

THE VOTE,  
SEPT. 28, 1923.  
ONE PENNY.

## A REPLY TO BISHOP WELLDON.

By EMILY PHIPPS, B.A.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 28, 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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BACK TO WORK!

## BUILDERS OF THE EMPIRE.

Members of the Women's Freedom League, and representatives of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the League of the Church Militant, the National Union of Women Teachers, and of the Six-Point Group, extended a very warm welcome to Mrs. Mary Ellen Smith, M.P. for British Columbia, who is also the only British woman of Cabinet rank, and to Mrs. Hilton Philipson, M.P. for Berwick-on-Tweed, last Tuesday evening, at the Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Dr. Knight was in the Chair, and Mrs. Nevinson expressed our great pleasure in meeting such a pioneer as Mrs. Ralph Smith. Miss Newcomb, on behalf of the British Overseas Committee of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, urged a closer co-operation between the women of Canada and the women of this country in the international Woman's Movement. Dr. Hanson gave her the greetings of the League of the Church Militant, and Miss Ada Moore, for the Six-Point Group, said how thrilled she was to see and to hear a woman Cabinet Minister: "We have only three women Members of Parliament; they must grow to thirty; and *do* let's have a woman Cabinet Minister here!" she exclaimed.

Mrs. Smith, who received a great ovation, said she had learnt to be a suffragist at her grandmother's knee, which was a very great heritage. She herself had worked for the suffrage in Canada, and only those who had worked for it knew the struggles and the amount of effort which were necessary to secure it; and they alone could realise what the vote had meant to women. Women had as much right to individual freedom and the expression of their views as men. In a municipal election she and her husband had killed each other's vote by registering it for opposing candidates, but they were both happy in recording their views!

When Mrs. Smith went to the poll in British Columbia, she was opposed by two ex-Service men; but she secured a majority of four thousand votes because her programme for post-war problems appealed to the electors. This programme included a minimum wage for girls and women, pensions for mothers, legal adoption of children, protection for neglected children, a Juvenile Court woman judge, equal guardianship of children, provision for delinquent and mentally defective

children, and the raising of the age of marriage for minors. She declared that all those items had now found their way into legislation, and she was proud to say that in British Columbia they had the most modern and best-conducted homes for mentally defective children that could be found in the whole continent of America.

Mrs. Smith expressed her appreciation of being among the members of the Women's Freedom League, and said that if ever the women of Canada could be of any help to the women of this country, they would gladly avail themselves of the opportunity. In Canada there were a little over two people to the square mile, whereas in England there were 669. Unemployment was rife in this country, but Canada's door was open to British people, and she invited women here who had courage, faith, and vision to come and find work in Canada.

In thanking Mrs. Smith for her encouraging speech, Miss M. I. Neal also gave Mrs. Hilton Philipson a most cordial welcome amongst us, and this was emphasised by Dr. Lewin. In replying, Mrs. Philipson charmed everyone present with her frank, straightforward statements. She said she was not an anti-feminist. How could she be? She had three children, and she felt she was really self-sacrificing in spending so much time away from them. She was proud to think that the electors of Berwick trusted her, and had sent her to Parliament to look after the interests of the men, women, and children in that constituency. She believed that the best work could be done by men and women together. Even should she not be able to agree with us on all things, she hoped she would be able to come to us again, and she assured all the women present that if they would come to the House of Commons she would always be ready to consider their point of view and to help in any matter that was possible.

Miss Froud (of the National Union of Women Teachers) brought the proceedings to a close with a delightful little speech, comparing men Cabinet Ministers and men politicians and their ways of dealing with women's questions in pre-suffrage days with the woman Cabinet Minister of British Columbia and the woman Member of the British House of Commons.

## WOMEN AT WORK IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

### Foreword.

When the first draft of the Covenant, the Magna Charta of the League, was being drawn up in Paris, in 1919, no mention of women was included in the document. This omission, however, was speedily remedied by the action of women themselves. It so happened that the International Council of Women, the oldest international body of women in existence, and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, were both meeting in Paris at the time the Covenant was being drafted. After studying the draft, and finding no mention of women included, these Societies asked permission to put their point of view before the Committee, and the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, President of the International Council of Women, headed a deputation for this purpose. As a result of the pressure brought to bear by women on this occasion, Article 7 was inserted in the Covenant, which declares that:

### A. Organisation of the League of Nations.

The League of Nations is organised as follows:—

1. The Assembly and its Committees.
2. The Council.
3. The Secretariat.
4. Permanent and Temporary Advisory Commissions.

### B. Women in the Assembly.

The Assembly of the League of Nations, which corresponds to a great international Parliament, meets once a year at Geneva in the Salle de la Réformation. It consists of Delegations representing all the States Members of the League, and is at present composed of 53 nations, or more than three-quarters of the entire population of the world. These Delegations may not consist of more than three representatives, and they may have only one vote, but the representatives may be accompanied by assistants or experts.

Six countries—Great Britain, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Rumania—have so far included women, either as substitute delegates or technical advisers, in their Delegations; but no member State, up to the present, has yet sent a woman as a full delegate. The Scandinavian countries included women in their Delegations from the first, and Fru Bugge Wicksell (Sweden), Fröken Forchhammer (Denmark), and Dr. Kristine Bonnevie (Norway) have sat in each succeeding Assembly since 1920. In 1921, Rumania appointed Mlle. Hélène Vacaresco to the Second Assembly, and she has sat in each succeeding one since. In 1922 and 1923, Great Britain and Australia included a woman in their respective Delegations.

As in the case of other Parliaments, the Assembly splits up into Committees, in order to facilitate its work. Six Committees, so far, have been established by the Assembly. The 1st Committee deals with legal and constitutional questions, including amendments to the Covenant. The 2nd Committee deals with technical organisations, including communications and transit, health and epidemics, and refugee questions. The 3rd Committee is occupied with the reduction of armaments. The 4th Committee is concerned with Budget and financial questions. The 5th Committee is

### C. Women in the Secretariat.

The Secretariat of the League of Nations represents the permanent international Civil Service of the League. It is housed in a commodious building at Geneva, which was formerly a large hotel, and commands a magnificent view of the blue waters of Lake Léman. The work of the Secretariat is exceedingly responsible and important. Upon it devolves the carrying into action of the decisions or resolutions passed by the Council and the Assembly at its various meetings. Such action involves not only the collecting of information by means of Questionnaires from the 53 countries affiliated to the League, and making exhaustive investigations, etc., but also a vast mass of continuous correspondence with Governments, Societies, and individuals.

"All positions under or in connection with the League, including the Secretariat, shall be open equally to men and women."

Article 7 is, therefore, women's great charter in the League, and something has already been accomplished in regard to the opportunity thus afforded. Women sit in the Assembly, and on several of the Commissions instituted by the League. They form at least one-half of the staff, both in the Secretariat and the International Labour Office, whilst a few have been promoted to very responsible positions. But the full equality of women with men in the various organisations of the League of Nations is yet to seek. Article 7 has not yet been fully interpreted in women's favour. Only the passage of time will serve to show women's eventual position in this great international body, and every woman now at work in the League is preparing the ground for other women to follow her.

5. The International Labour Office.
6. The Court of International Justice.

Women are not represented on either the Council, which meets at Geneva, or on the Court of International Justice, which sits at The Hague, so no further mention will be made of either of these bodies.

occupied with social and general questions, including the traffic in women and children, protection of women and children in the Near East, the opium traffic, international organisation of intellectual work, etc. The 6th Committee deals with political questions, including slavery, protection of minorities, admission of new members to the League, etc. Certain sections of the Secretariat carry out the work of these Assembly Committees.

Every member of the League is entitled to be represented on each one of these Committees. The women who sit in the Assembly are usually appointed each year to the 5th, or Humanitarian, Committee. In addition, Fru Bugge Wicksell is appointed to the 1st, or Legal Committee, and Fröken Forchhammer to the 2nd, or Technical, Committee.

### \* Women in the First Assembly (1920).

Fru Wicksell, Substitute Delegate, Swedish Delegation.  
Fröken Forchhammer, Technical Adviser on Women's Questions, Danish Delegation.  
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie, Substitute Delegate, Norwegian Delegation.

### Women in the Second Assembly (1921).

Fru Wicksell, Substitute Delegate, Swedish Delegation.  
Fröken Forchhammer, Technical Adviser on Women's Questions, Danish Delegation.  
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie, Substitute Delegate, Norwegian Delegation.  
Mlle. Hélène Vacaresco, Substitute Delegate, Roumanian Delegation.

### Women in the Third Assembly (1922).

Fru Wicksell, Substitute Delegate, Swedish Delegation.  
Fröken Forchhammer, Technical Adviser on Women's Questions, Danish Delegation.  
Dr. Kristine Bonnevie, Substitute Delegate, Norwegian Delegation.  
Mlle. Hélène Vacaresco, Substitute Delegate, Roumanian Delegation.  
Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., Substitute Delegate, British Delegation.  
Mrs. Dale (Sydney), Substitute Delegate, Australian Delegation.

In order to facilitate the execution of its affairs, the Secretariat is divided into sections, each one dealing with various aspects of peace machinery. The Legal Section supplies legal opinions to all departments, and is also in charge of the registration of treaties. The Political Section is responsible for the study and preparation of all political questions which come before the League in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant. The Minorities Section deals with matters relating to minority countries and treaties. The Mandate Section carries out all the executive work of the Permanent Mandates Committee. The Transit Section is concerned with questions of communications and transit.

(To be continued next week.)

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

### Jersey Women and Political Rights.

Women in Jersey are getting up a petition to the States Parliament, asking for the granting to women of full civil and political rights now enjoyed by the women of Great Britain. A meeting was recently held in Jersey in support of this petition, and Mrs. Trachy, President of the Women's Jersey Political Union, who was in the Chair, declared that the legal position of women in Jersey had changed very little since the days of William the Conqueror. She asked why women should not be in the States Parliament in Jersey to represent women? Women had a perfect right to elect women to represent them, and when women had secured the right to vote in the island, she hoped they would elect a woman.

### Appointment of Woman Medical Officer in Australia.

We learn from *The Dawn* (organ of the Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia) that during the visit of the Prime Minister to Perth, a deputation from the Women's Service Guilds made the request that a woman doctor should be appointed to examine female applicants for the Commonwealth Public Service. This request has been granted by the Government, and applications have been invited for a woman medical officer to undertake this duty.

### Women's Employment in Australia.

In Australia, women are eligible for appointments in the Civil Service on the same terms as men, and receive the same pay; they are also eligible to the municipal services and to the police service. Women in Australia are admitted to all the professions except the Army, the Navy, and the Church. Women are employed in "women's trades," which are paid at less than men's trades, but controlled by Minimum Wage Boards. Women are forbidden to work at night for a period before and after childbirth, but regulation of their hours does not differ from the regulations for men. There are no legal restrictions on their employment on other forms of industrial work, but custom prevents their employment in any but certain trades. There is a maternity allowance of £5 for every child.

### Women's Employment in Iceland.

Public offices are open to women with the same pay as men throughout the Civil Service, and marriage is no bar; but, although women are eligible for the higher posts, women have not been appointed to them. There is one woman M.P. in Iceland. Women may enter the Law and the Church, as well as all other professions, and girls are admitted to schools on equal terms with boys.

### Austrian Women M.P.s discuss Budget.

In the recent debate on the Budget in the Austrian Parliament, seven women M.P.s took part and made valuable contributions to the discussion. This debate once more proved that women know how to hold their point, especially in social and economic questions.

### Co-Education in France.

Following a decree of last October, which permitted girls to attend courses on mathematics and philosophy at boys' schools, in preparation for the *baccalauréat*, the Minister of Public Instruction has now decided that girls may attend boys' secondary schools to follow courses of study in preparation for women's high schools.

### Women's Fire Brigades.

Last Saturday, firewomen wearing the regulation fireman's caps and smart uniforms were a prominent feature of the third annual "Fire Tournament" of the Second Division of the London Private Fire Brigades Association, held at the Osram Lamp Works, Brook Green, Hammersmith.

### Woman Engineering Student.

For the first time a woman student at Westminster Evening Classes has been enrolled for an advanced course on steel-frame construction.

## OUR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, Saturday, September 22nd, those present being Miss Berry, Miss Alix M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Mrs. Holmes, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Legge, Miss Anna Munro, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Van Raalte, Mrs. Whetton, and the Secretary, the Chair being taken by Mrs. Schofield Coates.

The Committee unanimously decided to send a vote of sincere sympathy to the Japanese Women's Society, in the overwhelming disaster which has befallen their country.

### Clyde Campaign.

Reports were considered and adopted from the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Organising Secretary, the Secretary, and from the Political, Literature, and VOTE Sales Departments. Miss Alix Clark reported on the Clyde Coast campaign during July and August. There had been huge meetings at Rothesay Pierhead in the evenings, and good meetings during the daytime at Largs, Millport, and Dunoon. Three thousand five hundred copies of THE VOTE and a quantity of literature had been sold during this campaign. Miss Mary Grant had made an excellent speaker, and had dealt with a different subject at each meeting. The Committee offered its best thanks to Miss Clark for organising the campaign, and sent a very cordial message of thanks and appreciation to Miss Grant for her part in its success.

The Committee urged that our Branches, in addition to pressing for the enfranchisement of women at the same age and on the same terms as men, should run a vigorous campaign during the autumn session in support of the Guardianship of Infants Bill. Branches were also to be asked to urge their local Board of Guardians to support the Hammersmith Board of Guardians in their request that a full inquiry be made by the Ministry of Health into all the facts of the case concerning the treatment of the small child (for whom the Hammersmith Guardians were responsible) who died last July of meningitis at the Downs Hospital, Banstead, and the accusations made by nurses against the Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Alix Jeanne Churchill.

### Unemployed Women.

A long discussion took place on proposals for work for unemployed women. The suggestions made by the Committee in 1921 for providing unemployed women with work were reconsidered, and further suggestions made by members of the present Committee and by representative men and women to whom we had written in regard to this matter, were fully debated. At the end of the Committee's deliberations the following resolution was proposed from the Chair and agreed to unanimously:—"That, in view of the increasing seriousness of the problem of unemployment amongst women, the Women's Freedom League urges that the Education Act of 1918 be put into immediate and full operation, which will not only diminish unemployment amongst thousands of professional women, but will also, by preventing young people between the ages of 14 and 16 from entering the labour market, relieve unemployment amongst working men and women; and, further, that an adequate grant be made at once by the Government to the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment."

The Committee asks that all our Branches support Headquarters in securing the consideration of this resolution by the general public and by their local Members of Parliament.

The Committee further expressed the hope that all our Branches, every member and every friend of the Women's Freedom League, would do their utmost to make our Green, White, and Gold Fair, to be held at the Central Hall on Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, the greatest possible success.

The next meeting of the Committee will take place on Saturday, November 3rd.

## THE VOTE.

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders.

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

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

## WORKLESS WOMEN.

According to official figures, there are now nearly a quarter of a million women and girls in this country out of employment. Of these, 41,000 belong to the cotton industry, 24,000 to the distributive trades, 20,000 to the manufacture of food and drink trades, 16,000 to the hotel, college, and club services, 27,000 to the dressmaking, millinery, and tailoring trades, 12,000 to the flax, linen, and hemp trades, and over 18,000 to the engineering and allied trades. All these women are definitely trained workers, and must be recognised as permanently engaged in industry. Many of them have been working in their own trades for twenty or thirty years, and they are not available for resident domestic service, the one and only occupation which some men seem to have heard of in connection with women workers. In addition to these industrial workers, many thousands of professional women are unemployed, among them, of course, thousands of fully trained and fully qualified women teachers. If only the Minister of Education would insist on the reduction of the size of classes in our schools, the majority of these teachers would secure work; and if the Education Act of 1918 were put into full operation, all women teachers would be fully employed; and boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 16 would be kept from entering the labour market, thereby relieving some unemployment amongst men and women workers.

To return to the workless women in industry, the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment devised the Homecrafts Scheme, which provided training with maintenance in domestic service for over 10,000 unemployed women undertaking to enter resident domestic service; and the Homemakers' Scheme, which provided training with maintenance in domestic subjects for 1,565 unemployed women who were awaiting the opportunity to return to their own trades. These are the two schemes that we want to see specially worked during the coming winter, and for which we urge that the Government should make an adequate grant. For the Homecrafts Scheme the Committee allocated, in the first instance, £150,000, and they received, in addition, from the Ministry of Labour in March, 1921, the sum of £50,000, the residue of the Women's Training Branch vote, to be expended in the ratio of £1 to every £2 disbursed by the Committee. In August, 1922, the Ministry of Labour made a further grant of £50,000 to be expended on a £1 to £1 basis. The average cost of training a woman over 18 years of age for thirteen weeks, inclusive of maintenance, was £20, and of a girl between 16 and 18 years of age £14. The thirteen weeks' course of training provided for a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 hours' instruction in each week, twelve hours minimum being devoted to cooking, laundry, and housewifery, nine hours maximum for needlework and renovations, four hours maximum for hygiene and infant welfare, three hours maximum for general knowledge, one hour maximum for physical exercises, and one hour maximum for class singing. Investigation into the previous

occupations of the women entering the Homecraft courses revealed that recruits for training were mainly obtained from factory workers, needle trades workers, clerks, and shop assistants. Of these four, the factory workers formed the largest number, the percentage in London in all courses being 70 per cent.; so that the work of the Committee in training these women certainly removed some workers from factory life and placed them in domestic service.

The Homemakers' courses were intended for unemployed women who were hoping to return to their trade, but who were suffering the evils of long unemployment, owing to industrial depression. The aim of the training given in these courses was to maintain the morale of the women, to assist them to tide over the period of unemployment, and to give them experience in domestic work which would be useful to them in their own homes. Twenty-four centres, the cost of which was borne entirely by the Central Committee, were set up in various parts of the British Isles, in large industrial areas, and the women admitted to them were between the ages of 18 and 40. The curriculum in the Homemakers' centres was designed with a view to assisting women with the domestic work of their own homes, and the syllabus of the work carried out was modified in various respects from that laid down for the Homecraft centres. As a rule, more time was given to needlework, in which the women devoted themselves to renovations and to the "making down" of garments, the materials for which were usually supplied by the students themselves. Although it was not anticipated that any direct effect upon women's employment would result from these courses, nevertheless, in several of the centres from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the women obtained some domestic occupation at the end of training, and were thus enabled to find regular employment. The educational value of the Homemakers' courses was greatly appreciated in those areas in which they were established.

In urging that working women in times like the present are entitled, as a measure of simple justice, to the same treatment as men, *The Nation & The Athenaeum* says: "Hitherto the Government has assisted these courses with the meagre sum of £100,000, and that only on condition that the Committee found £150,000 out of its private funds, and that its own subsidy was used exclusively for women willing to accept resident domestic service. If the scheme were expanded, as it could be without great cost, to cover a larger proportion of the women who never have been and never can be domestic servants, the results would be wholly beneficial. In view of the millions which have been spent on the training of men, and on schemes of relief work which are directly of benefit only to men, it is not much to ask that the necessary money should be voted."

## GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill, the main object of which is to secure to the married mother the same rights in regard to the guardianship of her children as their father, has passed successfully through the House of Lords, and has been referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses. This Joint Select Committee will draw up a Report on its proceedings. The same Bill may be introduced into the House of Commons, or an entirely new Bill may have to go through both Houses. All women's organisations are in favour of a reform of the present law in this country, which allows the father, without in any way consulting the child's mother, to say where that child shall live, and how and where it shall be educated. Legislation in the Dominions is ahead of us in regard to this matter, and, so long as our present law remains on our Statute Book, the whole status of married women is degraded in this country. The pressure of public opinion secured equality in our Divorce Laws; the pressure of public opinion can also secure equal rights for mothers in respect to the guardianship of their children.

## A REPLY TO BISHOP WELLDON.

By EMILY PHIPPS, B.A. (Editor of *The Woman Teacher*, Past-President National Union of Women Teachers).

The Right Rev. Bishop Welldon has once more assumed the task of publicly attacking elementary schools and their teachers. At a meeting of the British Association on September 18th, he opened a discussion on "How far the value of education in elementary schools has corresponded with the increase of expenditure upon it." In the course of his speech he made a series of charges against teachers. He asserted that they refuse to do anything after school, even such a little thing as helping a child across a road; they are eager only to go off to their golf, cycling, or tennis; the children when they leave school are, according to business men, ignorant of spelling, literary expression, and geography; teachers had not shown themselves willing to accept their due share of the national burden, as was proved by their insistence on their right to the full Burnham Scales; they had shown a spirit of self-laudation; and . . . Holy Orders were suffering because of the improved salaries of teachers. What an indictment!

Now, we have no hesitation in declaring that Dr. Welldon's attack contained general statements that were not true. Possibly he may not know that they are not true, but that does not justify him; a man should be very sure of his facts before he commits himself to such assertions, and in such a public manner. Especially should a clergyman be careful. As an example of a statement which is definitely and demonstrably untrue, we will take the one about teachers not having accepted their share of the national burden, as shown, according to the Bishop, by their insistence on being paid according to the Burnham Scale.

The answer to that is that they did not insist on being paid according to the Burnham Scale. Every teacher in the Government service has consented—whether voluntarily or not—to two deductions of 5 per cent. each from the agreed Burnham Scale. We hold no brief for the Burnham Scale, but truth is truth, and what Dr. Welldon said is not truth! Further, where disputes between teachers and Local Authorities have occurred, they have been due to the fact that the Local Authorities have broken their agreement. Does not the Bishop know this? It is common knowledge. Does he, then, think so little of truth that he blames the teachers instead of blaming the Local Education Committees? Indeed, inferentially, he upholds the latter—in the breaking of an agreement!

But we go farther than this. As he himself states, the average salary of a teacher before the war was £100. Think of it! And yet the teachers, purely from patriotism, refrained from making any effort to improve these salaries for years after the war broke out! Did any other class show such patriotism? With wages and prices going up all round them, teachers struggled on till many of them were in desperate straits. It is not true that they were unpatriotic. And as to their "self-laudation." What are they to do when they and their work are attacked? Who is to tell the public the real facts if the teachers do not? One dislikes self-praise, but when widespread attacks are made, calculated to injure not only teachers but the cause of popular education as well, it is human nature to defend oneself; and it would be cowardly not to do so.

Perhaps Bishop Welldon has met one case of a teacher who would not help a child across a road; we have not met such a teacher, though there may be one. But, if he cared to take the trouble, he could meet thousands of teachers who spend evenings and Saturdays in games with their classes, in debating societies, in country walks, in visits to museums; all the hockey, football, and cricket in our primary schools depends on teachers' voluntary work. He might also, if he looked very carefully, find teachers doing Sunday work—taking Sunday school classes, or acting as organist and choir-master. Curiously enough, the very evening on

which we read the account of his speech, we came across two cases of teachers doing out-of-school work; We weren't looking for them, either. One was a mistress who had just come home, at 7.30, having remained at school to attend a meeting of the girls about "Hobbies," and the other was a teacher spending her whole evening in correcting piles of exercise books. In Dr. Welldon's own city he will find, if he looks, a voluntary Continuation School where one, at least, of the staff is a teacher who attends, without payment, after her own school work is finished, to teach lads of 15 to 18. She does this purely as a social service, and it is very hard work, as anybody knows who tries it; for these boys do not want to attend, and if they listen to you, it is as a favour. If the Bishop, after visiting this Continuation School, would go to London, he would find that in various boroughs the teachers had got together the parents of the district, in order to bring them into touch with the work of the schools. Does this look as if teachers "resented inquiry"? We are being inquired about all the year round, but here, in these Parents' Meetings, which are often accompanied by "Open Days" at the schools, the teachers actually court inquiry.

Some teachers run off after school hours to golf and tennis, do they? No doubt some do. And if one could see the crowded rooms in which they teach, with their vitiated air, if one could realise the nerve-strain consequent on teaching 60 children all day, sometimes in a room with several other classes, one would not wonder at any teacher's feeling fit for nothing but relaxation. "Employers of labour" tell the Bishop that children lack the power of literary expression at 14! Well, naturally. How could they possess it, at that age, seeing their home surroundings? We know and we deplore the fact that the children are still ignorant when they leave us; but with a short school life, with classes of 50-60, with a poor home environment, nothing else can be expected. But—we believe the attack was against elementary schools—though naturally at 14 our children would not equal public-school children in literary expression, we claim that they would, at the same age, very well stand a comparison with the latter in the other two subjects complained of—spelling and geography.

This reference to "business men" and "captains of industry" is rather disquieting; one hopes that Dr. Welldon is not allowing himself to be used as the exponent of this class. The mention of the falling-off in candidates for Holy Orders, too, looks as if the attack were caused by jealousy of teachers' salaries; otherwise, what has it to do with the question?

We observe, further, a touch of political bias. Every parent, says the Bishop, should pay for the education given his children by some form of special service or its equivalent. We would remind him of two things: one is, that if the State is to force parents to have their children educated, and to force them to pay for it, this necessitates a corresponding duty for the State to see that parents are able to obtain employment and wages; at present this is far from being the case. The other is, that it is not only the education of our elementary school children that is subsidised by the State; a perusal of *Hansard* will show that most educational institutions, including the ancient Universities, receive such help, in addition sometimes to money that has been left by charitable benefactors. He would be a bold man who could confidently assert that he or his parents had paid the whole cost of his education. Indeed, people of the class which attends Universities receive more from the State and from endowments than do the parents of elementary school children.

We teachers are not satisfied with our work—far from it. But we claim that most of us are doing our best in very disadvantageous circumstances. We claim that our service is largely a social service.

Look, for example, at the Bill known as "Lady Astor's Bill," recently passed into law; Lady Astor piloted it through, but she herself declares that it was the Teachers' Bill. We welcome any inquiry into our work; the more it is known, the better it will be appreciated. We certainly deprecate such ill-judged and ill-informed attacks as this of Dr. Weldon's, because it is playing the enemy's game; we shall defend ourselves when we are attacked, and our best defence, perhaps, is to point to the remarkable diminution in crime during the last few years, together with the wonderful improvement which we can note in the manners and habits of the new generation. It is sometimes the good fortune of a teacher who has been long in one school to trace the gradual improvement in the morals of the school district. What is wanted to effect a further improvement is not less education, but more.

## GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

The Annual Green, White, and Gold Fair will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 23rd and 24th, in the Basement Hall, at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will be opened on Friday, November 23rd, at 3.30 p.m., by The Lady Amherst of Hackney, and on Saturday, November 24th, at 3.30 p.m., by Miss Lillian Barker. The Fair will be open from 3 to 9 p.m.

### STALLS.

The Stalls at present arranged for the League are:—Hampstead Branch (Two Stalls for Handkerchiefs, Antiques, and White Elephants), Montgomery Boroughs Branch (Three Stalls for Welsh Produce and General Goods), Portsmouth Branch (Household Goods), Southern Branches (General Stall). There will also be Stalls for General Goods, Jumpers, Overalls and Aprons, Pound Stall, Stationery, Stencilled Goods, Toys, Literature, Woollies, and White Stall.

Gifts of every description are needed if the stalls are to be well supplied with pretty and useful Christmas presents. Members and friends are asked to give as much time as they can spare during the autumn to making gifts for the Fair, and so help to provide goods for the various stalls. Those most in need of help are the General Stall, Overalls and Aprons, and Woollies. One of the special features at the Stationery Stall will be the charming Women's Freedom League Diaries, price 2s. each. Orders for these should be given as early as possible, as only a limited number are being printed. Another special item will be unique shopping baskets, made by Miss Jamieson, samples of which were sold at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, price 1s. 6d. and 2s. Orders will also be taken for these, and any gifts of small pieces of silk, velvet, ribbon, wool, etc., also baskets, towards this part of the work, will be gladly received by Miss Jamieson, c/o The Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

### ENTERTAINMENTS.

A good programme of Entertainments is being arranged, particulars of which will appear in later numbers of this paper. Character Readings will be given by Mrs. Grace Goodall and others.

The Hon. Fair Secretary will be glad to receive the names of any members, or friends, who are willing to help with the musical programme.

### PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

Messrs. Weldon and Co., 30-32, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.2, have offered a prize of Two Guineas for the best Camisole made from one of their Patterns, and competitors may use any materials they wish. A label bearing the number of Messrs. Weldon's Pattern, also the name and address of the competitor, must be firmly sewn to the Camisole.

Messrs. Hawes Brothers, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.11, have also offered a prize of

a handsome Leather Handbag (fitted) for the best Jumper in knitting or crochet, made with their artificial silk. The competitors may use any quality of Messrs. Hawes Bros.' artificial silk they like. A label bearing the name and address of the competitor, also the receipted bill of Messrs. Hawes Bros. for the artificial silk, must be firmly sewn to the Jumper.

Both competitions are open to members and non-members. The entrance fee for these competitions will be 6d. All Camisoles and Jumpers sent in for competition will be sold afterwards for the good of the cause.

All exhibits for Competitions should be addressed to the Hon. Fair Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1, and sent *not later than November 15th*. Other Competitions will appear later.

The Competitions and Games will be under the direction of Miss Dickeson and Miss Van Raalte, and other members of the Golders Green Branch, whose delightful and unique competitions and games of last year will be remembered by all who attended last year's Fair.

The part of the Hall reserved for the Competitions will be a representation of the far-famed Bank Holiday Fairs at Hampstead Heath. Among the special items there will be Coconut Shies, Aunt Sally, Hoop-la, Dart-Throwing, Bean Board, etc., and it is hoped that Table Tennis Tournaments will also be arranged. Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Pierotti, and the staff of the Minerva Café have undertaken the Teas and Refreshments, and it is hoped that arrangements will be made to provide light suppers during the evening. Mrs. Legge will be in charge of the Information Bureau, which will be stationed in the centre of the Hall, where all tickets for the various entertainments can be obtained.

### SOCIETIES TAKING STALLS.

The following Societies and friends have taken Stalls:—St. Dunstan's, League of the Church Militant, Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency, Friends of Armenia, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Hampstead Arts and Crafts Shop, Friends' Relief, Miss Burwood, British Esperanto Association, Westminster Health Society, Miss Ramsey (Roumanian Stall), and Madame Buie (Egyptian Industries). Any other organisations and individual friends wishing to obtain Stalls in good positions should apply at once to the Hon. Fair Secretary.

The Handbills for the Fair will be at the Office early in the autumn. All communications should be sent to Miss ELIZABETH BERRY (Hon. Fair Sec.), at this Office.

## BACK TO WORK!

Holidays have invigorated us all, and given us many new ideas and new light on old problems.

Now we have embarked upon the winter's work we hope to meet our London members again at the London meetings, beginning on October 18th, at the Minerva Club, and to hear from our members out of London what they are doing and planning.

Our funds are very low at this time, and I shall be grateful for donations from all who believe in fair treatment for women, to help to establish real equality in the political, social, and industrial worlds.

We are hard at work, too, preparing for our Green, White, and Gold Fair, and call upon all our friends to rally round.

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

## Women's Freedom League.

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

Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.

Hon. Organising Secretary—

Mrs. SCHOFIELD COATES, J.P.

Vote Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK.

Literature Department—Hon. Head: Mrs. PIEROTTI.

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, October 1st, at 3 p.m. Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. To discuss work for Autumn and Winter.

Monday, October 1st, at 6 p.m. Mid-London Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Thursday, October 18th, at 3.30 p.m. "At Home," at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square (corner of Coram and Hunter Streets). Tea 3.30. Mrs. Juson Kerr will speak on the "Tea and Sugar Boycott Scheme," at 4 p.m. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.

### DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, October 29th, at 7 p.m. Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. 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.

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

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 Lillian Barker, C.B.E.

### SCOTLAND.

Saturday, October 20th, from 3 to 5 p.m. Glasgow. "At Home," in "Ca'doro," Union Street. Collection. Tea. Speakers: Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. (Middlesbrough), Dr. Lewin (London).

### PROVINCES.

Monday, October 1st, at 7.30 p.m. Middlesbrough. A meeting will be held at 231-233, The Arcade, Linthorpe Road. All members cordially invited.

Tuesday, October 2nd, at 3.30 p.m. Ashford. A meeting will be held at the Hempstead Street Adult School. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinston. Subject: "What the Vote has done for Women."

Wednesday, October 10th, 3 p.m. Bournemouth. Public Meeting, Freedom Hall. Miss Minnie Pallister and Miss F. A. Underwood.

Thursday, October 25th, at 3 p.m. Bexhill. A meeting will be held at Glynne Hall Hotel. Speaker to be announced later.

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, October 7th, at 6.30 p.m. Kingston-on-Thames. Kingston Church of Humanity, Orchard Road, Fairfield West. Speaker: Mr. F. W. Soutter (author of "Recollections of a Labour Pioneer") on "Citizenship and its Responsibilities."

## BRANCH NOTES.

### MIDDLESBROUGH.

A special meeting will be held at the Suffrage Shop, Monday, October 1st, at 7.30 p.m. Old and new members are very cordially invited to attend and consider the appointment of a new secretary as well as plans for future work.

### GLASGOW.—Green, White, and Gold Fair.

Glasgow members might please send their contributions to Miss MacDougall, West End College, Peel Street, Partick. Special appeal for woollen goods. Anything welcomed.

## PROPOSED TEA AND SUGAR BOYCOTT.

We hope that all readers of THE VOTE will come to hear Mrs. Juson Kerr speak on "The Tea and Sugar Boycott" at the Minerva Club, 56, Hunter Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., on Thursday afternoon, October 18th, at 4 p.m., tea being served at 3.30. Mrs. Kerr has organised a very successful protest against the high prices of various kinds of food in Kent, and she is convinced that if women, who practically buy most of the nation's food, determine that they will not pay high prices for tea and sugar, and resolutely purchase the minimum of these commodities for their household consumption, both the taxes and the wholesale and retail prices will be considerably lowered. It is interesting to remember that the tax on tea in bond is 8d. per lb., British Empire-grown tea having a tax of 6½d. per lb., and that the tax on sugar varies from 12s. 4d. to 25s. 8d. per cwt., or, roughly, about 1½d. to 2½d. per lb. These taxes form a very considerable item of the weekly housekeeping expenditure.

## WHAT OTHER SOCIETIES ARE DOING.

### Remove the word "Obey."

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is organising a Public Meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, November 12th, at 8 p.m., "in order to call attention to the desirability of making the vows of men and women in the marriage service reciprocal, in view of the meeting of the National Assembly of the Church of England." The Countess of Selborne, J.P., Miss Maude Royden, and Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., have promised to speak at this meeting.

### Heavier Sentences for Child Assault.

The Six-Point Group is organising a meeting at the Kingsway Hall on Wednesday, November 14th, at 8 p.m., on the subject of Child Assault. We have frequently dealt with this question in THE VOTE and in our literature; it has also been recently raised in the House of Commons by Mr. Frank Briant, and it is generally felt that a move should now be made to agitate for a more stringent administration of the law.

### Conference on Local Government.

The Women's Local Government Society is arranging a two-day Conference for Women Councillors, Guardians, and Magistrates on Wednesday and Thursday, December 5th and 6th. The Conference, which is especially intended for women members of local authorities and magistrates in London and the Home Counties, will be held in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. Visits to Local Government Institutions will be arranged on December 7th.

## THE TEACHERS' HOLIDAY.

Dr. Octavia Lewin has an excellent article in the *Teachers' World* of July, under the above heading. It is rather tantalising that we have not seen it until after our own holidays, for she gives some very useful, commonsensical hints which, if taken, would most certainly have added to our comfort and enjoyment. The article begins thus:—"The precious days that are looked forward to for the whole year must not find us unprepared. We must not take any chances. They must be a success." She warns her readers not to work up to the last moment, and not to pack at the last hour; and gives them practical advice concerning a pillow-bag, clothes, footwear, and china dusters. She has also something to say about rooms, and a good deal about diet. She would make inquiries about the local water supply, and would certainly take precautions against any kind of infection. Dr. Lewin concludes with a few remarks on mental recreation. The best of it is that much of her advice in this article can with profit be followed even if we are not on holiday; and on reading the article over again, we are more confirmed than ever in our belief that Dr. Lewin is the Practical Optimist of the Women's Freedom League.

## RALLY AT THE MINERVA CLUB.

An enjoyable evening was spent at the Minerva Club last Friday, when a number of those present gave a five-minute speech on their reminiscences of holidays. Our members and friends are apparently as varied in their taste for holiday-making as they are in their interests during the ordinary working days of the year. Camping-out near holiday schools, morris-dancing in Belgium, a special trip to see Mrs. Despard in Ireland, days and nights spent on the river, a motor campaign in the cause of suffrage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with only two slight breakdowns, the car being driven and attended to during the entire journey solely by two women; a month among the mountains in Switzerland; various trips to, and curious experiences in, Paris; a rush through Belgium, a few hectic days in London, taking visitors to see the sights, a quiet, health-giving holiday in Devonshire—these formed the substance of the speeches which were extracted from the victims by our Chairman, Dr. Lewin, who herself gave some of her own experiences when staying at Versailles, and also when she recently gave a lecture to the prisoners at Holloway on the way to take care of their health. The innumerable questions of these women, and their excitement when the Chaplain took round Dr. Lewin's dolls, so well known to Freedom Leaguers, were sufficient evidence of the great interest aroused in them by Dr. Lewin and her subject. At the end of the proceedings a ballot was taken, and Dr. Lewin declared that Miss Morris was voted to have made the best speech of the evening.

## GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 23RD & 24TH.

## STRING BAND.

Amateur String Players are invited to give their services to provide a Band for the days of the Fair. The Band will be under the Hon. Conductors of Mrs. Van Raalte. Application to be made to the Hon. Fair Sec., Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.1.

FRIDAY,  
SEPT. 28,  
1923.

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### NOTICES.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, September 30th. 3.30. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Dr. Julia Seton. "The Incredible Arts."

**T**HE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12, Cavendish Place. Entrance fee in abeyance *pro tem*. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional £4 4s.

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## Membership Application Form.

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Please enrol me as a Member of the Women's Freedom League.

Name .....

Address .....

I enclose £ : s. d. as my first Annual Subscription.  
Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.