

THE VOTE,  
APRIL 28, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

A FIGHTING FORCE!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1922

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

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## "ECONOMISING" ON THE WOMEN POLICE.

By D. M. NORTHCROFT.

The recent recommendation of the Geddes Report, that London's Police Women Patrols should be disbanded in the interests of "economy," is meeting with fierce opposition from every women's organisation in the country. Questions have been asked in Parliament by Lady Astor, Captain Wedgewood Benn, and others, protest meetings have been held, and resolutions passed, by the National Council of Women, the Women's Freedom League, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Women's Local Government Society, the Six Point Group, and other women's organisations; and, if not settled previously, it has been resolved to make the matter a test question at the forthcoming General Election. Special injustice lies in the fact that no woman was called by the Geddes Committee to give evidence, and that the whole matter was perfunctorily dismissed without any consultation with the persons most interested.

The late war was mainly responsible for the employment of women police in Great Britain, but the need for such a body of women had been felt by social workers for a long time previously. The Criminal Law Amendment Committee, and Lady Nott-Bower in particular, had advocated this reform for several years before the outbreak of war.

The first women police in England, however, were entirely "unofficial," and owed their origin to the splendid enterprise of Miss Nina Boyle, of the Women's Freedom League, and the late Miss Damer Dawson, formerly a member of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, and, as such, familiar with the women police systems in America and Germany. As early as November, 1914, two uniformed policewomen were appointed in a semi-official capacity to Grantham, one of the biggest military training centres. The signal success of their work was shown by a highly appreciative letter received at the Women Police Service Headquarters from the general commanding the troops, and even more markedly the following year by the decision of the Grantham Watch Committee to appoint two women as regular members of the local police force—

the first appointment of the kind in the country. After that, the Service never looked back, and many local authorities, especially when the shortage of men began to be felt, made application for trained women.

In London, Sir Edward Henry, then Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, helped the newcomers in every way possible, and the Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, stated in a letter to Miss Damer Dawson that no objection would be raised in his department whenever a responsible authority decided to employ women on police duties. A further step forward was made in July, 1916, when, following on an interview with Miss Damer Dawson and Miss M. S. Allen (the present Commandant of the Women Police Service), the succeeding Home Secretary, Mr. Herbert Samuel, introduced the Police (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act, which provided, among other things, for the payment of women police from the rates.

In this same year a new and vast piece of work was undertaken by the Women Police Service—that of recruiting, training, and supplying policewomen for H.M. munition factories. Miss Damer Dawson and Miss Allen entered into a formal contract with the Minister of Munitions, which lasted until December, 1918. In all, 985 women were supplied for this work, and the success of the undertaking is shown in the letters received from Brigadier-General Savile, of the Ministry of Munitions, and Major-General Herbert, Chief of Police at Gretna. The latter wrote: "By their tact, their sympathy, their high sense of duty, and their irreproachable behaviour, the women police at this factory, and at Carlisle, have won the highest praise and admiration from all who have come in contact with them. . . . There is no doubt that the movement, which a short time ago was an experiment, has been proved a success, and that, wherever large bodies of workwomen are employed, there will have to be women police in future."

In 1921, the Women Police Service adopted the name of "The Women's Auxiliary Service," and with this change in title an extension of their training depart-



## INDIAN WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT

By HERABAI A. TATA.

ment was made possible, to include women wishing to qualify as Policewomen, Probation Officers, Wardresses, and other branches of social work. The success of these "unofficial" efforts led to the adoption, some three years ago, of the present Metropolitan Police Women Patrols, a body of paid women workers attached to the Metropolitan Police, and now numbering over a hundred.

Two arguments have been advanced by the Geddes Report as reasons for disbanding these Women Police. It is contended that "their utility from a police point of view is . . . negligible." The best answer to such a statement (which is in direct conflict with the conclusions arrived at by the recent Home Office Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties, which reported on the "urgent need" for their establishment in all big towns) is a summary of the active and preventive work achieved by the Women Patrols last year.

The total number of persons assisted by the Women Patrols in 1921 was 49,813. This includes 1,089 women prisoners searched, 322 women prisoners escorted, 58 attempted suicides observed at hospitals, 1,419 children restored to their parents, and 1,131 girls and women passed on to voluntary homes. These latter would otherwise quite certainly have come upon the rates, or have drifted in and out of prison, and have been a heavy charge on the State. In addition to the above figures, 70,140 persons were cautioned in 1921 by the Women Patrols, of whom 20,747 were found loitering. The disbanding of these women, therefore, would be no real economy, for the cost of prisons, workhouses, and hospitals would be greater once this preventive work was removed. Moreover, searching and escorting women prisoners, and watching attempted suicides (female) must always be done by women, even if the Women Patrols are disbanded; so that these special duties will inevitably cost more in the future, as other women will have to be specially appointed for the purpose.

The second argument advanced by the Geddes Report is that the powers of the women police are very "limited." This, however, is not the women's fault, but the fault of the limited vision of those who appointed them as subordinates, instead of equals, of the men constables. The women's organisations have consistently urged that the Women Patrols should be sworn in. Sir Nevil Macready urged this in 1920 before the Home Office Committee on the Employment of Women in Police Duties, and stated that if this were done he would place the whole question of solicitation in the hands of the Women Patrols. This would effect a considerable economy, for at present a woman prisoner has to be escorted by a constable as well as a patrol, thus necessitating double fares, etc. The State cannot afford to employ constables for this purpose when the duties could be carried out equally well by the woman alone, were she sworn in. These "limited powers," therefore, are in direct opposition to the interests of true economy.

The Home Secretary has stated that the cost of the Women Police is £27,000, which is the same as the cost of twenty-five mounted police. London possesses from 300 to 400 mounted police, and, since it is necessary to retrench public monies wherever possible, Englishwomen contend that the physical activities of twenty-five mounted police can better be spared in the future interests of the nation than the self-denying services of a hundred women police.

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### METROPOLITAN WOMEN POLICE PATROLS.

Our readers are specially urged to attend the Public Meeting in the large Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 8 o'clock, to protest against the disbanding of the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols. It is convened by the National Council of Women, and the President of that Council, The Lady Frances Balfour, will be in the Chair. The speakers will include Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Mr. William Graham, M.P., and others. Admission is free, and women should see that the Central Hall is crowded next Wednesday evening.

It will be remembered, that, when the British Parliament permitted the inclusion of Indian Women's Enfranchisement in their recent Reform Scheme, the final authority was left to the Legislative Council of each separate Province. Bombay and Madras Presidencies have already given women this right to vote in their Councils. The matter has also been mooted in Bengal, but so far unsuccessfully.

Each Province in India has a separate Legislative Council, and the women's fate depends entirely on the opinions of individual members, and the mental attitude of each Council. Where progressive and liberal-minded men are in the ascendancy, the women have nothing to fear.

It will take some little time, however, before qualified women in each Province of India will achieve this enfranchisement, and advanced women are alive to this fact, and are doing all they can to educate public opinion. Conditions vary with each separate province. In some parts of India women have not yet got even the Municipal vote, whilst in Bombay and Madras women had the Municipal vote before obtaining the Council vote. The Council vote is only the extension of what they already possessed, and they will use the latter when a new Election takes place. In these Presidencies there is no difficulty in the way of women voting. They go to the polling booth just as the men do, and record their votes, and also take part in all kinds of public activities. In Madras, women recently met in conference and asked the Government of India not to exclude or debar those Indians, who had settled in the Kenya colony of the once German East Africa, from the rights of citizenship, but to put them on an equal footing with Europeans who were already living in the Colony.

The future of Indian women is full of hope, but more educational facilities must be given in remote places and far-off villages, by means of free schools for girls, and afternoon classes for elderly women. Women in these parts are out of touch with city life and modern progress, being usually engaged in domestic toil inside and outside their homes.

Mrs. Dorothy Jinarajdas and Mrs. Cousins, the General Secretaries of the Women's Indian Association, both of whom are British women, are doing admirable work in this direction. They tour the country and start branches of the Association in out-of-the-way places.

So far, there are no women Councillors in any of the Indian municipalities, and much of the work of the future will lie in contesting Elections and returning women representatives, when the different Municipalities agree to alter the sex disqualification Act now on their Statute books.

Travancore, a small native State in the South of India, has shown itself most progressive in advocating women's rights. An Act has recently been passed to remove the sex disqualification bar, so that the women of Travancore shall be eligible as Councillors in its Legislative Assembly. Nevertheless, reforms made in British India carry the most value, as these affect a vast area and millions of people, and give the country an equal status with other civilised parts of the world.

### OUR LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

"My Experiences as an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax. The Literature Department of the W.F.L. is prepared to lend this book at the rate of 6d. a week.

"Woman: A Citizen." By A. E. Metcalfe, B.Sc. (2/6.) This very useful little book, which is intended more especially for the guidance of voters, and which deals with Government, both Municipal and Parliamentary, is a perfect mine of information, and can be obtained at this Office.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### An Enterprising Head.

Miss Constance Jones, whose death was announced last week, was Mistress of Girton for 13 years. During her term of office a debt of £50,000 was paid off, accommodation for 50 more students was provided, the scholarships were increased, and a system of Fellowships instituted. Miss Jones was a writer of much repute, chiefly on moral philosophy.

### A Grateful Tribute.

A Public Luncheon, arranged by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, was given to Commander and Mrs. Haslewood last Wednesday, as a tribute to their courageous efforts on behalf of the child slaves in Hong Kong. The luncheon, at which the Women's Freedom League was represented, was followed by the annual meeting of the Society in Caxton Hall, when public appreciation was expressed at Mr. Churchill's decision that the Hong Kong system should be abolished within a year.

### A New Departure.

Women are now to be admitted to a Levee, hitherto an entirely male function. They are Mrs. Melville and Miss Greenlees, members of Edinburgh Parish Council, on which several women sit, and the Levee is to be at Holyrood on May 23rd, presided over by the Duke of Sutherland, as High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at Holyrood.

### Girl Channel Swimmers.

Two girls are to attempt to swim the Channel this year—Miss Ivy Hawke, aged 19, of Surbiton, and Miss Doris Hine, aged 17, of Brighton. Both girls are members of the Surrey Ladies' Swimming Club, which organises a long-distance swim in the Thames every year. This competition has been won three years in succession by Miss Hawke, and last year by Miss Hine, who swam 14 miles, 200 yards, in 7 hrs., 44 mins.

### A Distinguished Student.

The Arnold Historical Essay Prize, which has been won by some notable students in the past, has this year been awarded to Miss Jessie H. Flemming, of Lady Margaret Hall, who has the honour of being the first woman student to take this prize, which is of the annual value of sixty pounds, and is awarded for some subject of ancient or modern history. This prize essay is open only to graduates of Oxford University.

### Enterprising Woman Engineer.

Miss Margaret Partridge, of Exeter, is launching out as a contracting domestic engineer in electrical plant and appliances. She has been apprenticed in a consulting engineer's office, and has specialised in heating, ventilation, and electric lighting. She started in Exeter last year as a domestic engineer for country-house lighting sets, and did some installation work in that city. She is about to hold an exhibition of electrical models and machines with a view to showing the public what can be done by installing lighting and similar plant, especially in the smaller type of country house. Miss Partridge is a member of the Women's Engineering Society.

### Emily Davies Commemoration.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life and work of Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., will be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, by kind permission of the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, M.A., on Thursday, May 4th, at 6.30 p.m.

### A Good Record.

Miss M. M. Woollam, who has been a member of the Knaresborough Board of Guardians for 24 years, has now retired. During her long term of service, Miss Woollam has taken a leading part in the introduction of reforms, particularly in reference to the welfare of children.

### Men Replace Girl Clerks.

During the past few days nearly 1,200 women clerks on the staff of the Ministry of Pensions at Acton have been superseded by male clerks.

### Degree for Miss Ellen Terry.

Miss Ellen Terry is to receive the honorary degree of LL.D. from the Senate of the University of St. Andrews at the Graduation ceremony on May 3rd, when Earl Haig will be installed as Chancellor, and Sir J. M. Barrie as Rector of the University.

### At the Zoo.

Miss Cheeseman, Curator of Insects at the Zoo, is to give popular Lectures in the Insect House each afternoon, explaining the life histories and habits of the various invertebrate animals on view.

### Woman Churchwarden.

Miss Micklethwait, sister of Mr. St. John G. Micklethwait, one of the Counsel for the Crown in the Armstrong case, has been appointed, for the thirteenth time, Churchwarden at Llanvair Discoed, near Chepstow.

### Run by Women.

A taxi company conducted entirely by women has been formed at Vancouver, under the presidency of Mrs. Ralph Smith, a member of the provincial Legislature and late Cabinet Minister. Her associates will be young women who were engaged in war work, some having been ambulance drivers in France.

### Landmark Destroyed.

The Convent of Notre Dame, one of the principal landmarks in Montreal, and the oldest teaching institution in the province, which was destroyed by fire last week, was founded in 1690 by the Venerable Margaret Bourgeoys.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### University (State Scholarships).

MRS. WINTRINGHAM asked the President of the Board of Education what would be the cost in 1922 of awarding the same number of State Scholarships tenable at the Universities as were awarded in 1921; whether he would consider the hardship to those whose parents had kept them at school at considerable sacrifice in order that they might compete this year; and whether the same award could be made to girls, for whom the University Scholarships were few in number and of small amount, the proportion of University Scholarships for girls and boys being one to thirteen?

MR. HERBERT FISHER replied that the cost of awarding in 1922 the same number of State Scholarships as were awarded in 1921 would be, approximately, £48,000 in all, of which about £10,000 would fall in 1922-3, £16,000 in 1923-4 and 1924-5, and £6,000 in 1925-6. He regretted he was unable to award State Scholarships to girls only during the time that the making of new awards under the scheme for State Scholarships was in abeyance.

### Marriageable Age.

Replying to a question by SIR H. CLOUGH, MR. SHORTT said that, according to the law of England, 12 was the age at which a girl became capable of marriage, and he thought there would be general agreement that the age was much too low and ought to be raised. The question would be considered in the event of any revision of the law of marriage; but he did not think he could undertake to introduce special legislation for the purpose of dealing with that point alone.

### Legitimation.

CAPT. BOWYER asked the Home Secretary if he could now say when the Bill would be introduced dealing with legitimation by subsequent marriage?

MR. SHORTT replied that he hoped a Bill would be introduced shortly after the Easter recess.

### Mothers' Pensions.

On April 11th MR. KENNEDY (Lab. M.P. for Kirkcaldy) gave notice that he would call the attention of the House to the question of Mothers' Pensions that day three weeks, and move a Resolution. F. A. U.



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 28th, 1922.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders,  
printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."  
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### 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.

## A FIGHTING FORCE.

This week the Women's Freedom League will enunciate afresh, at its Annual Conference, its firm belief in the necessity for equality of opportunity, reward, and responsibility for men, and women throughout all branches of our national life, to secure which it was founded fifteen years ago. We can rely upon the Women's Freedom League to do more than repeat its creed; its members have always had the true missionary spirit in spreading that belief in whatever area they lived, and never was its militant, aggressive spirit more needed in the world for the cause of women than it is to-day. The legal, professional, and economic disabilities of women are everywhere apparent, and the Lord Chancellor has promised to appoint a committee of men experts to investigate this matter. Surely, on such a subject of special concern to women, that committee should include an equal number of women experts in their own disabilities! The Women's Freedom League will certainly clamour for it; but, failing to ensure that piece of justice, we recommend that women's organisations should appoint their own committee of women experts, who will make an exhaustive investigation of all the civil and legal disabilities of women, compare their findings with those of the Lord Chancellor's Committee, and then make an insistent and united demand for the immediate removal of all these existing inequalities. Members of this Government must be broken of their bad habit of appointing committees, departmental and others, from which women are excluded, on matters which very often concern women even more closely than they concern men. It is apparently not sufficient to get Acts on to the Statute Book to ensure their enforcement, if those Acts refer to women; otherwise, why should local governing bodies have the power to refuse to employ married women, or the Government exclude women from all the higher posts in the Civil Service, and forbid the employment of married women in any part of the Civil Service, if the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which says that neither sex nor marriage shall be a bar to any such appointment, has any meaning? Every week brings to light cases of special and needless injustice to members of our sex, and the Women's Freedom League needs all the fighting force it can command to establish a basis of equality of treatment as between the sexes. The longer custom takes these inequalities for granted, the harder will be the fight to secure their removal; and without the free and equal co-operation of women, men's attempts to reconstruct the present world will be mere Sisyphean labour. The principles for which the Women's Freedom League stands are unassailable; they can only be carried into effect if every member of our League will enrol herself as a fighting member for this purpose. Women have everything in their power if they will only use it. Let the Women's Freedom League throughout the coming year show the world how this power can be exercised.

## NO WOMAN DOCTOR FOR ST. PANCRAS BOROUGH

We do not envy the mentality of the Councillors of the Borough of St. Pancras. Our readers will well remember that they dismissed Dr. Gladys Miall Smith from her appointment as Assistant Medical Officer of Health on her marriage, on the ground that she had a husband who could support her. The mothers whom she had attended during her appointment were certainly not consulted about her dismissal, and we know that there were many of these mothers who expressed both anger and sorrow because of her dismissal. The Councillors afterwards announced that if they employed another married woman in this capacity they would offer her more money than they had paid to Dr. Miall Smith, but they would only give the post to a married woman if she had a husband who could not support her! A most unpardonable interference in the private affairs of people! Now, however, the special Committee which has been considering the matter reports that it is most desirable for a medical man with the necessary knowledge and experience to be available in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health. They also say that many mothers prefer to consult a man, and the St. Pancras Borough Council is being asked to decide that the post of Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Maternity and Child Welfare work shall be filled by a man, instead of a woman. Last year, when the Medical Officer of Health for this Borough was ill, Dr. Gladys Miall Smith carried out his duties to everyone's entire satisfaction. Further, practical experience of Maternity and Child Welfare Departments always shows that their popularity and success are greatly increased when they are in the charge of women doctors. We sincerely hope that the women ratepayers of St. Pancras will make themselves thoroughly conversant with all the details of the case of Dr. Gladys Miall Smith, and make this a test question at the next election of Borough Councillors. It should be the aim of all local governing bodies to secure economy and efficiency in all the departments of public service, but in its dealings with Dr. Miall Smith since her marriage the St. Pancras Borough Council has exhibited a curious disregard of both economy and efficiency. The whole thing seems to us an unpardonable blunder on the part of the elected representatives of this district.

## TRADE BOARDS.

The members of Lord Cave's Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the Trade Boards were Lord Cave, Lord Weir, Mrs. Edith Lytton, Miss Adelaide Anderson, Mr. W. T. Layton, Sir A. F. Pease, Mr. E. L. Poulton, Mr. A. Pugh, and Mr. A. MacCullum Scott, M.P., and the report they issued last week is an extremely interesting one. Some changes in the existing system are recommended, but the Report fully justifies the Trade Board system, the beneficial effects of which are stated to be the abolition of the grosser forms of under-payment; the protection of good employers against unscrupulous competitors who are prepared to take unfair advantage of the economic necessities of their workers; the stimulation of efforts to improve working methods and to instal more efficient machinery; and the improvement of industrial relations.

The Trade Boards are the greatest safeguard against "sweating"; and, as so many more-women than men belong to the "sweated trades" in this country, it is heartening to learn that these Trade Boards have been so completely vindicated. The Committee proposes that the Trade Board Acts shall not be applied to a trade unless an unduly low wage prevails in that trade or some branch of it; but, when a Board is appointed, it shall fix a general minimum time rate, "with reference to the lowest grade of ordinary workers in the trade"; a piecework basis time rate; a guaranteed time rate for piece-workers; and a minimum piece rate for out or home workers. The Committee suggested that all these rates should be enforceable, as at present, by prosecution before a magistrate.

## THE PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE.

APRIL 20—28, 1922.

Women from all the Americas are meeting in Conference this week at Baltimore, Maryland. Three days will be devoted to Round Table Conferences on subjects of special concern to Women—Education, Child Welfare, Women in Industry, Prevention of Traffic in Women, Civil and Political Status of Women, and International Friendliness. On "Anapolis Day" (April 23), a Mass Meeting will be held on the subject of "Leaders among Women," addressed by Latin-American delegates to the Conference, and presided over by Miss Helen H. Gardener, U.S. Civil Service Commissioner. From April 25—27 will be held the regular meetings of the Annual Convention of the National League of Women Voters, a body of political women, presided over by Mrs. Maud Wood Park, and whose Hon. Chairman is Mrs. Chapman Catt. On the evening of April 28, "Washington Day," a grand finale will take place at Washington, the speakers including Lady Astor, M.P., Mr. Secretary Hughes, Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director-General of the Pan-American Union, and others, the subject being, "What the Women of the Americas can do to promote Friendly Relations."

All the Latin-American Governments have been asked to appoint official delegates to the Conference, through invitations transmitted by the State Department of the United States, and many eminent women from Central and South America are expected to attend. The Peruvian Government is sending Miss Margarita Conroy, of Lima, who is keenly interested in the activities of women in her country. Haiti is to be represented by Senorita Ana Teresa Paradas, one of the first women lawyers of her country. The Brazilian delegate is Dona Bertha Lutz, of Rio de Janeiro, who has been chosen by her country-women to represent the League for the Intellectual Emancipation of Women, of which she is Founder and President. Dona Lutz is one of the foremost women in Brazil, being the first woman to hold the office of Secretary of the National Museum—a position won by competitive examination. Madame Jacob Varela, wife of the Minister of Uruguay, will represent that country. She has been actively interested in Uruguayan conditions for women and children, and will take a special part in the programme of the Round Table Conference on Social Hygiene. Dr. Alicia Moreau, a well-known physician, and active in the Woman's Movement in South America, will represent Argentina, and Cuba is sending Senora Amalia E. Mallen de Ostolaza, President of the National Suffrage Party of Cuba. Other Governments which are sending delegates include Chile and Ecuador in South America, and Costa Rica and Nicaragua in Central America.

Feminism is making decided headway in the Latin-American Countries. Women's social and political clubs have been established in every large city, where the women of South America are showing themselves increasingly active in public affairs. The Central American Republics of Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica have already given women certain political rights. The three South American Republics in which the woman's movement is most strongly developed are Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, and each of these has organised an Association, affiliated with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. The Uruguayan Suffrage Alliance, with headquarters at Montevideo, has for its leader the well-known Feminist, Dr. Paulina Luisi, with a strong band of supporters. Uruguay is probably the most liberal of all the Southern Republics, and it would surprise no one if this progressive little country became the first in South America to grant votes to women, more especially as it now rejoices in a Feminist President, Dr. Baltasar Brum. Uruguay is the only country in South America to boast of a woman's university.

In the Argentine there have been active suffragists since 1910, but it was not until 1918 that a really effective

suffrage organisation came into being, due to the splendid leadership of Dr. Alicia Moreau, one of the foremost women of South America, Editor of the Argentine Review, *Humanidad Nueva* (New Humanity), and a tireless social worker on behalf of various public health measures for the working classes. Interest in the woman's movement in Argentina may be gauged by the fact that, in Buenos Aires alone, more than 194,000 women work either at professions or in business. Some three years ago, Buenos Aires launched an enterprising little suffrage paper for women known as *Nuestra Causa* (Our Cause), which enjoys a wide circulation throughout Latin-America, and also in Europe. Another suffrage paper, *La Mujer* (Woman) is the organ of the Feminist Council of Mexico, and is full of interesting matter.

The Woman's Movement in Brazil has derived most of its impetus from its foremost countrywoman, Dona Bertha Lutz, one of the delegates to the Pan-American Conference, of whom mention has already been made. Mainly owing to the League which she founded in 1920, the University of Rio de Janeiro has thrown open all positions on its teaching and executive staff to women. In 1921, the Brazilian Ambassador at Rome raised the issue of admitting women authors into the Brazilian Academy of Letters, the "Company of Forty Immortals." A Bill giving Votes to women on the same terms as men has been successfully steered through the first committee stage of the Brazilian House of Representatives, which is equivalent to a first reading in the Chamber. Suffrage Bills are also impending in both Argentina and Uruguay.

A special feature of the Pan-American Conference will be the attendance of the Latin-American Student Group. Women from nearly every one of the Pan-American Countries are studying in the colleges of the United States, and a special invitation has gone to them to take part in the Conference. Prominent among this student group is Senorita Pastoriza Flores of Ecuador. She is the first Ecuadorean woman student to hold the degree of Ph.D. from an American University, and she won it at the age of 24. She also holds an A.B. degree from Hunter College, where she is now instructor in Spanish, an M.A. from Columbia College, and has been awarded the Curtis University Scholarship in Political Science.

"Washington Day" (April 28th), which marks the close of the Conference, is to be the star day of this great women's gathering. After some informal conferences in the Senate Office Building, the Convention delegates will visit the galleries of Senate and House, to see at first hand what the procedure of the National Legislative Body is, and how it functions. Following the tour through the Capitol, the delegates will be entertained to lunch by Washington hostesses, and a number of afternoon receptions and teas have been planned in their honour. A mass meeting in Continental Memorial Hall, the headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, at which Mrs. Park will preside, and Mr. Secretary Hughes, and other distinguished men and women, including our own Lady Astor, will speak, will conclude this eventful gathering.

## A MASS MEETING TO PROTEST

against proposed disbanding of the  
Metropolitan Police Women Patrols

will be held in

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

On WEDNESDAY, MAY 3rd, 1922, at 8 p.m.

THE LADY FRANCES BALFOUR, LL.D., D.Litt.,

President of the National Council of Women, will take the Chair.

The speakers will include:—

SIR ARTHUR STEEL-MAITLAND, M.P.

MRS. GEORGE MORGAN.

DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN, D.B.E.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM, M.P. etc.

Admission free by ticket: a few seats reserved at 5/- each. Apply: National Council of Women, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.



## MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO WORK.

OUR CAMPAIGN AT TORQUAY.

To no group of workers is this question of more serious import than to women teachers; indeed, one might go so far as to say that to no other group is it of such serious import, considering the number of women teachers who are at present being victimised by the denial of the right.

Women teachers have reason to be grateful to the Women's Freedom League for affording them an opportunity of meeting and debating this question during the N.U.T. Conference week, especially in view of the fact that the women of their own Executive had permitted the usual Saturday evening meeting of women delegates to be cancelled. This, too, despite the menace to women teachers in the dismissal of the married women in several areas, and in the amalgamation of two or more departments under a Head Master, with a consequent loss of status to the displaced Head Mistresses, and loss of opportunity for promotion to the assistant mistresses. At Torquay, more than at any Conference, it was imperative that the women teachers should meet to discuss the problems more immediately concerning themselves, and to call for an account of their stewardship from the women representatives on the Executive. Perhaps there had been no special stewardship of the women's interests. If so, the cancelling of the meeting was a wise move. Many of the women delegates have, during recent years, shown a tendency to be less than satisfied with the attention given to their concerns. The unhappy fate of certain women teachers, and the threat of a like fate for others, may have promised a livelier meeting than was deemed desirable. Be that as it may, the Women's Freedom League stepped into the breach and convened a meeting on the Wednesday evening of the Conference week to consider the following resolution:

"This meeting, convened by the Women's Freedom League, during the National Union of Teachers' Conference at Torquay, protests against the practice of dismissing married women from their employment, such dismissal being illegal since the passing of the Sex Disqualification Removal Act, insuring that a person shall not be disqualified either by sex or marriage from holding any public position."

Mrs. Gresham, who presided, granted that there were different aspects from which the question could be viewed, but maintained that the woman who was an ideal wife, mother, and housekeeper should extend her influence beyond the limits of her home by service—voluntary or otherwise.

Miss Alix M. Clark, of the N.E.C. of the Women's Freedom League, spoke in strong condemnation of the recent attacks on women's work, especially on married women's work. She stated that women had been dismissed from their positions simply because they were married, on the plea that they were taking the bread from another person's mouth. Miss Clark urged that it was unfair to apply this argument only to women; that in justice it should be applied to men and women impartially, and that the only cause for dismissal should be incompetence. She emphasised the value of the Women Police, whom it was proposed to sacrifice on the altar of economy, and claimed that their preventive work was a saving on the more costly imprisonment, with its degradation and consequent tendency to convert first offenders into habitual criminals.

Miss Sarah Griffiths (Ferndale), in moving the resolution, expressed dismay at the changed attitude towards women's work since the close of the war. Barriers were being set up on all sides, and it was becoming difficult to hold the ground won, to say nothing of continuing the onward march to fullest freedom. She pleaded that all women were not fitted by inclination for housework. She pointed out the absurdity of denying to the woman teacher the choice between domestic and professional work for which she had been specially trained, and leaving unchallenged the right of the charwoman to leave her home and go out to work.

Mrs. Leah Manning (Cambridge), in seconding the resolution, made a splendid defence of the married women of the teaching profession. While admitting that the tremendous amount of unemployment made the question a difficult one at the moment, she argued that the principle should not be sacrificed to expediency—that it was an extravagant and wasteful policy to turn women out of the profession just when their experience made for a fuller and richer service to the children—that the marriage contract was a private matter, and not the concern of the Education Authority by whom the teacher was engaged.

After questions and criticisms had been answered, the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks moved by Mrs. Smith, seconded by Miss Madge, and cordially supported by Mr. Owen Papineau (N.U.T. Executive), was enthusiastically accorded the speakers.

At the close of a most successful meeting several new members were enrolled.

During the week's campaign a marked increase of interest in the League's activities was shown, resulting in the sale of 600 copies of THE VOTE, and £4 worth of other literature. The courage of the League in conducting this campaign yearly among the teachers is an inspiration to many of the delegates to carry the gospel home with them and raise the flag of women's freedom in corners remote from the centre of the League's activities.

The movement among the mass of women teachers remaining in the N.U.T. will be slow—very slow. They are a conservative body, submissive and docile by habit and training; but even they will surely awake when they find themselves consigned to the monotonous drudgery of a daily domestic routine as married women, or the dead level of an unending assistantship, with no hope or chance of promotion to a Headship. May their awakening not be too late!

I. E. C.

## FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER.

Since 1623 Mrs. Orford's family have had the right to supply refreshments to the public in and around St. James' Park, and our readers will be interested to know that this particular business has descended from mother to daughter. Mrs. Orford's ancestresses sold milk in the Mall, and played their part in the Milk Fair. She herself is now sixty-four years of age, and has practically been in the business in St. James' Park since she was five years old. Her kiosk has now to disappear, because this site is wanted for the Guards' Memorial. We think the least the Office of the Board of Works can do is to provide her with another kiosk in the Park while this Memorial is being erected, and afterwards let her have the first offer of the larger kiosk which it intends to build in a year's time. Every true Londoner sincerely hopes that Mrs. Orford will be allowed to continue her business, and that one, at any rate, of the four-century-old traditions and customs of this great Metropolis will be preserved. It was previously decided that she should leave the Park on May 1st; but that would surely be a special hardship. During the winter months customers are not expected; it is only during the summer months that sufficient money can be made to pay for the winter's enforced idleness.

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Please mention this paper.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, April 28, at 1.30 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.—Meeting of Organization Committee.

Friday, April 28, at 2.30 p.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Friday, April 28, at 4.30 p.m.—Kensington Branch Meeting for Conference Resolutions, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

Sunday, April 30, at 3.30 p.m.—Reception ranged by the Mid-London and Hampstead Branches. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

Monday, May 1, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Dr. Lilius Hamilton, of Studley College. Subject: "The National Importance of Women's Work on the Land."

Monday, May 8, at 6.30 p.m.—Public meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Belle Rennie. Subject: "The Dalton Scheme of Education, which aims at developing Children as Individuals."

Monday, May 15, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Dr. Marion Phillips. Subject: "Women in Industry."

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, May 3, at 8 p.m.—Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Speaker: Lady Smith. Subject: "The Work of Poor Law Guardians."

Sunday, May 14, at 6.30 p.m.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road, Fairfield West, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene and Spiritual and Mental Development."

## BRANCH NOTE.

### MIDDLESBROUGH.

The Annual Meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League was held on Monday evening, April 10th. There was a good attendance. Mrs. Schofield Coates (President) was in the Chair. The Secretary's report showed good work done during the year 1921. The balance sheet showed a balance of 9s. 4d., the expenditure being £44 16s. 10d., and the assets being £45 6s. 2d. Mrs. Schofield Coates was re-elected President. Mrs. E. Wallace, elected Secretary on February 15th, was re-elected. Mrs. Wright was elected Treasurer; Mrs. Crowther, Votes Secretary; Mrs. Hughes, Social Secretary; Mrs. Harrison, "Fair" Secretary; Miss Hawkins, Mrs. Duker, Mrs. Thirkell, Mrs. Dean, on the Committee. It was agreed that the Committee meetings should be held on the first Monday in the month. (Hon. Sec.) Mrs. E. A. WALLACE.

## BRITISH NATIONALITY (MARRIED WOMEN) BILL.

The following are the chief provisions of the above Bill, which is promoted by the National Council of Women, who have succeeded in securing support for it from sixty women's organisations, among which is the Women's Freedom League:—

A. A woman who is a British Subject shall not lose her British Nationality by reason of her marriage with an alien; and women who have lost their British Nationality by marriage shall regain it, unless they make a declaration of alienage.

B. An alien woman shall on her marriage to a British subject be deemed to be an alien; but a woman who before the coming into force of this Act has by reason of her marriage with a British subject been deemed to be a British subject shall continue to be a British subject unless she makes a declaration of alienage.

C. A woman, notwithstanding marriage, shall be competent to apply for and receive a grant of a certificate of naturalisation under the same conditions as a man.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

### Dismissal of Married Women.

The Trades Union Congress and Labour Party have recently published a pamphlet on the above question. Quotations are given from a resolution passed at the Labour Party Conference in 1919, and from a clause in the Women's Emancipation Bill, and a resolution of London Labour Women showing that Labour is against any discrimination against workers on the ground of sex or marriage. "The question," declares the official Labour statement, "is fundamentally an economic and not a sex one. The difficulties that have arisen to-day are due to widespread unemployment and failure to protect its victims. They can only be properly met by a scheme of widows' and mothers' pensions for all women who have dependent children and no breadwinner, by invalidity pensions, and by the prevention of unemployment, or, failing that, the maintenance of unemployed."

The above reads to us like a feeble apology for the dismissal of married women by local governing bodies dominated by members of the Labour Party. The employment or dismissal of married women is as much an "economic" question to the women concerned as it is to men; and we see no possible reason why special injustice should be meted out to women under present conditions until the Labour Party has realised its present ideals for a different economic order of things.

### Public Schools and Respect for Women.

At the Sylvan Debating Club, last Monday evening, Mr. Edward Cecil criticised the Public School system of education. He contended that in public schools, boys were never taught such a thing as reverence and respect for women; their creed was always to foster the idea of superiority of male over female, and their tendency to treat their women-folk accordingly. Mr. Mullins, on the other hand, maintained that the public school boy was known everywhere for his unflinching courtesy to women. For our part, we do not think that courtesy or respect for women is the prerogative of any class; and we do not think that when there are cases of discourtesy on the part of either sex any particular kind of school should be blamed for them. It is rather the business of the home to inculcate ideas of courtesy in both boys and girls and train them to be habitually courteous to each other and to other people, and to show respect wherever respect is due.

### Married Women's Debts.

The law of coverture has a good deal to answer for, and, in view of a recent decision that a husband is not liable in every case to pay a wife's debts, has led tradespeople to get a Bill promoted in Parliament to fix the liability for those debts. We hold no brief for anyone—man or woman—who tries to evade just debts; but, so long as a married woman has no legal claim to any proportion of her husband's income, her position is entirely an anomalous one; and, when she herself has no means, it may in some cases become desperate. Is it not time that in the eyes of the law a marriage should be looked upon as a partnership between the husband and wife, and that the latter should have a claim to a proportion of the husband's worldly goods? The liability for debts could then be easily fixed.

### First Lady Teller.

In the course of the debate on the Civil Service Estimates, just before the Adjournment of Parliament, on the Vote for £144,800 in respect of Royal parks and pleasure gardens, Mrs. Wintringham moved a reduction of the Vote by £100, in order to call attention to the necessity of employing women patrols in Hyde Park. The House subsequently divided, and there voted:

For the Amendment	61
Against	100

Government Majority ... 39

Mrs. Wintringham acted as a teller in the division, her appearance at the table when the figures were announced being greeted with cheers.

### Maternity Benefit of £5.

Under the Maternity Allowance Measure passed by a Labour Government in 1914, every mother in Australia receives £5 on the birth of each child. Over a million mothers have received the allowance to date.

## SUPPORT YOUR LEAGUE.

Our funds are again at their lowest Spring level and urgently require replenishing—weekly bills must be met and rent be paid.

Members and friends of the Women's Freedom League only have to be told of their League's starving condition to come to the rescue. Please send your contributions at once before you start on your holidays.

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn,  
London, W.C.1.

Hon. Treas.

## MR. GILL'S SCHEME.

Miss Elise Gresswell (Southport) writes us:—"I shall be pleased for you to enter my name under Mr. Gill's scheme. I would have sent in before, but I usually post my VOTE to Judge, Counsel, Clergyman, Layman, or others who have, during the preceding week, trespassed against our 'objects' as reported in the Press!"



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