

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 1919.

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

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## WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. THEIR FUTURE CITIZENSHIP.

The acquisition of political power by women in their own country confers on them international as well as national responsibility. Not only are they answerable for everything which concerns the welfare of their own country; they are also directly concerned in the well-being of the people of their country's dependencies and dominions, and no less so in the relations between their own country and every other country of the world. The recent war has shown clearly that matters of dispute between two or more nations are likely to involve the whole world and all its resources in their settlement. The war has established beyond any doubt the fact that all countries are interdependent; and that in the future men and women will not only be citizens of their own country, but

### citizens of the world.

Out of the wreckage and devastation caused by the war men and women have to build a new civilisation, the chief bulwark of which will be the safeguarding of the future peace of the world. For this purpose thoughtful men and women of all shades of opinion and of all nationalities pin their faith to the establishment of a League of Nations, to which all disputes between different countries must be submitted, through which the peoples of all countries and races will find self-expression, and in which they will consult each other on matters of vital importance, such as the conditions of industry, health, education, armaments, etc.

That women realise their responsibility in this matter is shown by the conference which women's organisations have arranged to hold this week at Caxton Hall, and by the resolutions they have sent for discussion, the aim of the majority of them being to secure the representation of women on the governing bodies of the League and on all bodies constituted by it. A clause in the League of Nations Covenant declares that

"all positions under, or in connection with, the League, including the secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women";

but women know from long experience how difficult it is to translate equality on paper into terms of reality. Therefore, members of women's organisations are conferring together in order to press that from the very beginning women shall have a share in all the counsels of this League by securing representation on all its bodies.

The Women's Freedom League is responsible for the following resolutions appearing on the conference agenda:—

"That the secretariat of the League of Nations and of each of its councils shall be under the direction of two principal secretaries, a woman and a man, holding equal status; and that subordinate positions shall be shared by women and men in approximately equal proportions.

"That every European country entering the League of Nations shall include women among its national representatives."

We base our claims on the fact that women are as important a half of humanity as men; that they are equally concerned with men in the maintenance of goodwill in all our international relations; and that

### women's point of view

is as important as men's in the conduct of the world's affairs. It may be urged—it probably will be urged—that women in sufficient numbers have not had equal diplomatic training with men to share with them all the offices under the League of Nations. We would point out that the recent war was not a triumph for the old diplomacy of men, and that a newer and better world can only be founded on fresh principles and a

different system of training for the individuals, both men and women, who are charged with its structure. We are convinced, too, that the work of the League of Nations will not be really effective until the women of all nations have sufficient influence in their own country to serve with men as its accredited representatives in the League.

We shall also strongly support the following resolution, which also appears on the agenda:—

"That this conference urges that one of the two Government representatives to the International Labour Conference in connection with the League of Nations be a woman."

In every country during the last five years the numbers of women in industry have enormously increased, and, owing to economic conditions, it is likely that this increase will be maintained, at any rate, in the near future.

The status of women in industry and the consideration of their interests cannot but be improved if they are recognised by the Government in its appointment of an official woman representative.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

The report just published of the committee appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury on the ministry of women in the Church is of especial interest to women, since, on the facts contained therein, the decision of the Church of England with regard to a feminine ministry will undoubtedly be based.

The report traces with a thoroughness never attempted before the history of women's ministrations in the Church from its earliest days. Warning, however, is given in the preface that there is still room for a much more detailed investigation than has yet been attempted.

Beginning their historical inquiry into the "Ministry of Women" in the Christian Church with the evidence furnished by the New Testament, the committee point out that in the first century of the Christian era the position of women, both in Judea and in the Roman Empire generally, was one of inferiority, as compared with that of men, in respect of social status, education, and influence. The very frequent and prominent mention of women in the Gospel narratives is therefore all the more noteworthy. The Lord's teaching gives no support to the prevalent Jewish opinion upon the lower status of women. He addresses Himself to both sexes without distinction. His message is given as much to the women as to the men. Devoted women followed in His company and ministered to His wants. At the last, when the disciples had fled, women stood by Him at the foot of the Cross. After the Resurrection

#### Women were the First

to receive the privilege of the manifestations of the risen Lord. On the other hand, the Twelve Apostles were men, and the seventy who were sent forth to preach the kingdom were men. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was instituted in the presence of the Apostles only. The Apostolic commission was delivered to men. The Evangelistic charge would appear to have been delivered to "the eleven disciples." These facts taken together are proof that there were functions and responsibilities which at the first the Lord assigned to men and did not assign to women. As regards spiritual privilege, there was entire equality between the sexes. As regards religious vocation and public duties there was no such identity. All branches of the Church have hitherto interpreted this testimony of the Gospels to mean that the government of the Church and the responsibility for the Ministry of the Word and the Sacraments were entrusted to men.

The special gifts of a woman who "prophesied" were not regarded as constituting any claim to take a share in the administration of the churches. There is no evidence to show that women ever held the public

offices of teacher, presbyter, or bishop. The conclusion seems to be that in New Testament times only men occupied positions in the Christian Church which carried with them the ministry of government and the responsibility for public instruction. Nevertheless, they were from an early time entrusted with what has been termed the ministry of service. Phœbe is mentioned by St. Paul as a deaconess of the Church of Cenchræ, and later on deaconesses seem to be recognised as a class of Church officials.

Passing from New Testament times the report points out that from the early part of the fourth century down to the eleventh century there is more or less continuous evidence of the existence of deaconesses, and much of this is fairly complete in regard to their nature and functions. They acted as servants of the bishop; they assisted at the baptism of women; they visited and carried the Eucharist to the sick; they kept the doors of churches. The report refers in detail to the

#### Diaconate of women,

their age, the restrictions placed upon their ministrations, and their ecclesiastical powers, after which the committee arrive at the following conclusions. They find no evidence for the admission of women to the priesthood, save among heretical or obscure sects, there have been no Christian priestesses. But this is not to say that women have never been admitted to any form of Holy Orders, still less that they have not been allowed to take any part in the formal liturgical services of the Church, or that they have had no power in things ecclesiastical. Notwithstanding local variations of practice and long disuse, it is beyond all question that the diaconate of women had a very real existence. There has been no decision of the Church, as a whole, against it. No council of importance has condemned it, and it is impossible to maintain that the disuse has been of so complete or decisive a nature as to render the revival of the order incompetent to any part of the Church.

### WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE IN INDIA.

The recent annual report of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund records some excellent work done by medical women in India during the past year, as well as information regarding the increased hospital accommodation throughout the country. Dr. Dagmar Curjel, W.M.S., recently in charge of the Dufferin Hospital at Karachi, is now medical officer to the Station Hospital, Dagshai, where she is assisting in special research on malaria. The Lady Hardinge Hospital at Akola, though not yet complete, is now in working order, though the operating room still remains to be built. In Calcutta Dr. Webb records the performance of 96 abdominal operations, and the treatment of 357 labour cases during the year—a valuable testimony to the growing appreciation of British medical service.

Scholarships from the Central Committee and the various trust funds have been allotted to women students in the different colleges. The Queen Empress Silver Medal was awarded to Mrs. Malini Suthankar, Bombay University, and the Viceroy's Silver Medal to Sub-Assistant Surgeon Dayal Dai Deroza Das at Agra. At the Medical College at Madras no scholarships were allotted, as help had been generously given by the local government and from other sources.

An essay competition, on the "Care of the Baby," inaugurated by Lady Chelmsford, amongst Indian schoolgirls, resulted in a response from 68 different schools, but proved the necessity for supplying further information upon the subject! Twenty-two essays obtained prizes, but others showed an extraordinary ignorance. In some cases mutton bones were recommended for infants six months old! Others were to have their feet swathed in flannel binders, whilst coffee and tea and three or four patent foods were recommended to be administered wherever symptoms of delicacy appeared in the first year of life!

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Dr. Montessori in London.

Dr. Maria Montessori has arrived in London to conduct a training course of some months in the principles and practice of her methods. She is revisiting this country after many years' absence. Twenty years ago she first came here as a medical student, and has achieved the distinction of being the first woman doctor in Italy. She now returns as a great authority in educational methods, and a woman who has influenced education throughout the world. Dr. Montessori is lecturing three afternoons a week at St. Bride's Institute, and every morning at the L.C.C. schools in Hornsey Road. Over 2,000 teachers have applied to join her classes, but only 250 could be enrolled.

It is now ten or twelve years since we first began to be interested in the wonderful success of Dr. Montessori's school, where tiny children, relieved from all ordinary school discipline, were encouraged to educate themselves. A Montessori society was formed, and an admirer of the system has just offered £2,000 for the foundation of a Montessori institute in this country in memory of those who have been killed in the war. In Spain the Catalan Government has financed and established a Montessori institute, and in America the Montessori method is taught in 4,000 schools. In England, so far, it is only being taught in 400.

### Women's Legion Demobbed.

The Women's Legion of Motor Drivers is practically demobilised, and the school at Teddington is closed. The Legion was started by Lady Londonderry in 1915 to provide drivers for motor ambulances and Army Service vans and cars, and has done splendid work both in this country and in France. Another branch of the Legion supplies trained cooks and waitresses for the Army, and for a long time had its headquarters at the Duke of York's school in Chelsea. It was the successful work done by these drivers, cooks and waitresses for the Army that convinced the authorities it would be safe to employ women in still larger numbers, and under the discipline to which members of the Legion had proved themselves amenable at home and abroad. The creation of the W.A.A.C.'s was a direct development of the Women's Legion.

### Women and Business.

It is only of recent years that the higher branches of secretarial and commercial work have been open to women. In 1917 the first woman sat for the entrance examination to the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, and only this year the Institute of Chartered Accountants decided to alter their rules so as to admit women. The Auctioneers and Estate Agents' Institute, the Institute of Actuaries, and the Surveyors' Institution are now considering the question of offering the freedom of their professions to women.

### A Woman Sapper.

According to Mr. John Lane, the publisher, it would appear that there is actually a woman sapper in the British Army. Her name is Dorothy Lawrence, and she is only some 23 years of age. Her experiences while working in the 179th Tunnelling Co., R.E., of the famous 51st Division, will appear in print during the next few weeks.

### "Colonel" Princess Mary.

Princess Mary, as colonel-in-chief of the Royal Scots, is to visit Edinburgh early this month, where she will inspect the 1st battalion of the regiment at Retford Barracks, and also hold an investiture ceremony, at which decorations will be presented to officers and men.

### Gratuities for Naval Nurses.

The new war services gratuities to Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and its Reserve, and to V.A.D. and Red Cross nurses serving in naval hospitals have been announced. Sisters on active service will receive minimum gratuities of £40-£45. Those with service overseas will receive an additional £1 for each month's service beyond one year up to a maximum of 48 months. Those with no overseas experience will receive half this amount. Sisters of the Reserve are to receive a minimum of £30, with an additional 10s. for each month's service, beyond one year, either at home or abroad. For V.A.D. and Red Cross nursing members the minimum gratuity is to be £10, with similar increments to those of the Q.A.R.N.N.S. Reserve.

### Guardians in Partnership.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Burden, of Brighton, have been elected members of the local Board of Guardians. The Labour Party, it appears, elected Mrs. Burden a Guardian last April, and Mr. Burden, who is a railway fitter, immediately became fired with the intention of supporting his wife. Both were elected without opposition. Mr. and Mrs. Burden are already well known in other local activities, Mr. Burden having been president of the local N.U.R. and his wife president of the Associated Women's Guild. Since her election Mrs. Burden has moved resolutions advocating radical changes in the existing Poor Law administration.

### Future of Women and Banks.

It is now certain that a number of women will continue to be employed in banks in the future, and there is no reason, given the same amount of training, why they should not attain equal positions with men. A great deal of the future work in banks will be concerned with overseas trade, and, besides a knowledge of foreign languages, the rates of foreign exchange, bills of lading, and the decimal system should be known by all those who desire to attain efficiency in this particular sphere. The few women who have passed the examinations in banking compare very favourably with the men.

### A New Women's Club.

The Forum Club, a new women's club, is to be opened early in October at 6, Grosvenor Place. A somewhat unique feature is that the kitchen staff will consist entirely of men! Already considerably over 1,000 members have joined, and it is possible that the number will have to be limited to about 2,000. The club will be on the most modern lines with sections and circles of various interests. Qualifications are varied, and cover work in agriculture and horticulture, art, literature, science, the theatre, public service, and women's professions.

### Honour for American Woman.

Mrs. Anna Fisher, of the American Red Cross, has been offered the post of permanent member of the department of public works at Damascus with the rank of captain, in recognition of her valuable services in organising a large orphanage.

### Women Beekeepers.

Many women beekeepers in Buckinghamshire are shareholders in a successful re-stocking scheme. Nearly 100 shares of 30s. each have been taken up.

### Woman Air Passenger.

Mrs. Leonard Aldridge was the first woman to fly from London to Paris in the new Passenger Air Service last week.

### Women on Hamburg 'Change.

The Commercial Chamber in Hamburg has decided to admit women on the Exchange.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, September 5th, 1919.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### EDITORIAL

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.

## WOMEN IN POLICE COURTS.

When women, as well as men, occupy the magistrate's bench we shall probably have less reason to complain of men magistrates' impertinences to women. At the present time there are magistrates who apparently consider they are above the law of the land, and abuse their position by refusing to recognise women as part of the public, and on some pretext or other ordering them to leave the court while allowing men to remain. Mr. Mead is an old offender in this respect, and only last week insisted on turning out a woman patrol from Marlborough Police Court, adding to this offence by remarking:

"I should have thought your own proper feeling would have taken you out of court instead of listening to the shocking things you hear here."

We do not know why Mr. Mead should set himself up as a judge of "proper feeling" amongst women, and can assure him that most women are quite capable of coming to a decision on this matter without his help. We also maintain that when women, girls or children, either as accused or as victims, are implicated in police court cases, no matter how unsavoury these cases may be, it is the duty of women to be present and to see that justice is done to members of their sex. Every day thousands of women and girls are charged in our police courts, many of them being charged and convicted on police evidence alone. Women who have watched these cases in the courts cannot fail to be impressed with the fact that there would be a much better administration of justice if women were on the bench and available in the court as solicitors for the defence of these women and girls. When charged they are often so bewildered by the evidence given against them that they fail entirely to put up any convincing defence. Not long ago, in one of our courts, a girl put up a feeble defence against a charge of solicitation. The magistrate is reported to have cut her remarks short by the statement:

"I haven't heard a word you said. Two months"!

Under these circumstances it is exceedingly difficult for women to have any confidence in the administration of British justice. The Women's Freedom League maintains that women, as members of the public, have as much right as men to enter and remain in police courts while cases are being tried; and if, in the opinion of the presiding magistrate, the hearing of these cases is too harrowing or indecent for the minds of ordinary people, then the court should be cleared of both men and women, and especially of young boys, but certainly not of women only.

We learn that, on one occasion, a police court near London was cleared of women because the case to be tried involved an affiliation order!

## SEX DIFFERENTIATION IN SALARY.

In industry working women have very little for which to thank working men who, through their Trade Unions, succeed in depressing women's wages more effectively than their masters in earlier days kept down the wages of men. Only this last week agreements arrived at between co-operative societies and their employees, and between master bakers and their employees, show that in both instances women and girls are to be paid less wages than men and boys engaged on identically the same work, the settlement being on the lines that women and girls are to receive about two-thirds of the men's wages. Similarly, the Dispensers' Association in South Wales have succeeded in securing a minimum weekly salary of £5 5s. for men and £3 10s. for women. There is no reason for this sex differentiation in salary except men's apparently incurable jealousy of women receiving equal remuneration with them. Men have in reality little doubt in their minds as to women's ability to work as efficiently as themselves; but what staggers them is to see women getting equal payment for this work. Surely working men should realise by this time that in forcing women to act as blacklegs in the labour market they are militating against their own interests. Employers can scarcely be blamed by men employees for exploiting women's labour when Trade Unions agree that the wages of women shall be less than those of men. Men clerks evidently realise this for, while they offered no protest against the decision of various banks to retain women as a permanent part of their staffs, they strongly urged at a recent mass meeting that women should be paid the same salaries as men. There is no sex in industry, and the only satisfactory way of dealing with the competition of men and women is to make no differentiation in their rate of pay.

## A HOUSEWIFE'S PROSPECTS.

The knowledge that the docks at Liverpool and London are congested, that warehouses are choked with goods, and that food ships are being held up because the inland system of distribution has broken down, while all the time prices are continuing to rise, is a matter of grave concern to the ordinary housewife. She naturally wants to know why the Government does not use its innumerable motor vehicles to relieve this congestion, and arrange for ships to convey foodstuffs to other British ports where the pressure is not so great, so that the consumer may have easier access to food supplies and thus prevent the profiteer from reaping so rich a harvest. The difficulties in obtaining food, the worry of the new rationing cards for meat, sugar and butter, with the additional complexity of purchasers' shopping cards, together with the burden of increasing prices for coal, bacon, meat, milk and bread fall mainly on the housewife, who cannot but dread having to provide her family with food and some measure of comfort during the coming winter. How can a working woman adequately supply her young children with milk at one shilling a quart? How can she provide growing children with sufficient bread at 9½d. a loaf, and eggs and butter at prohibitive prices? Can she afford meat for her husband and grown children at 5d. a lb. above the present price, an increased price for bacon, fruit and vegetables, and coal from 2s. 9d. to 3s. a cwt.? Men have no conception of the ordinary housewife's responsibility and worry at the present time. If the Government had possessed a glimmer of intelligence in regard to the matter of prices they would have put women on to the select committee for dealing with high prices and profiteering. The fifteen men appointed last July have met *once*; but they cannot make up their minds whether or not they will meet again. Would women, if appointed, have acted in this manner?

## THE VOTE IN SWEDEN.

### Interview with Miss Anna Lindhagen.

The Women of Sweden have as good as got the vote, and they will enjoy its privileges, and also access to both Houses of the Riksdag, on the same terms as the men.

The Bill of Enfranchisement passed in the Riksdag for the first time in May, with the complete goodwill of the Lower House, but not without reactionary protest from the First Chamber. By reason of the fact that under the Swedish Constitution certain of the most important changes in constitutional legislation must pass not only once in both Houses, but must be referred to them a second time after General Election, the final approval of the Swedish Parliament for the measure cannot be secured until the summer of 1920, if the Government dissolves the present House: if they do not, the second reading will not take place till 1921. But

### The Vote is secure.

The latest elections to the Upper House last month resulted in a Conservative defeat, and the majority is assured for all progressive measures.

Anna Lindhagen, sister of the "Bolshevik" Mayor of Stockholm—the best of good fellows, by the way—one time Editor of *Morgonbris*, the women's Social Democratic monthly newspaper, and now Inspector of Children under the present Majority Socialist Government, has been foremost in the fight ever since that April day in 1902, when it was first begun. She is a dainty little lady of charming manners, and she hides under a gentle smile the strongest political determination.

"Our organisation began with my brother Carl Lindhagen's motion in the Riksdag in the spring of 1902," said Miss Lindhagen. "Parliament had had the question before it as far back as 1884, on a motion of Mr. Borg, but since then it had remained at a standstill. Then we began to work from the People's House, with the full support of the Socialist Party and most of the Liberals. Our first grand petition, which bore the names of

### 142,128 Swedish Women

was presented to Parliament in 1906, and the following years 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, saw further steady progress, until in 1914 the motion passed the Second Chamber, only to be rejected by the Upper House. Our membership in that year had increased to such an extent that the second petition bore no less than 351,454 signatures. We saw that the victory was in our haads, and at the beginning of 1918 it came."

"In a year from now, possibly a little more, our estate will be no less advanced than yours. All Swedish women of 23 years will have a vote for the Second Chamber, and all Swedish women of 27 will have a vote for the Upper Chamber. We shall be eligible at the age of 24 for the Upper House in any constituency in which we are domiciled, and at the age of 35, subject to the not very stringent property qualification of an income of 50,000 kronor (about £1,750), we shall be able to take our seat in the Upper House. It is a great victory, but it was not won without great work from noble women. I need only mention in passing

### Ellen Key and Fredrika Bremer,

and Ahn Margret Holmgren, amongst hundreds who led, and thousands who followed."

"Our work in the future will lie in the lines of general social democratic progress: we need better wages, better homes, a better chance for the children. The strong measures which are being taken, both officially and unofficially, to put an end to the emigration of Swedish families to the United States, where there labour is so often and so ruthlessly exploited, will concern us, in that if Swedish men and women are to stay in Sweden, the country must be made a fit home for them."

Miss Lindhagen was no neutral in the war. She takes rank with Hjalmar Branting, with his colleague on the *Social Demokraten*, the brilliant Albin Hansson, with the Editor of the *Dagens Nyheter* and the Editor of the *Stockholms Tidning*, and with her own brother, Carl Lindhagen, as a stout and unyielding friend of the Entente. "The greatest pride of my life," she told me, "is to have been in Brussels under the Kommandatur, and to have been able to help the unfortunate people of Belgium. It was because the Germans thought all Swedes must necessarily be pro-German, that they allowed me to go to Belgium during the occupation. But I did not hide my sentiments, and after a few days I found spies on my track wherever I went. However, since they had themselves invited me, they could not very well complain."

Miss Lindhagen looks forward with keen delight to the prospect of close political co-operation between the women of Sweden and the women of Great Britain, as also with the women of France and America. She follows closely all the phases of our political activity, and is flattering enough to congratulate us on what we have achieved and to model the future development closely upon our own. As one of the leading figures among the intellectual women of Sweden, her appreciation of the work of women in Great Britain, particularly during the war, is welcome and valuable.

LEOPOLD SPERO.

## WOMEN FIRST!

Having betaken himself to the most fashionable and most expensive watering place in Europe, the thoughts of the Prime Minister instinctively turned to the need for economy at home. For months past the Press has published flagrant cases of needless extravagance in all Government departments; but it would appear that Mr. Lloyd George was not told anything about this until he arrived at Deauville, when he immediately drafted a stern letter, from which it was understood that while members of Parliament were enjoying their nine weeks' holiday the heads of departments were to make drastic efforts in economy. The immediate result of this letter was the sacking of women and girls employed by the Government. We learn that Mr. Illingworth is engaged in dismissing 40,000 temporary women clerks, that the Ministry of Munitions is dispensing with the services of girl clerks and messengers; that the War Office has dismissed its girl clerks, that the W.R.N.S. will cease to exist after September 30th; and, from Miss Leahy's letter appearing in another column, the Women's Legion is apparently being disbanded, although it is curious to learn from the *Daily Chronicle* of September 1st that "an Army Council Instruction announces a bonus, payable as from May 1st, 1919, to officials and members of the Women's Legion (motor drivers) who undertake a fresh engagement to serve to April 20th, 1920, or who have already undertaken to serve for a longer period." There is evidently muddle and inefficiency somewhere; but we think that the way in which the members of the Women's Legion were dismissed at Teddington is altogether inexcusable. We know that the nurses have suffered under similar treatment from the Government, and, like Miss Leahy, we should be interested to learn what would happen if men had been served in this manner. We hear that the male officials and members of Government departments are a little more difficult to move in the interests of national economy. The Government has passed an Act to exclude women from many well-paid trades and sections of trades; it now turns them out of its departments by the thousands; and women have already been dismissed from work on railways, trams, omnibuses, and all other kinds of civilian work which is required by discharged soldiers and sailors. What are women to do for a living?

## WOMEN BUYERS.

A recent issue of the *Manchester Guardian* publishes some interesting facts concerning women buyers. The most highly paid women in London, it appears, are the women buyers in big shops, and their employment is rapidly increasing. The rapid development of the drapery trade in recent years, the new opportunities created by the war, and the number of women buyers in small or large establishments—Harrods alone employ 18—is a distinct encouragement to educated women to turn their thoughts in this direction for a livelihood. Training, however, must begin at an early age. The woman buyer must know every detail connected with her department, and must not mind having to begin at the bottom of the ladder. Sixteen or eighteen, it seems, is a good age to begin training.

### A Woman Buyer's Salary

varies from £250 upwards, and it may reach to £1,000. In fact, there is really no limit to what a buyer may earn. The work is worth a large salary, for on the buyer's judgment, initiative and enterprise depend the success of the whole department. She must have not only a thorough knowledge of the stocks and of the customers she handles, a sense of what is, and what is going to be, in demand, but a good general knowledge of values and of business. She also has the control of very large sums of money. She may, at any time, have a choice to make, or a deal of great advantage to her firm, and she may, through an error of judgment, invest in stock that it is afterwards difficult to dispose of. She has also to manage her departmental staff, to understand their varied characters, to watch their work, hold the balance evenly, and bring out all that is best in them. Hers is a post demanding tact, and resource, and great personality.

The woman buyer goes far afield. She visits the home market in England, Scotland and Ireland. She goes across to France and Belgium, Italy, and America, and often has to keep in close touch with Paris. Firms which habitually employ women buyers say they show

### A Greater Attention to Detail

than men. They are better housekeepers, their stock is kept as a general rule with special tidiness and cleanness. They take an immense pride in their departments. They are very good to the women who work under them, are assiduous for their welfare, and skilful in developing their good qualities. Some of them are married women, but as a general rule women who reach such responsible positions are more or less on their own, and they throw themselves with more single-mindedness into their work than most men do. Their work is their life, and absorbs them to the exclusion of other interests. They do not read as much as most men do, or take the same interest in public affairs. They show great business capacity, and they are extremely conscientious, but, while they shoulder a great deal of responsibility, they are apt to be over-cautious, and more afraid than men to take risks.

### A NEW COUNCIL

Just before the recess Sir Hamar Greenwood announced in the House of Commons that it was proposed to form an "International Economic Council to advise the various Governments concerned pending the organisation of the League of Nations." In view of the world shortage of foodstuffs and supplies generally, and the varying stages of credit in different parts of the world, we welcome this proposal to investigate the resources of the various countries and to arrange for their advantageous distribution; for we believe that the inclusion of all countries in such a council would be one of the best foundations for the firm establishment of the League of Nations. We would urge, however, for the success of its work, that women as well as men should be members of this council, for women of all countries are even more intimately concerned than men in the food supply and economic conditions of their country.

## THE NEW PATRIOTISM.

(Can be obtained at this office. Price 1d.)

This pamphlet, issued by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, is a report of Mrs. Ogilvie-Gordon's presidential address, and dwells upon the opening of a new era—the era of Internationalism. She hails the League of Nations as the chief new social structure arising out of the world-storm of war, and is convinced that its prospects of success will be greatly enhanced if women are in full co-operation with men with regard to its control.

Women were the first Internationalists. The International Council of Women was organised so far back as 1888, and it is just twenty years since its first international committee, that of Peace and Arbitration, was formed. In the same year an International Bureau of Information was formed, and propaganda work was undertaken by the women of the more progressive countries. In succeeding years other committees were established and, through the activities of the Council, a new and more open-minded patriotism was developed. The members of these committees met from time to time and discussed the social conditions of their various countries—housing, education, the labour and wages of boys and girls, and of men and women, marriage and nationality laws. It is only now, as a result of the war, that national governments (our own among them) are putting these questions in the forefront.

The future course of action for women is clear; it will be disastrous if those women who have gained both national and international experience, and who have already co-operated with men in various societies, do not serve with men as members in these new commissions of the League of Nations. They must continue to press forward to sit in their counsels and to secure equality for men and women in the constitution and customs of our land.

The new patriotism merges imperceptibly into international thought. The nearer we come to its ideals and aspirations the better shall we do homage to the men who in the war sacrificed their lives, their careers, their strength and vitality, in order that good might endure and nations be brought to live in amity with each other.

## CHRIST AND THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT.

By the Rev. C. Broughton-Thompson. Robert Scott, Roxburghe House, Paternoster Row. 2/- nett. (Can be obtained at this office.)

The position of woman in Biblical days is skilfully traced both in the teachings of the prophets and in the writings of the law. Her status as mere property is seen to become gradually modified by prophetic insistence upon the value of each human being's individuality in the sight of Jehovah, until it attains a remarkably high level of equality in the teaching of Deuteronomy, where seduction is reckoned as an outrage against moral purity, and in cases of unchastity one and the same penalty is exacted from both sexes alike. Then follows a period of arrested development, largely created by Levitic severity, so that by the time of Christ the position of woman is seen to have sunk to a level only comparable with the present position of women in the Moslem world.

A brief but eloquent tribute to the character and teaching of Christ is applied as a touchstone in the creation of the woman's movement, which the writer characterises as possessing the same driving force and hatred of convention that animated Christ Himself. It is "an application or extension of His purpose, a growth of the seed He came to sow, a working of the leaven He hid in the meal... opposition to the woman's movement rests on just the same motives as that of the Pharisees to Christ; dislike of change, the dead-weight influence of established usage and convention, and the jealousy that guards ancient privilege, and, in a word, more or less unconscious selfishness."

## Women's Freedom League.

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Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

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General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



### DARE TO BE FREE

Wednesday, October 1.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker, Miss Abadam. Subject: "Flouting Women—the Divided Faggot."

Friday and Saturday November 28 and 29—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central Hall, Westminster.

### Provinces.

September 10.—Ashford: Women's Club Meeting, Guild Room, Co-operative Hall, 2.30 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Nevinson.

Wednesday, September 17.—Ashford: Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. Kither.

September 18.—Hastings: Meeting for Working Women, 4 p.m., at Wellington Square Lecture Hall. Speaker—Mrs. Despard. Chair—Mrs. Strickland.

Monday, September 29.—Westcliff: Social, Crowstone Congregational Hall, King's Road, 7.15 p.m. Music and sketches by Mrs. Newberry and friends. Refreshments provided; 1s. each.

### Other Societies.

September 10.—7.30 p.m. Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans, on "Growth and Tendency of Women's Movement," at Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.

### Branch Notes.

The Organiser will be glad to receive names of those willing to help with the public meeting at the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday, September 17th, at 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard will speak on "The New International." Posters are going up soon, and she will want helpers for the handbills.

THE WOMEN'S CLUB.—Mrs. Nevinson will speak at the club on Wednesday, September 10th, at 2.30.

All our members will be very sorry to say "good-bye" to the Rev. and Mrs. Corlett and daughters this week. They have worked well for us at Ashford, and will be sorely missed. We wish them "good luck" in the new work they are undertaking, and hope to see them again in the future.

### Picnic and Concert.

Miss R. T. Wells, who has previously most kindly arranged concerts given by her pupils in aid of the Nine Elms Settlement, is now getting up a picnic and concert in Petersham Park, near Richmond Park, one afternoon this month. We hope to give the date and further particulars in next week's VOTE, but in the meantime our readers may like to know that the tickets will be 2s. each, and can be obtained from Miss Wells, 4, Friars Stile Road, Richmond Hill, S.W. As the proceeds are to go to the Children's Guest House at Nine Elms, we hope as many friends as possible will support this enterprise.

### Miss Royden.

Miss A. Maude Royden will preach next Sunday (September 7th) at the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, at 6.30. Subject: "Mary Slessor."

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

Dear Miss Underwood,—I should like to put before you the following facts of the demobilisation of the Women's Legion as it affected the staff and members of the Training School of Motor Drivers at Rock Hall, Teddington. On Saturday, the 23rd ult., after roll call, 8.15, we were dismissed with a command to appear on parade at 11.30, when the O.C. came and informed us that we were demobilised, and hoped he would be able to send us on a fortnight's money!! Up to this moment we had no idea of being demobilised, as a party of about 40 women had arrived the Monday before and had only just started their training. No railway warrants were issued to those wishing to proceed to London or in its vicinity, and no compensation given on leaving. Evidently it was assumed that we were all wealthy women with homes. The salary we received when training was 25s. per week, minus 16s. per week for board. Does the Government think that we were able to save out of 8s. 9d. sufficient to keep us against sudden and perhaps prolonged unemployment? Even when our training was finished and we passed on to the staff our weekly wage was 38s. 6d., out of which we paid for everything except uniform. The Government must economise, and our services may have been superfluous, but they were solicited by advertisements right up until the week of our demobilisation, and many of us gave up work in answer to this appeal. We were flung out at a moment's notice without travelling warrants, or money, or even arrangements for the conveyance of our luggage. Is there a man's force that has been treated like this? If there had been it would be interesting to know the results. Apart from this injustice there is the bitterness of disappointment, the loss of courage, and the dread of unemployment to so many women, who, having signed on for a year, at the Government's request, suddenly find that they are not secure for a year, but must face looking for work at a very difficult time.

Perhaps I should add that permission was given for women to stay on for a week on condition that their board was paid for, so it did strike the authorities that some women are homeless. But, so far, the two weeks' salary has not been sent. What need there is for women in Parliament!—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) PATRICIA LEAHY.

22, Ulleswater Road, Southgate, N. 14.  
September 1st, 1919.

## REMEMBER!

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FRIDAY,  
September 5,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

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## SPEAKERS' CLASSES.

She also announces a dramatic recital of "Paolo and Francesca," with incidental music arranged and played by Miss Maie Hoey, for Friday, September 26th, at 8 p.m., at West Central Hall, 31, Alfred Place, Stone Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C. Tickets from Miss Clara Reed.

Miss Clara Reed, 38, Upper Gloucester Place, Dorset Square, N.W., informs us that her classes, which are limited to ten in number, begin the second week in September, and that those wishing to join these classes should communicate with her at an early date.

## W.A.A.C.'S NEW PAY.

New rates of pay have recently been approved for the telephone and postal services of the Q.M.A.A.C. A forewoman telegraphist now gets 54s. 6d. per week, and a forewoman telephonist 44s. 6d.

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Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

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