

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVIII. No. 512.

*(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, AUG. 15, 1919.

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

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## WOMEN IN CONTROL.

### How to Bring Down the Prices.

The Women's Freedom League has urged in season and out of season that there should be a woman Minister of Health, and women having equal control with men in all departments connected with this Ministry. We have pointed out that the health of the nation is of the most vital concern to women, and that the Ministry of Health will wield enormous powers over the lives of the men, women and children of the nation. The Government, however, has at present no intention of placing women in real authority in this Ministry, or, indeed, in any other branch of our national life. It is true that there have been a few appointments of medical women under this Ministry—since maternity and child welfare come so largely under its purview, it could hardly leave women doctors out altogether—but women are not being conceded any administrative powers by the Ministry, and its recent advertisement for assistant women inspectors in the Insurance Department between 22 and 30 years of age at a salary of £100 per annum is nothing less than a public scandal, especially when that advertisement makes it clear that applicants must have either a university degree or experience of paid social or administrative work. Is it possible that the Minister of Health would have offered a man this salary for similar qualifications? Would he be willing to supply us with a list of University men employed by the Ministry at this munificent salary?

On all sides the extravagance and waste of this present Government are cried aloud from the housetops. Quite early in the war the Women's Freedom League called attention to the fact that there was enormous waste in the food supplies at the various camps, and offered to get together capable women who would undertake to do the catering and the cooking at these camps at a much reduced expenditure. Our offer was, of course, not accepted, and the waste and extravagance accumulated. Women of the working and middle classes know infinitely more about the results of high

prices and profiteering on the lives of the men, women and children of this country than all the fifteen men put together appointed to the High Prices and Profiteering Committee will ever learn. Women know, too, what the Government has even now failed to realise—that the real cause of unrest throughout the country is the high prices of ordinary commodities. While men and women were earning more money they did not mind paying enhanced prices for the things they wanted; now that there is so much unemployment and wages are less because of lack of overtime, the workers are discontented because they cannot afford the things they have been accustomed to buy. If women had been in control of the Government policy they would have seen that the Government's first business was to keep down the prices of food and all ordinary clothing, even if both had to be rationed. This would have avoided many strikes for increased wages, and the country would have been in a very different financial position from that in which it finds itself to-day. If women had been in control of the national finances is it conceivable that they would have countenanced the reckless criminal waste and extravagance in so many of the Government departments, that they would have acquiesced in the hushing up of these scandals from "fear of exposure"? The courage of our soldiers is beyond question, but the moral cowardice of some of our legislators is incredible. We urge again that, if confidence is to be restored in our Government and its administration, women must have equal access with men to all posts of authority. Women have little faith in the bureaucracy or monopoly of Government by one sex only; they have no intention of remaining for ever as a class apart, a class that is governed but which has no hand in the government under which men and women live. So we insist that women must press for, and men concede, posts of authority to women, so that men and women shall have joint control in all the affairs of our national life.



### National Catering.

The National Kitchen movement, inaugurated by the late Lord Rhondda only a few months previous to his death, continues to be one of the unqualified successes amongst the emergency methods created by the war. Although the need for many of the smaller local kitchens ceased with the signing of the armistice, the movement itself is widening and developing, not merely in London, but all through the provinces, and in Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The most popular feature, especially in London, is the development of national restaurants, apart from, or in conjunction with, the original kitchens. In London there are four flourishing establishments, the well-known premises in New Bridge Street, Westminster Bridge Road, Poplar Public Baths (temporarily closed during the summer whilst the Baths are in use), and at Stepney. Many others are successfully competing with London in Scotland and the provinces, those in Glasgow and Edinburgh, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Coventry, Bristol, Gloucester, Hull, Sunderland, South Shields, Brighton, Bournemouth, and Ramsgate, deserving special mention. Many of these places have kitchens attached, or working in connection with the restaurants. All these enterprises are financed after the same method, viz., by a loan free of interest from the Ministry of Food, to be repaid in ten equal annual instalments, for equipment and any necessary structural alterations of the building utilised.

#### No Profiteering!

The aim from the outset has been to avoid all taint or appearance of charity and to maintain national kitchens and any other future developments on a businesslike and self-supporting basis. These statements require to be widely propagated, for aggrieved caterers outside the movement have not scrupled to spread plenty of mis-statements as to Government grants and rent free premises being the root cause of undercutting in food prices, whereas enterprised connected with the National Kitchen movement has paid the same rent and competed on the same terms in the open food markets with outside caterers. The real reason why the National Kitchen and Restaurant menus work out at considerably less than the cost charged by the ordinary caterer is that waste and profiteering are rigidly eliminated from the programme of the former body, and the practising of various staff economies is encouraged, such as the non-employment of waitresses by means of the system of letting customers purchase food tickets and wait on themselves. The distribution of a weekly bonus in addition to wages on the successful working of a kitchen or restaurant also provides an incentive to efficiency.

#### Intelligent Cooking.

The secret of the excellent cooking in National Restaurants has been laid bare in the Handbook issued by the Ministry of Food. It chiefly lies in attention to details, and their intelligent application, accompanied by a scientific study of food values, and their due preservation. Menus are arranged with full regard to the weather. When frost and east winds prevail, soups, hashes, stews, and hot-pots, pies and suet puddings are mostly in request. In hot weather soups are less called for, and cold joints and milk puddings are in greater demand. Meat stock is invariably used in soup-making, the bones for which being either obtained in the kitchen, or purchased at the controlled price of 2d. per lb. Joints are cooked the day before serving, and the juices allowed to consolidate. This not only causes increased flavour in the meat, but results in greater economy in carving. Every gravy is prepared from its special meat, not as is the case in many restaurants, a common gravy made from beef, mutton and pork. The attractive nature of the stews and hashes is obtained by a preliminary frying of the meat, followed by prolonged, slow cooking in meat stock with fried vegetables, especially fried onions. The vegetables used in national catering are never boiled after the usual wasteful English method, but are steamed the day before use, and then

simmered, stewed, fried or braised in stock, or fat of some kind. The art of flavouring is successfully observed in every department of the menu. Mustard, pepper, salt, herbs, and spices is the usual boundary of the ordinary restaurant horizon, but the national cook goes farther in his quest, and tomatoes, mushrooms, green chillies, root vegetables, saffron, capers, gherkins, truffles, curry powder and ham or bacon trimmings, mingle with the humbler ingredients and enhance their value.

Rural kitchens, school canteens, and canteens in industrial centres form another and increasingly useful development of the National Kitchen movement. These, like the restaurants, are likely to prove permanent fixtures in civil life in the future. The two former enterprises are usually established under local authorities such as urban district councils, rural district councils, or county councils. These bodies are entitled to Imperial grants-in-aid for their projects, just as the kitchens and restaurants. Some excellent work is now being done in the East Suffolk area in connection with school canteens, nine or ten of these in various districts furnishing meals consisting of soup, meat, two vegetables, and a sweet at the remarkably low cost of threepence per child. The chief obstacle in the conduct of kitchens in remote villages is the difficulty of transport.

#### Village Canteens.

Where this service is taken in hand by the local authorities, villages can be grouped for the purpose, and visited by a motor carrying the goods from the nearest market. For villages with under a thousand inhabitants a canteen without restaurant is usually sufficient, though the provision of a room where women land workers and others could take their food is always useful. In winter soups are prepared daily, as well as some form of food such as Cornish pasties, potato pies, etc., that can be taken away into the fields at long distances. In summer, when the plant is not so much in demand for cooking purposes, arrangements can often be made for fruit and vegetable drying, and jam making.

Catering in the royal parks of the Metropolis is yet another branch of activity in the National Kitchen movement. The public is now being regularly catered for in Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Regent's Park, Kew Gardens, and on Primrose Hill. D. M. N.

### Women in Boys' Schools.

A writer, calling himself "Headmaster," utters a melancholy wail in *Reynolds' Newspaper* as to the futility of women teachers in boys' schools. In this gentleman's opinion women are physically unequal to the task of teaching boys; if a woman does make a success of it she is "masculine, unwomanly, hard, unsexed, and boys hate her." "Headmaster" says that it is pitiful to hear some women teachers attempting to manage the large classes of boys in elementary schools, and "that where a boys' school is heavily diluted with women teachers, the work of the headmaster is reduced to that of a sergeant-major—going round the classes to secure order."

We do not know in what part of the country "Headmaster" has gained his experience; but we could supply him with a long list of boys' schools in which women teachers have been a marked success; and complaints have only come from parents when their boys have been transferred to men teachers who evidently had no intention of including "manners" in their curriculum, or "the manly virtues," whatever they may be!

"Headmaster's" journalistic effort may be part of the vigorous campaign which the newly-organised men teachers' association is waging against "equal pay for equal work" for men and women; but we can only remind him that when the salaries of men and women teachers are equalised men will have a much better chance of securing posts as masters in boys' schools if they prove themselves to be so vastly superior to women.

### IN PARLIAMENT.

#### Attempted Resuscitation of D.O.R.A.

The Government chose August 4th, already occupied by Bank Holiday and the River Pageant, as a good opportunity to rush through the second reading of an inconspicuous "*War Emergency Laws (Continuance) Bill*" to give to D.O.R.A. another twelve months of life after the date, six months subsequently to the end of the war, at which she dies. The Bill includes nineteen emergency Acts and ninety-seven Regulations, but, happily, Sir Frederick Banbury was at his post thirsting for information, and the Government reluctantly had to postpone its coup.

The next day brought no better luck. The Government did indeed secure its second reading of the *Ministries and Secretaries Bill*, but was obliged to agree to leave its further stages till the autumn. This Bill decrees that the salaries of the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, the President of the Board of Education, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Food, shall be such annual amount as Parliament may determine, and repeals measures imposing any limit on these salaries. From Mr. Bonar Law's explanation it appeared that the purpose of the Bill was to increase £2,000 per annum to £5,000 in each case.

#### Ministers' Salaries.

Many members declined to sanction increased salaries for Ministers, and counselled the Government to set an example of economy and efficiency to the whole community. "If the Government did not bring down the present reckless expenditure the expenditure itself would bring the Government down." "If the Cabinet, at the top, once started squandering the public money on themselves, the country would immediately follow them, making hay while the sun shines, out of a country rushing towards bankruptcy."

Mr. Bonar Law himself had to admit that it was the wrong time for such a Bill, but the matter was urgent, and we could not expect Ministers to continue to hold office hampered with the carping cares of life on £2,000 a year. It is to be specially noticed that though practically every speaker condemned the Bill, the Government obtained by the help of its warranted official backers the respectable majority of 93.

#### Sex Disqualification (Removal Bill).

Last Monday, in reply to a question by Major Hills, Mr. Bonar Law replied that it was hoped to find time for this Bill in the House of Commons before the recess.

Major Waring, on August 6th, asked the Secretary of State for War whether he knew that venereal patients in certain military hospitals in this country are allowed to more freely in populous districts in the afternoon. Mr. Churchill was not aware of this, and denied that it occurred.

#### Thanks to Women.

The same day the Prime Minister moved an eloquent tribute of thanks to all ranks for their services during the war. As far as men are concerned Mr. Lloyd George made a detailed and elaborate catalogue of the various sections of His Majesty's Forces, then carefully dividing the sheep from the goats we have the paragraph: "That the thanks of the House be accorded to the women of the medical and other auxiliary services for their devotion in tending the sick and wounded, as for other duties faithfully and bravely discharged." Official recognition that women exist is always gratifying, but it is as human beings that women are sharing the work of the world.

E. K.

### NEW IDEALS IN EDUCATION.

#### Some Impressions of the Conference.

During the last week in July the "New Ideals in Education" held their sixth conference at Cambridge. From a small beginning, started just on the outbreak of war by a few enthusiasts met to discuss and commune together regarding a freer and better way of educating children, this conference has grown to large dimensions, and enthusiasm continues to increase.

The central theme of the conference—"the creative impulse and its place in education"—was worked out fully by the diverse speakers. Boldly one and all stood for the truth that was in them. The medical man from actual knowledge testified to the efficacy of some form of handcraft in restoring the neurasthenic patient to health and fitness for life and responsibility. The artist and craftsman vouched for the return of national art and beauty in life through guiding the young to free and individual self-expression, leading the workman to realise the grandeur and dignity of labour, becoming himself unconsciously an artist in his work.

#### Freedom under Guidance.

Coming to the scholastic point of view, "Learning by doing" was richly exemplified by one who had actually experimented with rare daring for eight months. In such short time he had been able to see the fruit of his labour in the improved moral and physical being of his children. In such an atmosphere of freedom under guidance the children taste the beginnings of a new dignity and meaning to life and work. The teacher no longer a despotic monarch but a guider and friend, willing to step aside and learn from the child; his place to remove obstacles from the child's mind and path, the child himself doing the rest.

Fittingly did the last speaker, Sir Frank Benson, representing the dramatic impulse, declare that if this war has taught us anything it has taught us "the humanity of God and the divinity of man." Well did he exhort us, as an enthusiastic band of idealists, to go forth to battle, putting the ideals so ably set forth at the conference into daily practice, thus helping forward the great and grave task of reconstructing life on a firmer and more lasting foundation.

Mr. Geoffrey Shaw showed how unwise it was to be international in our music until we were first strongly national. He played us English ballads, truly national, showing how the range of notes in the English music was far wider and finer than the few harping notes of the German in the same class of song. Let us revive and find within ourselves the true music and go no longer far afield.

#### Musical Improvisations.

Dr. Yorke Trotter's pupils, ranging from 8 to 16, gave a very able demonstration of his elastic method of musical training. When given by the audience the nursery rhyme, "Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep, etc. . . behind them," each was asked to improvise a suitable tune, and it was delightful to see the ease, pleasure and success of each individual one. The older pupils—who are now assistants, were asked to improvise a minuet tune in syncopated time, and, still more difficult, a fugue.

The social element of the conference was carefully catered for. The garden party at Newnham College gave opportunity for talking with the different speakers and discussing questions at closer quarters.

The rhythmic dancing of the Chesterton Preparatory School, Cambridge, was particularly delightful, the girls in slight fairy garments interpreting certain nature poems, and later undertaking to give their individual impressions in dance of subjects suggested by the audience—"The Hawk and the Dove"; "Pipes"; "The Fighter"; "The Aeroplane," etc.

M. L.



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Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING, CO., LTD.

Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY, August 15th, 1919.

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### EDITORIAL

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## WOMEN AND INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.

Years ago, in those "dark ages" before the war, women speakers on platforms said again and again, "Political freedom is one step; we want it first because it will open the way to moral, professional, and industrial freedom." The war came, and it seemed that our prophecy was false in at least one respect. Industrial freedom seemed open; women were called upon, urged by employers—by the State—to enter every industry. From street cleaner to the health department, from the suspect "Dr." to the welcome colleague in the hospital, from the "slavey" to the canteen, from the "cook" to the cook-house, from shop, warehouse and factory to the munition works, the tramways, the railways, the shipbuilders, from the office to Whitehall, women were called and responded; and their response and their work helped to gain for them the political freedom which was their due, and which they had so long desired.

### Fair Legislation.

But the war is over, and once more it seems the barriers are to go up against women in the industrial world. Men have long been organised, and in the early days of the war they made terms with the Government (not then responsible to women) on the question of labour conditions in certain industries. They gave up certain positions, which had been gained through organisation, to meet their country's need, and demanded in return a Government pledge that when the need and the war were over the positions they had gained in their struggles against the employer should be restored to them without the waste and turmoil of sectional strikes. Their demand was justifiable, and the Government, which took the help and accepted the sacrifice of the Trades Unions in 1915, has to keep its pledge and restore the old conditions as between the Trades Unions and the employers. In doing this, however, it is the duty of the Government to take every factor into consideration, and not, by legislation for the benefit of one section of the community, inflict irremediable hardship on a larger, though weaker (because less organised) section.

### Danger Ahead!

Herein lies the danger of the Restoration of Pre-War Practices Bill now before the House of Commons. It was introduced by the Government to carry out the promises made by Mr. Lloyd George to the Trades Union leaders in 1915, when it was urgently necessary to introduce diluted labour into the workshops in order to produce the munitions required. The danger at that time appeared to be that if Trade Union rules were once relaxed the employers would retain unskilled men (or women) at less wages, on "skilled" work, and that

consequently much of the work done by Trades Unions in the past to protect the skilled worker would be lost.

With the change of circumstances, however, the Bill (as drawn) is not so much a measure of protection against the employer as a weapon against the present workers, and 75 per cent. of these are women! It was stated during the debate in the House of Commons, "this Bill practically drives women out of industry." A Labour member, supporting the Bill, admitted it was "primarily to prevent women competing in industry with men." Yet the Labour Party has itself introduced a Bill to enable women to "compete with men" in the professions, and the Civil Service! Is it then possible that they are afraid of competition in manual labour? Are they jealous of the skill and capacity displayed by the women in the last five years? Do they want to see those "70,000 workers, 25 per cent. of whom are women" (Sir R. Horne, Minister of Labour) pushed back into sweated industries, resting once more on the borderland of starvation? Not one man in the kingdom will admit that he wants that!

### Trades Union Fear.

The Trades Unionist fears, and rightly fears, blackleg competition, yet in this Bill he is asking the Government, for the first time in the history of industry, to put women *legally* into the position of blacklegs, to penalise the employer who dares employ a woman. The employers, the skilled and unskilled men, the discharged Service men, all have powerful organisations to guard their interests. The women, through no fault of their own, are scarcely organised at all, therefore, they are to be hounded out of industry, no matter at what cost to them, or to the country, for this indeed does not only affect the women. It will for twelve months at least (and re-organisation after that will only come slowly) cripple our foreign trade, our engineering, our shipbuilding, our toolmaking, and every industry that depends on these; it will enable other nations to outstrip us in reconstruction of the world's business and still further reduce employment in our own country.

### Equal pay for equal output.

What is the Trades Unionist really afraid of? Undercutting in wages, or the skill of the woman to beat him at his own job? For the latter, we women will offer no remedy; we will do our best and our utmost to produce all those things which are necessary if our country is to regain her prosperity. For the former, let the Trades Unionist himself supply the remedy. Let him take the woman worker into his Union, insist on equal pay for equal output under equal conditions, and let the best worker, whether man or woman, handle the job! Let the Government introduce (or accept) an amendment to the Bill, ensuring that "sex shall not disqualify the person so employed after the war." Let the Trades Unions accept that, and let men and women together, inside the Trades Union, work out and ensure all other conditions of their labour!

M. I. NEAL.

This article was written before the third reading of the Bill. No amendment is possible, so women must organise for the struggle.

### Miss Douglas Pennant.

The Select Committee on National Expenditure has just published its third report, dealing with the Air Ministry. Having examined 29 witnesses, they have found that "a very unsatisfactory state of affairs has been revealed," prosecutions decided upon by the Administrator of Works and Buildings had been stopped by the Lord Advocate because of the scandals which they would unearth. The charges of financial corruption brought by Miss Douglas Pennant and her Clothing Controller, Miss O'Sullivan, in connection with the women's uniforms, were minutely investigated. The defence broke down completely, the committee regretting that to some of the evidence they could "attach no credence."

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women Police in Manchester.

Manchester suffragists badly need women police to patrol the parks and open spaces, and so far they have been unable to get them. During the last four years, at first in Heaton Park, and then in other districts, the Women's Patrol Committee have been actively engaged in this work, and their experience has made it abundantly clear that a permanent women police force is much required in Manchester. Miss Agnes Johnson and Mrs. Isabel O'Hanlon, chairman and honorary secretary, respectively, of the Women's Patrol Committee, as well as other societies, have repeatedly applied to the Chief Constable, and to the Manchester Watch Committee, for the installation of women police, but so far in vain, although they have been invariably assured after every application that both Chief Constable and Watch Committee are in entire sympathy with their aims, but that the difficulty is really the finding of suitable women. It has been suggested that the Patrol Committee should find these, but this they do not see their way to do. Instead, they ask that a selection board should be appointed, before which suitable candidates can appear. This method has always hitherto been adopted in London and other provincial cities, and there has been no lack of women to come forward for training, and it seems curious the same routine cannot be also followed in Manchester. There was a time when Manchester took a pride in leading the way in all necessary reforms. In this case it looks as if she would not even follow.

### College for Working Women.

The Y.W.C.A. has drawn up a scheme for a residential college for working women which it hopes to establish in the course of a few months' time. It is proposed to provide for 20 residential students, and to choose the college site sufficiently near a university to make use of its facilities. The curriculum will include courses in religious study, social and industrial history, economics, literature, elementary science, hygiene, and simple psychology, and classes in singing, physical culture, and applied arts. Attendance at religious classes is optional as the college will be on undenominational lines. The college is designed for women wage-earners, and there will be a limited number of free places available. A sum of £3,500 is required, and £1,500 of this has already been guaranteed by a generous friend and supporter. Hundreds of young women, personally known to the committee are longing for this enterprise to be safely launched. A similar movement for working women's higher education is also going on now in Denmark under the title of "The People's High Schools," and in Germany, in "The People's Universities" for both men and women, several of which were started during the war.

### Women and Emigration.

There has been a big boom in emigration since the shipping situation has grown easier. War work has unsettled enormous numbers of women. An overseas settlement department is helping ex-Service women, as well as men, with free passages, but only such as have the qualifications demanded by the Dominions will be assisted in this way. It seems curious that in this connection munition workers are not eligible.

### Women and the Sea Service Medal.

Women, with officers and men, who have served during part of the war in the Royal Navy, Army, or Air Force, have in many cases performed services which will be regarded as entitling them to the Mercantile Marine Medal. Qualifying services will in all cases mean duties carried out at sea, not in harbour or river.

### Miss Lowther's Unit.

This unit of Englishwomen, which has just been disbanded, did some remarkable work in the war. Founded by Miss Lowther, sister of Colonel Claud Lowther, M.P., it was the only unit of women who worked in the front battle line. The work undertaken by the women was the transport of the wounded from the battlefield to the dressing station. Uniforms with the military "tin hat" were served out to the women, and each received a soldier's pay for her services. The unit was continually under fire. Needless to relate, Miss Lowther had to fight many battles with officialdom before she could gain permission for her unit to undertake this work. The members were not allowed to render service with the British Army, but were accepted by Commandant Donmenc, the chief of the French transport services.

## VOTES FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

The Joint Committee of Lords and Commons now considering the Government of India Bill is learning much from trustworthy and representative witnesses on the question of votes for Indian women and the alleged insuperable obstacles of their social conditions.

Lord Southborough, in answer to Mr. Spoor, admitted that his committee had certainly received a great deal more evidence for the women's vote than he should have thought possible with his pre-conceived ideas on the subject.

Mr. Bannerjea, who was representing the National Liberal League, was of opinion that it would not be impossible to give it in Bombay, even if it were not given in Madras.

Mrs. Besant, president of the National Home Rule League of India, said that she and her colleagues considered the objections, as weak and artificial. From earliest history Indian women had been eligible for elected councils. Women's suffrage had been carried in the two Indian Congresses and in all local conferences when it had been proposed. Any women who objected to vote need simply stop away from the polls.

### Purdah no Hindrance.

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the poet, greatly impressed the Committee by her eloquent sincerity in pleading for the women. Indian women did not want office or power; their interest centred in their home, but for the good of India they must be able to express their views.

The Begum of Bhopal, the highest woman in all India, supported both the purdah system and women's franchise. The purdah only affected a section of India and only some women in that section, and "she never knew of the purdah ever coming between a woman and anything she wanted to do." British women attended examinations and had considerable freedom, and all that was necessary was to have women on the staff at the ordinary polling booths.

Sir Frank Sly, Commissioner of the Central Provinces and a member of Lord Southborough's Committee, the parent of the Indian Reform Bill, said they tried unsuccessfully to get Indian women to come before the Franchise Committee and plead for the women. As they toured the country they found the demand for women's franchise grow in intensity, and it reached its maximum in Bombay. The Committee was influenced against votes for women by statements from its supporters, but not only must special polling booths be provided for women, but polling officers must be appointed to collect the women's votes in their own homes. Fortunately, this misunderstanding was put right by Mrs. Naidu, the preceding witness.

E.K.



### THE MILK PROBLEM.

The annual Crops Report of *The Times* says the outlook is the worst for the past 25 years. Responsible politicians and others have given expression to the vital and increased production of foodstuffs here and now.

These statements I can fully substantiate. On a journey from Euston to beyond Crewe I noticed the bareness of the pastures, the short straw of the corn crops, and, above all, the serious absence of root crops. The cattle in the fields gave evidence of the lack of nourishing grass, and when viewed endwise many cattle looked like walking sandwich boards. The situation, solely from the agricultural point of view, is serious enough, but when coupled with the unrest in our towns and cities it gives cause for alarm unless something is not done speedily to keep cattle, and more especially milch cows, up to as good a condition as is possible.

If towns are to have milk this winter, even at a shilling a quart, the Food Controller must act promptly. Generally at this time of the year mangolds are as big as one's fist and growing vigorously. To-day such crops are rare exceptions; the present aspect on farms where they have fields of mangolds is for them to be at the early stage of being thinned out; and only a miracle can produce big roots before the time for harvesting them comes. Shortage of feeding stuffs results in the farmer being compelled to reduce his number of animals (1) owing to the failure of the pastures to feed them because of the long spell of dry weather; and (2) the large increase in the price of feeding cakes. In the past month or two cake for cattle has increased by 50 per cent. or more.

#### Babies before Racehorses.

Unless some action is taken immediately, lean beef (or none at all) and a huge shortage in milk supplies will be our lot in the next six or eight months. If the Food Controller wishes to stay a social upheaval, which is the complement to food shortage, he must do something more practical than fix control prices on what the farmer is producing. He must begin at the source, and fix control prices on the articles which the farmer needs for producing milk and meat.

The price of hay has leaped up to more than double what it was last year, and not only must the price be controlled, but hay and all essential feeding stuffs must be so rationed that the farmer producing milk and meat must be served first and the trainer of racing horses last. The people of this country, and the mothers especially, must not only demand, but insist, that babies must come before racehorses. The milk problem in this country has reached a critical stage, and the Government or the local bodies must take the question up with determination. Is the consumer to have the first consideration, or the big combines out for profit?

#### Warranty Scandals.

The farmer, with his capital outlay and the many risks he undertakes, only gets about half the price we consumers pay for milk which is a different article to that which leaves the farms. This must be stopped. The warranty as a means of defence in cases of adulterated milk is an increasing and growing scandal.

Much of the milk termed "genuine" by the Local Government Board has been reduced by extraction of cream to the extent of 20 to 25 per cent. Hardly a fortnight passes at our Public Health Committee but there appears on the agenda something like the following: "D—Co. Gave false warranty to A—B—." *Case dismissed.* This, I am told, is true of the other Metropolitan boroughs. As chairman of an Association of Care Committees, I enquired as to the quality of the milk supplied to delicate children on the orders of the medical officers, and was told that it was very poor. The punishment for such criminal actions should be fitting and adequate enough to prevent a repetition.

Gradually, but irresistibly, the opinion is becoming fixed in the minds of those who have troubled to investigate this problem that the only solution is for the milk to be put in tankards at the farms, sealed by the

producer, and not opened until it reaches the distributor in town. The combines have not proved of real public service, and must be eliminated. Recently one of these combines sent out slips to farmers from whom they were buying milk, asking them to sign these warranties and attach them to the tankards. The farmer's honest reply was: "I'm prepared to give such warranties if my milk is placed in a tankard and sealed, but I'm not going to put them on open tankards." You see the dishonesty of the combine in question, and the complicity of the law in condoning adulteration under the guise of a warranty. Would any right-minded honest person conduct business on such lines?

#### Public Agitation.

If the combines and some milk vendors, assisted by the Government, mean to continue this cheating of consumers and the starving of children the public must wake up and take the whole business out of their hands. It is high time the change for the better was made, and this can only be achieved by spreading broadcast the whole facts relating to milk distribution. All those who wish to help in this much-needed reform should ventilate the matter at public meetings, clubs, etc., in order to stimulate production by securing to the farmer a full return for his expenditure and labour, and seeing that adulteration is made not only a penal offence, but that those who practise it shall be prevented in dealing with milk in the future. The perplexing and changing "Calf Orders" of the Food Controller have done much to reduce milk production. If good heifer calves are killed off by hundreds one must naturally expect less milk. At a recent local sale over 200 such animals were sold to butchers.

COUNCILLOR J. T. MUSTARD.

### WOMEN AND BANKS.

Now that the Institute of Bankers admits women as members on exactly the same terms as men, women are turning their thoughts towards banking as a suitable profession for the future. The work they have already done in banks during the war has been particularly satisfactory. Although many men have been reinstated into their old places in the banks, women still continue to be in demand. No entrance examination is necessary, though candidates must be well educated. Now that the Institute Examination is open to both sexes, women have ample opportunities of learning the principles of banking, besides its usual everyday routine. These examinations are held each spring, and can be taken in two parts. The subjects include the practice and law of banking, economics, English composition, commercial geography, and foreign exchange. When candidates have passed in both parts they receive the Associated Certificate of the Institute. Another attraction to bank work is that there is no age limit. Salaries vary from 30s. to 40s. weekly, and rise according to capacity, as well as length of service. Many women who entered banks during the war are now earning £4 weekly. Another inducement is the pension given after an allotted time. Women bank managers are, of course, a possibility in the dim future, but it will probably take time and a proved capacity before women achieve these plums of the profession.

#### In America also!

*The International Woman Suffrage News*, in a paragraph headed "Women's Employment in Civil Service Threatened," states that the New York Legislature has passed a Bill, known as the Martin-Beaumes Bill, after its two promoters, which will give preference in civil service posts to ex-soldiers and sailors. It will not come into force unless ratified and submitted to popular vote in 1921. Meanwhile, it is being strenuously opposed by the Women's Trade Union League, the Women Voters' League, the Young Women's Christian Association, and other bodies of organised women.

Other States are considering similar Bills, and if they pass it is said that women will stand no chance at all of any civil service posts for forty years to come.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.1.

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Mrs. METGE, and Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



DARE TO  
BE FREE

Wednesday, August 20.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 21.—Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 28.—Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 6.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

#### Provinces.

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

#### Scotland.

##### Clyde Campaign.

Rothsay: Meetings at the Pier Head every evening at 8 o'clock. Speaker—Miss Anna Munro.

Dunoon, Largs, etc.: Daily at 11 and 3. Speaker—Miss Anna Munro.

#### Wales

##### Aberystwyth Campaign.

Meetings each evening near the Bandstand at 7.30. Speaker—Mrs. Mustard. Chairman—Miss Alix M. Clark.

### Branch Notes.

#### Ashford.

Our grateful thanks are due to Mrs. Huxstepp for the energetic way in which she managed all the arrangements for the whist drive held last Wednesday at the Co-operative Hall. Money is badly needed for the Women's Club, and we are grateful for the sum handed over to the Treasurer, Mrs. Goldsmith.

At a committee meeting held last Thursday it was decided to have the usual monthly meetings, with speakers from London, and the organiser was asked to secure Miss Janet Gibson for the second Wednesday in September.

### New Brighton Campaign.

The New Brighton campaign has been running for the last fortnight, and despite the lack of speakers, has been very successful. The holiday-makers are generally eager to hear of the movement, and the collections have been very good. Though the wind did its best last week-end to spoil our meetings on the beach, we managed to hold six, and Miss Evans proved a very popular speaker. Much interest was aroused in her subject, especially when she dealt with "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "The Moral Question" and "Penal Reform." Other subjects which she spoke on were "The Housing Problem" and "The Political Situation" (the position of the various women's Bills in Parliament). Many questions were asked, all of which were tackled very skilfully by the speaker. Vote selling has been rendered much more difficult by the police regulations against selling on the Promenade, but I am glad to say we had sold a large number of copies of the paper before we were stopped. Altogether, I think we can congratulate ourselves that the public of New Brighton have certainly had the "Women's Freedom League" continually before their eyes during the past fortnight.

### Miss Sheepshanks.

We learn with much regret that Miss Sheepshank's Editorship of the *International Woman Suffrage News* ceases with the August issue. This severs a connection of several years, and a particularly able administration of the paper.

### SPECIAL APPEAL.

Many readers will be seeing the "VOTE" for the first time this week, and will want to know how they can help the Women's Freedom League. Our greatest need at the present moment is for additional organisers, and several good workers are ready to come forward if our friends will send in the necessary funds. Expenses of living and fares are much increased, and contributions are urgently invited, and will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

144, High Holborn. E. KNIGHT,  
London, W.C. 1. Hon. Treas.

### Impending Bankruptcy.

After being forced to give way on its increased salaries to Ministers project and after insisting on voting £700,000 to generals and admirals, many of them already wealthy men, and with revelations on profiteering looming in the future, the Government, on August 7th, had to tackle the second reading debate of the Consolidated Fund Bill, and as Redress of Grievances should precede supply, Major Tryon urged a return to normal constitutional methods of government by a reconstituted and responsible Cabinet, decisions being made by the executive and authorised by Parliament.

Colonel Ward asked for definite details of intended economies to save the country from bankruptcy. Expenditure must be reduced by 50 per cent as the first step towards financial stability.

Sir J. Walton called for a true and up-to-date balance sheet showing the actual expected revenue expenditure for the year, the total debts, and how they were to be met. Full Treasury control in finance should be restored and the huge staffs in every Government department cleared out. Committees were set up, but they dealt only with irretrievable past waste, or else their recommendations were ignored.

Mr. Atkey promised the enthusiastic support of a large number of members to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the campaign for economy. Let him start in the War Office. His own constituency of Nottingham had no guns during the raids, but now a local anti-aircraft service was kept in full swing with a colonel and other officers, and only about two months ago another gun was actually put up, both officers and men having practically nothing whatever to do. The House contained a wealth of willing workers and talent to co-operate with the Chancellor if he was really in earnest.

Brigadier-General Croft gave examples of wasteful transport of troops backwards and forwards over the country, and of waste in handling great stores of perishable stuffs at the docks. Unless we got an entirely different viewpoint of the tragedy facing us he could see no hope for this country.

### Middlesbrough Suffrage Health Food Stores.

A Health Food Restaurant and Cafe has now been opened in connection with the above stores in order to advance the Food Reform movement in Middlesbrough.

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### Miss Royden.

Miss A. Maude Royden will preach next Sunday at the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, at 6.30.

### THE DESPARD ARMS.

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