

THE VOTE,  
MARCH 7, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

## The MUDDLETON ELECTION

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVIII. No. 489.

(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, MARCH 7, 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.

### WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

"It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

**NO SHIRKING !**

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by  
**MR. LLOYD GEORGE**, Prime Minister. **MR. BONAR LAW**, Chancellor of the Exchequer

### WOMEN WANTED

ON THE

County Councils throughout the Kingdom.

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Date of Election - MARCH 8th.

#### WOMEN'S SPECIAL INTERESTS.

"Women members should be on County Councils in order that the administration of the Acts dealing with Children, Midwives, Mental Deficients, the Insane, National Insurance, War Pensioners, Licensing, Inebriates, and Old Age Pensioners may have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of women. The women's point of view will supply a need."

From Mrs. How-Martyn's election address to the Electors of the South-West Division of Hendon of the Middlesex County Council.

#### "COUNTY COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

is, in effect, housekeeping and homemaking on an enlarged scale, and the representative you choose to do your work should have the practical mind and training that supervises detail, together with the vision which gives resource and initiative.

The Municipal Vote is, in some ways, of more importance to women than is the Parliamentary Vote, because the representatives they send will have power to affect for immediate good or evil the health and home surroundings of women, and the education and happiness of their children."

From Mrs. D. B. Montefiore's Election Address to the Electors of South Hammersmith.

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL.**

The fate of the women candidates for the London County Council is now sealed, but fortunately Mrs. How Martyn's contest in the South-West Division of Hendon of the Middlesex County Council takes place to-morrow (Saturday, March 8), and there is still time for members of the Women's Freedom League to make strenuous efforts to secure her election on that day. The arrangements for polling day (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.) are as follows:—

Polling District.	Polling Booth.
GARDEN SUBURB .....	Schools, Willfield Green.
	Committee Room, 136, Hampstead Way.
GOLDER'S GREEN .....	All Saints' School, Child's Hill.
	Committee Room, 57, Golder's Green-road.
CHILD'S HILL .....	Council Schools, Cricklewood-lane.
	Committee Rooms, 279, Cricklewood-lane.
WEST HENDON .....	Hyde Schools.
BURNT OAK and MILL HILL .....	Parish Hall, Colendeep-lane.

Helpers are asked to go to either of these districts and to offer their services in the committee rooms. In the case of the last two districts, instructions will be given to them outside the polling booths.

Rally to the support of a woman who has shown conspicuous public spirit in contesting this election so soon after the parliamentary election at which she was a candidate.

A meeting arranged by the Women's Local Government Association will be held to-night, Friday, March 7, at 8 p.m., at St. Michael's Hall, Golder's Green-road. Mrs. Ross, chairman Women Citizens' Council, will take the chair, and Mrs. How Martyn will be the chief speaker.

We regret that, quite inadvertently, the names of Mrs. Dora B. Montefiore and Mrs. Ada Salter were omitted from the list of candidates for the London County Council given in THE VOTE last week. They were not in the papers from which our list was taken, and were not seen by the Editor until after we had gone to press.

**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS.**

The Urban District Council elections will take place at the end of March. We are glad to hear that Miss Margaret Hodge is likely to stand for one of the Hendon Divisions.

Mrs. Bellis, a very early member of the Montgomery Boroughs Branch, is standing for the Newtown and Llanwchairan Urban District Council. Owing largely to the initiative and energy of Miss Alix M. Clark, the Montgomery Boroughs Branch is fully convinced of the necessity of securing the representation of women in local government. In addition to Mrs. Bellis, Miss Hamer, Mrs. Bates, and Mrs. Williams have consented to stand.

**National Union of Teachers' Conference, Cheltenham, Easter 1919.**

Hon. Organiser, 1919: ALIX M. CLARK.

The Women's Freedom League are running a campaign in Cheltenham during the conference. "Equal Pay for Equal Work!" will be the battle cry. A teachers' number of THE VOTE will be issued dealing with special educational subjects. An appeal is made to all members, friends, and teachers who have so generously supported this campaign in the past to renew their support and sympathy this year. Please send your cheques, Treasury Notes, postal orders, and offers of service to Alix M. Clark, The Hut, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs.

**Women Doctors and the Government.**

After all the magnificent work women doctors have done throughout the war, the Government is prepared to show them very scant courtesy and consideration, judging from statements made in the House of Commons last Monday by Mr. Churchill and Mr. Baldwin. Readers of THE VOTE in pre-war days will be familiar with Mr. Churchill's affirmations and recantations of his belief in woman suffrage, and will not be surprised to learn that, in answer to a question by Mr. Raper as to whether the Secretary for War, in view of the Government's undertaking to remove all existing inequalities in the present law as between men and women, would give his sympathetic consideration to support the claim of women doctors serving under, or attached to, the War Office for recognition of the rank and privileges to which they are entitled, Mr. Churchill said:—

"The general policy of the Government in seeking to remove the existing inequalities between men and women cannot be held to commit them to immediate action in this sense in every sphere, and I am not prepared to introduce legislation during the present Session on the point raised by my hon. friend."

We should like to know if the manifesto, signed by Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Lloyd George just before the last election, which stated definitely that it would be the duty of the new Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women, had any meaning? Or does the Coalition Government consider that this pledge has no more value than a scrap of paper?

CAPTAIN TUDOR REES asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the women doctors serving at the Military Hospital, Endell-street, London, who are graded according to the ranks of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and are paid from Army funds, are liable to the Service rate of Income-tax, although up to now they have not been allowed that relief? The following reply offered by Mr. Baldwin cannot be expected to give satisfaction to women who have served in military hospitals:—

"The ladies employed upon medical duties as described in the question are civilian medical practitioners, and are not serving as members of any of the naval or military forces of the Crown. An appeal was lodged on behalf of some of these doctors to the District Commissioner of Taxes, whose decision was that they were not entitled to the Service rates of Income-tax."

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**The Late Mr. W. C. Anderson.**

While the suffrage movement has had its adherents in all the political parties, it has had in each a small section of ever-faithful friends who have stood by the cause of women's freedom through good and evil report. It has rarely had a better friend than the late Mr. W. C. Anderson, whose death has been widely deplored, not only in the Labour Press, but by journals of widely divergent views. It is mourned by none more sincerely than by the women's organisations, whose cause he was ever ready to support with his eloquence, sincerity, and practical good sense, which won many to the views he advocated so ably. On several occasions in the House of Commons he put questions, on behalf of the Women's Freedom League, relative to matters affecting the interests of women, and his advice was always helpful. He knew that the better world for which he worked could not be built up without the help of women.

**THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT.**

During the past week the Coal Industry Commission Bill and the Re-election of Ministers Act have received the Royal Assent.

The former has not solved the problem of industrial unrest, but the causes of this unrest in the coal industry, the wages of the men, their hours of labour, together with the effect of higher wages and shorter hours on the community and on other industries, the conditions under which the men work, and the housing accommodation for them and their families, as well as the advisability or otherwise of the nationalisation of mines, will be for some weeks to come the subject of an exhaustive commission of inquiry presided over by Mr. Justice Sankey. The Re-election of Ministers Act provides that those Members who have been offered offices of profit under the Crown since the General Election will not have to try their fortunes again at by-elections before they can accept these posts.

On February 26 the Home Secretary (Mr. Edward Shortt) introduced a Bill to establish a Ministry of Ways and Communications, and for purposes connected therewith. Mr. Shortt contended that probably no question was of more pressing importance to the country than the question of transport and communication, that we had had many means of transport in this country but no co-ordination. So, too, with regard to roads—roads at one time had been purely local questions, but since the introduction of the motor, road traffic was no longer a local question; it was essentially an imperial question. Mr. Shortt maintained that the necessary control of this matter of ways and communications and its necessary co-ordination would be better in the hands of one Minister who, having the whole subject before him, and the whole evidence before him, could deal with it in the best interests not of any individual or locality, but of the community as a whole. Finally, it was proposed that the control of the supply of electricity should be in the hands of this Minister.

Mr. Renwick elicited the fact that the Manchester Ship Canal and other ship canals would come under this new Minister's control, and Mr. Joynton Hicks contended that a single Ministry which was to control the roads, canals, railways, bridges, vehicles, and traffic regulations of the country, as well as the supply of electricity, would need its Minister to be a superman. He argued that there are 152,000 miles of roads in this country, and that at the present time these roads are dealt with by no less than 2,000 road authorities, so that, in his opinion, it would be better for the Government to revivify the Road Board, give it representation on the Front Bench, and to leave the roads of the country out of the control of the proposed new Ministry.

Members of Parliament have put various questions of special interest to women during the week. Mr. Godfrey Locker-Lampson again put a question about the married woman's Income-tax, asking if she could claim repayment of the additional Income-tax she paid over that of an unmarried woman with the same income. Mr. Baldwin, replying for the Treasury, stated that the income of a married woman was required by law to be aggregated with that of her husband for Income-tax purposes, and therefore she would not be entitled to the repayment suggested. To Mr. Locker-Lampson's further question as to whether this grievance would be remedied in the new Finance Bill, no answer was given. Last Monday Mr. Locker-Lampson inquired whether it was proposed to appoint a woman on the Royal Commission on Income-tax, and received a reply from Mr. Baldwin in the affirmative. We earnestly hope,

however, that the representation of women's interests is not to be limited to one woman on this Commission, and would urge the Government to see that an adequate number of women are appointed to it.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Devlin as to whether it was the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill limiting the hours of labour for women to 44 a week, Mr. Shortt replied that the question of hours of work for women had been under consideration by the Committee on Women's Employment, but the committee had not yet presented its report. We can only hope that women workers will resist to their utmost power any attempt on the part of men—whether they are on Government Committees or in trade unions—to impose any restrictions on women's labour which are not also imposed on men workers.

There is apparently a shortage of woman labour in laundries, and Mr. G. Terrell asked the Minister of Labour for an explanation of that fact. He also wanted to know if the Government was continuing to pay unemployment pay to women who refuse laundry work. Mr. Pratt, on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, pointed out that the shortage of woman labour in laundries was probably due to the relatively low wages offered in many cases, coupled with long hours and other conditions which did not make this particular occupation of special attraction to women. It was, indeed, proposed to set up a Trade Board for the industry with a view to establishing a more satisfactory level of wages. As to the out-of-work donation, Mr. Pratt said that women for whom laundry work was regarded as a suitable occupation had this work offered to them, and if they declined it their right to remain on donation was referred to a Court of Referees for decision. Mr. Terrell further inquired what was the rate of pay considered unsuitable, which was being offered to these women, but Mr. Pratt cautiously suggested that the question should be put on paper.

Captain Loseby and Major Hills both asked the Minister of Labour why no women had been appointed on the recently formed Industrial Fatigue Research Board, Major Hills further inquiring whether the work of that board was largely similar to that of the Health of Munition Workers Committee, whether it was the case that women sat on that committee and did work of great value, and, if that was so, what reason existed for excluding women from the Industrial Fatigue Research Board? Mr. Fisher, who had been asked to reply to these questions, stated that, when the board was first established jointly by the Medical Research Committee and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, it was recognised that its original membership would need to be extended. Additional members had, in fact, been appointed on two occasions. Women investigators had been appointed and employed from the beginning, and the inclusion of women on the board was intended from the first. Particular appointments were at present under consideration by the Medical Research Committee and the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. It was probable, added Mr. Fisher, that an announcement would be made shortly. It seems to us that the public ought to know who is on this Industrial Fatigue Research Board, especially as women's work probably forms an important part of its investigation. The names of the women on this committee would be of special interest to women workers, who are growing exceedingly tired of hearing of committees and their report on what concerns specially the work of women.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, March 7th, 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.

## THE WOMAN MINISTER OF HEALTH.

The Ministry of Health Bill (summarised in last week's VOTE) gives to the new Ministry powers and responsibilities so vast that it is impossible to realise them. Very little is done by any of us which has not some relation to health, and very little can be done by any Government which does not concern, directly or indirectly, the health of the people or of certain sections of it.

Wages, hours of work, conditions of work, strikes, food and fuel control, housing and the land question, prison conditions and foreign relations, the Irish question and our administration of India—all these matters, as well as the prevention, care, and cure of disease, should fall upon the shoulders of the Minister appointed "for the purpose of promoting the health of the people."

The old Government would be devoured by its new Minister. To begin with, the Ministry seems to intend to concentrate on the prevention of disease and the treatment of defects and diseases, and the reorganisation of all that is now being done in this direction. The large number of bodies now dealing with the health of the people is to be amalgamated into one body, the Health Ministry. No doubt this may tend to prevent overlapping in some cases, but, as the personnel of the existing bodies will probably be roughly the same as that of the new Ministry in its various departments, no very radical improvement need be expected from the amalgamation, unless there is a far closer connection between the various departments and a much more prompt attention to business than we usually find in Government establishments.

Playing a game of general post between the old health authorities and the new Ministry will not, it has been pointed out, save a single baby alive or benefit a single sick person, though it may or may not economise clerical labour and lessen the filling up of forms. So, having achieved the triumph of unification, the new Minister's "duty" is to "take all such steps as may be desirable for the effective carrying out of measures conducive to the health of the people, including measures for the prevention and cure of diseases."

It is obvious that every one of us is thus absolutely at the mercy of a Minister of the Crown, from before birth till after death. It is the Minister's "duty" to arrange every detail for us "as seems desirable" (to the Ministry). State regulation of

vice seemed desirable to the War Office in France. If this view is shared by the Health Minister, what is to prevent its re-establishment in this country?

The tendency in Government circles is to Prussianise the State, to overrule the individual for what seems to the Government the good of the community, though it may be to the disadvantage of the individual. On the other hand, the State exists for the good of the community, and the citizen must at times be willing to be subordinated to the State. This is especially the case in health matters. But this degree of power given to the Government is only to be tolerated if it is freely agreed to by all, and if all elements of the people share in carrying it out.

Women form a considerable majority of the nation; they should therefore supply at least half the members of the Government, yet up to the present not one woman has ever entered the charmed circle of the Cabinet.

The Women's Freedom League is very moderate in its demand, but has for the past year been urging that a woman shall be appointed as the Health Minister, thereby making a beginning towards the proper representation of the people by the Cabinet.

The post itself is very suitable for a woman. It is quite unnecessary that the new Minister should be a doctor. Trained organising capacity, clear vision, and keen enthusiasm and experience of men and women and public work is all that is necessary. Subordinate to the Minister, women and men must share equally in the work of the Ministry. There should be an equal number of men and women secretaries and, roughly, an equal number of men and women among all the officials. Everybody is agreed as to the "utilisation of women's services" in a great many of the least important and least well-paid parts of the routine work, but what we call for is the appointment of women equally with men to the higher positions.

To assist the Minister an undefined number of "Consultative Councils" may be formed. Three have been already mentioned—medical, representatives of local authorities, and representatives of insurance societies. Women will not be satisfied unless they take an equal share with men upon all these bodies. It has been suggested that good might come of the institution of another council, to be composed entirely of women, to advise upon "matters affecting women and children," but this seems to us dangerously like that "Parliament of Ladies" so often offered to us by the anti-suffragists in exchange for the vote, and we do not consider that it would secure that full consideration of the views of women which justice demands, and which is essential to success. The actual execution of much of the work of the Health Ministry will be delegated to local bodies, probably enlarged Health Committees of the existing elected local authorities. Some of the members of these committees will be elected representatives of the people, many will be co-opted or appointed. It is of course more necessary than ever before that women should come forward and should be elected by their local supporters so that they may take an authoritative position upon these Health Committees, but in any case women demand an equal share in the work of these Health Committees, and as long as the many special difficulties confronting women municipal candidates continue, representative women must, if necessary, be co-opted, the women Guardians as elected persons would naturally be included.

The Ministry of Health Bill is a valiant attempt to improve the present state of things which so shamefully disgraces our land, and it is because we wish it to succeed and not to fail that we press the vital necessity that men and women should join in it freely and equally from its initial stages.

E. KNIGHT.

## THE MUDDLETON ELECTION.

Scene: A Hall in Muddleton.

The candidate upon the platform, absolutely bristling with self-importance, looking anxiously for an audience to whom he may expatiate upon his own merits, and his eminent fitness for the position of County Councillor. A few tired individuals straggle in one after another at very long intervals, and each one murmurs to his neighbour, "How long will it last?" A quarter of an hour after the time appointed for beginning the audience settles down with a resigned sigh to listen to the candidate's views and, probably taught by a bitter experience, to discount the candidate's promises.

This candidate is an eloquent self-advertiser. He begins by dilating upon his patriotism and upon the magnificent work he has done during the war—lending a house for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, and dividing his land into allotments for small cultivators. The interests of these latter he will be prepared to support at all costs. He is magnificently eloquent upon the defects of the tram and omnibus systems, due to his predecessors in office; in fact, he is prepared to reform everything and make everyone happy. A woman in the audience asks if he will show impartial justice to both sexes, and give the same number of scholarships of equal value to boys and to girls. "Certainly not," he replies in a very decisive way. "Girls' education may be important, but boys' is much more so."

Have women benefited so greatly from "winning the war for the nation"? Is the estimate of their capacity and their importance so very much changed from that held in 1914?

Another Hall in Muddleton.

The opponent of the aforementioned candidate is addressing a wearied and bored audience. He has been a councillor, and is not new to the job, so there is even less curiosity about him than about his rival. He blows his own trumpet with moderate vigour, but with less skill, and occupies himself principally with attacking his opponents.

"Who is this man who sets himself up for a patriot, and is running against me for a seat on the Council?" He proclaims from the housetops that he has done war work, so have we all, only we don't talk about it. "I have done it," he says, "to the neglect of my business and of my family. He has made a good thing out of his patriotism, too; that I know, for I have taken the trouble to ascertain. The house he lent for Queen Mary's Needlework Guild has been thoroughly repaired for him—locks, etc.—at no cost to himself. He never gave any of his land for allotments until he was forced to by the law. I am a councillor of many years' standing, and I know that the improvements and reforms he promises are not within the scope of the Council's work. I've a woman standing against me. She says she will look after infant welfare. I ask you, am I not, as the father of a family, more fitted to look after children than she is when she has no child. I have worked on many committees. I know I have not attended them regularly, but I have neglected both my family and my business to do my public duty, and no man can do more than that. You can choose me or not as you like. I have nothing to gain and a great deal to lose by giving up my time to public affairs. I know there are several people in this audience with their pockets stuffed full of lists of my non-attendances and my omissions. Well, no one can be everywhere at once."

This eloquent address concluded after twenty minutes, and on a woman in the audience asking whether the speaker would be prepared to support

equal pay for equal work for men and women teachers, the prompt "No!" came like a pistol shot upon our expectant ears.

The question about scholarships being made equal for boys and girls was even more unfavourably received. "Most certainly not," every word showing how completely convinced the speaker was of the hopeless inferiority and utter ineffectiveness of women as workers.

Such altruistic eloquence and such public spirit as these two candidates evinced, of course, greatly moved the audience. The last speaker in his written address had laid great stress upon the colossal service he had performed for the community in getting cinema shows closed on Sunday. The feminine portion of the audience can, I think, have felt only a moderate gratitude to sex would-be representatives, who ignored so completely their claims to education, were doubtful of their right to equal remuneration for equal work, and scoffed at their powers to decide upon questions concerning the home, which was formerly supposed to be their special province. FIAT LUX.

## THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

On Wednesday of last week Lord Buckmaster brought in a Bill in the House of Lords enabling women to practise both as barristers and solicitors. The text of the Bill runs as follows:—"A woman shall not be disqualified by sex from being admitted as a student to any of the Inns of Court and from qualifying as a barrister-at-law; and being called to the Bar and practising as a barrister-at-law, or as a solicitor, or for acting or practising as a solicitor, under the Solicitors Act, 1843, and the Acts amending the same, and the other amendments for the time being in force relating to solicitors."

The Act is not to extend to Ireland or Scotland.

The Bill has found favour with the Press, and the Lord Chancellor recently stated that he had withdrawn all opposition to the proposed reform. It will be remembered that the question has been pushed to the front by one of our own members, Miss Helena Normanton, whose appeal to the judges sitting as Visitors of the Inns of Court, against the refusal of the Benchers of the Middle Temple to admit her as a student, must come up for hearing, unless the matter has been already disposed of by Parliament. It has been stated that the Benchers would be glad if the matter were settled by legislation. There seems little doubt that the admission of women to the profession of the law, both as barristers and solicitors, cannot be long delayed. "It is unfortunate," as *The Times* says, that "if lawyers are sensitive to lay criticism—and they have had their share in drama, fiction, and satire—that some of them leave themselves open to the charge that they fear the rivalry of women." The fear of rivalry cannot possibly be an excuse for preventing the public from availing itself of the trained capacity of either sex. But the case is stronger against the exclusion of women, because in many legal cases there is a need for them as specialists and experts to represent the interests of women clients, who demand that the services of women lawyers and women barristers should be placed at their disposal. The same article in *The Times*, quoted above, proceeds:

"If women are capable of becoming good lawyers and advocates, then it is in the public interest that they should have the opportunities which are now granted to men. Nothing but an unreasonable sex bigotry could deny them facilities to enter the legal profession. If, on the other hand, lawyers contend that women are incapable intellectually of practising the law, then it is irrational to refuse to allow them so to prove themselves in the public sight."

### WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Industrial Conference, presided over by Sir Robert Horne, Minister of Labour, held at Westminster last week, was representative of the organised industry of the country, gathered from employers' organisations, trade unions, etc.

Sir Robert Horne said that the unemployment returns of the trade unions showed that unemployment was not greater now than it was in February, 1914. This statement cannot, however, afford much satisfaction to the men who are seeking work, e.g., to the V.C. plumber, who cannot find employment, and who asserts his intention of going round the streets and to Buckingham Palace with a barrel-organ. Proceeding to deal with the woman worker, the chairman continued: "In regard to women, they found a very much larger proportion of unemployment. . . . Enormous bodies of women had gone into industrial work during the period of the war who previously did no work at all. These people to-day were swelling the figures of unemployment, but from all the information a very large proportion of these women did not desire now to go back to work at all." There is no doubt that this statement eased the mind of many present, and, though it conflicts with other evidence on the pages of the same issue of *The Times*, which contains the report of the Joint Industrial Conference, we will not question it at this juncture. We would rather ask the Minister of Labour and the prominent trade unionists present two or three questions which are suggested by the statement:—

- (1) Are idle people who "do not want to work" a positive benefit to the community?
- (2) If they do not work, upon whose shoulders does their support fall?
- (3) Is it true, as trade unionists have often affirmed, that the working classes of the country have, by their labour, not only to support their own people, but also that section of the community who do no productive work?
- (4) Is it, therefore, advisable to put every hindrance on the work of any section of the community?
- (5) Is work so desirable that it must be kept for men, i.e., as long as the work is adequately paid?
- (6) Does the only hope for a prosperous industrial future for the country consist in increased production, and, if so, ought women to be discouraged from working?

The answers to these questions require some consideration. If answered to the effect that women should, as far as possible, be kept out of industry, we trust we shall hear no more of the "idle rich," or of the burden of labour which is thrown on the worker, owing to the fact that there are so many drones in the community.

Having explained that a very large proportion of women were not demanding to be reabsorbed into industry, Sir Robert Horne continued to say that unemployment among women could be attributed to the unemployment donation which women were receiving. He considered that, "perhaps unfortunately," the figure of 25s. a week "compared very favourably with what women were able to earn in many of the employments which they followed prior to the war." It does not seem to have occurred to the Minister of Labour that, if it was "unfortunate" that a woman should have had to live on less than 25s. before the war, it was still more unfortunate, in consideration of the fall in the value of

money, that she should have to live upon this sum to-day. He conceded that the reluctance of women to go back to employment as long as the unemployment donation lasted was "natural." Did it not occur to him that the reluctance would very speedily be broken down by the offer of employment at a wage so substantially in excess of 25s. as to compensate for the increased prices which prevail to-day? He explained that the unemployment donation was to be continued for another three months, but at a reduced figure, and that for the second three months women would receive 15s. weekly instead of 25s.

Miss J. Stevens (representative of the National Federation of Women Workers on the workpeople's side of the Interim Industrial Reconstruction Committee for the Catering Industry) said that, if a girl was not going to get more than 15s. a week, she had got to sell herself to a sweating employer or go on the streets. In a district where she was organising women workers, there were firms which were paying 11s. a week to women of 19 and 20, and a 5s. time-keeping bonus, which they lost if they were absent from their work for half a day during the week. She condemned the proposal to reduce the unemployment benefit, and said the women were quite willing to work if the Government would provide them with suitable work at trade union rates of wages.

The Industrial Conference appointed a Joint Committee consisting of an equal number of employers and workers, to report to a further meeting of the Conference on the causes of the present unrest and the steps necessary to promote the interests of employers, workpeople, and the State, and especially to consider (1) questions relating to hours, wages, and the general conditions of unemployment; (2) unemployment and its prevention; (3) the best methods of promoting co-operation between capital and labour. Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Tynan were appointed to represent the women workers.

It is clear that there is a general feeling among both workers and employers that no reversion to pre-war conditions of industry is possible. The worker has a heightened sense of his value, and, even in the era of war prices, has enjoyed security of employment at a wage which has enabled him to live at a standard of comfort in excess of that at which he lived before the war. This applies to an even greater extent to women workers, and will have to be reckoned with in the near future. The problems connected with the industrial life of the nation are many and very varied. We have to insist that a woman has equal rights with a man to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Women will not consent to be regarded as adjuncts or finishing touches to life. They demand their share of the world's work and the world's rewards, and they are showing that any attempt to deprive them of that which they consider their due will rouse in them a spirit of resentment and opposition which will not be allayed by appeals to their patriotism. Indeed, who can say that either men or women ought to be content with anything less than justice?

E. M. N. C.

#### AUTHORITY: The Fundamental Problem of Society.

A course of Lectures on this subject will be given by Mr. Homer Lane (of the Little Commonwealth) at the

ENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, every Tuesday at 8 o'clock,

On March 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st.

Subject: March 11th—"DYNAMICS OF MIND."

Tickets for the Course, price £1 1s. and 10s. 6d., single tickets 2s. 6d., can be obtained from the Sec., Women's International League, 14, Bedford Row, W.C.1.

### Women's Freedom League.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Sunday, March 9.—Hackney Branch

Meeting, at 49, Moresby-road, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11.—Clapham

Branch Meeting, at 113, West-side,

Clapham Common (by kind permission

of Mrs. Sutcliffe), 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 12.—Public

Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High

Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss

G. Dyce Sharp. Subject: "Strikes

and the Alternative." Admission free.

Discussion. Tea can be obtained in

the Café at 6d. each.

Saturday, March 15.—National Executive Committee

Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 19.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café,

144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Homer Lane (of

the Little Commonwealth). Subject: "The Psychology of

Freedom." Admission free. Discussion. Tea can be obtained

in the Café, 6d. each.

Saturday, March 22.—London Branches Council Public

Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m.

Friday, March 28.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144,

High Holborn, W.C., 7 p.m., to consider conference agenda.

Friday, April 4.—National Executive Committee Meeting,

144, High Holborn.

Saturday, April 5th.—Women's Freedom League Annual Conference. Caxton Hall, 10 a.m.

#### PROVINCES.

Monday, March 10.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro on "Housing."

Wednesday, March 19.—Ashford. Women's Freedom League Club, at the Co-operative Hall, 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. W. S. Corlett.

Wednesday, April 2.—Middlesbrough. Café Chantant and Sale, Suffrage Club, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

Monday, April 7.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, at the Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson. Subject: "Women and the Law."

#### SCOTLAND.

Thursday, March 13.—Edinburgh. A lecture at the City Chambers, at 8 p.m., by Mrs. Clare Goslett, of N.C.C.V.D., on "Education as a Factor in the Prevention of Venereal Disease." Under the auspices of Women Suffrage Societies of Edinburgh.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, March 16.—Kingston Church of Humanity, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "Savage Survivals in Modern Life."

Ashford.—P.S.A., Wesleyan Church, Bank-street, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Mr. H. Lee, J.P.

### WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

#### Lady Sykes.

It seems that, in spite of the failure of all but one of the women candidates on December 14 last, a woman is likely to take her seat in the present Parliament. The Central Hull Conservative Association has unanimously decided to invite Lady Sykes to be its candidate, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, Sir Mark Sykes. Lady Sykes is a daughter of the late Sir John Gorst, a man of great originality and political independence, well known in his time as the champion of many good causes. If, as we hope, Lady Sykes consents to be nominated, little fear need be entertained as to the result, as Sir Mark's majority at the election numbered 10,000.

### The Disgraceful Scandal of Ellen Sullivan. Home Office Whitewash.

In answer to a question by Mr. Bottomley (February 24) as to the events connected with the recent death in the remand infirmary of Holloway Prison of this shamefully treated girl and her newborn infant, the Home Secretary replied that the coroner said his inquest was a full and careful investigation, and that both mother and child died from purely natural causes, that the mother's health was not injured by prison, that she had every care and attention, and that he and the jury were altogether satisfied. She was well on admission, but very soon seized with persistent vomiting; she was pregnant, but there was no indication whatever of impending confinement. She was put in a grated cell alone to spare her from associating with older women in the remand infirmary ward. The cell was clean, had hot-air pipes, and a window which opened, and the door and grating remained open day and night. Every ten minutes both day and night a hospital wardress visited this salubrious apartment, and she had "only left the cell a few minutes before the miscarriage occurred." On discovering the fact she at once summoned assistance.

The allegations made against the prison administration had been completely disposed of, and there was no need of any further inquiry. The Home Secretary concluded with a cordial general invitation to hon. members to personally inspect the charming little room, pipes, window that opened, and all, in which the mother and baby perished.

So the penal code and all its familiars again emerges triumphant from a sea of whitewash, but will any belated personal inspection even by a brand new M.P. explain how in "ten minutes" less "a few minutes" this young girl got through all the business of her first-born child of which there was no previous indication?

#### Extension of the Trades Board Act.

The laundry trade and the dressmaking trade, both essentially the work of women, are to be brought under the operations of the Trades Board Act, which fixes a minimum wage for workers in low-paid occupations. The Act was passed in 1909, and at first only applied to a few "sweated" trades, such as chain-making and cardboard box-making. Powers have since been taken by which practically any trade can be brought under the Act.

#### The Light Spreads.

The Wisconsin State Legislature has granted Presidential Suffrage to women.

#### South African Women Champion the cause of the Women of India.

The following letter has been addressed to the chairman of the committee appointed to deal with the reform of the franchise laws of India:—

November 20, 1918.  
Dear Mr. Feetham.—Your appointment as chairman of the committee that is to deal with reform of the franchise laws of India has been noted by this association, and I am asked on behalf of some thousands of South African women to urge upon you, in your capacity as chairman, to realise the depth and intensity of the Indian women's claim to the same rights that have already been granted to men in the new scheme of reforms, or may be granted to men as a result of the discussions over which you will preside. This association is strongly in favour of the abolition of all distinctions made in the eyes of the law on grounds of sex alone, and sees no reason why the principle of equal suffrage, which is being accepted throughout the Empire, should not be applicable to the women citizens of India, with whose claims the women of South Africa have deepest sympathy in view of the uphill struggle towards freedom which has produced so many striking examples of ability and sacrifice.—With best greetings, yours sincerely,

LAURA RUXTON,  
Secretary Women's Enfranchisement  
Association of the Union  
of South Africa.

FRIDAY,  
MARCH 7,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

"The Child in English Literature" was the subject of a fascinating lecture by Miss Margaret Hodge last Wednesday afternoon. The very Early English period, the speaker stated, was distinguished by an intense devotion to children, and one of the chief ceremonies of the religion of that time was the reception of the child into the community. In the Middle Ages children had a miserable existence, there was much cruelty to them in the schools. Chaucer was the herald of a new era for children, and Miss Hodge gave some delightful readings referring to children from the Canterbury Tales. She did not think that Shakespeare described children at all satisfactorily. In the Puritan period children seemed to be regarded as the special favourites of the devil. They were born with a good dose of original sin, which apparently it took a lifetime to eradicate. In the eighteenth century children had a happier time, which was due largely to the influence of Wordsworth, Froebel, and Rousseau. Miss Hodge considered that the children in Miss Edgeworth's stories were "endless prigs," but characterised Dickens as the greatest friend of children, for he destroyed the doctrine of child depravity. The lecturer paid a high tribute to the teachers in our present-day Government schools—their efforts being directed towards securing that children should discipline themselves. She was convinced that it was want of faith in children which made them tiresome and naughty, and claimed that they should be allowed free play to their imagination, declaring that castle-building made happy children—children who would later on do great things. Miss Hodge gave unstinted praise to the work of Mr. Homer Lane, to whose initiative and genius we owed the Little Commonwealth in Dorsetshire, where boys and girls who were condemned as "incorrigibles" in our Police-courts, succeeded in running a community of their own with order and discipline.

The chair was taken by Miss E. M. N. Clark, and a very interesting discussion followed Miss Hodge's address.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Golder's Green.

The next dance will be held at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute on April 12.

### Edinburgh: 15, Charlotte Street.

On Saturday, February 22, a social, with a musical and dramatic programme, was held in the Masonic Hall, Melbourne-place. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by a large number of members and friends, who contributed to the programme by round and square dances. Where all was good, one may specially mention the charming dancing of four of Miss Dawson's pupils and Miss Paterson's impressive rendering of Olive Schreiner's dream, "The Land of Freedom," and lines from "The Open Road." As a contrast to the former recitation, the card party scene from "Cranford" caused much amusement. We are glad to record that the social was a success financially as well as an entertainment.—G. H. Jacob, Hon. Sec.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement,

95, Nine Elms-lane, London, S.W. 8.

Our trip to the Zoo on Saturday week exhausted all our tickets. We should be very glad if readers could give or beg some more from their friends, as, though we took altogether 85 children, there were many left out, who have been promised "better luck next time." For some it was their first journey except to hospital, and the lifts, cushioned seats in the Tube, and moving staircase, not to mention the squirrels in the park, who divided the honours with the caged creatures in the Zoo itself, were all sources of wonder and delight. We are grateful to the nine friends who came in the cheerless weather and were so kind to the children, also to Miss Riggall for giving oranges and preparing the tea. Jumble goods from Miss Daws, mackintosh sheeting from Mrs. Delbanco, spices from Mr. Delbanco, bazaar goods, provisions, and clothing from Mrs. Roberts, are acknowledged with many thanks. A baby's bath, or foot-bath, would add greatly to the comfort of our new helper's ten-weeks-old "Mary"; we have nothing small enough to fit her.

Miss Maude Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn-viaduct, E.C., next Sunday, at the 6.30 p.m. service.

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THE BOOK OF THE YEAR FOR ENFRANCHISED WOMEN. "THE FEMINE IN FICTION" (Allen and Unwin, 2s. 6d. net), by L. A. M. Priestley (Mrs. George McCracken), with a foreword by Mrs. Despard. It shows the emancipation of women as reflected in the novel on sale at the Women's Freedom League Literature Department, 144, High Holborn.

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