

THE VOTE,
FEB. 23, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

NO MORE MARRIED WOMEN?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIV. No. 696.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, FEB. 23, 1923

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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THE CALL TO ROME!

NINTH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE, ROME, MAY 12th to 19th, 1923.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance calls upon its 28 National Auxiliaries, and upon the 20 new Societies either provisionally affiliated or applying for affiliation, to send to its Ninth Congress, to be held in Rome, May 12th—19th, 1923, their full quota of duly accredited delegates, and upon the Governments of all nations to send official delegates. The Alliance will equally welcome fraternal delegates from Women's International Associations as from National Associations which support the object of the Alliance, together with personal supporters of the movement.

At the Geneva Congress in 1920, 22 new suffrage victories were announced. At Rome the Alliance will celebrate the establishment of equal suffrage for women throughout the United States of America; in Ireland, and in Bombay, Madras, Travancore, Jahalwār, and Burma—the first Eastern countries to give votes to women.

We shall also rejoice with the women of Denmark on their new right to equal pay and equal work in Government service; with the women of Australia that they can now return women to certain State Parliaments; with the women of Japan on having received the right to attend political meetings; with the women of Germany, Belgium, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Argentine, and India, on the recent admission of women to the legal profession; with the women of the United States of America, which has given the lead to other countries in giving to married women the right to their own nationality; with the women of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Roumania, France, Great Britain, Uruguay, Australia, and Siam, the Governments of which have appointed women representatives to the Assembly, the Commissions or Conferences of the League of Nations; and with the women of the many countries on further steps taken towards our ultimate goal—the establishment of a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Women Members of Parliament will tell of their work in the Legislatures of many nations; women from Eastern nations will set forth the great progress made in their countries. The Congress will make practical plans for giving help internationally to the women of the unenfranchised countries in their efforts to secure the political vote. Special sessions will deal with the question of Equal Pay and Right to Work; Moral Questions; Nationality of Married Women; the Economic Position of the Wife; and the Illegitimate Child; the relation of the enfranchised women to the political parties, and what enfranchised women can do to forward the programme of the Alliance; and decisions will be taken to outline the future policy of the Alliance.

The vote is our first objective, but much remains to be done, before, unhampered by shackling prejudice and sentimental taboo, women are really free to share equally with men in all spheres the responsibilities of building up a better world.

Come, therefore, all who care for the honour and freedom of women, to lend your aid in the great campaign of the Latin women, and here, in the Eternal City, which saw the dawn of European civilisation, affirm your belief in the greatness of woman's contribution to the ideal of a civilisation which shall be world-wide and founded on a basis of justice and equality.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT, *President*; M. DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER, *1st Vice-President*; CHRYSAL MACMILLAN, *2nd Vice-President*; ANNA LINDEMANN, *3rd Vice-President*; ANNA WICKSELL, *4th Vice-President*; MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY, *Recording Secretary*; KATHERINE DEXTER McCORMICK, *Treasurer*; ELEANOR RATHBONE; ANTONIA GIRARDET-VIELLE; MARGHERITA ANCONA; ADELE SCHREIBER-KRIEGER.

The Women's Freedom League, though not yet an affiliated Association of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, has again applied to be admitted, and has good hopes of obtaining affiliation at this May Congress. We shall be sharing in resolutions, and sending delegates, who will have voting powers, not the

mere "fraternal" standing of the past. We are therefore the more keenly anxious to do all in our power for the success of the Rome gathering. More and more we have to recognise that the women of the world must march abreast for the freedom of the world, and that no nationality can give its full share of help if it is isolated either in the front or at the rear.

This year's Congress will be the largest ever held; 46 countries will be represented, and the Italian Suffrage Societies are looking to them for help in their hard struggle for the Vote. The expenses are heavy, as many countries can give nothing; £2,000 is the British share, only a small proportion of which has yet been raised, and I shall be very glad to receive donations from readers who wish to do their part in aiding this great international women's movement. Any member who can go to Rome will be welcomed at the Congress.

In connection with the preparations, we have arranged a Reception at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, for Friday, March 23rd, at 3.30 p.m. We are delighted to say that Mrs. Fawcett has promised to be with us; there will also be other speakers and our own Delegates to the Congress. We are looking forward to a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon, and hope to see as many as possible of our members and their friends. Tickets, including tea, will be 1/-, and there will also be a collection for the Congress fund.

E. KNIGHT.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Temporary Women Clerks.

LADY ASTOR asked the Minister of Pensions whether all grades of female temporary staffs employed by the Ministry, including the nursing staff, were liable to a deduction of 12s. per week from their salary during sick leave, even if they were ineligible for the receipt of the maximum amount of sickness benefit or for any benefit; and, if so, whether he would consider the possibility of making deductions for sick leave equivalent only to the amount actually received in benefit? MAJOR TRYON said that the statement was generally true so far as temporary women staffs in grades entitled to sick leave privileges were concerned. He was not prepared to modify the deduction in individual cases where, for one reason or another, the rate of benefit received was less than 12s.; and it was clear that any attempt to make the sick leave regulations conform to the circumstances of individual cases would give rise to serious administrative difficulties. LADY ASTOR then asked if it was not true that it only meant just a little more trouble on the part of the Ministry to make a vast amount of difference to those sick nurses—very little trouble? *No reply was given.*

Pensions (War Service).

In reply to a question by MR. MCENTEE (Walthamstow, West), MR. WOOD, President of the Board of Education, said that service by a teacher in the Forces of the Crown in the late war was, under Rule 19 (i) of the School Teachers' (Superannuation) Rules, 1919, treated as recognised service, if the teacher was a certificated teacher at the date of his war service, or was employed in recognised service immediately before the commencement of such war service. What Mr. WOOD did not say was that *men* teachers only were given the benefit of this Rule; and LADY ASTOR asked if the President of the Board of Education was prepared to reconsider the refusal of the Board to recognise the war service of *women* teachers? MR. WOOD said he was afraid that that raised a much wider question, which he could not answer without notice.

Christ's Hospital (Boy's Death).

MR. RHYS DAVIES (Lancaster, Westhoughton) asked the President of the Board of Education if he had yet considered the advisability of ordering an open inquiry into the circumstances leading up to the death of the 14-year-old boy who fatally stabbed himself at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, on January 22nd last? MR. WOOD said that he had received a report from the governing body of the school, which was at present under his consideration.

Kew Dismissals (Claims and Records Office).

SIR MONTAGU BARLOW, replying to MR. R. MORRISON (Tottenham North), said that the numbers of temporary clerks employed at the Claims and Record Office, Kew, on December 31st last, were 1,777 men and 540 women. Since that date 268 men and 58 women had been discharged. No information was at present available as to the number of men redundant from Kew who had been transferred to other Government Departments,

but every effort was made by the Joint Substitution Board to find alternative posts for those men. One hundred and twenty-three men and 42 women were at present under notice. In reply to a question by MR. BECKER (Richmond), SIR MONTAGU BARLOW said he had given very careful consideration to the question of the discharges of temporary staff at the Claims and Record Office, and was satisfied that the action taken was not contrary to the recommendations of the Lytton Committee. The temporary non-service women retained at Kew were all employed on work specially appropriate to and normally performed by women suitably graded; it would be borne in mind that the Lytton Committee recognised that there would be classes of work appropriate to women in which the employment of ex-Service men could not be pressed. All the temporary women retained at Kew were entirely dependent on their earnings, and many of them had to support others, either wholly or in part. MR. BECKER further asked the Minister of Labour, as there were only 150 hardship cases out of a total of 450 women temporary Civil Servants employed at the Kew Records Office, if the Government would dismiss 300 temporary women, and re-engage a similar number of temporary ex-Service men from amongst those recently dismissed? SIR MONTAGU BARLOW replied that the whole of the temporary women retained in the Claims and Record Office, Kew, were entirely dependent on their earnings, and many of them had to support others, either wholly or in part. Moreover, all of them were employed on routine duties, and duties of a semi-manipulative character specially appropriate to, and normally performed by, women. In the circumstances, therefore, it was not possible to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion.

Working Class Dwellings.

MR. TREVELYAN (Newcastle-on-Tyne) asked how many houses of a type suitable for the working class had been erected during the war, and what proportion of them were erected by public authorities? SIR W. JOYNSON HICKS (Parliamentary Secretary, Board of Trade) replied that the number of houses erected or in the course of erection under the State Assisted Scheme and under the Private Builders' Grant was as follows: By local authorities and public utility societies 176,000; by private builders, 39,161; by conversion of huts and hostels, 3,056; total, 218,217.

Unemployed Women.

Replying to a question by MR. TURNER (Batley and Morley), MAJOR BOYD-CARPENTER said that the Employment Exchanges, with the active co-operation of the Local Employment Committees, made every effort to secure suitable employment for unemployed women workers; but almost the only occupation in which there was any considerable number of vacancies at the present time was in domestic service, and particularly resident domestic service. During the month ended January 8th, the Exchanges effected 8,000 placings in domestic service, of which 2,500 were in resident service.

F. A. U.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Indian Medical Women.

Thanks to the active interest of Lady Willingdon, the Government of Madras has sanctioned the establishment of a medical college for women at Madras, with effect from July 1st. Admission will be restricted initially to 25 per annum, and arrangements have been made whereby a small allowance is given to students who undertake to serve the Government for five years in the grade of specialist surgeons. Apart from the Lady Hardinge Medical College at Delhi, established exclusively for women some seven years ago, there has been no institution at which Indian women could pursue their studies apart from men students.

Women Deaconesses.

The first woman in England to hold a bishop's licence as deaconess was Elizabeth Farard, who established a training house for deaconesses in London over 60 years ago. To-day there are over 300 Anglican deaconesses in England alone, and training houses have been established in Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, and the West Indies. Quite a number of deaconesses nowadays take University degrees before training.

Women and the Great Sacrifice.

A meeting of the women of York, held last week at the Mansion House, decided to support a suggestion which has been made to raise £3,000 among Yorkshire women for the purpose of preserving the Five Sisters Window in York Minster, in memory of all the women who laid down their lives in the service of their country in the war.

Mrs. Partington Again!

Senator David has introduced a Bill into the Upper House of the Canadian Parliament, providing that no single woman under thirty shall have the right to vote. By the existing law, both men and women are entitled to vote on reaching 21. Mr. David's Bill was rejected by the Senate last year.

Woman Licensing Magistrate.

Bournemouth have added a woman magistrate to their Licensing Justices in appointing Mrs. Florence E. Laney, also a Town Councillor, to their number. She sat last week at the general annual Licensing Sessions for the borough.

Women Doctors' Award.

Dr. Mabel Elliott and Dr. Esther Lovejoy, of the American Women's Hospitals, have been awarded the Greek War Cross in recognition of their relief work in Asia Minor. This is the first occasion on which the Cross has been conferred upon women.

Women on the Line.

In a local football match at Lincoln recently, two women were the only spectators. The referee requisitioned them as "linesmen." They fulfilled the duties with complete satisfaction to both teams.

Pioneer Woman Artist.

Miss Catherine Maud Nichols, artist and author, daughter of the late Mr. William Peter Nichols, a famous artist in his time, has recently died at Norwich. She was the first woman Fellow of the Royal Society of Painter Etchers.

A Postal Honour.

The new four-cent American postage stamps will bear an effigy of Martha Washington. This is the first time that such homage has been paid to an American woman.

Japanese Woman in Office.

The first Japanese woman to hold a municipal office is Mrs. Hideko Yamamoto, who has been appointed Secretary to the Council of Education at Osaka.

Women's Tuberculosis Campaign.

The Argentine Association for Women's Rights has organised holiday farms all along the Atlantic coast, to combat tuberculosis.

FIVE YEARS' PENAL SERVITUDE!

On the first night of the new Session, the House of Commons was adjourned for the discussion of a sentence of five years' penal servitude recently imposed by a Scottish Judge of the High Court on a boy of 17 years of age, the son of a widowed mother. Mr. Maxton, (Bridgeton, Glasgow) stated in the House that this was the lad's first offence; he had previously borne a very fine record as a worker, and, although only an apprentice joiner, had been entrusted for several periods with the collection of large sums of rent, running into several hundreds of pounds. On a sudden temptation, this boy ran off with his employer's rents, came from Edinburgh to Glasgow, and indulged in a foolish escapade in a dancing hall in Glasgow. In the prosecution of the lad it was described as the hold-up of a dancing hall with a loaded revolver, but information would lead one to believe that the hold-up was brought about with a toy pistol. For that offence he was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. At the same sitting of the High Court, that Judge (who was Secretary for Scotland in the last Government), sentenced a fully grown man—a man, perhaps, of better social position than the young boy—a man who took the life of a fellow-man by the reckless driving of a motor-car—to nine months. As a result of the agitation which had taken place in Scotland, and the great outcry that had arisen from all sections of the community, and from people of varying political opinions, the boy had been removed from the ordinary prison into a Borstal institution; but the sentence of five years' still remained. Mr. Maxton urged that it should be reduced, and that the boy should be put in charge of some responsible person on a period of probation. Capt. Elliot (Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Health, Scotland) said he would confer with the Secretary for Scotland on the matter. Other Scottish Members pressed for the removal of the lad from the Borstal institution to his home. Capt. Elliot said he had received no communication from the boy's mother in regard to his removal; but it was pointed out that the mother was too ill to write to the Scottish Office, and this was an additional reason why the boy should be released. We consider that five years' penal servitude for this lad was a savage sentence, and agree with Mr. Maxton in thinking that the Judge who was responsible for passing it ought to be brought to book. Even the removal to Borstal for five years is an outrageous sentence for this seventeen-year-old boy. He came from a good home and good surroundings, and succumbed to a sudden temptation, which, in our opinion, ought certainly not to have been put in his way. The Borstal institution can have only a disastrously pernicious effect upon him, and we hesitate to think what his future career will be after leaving it in five years' time. We hope every progressive organisation in Scotland will continue to protest against this sentence until it is revoked.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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ON
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MONDAY, MARCH 12th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH RUSSIA."

MONDAY, MARCH 26th—6 p.m.—"THE RELATIONS OF THIS COUNTRY WITH THE CENTRAL POWERS."

(Speakers to be announced later.)

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 1/- from 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Reports of the above Lectures will appear in The "Vote," 1d. Weekly.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1923.

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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.

THE L.C.C. ANTI-MARRIAGE POLICY

The Education Committee of the London County Council has, by a majority, decided that women teachers who are in future appointed by the Council shall resign their posts on marriage. Its members cannot claim that this decision is in the interests of education, but we hardly expect a body who, on the ground of economy, and when so many fully trained and properly qualified teachers were unemployed, determined to place "motherly," untrained women in the schools to teach the younger children, to have much regard for education. On all sides it is admitted that married women are in the majority of cases the very best teachers for children. Why should their training and experience be wasted because Councillors have an idea that all married women teachers should have enforced upon them the physical care of their own children? Wealthy women have no such restriction imposed upon them, and the destitute widow is frequently driven by our Poor Law to surrender her children, or leave them neglected, while she goes out to work. If a married woman teacher for any reason is incapable of doing her work, she can always be dismissed by local governing authorities for incompetence; but it is wholly unnecessary to assume future incompetence on the part of every woman teacher who marries. By this decision the L.C.C. has given a lead to every unenlightened little Education Committee throughout the country. The result will be that, so far as women are concerned, the teaching profession will become a blind-alley occupation, and will certainly not attract the best and most capable young women. Not every woman wishes to continue her profession or her work after marriage, but surely that is her own affair, and it is unwarrantable interference on the part of outsiders, whether they are public or private employers, to decide what work she shall or shall not do. We thought this matter was settled by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, Clause I. of which states:

"A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from being appointed to or from holding any civil or judicial post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation."

We want to know what the Government is prepared to do in the case of local governing bodies who deliberately infringe or evade the provisions of this Act. At present our legislation is being brought into contempt by the way in which those provisions are being set aside throughout the country. If they were intended to be null and void, why was the Act passed? Before the last General Election we asked both Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George what they were prepared to do, if returned to power, to safeguard the provisions of this Act in the interests of women. We had an equally unsatisfactory reply from both. Neither would even suggest a promise, and both therefore gave an effective lead to the present reactionary policy adopted by the London County Council. This particular decision of the Council's Education Committee must, however, be reversed, and the sooner the better. In Italy, married women teachers appear to be in favour, and where husband and wife are both teachers, they are, if possible, to be appointed to the same district!

HONG KONG CHILDREN.

The Debate on the Third Reading of the Mui-tsai Bill took place in Hong Kong on Feb. 15, and, according to the *Times* correspondent, was marked by speeches full of resentment against the charges of slavery. The Bill was described as unnecessary, and the outcome of a campaign of atrocious calumny at home. It was stated that the Press, pulpit, and platform had been exploited by ignorant people seeking cheap advertisement and the propagation of exaggerated absurdities, their allegations being malicious and without foundation. Mr. Stephen, the manager of the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Bank, declared that a harassed Secretary for the Colonies had been obliged to get the Bill passed in order to shut the mouths of stupid bores in Parliament. He would like to see the Secretary for India order the Viceroy to disturb customs which were less innocent and humane. Here the Legislature was powerless, and therefore the Government had not scrupled, in order to secure peace at home, to set aside the wishes of the majority of the Colony. He went on to say that the local Chinese Y.M.C.A.'s and Labour Union's support of the Bill was faked, their reasons being far different from considerations for the welfare of the *mui-tsai*. The *Times* correspondent also stated that the Governor, in reply, associated himself with the unofficial members in resenting the offensive and foul-mouthed libels on the Chinese race. But do not these gentlemen protest too much? The Women's Freedom League gave its whole-hearted support to Commander and Mrs. Haslewood in their efforts to secure the abolition of the *mui-tsai*, euphemistically called the child adoption, system in the British Colony of Hong Kong. These children of the very poorest of the Chinese, when "adopted" by their better-off countrymen, could not claim wages, or change their abode, should they wish to do so. There were also known to be some glaring cases of cruelty perpetrated by the "adopted parents" on these children, and the conditions of the employment of many of them would certainly not be tolerated in this country. They were practically in the position of slaves, and we considered that it was a stain upon the honour of this country that such a system should continue to exist unchallenged anywhere under the British flag. So far as we are aware, neither in Parliament nor in the country, where a campaign was conducted on behalf of the abolition of this system, was there the slightest justification for the hysterical charges made in the Third Reading Debate against those who worked for this cause. We are glad to record that the Governor of Hong Kong, at the Second Reading of the Mui-tsai Abolition Bill, announced that, in acquiescence to a request he had received from the British Government, he intended to insist on the abolition of this system.

WOMEN JURORS.

The Court of Appeal—consisting of Lords Justices Bankes, Scrutton, and Younger—last week dismissed an application by an ex-champion heavy-weight boxer for judgment or a new trial in an action previously brought against him. The case was of a "disagreeable" character, and Mr. Lewis Thomas, K.C., for the appellant, mentioned that there were two women on the jury who did not think it right to retire. Lord Justice Bankes said he refused to draw any conclusion from that fact. One knew that there were women who, regarding it as a privilege to serve on juries, thought it right, however disagreeable the nature of the case, to perform their duty. Whether one agreed or disagreed with them, one could not look on their motive in remaining in the jury-box to listen to disagreeable statements otherwise than as an honourable motive. Lord Justice Scrutton agreed with the observations which had been made by Lord Justice Bankes. He said that serving on juries was a duty which was imposed on both men and women, and if a woman honestly took the view that it was her duty to sit, although the case to be tried was an unpleasant one, he could see no objection to her taking that view, and he could see no possible ground for denouncing her because she took that view.

WOMEN'S INTERESTS IN PARLIAMENT.

Speaking in the Debate on the Address last week, Mr. Wright (Lanark, Rutherglen) said that his first regret was that in the King's Speech there was no reference to the Representation of the People Bill, and he very much regretted that there was no statement with regard to the prospect of women voters being placed upon the same footing as men. In his constituency there was a very large number of women who in these very distressing days were endeavouring to keep their households going. They were the mothers of children. They were contributing to the taxation of the country, and he hoped at no very distant date the Government would make provision for them to exercise the franchise on the same basis as men were exercising it. In the Rutherglen Division in particular, and throughout the West of Scotland in general, there were 60,000 or 80,000 men and women who had been unemployed for from three months to two and a half years.

On the 15th of February, the Minister of Labour stated that there were 194,000 unemployed women who were actually in receipt of benefit. The same day Mr. Hayday (West Nottingham), in the Debate on the Address, pointed out that this was far below the number of women actually unemployed. Many thousands of persons, particularly single men and single women, were wiped out of benefit if a parent had a small income, and if a single person of 18 or 20 or more had exhausted benefit rights according to stamps, that person must depend upon the earnings of the parent, which were considered sufficient to maintain him or her without having any unemployment benefit under the terms of the uncovenanted period. Mr. Hayday said he knew of an instance where actually the pension of a blind person in the house was used as an argument to disqualify the single sister in the home from having uncovenanted benefit! What use was it for these single persons to sign the register? They refused to go and wait in queues in all kinds of weather to register, when the Government could not find them employment, and

would not give them unemployment benefit. But because so many refused to sign the register did not mean that there was a diminution of unemployment! Mr. Hayday said he would like to see provision made for workless women in all schemes devised for unemployed men. The single women had all been struck off from uncovenanted benefit, except in the case where the single woman was in lodgings by herself. In all the Government schemes the grants made could not possibly employ more than 5,000 unemployed women for a period longer than three months, and this in face of the fact that in the month of December there were 11,000 more women signing the unemployment register than in the previous month! He hoped that in the Bill to be introduced by the Minister of Labour, provision would be made to give unemployed women a greater degree of self-reliance and security, and he hoped they would be treated on fair lines.

It is interesting to note that the annual report of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades states (according to *The Scotsman*) that much surprise and disappointment was felt at the omission of any reference to women in the debate on unemployment, held in the House of Commons at the close of last Session. The Council, in co-operation with four other societies, made an immediate protest against this to Ministers and Scottish Members of Parliament. A large number of replies had been received to this protest from Scottish Members, expressing their regret at the omission, and their intention to press the claims of women workers when the House reassembled. The Council had also kept in close touch with other Scottish official bodies dealing with the interests of women workers. Effective protests had been made during the year against the exclusion of women from participation in Government schemes and grants for the relief of unemployment. The Council were now prepared to submit to the Government schemes for training and placing women in productive work.

TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL PEACE.

By RYLLIS VAN RAALTE.

The predominant subject of conversation on the Continent, and particularly in Germany, is the rate of exchange. A few months ago it was practically the sole subject; now, no doubt, it shares the honours with the French action in the Ruhr, and the appalling rise of prices. The result of this restricted thought is a sort of "border madness," which is felt more especially between neighbouring countries, such as Germany and Holland, or Germany and Switzerland. On one side of the border line the exchange is steady, even high; on the other side it is one day low, the next day lower, and the next it may either recover, or plunge to figures almost beyond calculation. The people of these countries have much in common: the same needs, the same customs, the same race often, and sometimes even the same language. Yet, friendly neighbours in the past, they are now separated by an invisible wall, more impassable than a mountain range, though there is no real unfriendliness between them. They need to come together for material and intellectual intercourse, but the impossibility of trading, and the restriction of thought to the one subject—of which few comprehend the ultimate causes—precludes any real understanding. As a writer in the German feminist paper, "Die Frau im Staat" ("Woman in the State") has expressed it, the peoples cannot come together, the mark has sunk too deep.

It may be thought that we in England are not affected as, for instance, Switzerland must be. Pre-war Switzerland derived a large proportion of its income from its German visitors. No such relation ever held between Germany and us. But now we suffer in common with Switzerland, in so far as our market in Germany is closed, and Germany can undercut us in other directions. The same closing down of

works, the same increase in unemployment, prevail here as in Switzerland; in both countries there is the same complete derangement of commerce. Worse still, there is an entire absence of spiritual intercourse and understanding. What do we know of the new Germany, of the widespread Youth movement, of the New Schools and school-system, the ideals and life-values which the men and women of post-revolution Germany are striving to make a reality? The only thing that seems to penetrate into other countries without any difficulty is the expression of the nationalist spirit in Germany. People are only too ready to ask, with indignation, "Is Germany still possessed by the warlike, imperial tradition?" Is it because we do not want to understand what is going on in the minds of many German people since the war, or because we cannot? In France you will hear the same things said. Expressions of hate and triumph are restricted almost entirely to the Press; yet among the people themselves you will find the desire for a better international understanding, mingled with fear of a re-birth of the military spirit of old Germany. If only French and Germans could come together on equal terms, surely this fear would vanish.

In the same way, any expression of English striving for peace rarely penetrates far into Germany. When we next go on the Continent—whether for a cheap holiday, or on business, or for any other reason—we can at least do our share towards understanding the foreign point of view, and towards making known the desire of English women for a real peace. What we have to remember is that, if the action of Governments can plunge us into world war, it is only by a thorough understanding between individuals that we shall ever attain to universal peace.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT CENTRES. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS.

In the course of the Debate on the Address, last week, Sir Montagu Barlow said that the Government had been considering possible methods of dealing with the serious deterioration of juveniles due to unemployment by establishing centres on the lines of those that were set up shortly after the war. The Government had authorised the President of the Board of Education and himself to work out a scheme, and on December 22nd the local Education authorities were asked for their co-operation in establishing such centres in areas where unemployment amongst juveniles was serious, the Government to bear 75 per cent. of the cost, and the local authorities the remaining 25 per cent. In a large number of important industrial areas the local Education authorities had come forward to take up the scheme. There were 36 centres which had been approved, the anticipated attendance at which would be over 13,000 juveniles. Such areas as London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Barrow, Cardiff, Birkenhead, Liverpool, Preston, and Wolverhampton, all great industrial centres which were feeling the difficulty, figured in the list. He had proposals for 22 further centres, and it was known that other authorities had given decisions in favour of the scheme, though they had not up to the present submitted details to him.

MRS. DALE AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Mrs. Dale, Australia's first woman delegate to the Third Assembly of the League of Nations, at Geneva, last September, has been kept fully occupied by her country since her return to Australia. Three days before she reached the shore, she received a wireless message stating that the Federal Government had granted her a complimentary railway pass from Albany to Sydney, and that a programme was fixed up for her to address public meetings in each State, on the work of the Assembly at Geneva. Whilst at Perth (Western Australia), Mrs. Dale spoke at several public meetings, under the auspices of the League of Nations Union. A civic Reception of welcome was extended by the Mayor, Sir William Lethlain, and she was entertained at various functions arranged by the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia, and the National Council of Women. A Women's Rally was also held at the Literary Institute, Perth, under the joint auspices of the Women's Service Guilds and the Australian Federation, where Mrs. Dale received a tremendous ovation as the first British woman overseas to be sent to the Assembly. Whilst in Western Australia, Mrs. Dale had a conference with the Guild State Executive, and spoke very highly of the value of the work of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Australia hopes to send a good delegation to the forthcoming Congress at Rome.

A VALIANT PIONEER.

Many readers will join in regret at the death, last week, of Mrs. Ormiston Chant, the veteran suffragist and champion of temperance and purity. She was first a teacher, then a nurse in the London Hospital, then assistant manager of a private asylum. After her marriage to a doctor, she took up social questions, and lectured widely; she was one of the earliest women to make a real mark as a public speaker. She worked for the American refugees in Bulgaria, and took out nurses to Crete, receiving from Queen Victoria the Red Cross of the King and Queen of the Hellenes.

In 1895 Mrs. Ormiston Chant led a crusade against the immoral features of the principal music halls, and only after a prolonged fight did her sincerity and persistence triumph over the ridicule and calumny heaped upon her, and the campaign succeed in effecting reform. Mrs. Ormiston Chant was the mother of four children, and the author of numerous pamphlets, stories, and poems; she also composed a large number of songs.

The following Bills, which are of interest to women, will be presented by Members who were successful in the ballot last week:—

Local Elections (Proportional Representation) Bill, "to authorise the introduction of Proportional Representation in local elections, and for other purposes connected therewith," presented by Mr. Morris (East Bristol), and supported by Major Morrison-Bell (Horniton), Lady Astor, Mr. Chas. Roberts (Derby), and others, to be read a second time to-day (February 23rd).

Matrimonial Causes Bill, "to amend the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1857," presented by Major Entwistle (Kingston-upon-Hull), and supported by Mrs. Winttingham, Lady Astor, Sir John Simon (Spenn Valley), and Mr. Pringle (Penistone), to be read a second time March 2nd.

Intoxicating Liquor Bill, "to amend the law relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor to persons between fourteen and eighteen years of age," presented by Lady Astor; to be read a second time March 9th.

Legitimacy Bill, "to amend the law relating to children born out of wedlock," presented by Mr. Betterton (Rushcliffe), and supported by Mr. Maddocks (Nuneaton, Warwick), Sir Arthur Shirley Benn (Plymouth, Drake), and others; to be read a second time March 2.

Slaughtering of Animals Bill, "to regulate the methods for the slaughtering of animals in Great Britain," presented by Sir Arthur Shirley Benn, supported by Lt.-Col. Sir John Norton-Griffiths (Central Wandsworth), Mr. Pennefather (Kirkdale, Liverpool), Mr. Hannon (Moseley), and others; to be read a second time April 27th.

SPRING SALE OF WORK.

We remind our readers that the Spring Sale of Work will be held this year (by kind invitation of Dr. Octavia Lewin) at 25, Wimpole Street, W.1, on FRIDAY, MARCH 9th, from 3 to 8.30 p.m.

The Sale will be opened at 3.30 p.m. by Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E.

There will be Stalls for Household goods, Underclothing, Fancy Articles, and Toys; also a Pound Stall, and a Stall for Welsh Produce, Cakes, and Sweets. Gifts are much needed for all these stalls, and will be gladly received by the Hon. Fair Secretary at the Office. Those who have already promised help with the Stalls are Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Whetton, and Mrs. Trafford Williams, and it is hoped that Miss Alix Clark will be able to be present to take charge of the Montgomery Boroughs Stall, for Welsh Produce, Cakes, and Sweets.

An attractive programme of music has been arranged. Among those who have already promised to assist are Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Legge, and Mrs. Sparrow. Dr. Octavia Lewin will give a Lecture on "Shut Your Mouth and Save Your Life," at 4.30 and 6.30 p.m. The competitions are being arranged by Miss Dickerson; Mrs. Grace Goodall has consented to do character readings; and there will be a Dutch auction at 7.30 p.m.

Mrs. Knight has kindly undertaken the arrangements for tea, which will be served from 3.30 to 6 p.m. Promises of gifts, either in money or in kind, will be most welcome to help this important part of the work. The goods most wanted are tea, butter, bread, scones, sugar, milk, cream, biscuits, all sorts of cakes, etc.

All members and friends are cordially invited to visit the Sale some time during the afternoon or evening.

The notices are now ready. Will all members and friends who have not already received their notice apply to the Office as early as possible?

(Hon. Fair Sec.) ELIZABETH BERRY.

Support Your League.

Please remember week by week that we have to pay out money every week or starve, and always send what you can manage whenever you can manage it.

Women's Freedom League.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, February 26, at 3 p.m. Fair Committee, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Monday, February 26th, at 6 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Subject: "The Relations of this Country with France." Chair: Miss Elsie E. Morton, M.B.E. Reserved seats, 1/-.

Wednesday, February 28th, at 3 p.m. Political Sub-Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.
Friday, March 9th, from 3 to 8.30 p.m. Women's Freedom League Spring Sale at 25, Wimpole Street, W. (by kind permission of Dr. Lewin). Opener: Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E., at 3.30 p.m. Lecture by Dr. Lewin, at 4.30 p.m., and at 6.30 p.m., "Shut your Mouth and Save your Life."

Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, March 23rd, at 3.30 p.m. Reception at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square (corner of Coram and Hunter Street), for the Rome Congress. Speakers: Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., LL.A., Mrs. G. F. Abbott, and others. Tickets 1/-, including Tea, to be obtained at this office.

Tuesday, March 27, at 3.15 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3. (by kind permission of Dr. Knight).

Saturday, April 28th. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Canon Hall.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, February 27th, at 3 p.m. **Bexhill**. Meeting for Members and Friends at Glynne Hall, Sea Road. Speaker: Miss Gertrude Eaton (Penal Reform League). Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Tuesday, February 27th, at 7.30 p.m. **Hastings**. Public Meeting at Lewcock's Assembly Rooms, Carlisle Parade. Speaker: Miss Gertrude Eaton. Subject: "Capital Punishment."

Tuesday, February 27th, at 8 p.m. **Southend-on-Sea and District**. Public Meeting at St. John's Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker: Inspector Stark. Subject: "Women Police."

WALES.

Wednesday, March 7th. **Newtown**. A Women's Freedom League Concert to purchase a gramophone for the inmates of Caerws Poor Law Institution, will be held in the Victoria Theatre, at Newtown (kindly lent free of cost by Sidney Attwood, Esq.) Prices 1/- and 6d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, February 27th, at 4.30 p.m., at 14, St. Quintin's Avenue, W.10. Address on "The Acts of Paul and Thekla" (A story from an old M.S.). Speaker: Miss K. A. Raleigh. Free admission by card if previously applied for.

Tuesday, February 27th, at 5 p.m. **Surbiton**. Drawing Room Meeting by kind permission of Mrs. Kirkham, at 25, Grove Road, Surbiton. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin, on "Teaching Personal Hygiene in Schools." Tea 4.30. Members and friends of Women's Freedom League cordially invited.

Wednesday, February 28th, at 5 p.m. **Stansfeld Lecture** at the London School of Economics. Professor Graham Wallas on "The Competition of the Sexes for Employment."

Wednesday, February 28th, at 8 p.m. **International Women's Franchise Club**, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Speakers: (1) Miss C. Nina Boyle "If I were Home Secretary." (2) Miss Acheson "If I were Minister for Foreign Affairs." Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.

Wednesday, February 28th, at 8 p.m. Meeting, convened by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, in support of the Rome Congress, at the Library, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead. Speakers: Mrs. G. F. Abbott, Mrs. Herabai Tata, and Mr. Joseph Clayton. Chair: Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A.

Wednesday, March 7th, at 8 p.m. **National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship**, Demonstration on Equal Franchise for Men and Women, Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Daisy Richardson, Mrs. Winttingham, M.P. Chairman: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., M.A., C.C. Single Tickets (numbered and reserved) 5/-, 2/6, 1/-. A special block of seats for our members at the reduced price of 1/- each; apply to 144, High Holborn. Admission Free.

VOTE CORRECTION.

We much regret that the paragraph, "Women China Restorers," on page 35 of our issue of February 2nd, has been proved inaccurate in certain particulars. The South Kensington Museum informs us that the Mr. Dallas mentioned in the paragraph has never been official china restorer to the Museum as we stated. We much regret the inaccuracy, which was copied from one of our contemporaries in all good faith.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

On Problems.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—At the most enjoyable and instructive lecture, recently, on "Our Relations with America," the Chairman made the pleasing announcement that the Committee of the Women's Freedom League had in mind a project to discuss Free Trade at one future meeting, and Tariff Reform at another. As women are vitally affected by, and intelligently interested in, such problems, the proposal is indeed excellent.

I should, personally, like to ask the Executive to consider the possibility of providing, for our guidance, lectures on other than the Fiscal problem, from the humane, reasonable, economic, scientific, and feminist angles.

There is the Colour problem, the problems of Prohibition, the Recidivist, Unemployment, Education, and the Press, and many others, from which the Women's Freedom League's Committee could select a syllabus, and by providing expert information (as successfully as in the present series of lectures), do much to focus women's political vision before the next General Election.

I enclose my name. ONE OF THE OLD GANG.

WOMEN IN THE APOSTOLIC AGE.

The first of a series of four Lectures on "Women in the Church," given by Miss M. Bell, was held on Monday of last week, at the offices of the League of the Church Militant, Church House, Westminster, and created much interest. The position of women in the Jewish Church in the time of Christ, said the speaker, was anything but desirable. They were not allowed in the Temple, except in one small part, and the Jewish Rabbis held that it was better to burn the law than teach it to a woman. Christ's treatment of women, on the contrary, was on the same level as his treatment of men, and after His Ascension the citizenship of women in the early Christian Church was accepted as a matter of course. Very early in its history, widows, whose chief work was Prayer, were formed into a Guild (Acts ix. 36). St. Paul makes frequent mention of the widows, as also do the Early Fathers. The official position of these widows probably varied in different sections of the Church, just as the position and freedom of women varied in different parts of the Roman Empire. It was only to the Corinthian Church, for instance, that St. Paul gave directions as to the covering of the head of the woman prophet or preacher, and this most likely because Corinth was a city of appalling morals. The various women mentioned in the Acts and in the Epistles, were enumerated. The mysterious Junia, who is mentioned as being of note among the Apostles; Phæbe, a Deacon of the Church at Cenchræa, who lost her position in the Church for 300 years, because the translators, in 1603, chose to modify the word into "servant"; Priscilla, the noble Roman matron, who made a happy *mésalliance* with Aquila, a freedman and a tentmaker, and who was the chief instructor of the brilliant scholar Apollon; the four daughters of Phillip the Deacon, who prophesied, presumably in the congregation of the faithful, since there is no mention made of services for women only; Tryphena and Tryphosa, and Persis, who "laboured in the Lord," presumably to mixed congregations. In addition, the apocryphal stories of this age were full of women who preached, if not officially, yet with the consent of St. Paul, notably the mysterious Thekla, whom St. Paul is reported to have taken with him on his missionary journeys.

EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN DOCTORS

The Medical Women's Federation has sent a letter to the Postmaster-General, asking him to consider the existing inequality of pay between the men and women doctors on the staff of the General Post Office. The Federation state that, at the present time, all the assistant women medical officers receive a salary on the scale of £250-£400, with bonus, as against the assistant male medical officers' £300-£500, with bonus in proportion. They desire to lay stress on the fact that medical women receive exactly the same training, and pass the same examinations, as medical men, and also that they are capable of doing, and actually do, exactly similar work, and undertake the same responsibilities as the men. The letter adds that inequality of payment will tend to prevent the better qualified and more experienced women from offering themselves for appointment.

BRANCH NOTES.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS.

The meetings held in this Branch during the week have been highly successful, especially the meeting at Newtown, which was one of the most successful the Branch has ever held. Chief Inspector Champneys, Lady Herbert Lewis, and Miss Alix M. Clark, with Councillor Mrs. W. A. Williams in the Chair, were the speakers. Large quantities of VOTES have been sold. Chief Inspector Champneys sold nearly £1 worth of her literature, and five guineas have been given to the Damer Dawson Home at Hythe.

WALLASEY.

We inadvertently, in a recent number of THE VOTE, recorded two of the names of the officials inaccurately. The corrections are: Mrs. Dr. Dobbin-Crawford, President, and Mrs. G. Leeson, Chairman. (Hon. Sec.) MRS. ANDAIN, 22, Cromer Drive.

FRIDAY,
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THE VOTE

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, February 25th. 12 noon. Little Rally for Children of all Ages. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Deamer. 6.30. Dr. Deamer.

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PAGE & PRATT, LTD., 151-2 Gt. Saffron Hill, London, E.C. 1.