

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

VOL. I.—No. 24.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1910.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and MANAGING DIRECTOR respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 148, HOLBORN BARS, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom 6/6 per annum, post free.
Foreign Countries 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Sons.

WHAT WE THINK.

A Possibility.

There is a rumour gaining strength in currency that a Private Members' Bill, taking the municipal franchise qualification for women as the basis of a qualification to vote at Parliamentary elections is likely to be introduced, and if sufficient support is given to it that it will receive facilities from the Government even in the present busy Session. Sir Edward Grey is said to favour the scheme, and "the other side" to look kindly upon it. Though not exactly what we have been asking for, we would not be disposed to quarrel with such a measure becoming law, any more than we would quarrel with any Bill enfranchising women whether it restricted itself to charwomen or Duchesses. It would at any rate be one milestone passed on the way to Justice, and would make the refusal to grant the vote on the same grounds as it is granted to men more ridiculous than it is at present. But such a Bill—facilities or no facilities—is not a gracious measure, and would prove once more that a male Government cannot successfully legislate to the satisfaction of the—until then—unrepresented women of the country.

Mid-Glamorgan Result.

The return of the Liberal, in spite of the fact that the Liberals practically gave the seat to the Labour Party, is one of the little straws which show which way the wind is blowing. The dictates of the party leaders were ignored, and the constituents elected the candidate "on their own." We did our best to "keep the Liberal out"—not from any personal feeling to the candidate (who professed belief in women's suffrage), as we have said before on many similar occasions—but because he stood for the party which has denied us our just rights. But this new candidate comes in on a ticket something like that of the "O'Brienites" in Ireland. Whether he is wanted or not as a supporter to his party, there he is, and the Master of Elibank may justly regard him with as distrustful an eye as any member of the front bench of the Opposition. He stands for a new form of Liberalism, which refuses to have the exact shade of red it will wear chosen by party leaders. Constituencies are not chattels, and if other constituencies discover this interesting truth, the Government will not have an easy time at the next General Election. Our spirit of independence, our continual efforts to educate the electorate, to induce them to think out the problems before them, and not to blindly follow the dictates of party leadership, while mainly aiming at our own freedom as the reward, has had the effect in many

constituencies of causing the elector to give greater thought to the possible result of his own vote. In Mid-Glamorgan the sheep have questioned the direction of the shepherd's crook, and though the result has been a technical victory for the Liberals, and a technical increase in their numbers, it has not been a moral one, and from it we may foresee many strange happenings in other constituencies during the next Election, for the spirit of Independence is abroad.

The Wife's Wages.

One of the clauses in Lady McLaren's "Woman's Charter," which has aroused more indignation amongst the uncomprehending than any other, is that suggesting that a wife shall be entitled to a payment not less than a housekeeper in her own rank of life. The objections have come from that class which has never felt the pinch of the shoe. One daily paper remarked, scornfully, that the Charter was based on a consideration of "hard cases." But all preventive legislation originates in the hard case; the Workmen's Compensation Act is directed, not against the humane employer who would pay in any case, but against the inhuman employer, who would pay nothing unless he was compelled to. Similarly the housekeeper-clause is not directed against the husband who makes his wife a decent allowance according to his wages or salary, but against the man who, while exerting to the utmost his privileges as a husband and master, denies her the right to a penny piece of his earnings. It has also been said in some of the daily papers that it would be absurd to expect that the working-man could allow his wife a salary. This is begging the question, and a very good answer to it may be found in the methods of expenditure of a working-man's wages taught to the little girls in the domestic and house-work classes in some of the L.C.C. schools. We have seen the "official" suggested outline of the possibilities to be extracted from wages of 25s. and 30s. a week. In each of these there is a "pocket-money" allowance of several shillings set apart for "father," but nothing for "mother," who works a good deal harder than "father,"—being up to get his breakfast before he goes out in the morning, and slaving for him and his offspring all day, with hardly an interval of leisure. Thus early is the lesson ordered from the male powers, and taught to the small girl at the beginning of her life. And moreover it has been shown in law courts before now that money saved from housekeeping is the property of the husband, and not the reward of the wife's thrift.

"Daddyism."

Mr. Carnegie has coined a new word—he has coined it to fit the men who live on their father's reputations, and whose individual value is not much. "Daddyism" is his word. It is a good new word, and the language is all too poor in such. But "daddyism" might be made more elastic: it might be made to fit those men who took heed of their fathers' deeds only, and who failed to see that their mother's task of rearing them and of home-keeping was equally valuable. It might be made to fit men who concentrated on their daddies—on the men who lived in a previous generation to their own, and took no heed for the men and women who were likely to come after them. It could easily include those men who think that because women had not the privilege of the franchise in their daddies' time, that, therefore, it was unlikely that they would need, or be worthy of it, in their own time.

THE BREMA LOOMS,

111, LUPUS STREET, S.W.

Hand-woven Silk; Linen, Woollen, Cotton Materials; Towels, Dusters, Toilet-Table and Cushion Covers, etc., Curtains, Rugs,

Woven by Young London Girls.

MISS TITA BRAND,
CORDIALLY INVITES VISITORS.

The "OCENTRIC"

EYEGLASS (BRIT. PATENT) holds securely in the strongest wind, fits with absolute minimum pressure, is made to measure in every case, and possesses distinct advantages over all other forms of eyeglasses. A trial solicited.

Exclusively at

LIZARS, 251, High Holborn, W.C.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

- Thurs., April 7th **Caxton Hall**, 3 to 6 p.m. Chair, Miss Benett, 3.15 p.m.; Mrs. Amy Sanderson, 3.30 p.m.; Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, 5.10 p.m.
- Thurs., April 7th **Highbury Corner**, 7.30.
- Sat., April 9th **Harrow**, 3 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Sanderson.
- Sun., April 10th **Regent's Park**, 12 noon. Mrs. Sanderson.
- Wed., April 13th **Hackney W.F.L. Shop**, 4, Clarence Road. Mrs. Manson, 8 p.m.
- Wed., April 13th **Croydon Branch**, Thornton Heath Clock, at 8 p.m.
- Thurs., April 14th **Caxton Hall**, 3 p.m. Speakers, Mrs. Nevinson and Frank Rutter, Esq.
- Thurs., April 14th **Highbury Corner**, 7.30.
- Thurs., April 14th **Ruskin Hall**, Ackerman Road, Brixton, 8 p.m. Miss F. A. Underwood.
- Fri., April 15th **Spears Memorial Hall**, Highgate, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Hicks, M.A.
- Wed., April 20th **Central Branch**, 8.15. Mrs. Ennis Richmond
- Wed., April 20th **Barnsbury Hall**, Upper Street, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Manson, H. G. Chancellor, Esq., M.P.
- Sat., April 23rd **"Social" and Entertainment in Lower Town Hall**, Lavender Hill, Battersea.
- Thurs., April 28th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m. Reception to Actresses' Franchise League.
- Thurs., May 5th **Queen's Hall**, 8 p.m. Reception to Men's League.
- Thurs., May 26th **Queen's Hall**, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, when in London, is at the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and will be pleased to see members of the League who wish to consult her.

THE PROVINCES.

- Thurs., April 7th **Brighthouse**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Thurs., April 7th **Masonic Hall**, Barry, Mrs. Despard, 7.30.
- Fri., April 8th **Dewsbury**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Sat., April 9th **Batley**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Mon., April 11th **Dewsbury**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Tues., April 12th **Batley**, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Wed., April 13th **Mrs. Despard**, Southend.
- Wed., April 13th **Huddersfield**, Presbyterian Literary Society, 8 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.
- Wed., April 13th **Mass Meeting**, Eccles Town Hall. Speakers, Mrs. Amy Sanderson and others.
- Thurs., April 14th **Huddersfield**, At Home, G.F.S. Room, 3 p.m. Miss Munro, Mrs. Gordon.

SCOTLAND.

- Sat., April 9th **Cake and Candy Sale**, Dennistoun Branch.
- Wed., April 13th **Suffrage Centre**, 302, Sauchiehall Street, 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss Margaret Lewin (Sec. Council Women's Trades), subject, "Our Sweated Workers."
- Sat., April 16th **Central Branch Jumble Sale**, 457, Rutherford Road, S.S.

WALES.

- Fri., April 8th **Cardiff**, at Occidental Café, Queen Street, 3 p.m.; Mrs. Despard, 8 p.m.; Mrs. Despard.
- Thurs., May 5th **Swansea**, Albert Hall: **Woman's Pageant**. Miss Cicely Hamilton and Miss Edith Craig. Speaker, Mrs. Despard.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

Suffrage Atelier.

The Suffrage Atelier has arranged a competition of designs for posters, large and small, and of designs for banners, in embroidery and appliqué. Various prizes are offered. The Design Club will meet in future on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9.30, at Edwardes Square. At these meetings there will be sketching from life (some well-known suffragist will sit whenever possible); and all kinds of technical information connected with the society's work will be given. On Wednesday afternoons at 2.45, an address will be given on some subject dealing with women's interests. Any friends are invited to ask for cards of admission to these addresses. All particulars of the competition and the meetings, can be obtained from the Suffrage Atelier Studio, 1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, Kensington, W.

New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

The society continues to hold successful weekly meetings. At the Medical Society's Rooms on March 24th Mrs. Hartley welcomed members and their friends, kindly giving them an opportunity of hearing Miss Abadam and Mr. Joseph Clayton, both of whom were even more than usually inspiring. The Society's membership is rapidly increasing.

Men's Political Union.

The next monthly meeting of the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement will be held at the Eustace Miles Restaurant on April 14th, 1910, at 8 p.m., when the meeting will be addressed by Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Cecil Chapman, and others. It is hoped that members will inform as many friends as possible of these monthly meetings. As the Union is growing, so the work to be done is increasing, and if any members have an hour or two to spare, we shall be very glad of their help.—VICTOR DUVAL, Hon. Sec., 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

OUR COMPETITIONS.

PRIZES FOR STREET SELLERS.

To encourage her corps of street sellers, Mrs. Snow is offering prizes for the largest number of VOTES sold in April and May. All copies must be obtained from Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi. The first prize will be 15s., or three fully-paid shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.; the second 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares; and the third 5s., or one fully-paid-up share. There will be a special VOTE-Week, May 23rd to May 30th, particulars of which will be announced later. A VOTE At Home will be held June 2nd. New recruits to the Street-Selling Corps will be welcomed by Mrs. Snow, who will give them pitches if applied to at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

"Suffragettes at Home."

Under the heading of "Suffragettes at Home" a series of photographs is appearing in THE VOTE which should be an object lesson to the male "anti" who so frequently requests us to "go home and do the washing," "mind the baby," or "darn the husband's socks." Mrs. Thomson-Price, one of our directors, is offering a prize of a guinea for the best photograph showing Suffragettes doing these and various other domestic duties. It is not necessary that all the subjects of the photographs should be important personages, but they must be members of the Women's Freedom League. We reserve the right to publish any of the photographs sent in. Competition photographs must be sent to the office of THE VOTE, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C., before next Saturday, April 9th.

COMPETITION FOR RECEIPTS.

Owing to the interest taken in last month's competitions, and as the advertising is the mainstay of the paper, we have decided to encourage the keeping of receipts for goods bought from advertisers by our readers by continuing our offer of monthly prizes for the largest number sent in.

(1) The first prize for the largest number of receipts will be 10s., or two fully-paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co.

(2) The second, for the largest total amount spent, will be 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free.

Entries for the first competition must be sent in before next Saturday, April 9th. The results will be announced in the issue dated April 16th.

NOTICE.

Mrs. How Martyn is taking a holiday. During her absence Mrs. Amy Sanderson, a member of the N.E.C., will take her place at the office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., from April 1st to the 13th, and Mrs. Manson, another member, for the remainder of the time.

ADVERTISING "AT HOMES."

Will all those members and friends who have any spare time to help us advertise our "At Homes" and meetings, either by distribution of handbills, chalking, sandwiching, or in any way, either call or write to me at the office, 1, Robert Street, stating which part of the work they will undertake, and how much time they are prepared to give? —E. LEYSON, Advertising Organiser.

** * * The Editor desires to call the attention of members of the W.F.L. and other contributors to THE VOTE that no matter can be certain of publication in the current week's issue which arrives later than first post Monday morning. By adhering to this rule much annoyance will be saved on both sides.*