

THE VOTE,
OCT. 26, 1923.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN DEMAND £10,000,000.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, OCT. 26, 1923

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

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EDUCATIONAL PIONEER, AUTHOR, AND SUFFRAGETTE.

Many members of the Women's Freedom League, and readers of THE VOTE, will join with us in sincere regret for the death, on November 6th, at Combe Down, Bath, of our gallant comrade in the Tax Resistance Fight, Miss A. E. Metcalfe. We have been fortunate enough to secure the following very interesting personal sketch by her friend, our member, Mrs. M. G. Ewen.

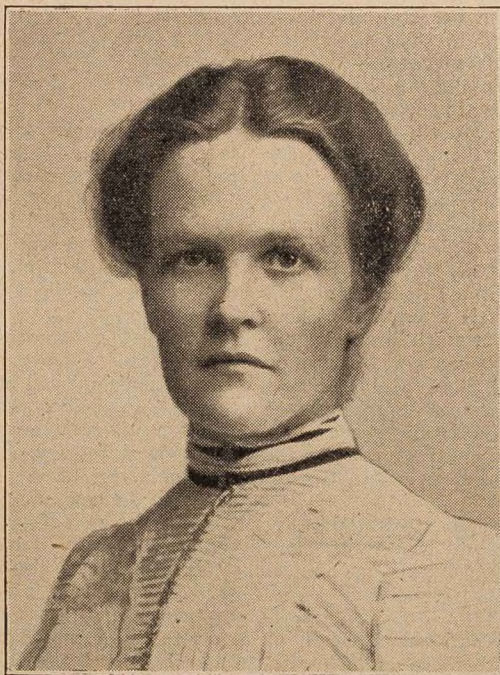
A daughter of the late Frank Metcalfe, of Wisbech, and the late Mrs. Metcalfe, of Sutton Wansford, Agnes Metcalfe was born in 1870. Educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College, she early recognised teaching as her vocation, and passed direct from the position of pupil to that of a mistress in that great school. Realising particularly the need for the higher education of women, Miss Metcalfe made a study of systems of teaching adopted elsewhere, and as a result prepared a paper dealing with the secondary education of girls in France, which was published by the British Board of Education.

The authorship of this valuable paper increased a reputation already high, and, in 1905, she was entrusted with the establishment of one of the first four County Council Secondary Schools, that at Sydenham; thus to her falls the credit due to a pioneer.

For something more than two years, Miss Metcalfe remained at Sydenham, until her appointment in December, 1907, as an Inspector of the Board of Education (Secondary Schools). In the course of her duties as H.M. Inspector, she travelled

throughout the country, and as a result of her observations and widened experience, came to realise more fully the urgency not only of education, but also of the enfranchisement of women, and in due course she became an earnest worker for a reform, the partial accomplishment of which she was happily spared to see.

A member of the W.S.P.U., and the Tax Resistance League, Miss Metcalfe rendered valuable assistance to the cause. The writer remembers an instance of the thoughtfulness for others which made her so dear to her friends. A distraint was levied for taxes, and a lovely brooch was taken. This she knew would only fetch a trifle of its value at the public auction, and so it was arranged that some working women should be informed of the sale, in order that they might have an opportunity of securing the bargain. Our friend derived great satisfaction from the knowledge that the purchaser was delighted with it. She indeed referred to the incident with a chuckle as she lay quietly awaiting the great Call.



AGNES EDITH METCALFE.

Miss Metcalfe's residence, 2, Hill Rise, Forest Hill, was at times used by those brave people who were at one time known as "Mice," and on a certain occasion one of them had a very narrow escape, for while the "Cats," or, in other words, the servants of law and order, were but a few paces away and hunting, the "mouse" was almost carried out of the house, wearing the well-known hat of another well-known suffragette.

As a public speaker, Miss Metcalfe possessed a clear, well-modulated voice, and a lucidity of expression to which was added considerable personal dignity and charm. It was, however, with a gifted pen, rather than upon the platform, that she rendered her greatest service. Articles bearing upon all aspects of the suffrage question were written in telling and persuasive fashion, appeal and argument happily blended, and these were followed by "Woman's Effort," a book which told the story of the great struggle so ably as to gain the support and sympathy of many erstwhile opponents. This book was circulated widely among Members of Parliament, and admittedly was a means of education to many. Following the granting of a limited franchise to her sex, appeared "At Last!" and later, "Woman a Citizen."

Reverting to her educational work, it may be mentioned that Miss Metcalfe was an Examiner for London University, of which she was a graduate—B.Sc.

A lover of animals, Agnes Metcalfe found time for, and relaxation in, the writing of a delightful little dog story, "The Memoirs of a Mongrel," the hero of which was at one time a well-known canine character about town—and Greenwich Police Court.

THE EDINBURGH CONFERENCE.

By ALICE SCHOFIELD COATES.

The National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland met in Edinburgh from October 16th-22nd. It is 21 years since the Council met there before, and during that interval the outlook for women has changed remarkably, and with it the scope of the activities of the National Council of Women.

Members and friends in the Scottish capital extended hospitality to the delegates on a large and generous scale. The social events were in keeping with the importance of the occasion, and a great assembly met in the Royal Scottish Museum at the Civic Reception to the Council.

The special subject of the Conference was "The Call of the Children," and the resolutions dealt with Criminal Assaults on Girls; Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants; Housing Conditions; Early Treatment of Tuberculosis; Illegitimate Children; Affiliation Orders; School Medical Service; Economy in Education; Child Emigration; Pensions for Fatherless Children; Venereal Diseases in Children; Temperance; Women Police; Women in the Civil Service; Old Age Pensions; and Nurse Cavell's Statue. The whole of the 17 resolutions were discussed, and all passed in the main with very little alteration. There was remarkable unanimity, so that much discussion did not seem to be necessary. Housing appeared to be the most burning question, and rings, combines, and trade union restrictions were all roundly condemned.

At the close of the Conference, Lady Frances Balfour, the retiring President, received an ovation for her very splendid work. Her successor is Mrs. George Morgan, who is Welsh.

The public meetings dealt with the Health and Psychology of the Child, Adoption and Emigration, and Education. Addresses were given during the Conference sessions on The Child and the Stage—in Scotland, and The Delinquent Child.

The President of the International Council of Women, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, made a strong plea for International Co-operation, and for support for the Conference on Peace, to be held in the spring of next year, in London.

It was fitting that the Council should assist at the laying of the corner-stone of the Elsie Inglis memorial, a Maternity Hospital, on October 19th.

WOMEN DEMAND £10,000,000.

The number of persons now on the live registers of the Employment Exchanges in Great Britain is 1,251,000—934,300 men, 233,500 women, 43,800 boys, and 40,000 girls. The Government, the London County Council, and other Municipal Councils have, during the last week, disclosed their schemes, involving the expenditure of millions of pounds sterling, the Government alone having decided to spend £50,000,000 in order to provide work in the coming winter. In spite of the fact that 76,000 women are unemployed in the cotton trade, 16,000 in the wool trade, 10,000 in the linen industry, 30,000 in the clothing trades, over 10,000 in the food trades, over 18,000 in engineering and allied trades, over 20,000 in the distributive trades—a total of over 180,000 in these industries alone, whereas the sum total of women and girls registered as unemployed is over 270,000, not one penny is allocated by the Government for the provision of work for unemployed women! Roughly speaking, men and boys out of work are four times as numerous as unemployed women and girls; but that is no reason why the Government should decide to spend £50,000,000 for the provision of work for the former, and *nothing at all* for finding work for the latter! We demand that, if the Government is prepared to spend £50,000,000 on schemes of work, one-fifth of that amount should be allocated to schemes which would provide work for unemployed women. In the meantime, the President of the National Union of Textile Workers has suggested, in order to revive the wool trade, that the Government could give orders covering its requirements for two or three years in advance, for cloth to make the uniforms needed by the Post Office, the Army and the Navy, and the Police, and that the railway companies might also give similar orders for uniforms. Bradford Corporation Unemployment Sub-Committee is considering the following three proposals for relieving unemployment among women:—Municipal laundries, sewing centres, and a system of "home helps," the suggestion being that the Corporation shall apply for the usual 50 per cent. grant towards the cost of the schemes. The Scottish Council for Women's Trades has recently sent a letter to the various local authorities throughout Scotland, urging them to consider the great need for accelerating the giving out of orders for clothing for the employees in the various departments of the public service coming under their authority. The Council points out that, if this work were undertaken without delay, large numbers of women belonging to the clothing and needlework trades would thus be provided with employment during the trying winter months.

As soon as the Government had announced, last week, its schemes for providing work, the Women's Freedom League sent the following letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Education, and the Minister of Labour:—

"SIR,—The Women's Freedom League, while congratulating the Government on its efforts to provide work for unemployed men to the extent of an expenditure of £50,000,000, views with great concern that it is apparently not prepared to devise a scheme for providing work for any of the 233,000 women and 40,000 girls now registered as unemployed. The Women's Freedom League urges that the case of the women, who are facing a fourth winter of unemployment, be seriously considered by the Government, and, if it is unable to initiate schemes of work for these women, it shall at least make a substantial grant at once to the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment for an extension of its Home Workers' and Home Makers' Schemes. This League would also point out that, if the Education Act of 1918 were put into immediate and full operation, thousands of women teachers now seeking a post would secure one, and that girls between the ages of 14 and 16 would be taken off the labour market and prevented from competing with their elders in unskilled employment."

WOMEN AT WORK IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

(Continued.)

E. Women in the International Labour Office.

The International Labour Office, which is housed at Geneva in a large building, formerly an international college for boys, founded by the famous Swiss educationist, Thudichum, forms part of the International Labour Organisation which was set up by the Labour Section (Part XIII.) of the Peace Treaty. "Fair and humane conditions of labour for men, women, and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend," was also a stipulation of Article 23 of the Covenant, and this is the ideal which the International Labour Office seeks to promote.

Every nation which joins the League becomes at the same time a Member of the International Labour Organisation, but it is also possible for a country to join the latter body without joining the League. Germany is the only country, out of the 55 States Members, which does not belong to the League. The International Labour Office, of which M. Albert Thomas is Director, and the Secretariat of the League of Nations work together in close co-operation with regard to all questions which concern both organisations.

The International Labour Office has two special functions. One is to secure humane labour conditions throughout the world. The other is to collect and distribute information on all subjects relating to industrial and labour conditions. In order to facilitate these objects, the office is divided into three main Divisions: (a) *Diplomatic*, which organises and prepares the work of the Conferences, and deals with all official correspondence between the Office and Governments; (b) *Intelligence*, which is responsible for the collection and distribution of information; and (c) *Research*, which pursues scientific studies and enquiries. Attached to these Divisions are a number of

Miss Sophy Sanger.

Industrial problems attracted Miss Sanger from her early youth, and a chance visit from Mrs. H. J. Tennant to Newnham College, Cambridge, during Miss Sanger's undergraduate days, probably helped to influence the choice of her future career. Mrs. Tennant was the first woman factory inspector in Great Britain, in days when industrial legislation had not yet presented itself as a new sphere of opportunity for women.

In 1903, after graduating with Honours in Mathematics and the Moral Sciences, Miss Sanger came into contact with the late Miss Mary MacArthur, who had recently been appointed Secretary to the Women's Trade Union League. The legal side of industrial affairs had always specially attracted Miss Sanger, and there is no doubt that she would have studied to become a lawyer if this profession had not been closed to women at that time. Instead, she offered herself voluntarily to Miss MacArthur as the Legal Secretary of the League, and gave legal advice to its members in connection with industrial accidents and compensation.

Whilst working with Miss MacArthur, Miss Sanger became interested in the international aspect of labour legislation, and in the struggles of the workers of different countries to obtain better conditions of work. The International Association for Labour Legislation was now meeting biennially at Basle, and had already procured the adoption of a Convention forbidding the use of white phosphorus in matchmaking factories. After attending one of these Conferences, Miss Sanger helped to found a British section, and was elected its Hon. Secretary, and later produced the quarterly magazine known as *The World's Labour Laws*. She also acted as English Editor of the Bulletin of the International Labour Office of Basle, when she was responsible for the English translations of labour laws of different countries published within its pages. This work was not only highly important and responsible,

dealing *inter alia* with Unemployment, Agriculture, Industrial Hygiene, Safety, Russian Affairs, Disablement, Industrial Relations, and Co-operation.

The higher staff of these Sections consists of two grades known as Members of Section A (either specially appointed or promoted from B) and Members of Section B (usually selected by competitive examination). The lower-grade staff is also chosen chiefly by competitive examination. In all, the staff numbers about 300, and comprises men and women of 28 different nationalities.

Article 395 of the Labour Section of the Peace Treaty ensures that "a certain number of the staff of the International Labour Office shall be women," and at present the proportion between the sexes is, roughly, half and half. The women members of the staff are accorded the same pay and chances of promotion as the men, and marriage is not penalised. There is one woman Chief of a Section in the Research Division, Miss Sophy Sanger, who holds a highly responsible post, which is chiefly concerned with collecting the labour laws of all the different countries, and translating these into French and English. There are 15 women B members of Sections, and a woman, Mme. Laverrière, is at the head of the Pool of Typists. The Assistant Librarian is also a woman. Women B members doing particularly responsible work are Mrs. Weaver, who watches the conditions of labour and slavery in all the mandated territories, and Miss Mundt, who acts as information officer to all the women's organisations all over the world, keeping these informed, by means of correspondence and conferences, of the standards of legislation for women and children in all the different countries, and especially of the Draft Conventions adopted at each International Labour Conference.

but actually laid the foundation of her future work in the League of Nations.

When the war broke out, Miss Sanger acted for a time as Assistant Secretary to the Central Committee on Women's Employment, which organised relief work-rooms for women thrown out of work by the war. When work for women again became plentiful, and the Central Committee was temporarily suspended, Miss Sanger turned her attention to work on the land. With the help of a friend, a derelict field near Guildford, in Surrey, was rented, and gradually converted into a useful vegetable plot and poultry run.

In 1919, however, she was recalled from these peaceful pursuits, like Cincinnatus from his plough, and sent as an adviser in connection with the "Labour Charter" of the British Labour Party, to their delegation to the meeting of the Second International Socialist Conference at Berne. At the same time, the Peace Conference was meeting in Paris, and drafting the constitution of the present International Labour Organisation, and Miss Sanger, after serving on the temporary staff of the first Conference of this Organisation, at Washington, was then appointed to her present position in the International Labour Office.

THE VOTE STALL.

PLEASE HELP!

Will every Reader kindly promise a Contribution?

Donations or Saleable Articles of every description will be welcomed.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1923.

DELINQUENT YOUTH.

Last week the Borstal system achieved its twenty-first anniversary. Twenty-one years ago, a small group of lads between the ages of 16 and 21, handcuffed and chained together, arrived with their warders at the great convict prison of Borstal. They were segregated from older prisoners, and an attempt was made to reclaim them from a possible life of crime under such discipline and moral influence, and such industrial and other instruction as would conduce to that end. The work grew, and the need for it became more widely recognised. Other Borstal institutions were founded at Feltham and at Portland, and the women's prison and reformatory at Aylesbury were handed over for the use of girls. It is stated that these institutions now accommodate a thousand boys and a hundred girls; that every inmate passes through a course of training which normally occupies the minimum of two years, but may be lengthened by slackness to the full three-years term; that prison rules and methods have almost wholly vanished, and that every year progress is made towards a method wholly educative, in which already punishment rarely consists in more than the compulsory exercise of some unaccustomed muscles, and the cultivation of hitherto unlearned habits of self-restraint and perseverance. When the young people are released, the Borstal Association makes arrangements for the reception and employment of the boy or girl, and for supervision to secure the fulfilment of the conditions of the licence, namely, that they should live an honest and industrious life, and avoid bad company. This Association reports that over seventy in every hundred of its charges are doing well, and that, even of those who have been at liberty over eleven years, including the difficult years following the war, over sixty in every hundred have not again come into conflict with the law. In spite of these good results, Mr. Boucher, writing on behalf of the Howard League for Penal Reform, to *The Times*, quotes the following extracts from the last Report of the Prison Commissioners (1921-22):—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total Reception of Prisoners aged 16-21	3,524	629	4,153
Sent to Borstal Institutions	504	58	562
Sent to Prisons	3,020	571	3,591

The Prison Commissioners say: "If persons under 21 continue to be sentenced to imprisonment, separate establishments for them are one of the first things that should be provided as soon as money can be found." Mr. Boucher's comment is: "Without public support it is unlikely the necessary funds will be forthcoming." Surely the present practice of subjecting six out of seven lads, and ten out of every eleven girls, between 16 and 21 years, who come before the magistrates, to ordinary imprisonment instead of to a more humanising institution, is wasteful in the extreme! It is not public opinion so much as the stupid obstinacy of so many magistrates which stands in the way of this being done.

RAISE THE SCHOOL AGE!

The National Unionist Association is holding a conference at Plymouth this week, and we note with satisfaction that Lady Astor has a resolution on its agenda asking the Government to consider the gradual raising of the school-leaving age to sixteen years, in view of the disastrous effects of unemployment on juveniles, of the overcrowding of the labour market, and of the desirability of promoting the efficiency of the future generation. A report presented to the Middlesex Education Committee last week on the four Juvenile Unemployment Centres in the county, which were open

to all boys and girls between 14 and 18 who were genuinely unemployed, states that a large number of older juveniles surrendered their claim to unemployment insurance benefit rather than attend the classes, those over 16 in the receipt of unemployment benefit being required to attend as a condition of receiving such benefit. This attitude was particularly marked among girls. Over 100 girls in the Tottenham district forfeited benefit in this way; while amongst the boys there was at the outset some resentment at the compulsory nature of the scheme, although, as the practical nature of the classes became evident, the boys became more enthusiastic, and at Willesden a round-robin was forwarded by 28 boys, requesting that the centre should be continued, as they had found the training of infinite value to them. Reports from all the centres agree as to the demoralising effects of a period of enforced idleness, and as to the meagre intellectual equipment possessed by the majority of the boys and girls with whom the teachers came into touch in these classes. Could anything else be expected? These girls and boys were all probably taught from their earliest years in classes containing sixty or seventy children, and left school as soon as they reached the age of fourteen. Is it to be wondered at that many of them "betrayed little appearance of ever having passed through an elementary school"? From the age of fourteen these young people, through lack of work, have had practically to live in the streets in their continual search for employment. Is it so surprising that they acquired "the manners of the street," and—in the words of one teacher—have since leaving school learnt the "Three S's"—smoke, sing (music-hall ditties), and swear—forgetting, of course, what they previously knew about the "Three R's"? We ourselves do not wonder that habits of discipline learnt at school had disappeared, and that, as a result, the boys were dirty and untidy. We know the demoralising effect which continued unemployment has upon adults; it has an incalculably worse and more lasting effect on boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 18—the most impressionable years of a human being's life. Since the war was over, what chance have these young people had of becoming efficient for their duties as future citizens? The Middlesex Education Committee says: "The nation will never receive full value for its expensive system of public elementary schools so long as its pupils are discharged at the present school-leaving age." We are equally convinced that the nation will never receive full value for the money it spends on the education of its children until classes are very considerably reduced in size. We therefore hope that not only Unionists, but men and women of all political parties, and of no political party, who realise the value of the efficient education of the children of this country, will urge the Government immediately to raise the school-leaving age of boys and girls to sixteen years, and at the same time to reduce the size of the classes, so that every boy and every girl shall have in future a reasonable opportunity of becoming a worthy citizen of a great country.

WOMEN TEACHERS AND MARRIAGE.

Middlesex Education Committee last week agreed that it should be a condition of the appointment of a woman teacher to a secondary school that she should tender her resignation on marriage, any reappointment to be subject to the sanction of the Education Committee. Seven months ago, the London County Council passed a resolution to amend the Standing Order which exempted women teachers from the general rule requiring resignation on marriage. The Standing Order is not yet amended, although the resolution of the Council is operative. Some managers of non-provided schools have recently appointed married women, and they have a right to do this; so that the Council is compelling its own school teachers to observe a rule which is not enforceable in non-provided schools. We continue to protest that any such rule is a piece of intolerable and unwarrantable interference on the part of the authorities with the personal rights of the individual.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

By MARIAN BERRY.

Outside the County of London, elections will take place on November 1st for Town Councils, and readers of *THE VOTE* will be glad to learn that several new women candidates have been nominated in addition to the 28 women Councillors who are seeking re-election. There are still 199 towns in which no women are serving, and 54 of these are county boroughs. It is likely, however, that this year, as has been the case each year since 1918, the number of women will be increased.

It is often difficult for electors to obtain information about the candidates who are seeking their suffrages, especially since the large increase in the Local Government electorate, and the consequent curtailment of election notices. But it is the duty of all electors who care for good and clean administration to make the effort to learn something of the way retiring members have carried out their duties, and the qualifications of new candidates. Local women's organisations should certainly be in a position to advise any of their members who may need help in this direction.

The majority of towns, unless they are very small, are divided into wards, and three to nine Councillors are elected for each ward. After Nomination Day, lists of the candidates are issued for the ward, together with the address of the polling station. These lists are placed outside the municipal offices, the doors of churches and chapels, and also in the chief post-offices and the public libraries.

Town Councils and the Home.

Women electors have recently shown more interest in elections for Borough Councils. Many of them are beginning to realise that Local Government administration closely affects their homes and families. Public Health work is one of the most important functions of a Town Council; and the Council is responsible for drainage, sewerage and sewerage treatment, a good and adequate water supply, cleaning and scavenging of the streets, and the collection and disposal of house refuse. Public Health administration also includes Maternity and Child Welfare work, the inspection of food, and the regulation and inspection of common lodging-houses, dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, cellar dwellings, workshops and workplaces, laundries and bakehouses.

The greater part of Public Health work is preventive, and the results cannot be estimated in terms of money. A hundred years ago, drainage and water supply were still regarded as private matters.

CAMPAIGN TO BRING DOWN PRICES.

On Thursday afternoon of last week, at the Minerva Café, Brunswick Square, W.C.1, with Mrs. Mustard presiding, Mrs. Juson Kerr, President of the Deal Housewives' Union, gave an interesting account of the Kentish Housewives' Campaign against the prevailing high prices of tea and sugar and other commodities. Mrs. Mustard, in introducing Mrs. Juson Kerr, referred to the unemployment amongst women, which the Government refused to recognise as seriously as it recognised unemployment amongst men. There was at least one woman out of work to every four men, and Government schemes for women's employment needed to be devised, *pro rata*, with those devised for men. At least one-fifth of the public funds granted for unemployment schemes should be spent on unemployed women. The dole system was degrading. What both sexes needed was regular work. The Women's Freedom League had consistently stood for this principle.

The Isle of Thanet Housewives' Union had now been in existence for 4½ years, said Mrs. Juson Kerr. It had arisen, in the first place, as a protest against the prevailing high prices of sugar, and consequent shortage, by which children were the first sufferers. A Petition

Scavenging was unknown, although in the principal streets of the best-managed towns "pans or baskets of ashes were put out and collected by carts." In the poorer streets, house-slops and refuse of every description were thrown in the roadway and left to decompose in the mud. Three outbreaks of cholera in the middle of the last century brought the realisation that the health of a people depends on general cleanliness, and that such cleanliness can only be achieved by public organisation. The Public Health Act of 1875 and subsequent legislation have given local authorities their present powers.

Housing and Town Planning.

It must not be forgotten that Town Councils are Housing Authorities. Under the recent Housing and Town Planning Act, every Housing Authority is bound to submit a scheme to the Minister of Health by the end of October, and their powers are increased in respect to the improvement and conversion of existing houses. The Act also provides for the framing of additional by-laws for the regulation of tenement houses, which will secure the prevention of overcrowding, the provision of separate sanitary accommodation, water supply, and cooking apparatus for each tenement.

With increasing development, Town Councils are faced with the need for town-planning schemes, and, if slum areas are to be prevented in the future, it is essential that such schemes should be on broad and comprehensive lines. By the new Act, every borough and urban district with a population of 20,000 and over must submit a town-planning scheme to the Ministry of Health before January 1st, 1926. The congestion of our large industrial centres should be met by the building of small satellite towns with special industries. Some time ago, the Sudbury Town Council formed a special propaganda committee, with a view to attracting industries to the town, and the method might be adopted in other places.

Local Government bodies need the co-operation of women with men for good administration, and it is important that electors, both men and women, should endeavour to secure the return of suitable candidates—by suitable we mean people "possessing common sense, intelligence, tact, courtesy, sympathy, and vision, who, if elected, will be willing to devote a large share of their time and energies to the work of serving their fellow-citizens, and who will take a live and real interest in the welfare, physical and moral, of their constituents."

On this subject, signed by 6,500 housewives, was presented to Mr. Lloyd George. The Housewives' Union had also dealt with the question of the high prices of meat, especially pork, which formed the Sunday joint in the majority of working-class homes. Their protest took the form of a general boycott of the butchers, one of whom voiced his indignation at the loss of £25 worth of custom over one week-end, by informing the women he would "like to hang them all!" The price of pork, however, had since been reduced, in the same way as tea and sugar at an earlier date.

The housewives had also protested against the high price of milk, and Mrs. Juson Kerr had herself opened a milk depot at Deal, selling the milk to her poorer neighbours at a reduction of a penny or two on each quart, which later resulted in the farmers cheapening the price of milk in that district.

Prices, however, were now showing signs of hardening again, and, before the next Budget became due, Mrs. Juson Kerr called upon all women to come into line with the Housewives' Union, and sign their Petition, a simple document, which pledged housewives to "restrict their purchases of tea and sugar to the smallest possible extent, until prices become normal again."

"JUSTITIA VINCIT."

By VICTRICE.

Readers of THE VOTE will probably remember a former reference to the controversy raging between the men and women operators in the Foreign Section (Cable Room) of the Central Telegraph Office. The situation has changed since then, and the woman Cable operator is but a memory.

The events leading to the present position were briefly these. Towards the end of 1915, the women in the Central Telegraph Office were asked to volunteer for work in the Cable Room, in order to replace the men on military service. The women responded, and acquitted themselves well, performing duties terminating at 9 and 10 p.m., and Sunday duty. During this time the women were considered merely as "loaned" staff.

In February last (1923), the women were withdrawn in order to honour an old agreement, concluded between the Union of Post Office Workers and the Post Office officials, which prohibited any discussion concerning the ultimate admission of women into the Cable Room on the permanency basis, until all the women had returned to the Inland sections. Nevertheless, it was understood that the women would resume their Cable Room duties within a few weeks—a promise which has not as yet, been fulfilled. The women's places have been filled by men, also on the "loan" system, which means that experienced women, technically efficient and with the necessary linguistic qualifications, are replaced by inexperienced men. This, from the business point of view only, is decidedly not a sound investment, especially when the women are desirous of taking their share in the work of the Cable Room. Great hostility, however, has always been exhibited by the male staff whenever the question of women being placed on the permanent staff has arisen. Several objections to their retention in the Cable Room have been put forward, one being that the women were on "loan." No murmurings have been heard against the employment of the present "loaned" male staff, proving that the question is one of bias against women as co-workers. Remarks calculated to prejudice the future of the women have emanated from the men via the *Cable Room Monthly*. One such refers to the working of foreign cables by a mixed staff, inferring that better work is performed when the room is staffed solely by men.

This is a deliberate misstatement. In 1919, an unofficial record was taken of the output of work, and the figures proved that the women surpassed the men. Also, many big telegraph circuits were worked 75 per cent. by women, as the men, until they had had the necessary training, were unable to operate them. The foregoing is borne out by the testimony of the Department itself, in the fact that, upon leaving, each woman was presented with a letter containing an official recognition "of the ready and efficient service rendered . . . under the burden of trying and prolonged attendances and of exacting work."

Another point raised by the men is that they will be subjected to an increase of late attendances, as the women now perform duties terminating not later than 8 p.m. Here again the men have shown a marked unreasonableness. The proportion of women would be insufficient to cause much change in the late duties already in existence (the ratio would be 1-10, instead of 1-11), and there are women who would be quite willing to adapt themselves to any necessary alteration of duties. The men have overlooked this point, thinking further to hinder the women's cause by refusing to co-operate in any way whatever. Their recommendation that women should be barred from entering the Cable Room, unless on a perfectly equal footing, was artfully designed for the purpose of keeping them out. The women have proved their equality with the men in every respect, the difference existing only in the rate of remuneration. This is, however, the rule applying

to every branch of the Civil Service, and does not affect the application of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, which emphasises equality of opportunity. The Government has now a unique opportunity of putting this Act into force, for, in spite of the recent alluring inducements offered to men throughout the country, the Cable Room is still inadequately staffed.

It may here be pointed out that the great expansion of work in the Cable Room (a further increase being predicted by the Postmaster-General) will prevent conditions from ever reverting to those of pre-war days, and the women are demanding a share of the increase of staff which must necessarily follow. Also, the Government position is an isolated one, for it alone, amongst all the European Governments, excludes women from its foreign telegraphs. The Government must treat its women fairly, and not cast them aside when they have aided it through a great national crisis.

The women are wondering when men will realise that their attitude towards them is foolish, that they are wasting time in expending their inevitably failing efforts to resist an inexorable principle, sex equality. Women refuse to be relegated to the background, being cognisant of the fact that they perform work equally as well as their male colleagues. Economic factors also are antagonistic to the men's advocacy of their cherished ideas. The time is past when women were merely tolerated in industry, and they now claim the right to give and to receive the best in the industrial field.

GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FAIR.

To be held this year on
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd & 24th,

at
THE CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,
from 3 to 9 p.m.

To be formally opened each day at 3.30 p.m.

**ON FRIDAY BY
THE LADY AMHERST OF HACKNEY.**
Chairman: MRS. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

**ON SATURDAY BY
MISS LILIAN BARKER, C.B.E.**
Chairman: DR. OCTAVIA LEWIN.

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A CORNER OF OLD BAGDAD.	
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Exhibition of Lace-Making by the Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency.

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The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
The League of the Church Militant.
The Friends' Relief.
The Friends of Armenia.
The Food Education Society.
St. Dunstan's.
The Westminster Health Society.
The British Esperanto Association.
The Montessori Society.
The Stonehenge Woollen Industry.
Nine Elms Settlement.
Miss Burwood (Beads).
Madame Buie (Egyptian Industries).
Minnie Culverwell (The Handicrafts).
Miss Ramsey (Roumanian Goods).
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The Misses Shuffrey (Y Magyary Pottery).

Teas, Suppers, and Refreshments at Moderate Prices.

Tickets (including tax) 2/6 the first day until 5 o'clock, after 5 p.m. and on the second day 1/3, including tax, from 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, or any of the Societies taking Stalls, and at the doors.
All communications and gifts should be sent to Miss E. BERRY, Hon. Fair Sec., at this office.

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

Monday, October 29th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Sub-Committee Meeting at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, October 29th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mrs. Northcroft. Subject: "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Chair, Mrs. Dexter.

Friday, November 2nd, at 5 p.m. Organisation Sub-Committee at 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Friday, November 2nd, at 8.15 p.m. Public Meeting at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Subject: "The Unemployment of Women." Speakers to be announced later. Applications for Dinner at Club, at 7.30 p.m. (2/6), to be sent beforehand to Miss Reeves.

Saturday, November 3rd, at 10 a.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Monday, November 5th, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting at 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W.3 (by kind permission of Dr. Knight).

Thursday, November 8th, at 3.30 p.m. "At Home" at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Tea 3.30. Lady Rhondda will open a discussion at 4 p.m. on the "Domestic Service Inquiry." Chairman: Miss Morton, M.B.E.

Wednesday, November 21st, at 7 p.m. Mid-London Branch. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Subject: "The Present Policy of the Ministry of Health with regard to Infectious Diseases." Speaker: Miss Loat. Chairman: Miss Steven.

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

SCOTLAND.

Friday, November 16th, at 7.30 p.m. Glasgow. Religious Institute Rooms, Buchanan Street. Speaker: Miss K. B. Cameron, ex-Sec. Scottish Small Holders' Association. Subject: "Land Question." Friends cordially invited.

PROVINCES.

Thursday, November 1st, at 3 p.m. Bexhill. A meeting will be held at Glyne Hall Hotel. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "The Urgent Need for More Women Magistrates." Chairman: Councillor Mrs. Meads.

Thursday, November 1st, at 7.30 p.m. Hastings. Glenroyde Hotel, Wellington Square. Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. will speak on "Can Women Stop War?" Chairman: Mrs. Strickland.

Monday, November 5th, at 3 p.m. Ashford. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "A review of the position of women in our own and other countries." Further details later.

Friday, November 9th, at 7.30 p.m. South Bank. National Union of Teachers (North Cleveland Teachers' Association). Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P.

Wednesday, November 28th. Brighton. A meeting will be held in Hove Town Hall. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Chairman: Miss Hare.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, October 29th, at 8 p.m. Women Citizens' Association, Stoke Newington. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "How I Can Help My Borough."

Wednesday, October 31st, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: Mr. Whinap. Subject: "Why prices rise and fall."

Sunday, November 4th, at 7.30 p.m. North London Debating Society. St. Pancras Reform Club, 15, Victoria Road, N.W. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Should Married Women Work?" Admission Free.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

We specially appeal for every kind of support that our readers can give to the following members of the Women's Freedom League, who are candidates for the forthcoming Municipal Elections. They would also much appreciate the loan of motor-cars on the day of the Election:—

Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P., MIDDLESBROUGH.
Committee Rooms: 132, Waterloo Road.

Mrs. L. M. CLARK, SOUTHEND.
Committee Rooms: "Worcester House," 197, Stornoway Road, Southchurch.

Mrs. POOLE, PORTSMOUTH.
Committee Rooms: Upper Swan Street, Portsmouth.
All intending helpers are invited to report at once to the above addresses.

"WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE RUHR."

Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand,
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, at 8.

HERR DABRINGHAUS (Leader of Workers' Council at Krupp's, Essen), Mr. W. R. HEATLEY (Ex-Chairman of Inter-Allied Reparations Authority, Essen).

Admission Free. Reserved Seats, 1/-,
of the Women's International League, 55, Gower St., W.C.1.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The *Morning Post* asks how many delegates who attended the meetings of the National Council of Women in Edinburgh last week would have relished a sermon preached by a seventeenth-century divine, from which is taken the following extract:—"To be, or not to be? Women should be like and unlike three things: She should be like a snail, always to keep within her own house; but not like a snail, to carry all she has on her back. She should be like an echo, to speak when she is spoken to; but not like an echo, always to have the last word. She should be like a town clock, always keeping time and regularity; but not like a town clock, to speak so loudly that all the town might hear her." What clumsy ideas the man had! To be sure, it is a pity his mother did not succeed in teaching him to practise his precepts before he preached them!

Reform of the House of Lords?

Lady Terrington, Liberal candidate for South Bucks, speaking at Slough last week, said she would reform the House of Lords by turning out men who did nothing but go to sleep on the benches. She did not mind Liberal, Conservative, or Labour Members in the House of Lords, so long as they conscientiously did their best; but at present they had a lot of members who did not know their own minds, and sat on the cross-benches without voting. The best and most effective reform for the House of Lords, from our point of view, is the admission of women to that Chamber, with a right to a seat, a voice, and a vote. We believe that then the dear old gentlemen would quickly decide to arrange for their afternoon naps elsewhere.

Twickenham's Fall from Grace.

Twickenham has a miniature House of Commons—exclusively for male members. At its recent annual meeting, the public were led to believe that it would become modernised by the admission of women; but last Thursday, when the matter was put to the vote, the motion for women's admission was, after a long discussion, defeated by 24 votes to 19. It was also decided to reduce the subscription from 4s. to 2s. 6d. We wish that a thoroughly good woman candidate could be found to put up for Twickenham at the next General Election, if only to rouse these gentlemen from their sleeping sickness.

RECIPROCAL VOWS IN THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is organising a Demonstration on the above subject in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, November 12th, at 8 p.m., the speakers being Lady Selborne, Miss Maude Royden, Lady Barrett, and Canon Hay Aitkin. Admission is free, but reserved seats can be obtained for 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. The meeting is being held at the same time as the National Assembly, in order that the attention of delegates to the Assembly should be called to it. As the Church of England is the National Church in England, it is felt by the promoters of the meeting that the removal from its marriage service of inequalities between the sexes is a reform of considerable interest, not only to members of the Church of England, but also to citizens in general.

BRANCH NOTES.

EDINBURGH.

On October 19th we had the pleasure of a visit from Dr. Octavia Lewin and Mrs. Schofield Coates, who were in Edinburgh as delegates to the National Council of Women. Dr. Lewin gave a most valuable address, full of wit and humour, on "The Teaching of Citizenship." By the aid of charts and diagrams, she demonstrated the importance of nasal and personal hygiene, and showed the terrible effects of neglect in this regard, on the mind as well as the body. There are plenty of "mouth-breathers" in our schools, alas! but none in the Universities—they never get so far! Mrs. Schofield Coates gave a very interesting account of the work of the League, and the need for its continued activities. She urged us to keep our Branch together, and work steadily for the full enfranchisement of women and their equal status with men in the community, as well as for the protection of child-life. We wish her every success in her contest at Middlesbrough, and fully expect that she will progress from Town Councillor to Lady Mayor and M.P. for the borough!

(Hon. Sec.) W. M. SPRIGGS, 44, George IV. Bridge.

GLASGOW.

Members and friends of the Glasgow Branch held a most enjoyable "At Home" in The Ca'doro, Union Street, on Saturday last, from 3-5. Miss M. S. Thomson very ably presided. An excellent tea was provided. After tea we had the honour of hearing Dr. Octavia Lewin's address on Nasal and Personal Hygiene. It was most interesting and beneficial to all who were present, and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Lewin. Miss Isabel Hamilton spoke re the enforcing of the school age, and a resolution was unanimously passed to that effect. A collection was taken to defray expenses. VOTES were also sold. A few new members were enrolled. Our thanks are due to Miss Jane Thomson, Miss McLelland, and Committee, who made such excellent arrangements for our entertainment and comfort.

(Minute Secretary) R. McDOUGALL.

FRIDAY,
OCT. 26,
1923.

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REST AND HOLIDAYS.

BUSY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at MISS TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

TWO women require board residence in Chelsea for week or ten days from December 27th. Pirie, 48, Middle Street, Brighton.

LITERARY Society having good first floor front room in square in Bloomsbury, wishes to sub-let for part time. Available daily—morning, possibly some afternoons. Apply A. B. C., 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

NOTICES.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, October 28th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Christ Triumphant: III. In our Industrial System."

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REMEMBER!

Monday, October 29th, 7 p.m.—Public Meeting in the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. Speaker: Mrs. Northcroft (who has recently returned from Geneva), on "Women at Work in the League of Nations." Chairman: Mrs. Dexter.

Friday, November 2nd, 8.15 p.m.—Discussion Meeting on "Remedies for Women's Unemployment." Speakers: Miss Grinter (President, N.U.W.T.), Miss F. A. Underwood, and others. Chairman: Miss Anna Munro.

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