

THE VOTE,  
DEC. 17, 1920  
ONE PENNY.

**THE BAD BILL BACK!**

E. KNIGHT.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1920.

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

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## ITALIAN WOMEN AND THE SUFFRAGE.

### PARLIAMENTARY VOTE IN SIGHT.

The recent decision of the Italian Chamber that women may vote at Municipal Elections on equal terms with men is regarded by Italian women suffragists as a distinct step forward, and hopes are running high that it will not be long before the Parliamentary vote is likewise secured.

It has been the general opinion all this year that the women of Italy will win the vote by 1920. The results of the General Election in November, 1919, which took place under the systems of Proportional Representation and Adult Manhood Suffrage, resulted in a large increase amongst Catholic and Socialist deputies, both of whom are solid for suffrage. In February of this year three new Suffrage bills were presented in the Italian Chamber, one by M. Modigliani (Official Socialist), the second by M. Micheli (Catholic), the third by M. Gasparotto (Combatant), all of which were on the same lines and

practically similar to a previous Suffrage bill presented September, 1919, viz., giving political equality to men and women of 21 years of age.

Unfortunately, since the industrial crisis in Italy, with its strikes and lock-outs, and disagreements between employers and employed, these have almost entirely pre-occupied the public mind to the extinction of other subjects.

Dr. Margherita Ancona, of Milan, whose portrait is here reproduced, is one of the leading women of the Suffrage Movement in Italy, and a delegate of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. She is a Doctor of Philology, whilst her sister did good work during the war as an Army surgeon oculist.

Italian women are to a great degree emancipated.

A great many are now at universities. They are free to practise as lawyers, but have not been admitted yet to the magistracy. The Civil Service is open to them.





## IRELAND.

We would direct the attention of our readers to the Public Meeting to be held by the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, an entirely non-party organisation, at Caxton Hall to-morrow (Saturday), at 3 o'clock, "to call upon the Government to establish a Truce of God in Ireland." Women, as responsible citizens, cannot view the murders and counter-murders, the cruelty and the devastation which are taking place in our sister island with anything but horror, and, as Christmas approaches, it seems to us to become more and more imperative that a halt should be called in this tragic march of events. We believe that the Government has the power to call such a truce, and we are convinced that in doing so it would receive the grateful and whole-hearted support of all citizens—men and women alike—who are not extremists. Women, especially, are tired of bloodshed. The waste of life and resources, and the incalculable sorrow which it entails have been deeply imbedded in women's heart and brain during the five recent years of the greatest war in history. War and disorder in our midst are not merely a soldier's business; they are the direct concern of every man and woman of this nation, and the utmost pressure should be brought to bear upon the Government to use every possible effort to bring about an immediate truce between the British and Irish peoples, so that both sides shall have time to review their position and concentrate their entire energies throughout the Christmas recess in bringing about conditions which will lead to a permanent peace. We cannot believe that the British Government can be so barren of statesmanship as to find it impossible to establish such a truce.

## ONE LAW FOR WOMAN: ANOTHER FOR MAN.

We admire the courage of Mrs. E. J. Smith, a Justice of the Peace at Brighton, and a member of the Women's Freedom League, for having on two occasions recently protested from the Magistrates' Bench against girls who were found in a disorderly house being brought into Court and charged by the Police, while the men who were with them have been allowed to go scot free, their names and addresses not even being asked for by the Court. We know that magistrates are on the Bench to administer the law as it stands; but for too long have men magistrates been content to administer laws manifestly unfair to women without drawing attention to the injustice involved, and men and women outside the Courts have for too long acquiesced in the continuance of this injustice to women. We are glad, therefore, that a protest has at last been raised against this glaring inequality of the law as between men and women. This law must be altered. Mrs. Smith is reported to have said in regard to such cases: "I hope we shall soon get some law for the men to be brought here. If there was no demand, there could be no supply." There lies the whole problem. These disorderly houses in Brighton were in a very poor part of the town. Men were prepared to pay for immorality, and the girls were ready to supply the demand for it. No fair-minded man or woman can pass a harsher judgment on those girls than on the men who were their partners in immorality, and paid for it. The guilt of both should be equal before the law. Until this is recognised, this country is acquiescing in an unequal standard of morality for men and women. We are glad to learn that Mrs. Smith has promised to protest from the Magistrates' Bench on every occasion when such a case comes before it, in the hope that the present law may be amended.

## OUR ADVERTISERS

like to know the results of their Advertisements. When writing them mention the 'VOTE.'

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The members present at the National Executive Committee meeting, held at the Women's Freedom League offices last Saturday, were Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Councillor Ballard Dawson (Swanage), Dr. Knight, Mrs. Mustard (Hackney), Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Emma Steven, Mrs. Whetton (Southsea), and the Secretary. Mrs. Whetton was appointed to the chair, and welcomed Miss Steven (who has taken the place of Miss Evans) as a member of the Committee. Reports were read of work done in several of our branches, in the South-East Coast District by our organiser, Miss White, and in London by our organiser, Miss Edith W. Kirby.

## New Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Committee discussed the new Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and agreed to offer uncompromising opposition to its progress through Parliament on the grounds that Clause 3 is directed solely against women, and proposes to shut up girls under eighteen years of age, charged with soliciting, for a period of years in an institution, and that Clause 7 is actually an extension of Regulation 40D in new wording. Our first Protest Meeting will be held at the Minerva Café this (Friday) evening, at seven o'clock, when the speakers will include Dr. Knight and Mrs. Mustard, and the chair will be taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

## Votes for Women under Thirty.

It was decided that the Prime Minister should be asked at once to receive a deputation organised by Miss Pierotti, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, of representative women under thirty years of age, to press for a Government measure extending votes to women on the same terms as to men.

The Committee discussed the increasing unemployment of women. It was decided to get further statistics, and to urge the Government to take immediate action in the matter. The Committee suggested that Municipal Laundries might be started for the employment of women; that National Kitchens should be opened and staffed by women; that women should be given employment in connection with the feeding of necessitous school children; that unemployed women clerks should be employed for the clerical work in connection with the making of new roads by unemployed men; and that the Government should be asked to grant a loan for women to start bee-keeping, poultry-farms, etc.

## Cambridge Decision.

The Committee considered that the decision of Cambridge against the admission of women to full membership of the University should not be allowed to drop without a protest, and that Parliament should be called upon to act in this matter.

## National Union of Teachers' Conference.

The Committee agreed that the Women's Freedom League should run a campaign during the Teachers' Conference in Easter week, at Bridlington. Miss A. M. Clark consented to undertake the arrangements for this campaign, and any members and friends who are likely to be in Bridlington next Easter, and would be willing to help us, are requested to send their names to Miss Clark at this office.

## Annual Conference.

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League will be held in London, Saturday, April 16th.  
F. A. U.

Miss Grace Woollacott's  
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Communications to Miss Grace Woollacott, 8 Routh Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W.18, or 36 King's Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. ONE YEAR OF MUNICIPAL WORK.

## Beit Fellowships for Women.

Two women have been successful in the new Beit Fellowships recently given. One is Miss Mary Logan Cowan, a graduate of the University of Toronto, and Fellow in Pathology at the Medical College in that city. The other is Miss Katharine Hope Coward, a graduate of Manchester University, and a botanist of great distinction, who carried off all the botany prizes for the Honours School of Botany in Manchester University during 1903-1906, and also won the Platt Biological Exhibition in 1906.

## Canadian Woman M.P.'s Re-election.

Mrs. Ralph Smith, widow of a former Minister of Labour in British Columbia, and the only woman member of the Legislative Assembly, has been re-elected, heading the poll at Vancouver with 4,000 more votes than those cast for her nearest competitor.

## Women and Clubland.

The Cavalry Club, the Junior United Services Club, and the Guards' Club have all now opened their doors to women guests, whilst the United Services Club, and the Army and Navy Club are discussing the matter. In the two last clubs it is proposed to extend the present club premises in order to accommodate women guests.

## Swiss Women Preachers.

One of the direct results of the Congress of the International Woman's Suffrage Alliance in Geneva last June is the recognition of Swiss women's right to occupy pulpits. Until Miss Maude Royden preached her inaugural sermon in the pulpit of Geneva Cathedral no woman had ever preached in a Swiss Church before. Now three Cantonal Governments have officially recognised the right of women as preachers, and others are considering the matter.

## More Women J.P.'s.

Of the twelve new City Magistrates for Coventry, four are women, making five women now on the local roll. Miss A. M. Hunt and Miss Edith Ivy Weston have been appointed magistrates for Folkestone. The former is a member of the local Education Committee, and Miss Weston is a member of the Town Council.

## Spanish Women's Crusade.

The Society of the Spanish Women's Crusade is about to begin an intensive campaign throughout the whole of Spain in favour of the equalisation of laws for men and women. The crusaders have mapped out a nation-wide organisation with branches in every large centre.

## The Nobel Prize.

All Suffragist admirers of President Wilson's services in the cause of peace and freedom will be glad to see that he has received appropriate recognition in the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1919.

## Eastern Women to Meet.

A great Congress of Eastern Women will be held in Moscow in February, 1921. This is the first time such a congress has been convened. The initiative in inviting them in the cause of emancipation rests with the Russian women workers.

## Suffrage Papers in the Argentine.

*Nuestra Causa* has for long been the chief Suffrage publication in the Argentine. It is now supplemented by *Una Fuera*, which the Working Women's Federation in the province of De Corrientes is issuing fortnightly.

## Woman Mayor's Double Office.

Mrs. Ellen Chapman, Mayor of Worthing, was last week elected as first woman Alderman of the borough.

The speaker last Wednesday afternoon at the Minerva Café was Mrs. La Chard, a member of the Lambeth Borough Council, who gave the audience an interesting description of the nature of the work in which she had been occupied during the last twelve months. She said the borough of Lambeth was one of the largest of the London boroughs, with its population of 300,000 people. Prior to 1919 these people, largely of the working-classes, had only two Labour representatives out of seventy members on the Borough Council. One had become the Labour Mayor of the Council, and the other had retired. In the elections of 1919, women and Labour had come in triumphantly together. There were now nine women on the Council, three of whom were Labour, three Progressives, and three Moderates. Most of the work of the Lambeth Borough Council was done in Committee. These Committees dealt with assessments, baths and cemeteries, finance, general purposes, highways, housing, libraries, lighting, public health, maternity and child welfare, etc. Mrs. La Chard's own work lay chiefly with the committees on public health, maternity and child welfare, libraries, and housing. She did not, however, advise a woman councillor as a rule to work on more than two, or at the most three, committees. The Public Health, and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees were practically one and the same. Lambeth had nineteen Infant Welfare Centres, and the milk estimates averaged £2,000 to start with, and in six months increased to £6,000. Three hundred gallons daily had been given to expectant and necessitous mothers during the last few years. The infant death rate had gone down in consequence more than in any other borough. The Libraries Committee was one of special interest. Lambeth had six libraries, one of which had the best reference library in the United Kingdom after the British Museum and the Bodleian. A large Children's Lending Library had recently been established, giving open access to the children, and the shelves of which were built to their height. The housing problem in Lambeth was extraordinarily difficult. A few building sites were available, and one of these had been specially well planned with houses at 15s. weekly, containing gas circulators, a bath room, and a shed for perambulators. Mrs. La Chard concluded by deprecating party politics in local government work. The chief need was to get the maximum amount of work done in as short a time as possible.

Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, who presided, pointed out that the chief objection to any increase in the electorate in the past had been based on the fear that it would introduce a large mass of uneducated opinion into politics, whereas it was well known that only a small section of both men and women took an interest in either politics or local government. Local government had never been a very popular subject, many women who were interested in national and international politics caring little for matters nearer home. The new woman elector, however, would need to widen her interests so as to include local government which was really a fascinating study when rightly interpreted.

## URGENT.

**CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL** (No. 2), H. L.—The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene urges every man and woman, who believes in justice and the single moral standard, immediately to send their protest against Clause 3 (providing three years' compulsory detention for prostitutes under 18), and Clause 7, (which re-introduces medical examination, and extends Regulation 40D D.O.R.A. to both men and women). Protests should be addressed to The Prime Minister and Home Secretary, and to Lord Sandhurst (House of Lords), at once, as the Bill may be rushed through before Christmas. Full details from Miss Alison Neilans, A.M. & S.H., Orchard House, 2 & 4, Great Smith Street, S.W.1



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th, 1920.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vota orders,  
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Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### EDITORIAL.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.  
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## THE BAD BILL BACK!

Lord Sandhurst's Bill (Criminal Law Amendment (No. 2) Bill, H.L.) has reappeared, and the Government hopes to proceed with it without delay. Our readers must watch the reports of both the Lords and Commons daily for its further adventures.

The Joint Select Committee of Lords and Commons, consisting of six members of each house, under the chairmanship of Lord Muir Mackenzie, has sat for months past, hearing the evidence of 24 witnesses: Government officials, the big guns of the newspaper world, magistrates, medical men and women, social workers, etc. The Joint Select Committee was instructed to consider the three "morality" Bills now before Parliament, i.e., Lord Sandhurst's Criminal Law Amendment (No. 2) Bill, Lord Beauchamp's Sexual Offences Bill (to both of which we thoroughly object), and the one Bill for which we ask, the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 1), raising the age of consent to 18.

The object of the Joint Select Committee was understood to be to draft a measure embodying those agreed portions of all the Bills for which there was little opposition, and for which there was a general demand.

The result of the Committee's labours is the hatching of this monstrous Bill, containing all the faults of Lord Sandhurst's original Bill, with amendments creating various additional new crimes and penalties for friendless children, young girls and women, and a provision which will go far to neutralise the increased severity against disorderly houses.

This Bill is the Government Bill, and they are said to have the insolence to intend to rush it through both Houses of Parliament before Christmas.

It is a worse Bill than the original Criminal Law Amendment Bill, introduced by Sir George Cave on February 15th, 1917, against which we straightway organised public opinion, and against the provisions of which we have been fighting ever since.

The Bill is a thoroughly bad one; far from being "agreed," it is publicly disowned by the one Woman Member of the Joint Select Committee (Lady Astor), its parentage is exclusively male, and it is strenuously opposed by the Federation of Medical Women and by practically the whole of the organised women of the country.

Starting from the assumption that commercialised vice is of the nature of things and unalterable, it expends its energies in attempts to make it "safe," an impossible task, which defeats its own ends.

It provides a small-meshed net for the catching of "prostitutes," and when caught under 18 years of age it passes them on to "homes," under lock and key, for their compulsory rescue by the age of 19. We all know that the word of one policeman may in the space of one minute transform any friendless girl into a "prostitute," and make her eligible for the benefits of the Bill. Working-class mothers should

attend to this. This Bill carefully omits to raise the age of consent. We have always demanded that it should be immediately raised to 18, and so automatically eliminate all public prostitution below that age, but our Government prefers to pick out a girl (presumably diseased) here and there for compulsory rescue, leaving her place in the squalid ranks to be filled by another, rather than to protect all young girls from the iniquities of this horrible traffic.

The war-time Regulation 40D D.O.R.A. aroused a storm of opposition from the women and the men of this country: it was unjust, unworkable and oppressive. If a girl could afford a good lawyer she almost invariably got off; if she was undefended, she was generally sent to prison. The Regulation practically forced upon those accused the outrage of medical examination: perfectly moral women were compelled in a number of cases to submit to this shameful assault. The Government experience of this Regulation was not very happy, and it was finally withdrawn on the eve of the November, 1918, General Election, when women for the first time took part in the election of M.P.s, and practically every candidate pledged himself against it.

Yet this Bill re-enacts Regulation 40D, and makes it general for every member of the community. Every person who solicits or has sexual intercourse whilst suffering from communicable venereal disease is to be liable to two years' hard labour. In theory this clause relates equally to men and women, but in practice it will be put into action almost exclusively against immoral women, a further attempt to make vice "safe" at the expense of women, and to stamp it with official toleration, thereby encouraging the young and inexperienced to follow the evil suggestions of older persons.

There are many arguments which seem superficially to support the policy of making the transmission of venereal disease a crime, but when more closely examined they are seen not to be sound, and the unanswerable objection to it is that it will deter persons affected from seeking the treatment and advice that would prevent them from infecting others.

Our public venereal clinics, on which the Health Ministry so plumes itself, are at present voluntary institutions (and their voluntary character is essential to their success, for science is helpless without the good will, confidence and co-operation of the patient), and the numbers of their patients will be much reduced if the gate of the hospital may lead also to the prison. Under 40D more than one girl was convicted on evidence given against her by the hospital medical officer under whose care she was. It is unfair to force upon a young doctor the alternative of betraying his patient's confidence or being committed for contempt of Court, and very foolish to do anything that will make patients unwilling and afraid to apply for treatment.

The Women's Freedom League is already working hard against this Bill, in organising public meetings, the first one at the Minerva Café on Friday, December 17th, at 7 p.m., in giving our views to members of the Lords and Commons, and in co-operating with the protests of other societies—and in this we rely upon the help of every reader of the *Vote* and every member of the League. E. KNIGHT.

### FROM "THE TIMES," DECEMBER 11th, 1920.

Sir,—With reference to the recently published Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons appointed to consider the Criminal Law Amendment Bills, I wish to state that I dissociated myself from the recommendations of the Committee on two important points—viz., Clause 3, dealing with the compulsory detention of young girls under 18, and Clause 5, making the transmission of venereal disease a criminal offence.

Yours, &c.,

NANCY ASTOR.

House of Commons, S.W. 1., Dec. 7.

## A FAMOUS FEMINIST.

OLIVE CRONWRIGHT SCHREINER.

The news of Olive Schreiner's death at Cape Town last Saturday was not entirely unexpected by her friends in this country. She had long been in delicate health, and during her last visit to England had led a very retired life. She was born in Basutoland about 1862, her father being a German missionary sent out by the London Missionary Society to take charge of a small Lutheran College, and her mother an English-woman. Olive was one of a large band of brothers and sisters, and a highly imaginative child from her earliest years. Although brought up with very little systematic education, the opening chapters of the afterwards famous "Story of a South African Farm" were written when she was only fourteen. Her father stood for the portrait of "The German," and "Waldo" and "Lyndall" were probably taken from her own character. "Tant Sannie" came from a member of a family living on a farm in Cape Colony, where Olive taught for a short period whilst still in her teens.

Before she was twenty the young authoress contrived to come to England, carrying with her the precious M.S., which, after many disappointments, was finally accepted by Messrs. Chapman and Hall, and published in 1883, the writer taking the pseudonym of "Ralph Iron." This book, which was indirectly a

### Contribution to The Woman's Movement

since it served to crystallise the growing resentment among women then preparing themselves for the long struggle which lay between them and future emancipation, achieved immediate success, and confirmed the future fame of the young authoress. Other books appeared at intervals, sometimes long intervals, for Olive Schreiner produced only slowly, and most of these in some shape or another illustrated phases of the woman's question. "Dreams," a volume of prose-poems and allegories, was published in 1891, but was written much earlier. Though it commanded a smaller public than her first novel, it also had a great influence on the woman's movement. "Dream Life and Real Life" was published by Fisher Unwin in his "Pseudonym Library."

The six years following upon her literary success were spent by Olive Schreiner in Europe, a prolonged sojourn in London being varied by wanderings on the Continent, chiefly in Switzerland and Italy. Never very robust, and a slave to asthma from her childhood, she at last found relief in Clarens, and later more particularly at Alasco. When in England she made many personal friends, and moved much in literary and other cultured circles, becoming keenly absorbed in the new political and social ideas which were rising in London in the early eighties. Her interest in the woman's movement became more and more profound, and she frequented a society known as the Men's and Women's Club, where a few choice spirits met to discuss social problems, with special reference to the

### Relations of the Sexes.

In 1889 she returned to South Africa and lived for some time at Cape Town with her brother, the Right Hon. W. P. Schreiner, who acted as Prime Minister of Cape Colony, and afterwards as High Commissioner for the Union in London, and who died last year. Here she came in contact with the chief personalities of the place, and formed a friendship with Cecil Rhodes. Her marriage to Mr. Samuel C. Cronwright, at that time a farmer near Kimberley, and a well-known member of the Afrikaner Bond, took place in 1894, her husband assuming her name with his own. Their one child, born in the following year, died shortly after its birth.

In the summer of 1895, a joint pamphlet appeared from both husband and wife, entitled "The Political

Situation," which dealt with the new "capitalist" régime of the Chartered Company and the Rand. Two years later "Trooper Peter Halket, of Mashonaland" appeared, written by Olive Schreiner as an impassioned indictment of the methods of British colonisation in South Africa. Husband and wife spent the next two years in Europe, but returned to South Africa in 1899, and settled at Johannesburg. Events were now moving fast in the country, and her next book, "An English South African's View of the Situation," was barely published before the war cloud broke, and they were forced to fly from Johannesburg, arriving in Cape-town destitute, except for the actual clothes they were wearing.

The greatest loss Olive Schreiner sustained at this period was the destruction by fire of

### An Important Manuscript

dealing with the past history of woman and her future position in the social scheme, upon which she had been occupied for some considerable time, and which had been practically completed prior to the outbreak of war. Twelve years later her now famous "Woman and Labour" was published, based on the remembrance of the earlier work, but which it was impossible to re-write. The terrible experiences of the South African war are easily discernible in the introduction to what has since become a text-book of the Feminist Movement, and which aims to prove the right of woman to take all labour for her province, and to demand a readjustment of her share in the work of the world. Her latest work, an essay on "Woman," published in America, has attracted very little notice in this country. It is probably only one of many other Feminist productions which lie unfinished in the desk of a writer whose brain teemed with literary productions, but whose physical powers had been failing for some considerable time. D. M. NORTHROFT.

## THE "VOTE."

It has been arranged to hold a

### WHIST DRIVE AND SUPPER

for

"The Vote" Funds

on

### SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 22nd,

at the Minerva Café. It is a long time since a direct appeal has been made for "The Vote," and this Preliminary notice is given in order that readers may book the date and send in their offers of help at once. We want you to take

### Tickets, 3/6 each

—it would be a good plan if friends would take four tickets, and thus secure a table for themselves and friends. We want also promises of

### Suitable Gifts and Prizes

and donations towards the supper. The organizers will spare no effort to provide a thoroughly enjoyable evening and they hope to raise at least £30 from the effort. Please let us know as quickly as possible what you are going to do to show your appreciation of your paper. We await your promises.

ALIX M. CLARK,

Hon. Head: Vote Sales Department.

MARIAN REEVES,

Secretary, Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd.



## GOOD NEWS FROM AMERICA!

In the first year of Universal Suffrage in the United States it is gratifying to us to learn from *The Woman Citizen* that the following women have there been elected to State Legislatures:—

## Women Elected to State Legislatures.

CALIFORNIA.—Mrs. Anna L. Saylor, Berkeley; Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes, Oroville; Miss Esto B. Broughton, Modesto.

CONNECTICUT.—Mrs. Emily Brown, Naugatuck; Mrs. Lillian M. Frink, Canterbury; Mrs. Mary W. Hooker, Hartford; Mrs. W. A. Jewett, Tolland; Rev. Grace I. Edwards, New Hartford.

IDAHO.—Mrs. Bertha V. Irwin.

INDIANA.—Mrs. Julia Nelson, Muncie.

KANSAS.—Mrs. Minnie L. Grinstead, Liberal; Miss Nellie Cline, Larned; Mrs. Minnie I. Minnich, Wellington; Mrs. Ida M. Walker, Norton.

MICHIGAN.—Mrs. Eva Hamilton, Grand Rapids.

MONTANA.—Mrs. Margaret Smith Hathaway, Helena.

NEVADA.—Miss Ruth Averill, Tonopah.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—Mrs. Mary Rolfe Farnham, Boscawen; Miss Jessie Doe.

NEW JERSEY.—Mrs. Margaret B. Laird, Newark; Mrs. Jennie C. Van Ness, East Orange.

NEW YORK.—Miss Marguerite L. Smith, New York City.

OKLAHOMA.—Mrs. Lamar Looney, Hollis; Mrs. Bessie McColgin, Rankin.

OREGON.—Mrs. W. S. Kinney, Astoria.

UTAH.—Mrs. Clesson S. Kinney, Salt Lake City; Mrs. May B. Davis, Mrs. Clero Clegg.

VERMONT.—Edna L. Beard, Orange.

## Women Elected State Superintendents of Instruction.

IDAHO.—Miss Ethel E. Redfield, Lewiston.

KANSAS.—Miss Elizabeth Wooster.

MONTANA.—Miss May Trumper.

NORTH DAKOTA.—Miss Minnie Neilson.

TEXAS.—Miss Annie Webb Blanton.

It is also recorded that Miss Florence Allen won the office for Common Pleas Judge in Cleveland, Ohio, polling 116,699 votes, more than 10,000 ahead of her nearest opponent.

In Indiana, Miss Adah Bush, a well-known Suffrage worker, has become secretary to the Governor, serving not as the Governor's private secretary, but being appointed by the State to that official position. Mrs. Edward Franklin White, another prominent Suffrage worker, has been appointed Deputy Attorney-General for Indiana by the elected Attorney-General.

In Wyoming women were elected Superintendents of Education in all of Wyoming's twenty-one counties. A good many women were elected County Treasurers and Clerks of Courts.

## THE UNGRACIOUS MOTHER.

We fear we shall for the present have to consider Cambridge as our non-progressive University. On December 8th, the members of the Senate rejected the women's claim to admission as full members of the University by 904 votes to 712. This is a great advance on any previous vote.

The majority of the resident members supported the women, but the country vicarage and Cathedral Close supplied their peaceful inmates in full force for a mid-week outing, and swamped the votes of the busy professional and business graduates who live in closer touch with the changing needs of our time, but find it harder to spare a day from their many engagements. The daughters of Cambridge are not downhearted, but are disappointed; they hoped for more generosity from their brothers, and they are sorry to see the University they love deserting the vanguard to sink to the rear.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

*Cambridge Essays on Adult Education.* Edited by St. John Parry. (Cambridge University Press.) (Can be obtained at this office.)

The object of this volume of essays is to bring before the public some of the principal subjects dealt with in the Report of the Committee on Adult Education (1919). That report is a record of the vast amount of voluntary enthusiasm and effort devoted to the cause of adult education, the object of which is "not merely to heighten the intellectual powers of individual students, but to lay the foundations of more intelligent citizenship, and of a better social order." As one essayist, a working-man, says, "If the world is to be made safe for democracy, it must be the immediate purpose of education to make democracy safe for the world, and that can only be done by turning the faculties of the mind to the emotions of the heart."

There is only one essay in the series specifically devoted to the education of women, and in this Mrs. Huws Davies is mainly concerned with the problem of providing for women entirely occupied with domestic work in the home some chance of keeping their minds alive. Their life is often one round of incessant and unrelieved work, into which it seems humanly impossible to fit any intellectual pursuit, and they are often handicapped by chronic ill-health due to over-work and to lack of suitable conditions at child-birth. The majority of them "grow steadily duller of brain and more narrowed in their interests during the laborious years when their children are little; and by the time they are old enough to look to their mother for guidance in things of the mind, she is unable to give it, and they have to turn to others." The remedies Mrs. Davies suggests are better houses, equipped with all possible labour-saving appliances; better industrial conditions for men, and particularly baths at the place of work for men following grimy occupations; better care and provision for mothers during the years of child-bearing, and more assistance in the home, especially from working-class husbands.

Are these remedies sufficient to give mothers of families the leisure, and with it the opportunity of attending classes, that, with the shortening of the hours of labour, their men-folk now enjoy? Should not an effort be made through our women town councillors to lessen the smoke nuisance in our great cities, that causes so much unnecessary work in the home; and should not women be urged to try schemes of co-operative housekeeping? An educated democracy is impossible as long as women lag intellectually far behind men, and if democracy is ignorant it will, in the end, have to give way to some other ruling power.

The work of the various organisations concerned with adult education is described, such as the Workers' Educational Association founded in 1903, the Co-operative Associations, the University Extension Movement, and the Tutorial Class Movement.

AIMÉE GIBBS

*Women of India.* By Otto Rothfield, F.R.G.S., I.C.S. (Simpkin Marshall.) 30s. (Can be obtained at this office.)

This is beyond doubt a book to take up when the skies are grey and one is feeling dull and depressed. At once one is transported to the clear sunshine and brilliance of the East, and one sees the women of India pass in procession, dressed in their beautiful many coloured garments. This book includes a comprehensive description of women in India with 48 splendid coloured illustrations of women in the various dresses of the different tribes by M. V. Dhurandhar, written quite evidently by someone who knows and loves the women of India. Its aim is to show them as they are, living, acting, expanding. There are chapters on marriage and dress, the ladies of the aristocracy, the middle classes, and the working and aboriginal classes. The dancing girl is not forgotten, and there is a final chapter on the Ideals of the Future.

## Women's Freedom League.

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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

Friday, December 17.—Public Meeting in the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, to Protest Against the Passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill into Law. 7 p.m. Speakers: Dr. Knight, Mrs. Mustard, and Others. Chairman: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Friday, December 31.—Hogmanay Party 144, High Holborn, W.C. Tickets, including refreshments, 2s.

Monday, January 10, 1921.—Hampstead Branch Meeting, 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3. 8.15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19, 1921, at 3 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Subject: "Woman's Right to Work." Speaker: Councillor Jessie Stephens.

Saturday, January 22, 1921, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Wednesday, January 26, 1921, at 3 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.—Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "What St. Paul really said to Women" Part 2). Chair: Mrs. Northcroft.

## PROVINCES.

Friday, December 31.—Portsmouth. New Year's Eve Party, Unitarian School Room. 7 to 10 p.m.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, December 18, at 3 p.m.—Catholic Women's Suffrage Society. Public Meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster. "To call upon the Government to establish a Truce of God in Ireland." Speaker: Councillor Mrs. Crawford. Chairman: The Rev. H. F. Hall. Reserved Seats, 1s.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## MID-LONDON.

A well attended meeting was held at the Minerva Cafe last Friday evening, when Mr. R. C. Grey (of the Peace with Ireland Council), a landowner in Ireland, spoke on the present conditions of affairs in that country. Mr. Grey's lecture was full of facts of vital interest. He pleaded with his audience to study carefully Irish history, and gave an account of many deplorable incidents in Ireland of which he had been an eye-witness. Miss Emma Steven was in the chair, and a prolonged and animated discussion followed Mr. Grey's address. The meeting closed at a late hour with very cordial thanks to Mr. Grey for coming to address the meeting.

## MANCHESTER.

A meeting was held at the Milton Hall, on December 7th, when Miss Neal gave an address on Ireland. She spoke of the failure of most English people to understand the character of the Irish, who dwell on the past and are very slow to forget. She gave a brief review of the origin and growth of the bitter hatred between Orangemen and Nationalists, and illustrated from her own experience the very close bond between religion and politics in both.

Turning to the problems of to-day, Miss Neal put forward some of the important difficulties which must be considered. She believed that a certain measure of Home Rule was an urgent necessity, and that the Bill now before Parliament was the best attempt yet made to solve the problem. She warned the audience against forming hasty judgments from newspaper reports on reprisals, and appealed to them to keep an open mind, and to strive to form an opinion on the Irish question which might well be the main issue at a general election.

Several questions were asked in the short time available, and Miss Neal was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

## SOUTHCHURCH.

The Southchurch Branch of the Women's Freedom League held a very successful meeting on November 29th. The President, Mrs. Sweetlove, welcomed the speaker, Mrs. Cattell, who gave an excellent paper on "Citizenship and its Responsibilities," after which a good discussion followed, and tea by the kind hospitality of the President.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. E. Gaunt,  
71, South Avenue, Sutton Road, Southend.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

## Trapping of Fur-Bearing Animals.

Madam,—I regret to see in THE VOTE, December 3rd, 1920, that a woman had introduced herself into the fur industry, and was engaged last spring in trapping various fur animals for that trade, obtaining for her work a large sum of money. As this may be a temptation to others to imitate her, I should like to draw the attention of your readers to the awful cruelty attached to the trapping of animals.

One has only to read and inquire from various sources how the different furs are procured for the trade to be appalled at the suffering to countless sensitive creatures caused by the traffic in furs. Everyone who has friends in Canada, or in any other of the fur-producing countries, may easily procure from the testimony of eye-witnesses full corroborative evidence of the truth of these statements, and for what purpose—merely for adornment (so-called). The whole trade cannot but be revolting to any humane person who thinks at all on the subject, and for a woman to engage in it seems to me indeed to be a very retrograde step, and one which I sincerely trust will not be followed by others.

Yours faithfully,

L. LAYTON.

## Marriage with a Deceased Husband's Brother.

Madam,—I read your recent leader on the above subject with interest, as I have come across a large number of cases of women and men who are most anxious for the legalisation of these marriages. I cannot do better than quote a letter I have just received from a war-widow, also a letter and leader which appeared recently in the "Daily News."

The widow writes as follows: "I being a war-widow and interested in the question of marriage with a deceased husband's brother, I should like to give you my opinion about same. I know several more who are situated in the same way as myself, and are living with their deceased husband's brother with a view to marriage if it were possible. A great many cases were arranged between the brothers, and by pact it was agreed that should anything happen to the brother during the war, that the other brother should take care and provide for the widow and children that were left, and they are the likeliest persons to see to that. If, as stated, a man can marry his deceased wife's sister, I don't see why any obstacle should be put in the way of the other case. I am sure that it would be a great benefit to the Government, as a good many who are drawing widows' pensions would cease to draw the grant. If a bill was put forward I have no doubt that it would be carried with a big majority."

The letter in the "Daily News" reads: "I should like to support your plea for the alteration of the existing marriage laws in regard to marriage with a deceased husband's brother. As a Registrar of Marriages the war brought me into contact with some painful cases where the brother of a dead soldier has wished to marry the widow and act as a father to her fatherless children; and to have to refuse to take notice of marriage in such cases has brought home to me the injustice of the present law. I have even known one instance where the fact of such relationship was not discovered until the parties attended the Registry Office to be married. For the law to allow a man to marry his deceased wife's sister and forbid the union with a deceased husband's brother seems both illogical and unjust."

The "Daily News" leader was: "Equal Marriage Laws.—The proposal that a bill should be introduced enabling a woman to marry her deceased husband's brother deserved more consideration than it received yesterday from the Premier. Mr. Hogge stated quite truly that as a result of the war a great many soldiers' widows were living under the same roof with their husband's brothers. If they desire to do so as man and wife why should other people interfere to prevent them? Every objection is met by the existence of the Deceased Wife's Sister Act. Women have got the vote since that Act was passed, and if they demand equality in this respect it should be the business of Parliament to accord it to them quickly. It would contribute far more to the sum of human happiness than many legislative enterprises of the Coalition Government."

Yours faithfully,

W. P. O. M.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,  
93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

Our Second Bazaar stall has carried itself off fairly satisfactorily, and we want hereby to thank Miss L. Walford, the Misses Stutchbury, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. and Miss Riggall, Miss Cole, Miss K. Triplett, Mrs. Preece, and any others who were kind enough to help us through with them.

Our Christmas Party for the children we hope to give on December 23rd, and shall be very grateful if the kind friends who usually come to our assistance, will help us again this year. We have to acknowledge with many thanks £5 for the Milk Depot from Mr. Ralph Haslam; Mrs. Brend, 10s. for Christmas Treat; G. C., 1s.; Mrs. Clark £1 s. 3d. for Treat; Mrs. Dinner, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Tawby, 5s.; Miss Choisy, 2s. 6d.; Miss Woods, £1; Miss Lydall, £1; Miss Riggall, 2s.; Miss Conway, 15s.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Freedom League offices will be closed from 3.30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 22nd, until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 28th.



FRIDAY,  
DEC. 17,  
1920.

# THE VOTE

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