

THE VOTE,  
OCT. 20, 1922.  
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN FOR THE NEXT PARLIAMENT.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIII. No. 678.

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

FRIDAY, OCT. 20, 1922

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

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## MARRIED WOMEN AND INCOME TAX.

I.

By MRS. AYRÈS PURDIE.

In law, men and women are equal as regards income tax, except the married woman. Therefore, where taxation is concerned, the grievance of the latter is the only one calling for redress. Her position is an incredible anomaly. There is no Married Women's Property Act for her. The Income Tax Act clearly states to-day (as it did more than a century ago, having never altered in this respect), that a married woman's income belongs to her husband, and where it is concerned she is non-existent. The Income Tax Acts are Crown Acts; the Married Women's Property Acts were merely the outcome of private Bills. Hence, the former take no cognisance of the latter, and never will until such legislation is introduced as will bind the Crown to recognise the Married Women's Property Acts. The "Crown" (I use this term because the lawyers always do so, and it is technically correct) is not bound by private Acts unless such Acts have made specific provision for ensuring general observance. This omission on the part of the framers of the Married Women's Property Acts has left the married woman in a positively ludicrous position, though concerted action should easily sweep away a state of affairs degrading both to her and to the State.

Mr. Lloyd George admitted long ago that the position was quite indefensible, but it yielded money to the State. In other words, *it is all wrong, but it pays.* (The woman pays, of course, here as elsewhere.) However, with his usual facile pretence of removing a grievance, while in reality evading it, and sliding right round it, he had a minor (very minor) clause inserted in the Income Tax Act. Because, however, this clause was merely a characteristic makeshift and expedient, which totally ignored the main problem, it is impracticable and unworkable; in fact, I believe the authorities have no intention of working it, for it simply makes confusion worse confounded, and results in chaos.

Briefly outlined, it consists of an elaborate ritual imposed on wives (and on no other persons), whereby a certain form has to be gone through at a certain moment (it has no parallel in income tax procedure), and is supposed to confer on the wife a *temporary* right (for one year only) to a portion (not to the whole)

of her own money. If she misses the psychological moment, or swerves a hair's-breadth from the prescribed procedure, she is wiped out, and another year must elapse before she can again attempt to assert her identity. The clause has evidently been arranged by very clever officials to make it hopelessly difficult for the married woman to comply with its requisitions. However, even if she succeeds so far, subsequent complications arise. The officials try to choke her off; they sometimes encourage the husband to bring pressure to bear on her to abandon her rights. In fact, I know of one case where a man (a solicitor), after his wife had successfully got through the formalities of the ritual, bought her off from following the matter further.

It need not be pointed out to the intelligent reader that, unless men profited by the anomalous position of married women, it would not pay to buy a wife off the paltry concession that was wrung from Lloyd George.

Some time ago, Mr. Chamberlain said, in the House, that it was false to accuse the Government of repudiation of the Married Women's Property Acts. Some allowance, I suppose, must be made for his ignorance. I challenge any Chancellor of the Exchequer to demonstrate that the Government accepts and respects the Married Women's Property Acts. If it does, let it at once remove from the Income Tax Act the clause which says that a wife's income belongs to her husband. It is not only in the Act, it appears on all the official forms. If not true, why is it allowed to remain, and why does the Government officially and persistently refuse to abandon it?

This article deals only with the theoretical aspect of women's position. In another article I hope to deal with the practical aspect, and definitely instruct those married women who desire to assert their rights as far as the present law permits.

The question for women to put to Candidates at an Election should be: "Will you force the Government to remove from the Income Tax Act the words that 'the income of a married woman is deemed to be the husband's income,' and to accept nothing but *Yes* or *No* as a reply."

## WOMEN'S MEANS OF SUBSISTENCE.

The world has grown so accustomed to seeing the work of women unpaid and underpaid that people generally pay little attention to the special economic hardships which so many women have to put up with. In a case dealt with at the Mansion House, last week, it was stated that the manageress of a tea-rooms was paid £1 a week and commission, and that the waitresses had 2s. commission on every £1 they took, and a share in the tips, but no salary. The manageress was fined for permitting light conduct between waitresses and customers. The magistrate rightly pointed out that the real offender in the case was the proprietress, who did not appear, but who must have known perfectly well that in running the place on those lines, she was forcing the girls to pander to the frivolity of customers. He also expressed the hope that one day it would be possible to get hold of the people who really ran these places, who took the profits, kept in the background, and avoided punishment.

We sincerely hope that the Union of Post Office Workers will succeed in securing the appointment of a committee of inquiry, on which there should certainly be women, to investigate the conditions of employment in telephone exchanges. A report issued by the Union says that cases were reported to their committee, and cases were directly observed in which girls were reduced to tears and had to be assisted from the exchange, owing to the mental stress involved in trying to cope with the pressure of work.

We all remember the fervour with which many of the present members of the Government and of Parliament, just before the last General Election, proclaimed repeatedly that a grateful country should at least make ample provision for the widows and children of the fallen. Quite recently, many widows of men who were killed on active service have had their pensions stopped. Only last week a widow with two children had to seek outdoor relief from the Southwark Board of Guardians. Her husband was killed in an air raid when home on leave from France. The widow was given a pension of 35s. 10d. a week up to September 25th last, when she was officially informed that she would receive no further pension or grant. The Central Appeal Tribunal have disallowed an appeal against this decision, on the ground that her husband's death was not due to any disability whilst on active service. Could meanness on the part of the authorities go farther? We are told that the Government are prepared to sanction the expenditure of £10,000,000 for schemes for the employment of men during the coming winter; but, so far, no mention has been made of any effort to provide work for unemployed women. These latter, the majority of whom have no political power, because they are under thirty years of age, are supposed to be satisfied with the hope that they will somehow or other get work, because work has been given to a number of men—they must be content this time with the crumbs which fall from the poor man's table! It is estimated that the road works for the relief of unemployment alone will cost about £7,000,000. Could not the clerical work in connection with these schemes be given to women? There are countless unemployed women clerks.

Last Saturday, the Minister of Labour, speaking at a meeting of the Cheltenham Employment Committee, said that the Treasury had agreed to advance, by way of a loan, the amount of money (£3) which an intending settler in Australia was required to have in his possession, to men who desired to migrate to Australia, and whose cases had been passed by the appointed authorities, but who were known to lack this necessary sum. Is it not time that women secured the Parliamentary vote at the same age as men, in order to press their claims for equal treatment with men in regard to attempts to solve the problem of unemployment?

Then we have a woman writer suggesting that the solution of economic difficulties for women is not "equal pay for equal work," but a scheme of national insurance for all single women over thirty! Why, in the name of common sense, should another weekly

deduction be made from the wages of women only? Women are already systematically paid less than men for work which is frequently of a greater quantity and of a higher quality than men supply, and they are expected to relinquish their job without question if any man is found to desire it. The Government, by its practice, advances the illuminating theory that men alone have the right to the provision of work, and now it is suggested that a woman should pay an extra weekly insurance contribution for the disadvantages of being a woman! Well, really, it is high time that women took a firmer hand in their own affairs, and sent a number of sensible women to Parliament to secure a more equitable adjustment of the means of subsistence for the women workers of this country.

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

### More Women M.P.'s.

Mrs. Councillor Alderton, of Colchester, who is a Scotswoman by birth and upbringing, was last week adopted as prospective Independent Liberal candidate for South Edinburgh. The seat is held by Mr. C. D. Murray, the Lord Advocate for Scotland. It has been suggested that in certain contingencies Mr. Murray might not be the candidate at the next election, and the name of the Duchess of Atholl as Coalition candidate has received a certain amount of favour.

### Sophie Bryant Exhibition.

An Exhibition of £20, to be called the Sophie Bryant Exhibition, to assist girls from the Henrietta Barnett School at the Hampstead Garden Suburb to enter a University, has been founded by Mrs. S. A. Barnett, in memory of her friend, Dr. Sophie Bryant. From the inception of the School, with six little girls nine years ago, Dr. Sophie Bryant was its Hon. Director, and potent guiding and stimulating influence. The Exhibition will be awarded by the examiners after examination.

### The Woman's Movement in Belgium.

The Woman's Movement in Belgium has made steady progress since the war. To-day, Belgian women can be called to the Bar, they are eligible for the Senate, the Chamber, and Provincial and Communal Councils, they possess the communal vote, and some twenty thousand war widows have been fully enfranchised. The practical outcome is one woman Senator, 181 women Councillors, five women Burgomasters, and several women Sheriffs.

### Woman as First Mate.

When the French vessel, *Etoile d'Aujanau*, put into Durban recently, it was discovered that one of the ship's officers, although attired as a man, was a woman, and it was explained that she was the wife of the skipper and carried on the duties of first mate. The boat runs between Diego, Suarez, and Madagascar.

## THE FEMINIST LEAGUE.

Objects: To restore to Women all they should have, all they should know, and all they should be.

### MISS ABADAM

will lecture on 7 consecutive Tuesdays, at 6.30, Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street.

- |         |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 31 | Results of past: Enforced Ignorance, Home Captivity and over Sexing.                                                                                                                   |
| Nov. 7  | Results of being World Monopolists. Lord Birkenhead <i>versus</i> Women Peers. Rev. B. Bourchier <i>versus</i> the Woman's Soul. "John Bull" Newspaper <i>versus</i> the Woman Worker. |
| Nov. 14 | The Convenient Outcast. A Suggestion for ending "Paid Vice."                                                                                                                           |
| Nov. 21 | Why the Kabbalah was Veiled, and Freemasonry Secretive.                                                                                                                                |
| Nov. 28 | Miss M. A. R. Toker (Author of "Women Preachers" and "Ecce Mater") will give a Talk about the things concerning Women and on "Sacred Orders."                                          |
| Dec. 5  | Psychology of Dress. "Man, Woman, and Marriage"                                                                                                                                        |
| Dec. 12 | "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse." Feminist Ideals as World Correctives. Peace, Health, Purity. "The Truth Shall Make You Free."                                                       |

Admission Free. Silver Collection. All Women Welcome.

## GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

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

### STALLS AND STALL-HOLDERS.

The stalls at present arranged for the League are:—

**Hampstead Branch.—Handkerchiefs and Odds and Ends.** Miss Goodliffe, Miss Lyndon, Miss Lane, and Miss Vibert.  
**Mid-London Branch (Half Stall).—Woollies and Children's Clothing.** Miss Steven.

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

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

**South-Eastern Branches.—General Stall and Xmas Tree.** Miss White and Members.

**Swansea Branch.—General Stall.** Mrs. Thomas.  
**Antiques and White Elephants.—Mrs. Harverson, Miss Raleigh.**

**General Stall.—Mrs. Lloyd.**  
**Overalls and Aprons.—Mrs. Ammon, Mrs. Mustard, and the Misses Underwood.**

**Pound Stall.—Miss Munro.**  
**Remnant Stall.—Mrs. A. A. Thompson and Mrs. Harvey James.**

**Stationery Stall.—Mrs. MacMichael.**  
**Toy Stall.—Mrs. J. R. Knight, Mrs. and Miss Judy Nettleton, and the Misses Maud, Muriel, and Beryl Scott.**  
**Literature Stall.—Miss Telling, Miss E. W. Kirby.**

**White Stall.—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams.**  
**"Vote" Stall.—Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. Newsome, and Miss Reeves.**

### ENTERTAINMENTS.

The entertainments will be numerous and varied, the following members and friends kindly giving their services:—Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Marianne Elias, Miss Hawkins, Miss Jacob, Mrs. Harvey James, Miss Newman, Mr. Eric Richmond, Mrs. Sparrow, Miss Thomas, and Mrs. Van Raalte; Miss Grace Woollacott's pupils will give a dancing display on Saturday, November 11th. Character readings will be given by Miss Isabel Blackman, Mrs. Grace Goodall, and Mrs. Russell; also Phrenology by Mr. F. Sons, who was so much in request last year.

Miss Berry will be glad to receive the names of any members or friends who are willing to give their services and help with the musical programme.

### PLEASE HELP!

Gifts are greatly needed for all the stalls, and especially for the following:—Household: Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Tanner will be grateful for any gifts for this stall, namely, soap, kettles, brushes, pots and pans, dusters, tea cloths, towels, dishcloths, in fact, any gift will be welcome that is useful to the household. All sorts of Woollies are required by Miss Sparkman: ladies' jumpers, bed socks, children's frocks, little coats, vests, leggings, socks, baby shoes, etc. The White Stall is very important, and will be in charge of Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Trafford Williams; every description of underclothing is needed for this stall. Mrs. Mustard, Miss Underwood, and Mrs. Ammon will much appreciate gifts of overalls, aprons, pinafores, etc. All members and readers of THE VOTE are especially asked to remember the Pound Stall, which will be in charge of Miss Munro; goods needed are currants, raisins, rice, tapioca, tea, packets of suet, sweets, etc. Remnants of material, either of cotton, woollen, or silk, also of ribbon, braid, lace, etc., are much needed by Mrs. Thompson for the Remnant Stall. Mrs. Harverson will be glad to receive gifts for the Antique and White Elephant Stall; anything will be welcome, however small. Many toys are wanted—dolls, stuffed animals, boxes of bricks, balls, etc.; Mrs. Knight will gladly welcome any article for this stall. Gifts of hand-

kerchiefs will be gratefully received by Miss E. Berry on behalf of the Hampstead Stall. Mrs. MacMichael will much appreciate any contribution towards the Stationery Stall: writing blocks, postcards, boxes of paper, Christmas cards, calendars, pencils, pens, paints, playing cards, table stationery.

The Committee will also be glad to receive the names of those who are willing to dress dolls, make underclothing for the White Stall, children's clothing, overalls and aprons, etc.

### PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

Prizes will be offered for the best dressed doll, camisole, and made toys (elephants, dogs, cats, etc.), the cost of material not to exceed 2/6 or 3/-. The patterns for same can be obtained at *Fashions for All* Paper Pattern Department, 291A, Oxford Street, London, W.1. All communications relating to these competitions should be sent to Miss Berry.

The competitions have been undertaken by the Golders Green Branch, and are to be on an extensive scale, the part of the Hall reserved for them being decorated to represent Hampstead Heath on a Bank Holiday, with all the delights and wonders that visitors to this well-known spot are accustomed to, and will include hoop-la, dart-throwing, etc. There will also be competitions for Cockneys, and various other attractions. All who know Miss Van Raalte, Miss Dickeson, and Miss Freeman will look forward with anticipation to something striking and unusual in the competitions at the Fair this year.

Mrs. Legge and Mrs. Hawkins will be in charge of the Information Bureau.

### SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

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

- The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
- The "Crusader."
- The Federation of Women Civil Servants.
- The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement.
- Hartfield Hospital Home School.
- The Friends of Armenia.
- The Friends Relief.
- "The Russian Shop."
- Miss Basnett.
- Miss Burwood.
- The Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.
- Messrs. Benetts, Ltd.
- Messrs. Beatty Bros., Ltd.
- Messrs. Manuel Lloyd and Co.
- The Portable Utilities Co., Ltd.
- The Staines Kitchen Equipment Co., Ltd.

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

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

### "THE VOTE" STALL.

Will readers of THE VOTE please also send something to Miss Reeves for THE VOTE Stall? We rely very much on the proceeds of this stall to meet the "end of the year" expenses. If every reader would promise a contribution, the stall would be furnished and a great deal of correspondence would be saved. Please show that you do appreciate your paper, and send a postcard saying what you will do for the stall. Saleable articles of every description will be welcomed, also suggestions of novel ways of making extra money!

### THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

will also have a table for the sale of fountain pens, and will take orders for visiting cards, printed Christmas cards, stamped notepaper, and printing of all descriptions. Samples and styles will be there for inspection, so please save up your orders and give them to us at the Fair.

# THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1922.

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

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

### EDITORIAL.

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

## WOMEN FOR THE NEXT PARLIAMENT.

At the last General Election, in December, 1918, fifteen women stood as Parliamentary candidates, for the first time in the history of this country, and, though none of these secured a seat, several scored a high position in the ballot, and one and all were responsible for much excellent pioneer work. The last four years have efficiently ripened the good seed then sown, and the splendid record of our two British women M.P.s has undoubtedly brought it to maturity. Moss-grown prejudice and the indolence that is born of apathy has each alike vanished into thin air, and the country now stands prepared to welcome the work of women in the counsels of the State. Since 1918, twenty-eight women have been definitely adopted by various constituencies in Great Britain, and many others are ready to offer themselves for election when opportunity permits.

The majority of these prospective women candidates belong to the Independent Liberal Party, their names and constituencies being as follow:—

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.   | Louth                     |
| Lady Barlow              | High Peak, Derbyshire     |
| Mrs. Burnett Smith       | Maryhill, Glasgow         |
| Mrs. Stewart Brown       | Waterloo, Liverpool.      |
| Mrs. Corbett-Ashby       | Richmond                  |
| Lady Currie              | Devizes                   |
| Miss Alison Garland      | Dartford                  |
| Mrs. Scott-Gatty         | Huntingdon                |
| Commandant Allen         | St. George's, Westminster |
| Lady Lawson              | Bedford                   |
| Councillor Mrs. Alderton | S. Edinburgh              |

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Mrs. Coombe Tennant | Forest of Dean |
| Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon | Canterbury     |
| Miss Helen Fraser   | Govan, Glasgow |
| Miss May Grant      | S.E. Leeds     |

The only woman candidate standing as a Unionist is: Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, N. Camberwell and there are two Coalition Unionists:—

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Viscountess Astor, M.P. | Sutton, Plymouth |
| Lady Cooper             | Walsall          |

The Labour Party has adopted six women:—

- |                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Miss Margaret Bondfield    | Northampton   |
| Mrs. Ayrton Gould          | N. Lambeth    |
| Dr. Ethel Bentham          | E. Islington  |
| Miss Susan Lawrence        | E. Ham, North |
| Mrs. Pease                 | E. Surrey     |
| Miss E. Picton Turberville | N. Islington  |

The Co-operative Movement is putting up one candidate, who is also being supported by the Labour Party:—

- |             |                           |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| Mrs. Barton | King's Norton, Birmingham |
|-------------|---------------------------|

and there are three Independent Women Candidates:—

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Oliver Strachey  | Chiswick and Brentford  |
| Miss Eleanor Rathbone | East Toxteth, Liverpool |
| Mrs. H. More Nisbett  | West Edinburgh          |

Practically all these women can claim many years of public work to their credit, and several are experts in some one or more departments of our civic life. Three at least, Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, and Mrs. Ogilvie-Gordon, are well-known internationalists. Two more, Commandant Allen and Sub-Inspector Mrs. More Nisbett, are authorities on police work. Others, like Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Susan Lawrence, are noted leaders in the industrial world, and almost everyone in the list is, or has been, noted for many solid achievements on local governing committees.

## OUR ELECTION POLICY.

As we go to press, most people are talking about the imminence of a General Election. The policy of the Women's Freedom League, as decided upon at our last Annual Conference, is clear. We shall, wherever possible, support and work for all suitable women candidates, irrespective of the political party to which they belong, provided that our Branch in the locality in which they stand also agrees to support their candidature. We have sent round our questionnaires to most of the women candidates now in the field, and we have reason generally to be satisfied with their replies. Where there is no woman candidate standing, we shall direct our attention to the men candidates, asking them questions by post, and at their meetings, in regard to what they are prepared to do, if elected, in order to secure equal franchise for women with men at the earliest possible moment; if they will support legislation to establish the full equality of status between men and women; and whether, if promoted to office, they will exercise their administrative powers in the spirit of full equality between the sexes. The men who cannot satisfy us on these or similar questions may rely upon the active opposition of the members and friends of the Women's Freedom League in their district. It is our earnest desire to see the greatest possible number of women in the next Parliament, and we rely upon all members of the Women's Freedom League to do their utmost to secure their return. We still hope that our legislators will see the wisdom of granting the Parliamentary vote to women at the same age and on the same terms as men before the General Election. If this is not done, they will only have themselves to thank if women's resentment is very effectively expressed at the polls.

## THE HYDE PARK CASE.

Last week, Sir Almeric Fitzroy, Clerk to the Privy Council, was fined by the Marlborough Street magistrate for "wilfully interfering with and annoying persons using Hyde Park," and an appeal has been lodged against the conviction. We have always urged that in such cases, whether the accused is a man or a woman, the person annoyed should appear in Court to substantiate the charge of "annoying." In this particular case, a woman witness appeared in Court and said she was annoyed. The outstanding feature of the proceedings was her cross-examination by Sir Henry Curtis-Bennett. We know quite well that it is the business of Counsel to do his level best for his client, but we consider that, in this particular case, the Counsel for the defence went beyond the justifiable limit in his attempts to discredit the evidence of the woman witness for the prosecution. The conviction of Sir Almeric Fitzroy is apparently not popular with the Press or the public; and it is being said that men who prefer to take a stroll unaccompanied by the police will certainly avoid Hyde Park after dusk. This reminds us of the time when the Women's Freedom League protested that the streets of London should be made safe from the police for respectable women—on the occasion when it was proved that two innocent women had been wrongly charged by the police, and sent to Holloway prison. Some 3,000 women are imprisoned, and a further 3,000 women fined, every year, on charges of "soliciting for immoral purposes." We wonder how many of them would be convicted if they were able to employ smart Counsel for their defence? They are charged and convicted on police evidence only, and, wherever they are, these women are always shadowed by the police. This is not the fault of the police, who can only do their best in trying to carry out our complicated laws on molestation and solicitation; but we would ask all those people who consider that the conviction of Sir Almeric was not justified on the evidence given, to remember that thousands of women who have no means of defending themselves are subjected every year to conviction on less evidence than was forthcoming in the recent Hyde Park case.

# THE EXETER CONFERENCE.

Women delegates from various public bodies assembled at the Guildhall, Exeter, on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, under the auspices of the Women's Local Government Society, to discuss various aspects of Public Health.

Dr. Adkins, M.O.H. for Devon, opening a discussion on Wednesday on "Housing as it affects Public Health," said they must not lose sight of the fact that bad housing was one of the component parts of the vicious circle, of which others were drink, poverty, vice, and ignorance. Bad housing, however, was the link in the chain which could be most easily broken. Every house should have adequate scullery and larder accom-

Mrs. Montague (Crediton) urged the necessity of educating public opinion in regard to pure milk. She described the insanitary condition of some cowsheds she had seen in remote country districts, and urged the giving of lectures on the subject of pure milk.

Miss Berry (Secretary, Women's Local Government Society) spoke of the necessity of revising the conditions under which patients were allowed to leave tuberculosis sanatoriums.

Dr. Douglas White (London), opening a discussion on "The Treatment of Venereal Diseases," referred to the havoc caused by them, especially syphilis and gonorrhoea. At the present time there were some

the first-mentioned disease, and prizes of the latter, every year. It is to combat these diseases by fear, as a new vision, a new way of few conception of what sex meant and nations.

Boarding Out and Institutional died on Thursday by Miss Bertha the W.L.G.S., and a member of Association. She said the board- more satisfactory than scattered re children more freedom in which particular trait of character.

founder of the National Children 1), described the starting of the five years ago. The Association against other Societies, but to f the Adoption Bill now before sed, there would be no question the adoption of children. During the Association had had 30,000 babies, but the number adopted > 1,500. The Association never mother if she could keep it.

on (Chief Constable of Exeter), in the Child Delinquent," pointed out is dealt with for indictable offences les in 1920, no fewer than 15,000, children; and of 612,000 persons dictable offences, 25,000, or about ldren. Probation was particularly tment of juvenile delinquents, pro- officer possessed the requisite

## TEENTH CENTURY.

so years before its time, and pub- lished four editions.

er of this period, Bernard Mande- physician, and satirist, was men- tion as having anticipated several s. In one or another of his writ- the mental capacity of women, and disadvantages under which they e to education, etc.; whilst some rning cruelty to animals would give imane persons of our own day.

obinson Crusoe, said Mr. Clayton, regarded as a literary "bone- of his shower of pamphlets dealing se subjects, for the best known of old thinkers of his day, he suffered dities. He, too, pleaded the cause for women in his *Essay upon Pro-* 697. Samuel Butler was the final -shaker" chosen by Mr. Clayton,

whose great but unfinished satirical poem, *Hudibras*, took Caroline society by storm, and, though read in its entirety by few people, shares with the Bible, Shakespeare, and a few other books, the honour of being among the most widely quoted pieces of literature in our language.

250.	172.	19, 51, 82, 126 (Grain Expert), 131,
250.	172.	162, 218, 221, 299, 351, 355, 362.
66, 170, 179.	250.	82, 115, 379.
170, 403.	250.	292, 413.
265.	250.	3, 9, 35, 66, 79, 115, 158, 187, 220, 322,
	250.	338, 346, 370, 391.
	250.	229, 321.
	250.	28, 154, 309.
	250.	189, 210, 244, 250, 263.
	250.	162.
	250.	115, 170.
	250.	250, 346.
	250.	250.
	250.	59, 106, 178, 185, 202, 291.
	250.	253, 261.
	250.	115, 131.
	250.	11, 55, 43.
	250.	105.
	250.	274.

- Besant, Mrs Annie
- Bills affecting Women.
- Bulgarian Women
- Burmese Women.
- Business Women.
- Bryant, Dr Sophie

- Camp Fire Girls.
- Canadian Women.
- Chambers of Commerce, Women and
- Catholic Women.
- Church Ministry, Women and
- Child Welfare.
- Cinema Censors, Women
- Civil Service, Women and
- Climbers, Women
- Clubs, Women and
- Conductors (Musical), Women
- Cotton Brokers, Women
- Co-operators, Women
- Colleges, Working Women's
- Curators, Women
- Curie, Madame
- Currie, Lady
- Czechoslovakian Women

influence. Amongst women literary "bone-shakers," Mr. Clayton referred to Margaret Cavendish, wife of the first Duke of Newcastle, famous for her astonishingly voluminous literary output, both in poetry and prose; and to Mary Astell, whose "Serious Proposal to the

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# THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20th, 1922.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

## WOMEN FOR THE NEXT

At the last General Election, fifteen women stood as Parliamentarians for the first time in the history of this country. None of these secured a seat, but their position in the ballot, and one after another for much excellent pioneer work, have efficiently ripened the good seed. The splendid record of our two women has undoubtedly brought it to the attention of the public, and the prejudice and the indolence that have each alike vanished into thin air, stands prepared to welcome the counsels of the State. Since 1918 have been definitely adopted by the Government in Great Britain, and many other countries themselves for election when opportunity offers.

The majority of these prospects belong to the Independent Liberal Party, and constituencies being as follows:

- Mrs. Wintringham, M.P. Louisa
- Lady Barlow High Wycombe
- Mrs. Burnett Smith Marlborough
- Mrs. Stewart Brown Watlington
- Mrs. Corbett-Ashby Rieking
- Lady Currie Devon
- Miss Alison Garland Darlington
- Mrs. Scott-Gatty Huddersfield
- Commandant Allen St. Albans
- Lady Lawson Bedford
- Councillor Mrs. Alderton S. E. Bedford

The Coalition Liberals have the following women candidates:

- Mrs. Coombe Tennant Forth
- Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon Canongate
- Miss Helen Fraser Govan
- Miss May Grant S. E. Bedford

The only woman candidate standing in the Labour Party is Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, M.P. for Glasgow, and there are two Coalition Liberal women candidates:

- Viscountess Astor, M.P. Suffolk
- Lady Cooper Warwick
- Miss Margaret Bondfield Norfolk
- Mrs. Ayrton Gould N. I. Devon
- Dr. Ethel Bentham E. I. Devon
- Miss Susan Lawrence E. I. Devon
- Mrs. Pease E. I. Devon
- Miss E. Picton Turberville N. I. Devon

The Co-operative Movement is also being supported by the following women:

- Mrs. Barton King
- Mrs. Oliver Strachey Chislehurst
- Miss Eleanor Rathbone East London
- Mrs. H. More Nisbett West London

Practically all these women can be relied upon to do public work to their credit, and some one or more departments of the Government, at least, Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Mrs. Ogilvie-Gordon, and Mrs. Ayrton-Gould, are well-known internationalists. Two more, Commandant Allen and Sub-Inspector Mrs. More Nisbett, are authorities on police work. Others, like Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Susan Lawrence, are noted leaders in the industrial world, and almost everyone in the list is, or has been, noted for many solid achievements on local governing committees.

## OUR ELECTION POLICY.

As we go to press, most people are talking about the imminence of a General Election. The policy of the Women's Freedom League, as decided upon at our last Annual Conference, is clear. We shall, wherever possible, support and work for all suitable women candidates, irrespective of the political party to which they belong, provided that our Branch in the locality in which they stand also agrees to support their candidature. We have sent round our questionnaires to most of the women candidates now in the field, and we have reason generally to be satisfied with their replies. Where there is no woman candidate standing, we shall direct our attention to the men candidates, asking them to support women candidates.

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is not the fault of the police, who can only do their best in trying to carry out our complicated laws on molestation and solicitation; but we would ask all those people who consider that the conviction of Sir Almeric was not justified on the evidence given, to remember that thousands of women who have no means of defending themselves are subjected every year to conviction on less evidence than was forthcoming in the recent Hyde Park case.

# THE EXETER CONFERENCE.

Women delegates from various public bodies assembled at the Guildhall, Exeter, on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, under the auspices of the Women's Local Government Society, to discuss various aspects of Public Health.

Dr. Adkins, M.O.H. for Devon, opening a discussion on Wednesday on "Housing as it affects Public Health," said they must not lose sight of the fact that bad housing was one of the component parts of the vicious circle, of which others were drink, poverty, vice, and ignorance. Bad housing, however, was the link in the chain which could be most easily broken. Every house should have adequate scullery and larder accommodation, sufficient rooms, ventilation, safe water supply, cupboard accommodation, sufficient room for garden with a paved yard, good drainage, and, where there were several houses, a recreation ground for children.

Miss Dutton (Sidmouth) suggested that in towns, women Councillors might persuade their Councils to set up an Advisory Committee, upon which women should be appointed, to advise the Council in regard to the proper windows, bathrooms, sculleries, etc., in houses. She also suggested that Guardians should petition the Government to compel every town to provide a sufficient number of new houses, and to put old houses in a proper condition.

Mrs. Phillips (Mayor of Honiton) said small Borough Councils and Boards of Guardians could not provide housing schemes without State aid, which at present was withheld.

In a discussion on "Tuberculosis," Dr. Stirk, M.O.H., Exeter, spoke of the enormous difficulties which confronted all endeavours to control the disease, because of the extreme difficulty in making an early diagnosis, the lengthy incubation period, the uncertain duration of each case often extending to many years, and the widespread character of the infection. He emphasised the necessity of education and health propaganda in combating the disease. Hygiene should occupy a more prominent position than it did in the curriculum of Training Colleges, and in the school curricula. In conclusion, he referred to the necessity of safeguarding the milk supply, and contended that recent orders from the Ministry of Health appeared to be designed to retard any improvement in the present supply.

Mrs. Montague (Crediton) urged the necessity of educating public opinion in regard to pure milk. She described the insanitary condition of some cowsheds she had seen in remote country districts, and urged the giving of lectures on the subject of pure milk.

Miss Berry (Secretary, Women's Local Government Society) spoke of the necessity of revising the conditions under which patients were allowed to leave tuberculosis sanatoriums.

Dr. Douglas White (London), opening a discussion on "The Treatment of Venereal Diseases," referred to the havoc caused by them, especially syphilis and gonorrhœa. At the present time there were some 100,000 cases of the first-mentioned disease, and probably some 250,000 cases of the latter, every year. It was no good trying to combat these diseases by fear. What was needed was a new vision, a new way of looking at things, a new conception of what sex meant to both individuals and nations.

The subject of "Boarding Out and Institutional Methods" was introduced on Thursday by Miss Bertha Mason, Chairman of the W.L.G.S., and a member of the State Children's Association. She said the boarding-out system was more satisfactory than scattered homes, because it gave children more freedom in which to develop their own particular trait of character.

Miss Clara Andrew, founder of the National Children Adoption Association, described the starting of the Association in Exeter five years ago. The Association was not out to work against other Societies, but to supplement them. If the Adoption Bill now before Parliament were passed, there would be no question about the legality of the adoption of children. During the last five years, the Association had had 30,000 applications to take babies, but the number adopted had been reduced to 1,500. The Association never took a child from the mother if she could keep it.

Mr. A. F. Nicholson (Chief Constable of Exeter), in a discussion on "The Child Delinquent," pointed out that of 60,000 persons dealt with for indictable offences in England and Wales in 1920, no fewer than 15,000, or 25 per cent., were children; and of 612,000 persons dealt with for non-indictable offences, 25,000, or about 4 per cent., were children. Probation was particularly applicable in the treatment of juvenile delinquents, provided the probation officer possessed the requisite qualities.

## SOME LITERARY BONE-SHAKERS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

On Monday evening, in the Minerva Café, Mr. Edwy G. Clayton gave an interesting lecture on some of the literary celebrities of the past. Mrs. Tanner presided.

The 17th century, said Mr. Clayton, was a period of "alarms and excursions," and of acute and acrid controversy, during which not a few noteworthy writers suffered for their opinions. Among these was William Prynne, author and barrister, who contended, in his *Histrio-Mastix*, published in 1633, that "Popular Stage Plays were . . . the very Pompes of the Divell," and was imprisoned, fined, degraded from his profession, lost both his ears, and had the book burned by the hangman. The Rev. Samuel Johnson, Rector of Corringham, Essex, who plunged into politics, and in 1679 produced a book entitled *Julian the Apostate*, directed against James, Duke of York, was tried by Jeffreys, convicted of libel, fined and imprisoned, and his book was burned. The work of Jeremy Collier, reader at Gray's Inn, and author of "A Short View of the Immorality of the English Stage," exercised a lasting influence.

Amongst women literary "bone-shakers," Mr. Clayton referred to Margaret Cavendish, wife of the first Duke of Newcastle, famous for her astonishingly voluminous literary output, both in poetry and prose; and to Mary Astell, whose "Serious Proposal to the

Ladies," written 150 years before its time, and published in 1694, ran into four editions.

Another male writer of this period, Bernard Mandeville, philosopher, physician, and satirist, was mentioned by Mr. Clayton as having anticipated several latter-day movements. In one or another of his writings, he testified to the mental capacity of women, and pointed out the disadvantages under which they laboured in reference to education, etc.; whilst some of his remarks concerning cruelty to animals would give pleasure to many humane persons of our own day.

The author of *Robinson Crusoe*, said Mr. Clayton, must assuredly be regarded as a literary "bone-shaker," in virtue of his shower of pamphlets dealing with the most diverse subjects, for the best known of which, like other bold thinkers of his day, he suffered the usual legal penalties. He, too, pleaded the cause of higher education for women in his *Essay upon Projections*, published in 1697. Samuel Butler was the final example of a "bone-shaker" chosen by Mr. Clayton, whose great but unfinished satirical poem, *Hudibras*, took Caroline society by storm, and, though read in its entirety by few people, shares with the Bible, Shakespeare, and a few other books, the honour of being among the most widely quoted pieces of literature in our language.





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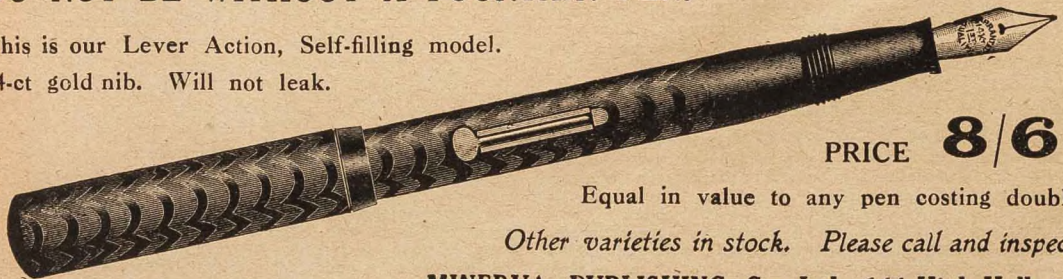
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