to Standing Committees, only holders of Press Gallery tickets are permitted to occupy the Press platform in the Committee Rooms. However, as far as accommodation may permit, the public are admitted to the meetings of Standing Committees, and anyone is allowed to take notes.—I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

(Signed) COLIN KEPPEL (Admiral)
(Serjeant-at-Arms).

THE INCOME-TAX COMMISSION.

The following letter has been sent by the Women's Freedom League to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt. Hon. Mr. J. Austen Chamberlain:—

March 7, 1919.

Dear Sir,—We notice that, to Mr. G. Locker-Lampson's question in the House of Commons last Monday as to whether it is proposed to appoint a woman on the Royal Commission on Income-tax, Mr. Baldwin gave a reply in the affirmative.

We are, of course, very glad that this is the case, but may we suggest that we do not think that women will consider that their special interests will be safeguarded if only one woman is on this Commission. We understand that men of all classes are to be appointed to it. As women of all classes—women City clerks and industrial workers earning £130 a year, women members of the trading community and of professions, as well as married and unmarried women having independent incomes—are liable to Income-tax, we think that justice would be served if there could be an equal number of men and women appointed to this Commission to inquire into the anomalies of the present Income-tax law. Will you very kindly consider these suggestions?—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

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and Unwin, 2s. 6d. net), by L. A. M. Priestley (Mrs. George McCracken), with a foreword by Mrs. Despard. It shows the emancipation of women as reflected in the novel. On sale at the Women's Freedom League Literature Department, 144, High Holborn.

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