

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 24, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN MUST WORK.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1923

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

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THE DRAMA AND NATIONAL LIFE.

The Once-a-week Players, inaugurated by Miss Lena Ashwell, not only as a sequel to those famous "Concerts at the Front" which she organised so successfully during the war years of 1915-1919, but also as a means of stemming the tide of unemployment amongst actors after the war, will shortly begin their fourth season.

These Players are not supported by wealthy patrons, neither do they frequent the West End theatres. They are essentially the property of the people, to whom they directly appeal. The whole scheme, in short, embodies the fruits of Miss Ashwell's passionate conviction that Art in some form is an absolute essential to civilised life, especially to the industrial life of a nation.

Miss Ashwell believes, however, that such art will never become a part of the civic life until it is definitely recognised by the authorities as being equally necessary with baths or libraries, or any other of those social amenities for which municipalities strive. She has already interested many local authorities in London in her scheme, more especially the Labour Mayors, and during the last three years, performances from Shakespeare, Bernard Shaw, Goldsmith, Sheridan, or any other kind of good modern play, have been given at popular prices either in local halls or institutes; or in public baths, at Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Dept'ord, Canning Town, Fulham, Greenwich,

Camberwell, Battersea, and also outside London as far as Watford, Sutton and Harrow.

The company, however, is not subsidised in any way by the London boroughs, but has to support itself. The only concession it receives from the local authority is permission to rent a hall at less than the usual rate of payment. The disinterestedness of motive lying behind the Players is therefore easily discernible. In fact, if less than £30 be subscribed each evening the actors are actually out of pocket over their production, and, lest this sum seem trivial in comparison with the enormous harvests reaped by the ordinary music hall or picture palace, it should be borne in mind that the highest price of admission charged by the Players is only 2/4.

Miss Ashwell's scheme has been approved by leading educationists in this country, and has received the benediction of the Board of Education. In the report of the Departmental Committee of 1921, appointed by the President of the Board of Education to inquire into the position of English in the educational system of England, a most encouraging



Howard Instead. MISS LENA ASHWELL. 30 Conduit St., W.

reference will be found to the Once-a-week Players in that section which treats of the Drama as an educational activity, coupled with the hope that this co-operation between the stage and the municipal authorities will be extended to other parts of the country. Last year, too,

the Players were invited, under the auspices of the Conference on New Ideals in Education, to play at Keble College, Oxford, where the performances so inspired Mr. John Masefield, one of the spectators, as to cause him to write a letter of eulogy on the subject to Miss Ashwell, which she guards as one of her most treasured possessions. This is the first time that modern and classical plays have been guaranteed at a Conference of this kind.

Miss Ashwell aims, however, at a wider sphere than mere educational efforts in isolated districts, however excellent in themselves. Believing, with Dr. Frank Crane, that "the greatest moral asset of a nation is its amusement," she is convinced that the Drama should form an integral factor in the national life, and that every borough or small town, or group of towns, should have a civic centre of recreation, owned by the municipal authorities, where only the best presentations should be shown to the public, whether on the film or the stage. Such buildings, she believes, would serve as symbols of the standard of recreation in each particular district.

The need for such national drama has never been more pressing than in the present reign of commercialism, when the interest of the public is rapidly becoming focused on the advertising of a spectacle, the expense and grandeur of its production, and its phenomenal drawing capacity, rather than on the spiritual message of the play and the merits of individual actors. Many years ago Sir Henry Irving prophesied the death of the theatre in the provinces and the gradual extinction of Shakespeare players, and to-day his prophecy is nearing completion. For the cinema is gradually usurping the rôle of the theatre, yet can never do so in reality, since the supremacy of the theatre lies always in its spoken word, and the stimulus of direct contact of one living being upon another. Though the cinema, used properly, could be an enormous educational asset, and manifest the noblest things of life, it now serves merely to stimulate sensationalism, and works rather for the destruction than for the growth of the mind.

Subsidised theatres on municipal or State-aided lines are no new thing on the Continent, and, in consequence, music and drama are both plentiful and cheap. In Germany and Austria alone there are over a hundred opera houses, whilst Shakespeare is played continuously in France, Serbia, Roumania and Switzerland. The Municipal Theatre in Zurich is the largest and best known in Switzerland. It seats 1,100 people, and is used for opera, operetta, and the bigger dramas. There is also a smaller one in Zurich which seats about 600, and is used for drama alone.

In 1890 a catastrophe overtook the Stadt-theater, or larger theatre in Zurich, and it was burned to the ground. The theatre company approached the municipal authorities and asked their assistance in the building of a new theatre. An annual municipal subsidy was granted and the remainder of the money was subscribed by the public. Performances at popular prices, and a certain number of free performances, were stipulated for by the municipal authorities, and the membership of the Board of Administration was equally divided between the theatre and the Town Council. Special funds were set apart out of the profits for the provision of old-age pensions, or relief in time of distress and unemployment amongst the theatrical staff, whilst the administration was in the hands of a Director pledged to maintain a high artistic standard. Both theatres at Zurich are now run jointly by a limited liability company which receives an annual subsidy from the local Town Council, the money being provided out of the local rates.

England shares with America the unenviable distinction of being the only civilised nations that have no national and subsidised opera houses. As has been pointed out by Miss Ethel Smyth, England's foremost woman composer, though the British taxpayer has no objection to subsidising the British Museum with an income of £300,000 a year, no Minister has ever dared to ask permission to subsidise music in any form in this country!

SLAVERY.

The League of Nations is to take up the whole question of Slavery next month, and the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society has prepared a memorial addressed to the League of Nations bearing the signatures of some of the best-known men and women of the day. This memorial states that slavery obtains to-day in the mandated areas of Tanganyika, South-West Africa and Abyssinia, involving over one million slaves, in systems under which a definite and saleable property right is established over the persons of the slaves. Evidence is quoted from official sources to support this statement; and it is suggested that steps should be taken to secure the conditional entrance of Abyssinia into the League of Nations, and thereby "confer upon Africa the greatest blessing which has yet visited the Dark Continent, namely, entirely disinterested but effective assistance in evolving a self-governing African state free from the institution of slavery." During the recent debate in the House of Lords on this question, Earl Beauchamp emphasised the fact that in Abyssinia, the purposes for which some of the slaves are sold involve both mutilation and other revolting practices. Those who were present at the recent Women's Congress held in Rome, will remember that the following resolution in regard to slavery was adopted:—"Since any form of slavery tends to press more hardly on women than on men, the International Women's Suffrage Alliance urges the Assembly of the League of Nations, which is shortly to consider the question of Slavery, to set up a Committee of Investigation, consisting of men and women, to inquire into the various forms of slavery and quasi-slavery which exist in the world to-day, and to include in the terms of reference of the Commission the need for inquiry into the selling or giving of girls into marriage without their consent. It further urges the League of Nations immediately to make representations for the abolition of the slavery recognised in certain mandatory territories."

WOMEN IN PENSIONS OFFICE.

The Committee (of which Lord Southborough is Chairman) who were appointed to inquire into the substitution of ex-service men and women in Government offices have just issued their Report to the Prime Minister. They gave special consideration to the employment of women in the Pensions Office, and have resisted the Ex-Service Civil Servants' Claim that the whole of the clerical work of the Ministry of Pensions should be performed by ex-service men. The women submitted that there were definite pledges on the part of two successive Ministers of Pensions that a portion of the work of the department would be reserved for women. The Committee report: "We are satisfied that these pledges were given," and add, "that in view of the fact that the temporary women staff employed in the Ministry of Pensions are dependent on their earnings, and that amongst women now being discharged are women who not only are dependent upon their earnings but also have others dependent upon them, we do not feel that the circumstances are such as would warrant our suggesting that these definite Ministerial pledges should be revoked with a view to the introduction into the Ministry of ex-service men from outside the Department." The Committee add that, generally speaking, they are satisfied that the scope for further substitution among the temporary women employees is extremely limited.

SPECIALLY FOR YOU!

If you like "THE VOTE," and think it is an interesting and useful paper, do not go away and forget it till you see it again. Fill up the form on the last page, and have it posted to you regularly for 6/6 a year.

If you agree with the ideals of the Women's Freedom League, do not go away and forget it till we meet you again. Fill up the membership form on the back page, and send it up with your first annual subscription, and please remember that both organisation and holiday campaigns are very expensive, and with your subscription enclose as large a donation as possible.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened on Friday, November 23rd, at 3.30 p.m., by The Lady Amberst of Hackney, and on Saturday, November 24th, at 3.30 p.m., by Miss Lilian Barker. The Fair will be open from 3 to 9 p.m.

STALLS.

The Stalls at present arranged for the League are:—Hampstead Branch (Two Stalls for Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants), Montgomery Boroughs Branch (Three Stalls for Welsh Produce and General Goods), Portsmouth Branch (Household Goods), Southern Branches (General Stall). There will also be Stalls for General Goods, Jumpers, Overalls and Aprons, Pound Stall, Stationery, Stencilled Goods, Toys, Literature, Woollies, and White Stall.

Gifts of every description are needed if the stalls are to be well supplied with pretty and useful Christmas presents. Will all members and friends remember the Fair while away on their holidays, and bring some gifts home with them for one or other of the Stalls? One of the special features at the Stationery Stall will be the charming Women's Freedom League Diaries, price 2s. each. Orders for these should be given as early as possible, as only a limited number are being printed. Another special item will be unique shopping baskets, made by Miss Jamieson, samples of which were sold at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, price 1s. 6d. and 2s. Orders will also be taken for these, and any gifts of small pieces of silk, velvet, ribbon, wool, etc., also baskets, towards this part of the work, will be gladly received by Miss Jamieson, c/o The Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

A good programme of Entertainments is being arranged, particulars of which will appear in later numbers of this paper. Character Readings will be given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and others.

The Hon. Fair Secretary will be glad to receive the names of any members, or friends, who are willing to help with the musical programme.

PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

Messrs. Weldons and Co., 30-32, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.2, have offered a prize of Two Guineas for the best Camisole made from one of their Patterns, and competitors may use any materials they wish. A label bearing the number of Messrs. Weldon's Pattern, also the name and address of the competitor, must be firmly sewn to the Camisole.

Messrs. Hawes Brothers, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.11, have also offered a prize of a handsome Leather Handbag (fitted) for the best Jumper in knitting or crochet, made with their artificial silk. The competitors may use any quality of Messrs. Hawes Bros.' artificial silk they like. A label bearing the name and address of the competitor, also the receipted bill of Messrs. Hawes Bros. for the artificial silk, must be firmly sewn to the Jumper.

Both competitions are open to members and non-members. The entrance fee for these competitions will be 6d. All Camisoles and Jumpers sent in for competition will be sold afterwards for the good of the cause.

All exhibits for Competitions should be addressed to the Hon. Fair Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and sent not later than November 15th. Other Competitions will appear later.

The Competitions and Games will be under the direction of Miss Dickeson and Miss Van Raalte, and other members of the Golders Green Branch, whose delightful and unique competitions and games of last year will be remembered by all who attended last year's Fair.

The part of the Hall reserved for the Competitions will be a representation of the far-famed Bank Holiday Fairs at Hampstead Heath. Among the special items there will be Coconut Shies, Aunt Sally, Hoop-la,

Dart-Throwing, Bean Board, etc., and it is hoped that Table Tennis Tournaments will also be arranged. Mrs. Legge will be in charge of the Information Bureau.

SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

The following Societies and friends have taken Stalls:—St. Dunstan's, League of the Church Militant, Hartfield Hospital Home School, Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency, Friends of Armenia, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Hampstead Arts and Crafts Shop, Friends' Relief, Miss Burwood, British Esperanto Association, Westminster Health Society. Any other organisations and individual friends wishing to obtain Stalls in good positions should apply at once to the Hon. Fair Secretary.

The Handbills for the Fair will be at the Office early in the autumn. All communications should be sent to Miss ELIZABETH BERRY (Hon. Fair Sec.), at this Office.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Woman Nautical Writer.

The initials "C.F.S.," frequently to be found in *Punch* beside a sea song or ballad, belong, not to a man, as some people might naturally think, but to a woman, Miss C. Fox Smith. She has a volume of her sea songs and ballads, written since 1917, appearing with Methuen, and it will be illustrated. "Miss Fox Smith's knowledge of ships," says her publisher, "and of those that go down to the sea in them, is so remarkable as to be almost clairvoyant, and with that understanding goes a mastery of rhythm and melody."

A New Career.

Miss Gertrude Rosenberg, of South Kensington, is probably the only woman in this country who breeds moths and butterflies for a living. She has specialised in the North American silk moth, and says her best customers are boys who are mad to keep silkworms. Miss Rosenberg keeps all sorts of butterfly specimens, from exquisitely tinted butterflies from the tropics, costing only a few pence, to others not so showy but much more rare, for which a collector will pay £30.

A Gifted Woman.

Mrs. Westlake, wife of the well-known international lawyer, whose death was recently reported, was a member of the London School Board for nine years, and did excellent work there. She was the first to introduce Swedish drill into the London Schools. She was also one of the founders of the New Hospital for Women (now the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital), of which she was treasurer for many years.

A Versatile Woman.

Going from the London music-halls to an Australian cattle station, Miss Winifred Ponder, a young English singer, has made good. To earn her living in Australia, she worked as a dairy girl, secretary, music teacher, journalist, and Government mail girl. On one occasion she risked her life by carrying the Queensland mail on horseback across a flooded river. Four inches of rain had fallen in forty-five minutes.

— THE —

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Full particulars free on application to the Director of Education, The Polytechnic, 309, Regent Street, W.1.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1923.

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

WOMEN MUST WORK.

Last week the Ministry of Labour reported that the number of registered unemployed in Great Britain on August 6th was 1,191,800, comprising 900,600 men, 40,200 boys, 213,700 women, and 37,300 girls, and that the number working short time and drawing benefit on that date for intervals of unemployment was 64,900. To meet the tragedy of a fourth winter for the unemployed, all that the Government has done, so far, is to provide schemes estimated—perhaps over-sanguinely—to give employment to a quarter of a million men, no schemes for women having been suggested by the Government. Sir Allan Smith, chairman of the Parliamentary Industrial Group, has defined the proposals of the Government as "lacking in foresight and imagination," and further and more extensive proposals have been submitted by this Industrial Group, the special feature of which is to provide employment suitable for skilled artisans rather than for ordinary unskilled workers. These proposals are also exclusively for the employment of men. The Emergency Committee of the Parliamentary Labour Party criticises the unemployment schemes of the Government as "miserably inadequate," and urges bigger relief schemes. This Committee's proposals also do not include any schemes of employment for workless women; but the Committee states that "it is nothing less than scandalous that practically nothing is being done in the way of providing either industrial employment or training in domestic work for the quarter of a million unemployed women; and practically no training for more than a hundred thousand young persons between 14 and 21, who are now on the streets owing to inability to find situations of any kind, for nearly all of whom not even unemployment benefit is now provided."

We think it would have been more to the point if the Labour Party themselves had enumerated constructive schemes of work for women, instead of merely lumping women and young people together and criticising the Government for not providing employment and training for both.

It is time women roused themselves to take stock of the situation so far as their own interests are concerned. Before the War it was the policy of many Trade Unionists to keep women out of the more remunerative trades; women were shut out of the legal profession; the higher posts in the Civil Service were, and still are, in the very great majority of cases entirely reserved for men, and the same rule applies to the scholastic profession. During the War women were urged by the Government and the public to leave whatever they were doing and to take up entirely different work in the service of their country. They willingly agreed and were an outstanding success in nearly everything they attempted; but the work they then undertook during the years of the War in many cases entirely unfitted them for resuming their previous work. Before the War was ended a bargain was arrived at, over the heads

of these women, and without any consultation with them, by the Government, the Employers and Trade Unionists, that as soon as the War was over all these women employees should be turned out of the jobs in which they had worked so successfully, and prevented by law from being re-employed in them for at least a year! In that time returning ex-soldiers and civilian men took possession of whatever jobs there were, and the arrangements for the accommodation of women in factories were done away with. Women were discharged wholesale from Government offices; indeed, from the daily string of questions in the House of Commons to Heads of departments it appeared that some Members had undertaken a life mission to get every woman out of any job that any man, however incompetent and untrained, might want. In 1918 the parliamentary vote was extended to the majority of women over thirty years of age, but not to the young women who had worked so magnificently for their country during the War and had been deprived of work at its close, and these young women were alone among the community left without political power or political influence to look after their own interests. We emphasise our view that, in the fifth year after the granting of a restricted franchise to the women of Great Britain, there is a connection between the fact that the majority of unemployed women of this country are under thirty years of age and therefore voteless and the fact that the Government still refuses to consider the possibility of devising schemes for providing work for unemployed women.

Time after time the Women's Freedom League has called the Government's attention to the necessity of considering the case of workless women, and in 1921 we sent various proposals for their employment to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Labour, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Among those proposals were the training of women for domestic work, the women when trained to have the option of living in or living out, because so many of them had invalid dependents or home responsibilities which prevented them from leaving home for the night; the training of women in needlework trades so that they might take day-work; the establishment of laundries; national kitchens; to be run and staffed by women, and toy industries; as well as facilities for land-work, poultry-farming, agriculture, etc. We certainly did not think that these proposals were the final word in securing work for unemployed women, but we considered that the least the Government ought to do was, if the schemes suggested were impracticable, to devise others which would be workable. Hitherto, the view of our post-war Governments has been that, if work was provided for men, women would somehow benefit; that women, in fact, should be content with the crumbs which might happen to drop from unemployed men's tables when those men secured temporary work! Our view, on the other hand, is that it is the duty of the Government to act impartially as between its men and women citizens, and that unemployed women have as direct a claim on the resources of this country as unemployed men. There are a great number of University women, women of high scholarship and training, and professional women as well as industrial women out of work at the present time, and we reiterate our demand that the Government should throw open the higher posts of all branches of the Civil Service, both at home and abroad, on equal terms to men and women. Women in the more remunerative posts would most certainly employ other women in various capacities, and relieve the pressure and competition amongst women for lower-grade posts. We also urge that the Fisher Act should be put into immediate operation. Its provisions would necessitate the absorption of thousands of trained women teachers who are now vainly seeking employment, and prevent thousands of young people from swelling the ranks of the unemployed and from themselves becoming unemployable. We think that the Government should at once consult leading women in the Universities, in professions, in business, in industry, and Trade Unions, together with large employers of women's labour, with the object of securing that the majority of women now unemployed should be given work in the coming winter.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

Speaker—Miss MARY GRANT.

Hon. Organiser—Miss ALIX M. CLARK, Mayfield Villa, 5, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothesay.

The Campaign on the Clyde has now come to an end, the skies weeping for the departure of the Women's Freedom League, and boisterous gales telling of the near approach of autumn, and with more than a hint of coming winter. There have been fewer meetings this week than in any of the previous ones, and they have not been so well attended owing to the departure of many visitors, partly due to the reopening of the Glasgow Schools on the 21st August, and partly to the prevailing hard times which make a prolonged holiday impossible for a very large number. Still, meetings have been held in Rothesay, Largs and Millport, the one at Largs being especially successful. The subject was the demand for an Equal Moral Standard with legislation for raising the Age of Consent to 18 for boys and girls; preventing the conviction of women on police evidence only; more severe sentences on those who assault and outrage little girls; and the provision of Women Police.

There have been many incidents of a most encouraging nature this week. Among them, the following may be of interest to readers of THE VOTE. While Miss Clark was selling THE VOTE on the front at Rothesay, she was approached by two charming girls in the very early twenties, one of whom exclaimed, "Oh, is that Votes for Women? Then I must buy a paper, for we girls do want our votes, no matter what they say about us." Another even more gratifying! A working man called after Miss Clark on Saturday morning, "Hey, Miss! Hey, Miss!" Miss Clark turned and saw him running after her, and when he reached her, he exclaimed, "I've just got my week's pay and I want to give you some of it for the Freedom League, for I've been to your meetings, and if more people would talk as Miss Grant talks, the world would be a better place," and a fair amount out of his hard-earned week's wages went

into Miss Clark's collecting-box. That sort of thing makes one feel that the Campaign has indeed been worth doing.

A favourite subject at the meetings has been the Equal Guardianship of Children, especially when it is treated as Equality in the Home. Many who are doubtful as to the advisability or even the possibility of Equality in the Labour World or in the Moral Sphere, rather pride themselves on their attitude of regarding Woman as Queen of the Home, and it is a distinct shock to them to learn that even there she has not legally a position equal to that of her husband. The most confirmed anti feminist becomes uncomfortable when it is pointed out that originally woman and man were on an absolutely equal footing until woman voluntarily laid down her muscular power in order to make "home" for her man and her children, and that now, even in that home, she is not recognised as the guardian of those children.

The meeting on Saturday night was a grand finale, when all the Aims and Objects of the Women's Freedom League were dealt with *seriatim* to one of the largest audiences of the campaign. Even the undesirable exuberance of a gentleman, who had clearly found cheap beer too great a temptation to be resisted, failed to draw the attention of the crowd more than partially from the speaker, and it was clear that she had the sympathy and support of the great majority.

Altogether, the campaign has been a great success. Over 3,700 copies of THE VOTE have been sold, and who can estimate the value of that propaganda alone to the cause of equality and freedom for women? Miss Clark and Miss Grant may leave Rothesay well content with the results of their labours, and satisfied that one more step has been taken towards the goal of the Women's Freedom League.

THE OLD "VIC."

The Old "Vic.," which reopens its hospitable doors next month, dates from 1816, and was originally known as The Royal Coburg Theatre, because it was under the direct patronage of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, who had recently married Princess Charlotte, the only daughter of the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV. In comparison with the two "patent" theatres, Drury Lane and Covent Garden, this third theatre was known as a "minor" theatre. During the first twenty-five years of its existence, a great number of important plays were produced, and nearly all the foremost actors of the day appeared on its boards—Edmund Kean, Junius Brutus Booth, Phillips, Sheridan Knowles, Macready, Grimaldi in pantomime, and Paganini as a violinist. Queen Caroline visited the theatre in 1821, soon after her trial, and received a tribute of public sympathy. In 1833 the name was changed to the Royal Victoria Theatre, in honour of the young heiress to the throne, and became known as the "Vic." Its prestige, however, now began to wane, and in the 'forties became the home of the crudest melodramas, and twenty years later it deteriorated into a music hall of the lowest type, a haunt of vice and crime dreaded by the police on duty in its neighbourhood.

In 1879, Miss Emma Cons conceived the idea of turning this plague-spot into a healthy influence, with Lord and Lady Mount Temple as her chief supporters. Seeing clearly that drink was at the bottom of the evil, Miss Cons opened the reformed "Vic." on Boxing Day, 1880, as a Temperance Music Hall, and the theatre has remained Temperance to this day. This appeared a very reckless experiment, as almost every other hall in London owed its profits to "wet money." Charges for admission ranged from one penny to a shilling. Popular lectures were introduced every Tuesday, a feature which remains to this day. High-class music was also given in addition to good plays. The appreciation shown by the poorest-

class audiences was very marked. The working people south of the Thames tramped for miles to attend both concerts and plays. The first of the Tuesday lectures was given by William Lamb Carpenter, and dealt with the telephone, a new and little trusted invention in those days. Samuel Morley, a wealthy manufacturer, and the Duke of Westminster of that day, were among Miss Cons' chief supporters.

The lease of the theatre was now running out, and Miss Cons, with the help of her friends, collected over £17,000 with which to purchase the freehold, and help in the building of Morley College, which was erected on part of the site. This College, built in response to constant requests from the audiences at the Tuesday Lectures for more systematic instruction, was opened in 1889 as a memorial to Samuel Morley, who had died in 1886, having for its object, "to promote the advanced study, by men and women belonging to the working classes, of subjects of knowledge not directly connected with any handicraft, trade, or business." Two or three rooms behind the stage, formerly dressing-rooms, were first used to house the college, but it later encroached on a large part of the space reserved for the theatre. Within another year, however, the college will be transferred to a new home, and the theatre will have more space.

The old "Vic" soon became famous as the home of Shakespeare, and opera in English, and was entirely due to Miss Cons' influence, and to that of her niece and successor, Miss Lilian Baylis, who became manager of the theatre in 1898, and who, on Miss Cons' death in 1912, succeeded to a fuller direction of its affairs. Next month, when the old "Vic" begins its autumn session with "Titus Andronicus" and "Troilus and Cressida," this theatre will have given to the public every acknowledged play of Shakespeare, a feat that no other management in the history of the stage has equalled or even closely approached.

WORDS, WORDS, WORDS!

Reprinted from *Equal Rights*, official organ of the National Women's Party U.S.A.

The Bishops' Program and the National Council of Catholic Women have come out strongly for equal pay for equal work regardless of the sex of the worker. This is most gratifying, for it means that the great power of the Church will be thrown towards the side of justice in the economic struggle upon which women have entered.

It seems such a simple point in fair play that equal work should receive equal compensation without respect to the sex of worker, that it is amazing to find large groups of men and even some women who still rationalise unequal sex standards of remuneration. "Women can be had more cheaply than men," they say; "women have fewer dependents," and so on and so on, backing up their fatuous arguments with endless verbiage. The Baltimore School Board, for example, which still persists in paying its women secondary teachers less than the men for the same grade of work, even goes so far as to say, "Women teachers in the secondary schools teach girls, while men teach boys, so the women should receive less pay than the men, for their work is easier!" A subtle compliment in a sense, for it would indicate that girls surpass in intelligence, but does it carry through in practice? No, indeed. The principals of the girls' high schools are men and they receive equal compensation with their brothers in the boys' institutions. Thus does all such empty defence of an obsolete system deny itself upon investigation.

The Women's Bureau of the Department of Labour has recently published a study of "The Share of Wage-Earning Women in Family Support." This study demonstrates that wage-earning women are responsible for the support of dependents just as men are; with this difference, that while the man takes upon his shoulders financial obligations incident to his own marriage, the woman usually accepts responsibilities resultant from circumstances over which she has no control. The care of aged parents, the education of younger brothers and sisters, the amplification of the family income necessitated by illness, these are the burdens which wage-earning women take as their portion. To deny these devoted daughters and sisters equal pay "because they have no dependents" is to commit an outrage both against justice and common honesty.

WOMEN WORKERS' CONGRESS.

At the second Congress of the International Federation of Women Workers held at Schönbrunn Castle, near Vienna, last week, the President, Mrs. Raymond Robins, of America, referred to Senator Borah's resolution in the American Senate, that international war henceforward be outlawed. She observed that, at a Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 the delegates of 13 Sovereign States voted to make war an illegal method of settling disputes. Mrs. Robins insisted that the hope of mankind lies in a recognition of spiritual laws in the same measure as our scientists acknowledge natural laws.

Dr. Marion Phillips, secretary of the Federation, who flew direct to Vienna from London by aeroplane, delivered a lively commentary upon the report presented to the Congress by the Federation's secretariat. Reviewing the Federation's advances since 1921, Dr. Phillips discussed the Federation's co-operation with the Amsterdam International, the British Labour Party, and other Socialist, Suffrage, Pacifist or Co-operative organisations.

Although held in Vienna, the Congress is not attended by the Austrian and German women, not because of political differences, but because of their opposition to the segregation of women in separate trade unions. Delegates from Japan and China travelled to Vienna especially for the Congress, while 15 other nations were represented, from Argentine to Sweden.

BOOK REVIEW.

The Jubilee Book of the Girls' Public Day School Trust. 1873—1923. (Cambridge University Press.) 5/-. (Can be obtained at this Office.)

Following on the Jubilee of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, comes their Jubilee book, edited by the Vice-Chairman of the Trust, Mr. Laurie Magnus, which, according to the preface, is the outcome of the Council's desire to commemorate the original founders, to give a history of the Trust, and some account of its thirty-eight foundations. Two of the past headmistresses, who entered their service in 1878, and a member of the Education Council from 1876, have helped to chronicle past and present conditions, drawing, says the Editor, "on both memory and stored enthusiasm." The excellently chosen headings of the chapters speak for themselves—The Daughter's Need, The Parent's Provision, The Trust's Valhalla, and The Schools, do not deceive the reader when they promise a most interesting account of the history both of those "who laid the stones and set the temperate rules, and broke untrodden paths with Spring reveal'd"—their chosen message with new variance, say—

"Knowledge is now no more a fountain sealed."

Mrs. William Grey, one of the most honoured of the Trust's founders, enunciated her three points of the Educational Charter for Women and pleaded them before the Society of Arts: (1) "The equal right of all women to the education recognised as the best for human beings" (and women, after all, are human beings).

(2) The equal right of girls to a share in the existing educational endowments of the country, and to be considered, no less than boys, in the creation of any new endowments. (3) The registration of teachers and such other measures as may raise teaching to a profession as honourable and honoured for women as for men. Isolated efforts for girls' education were to be given united strength, and the development of each individual girl's mental and moral faculties so encouraged that she might understand the relation in which she stood to the physical world around her, to her fellow-beings, to her God—and know how to perform the duties arising out of these relations. Thanks to Mrs. Grey's efforts the Women's Education Union was founded in 1871, Miss Mary Gurney and Miss Emily Shirreff coming to her assistance, and from this "small, poor, unimportant body" arose the Trust with its Council, its Royal President—Princess Louise—and its thirty-eight schools. Surely a great example of the wonderful results and immeasurable influence which a group of earnest, self-denying women can effect! An interesting account is given of all these great men and women who rallied to the cause, the efforts made to found suitable examinations, the Trust's wonderfully successful choice of first Headmistresses, such as Miss Jones (North London, 1873—1900), Miss Neligan (Croydon, 1874—1901), and many others, who, unhampered by codes or regulations, successfully experimented with rules and methods, and began a new life for the "sweet maidens" who, unlike her of Kingsley's poem, should now be both good and clever.

So we read on to the story of the different schools, founded all over England, from Kensington the first (1873), under Miss Porter, who started with 20 pupils, to East Liverpool the last (1891)—with lists of successes won—strong points and weak points, and promotions from their staffs to their Institutions. From the Trust Schools Movement arose, too, the Association of Headmistresses (1901), of so great a value to education, and the Local Oxford and Cambridge School Examination Board which admitted girls in 1877 to examinations qualifying for the Universities—since when over 2,000 degrees have been taken by women in Universities and nearly 800 scholarships gained.

A splendid record of a necessary work, well done—one of which the educated women of our time, who have now so many and varied occupations, so much worthy work to do, can say, looking back, "They builded even better than they knew."

J.M.T.

Women's Freedom League.

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Saturday, September 22nd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Monday, September 24th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, Central Hall, Westminster, Green, White and Gold Fair. To be opened on Friday, at 3.30, by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on Saturday, at 3.30, by Miss Lilian Barker.

WOMEN FOR CANADA.

Our member, Miss Stella Wolfe Murray, has sent a long article under this heading to the *Yorkshire Post*, from which we have taken the following extracts:—

"The Government offers no encouragement to women workers, educated or otherwise, other than domestic, but it is obvious that in a new country new opportunities simply must exist for those who know how to recognise and grasp them. All these agriculturists, fruit farmers, miners, and business men have a multiplicity of needs that must be provided for. There are plenty of places where women are needed, but the fact is hardly realised yet. It is for the enterprising business woman with capital behind her to come out and spend a few months looking round, discover a niche she can fill, a demand she can supply, and then set to work. That means capital, but English women are increasingly managing their own affairs.

"British Columbia is, perhaps, the province of Canada in which the newest opportunities are being demonstrated. During a very brief stay in Vancouver I came across a woman engraver, a fox farmer, and a water-lily grower. This last was an enterprising married woman who turned the swamp near her home into a paying concern by cultivating its wild water-lilies; advertising them as table decorations, selling them, and reaping a considerable profit.

"The fox farm was initiated by Mrs. Beaver Boggs and her daughter on Vancouver Island three years ago; her enterprise was so profitable that her example has been copied by two men since. Mrs. Boggs declares that her foxes lead a happy and well-cared-for existence, with a painless end by chloroform instead of being hunted to death. She has not lost a single fox by disease or accident. We could hardly imitate her in England, but her spirit of enterprise shows what can be done. Vancouver also has a number of women taxi-drivers, with a woman at their head.

"There are a fair number of women doctors in Canada, but few women dentists, architects, or lawyers. In fact, Quebec Province does not yet allow women to be lawyers, but Western Canada is progressive enough to have a woman Cabinet Minister. Sex prejudice is far less active than in England, and although it would be very foolish to come to Canada and look for a post other than teaching, nursing, or domestic work, the Government does not exclude women with capital, and, given this and the necessary business training and experience, the enterprising woman will find it an excellent country in which she can make her own job."

OVERALLS AND APRONS!

There will again be an Overalls and Aprons Stall at our Green, White and Gold Fair, and orders for these Overalls and Aprons should be sent to Miss Underwood, Women's Freedom League Office. When sending orders, please also send particulars of measurements as well as colour and style of article required.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

"Flexible Yardsticks."

Under the above heading, *Equal Rights* says:—"In measuring up men and women and standardising thereby their opportunities, humanity has heretofore utilized a peculiar kind of yardstick. It has measured one way for men and another way for women, and the result, as might have been anticipated, is chaos. 'Women are weaker than men,' it has been said; 'therefore they should be prevented from enjoying equal opportunities with men in the economic struggle.'

"Now let us for a moment consider this much-voiced feminine frailty. The marathon dances have provided one telling answer to this objection. The circus lady on her trapeze gives another, and now from South Africa comes a third, and a good one. The *Daily News* of Johannesburg records that a girl typist of Durban, Miss E. E. Hayward, has completed the course in a marathon running race of 56 miles, from Durban to Maritzburg, her time being 11½ hours. She was twenty-seventh out of a field of 69, all except herself being men. Measured by a fixed standard this accomplishment would rate the strength of women pretty high, but the opposition will promptly discount this assumption. Flexible yardsticks, they maintain, are the only proper instruments to use in determining the relative ability of the two sexes."

A Magistrate's Lament.

"Oh, you women!" exclaimed Mr. D'Eyncourt with a sigh, at the Marylebone Police Court last week, after making several unsuccessful efforts to get an answer to his questions to an applicant for advice. "You have votes, you are made justices of the peace and Members of Parliament, yet you cannot answer even simple questions." We wonder what votes and the other things mentioned by this magistrate have to do with answering his 'simple questions'? We should also like to know if Mr. D'Eyncourt has invariably found it an entirely simple matter to answer a simple question?

Prison for Arrears.

Two men, who formerly lived at Teddington, and now stated to have no fixed abode, were sent to prison at Feltham last week for being in arrears on maintenance orders. The first man was charged with being £10 in arrears on an order for the maintenance of his wife made October 31, 1921, and £2 10s. in arrears on an order dated November, 1922, for the maintenance of an illegitimate child. He said he had not sufficient means to keep up the payments. The Chairman remarked "You never do pay. I suppose you don't intend to," and sentenced him to two months' imprisonment on the first charge, and one on the second, the sentences to run consecutively. The second man was charged with being £9 7s. 6d. in arrears on an order for the maintenance of his wife made on August 8, 1921. He admitted he had paid nothing, but said he had only just started work again. The Chairman of the Bench said "You could have paid something. You have paid nothing, and never will pay anything, so you will have to go to prison for two months." He added:—"It seems to me a great pity that the legislature does not give hard labour in these cases. It is a disgraceful thing to think an order was made over two years ago and nothing has been paid." With all respect to this magistrate's opinion, we cannot see how "hard labour" or imprisonment will help the women in whose debt such men are. Our own view is that these defaulters should be kept in prison and employed there until they have earned sufficient to pay off their arrears, for the time previous to and during their imprisonment, to the woman. Under the present arrangement their imprisonment wipes off their debt, which is no consolation to the wife or to the mother of their illegitimate children.

Six in a Room.

According to last Sunday's *Observer* it was reported at an inquest at Milton Regis, Kent, last Saturday, that a room in a lodging house was occupied by a woman who had given birth to a child. The husband had slept on a couch in the same room, and another bed in the room was occupied by a young woman of twenty-six, and three children of school age. The infant died from suffocation. The Coroner said he would report the matter to the health authorities.

Women and Irish Elections.

Nominations have taken place throughout the Irish Free State for Candidates to contest the elections for the new Dail. There are 30 constituencies with 153 seats and it is expected that there will be an average of three Candidates for each seat. One of the candidates in County Dublin calculates that the register there has been increased by 32 per cent, and that women form a large proportion of the new voters. The nucleus of a woman's party is said to exist in some of the Dublin Constituencies. Miss Agnes O'Farrelly is going forward as an "Independent" in the National University contest; Mrs. M. O'Callaghan is standing for Limerick, Dr. Kathleen Lynn for Co. Dublip, Mrs. O'Driscoll (sister of the late Michael Collins) and Madame Markiewicz both for the City of Dublin. Mrs. Collins Powell (sister of the late General Collins) withdrew at the last moment in favour of a Ministerial Candidate.

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