

THE VOTE,
Nov. 10, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

GOOD LUCK TO THE WOMEN CANDIDATES!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 1922

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

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WOMEN, USE YOUR VOTES !

Before THE VOTE appears again the General Election will have taken place, and we shall have another new Government, whose *duty* in regard to women's interests has, so far, been undefined by either Mr. Bonar Law or Mr. Lloyd George. A sarcastic writer in the Press points out that, after all women's clamour for enfranchisement, only just over thirty women candidates are standing for Parliament, while there are about 1,400 men candidates ! He surely has failed to remember that it was in 1265, nearly seven centuries ago, that our first Parliament was called, and that women have only been eligible to vote and sit in the House of Commons for a little under four years ! Considering that this is only the second General Election at which women over thirty years of age have been allowed to vote, and women of any age to stand, we do not think that the number of thirty-two women candidates is at all discreditable. We trust that every woman who is able to vote for a woman candidate will do so, for Parliament is in urgent need of women Members who will use their voice and their vote inside the House in the interests of measures which have a special concern for women. Where there is no woman standing, we appeal to all women voters to give careful consideration to the use of their vote. Men leaders of various political parties are wasting much valuable time in recriminations of each other. Women voters have no kind of concern with the quarrels of male

politicians. What women have carefully to consider is the policy of each candidate in her district, and no woman who believes in the equality of the sexes should give a vote to any man who cannot answer satisfactorily the questions on equality which the Women's Freedom League has framed for candidates. Mr. Lloyd George said last Saturday that the next Government would be in power for five years. If that is the case, women, who have struggled for the equal status, equal opportunities, equal pay, and equal responsibility of women with men throughout all branches of our national life, simply cannot afford to throw away their vote on a man who will have the power to be a reactionary in the House of Commons, so far as women's interests are affected, for five long years. We want equality *now* ; we ask for nothing less, and we cannot cease fighting until victory is secured. It would be well for a woman deliberately to refuse to use her vote, if there is no candidate in her district who is prepared to help forward women's interests. But such constituencies will be very rare, and we plead with women who have the women's cause at heart, to put aside all party prejudices and predilections, and to vote for the candidate who, she honestly believes, will be the greatest help to women in the new House of Commons. The only way to secure the reforms we have worked for is by making the best and wisest use of the political power which most of the women over thirty years of age in this country now possess.

MAGISTRATES IN CONFERENCE.

On Wednesday, October 25th, a Conference for Women Magistrates only, was held at Caxton Hall, in connection with the Conference of the Magistrates' Association, which took place in the afternoon of that day, the Marchioness of Crewe being in the Chair.

First of all, the suggestions made to alter the Separation and Maintenance Orders were considered. The wife was no longer to be obliged to prove separation, a great gain when so many poor women cannot possibly take their children and leave their husband's roof penniless, or else submit to leaving the children uncared for, and perhaps ill-treated in their absence. Other causes for separation were to be added, namely, forced prostitution, the habitual use of drugs, and contagious venereal disease. In all these matters the Conference was agreed, as also that sentence of imprisonment should not wipe out arrears of payment, the man often preferring imprisonment to payment, while the wife and children are left destitute. There was, however, division of opinion as to adding the power of attaching wages as well as pensions and private income, as it was felt that this might lead an employer to dispense with the man's services altogether.

Court Procedure in Child Assault.

The next subject on the agenda was the court procedure in cases of criminal and indecent assault, exposure, and the decoying or accosting of children, where children were concerned either as principals or witnesses. It was agreed that children's depositions should be taken by a trained woman (a police or probation officer), that a woman magistrate should always be present, even in a Stipendiary Court, that a woman should stand by the child when evidence is being given, and that the court should be cleared. Also, any intimidation or cruel cross-examination of the child should be checked by the magistrate, and the child not placed in the witness-box, but beside the magistrate, while such cases should be taken first, so that painful periods of waiting are avoided. Some discussion arose as to whether the Local Education Authority should be informed, or only the head teacher of the school to which the child belongs, in such cases, and after different customs were quoted, it was decided that only the teacher should be officially notified.

The question of the need for proper remand homes for young people above the age for, or not sentenced to, Borstal Institutions, and better prison classification, was also discussed.

The question of assault on his own child, making a man's wife entitled to a separation order, was agreed to, as coming under the head of cruelty.

Confinement in Prison Cell.

There was scarcely time left for much discussion on the last subject on the agenda, namely, the extension of the time a prisoner may be confined in prison cells to 14 days; but the meeting was entirely agreed that the want of inspection and conveniences in these cells, and the absence of exercising space, made this extension most undesirable.

What was most interesting throughout the discussions was the varying experiences of the different magistrates, owing to divergence in local customs; for instance, some benches supply agenda to the sitting magistrates, others know nothing beforehand of what cases will come before them; and, as women magistrates are especially desirous of attending when cases of children and women are heard, it is most necessary for them to know beforehand when the cases are to be on the charge sheet, although this is often difficult to arrange.

The Conference lasted about three hours, and was most earnest and helpful, and showed the deep interest felt in their work by the women magistrates, and the amount of thought they have given to it. It seemed likely that many improvements will be made in police court procedure through their efforts and recommendations to the Association.

In the afternoon, after Viscount Haldane's interesting address on the history of J.P.s, and the need of applying both law and the knowledge of what differentiates negligence and crime, the various officers and members of Council were re-elected, the latter including Miss G. Tuckwell, Miss Fry, Miss Kelly, and Miss Rathbone.

A discussion on the need for efficient probation officers, and a scheme for obtaining part of their salary from the Treasury, then took place, in which Mrs. Nevinson and many others took part, the voluntary system of payment being upheld by some, while others preferred payment through the rates, appointments, salaries, and expenditure under the probation system to be vested in the Justices under the direction of the Home Secretary.

In future, all those "holding His Majesty's Commission in a judicial capacity" may join the Association, as well as three nominees of the incorporated Justices' Clerks Society. During the eight months of its existence, the Association has done excellent work, and is partly responsible for the Child Murder (Trial) Bill. It is supplying magistrates with information calculated to assist them in their work, and endeavouring to produce uniformity of practice as between court and court, while encouraging methods of punishment which will conduce to the reform of offenders.

The Conference ended with the serving of tea, during which vigorous discussions took place, and much interchanging of views.

J. M. T.

WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES.

Twenty-four women students were successful in the Michaelmas Bar Examination, held last month. In Roman Law, two women were successful, Miss G. E. Steyn, who obtained a Second Class, and Miss V. M. Hume. In constitutional Law and Legal History, eight women were successful, Miss A. W. Hastings, who obtained a First Class, the Misses I. Cooper-Willis, R. Reuben, C. Sorabji, and J. I. Wall, who obtained Second Classes, and Miss J. M. C. Duncan, D. F. Jeffrey, and H. S. Nottidge. In Criminal Law and Procedure, three women were successful, our old friend and member, Miss Emily Phipps, of Swansea, and Miss K. M. M. Sissmore, who obtained a First Class, and Miss V. J. M. Stephenson. In Real Property and Conveyancing, four women were successful, Miss C. Leadley-Brown, who obtained a Second Class, and the Misses J. M. C. Duncan, L. A. Monroe, and E. M. Price. In Hindu and Mohammedan Law, Miss Cornelia Sorabji was successful. In the Final Examination, six women were successful, Miss B. H. Davy, and Miss E. M. Wheeler, who obtained a Second Class, and the Misses Sybil Campbell, I. G. M. de Jonge, M. A. Harcourt, and N. C. Wallace.

Seventeen women have now passed their Final Examination, and will be eligible for "call," when they have complied with the conditions as to dining-in-Hall. In addition to the six students previously enumerated, these include Miss Ethel Bright Ashford, Miss Mercy Ashworth, Miss Olive Catherine Clapham, Miss Monica Mary Geikie Cobb, Miss W. N. Cocks, Miss Theodora Llewellyn Davis, Miss Lilian Maud Dawes, Miss A. Doherty, Miss A. Horsman, Miss Helena Florence Normanton, and Miss C. M. Young.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance Fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

A SIGNAL FAILURE.

A Meeting, convened by the Six Point Group, to protest against the manner in which the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act has been misinterpreted since it was placed upon the Statute Book, was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday of last week. Lady Rhondda moved the following resolution:

"That this Meeting demands that whatever Government is returned to power in the new Parliament shall immediately rectify the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which has proved such a signal failure."

The Sex Disqualification Act and its failure, said Lady Rhondda, was closely bound up, directly or indirectly, with every one of the six points for which the Six Point Group was founded, three of which concern the Protection of Children, and three the obtaining of equal opportunities for women with men. It touched directly the case of the Civil Servants and the Teachers-child assault, which was closely bound up with the recent reductions in Women Police, and indirectly it affected the admission of women to the House of Lords. As soon as the Act passed into law, we knew it was going to be unsatisfactory to women in the Civil Service, but we did not realise it was going to prove such a failure as it had been. Briefly, the history of the Act was as follows:—In December, 1918, the late Government pledged itself to grant equal opportunities to women with men, and followed up its pledge by the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. At first the Act was hailed as a Charter of Liberty, since it promised that neither sex nor marriage should be any hindrance to acquiring any post or public position. But results soon proved its futility. Married women were dismissed from public positions in St. Pancras and Glasgow, and by many other authorities. Posts in the Civil Service were closed to women unless they were unmarried or widows. Cambridge University resolutely refused to admit women graduates on the same terms as men. The value of Women Police was openly

questioned, and their numbers reduced to an insignificant nucleus. Indeed, this was the only recommendation of the Geddes Report that had ever been carried out. As regarded the admission of Peeresses to the House of Lords, Lord Birkenhead had written eighteen pages to prove that the Act did not mean what it said!

Mr. Frank Briant, Liberal candidate for North Lambeth, who seconded the resolution, paid a warm tribute to the work of Women Police, especially in such districts as Waterloo Road. We had to thank the only two women in the House of Commons for saving the Women Police. Women Police were an absolute necessity, not only for preventive work, but in taking down depositions from women and children in cases of criminal assault. Electors must press for the increase of Women Police in far larger numbers than in the past. The punishments of men who criminally assaulted little girls needed to be far more drastic. The only true standard for a nation was the respect it paid to its women and children. Where this was lacking, the nation was going downhill. Mr. Briant also paid a touching tribute to Mrs. Despard, who, he said, had first introduced him into public life, and opened up his interest in women and children. He owed everything he was to her guidance, and absolute sincerity of purpose.

Professor Winifred Cullis, speaking in support of the resolution, explained the present inequality in the treatment of women in the Civil Service which now existed, and referred to the exclusion of women from the Consular and Diplomatic Services, by the 1920 Order in Council; the nation was the poorer for this defect. Women were essentially fitted for diplomatic negotiations.

Miss Rebecca West and Mrs. Flora Drummond also spoke in support of the resolution, which was carried unanimously at the close of the meeting.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Champion of Women.

Mr. J. R. M. Butler, the brilliant classical scholar and son of the late Master of Trinity, has accepted the invitation of the Progressives to stand as an Independent candidate for Cambridge University. Mr. Butler's mother was Miss A. F. Ramsay, also a brilliant classical scholar, who, after beating all the men of her year in the Classical Tripos, became the wife of Dr. Butler. Mr. J. R. M. Butler has been one of the leaders of the campaign for admitting women to membership of Cambridge University, and is certain of practically the unanimous support of the past students of the women's colleges in Cambridge.

Votes and Sex.

When Mrs. Pease, J.P., Labour candidate for Surrey East, read letters of support from Mr. J. R. Clynes and Mr. J. H. Thomas, the other day, she said she hoped they would be a sufficient answer to any man who thought it undignified to vote for a woman.

Equality in Politics!

Mrs. Coombe Tennant, who is fighting in the Forest of Dean, claims to be a Liberal, but Lieut.-Colonel Russell J. Kerr, the president of the Forest of Dean Conservative Association, recently told a local newspaper representative that "Mrs. Coombe Tennant's views were quite satisfactory to him."

Wife as Chauffeur.

Mr. Fred Martin, the blind Scottish journalist, Independent Liberal candidate in East Aberdeenshire, is being greatly helped by his wife, who is his amanuensis and his chauffeur.

Catholic Electors.

By request of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the 8.30 Mass in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Cathedral will be offered on Polling Day, November 15th, "to beg Divine guidance for men and women electors."

Canadian Women's Progress.

Mrs. Arthur Rogers, who recently made such a capital speech at the Lyceum Club, London, is M.P. for Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the only woman in the Provincial Parliament. She has now been elected for the second time, and devotes herself to the interests of the ex-Service men, as she did all through the war for the soldiers and their dependants. Mrs. McKinney, ex-M.P. for Alberta, has recently been appointed by the General Conference of the Methodist Church as a member of the Union Committee, to bring about the union of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational Churches in Canada. She is the only woman on the Committee.

Japan's Geisha Girls.

The Appellate Court of the district of Osaka has given a decision affecting hundreds of thousands of girls in Japan, now held in more or less involuntary servitude. The decision sets free of obligations, contracted for them by their parents or guardians, the girls of the Geisha profession, who formerly were obliged to remain with their masters, and be subject to their commands, until such time as they had repaid from their earnings as entertainers all the cost of their training. Until they had earned their way out, they were virtual slaves.

Women and Borough Council Elections.

Eighty-four women candidates were returned at the London Borough Council Elections on November 1st. We heartily congratulate our members, Miss Jessie Stephen and Miss Beatrice Kent, on their success. The full list of successful women candidates in the Provinces will be published next week. Meanwhile, we heartily congratulate our member, Mrs. E. J. Smith, J.P., on her election at Brighton, and we deeply regret that Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P., was not returned for Middlesbrough, nor Mrs. Raney for Hull.

THE VOTE.

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

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

EDITORIAL.

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

MR. BONAR LAW AND MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

So far as women's interests are concerned at this General Election, Mr. Bonar Law, the present Premier, and Mr. Lloyd George, the ex-Premier, are back numbers. Both have addressed meetings in London this week, and neither has replied to the questions which the Women's Freedom League and other women's organisations addressed to them. Women have a right to know what men who aspire to the headship of the new Government are prepared to do towards removing the many and harassing existing inequalities of the law as between men and women. Mr. Bonar Law said:

"I have always believed that there is no woman's question which is worth anything which is not a man's question. It was for that reason that, ever since I was a boy, I was myself in favour of giving the suffrage to women. . . . There will be, no doubt, in the coming Parliament questions raised which are called specially women's questions, and some of them may affect them particularly. I can say to you now that, when such questions do arise, I shall look upon them all, not only with an open, but with a sympathetic, mind."

Surely, Mr. Bonar Law must think those who are working for the full equality of women very simple if he expects them to be satisfied with that vague generalisation in regard to their specific questions! Would it secure a single vote from any body of men working for a similar object?

Mr. Lloyd George was even more unsatisfactory from our point of view. He bade women remember that his Government had reduced the present cost of living to about 78 per cent. above pre-war prices. Some women want to know why it continued so long well over 200 per cent. above pre-war costs, and again, why it has not fallen lower than it is at present! He also said:

"We carried through the great enfranchisement of women, which will enable seven millions of women at the next Election to express an opinion on the destinies of their country."

But women over thirty years of age were enfranchised *before* the last General Election, and the credit for it belongs *not* to Mr. Lloyd George, but to the Speaker's Conference. Mr. Lloyd George, in fact, had exceedingly little to do with it. As for the recent Government, it is to their lasting discredit that it put insuperable obstacles in the way of the enfranchisement of younger women, and that no woman under thirty years of age, no matter what her qualifications or achievements, will be able to vote on November 15th.

If Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George want the support of women, they had better make their position in regard to women's interests a little plainer. Their present position is certainly not good enough, from the Women's Freedom League point of view.

WOMEN JURORS.

Last week a case for slander came before Mr. Justice McCardie and a common jury in the King's Bench Division, three women being on the jury. The position of these women was a curious one. The counsel for the plaintiff said that the case to be dealt with was not a desirable one for women to hear if they did not wish to do so, and that he and the counsel for the defendant had agreed that the women should be discharged from the jury, if they wished it. Mr. Justice McCardie said that it raised a question whether women were to be jurors only when a case was pleasant; and the counsel for the plaintiff stated that he did not think they could claim to be released as a right, but if the parties in the case regarded it as desirable, and the presiding Judge agreed, they could be excused as a matter of grace. Mr. Justice McCardie explained to the women that the case was a very unpleasant one, as it involved relations between two men; if they desired to remain, they could do so; but if they preferred that their places should be taken by men, he would assent to the request. One woman left the jury box, and the other two remained, informing the Judge that they thought, if they were called at all, they ought to sit, whatever the case. Mr. Justice McCardie raised no objection, but remarked that there was a question as to how far it was wise to maintain the ideal of many men that women were purer and more dignified in the eyes of men if they were ignorant of some of the grim facts of life. But, we ask, should not the grim facts of life be known to both men and women? Every man who leads an immoral life is some woman's son, and may be a husband and the father of a daughter. Surely his actions affect these women. We are glad that the two women remained on this jury, and that they conducted themselves like responsible citizens. So long as the jury service continues, women have no right to shirk their duties in regard to it. The Judge could, of course, have used his discretion, and insisted that the jury should consist entirely of men, and the counsel for the defendant could have challenged the women on it. To their credit be it said, these men did not use their power. The Women's Freedom League has always maintained that the law should not give them that power.

WOMEN'S UNEMPLOYMENT.

We are told that the present Administration is giving further consideration to the problem of men's unemployment, but, so far, we have not heard that workless women are to come into any of their schemes. At the present time there are 200,000 women and girls registered as unemployed at the Employment Exchanges, but this number falls far short of the women actually unemployed. The sum allotted by Parliament to general unemployment relief last winter could only be allocated to schemes for the employment of labour on land improvement and drainage, forestry, roads, and light railways, in all of which schemes only men were employed. From April, 1919, to March, 1921, 7,174 women received training under the Training Department of the Ministry of Labour for domestic service and various industrial occupations. Since March, 1921, the only schemes of training for unemployed women have been the homecraft and home-makers' courses of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, to which the Ministry of Labour contributed £50,000, in the proportion of £1 to every £2 allocated by the Central Committee. This provided training for nearly 10,000 women. Last July the Government promised a further grant up to £50,000, in the proportion of £1 for every £1 disbursed by the Central Committee, but this will only provide training for another 5,000 women during the winter months. The new Government must be urged to do more than that in regard to the 200,000 women now unemployed.

GOOD LUCK TO THE WOMEN CANDIDATES!

Below we give the full list of women who have been nominated for the General Election. Not one of them is unopposed. Wherever a reader is fortunate enough to have one of these women standing in her locality, we urge her and all her friends to give this woman candidate every possible assistance. We only wish that we could ourselves work for every one of them. We wish them one and all every success, and we specially plead for women in and near London to apply at once to the Committee rooms given below, and to give every moment of their time in canvassing, clerical work, handbill distributing, or selling the VOTE, in support of the following women candidates, whom we are making a special effort to support:—

COMMANDANT ALLEN.
Committee Rooms: 3, Elizabeth Street, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.
MRS. AYRTON GOULD.
Committee Rooms: 37, Upper Marsh, Lambeth.
MRS. MARJORIE PEASE.
Committee Rooms: 1, Norman Cottages, Sanderstead Road, Sanderstead.
MISS MARY RICHARDSON.
Committee Rooms: Co-operative Hall, Church Road, Acton.

Of the 1,444 candidates nominated on Saturday, 32 are women. Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, who sat in the last Parliament, are seeking re-election. The following is the list of women candidates:—

UNIONIST.
Astor, Lady, Plymouth: Sutton.
Brodrick, the Hon. Mrs., Denbigh: Denbigh.
Cooper, Lady, Walsall.
Edmondson, Mrs., Glamorgan: Ogmore.
Gwynne-Vaughan, Dame Helen, Camberwell, N.

NATIONAL LIBERAL.
Fraser, Miss Helen, Glasgow: Govan.
Tennant, Mrs. Coombe, Gloucester: Forest of Dean.

LIBERAL.
Alderton, Mrs. Buchanan, Edinburgh, S.
Allen, Commandant Mary, Westminster: St. George's.
Ashby, Mrs. Corbett, Richmond (Surrey).
Barlow, the Hon. Lady, Derby: High Peak.
Brown, Mrs. E. S., Lancaster: Waterloo.
Currie, Lady, Wiltshire: Devizes.
Emmott, Lady, Oldham.
Garland, Miss Alison, Kent: Dartford.
Gatty, Mrs. Scott, Huntingdon.
Grant, Miss Mary, Leeds, S.E.
Lawson, Lady, Bedford: Bedford.
Smith, Mrs. Burnett (Annie S. Swan), Glasgow: Maryhill.
Terrington, Lady, Bucks: Wycombe.
Wintringham, Mrs. Lindsey: Louth.

LABOUR.
Barton, Mrs., Birmingham: King's Norton.
Bentham, Dr. Ethel, Islington, E.
Bondfield, Miss M., Northampton.
Gould, Mrs. Ayrton, Lambeth, N.
Lawrence, Miss Susan, East Ham, N.
Pease, Mrs. Marjorie, Surrey, E.
Picton-Turberville, Miss E., Islington, N.
Rackham, Mrs. C. D., Essex: Chelmsford.
Richardson, Miss Mary, Middlesex: Acton.

INDEPENDENT.
Rathbone, Miss E. F., Liverpool: East Toxteth.
Strachey, Mrs. Oliver, Middlesex: Brentford and Chiswick.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE MANIFESTO.

Below we give a statement issued to the Press immediately after the Prime Minister's meeting for women at the Drury Lane Theatre. We also give again our list of questions, and we appeal to our readers to get signed replies to them from their candidates, and forward those replies to us. We have to get pledges and views not only from successful candidates, but also the pledges and views of defeated candidates, who frequently make another appearance at a bye-election. It is just as well that the women voters at these bye-elections should know something about their candidates from the beginning of their campaigns.

The Women's Freedom League expresses its keen disappointment that Mr. Bonar Law, when speaking at the Women's Meeting in Drury Lane Theatre, could not accede to our request to reply to the questions which we had sent to him. Mr. Bonar Law said:

"There will be, no doubt, in the coming Parliament, questions raised which are called specially women's questions, and some of them may affect them particularly. I can say to you now that, when such questions do arise, I shall look upon them all, not only with an open, but with a sympathetic, mind."

We cannot consider this as in any sense an answer to our questions, which were:—

1. Will you kindly explain to this meeting of women what steps you are prepared to take to put into practice the Election pledge which you gave to women before the General Election, 1918, to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women? We are specially anxious to know what action you propose to take to remove the franchise inequality, so that women may have the Parliamentary vote on equal terms, and at the same age, as men?

2. Will you kindly explain to this meeting of women what steps you propose to take to make the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act effective in so far as it concerns the employment of married women? How can the action of local authorities, in dismissing married women from their employment solely on account of their marriage, be reconciled with this Act,

which enacts that neither sex nor marriage shall disqualify a person from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming, or carrying on, any civil profession or vocation?

The Women's Freedom League regretfully states that such a reply as Mr. Bonar Law gave to the women at the Drury Lane meeting would not secure a single vote from any of its members for even a private member, much less for one who aspires to the headship of the Government, and we have therefore immediately asked Mr. Bonar Law kindly to receive a deputation from our League, so that we may put before him our views on the above question, which we consider to be of urgent importance to women at the coming Election.

QUESTIONS TO MEN PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

Will you, if elected, urge the Government to introduce legislation and to pass it through all its stages at the earliest possible date to secure:

- (a) Equal political voting rights for women and men?
(b) Equal eligibility for women and men to the Second Chamber?
- Equal pay and equal opportunities between women (whether married or unmarried) and men
(a) in the professions?
(b) in Civil and Local Government services?
(c) in industries?
- The raising of the Age of Consent for girls to eighteen years, with a similar protection for boys?
- An Equal Status for married women with married men in regard to
(a) the guardianship of children?
(b) employment?
(c) nationality?
(d) separate assessment for Income Tax?
- Provision for women as well as for men in any scheme for the training or relief of the unemployed?

GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

The Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th, in the Basement Hall at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened on Friday, November 10th, at 3 p.m., by the Viscountess Rhondda, and on Saturday, at 3 p.m., by Miss Rebecca West. The Fair will be open each day from 3 to 9 p.m. The chair will be taken on Friday by Dr. Octavia Lewin, and on Saturday by Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

STALLS AND STALL-HOLDERS.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are:—

Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants. Miss Goodliffe, Mrs. Harverson, Miss Lyndon, Miss Lane, and Miss Vibert.

Mid-London Branch (Half Stall).—Woolies and Children's Clothing. Miss Steven.

Montgomery Boroughs Branch.—Welsh Produce and General Stalls. Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. and the Misses Elias, the Misses Codd, Mrs. Dixon, Dr. Lillias Hamilton, and Miss M. Morris.

Portsmouth Branch.—Household. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner.

South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall and Xmas Tree. Miss White, Mrs. Whellan, and Members.

Swansea Branch.—General Stall. Mrs. Thomas, Miss Dorothy Perrett.

General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.

Overalls, Aprons, and Remnants.—Mrs. Ammon, Mrs. Field, Mrs. James, Mrs. Mustard, and the Misses Underwood.

Pound Stall.—Miss Munro, The Misses Stutchbury.

Stationery Stall.—Mrs. MacMichael.

Toy Stall.—Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. Nettleton, the Misses Maud, Muriel, and Beryl Scott, Miss Finch, Miss Boyd.

Literature Stall.—Miss Telling, Miss E. W. Kirby.

White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.

"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Newsome, and Miss Reeves.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

The entertainments will be numerous and varied, the following members and friends kindly giving their services:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Marianne Elias, Miss Hawkins, Miss Jacob, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Marjory May, Miss Newman, Mrs. Eric Richmond, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Thomas, and Mrs. Van Raalte; Miss Grace Woollacott's pupils will give a dancing display on Saturday, November 11th. Character readings will be given by Miss Isabel Blackman, Mrs. Grace Goodall, and Mrs. Russell; Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons; delineations in Numerology by Mrs. Westrup; and silhouette portraits will be taken by Mr. C. Beach.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

There will be an exhibition of labour-saving appliances and lace-making. The following societies, friends, and firms (for labour-saving appliances and lace-making) are taking stalls:—

The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

The "Crusader."

The Federation of Women Civil Servants.

The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement Hartfield Hospital Home School.

The Friends of Armenia.

The Friends Relief.

"The Russian Shop."

Miss Basnett.

Miss Burwood.

The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.

Messrs. Benefits.

Messrs. Beatty Bros., Ltd.

Messrs. Manuel Lloyd and Co.

The Portable Utilities Co., Ltd.

The Staines Kitchen Equipment Co., Ltd.

Tickets, including tax, price 1/3 (9d. after 5 o'clock on the second day), are on sale at the Office.

All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss Elizabeth Berry (Hon. Fair Sec.) at the Office.

BOOK REVIEW.

Women of the French Revolution. By Winifred Stephens. (Chapman and Hall.) 15/-. (Can be obtained at this office.)

In a time of violent upheaval like the French Revolution, "when the foundations of society seem to rock and reel," men and women seemed to lose their balance and to rise to undreamed-of heights of self-sacrifice or sank to abyssal depths of ferocity. So vividly and faithfully has the spirit of this time been reproduced by Miss Winifred Stephens, that in reading this book one has the feeling of being in a world of disorder, and terror, and insecurity, where all the usual landmarks have been blotted out.

The aim of the book is to "give some idea of the rank and file of revolutionary women and of their famous leaders" from May, 1789, to July, 1794, and the most interesting chapter is the introductory one, where a bird's-eye view is given of the part played by women in the Revolution. These women were all inspired by the same patriotic zeal for the common weal, though their views as to what constituted it naturally varied according to their position, intellect, and training. They were drawn from all sections of the community. "Some were clever women of the leisured classes," such as Mme. Roland, Mme. de Staël, and Mme. de Condorcet, who, as long as they were permitted, exercised their influence through the time-honoured French institution of the Salon, or through their writings; others were members of the newly organised women's political clubs; others were housewives, actresses, society butterflies, market women, flower girls, servant girls, mystics, prophetesses. Miss Stephens sketches with skill and understanding the characters of the leaders of the Salons, which, from being "Bureaux d'Esprit," became "Salons d'Etat." "The lightness and grace with which they had handled fundamental subjects gave place to an intense seriousness. Over the teacups and round the dinner tables of the Revolution political events were planned and political parties founded."

Yet the majority of the women were far from being Feminists like Claire Lacombe, or Anti-Feminists like Mme. Roland. "Most of them were too concerned with the wider human interest to give Feminism or Anti-Feminism a thought." It is, therefore, misleading to say that the four years that followed the fall of the Bastille give a complete drama of Feminism in four acts; its dawn in the writings of Condorcet; its zenith in the influence exercised by women in the Revolution clubs and societies; its decline when women fell into disfavour with Robespierre and his colleagues; and its collapse when women's clubs were closed and the foundations laid of the Napoleonic Code. The effect of depriving women of political rights was to produce the empty-headed, irresponsible, frivolous type that prevailed during the Directory—the type of Joséphine Beauharnais. Women, however, gained through their struggle two new social rights—the right to divorce and the right to equality of inheritance, the latter right of far-reaching importance, as it gave to Frenchwomen a measure of economic independence. The most dramatic chapter in the book is that devoted to the beautiful and unfortunate Charlotte Corday, the victim of an obsession that the common weal depended on "the overthrow of a political party and the death of its leader."

Miss Stephens has taken the trouble to consult the best authorities, and she is always the impartial, level-headed historian. If there is a fault to be found with this scholarly work, it is the lack of a historic background, so that actions and events seem to happen without a cause, and men and women to be the sport of circumstance or temperament. AIMEE GIBBS, M.B.

CAMEO LIFE SKETCHES.

"Dr. Elsie Inglis," by Dr. Aimée Gibbs ... 4d.
 "Josephine Butler," by Marion Holmes ... 3d.
 "Lydia Becker," " " " " ... 3d.
 "Frances Mary Buss," " " " " ... 3d.
 (To be obtained from this Office.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday and Saturday November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, November 20th, at 7 p.m., Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Debate on "Should Boys be Trained in Housecraft and Cookery?" Affirmative, Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser. Negative, Mr. E. Clephan Palmer (of the *Daily News*). Chair: Miss Anna Munro.

Wednesday, November 29th, at 3 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Gatty. Subject: "The Health of its Women, a National Asset to the State."

Saturday, December 2nd, at 10 a.m., 144, High Holborn, W.C.1., National Executive Committee Meeting.

Monday, December 4th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser (Parliamentary Candidate for Govan, Glasgow). Subject: "Domestic Drudgery; Woman's Failure."

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, November 22nd, at 3 p.m. Portsmouth. Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street. Tickets 1/6.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, November 13th, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner will speak for Miss Mary Richardson at Co-Operative Hall, Church Road, Acton.

Tuesday, November 14th, at 3 p.m. Margate. Mrs. Mustard will speak at a meeting of the Pioneer Women Voters.

Wednesday, November 15th, at 8 p.m. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Women's League of Union. Speaker: Miss Margaret Ottley. Subject: "Christian Science."

Tuesday, November 28th, at 4 p.m. Discussion on "St. Paul's Views on Marriage and Celibacy," at 4.30. Tea 4 p.m. At 14, St. Quintin's Avenue, North Kensington, W.10. Members and friends wishing to attend are requested to send a card to that effect to Miss Raleigh.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The following three questions were sent to all the Municipal candidates at the November Elections:—(1) Are you in favour of making efficiency, instead of sex, the test for all workers employed by the Municipality? (2) Will you use every effort to secure schemes of work for unemployed women as well as for unemployed men? (3) If elected, will you support the Councillors who are endeavouring to secure the withdrawal of the present measures for the Prevention of Venereal Disease? Replies were received from 12 candidates. To question (1), 12 yes, 1 vague; question (2), 12 yes; question (3), 3 yes, 4 no, 5 vague.

A whist drive has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon, November 22nd, at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street, at 3 prompt. Tickets, 1/6 each.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

HULL.

An interesting evening was held on October 19th, in connection with the Women's Freedom League, when Dr. Octavia Lewin spoke on the subject of nasal hygiene and sneezing. The speaker made a strong point about the neglect of the nose, and breathing through the mouth. Practically all the diseases of the present day were air-borne, and needed the protection of the nose. Songs, etc., were contributed by Mrs. Sterling and Mr. McKenzie, and refreshments were provided by Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Fox, and Mrs. Lamb. The Chairman (Mr. McKenzie) proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was unanimously carried.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. RANEY, 195, Hedon Road.

BEXHILL.

Heartiest congratulations to Councillor Christine Meads, who was the successful Independent candidate for the Town Council. Those who remember the valuable work she was able to do on the Council when she was the first lady member are rejoicing at her splendid victory. She secured more than 300 votes, whereas her opponent only secured 100. A special feature of the election was the splendid way in which the men, as well as the women, canvassed for Mrs. Meads. Evidently the voters in the Sackville Ward were determined to return a woman this year.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. MOORE.

WATERLOO.

A very enthusiastic meeting of women workers met last Monday afternoon at Olive Hall, Waterloo, in support of the candidature of Mrs. Stewart-Brown. The candidate spoke of the urgent need for zealous workers, and briefly stated her policy, definitely asserting that she stood as a Liberal for the Liberal programme. Questions were asked and answered, among them being the candidate's reassertion of her belief in Local Option. The following resolution was carried:—"This meeting of women, representative of the Women Citizens' Association, Women's Freedom League, Women's Liberal Association, and British Women's Temperance Association, met together with the object of learning how to help the Parliamentary candidate, hereby unanimously support Mrs. Stewart-Brown as entirely representing their views, and pledge themselves to do their utmost in her support at the coming Parliamentary Election." (Hon. Sec.) Miss DORA GARNOLL.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

MADAM,—It seems specially important, before a General Election, that the public should be taught which women have the vote at present, and which ought to be added to that number in the future.

Two fictions are believed by the mass of the population, viz., either "women have the vote," or "women over thirty have the vote." These statements are both incorrect, and are enthusiastically boomed by the adversary, who, indeed, invented them. Unfortunately, suffrage speakers and suffrage writers use these expressions habitually and frequently, thereby taking the part for the whole, misleading the inquirer, and discouraging effort for equality.

It is true that a definite demand is made by the Women's Freedom League, "that the vote should be granted to women at the same age and on the same terms as men," but, as far as I can trace, no explanation is ever given, in its pages, or on the platform, of what those terms are, and how the woman's position now falls short of the man's in the matter of the vote.

The grievance of the 30 age for women, as against 21 for men, is constantly brought forward, but the grievance of the domicile restriction for women over 30, which affects a larger number of women than the adversary wishes to make public, is practically ignored by suffrage societies in speeches, and in THE VOTE.

The National Union has, however, a good leaflet which explains the qualifications.

My suggestion is, that these points should be made test questions for all candidates at the Election, and that afterwards they should be stated by the chairman at every public meeting of the League, as long as the franchise law is unchanged, and printed in every issue of THE VOTE, i.e., *Concentrate on the vote.*

Yours faithfully,

K. A. RALEIGH.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Mrs. Alderton for Edinburgh.

We are pleased to record that our Edinburgh Branch members are working for the return of Mrs. Alderton, to whom we send our best wishes for success.

The Political Fog.

Speaking at the Stoll Theatre last Saturday morning, Mr. Lloyd George said: "Tranquillity depends not so much upon the ship as upon the sea." Scarcely had he finished this sentence when the organ on the platform went wrong, and a long-drawn-out wail, singularly like a fog-horn, interrupted his speech for several seconds. It is certainly true that people at sea do not feel particularly tranquil in a deep fog. In politics, too, there is considerable uneasiness when the issues are not clear. We are convinced that a good number of women in Parliament would soon dispel the fog through which male politicians are now groping.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH'S BRANCH.

A Monster Rummage Sale will be held in the Congregational Schoolroom, Newtown, on Saturday, November 25th. I hope all friends, members, and sympathisers of the Women's Freedom League will bring all the contributions they can towards this Sale, to me at the Fair, or to the Office, next week. The Sale is being organised in aid of Headquarters Fund.

(Hon. Sec.) ALIX M. CLARK.

YOUR CHANCE!

We have no money in hand, but in spite of that we are taking Committee Rooms and fighting for the Women Candidates.

We must have Women in Parliament and YOU MUST SEND THEM THERE.

The Expenses of the "FAIR" must be all ready by the end of this week so that all our takings may be clear profit; and we must have generous donations at once for our Election Campaigns. Money may be sent to help any special Woman Candidate or to the Women-in-Parliament Fund, to be laid out by us to the very best advantage in their support.

E. KNIGHT,

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

Hon. Treasurer.

FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 10
1922.

THE VOTE

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CONVINCED Feminist (Practising Midwife) books lecturing engagements.—GATTY, 30 Retreat Place, Hackney

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, Nov. 12th, 3 15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. "Art and the Failure of the Churches." 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Atonement and Forgiveness."

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Nov. 30th, Thursday, 7.30 p.m.—The Money Consciousness—The Road to "Tons of Money."

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THE ISIS CLUB—run by Feminist, expressly to provide luxurious home for professional women with small incomes; and to give thinking women of all shades of opinion opportunity to meet together as non-resident members. Magnificent reception rooms, silence room, smoking lounge, restaurant, superb dining room, etc. Excellent cuisine, vegetarian dishes. Home laundry. Handsome double and single rooms (some unfurnished). Minimum charges. Lectures, social evenings, dancing. Full sized tennis lawn. Telephone: Hampstead 2869, or write Feminist, c/o The VOTE, 144, High Holborn.

MISCELLANEOUS.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing. House furnishings. Specially good price given for high-class goods.—HÉLÈNE, 361, New King's Road, Fulham, S.W. 6.

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"ROSEMARY NURSERY," The Causeway, Horsham. Special Education on modern lines for backward and nervous children. Term began Sept. 26th.—Apply Miss L. ARNOLD

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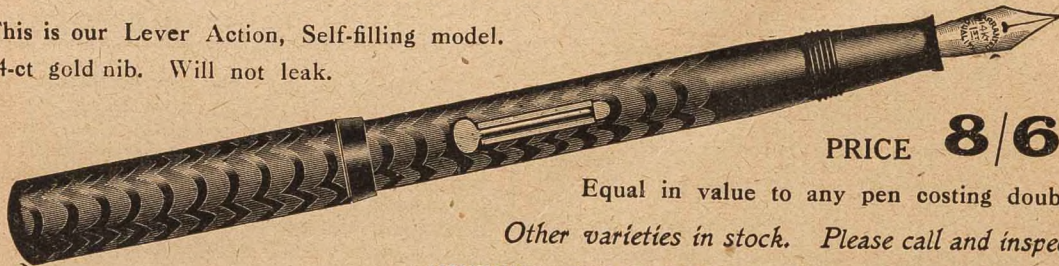
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