

THE VOTE,
NOVEMBER 8, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

**The Women's Freedom League and
the House of Commons.** F. A. Underwood.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, NOV. 8, 1918.

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.

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F. A. Underwood.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Coming General Election.

At the moment the rumours and counter-rumours so long prevalent about the coming General Election have crystallised into a definite declaration that the long-expected appeal to the country will be made on December 7. The official statement is still to come that the House of Commons, elected in 1910, will reach the end of its existence in a few weeks, but preparations for the General Election are now in full swing. The Prime Minister will choose the moment which he considers most propitious to advise his Majesty to dissolve Parliament, and with the remarkable development of the war situation—Germany the one enemy left and awaiting the Allies' terms for an armistice—it is probable that rumour, in this case, will prove correct, and that Mr. Lloyd George will speedily ask the country, in view of the successful conclusion of the war, to give him a mandate for reconstruction.

One important issue for women is that there shall be women in the new Parliament. It is not only enthusiastic advocates at Westminster who are demanding their presence; politicians are realising that the country is ready to welcome the innovation and acclaim the woman M.P. Everything is pos-

sible to-day; women now have power, and must use it. Even in the most favourable circumstances men will still be in the great majority in the new House of Commons, and it behoves women to question closely all candidates, and to give their vote only to those who answer satisfactorily the questions drawn up by the Women's Freedom League and published in *THE VOTE* October 18. Every day shows the value of the vote, even before it is used. The ballot-box will be the touchstone, as never before, of a representative Parliament.

Sweated Land Workers.

We thank *The Herald* for its vigorous expression of views, with which we are in entire sympathy, with regard to the wages of women land workers—£1 a week, which has to cover food, lodging, clothes, boots, and whatever house service can be secured. It frequently happens, where there are no hostels, that the girl must clean her own room, buy and cook her own food after her long and hard day's work, and her work cannot be neglected on Sundays. *The Herald's* comments are as follow:

"We cannot congratulate the Agricultural Wages Board upon their latest order, fixing women's wages at 5d. an hour. That gives, for the forty-eight-hour

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winter week, a wage of 20s., and this is announced on the same day as the arbitration award of 43s. to women lift attendants in Government offices. Whose is the blame we do not know, but, throughout, the action and decisions of the Board seem to have been marked by lack of courage and imagination. Their minds seem to have been dominated by pre-war standards and by the Government's miserable determination to fix a 25s. basis. In the result as they found it—a sweated industry, with wages hopelessly below the general standard. This may seem good business to farmers. To us it appears suicidal. At present they are carrying on with the aid of forced labour of various kinds, and of women who are serving for the term of the war alone. When peace comes they will have to compete for free labour with other industries. Unless they are prepared to pay adequate wages they will fail. And not all tariffs and subsidies in the world can keep British agriculture from utter ruin if it tries any longer to avoid providing its workers with a fair and decent livelihood."

More Money for the Parents and Children of Soldiers and Sailors.

The new allowances for the dependents of our fighting men have now been published; in view of the ever increasing rise in the cost of living the scale is exceedingly disappointing. The wife, unless she is childless and unable to work, gets no more for her personal expenditure. Roughly, there is an increase of one shilling per week per child—just enough to pay for a quart of milk and twopenny towards a pair of boots. Parents of unmarried fighters are to receive a flat rate allowance of five shillings a week. Some of this generosity will materialise on November 1; the rest on "the first pay day in January next." And who shall say women are not needed in Parliament after this?

Women Army Doctors.

Commissions being Considered.

In the House of Commons on October 22, Mr. Macpherson, in answer to Sir Philip Magnus, said that the War Office had under consideration the question whether, having regard to the fact that women doctors serving in military hospitals discharged similar duties and received the same pay as men doctors, and were entitled to wear the R.A.M.C. badge, he would take steps to rectify the anomaly of their being refused even honorary commissions or the right to wear badges of rank which would be helpful to them in maintaining discipline. On the question whether it could be arranged that these ladies should obtain equivalent relief from income-tax to that granted to men doctors under service rate, he referred Sir Philip Magnus to the Treasury.

On the subject of the handicaps under which women Army doctors have to work, the following letter has been sent to the Press by Dr. Jane Walker, president of the Medical Women's Federation:—

Sir,—As long ago as August, 1916, in the House of Commons, the Financial Secretary to the War Office said that "Medical women in the Army would receive the same pay and allowances as medical men similarly employed." This promise has never been entirely carried out, but the claim of medical women for temporary commissions rests on something much more important than financial inequalities. Everywhere else the war has raised women's professional and civic status. It is ironical that the only women of whom this is not true are the hundreds of medical women, at home and abroad, working for the Army.

In civil practice medical women have long enjoyed a professional equality with medical men. In the Army, though doing the same work and taking the same responsibilities, they are kept in a position of perpetual inferiority. They have not even the rights of seniority. A medical woman in the Army, whatever her experience and position in civilian practice, and her length of service in the Army, is junior to and must take her orders from the latest qualified, latest gazetted R.A.M.C. subaltern.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.



DARE TO BE FREE.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Wednesday, November 13.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Madame V. N. Polovtsev, Ph.D., on "The Social Conditions in Russia." Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café, if desired, at 6d.

Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23.—Green, White, and Gold Fair at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W. 2 p.m. Admission 1s.

Wednesday, November 27.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., on "My Election Policy."

Saturday, November 30.—London Branches Council Discussion Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Subject: "Free Trade." Speaker: Mr. F. J. Shaw. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. Tickets from Hon. Sec., L.B.C., 144, High Holborn.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, November 12.—Nottingham. Public Meeting, Morley's Café, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans on "What Women M.P.'s will do."

Tuesday, December 3.—Manchester. Political Meeting for women only at Milton Hall, Deansgate, 7.30. Speaker: Mrs. Annot Robinson (Women's International League). Subject: "Women's Problems in the Next Election." Open discussion. Admission free. Silver collection.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 15.—Glasgow. Postal and Telegraph Clerks' and Postmen's Federation. Miss Dorothy Evans on "Equal Pay for Equal Work."

Tuesday, November 19.—Edinburgh. Deputation to Town Council, City Chambers, 11 a.m. Miss Dorothy Evans and others.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, November 13.—Meeting at Montrose House, 155, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood (W.F.L.) on "The Need for Women Magistrates."

Sunday, November 24.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge (W.F.L.). Subject: "The Divorce Laws of the British Dominions Overseas."

Mrs. How Martyn's Election Campaign.

Canvassers for Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., find widespread welcome for her as candidate for Parliament for the Hendon constituency. Men, as well as women, warmly approve of her and her policy, and have promised their votes. Canvassing becomes an absorbing occupation in view of the interest aroused. Many more canvassers are urgently wanted. Will volunteers send their names without delay to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., stating the time they can give to this important and promising work?

Mrs. How Martyn will address the following meetings:—

Nov. 12.—Stag-lane, Kingsbury, 7.30 p.m.
" 16.—22, Harley-road (near Swiss Cottage), 2.30 p.m.
" 19.—Granville Hall, Finchley, 8 p.m.
" 20.—Schoolroom, Kingsbury, 7.30 p.m.
" 21.—Hartley Hall, Mill Hill, 7.30 p.m.
" 22.—The Institute, Edgware, 7.30 p.m.

Mrs. How Martyn will stand as Independent Candidate at the Women's Freedom League Parliamentary Election at the Caxton Hall on November 23, 2.30 p.m. She will also take part in a conference on "The Electoral System" at Golders-hurst, Hoop-lane, Hendon, on December 11, at 2.30 p.m.

REGULATION 40D.

The Regulation is as follows:—

"40D. No woman who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form shall have sexual intercourse with any member of His Majesty's Forces or solicit or invite any member of His Majesty's Forces to have sexual intercourse with her.

"If any woman acts in contravention of this Regulation she shall be guilty of a summary offence against these Regulations.

"A woman charged with an offence under this Regulation shall, if she so requires, be remanded for a period (not less than a week) for the purpose of such medical examination as may be requisite for ascertaining whether she is suffering from such a disease as aforesaid.

"The defendant shall be informed of her right to be remanded as aforesaid and that she may be examined by her own Doctor or by the Medical Officer of the Prison.

"In this Regulation the expression 'venereal disease' means syphilis, gonorrhoea, or soft chancre."

To Stop Blackmailing.

The Women's Freedom League has sent the following letter to the members of the War Cabinet and other Ministers of State:—

October 31, 1918.

Sir,—In view of the number of cases of women and girls falsely charged under Regulation 40D by men in H.M. Forces with having communicated disease to them, we urge upon your consideration the necessity of taking stringent measures against these men, whose false assertions have usually resulted in the imprisonment of their victims, who, to prove their innocence, have been subjected to an outrageous and degrading medical examination.

We advocate strongly that, whenever a woman or girl has proved herself innocent of the charge brought against her under Regulation 40D, her accuser should immediately take her place in the dock and be subjected to the severest penalty for a criminal libel.

Dr. Alice Drysdale Vickery, well known as a veteran in the Woman's Movement, writes as follows:—

Women admit that it is the business of the War Office to keep the soldier physically fit and strong. Its regulations should be strictly applicable to that end. Therefore (instead of 40D) its regulations should be directed to dealing with the soldier. Every soldier, on returning to camp, should be required to declare if he has subjected himself to risk of infection, and, if so, should forthwith present himself to the medical officer on duty for treatment. To victimise a woman, or women generally, because a soldier has exercised neither discretion nor self-control, is a monstrous piece of tyranny which women will no longer tolerate.

That such regulations as 40D or the Criminal Law Amendment Act should have emanated from men in this country shows the spirit which prevails among a large number of men, English as well as German, civil as well as military, as to their claims and demands upon women (e.g., German regulations in Ostend and at Lille). In cases of accusation, the accuser and accused, be they men or women, must be brought face to face; and women charged must, like men, be tried by their peers. Therefore we must have women magistrates and women jurors. The civil population must not be placed under military control. The principle of English law that every person is assumed innocent until proved to be guilty must be applied to women as well as to men.

It is time that many men began to look deeply into their own hearts and consciences, and ask themselves what is their standard of honour in regard to their dealings with women. Some of us have reason to believe that that standard is deplorably low. In short, that very few are imbued with a spirit of fair play in their relations with women. Some day women will challenge men to an open discussion on these topics. A little plain speaking will be beneficial to both sides.

IN PARLIAMENT.

As the General Election approaches the haughty insolence of members of the Government upon this matter shows signs of diminishing.

600 Resolutions Against 40D.

SIR GEORGE CAVE stated (October 31), in answer to MR. LEES-SMITH, that the Home Office had received 600 resolutions demanding the withdrawal of 40D.

MR. W. C. ANDERSON asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that Regulation 40D of the Defence of the Realm Act has been condemned by the most representative conferences of women; whether his attention had been called to medical opinion that the Regulation has been discredited as a public health measure, and that the presence of infection cannot be proved or disproved by examination; whether he is aware of the number of women against whom no charge could be established, who have nevertheless been arrested, imprisoned, and remanded for examination under this Regulation; and whether the Government is now prepared to take steps to annul this Regulation?

SIR GEORGE CAVE said the question was one of extreme difficulty. It was being considered by a strong Committee, upon which both sexes were represented, and the Government must await the result of their deliberations before taking action. In answer to MR. HERBERT SAMUEL, Sir George thought the Report would appear certainly next month. He "hoped so."

Choice before the Government: 40D or Disaster.

MR. KING: "In view of the large number of people who would have their votes to decide this question, was it not to the interest of the Government to take the inevitable step as soon as possible so as to get as many votes as possible?"

SIR GEORGE CAVE said it was more in the interest of our soldiers than of the Government. He thought the Report would not be delayed.

The Lords-Commons Select Committee on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill and Sexual Offences Bill.

MR. GODFREY LOCKER-LAMPSON has been discharged from this body, and his place taken by Sir Henry Craik.

We call the attention of our readers to the urgent necessity for being present at the sittings of the Committee, usually held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. The public is admitted; the presence of men and women is imperative. Enter by the door to St. Stephen's Hall, ask for the Committee room, and obliging policemen will show the way.

Our "Wednesdays."

MISS UNDERWOOD'S vivid summary of the debate in the House of Commons, which ended in the overwhelming majority of 11 to 1 in favour of Mr. Herbert Samuel's motion to make women eligible for Parliament, greatly delighted her audience on October 30. She quoted sentence after sentence, showing how former anti-suffragists had learned the lessons so long taught by women, and made excellent suffrage speeches on the floor of the House. She concluded her interesting address by setting forth the demands of women for true reconstruction in national life, to ensure that justice and freedom are fair and equal for everyone. A summary of these demands appears in our leading article this week.

IN MEMORIAM.

We express our deepest sympathy with Mrs. Clarendon Hyde in the great loss she has sustained through the death of her son, Engineer-Lieutenant-Commander J. B. (Jack) Hyde, R.N., on October 25, at the Duchess of Sutherland's Naval Hospital, Portman-square. He had served since the commencement of the war, and had been several times mentioned in dispatches. Many members of the Women's Freedom League remember with gratitude the willing help he always rendered during the long and difficult struggle for justice to women.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, November 8th, 1918.

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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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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Twelve years ago members of the Women's Freedom League were speaking at drawing-room meetings, in public halls, at street corners, and in parks and open spaces, on the justice of votes for women, advocating equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities for the sexes, and insisting on an equal moral standard for men and women. In those early days we were making public protests against the sentence passed on Daisy Lord for causing the death of her baby, while no enquiries were made as to the whereabouts of the father, who, we contended, should have been in the dock with her. To-day between six and seven million women have the Parliamentary vote, and the second reading of the Bill to make women eligible for membership of the House of Commons has passed without a division. We cannot help feeling disappointed that the scope of this Bill was not wider, and that women's political and civic disabilities were not removed at one stroke. This would have saved much time and energy being spent on piecemeal legislation to secure women's equality with men in the State. Surely both the House of Commons and the country now realise that women will be satisfied with nothing less than equality with men. Last week one member after another repeated *ad nauseam* the arguments we were using twelve years ago about women's political status. Will it take them another twelve years to learn by heart what we are now saying about our professional and economic status, and the necessity for an equal moral standard for both sexes?

Women also want to take their share in the larger and more pressing problems. We demand that women should be represented at the Peace Conference, and that the women of various countries as well as men should take part in the counsels of the League of Nations, upon which the hope of the world is based. All through this war the Women's International Suffrage Alliance has through its organ, *The International Suffrage News*, kept women of all nations—Allies, belligerents, and neutrals—in touch with one another, and has made known the special work done by women in all these

countries. Is there not a possibility after the war is over of this alliance developing into a league of the women of all nations, whose common purpose will be one of construction and not destruction, and whose co-operation will be sought by all who are responsible for the vast schemes of reconstruction for the building of a new world on the ashes and broken lives of our present civilisation?

Coming to more domestic problems, women will urge a generous scheme of pensions for disabled soldiers and sailors and their dependents, as well as for the dependents of the men who have fallen in the country's service. We recognise that these have the first claim on the wealth of this nation, and we hope to see women advocating, from the floor of the House of Commons, liberal rewards for these men and their dependents. Women also want to see that there is no return to the "margin of destitution," which claimed so many thousands of our people before the outbreak of war. There must be a minimum wage and an opportunity to work for every man and woman, and an equal rate of pay for equal work by men and women. Every child in the community must be allowed a decent chance to develop its individuality and to become an efficient citizen, capable of facing the ever-increasing problems of a complex world. Education, and as much of it as one wants, must be within the reach of everyone who can benefit by it, and all educational facilities must be equally granted to boys and girls. The meaning of citizenship should be taught in our schools, and both boys and girls fired with enthusiasm for the maintenance of the best traditions of our country. We hope it will not be long before they are taught that every department of State and every high office in the State are open equally to men and women who have the necessary qualifications.

The Women's Freedom League earnestly desires the reform of the Magistrates' Bench. We are convinced that no man or woman over sixty-five ought to be in constant occupation of a Bench which passes judgment and inflicts penalties on men, women, and children of all ages and conditions, and we cannot insist too often that it is absolutely necessary that a woman shall be on every magistrates' bench, and that women should be on all juries. There should also be in every court a qualified man and a qualified woman, paid by the Court, who would undertake to defend the interests of men and women prisoners. Our prisons, too, are in great need of reform, and we long to see this reform advocated in the House of Commons by women who have had practical knowledge of its need from the insides of our women's prisons. Women, too, will know how to deal with proposed sex legislation, and we are convinced that when women are in the House of Commons it will be impossible to secure a continuance of legislation which aims at penalising women for the protection of immoral men, whether they are or are not members of H.M. Forces.

These are some of the questions in which the Women's Freedom League is keenly interested. We have forced them to the front all through our struggle for the vote. Our victory for political, professional, and economic equality with men is not yet complete—we may have a long way to travel before we secure it—but it is within sight. The Freedom League has been a persistent pioneer along this road which at times has not been a smooth one, and we are confident that our friends will support it on its further journey.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

The official title of the Government Bill, presented by Lord Robert Cecil on October 31, and supported by the Solicitor-General and Sir Laming Worthington Evans, is

Parliament (Qualification of Women).

It is declared to be a Bill to amend the law with respect to the capacity of women to sit in Parliament.

It runs as follows:—

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected to or sitting or voting as a Member of the Commons House of Parliament.

2. This Act may be cited as the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, 1918.

Summary of Second Reading Debate, Nov. 4, passed without a Division.

MR. WHITEHOUSE: I desire to ask the right hon. gentleman in charge of the Bill if he will not consider the further extension of the scope of this Bill in order that it may apply to both Houses of Parliament? A very simple alteration will effect this. The operative Clause might read:—

"A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected to or sitting or voting as a Member of either House of Parliament."

If the word "either" is put in, that will do it. If the principle is admitted in regard to the House of Commons, on what grounds are we to deny the application of this principle to the House of Peers?

SIR C. HENRY: I am interested to know why this Bill is under the auspices of the Foreign Office? Has there been some secret diplomacy between our Allies or something in the contemplated League of Nations to the effect that women shall be admitted to the different Senates and Houses of Deputies in the Allied countries? The Representation Act says that women should not vote until they attain the age of thirty. If they can only exercise the franchise at thirty they should only be eligible to become members of this or the other House when they arrive at that age. I hope very much that the noble lord will say why he has differentiated in the Bills as to the age.

MR. HAZLETON: If you give the right to peeresses to sit in the House of Lords in their own right I think you would be, until measures are taken to reform the Upper Chamber, placing them on an equality, such as you propose in connection with the House of Commons. I do not, of course, know how many peeresses this would apply to at present, but I would ask the noble lord why should this privilege—if you call it so—which some supporters of the Government enjoy at the present time in reward for their services—being sent up to the other House—be confined to one sex, if you have women sitting in this House? I suppose that you will also have them sitting on the Treasury Bench, and if they have a record of faithful service to the Government, who wish to reward them, why should they not have the right to be sent to the House of Lords if they get tired of sitting in this assembly?

MAJOR H. TERRELL: This Bill has nothing whatever to do with the prosecution of the war, but it makes a very grave constitutional change in our government, and I ask whoever replies to this debate on behalf of the Government to explain how it is that this House is thought to be competent to-day to make this grave constitutional change. I urge hon. members to consider whether before we take this step we should not allow the country at the coming election, which is not far off, to express its view and to determine this question. I do not believe that women will be elected to this House.

MAJOR HILLS: I heartily support this Bill, but I would like it to go much further than it does. It removes one disqualification, but there are many more which call for removal, such as their disqualification for acting as solicitors. I believe it would be just as easy for my noble friend to remove all these professional disqualifications, and it is ridiculous, when the citadel is open to women, that the outposts should continue to resist.

Need for Women on Committees.

SIR WILLOUGHBY DICKINSON: I desire to see women in this House, because I believe they will be of immense service. I have had the advantage for many years of serving with women on local government bodies and other committees, and I can say that they have been able to supply a long-felt want in all municipal work, and which I think

is also felt in legislative work. We shall find when we do have, as I hope we shall have, some women elected to this House, that their value on the Committees will be very great, and that is the reason why I wish to urge on the Government that they should extend this power both to the House of Lords as well as to the House of Commons. The resolution put down in the name of myself and others was general, and I had hoped that we should find a Bill prepared which would allow women to sit in the House of Lords as well as the House of Commons. At this very moment there is a Committee sitting upstairs which I believe would be strengthened by the admission of women. I am sitting on a Joint Committee dealing with Criminal Law Amendment. There is a cognate subject affecting Regulation 40D, which has been referred to a Special Committee on which the Home Secretary has purposely invited ladies to serve. On the Committee on which I am sitting we are deprived of the great advantage we should have on that particular subject, because neither the House of Commons nor the House of Lords includes any female members.

MR. ALDEN: There are hundreds of thousands of women organised in trade unions who have their women representatives on various public bodies. They have very strong and powerful organisations. Does the hon. member mean to say that these women, who have over and over again protested against the exclusion of women from Parliament, should now be prevented sending their own representatives to Parliament, seeing that the vote has been granted to them? I imagine he would say, at any rate, that in their case they should have that right. We must not forget there are throughout the length and breadth of this land not merely hundreds of thousands but millions of women who have repeatedly expressed their desire that their sex should not be excluded from Parliament. You have only to look at resolutions passed by the Women's Co-operative Guild and other organisations of that nature to realise it.

SIR C. HOBHOUSE: My opposition to the Franchise Bill was always based upon one ground, that by opening up to every woman inducement to take part in public life you were giving opportunities to perhaps the most gifted of their sex to take part in public affairs, and that participation in public affairs would have the almost certain consequence that they would neglect what is the primary obligation and duty of women, the creation, management, and control of the home. The proportion of ladies who get married is being reduced every year, and the argument that I adduce from that fact is that by the opening of public life to women you automatically increase the disinclination which women have for the cares, duties, and worries of domestic life. The moment the vote was given to women it became impossible, logically, to oppose their admission into this House, and if this Bill demands that they shall be admitted to the other House as well it will equally have my support.

Not Unwomanly to be M.P.

COLONEL SIR HAMAR GREENWOOD: I only wish to take up one moment to protest against the argument advanced by the right hon. gentleman who last spoke, that because a woman takes part in public life her value to the State as a potential wife and mother automatically declines. That statement is unsupported by any data, and I think it ought not to have been made unless it was supported by conclusive data. I protest against the idea that there is anything unwomanly or unmatronly in a woman doing her share in carrying on the affairs of a democratic country, and I will say in conclusion I hope the noble lord in charge of this Bill will make some statement presently to reassure us that when opening the House of Commons, as we gladly do to women, to secure the suffrages of the electors, we are not going to debar them from becoming members of another House, for it would be a reflection if we were to say that we opened the doors to them in the House of Commons but bar to them the doors of the House of Lords.

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET SIR HEDWORTH MEUX: I want to refer to the unsuitability of this House for women. We are all aware that when a big speech is about to be made, say, on one of the rather rare occasions when the Prime Minister comes down here, it is quite impossible for members to find sitting accommodation. They are packed on the benches like herrings, and I have seen right hon. gentlemen so crowded on the front benches that they have had their arms round one another's waists. I should like to know whether since the Franchise Bill was passed the noble lord has taken any steps to enlarge this House. He must have known it was quite certain that women would have the right of entry here, and in all probability several will be elected at the next election. Has the noble lord taken into consideration the fact that they will require a great deal of extra accommodation in the House? Suppose you have a female Prime Minister, and suppose she is in a state which every woman who loves her husband ought to be, what is going to happen? (Hon. members: "Oh!") I am sorry to hear these exclamations. It shows me that this business is not really straight. If there are to be women in this House, I hope to see the really nice ones, women around

whom we shall see members swarming like bees, women something of the noble character of the charming heroines of whom we read, like Rosalind, Imogene, or Portia. I should love to see Portia here, and to see her talking with the First Commissioner of Works.

LORD R. CECIL: It has been suggested by a great number of members that the Bill is too narrow. The first hon. member who spoke raised the point, and said that it ought at any rate to include membership of the House of Lords. A number of other members have said the same thing. I say, frankly, that my own sympathies are undoubtedly with that criticism of the Bill, but I do not think it would be fair to say that there are not certain difficulties in the way of the proposition, which no doubt will be considered when the matter is raised in Committee. In the first place, there is certainly some doubt whether, as a matter of constitutional propriety, this House ought to settle who is to be a member of the other House. My own personal sympathies—it would not be fair to deny it—are in favour of both Houses being open to women, and therefore, speaking only for myself, and not as a member of the Government, I shall look upon any amendment of that kind without any undue prejudice. My hon. friend (Sir C. Henry) wants to know why the Foreign Office was put in charge of this Bill. I should have thought it was quite obvious. Because it is the most enlightened office in the State. Beyond that I do not know that there is any special reason which connects it with the measure, though perhaps the Leader of the House asked me to take charge of it because I had taken a great interest in the subject from the first. There is much less to be said, even from the point of view of the most vigorous opponent, against opening this House to women than to the enfranchisement of women, because you are only empowering the electors to choose women, and not compelling them to do so. I venture to think that the whole reason of the House and of the country is in favour of this measure, and I trust that the House will now give it a Second Reading.

The Electorate will Choose.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: The whole purpose of the Bill is to give the people a chance of expressing their view whether they wish to see women returned to this House or not. How can we best elicit their opinion? By allowing women to stand. If the electorate does not wish to see women as legislators, they will not vote for them, and the matter will have been decided by their own voice. It seems to me that if the sex barrier is to be abolished for the one House, it ought to be abolished also for the other. That, however, is a matter which we can discuss when we come to the Committee stage. I am very glad the Bill does not limit the age eligible to this House to the age at which they can exercise the franchise. It would be most desirable that a law should be passed by Parliament as speedily as possible throwing open all the professions to women on equal terms with men. Sex discrimination ought to be speedily removed with regard to the law and many other professions. But I think, from a Parliamentary point of view, the noble lord is well advised in not complicating this Bill with that issue. It might rouse an antagonism which would hinder the passage of the Bill; and, as the time may be short before a Dissolution takes place, and for practical reasons it is important that this point should be settled, we cannot complain that he has not on this occasion cast his Bill in a larger mould.

SIR F. BANBURY: It does not matter whether women will or will not be elected. It is a revolutionary thing to give them a power of being elected. It is something which has never occurred during the eight hundred years this House has sat. We made our protest a few days ago, and divided, and there is an end of it. We were beaten, and like good Englishmen we have taken a good beating, and there is no unpleasantness after it. But what would the result have been if the voting had been by ballot instead of open voting? It would undoubtedly have been that we should have won.

MAJOR CHAPPLE: The essential thing has been done when we have conferred the vote upon women. This is quite a secondary thing. It simply gives the electors a wider choice. The evil as it exists to-day is that the electors do not get a sufficiently wide choice. We are going to make it all the more essential that the country lends itself to a consideration of the urgent necessity of bringing in the Alternative Vote and establishing that form of election in order that the evils which arise from minority representation may not be accentuated by the passing of the Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.
Bill read a second time; committed to a Committee of the whole House for Wednesday.

Women's Vote in Clapham.

A public meeting will be held in Wirtemberg Hall, Wirtemberg-street, on Tuesday, November 12, at 8 p.m., when Mr. P. H. Thomas, I.S.O. (Liberal candidate for the Division), will speak on "Matters of Special Importance to Women Electors." Miss Huntington in the chair. Cordial invitation to all.

"Mr. Punch" and the Woman M.P.

"Mr. Punch," keeping his watchful eye on the political progress of women, portrays the Woman M.P. advancing to the table of the House of Commons, escorted by two men, with Mr. Speaker standing ready to receive her—a bouquet in hand, as a sign of welcome! "Mr. Punch" makes the following comment:—

"No doubt in time," says *The Westminster Gazette*, "we shall get used to women sitting in Parliament." It will be interesting to see if any Member of Parliament will be gallant enough to give up his seat to a lady.

Women's Interests in Parliament.

Women in Industry Committee.

On October 29, MR. W. ANDERSON asked the Prime Minister whether the Women in Industry Committee, set up by the War Cabinet to deal with the general relation of the wages of women and men, are also considering the special case of women replacing men on munitions work; if so, whether an interim report on this matter will be issued, and when; whether two additional men members have recently been added to the above committee; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of appointing two additional women members?

MR. BONAR LAW: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry are not contemplating the issue of an interim report, nor would such a course appear desirable in view of the complexity of the problem and the far-reaching effects of any general principle which may be recommended for adoption. The membership of the Committee has recently been increased by the addition of Mr. J. le B. Hammond, on the suggestion of the Minister of Reconstruction, and the Committee now consists of two women and four men, under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Atkin. It is not proposed to make any further change in the composition of the Committee.

Considering that this Committee is formed to deal exclusively with *women* in industry, is it not an impertinence that it should consist of *five* men (if we include the chairman, Mr. Justice Atkin) and only *two* women? Is it possible that women can have any confidence in such a Committee?

Women and Chartered Accountants' Societies.

On Wednesday, October 30, MR. CURRIE asked the Secretary for Scotland whether he will, by introducing legislation or in some other way, remove the obstacles which their existing royal charters put in the way of women being admitted as members of the three societies of chartered accountants in Scotland?

MR. MUNRO: I am not aware to what extent there is a demand on the part of women for admission into the chartered accountants' societies. The usual procedure, in the event of these bodies desiring to amend their charters, would be that they should present an application to the Privy Council for this purpose, and I cannot, of course, anticipate the decision upon such an application, or express any views regarding it.

It seems to us that it was not so very long ago that other Ministers of State were declaring that they were not aware of any great demand on the part of women for the Parliamentary vote. Our supporters met that argument by stating that if it was a just thing to give votes to women, then votes should be given to them. No one can deny the justice of women's claim to be admitted into the chartered accountants' societies. Why, then, does the Government hesitate to bring in legislation for this purpose? F. A. U.

Question the Candidate!

Friends in Clapham will be interested to hear the Liberal candidate, Mr. P. H. Thomas, next Tuesday, and put to him the questions which the Women's Freedom League asks of all candidates for Parliament. They appeared in *THE VOTE*, October 18, page 429. We are glad to note that Mr. Thomas deals in his election address with the position of women after the war in industry and in the home, and declares they must be given a free choice and fair chance in all concerns of life.

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GENERAL STALL.—Useful and fancy articles of every description, Christmas presents, presents for soldiers, sailors, and nurses.—Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner.

HANDKERCHIEF STALL.—Handkerchiefs of various kinds, and articles made of handkerchiefs; brushes, and all kinds of pretty, useful, and cheap Christmas presents.—Miss Underwood and Mrs. Chalkley.

LITERATURE STALL.—All kinds of books, calendars, etc.—Miss Hodge and Miss Bergman.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS STALLS (3).—These will come up to the usual standard of quality for which this Branch has always been famous.—Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Evans, Miss Baker, Miss Felix Jones, Miss Gwen Metge, and Miss Phyllis Mustard.

NORTHEE BRANCHES STALL.—Names to be announced later.

PARCELS STALL.—Miss White, Mrs. Kither, Mrs. Bankes, and Miss Corlett.

TOY STALL.—Dolls, books, and toys of all kinds.

"VOTE" STALL (in memory of Mrs. Snow).—The proceeds of the stall go to the funds of *THE VOTE*.

WHITE STALL.—Ladies' and children's underclothing, tea-cloths, d'oyles, household linen.—Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Lloyd, and Mrs. Holmes.

Stalls have been taken by the following societies: British County Homestead Association, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, Friends of Armenia, Independent W.S.P.U., Nine Elms Settlement.

Have YOU Sent Your Gifts?

We make a strong appeal to all members and friends to make a special effort to help in this year of victory. NOW is the time. Every gift, great or small, in money or in kind, counts and helps, and should reach Headquarters, 144, High Holborn, by *Wednesday, November 20*.

Remember also that YOU can help the Bookstall by sending for sale books which are lying idle on your shelves at home, and also by ordering Christmas or other presents of books from the Literature Department of the Women's Freedom League.

Ever Welcome!

Mrs. Thomson Price has again most kindly consented to give psychic delineations on Saturday, November 23, from 3 p.m.

New Attractions Grave and Gay!

In this year of our political victory we shall have political attractions at the Fair to interest and entertain everyone—without limitations of age or sex—and to add to the financial results.

We have pleasure in announcing the following

COMPETITIONS.

I.—How I Would Reform the House of Commons.

Competitors, we know, have clear ideas on this important subject, and therefore will not feel that the limitation to 50 words is irksome! Much in little is the method of the competition, and "Wisdom in a nutshell" appeals to the public and the authorities nowadays.

Each competitor must adopt an assumed name to be written on the top of the MS., and send, with the famous fifty words, six penny stamps, also a sealed envelope containing the correct name and address, with the assumed name on the outside. The envelope will not be opened until the judges have given their verdict.

Competitions may be sent in from November 1-20 inclusive. The envelope must be marked "Fair: Competitions," and addressed to—

The Editor, "THE VOTE,"
144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

The result of the competition will be announced at the Fair on Friday, November 22, and the prize handed to the winner. The successful 50 words will be published in *THE VOTE*. The judges will be a woman and a man, both voters.

II.—A Short and Merry Competition.

To be done "on the spot," will be announced at the Caxton Hall on Friday, November 22. It will be to supply a "missing word" in Parliamentary procedure. Slips will be handed to competitors, in return for 3d. in cash. They will be collected in the hall, then considered by the judges, and the result announced before the Fair closes on November 22.

A PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION.

On Saturday afternoon, November 23, at Caxton Hall, a Parliamentary Election will be held—all the candidates being women—as follows:

Conservative ...	Miss M. I. Neal
Liberal ...	Mrs. Nevinson
Labour ...	Mrs. Ayres Purdie
Independent ...	Mrs. How Martyn

The Chairman will be Mrs. Keevil Rickford and the Returning Officer Miss M. M. Green. The Election Count will be arranged on the principles of proportional representation, and will be carried out by the Proportional Representation Society. Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League must come in crowds to take part in this election—everyone present in the Hall over the age of twenty-one being entitled to a vote!

BE SURE TO MAKE THESE FACTS KNOWN.

ALIX M. CLARK.

Hon. Sec. Green, White, and Gold Fair.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1917, £29,465 2s. 1d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	671	2	11
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend" ...	3	15	0
W. R. Snow, Esq. ...	1	0	0
	4	15	0
No C.D. Acts—			
Mrs. K. Thomson ...	3	0	0
Major A— ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck ...	1	0	0
Miss Susan Beatty ...	10	0	
	5	10	0
Green, White and Gold Fair—			
Miss A. Jones ...	10	6	
Miss A. Lole ...	5	0	
Mrs. Wilkinson ...	5	0	
Mid-London Branch ...	1	0	0
Tufnell Park Branch ...	10	0	
	2	10	6
Minerva Café, per Mrs. Fisher ...	30	0	0
Mrs. Schofield Coates ...	3	0	0
Miss F. A. Underwood ...	1	10	0
Miss M. Holmes ...	1	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders ...	10	0	
Mrs. Tanner ...	10	0	
Mrs. Strickland, per Miss White ...	7	6	
Mrs. Young ...	6	0	
Mrs. Beatrice Gilbert ...	5	0	
Mrs. A. Murray Jackson ...	5	0	
Miss E. G. Wood ...	5	0	
Miss M. H. Saunders ...	2	6	
Miss B. B. Fallowfield ...	2	0	
G. W. Gill, Esq. ...	2	0	
Rev. A. B. Tebb, J.P. ...	2	0	
Miss Ottilie Bodé ...	1	0	
Miss H. Forrest Lindsay Myres ...	1	0	
Collections ...	3	15	8
per Miss White ...	1	3	4
Sundries ...	2	6	
Branches—Capitation Fees—			
Edinburgh ...	2	2	6
Branches—Delegates' Expenses—			
Herne Hill ...	9	6	
	730	0	11

FRIDAY,
NOV. 8,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

Dundee.

Important business was transacted at the Branch meeting on October 24; Miss Dorothy Evans made suggestions for future work. The Branch is organising a joint deputation of women's societies to urge the Town Council to protest against any legislation embodying the principle of State regulation of vice. A public protest meeting on this subject will be held when Miss Evans visits us again at the end of November. Miss Evans is open to invitations to address organisations of women then in her free time.

Edinburgh. Office: 13, South Charlotte-street.

The first of our Thursday club meetings in the office, 7.30-9.30 p.m., was held on October 24. There was an animated discussion on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" and all its ramifications, which was continued on October 31. The hon. secretary reported that in reply to letters sent by the League to Edinburgh M.P.s regarding Regulation 40D, Mr. Price and Mr. Hogge opposed such degrading legislation, Mr. Clyde and Sir W. Parrott did not express an opinion. The deputation to the Town Council on the subject of the State Regulation of Vice will take place on November 19. It is expected that the deputation, representing various organisations of women, will influence the Council to take a determined stand against such regulations at 40D, and legislation which recognises a double standard of morality for men and women.

Glasgow. Office: 212, Bath-street.

During the visit of Miss Dorothy Evans efforts will be made to make widely known the programme of the League. Friends are asked to get into touch with Co-operative Guilds, Adult Schools, Mothers' Meetings, Tipperary Clubs, etc., and offer speakers on State Regulation of Vice and on Equal Pay for Equal Work. It is hoped to form women's electoral committees in each Parliamentary division of Glasgow to question candidates before election, and watch their actions afterwards. We shall be glad of offers of the loan of a private room in each division to call a small evening meeting to form such a committee.

On November 1 a strong resolution against State regulation of vice in any form was unanimously carried at a meeting of the Women's Educational Union in the Christian Institute. The Trades and Labour Council received Miss Dorothy Evans on October 30, on the question of the proposed Equal Pay for Equal Work Conference of all workers. The Town Clerk has so far refused to place before the Council our application to be received in deputation. We are still pressing, however, and expect that Glasgow will not allow Edinburgh to excel it

in considering women's views on social subjects. The Postal and Telegraph Clerks and the Postmen's Federation have asked Miss Dorothy Evans to speak on the general principle of equal pay for equal work at their mass meeting on November 15.

All members are asked to send their gifts of goods and donations for the Northern Stall of the Green, White, and Gold Fair to Miss Evans as soon as possible.

Members are asked to remember that THE VOTE is the very best means of educating people on our questions. Whenever a member is going to a public meeting, she should supply herself with a number of copies from the office to sell as the people go into the hall. Please write to the secretary and offer to do this.

Montrose Burghs.

Miss Dorothy Evans was the speaker at public meetings under the auspices of the Divisional Labour Party; protest resolutions were passed against 40D. She congratulated the women voters of the Burghs in having such a champion of the women's movement standing as candidate in the division.

Nottingham.

Meeting, Tuesday, November 12, at 7.30 p.m., in Morley's Café. Chair: Mrs. Sisson. Speaker: Miss Evans on "What Women M.P.s Will Do." Committee meeting, Morley's Café (upstairs), 6.30 p.m., same evening. Will all members make an effort to be at the meeting and to bring friends to welcome Miss Evans?

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms Lane, London, S.W. 8.

We are most grateful to Mr. Delbanco for presenting us with the first set of knives that will cut which we have ever had; also to Miss M. Holmes for a dozen eggs and some pears; to Mrs. Whitlock, senr., and Miss I. Harvey for sale contributions; Mrs. Miller, flowers; Mrs. Walpole, another £3 for the Devonport-Tasmania cot. We hope for gifts from the readers who kindly helped us with our Stall last year. We should like flowers and greenery to decorate it. The Hon. Mrs. Forbes has promised us some pretty glass and china for sale, and we have also a few beautiful photographs of Mrs. Despard that would make ideal Christmas presents for any of her admirers. Our President, with all she has to do, is giving daily help at the Settlement. Will no one else come to the rescue now we are short-handed?

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

GENTLEMAN'S DRESSING-GOWN (Jaeger); good condition; £2 10s.—Box 10, "THE VOTE" Office.

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