

THE VOTE,
JUNE 20, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

The Labour Party's Conference.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1919.

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

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

MEETING OF WOMEN CLERKS.
GIRTON'S JUBILEE.
WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.
THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE
F. A. Underwood.

WORK OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
WHO FEARS REVOLUTION?
Lawrence Human.
WOMEN VICTIMS OF THE WAR.

WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

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

NO SHIRKING!

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

MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Has every member, friend and sympathiser of the Women's Freedom League booked July 4th for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party in the Caxton Hall at 7 p.m.? If not please buy your tickets at once, price 1/-.

On this grand historic night we meet to celebrate the seventy-fifth Birthday of our beloved Mrs. Despard and all her friends will gather round her with congratulations, rejoicing for victories won and full of hope for triumphs soon to come.

We shall have songs and recitations and music, the presentation of the Birthday Fund and short speeches to finish the programme.

Montgomery, Boroughs Branch is sending a well-filled stall of its always welcome country produce and there will be flowers, strawberries and cream and refreshments.

Come and bring all your friends and do your part towards the success of this happy evening.

IF you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

Name _____

Join the Women's Freedom League.

Address _____

Fill in your name and address and send it, with subscription (minimum 1s.) to the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

MEETING OF WOMEN CLERKS.

The Association of Women Clerks' and Secretaries' meeting, held in the Central Hall last Monday evening, was exceedingly well attended, and it was most refreshing to see so many women, and especially so many young women, determined to raise the status of women clerks. From the chair Mr. Duncan Carmichael said that nearly all the women's organisations were supporting the women clerks and secretaries in their present struggle, and the banners of the Women's Freedom League and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, well displayed in the hall, expressed the sympathy of the two leading suffrage societies.

The resolution moved by Miss Lawrence was as follows:—

That this meeting supports the statement of the Haldane Committee to the effect that "it is no longer expedient in the public interest to exclude women on the ground of sex from situations usually entered by competition, and that the absence of any substantial recourse to the services of women in the higher grades has in the past deprived the public service of a vast store of knowledge, experience and fresh ideas, some of which would have been more valuable and relevant than those of even the ablest men in the Civil Service."

Miss Lawrence said that nations, as well as mankind, had been possessed of many devils—one of them being sex prejudice, and this devil had to be got rid of. The women clerks and secretaries to-day were asking for equal opportunities with men in the public services. Even the Government had sometimes a clear idea, and had appointed a committee to consider the best means of improving the machinery of government of this country! The above resolution embodied the chief finding of that committee. That committee, with one woman member, Mrs. Sidney Webb, was appointed in 1918. Another committee on the same subject was formed by the Government in 1919—with no woman member; such were the ways of government!

In seconding the resolution, Mrs. Despard maintained that men and women must band themselves together to see that justice is done to all—men and women alike. She did not believe in separate staffs of men and women—they should work side by side, on equal terms, with equal opportunities of promotions in all our public services. Mrs. Despard was not in favour of the Government "selecting" women for special administrative posts. She had not complete faith in the judgment of those who might make the selection, and considered that all posts should be open freely to the person best fitted to fill them—irrespective of the sex of that person.

This resolution was carried unanimously. A further resolution, moved by Miss Frost, seconded by Miss Beresford, and supported by Mr. Jack Jones, M.P., and Mr. David Milner, was also carried unanimously:

That this meeting urges that the following recommendations of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry be adopted by the Government:

"That the separate grades and separate examinations for women in the Civil Service should be abolished. That the Government should support the application in industry of the principle of equal pay for equal work by applying it with the least possible delay to their own establishments."

This meeting further urges the distribution throughout the Civil Service of the Permanent Women Civil Servants, equal opportunities of advancement for women and men, and a system based on absolute fairness to all concerned in selecting women temporary Civil Servants for establishment.

Women Aviators.

Miss Ruth Law, America's only woman aviator, is to make an attempt to fly the Atlantic at no very distant date. As chronicled by the *Manchester Guardian*, women have made considerable progress in aviation. It was an American woman, Miss Harriet Quimby, who first flew the Channel in 1912. Mrs. Maurice Hewlett, wife of the well-known novelist, was the first woman in England to receive the Royal Aero Club's pilot aviator certificate in 1911. The best French lady flyer is Mlle. Dutrieu, who, in 1910 and 1911, won the "Femina" Cup. Her great aviation rival is Mme. Herveu. The first woman to fly in England was Mrs. Cody. Many Englishwomen, too, are enthusiastic balloonists. The first Englishwoman to make an ascent was a Mrs. Sage, who went up from London in 1782.

GIRTON'S JUBILEE.

Girton College is to celebrate its jubilee next month. Strictly speaking, the 50 years of its existence is not completed until October 16th of the present year, the date in 1869 when the humble little house in Hitchin accommodated the first six women pioneers of a new era in education. In those days it was looked upon almost as an act of heroism for a woman to join the Hitchin band, but that they did so in ever-increasing numbers is sufficiently evident by the important move to the village of Girton four years later. In 1873 it was thought advisable to conciliate public opinion by establishing the first women's college as far as possible from Cambridge University, and as Girton is situated at some three miles distance, this village was cunningly selected as a favourable site for future developments! Girton College, as it stands to-day, with its smooth lawns and tennis courts, its outlying fields and plantations, its tower and arched entrance, bears but a slender resemblance to the original building, though a close observer may still trace in the darker red-brick of one portion of the college the first humble beginnings of this oldest and best-known of the women's colleges. Among its benefactors the names of Lady Stanley of Alderley, and of Miss Davies, the virtual founder, stand out prominently.

Newnham College, architecturally a finer building than Girton, had also a humble beginning in the same way. In 1870, lectures for women were first started in Cambridge, and, in 1871, in response to further demands of women at a distance, Miss A. J. Clough took charge of a small house in Cambridge, with an original roll of five students. Four years later Old Hall was opened, followed in rapid succession by the building of Clough Hall and Sidgwick Hall, named after their respective founders. The two oldest women's colleges at Oxford, Somerville and Lady Margaret, were opened in 1879. Girton is at present the richest of the women's colleges. She holds several substantial scholarships, including the Gilchrist £100 studentship, awarded alternately with Newnham, and ten years ago she received a valuable legacy in the Mary Higgins bequest for the founding of Higgins' scholarship.

Girls and the Future.

The present generation of school-girls seem in no hurry to enter the teaching profession (according to Miss Rita Oldham, O.B.E., headmistress of Streatham High School), probably because of the insufficiency of opportunities of University training. The medical profession, she says, is claiming great numbers of girls, and there has also been a revival of interest in nursing since the promised improvements in pay, hours, and general conditions. Business in its higher branches, Miss Oldham believes, will offer many new openings in the near future, wherever girls are prepared to work hard and lay a sure foundation, and there will also be abundant opportunities for co-operation amongst women in land enterprises. Miss Oldham sees considerable diminution nowadays in class prejudices between girls from secondary and elementary schools, and also in the recent exaggerated cult for games. She notes amongst school-girls a far higher realisation of their duties towards society, less self-centredness, and a wider appreciation of the importance of the State as against the mere individual.

Women and the Labour Party.

At the Women's Conference at Southport on June 24th, the subjects under discussion include Housing, Food Problems, Domestic Work, Old Age Pensions, Unemployed Women, Emigration of Women, Women's Emancipation, Mothers Pensions, and Peace and International Relations.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Tripes Victories.

There was great elation at Cambridge last week when the results of the various Triposes were published, and it was discovered that all down the line the women had beaten the men. This year there was no "senior classic" of either sex, but Miss J. Toyne, of Newnham, stands alone in Division II. of the First Class of the Classical Tripos. The women beat the men in both parts of the Historical Tripos, for they have one success in the First Class of each part against no man. One is a Girton girl, Miss W. I. Haward, and the other a Newnham girl, Miss S. K. Barefoot, who, having gained a first class in Part I. last year, now follows up with a similar distinction in Part II. Miss B. F. Wootton, of Girton, has gained the only first class success in either part of the Economics Tripos.

Wages and Efficiency.

The male mind presents a constant perplexity to the ordinary thinker. Mr. F. C. Greaves, who moved the amendment against raising the salaries of headmistresses to the level of those of headmasters, at last week's Conference of Head Teachers at Birmingham, appears to be labouring under the delusion that increased pay would seriously imperil the cause of efficiency. "If they (the women) had equal pay they would not have equal efficiency," he declares; then goes on to observe in the same breath: "The girls coming into the profession at present are better and more efficient than the boys, even though the pay is less." Only a week or two ago women were accused of being "unable to impart the manly virtues" to growing boys. Now they are forbidden to ask for higher salaries, since low pay in the past has had the admirable effect of raising the standard of efficiency.

Adopting this conclusion, therefore, would it not be more reasonable for the headmasters to gracefully hand over their excess profits to the headmistresses without more ado? In so doing, not only would they be satisfying the women's demands, but they would be raising the standard of efficiency for themselves, since lower rates of pay, it appears, produce automatically this pleasurable result.

Matrimony No Bar.

The War, according to Miss Rita Oldham, has taught us the value of the married woman in her capacity as public servant. The most prominent positions in this country to which women have attained during the last five years have been presided over by married women, who, in most cases, were also mothers. These positions include three Directors of National Service, the Heads of all the Women's Auxiliary Corps, and the Second-in-Command of the Women's Department at the Board of Agriculture.

Women on the River.

Last Saturday the Thames saw its first University Women's eight-oared race, the first event of the kind ever decided in this Country.

Newnham College, Cambridge, is the pioneer. The College eight challenged Oxford but Oxford authorities declined. The London School of Medicine for Women accepted the challenge with joy, though at a great disadvantage, their only available water for practices being the lake in Regent's Park, whilst Cambridge of course trains upon the Cam.

Clinker boats with fixed seats were used and the course was downstream for half a mile, finishing at Marlow Bridge. A very plucky race was rowed, the Medical Students put up a splendid fight and Newnham was victorious by a length and a half.

Women's eights are of course no new thing upon the river; very many years ago the veteran athlete Dr. Furnivall, who believed in the equality of women with men, started the Furnivall Rowing Club at the Mall, Hammersmith, first for business girls, then for girls and men together, and for many years he coached and stroked a women's eight.

Women and the Welsh Church.

The liberality of argument concerning the inclusion of women in the Councils of the Welsh Church, at last week's special meeting at Llandrindod Wells, compares favourably with recent ungenerous utterances at the Church House, Westminster. The Bishop of Llandaff's intention from the first has been to co-opt women with men upon the governing body of the Church. He affirmed last week that the omission of women in the past had been "a serious loss," and that since the whole attitude towards the position of women in public life had been completely changed, it would be "very deplorable" if women any longer were excluded from the church life of the country. The next meeting of the governing body is to be held at Rhyl in September, when, it is hoped, the decisions arrived at in the present meeting will be confirmed.

Why Not a Woman O.M.?

The presenting of the Order of Merit to Admiral Beatty and Field-Marshal Haig brings the list of military recipients up to seven. There are also eleven civilians who now hold the order—four statesmen, four scientists, two authors, and one musician. Lord Grey, it is expected, will be next on the list. But we look in vain for a woman's name amongst the present holders. Is it, that, as in the case of Florence Nightingale, the Powers that Be are waiting till some suitable woman recipient gives trustworthy evidence of sinking into senile decay, before proffering the honour?

Sweating and Millinery.

The establishment of a Trade Board to deal with the hat trade (men and women) is expected in the near future. The present rate of pay in certain wholesale millinery houses is so bad that the girls are encouraged to take hats home at the week-end, to work upon during Saturday and Sunday, so as to supplement their inadequate earnings. Infants' millinery, it appears, is especially subject to sweating.

Domesticity and the Future.

America has always been ahead of us in minimising domestic difficulties, an art never more needed than in the present day. According to Miss Helen Fraser, who has recently crossed the Continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific, maidservants are practically an unknown quantity, and everything is being done in the direction of simplifying the home. The American builder and plumber are sworn allies of the American housewife. Central heating minimises much dust, and gas and electricity for cooking and heating purposes are almost universal. Where coal is used it is specially prepared and rendered much cleaner than in its natural condition.

Australian Women and 40 D.

Owing to delays in mail service, and distance generally, the Women's Reform League of New South Wales was unable to join in the recent agitation in this country for the removal of 40 D. D.O.R.A. They have accordingly published a resolution in the Press, recording their "thankfulness" at the withdrawal of the clause, and protesting against "its possible reappearance under some other title."

Danish Women Married to Foreigners.

Danish women have hitherto had to forfeit their citizen rights if they marry a foreigner. A Petition is now about to be presented to the Danish Government proposing that a Danish woman married to a foreigner, shall retain her national rights if remaining in Denmark, and if she marries a foreigner abroad, she is to be entitled to these rights upon returning to Denmark. If married to a man with no citizen rights anywhere, she is to retain her citizen rights irrespective of where she may make her home and should any children be under her sole guardianship, they are to have the same national rights as the mother.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, June 20th, 1919.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

EDITORIAL

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

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THE LABOUR PARTY'S CONFERENCE

The Labour Party is holding its nineteenth annual conference at Southport next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, a conference on the work of women in the Labour Party having been arranged for Tuesday, June 24th, with Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., in the chair. The afternoon session of the women's conference will be held jointly with the conference of election and registration agents to discuss questions of women's organisation. In our opinion this should afford an excellent opportunity also to discuss the possibility of running a number of women members of the Labour Party as candidates for Parliament at the coming General Election, which, we are assured on all sides, will be upon us before many months are over. We hope that there will be many women of the Labour Party—and indeed of all parties—standing as candidates at the next Election. We are convinced that women who could suggest reasonable remedies for the present high cost of living, who had a sound knowledge of economics and finance (there are many such women), and who could present their views simply and fluently, would have a fine chance of success as Parliamentary candidates in the near future.

We hope, too, that the women of the Labour Party will move an urgency resolution on the Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill, and insist, if this Bill is to be proceeded with, that provision shall be made in it for safeguarding the interests of working women. We feel sure that the women of the Labour Party will not remain indifferent to the fate of their sisters who will be affected by this Bill. We ask them to remember that Sir Robert Horne, the Minister of Labour, when moving the second reading of this Bill, said:—

"I find there are records of something between 30,000 and 40,000 cases of departure from Pre-War customs. Seventy-five per cent. of these relate to cases in which women have been allowed to work on machines on which previously men alone were employed."

In the debate on this Bill Major Wood stated that in July, 1918, there were no fewer than 792,000 women in the trades affected by this Bill. We recognise that the Government gave men Trade Unionists a pledge that they would restore the rights which they had won before the War, and we hold no brief for Governments or Nations which break their pledges. We would, however, remind men Trade Unionists that at the last General Election the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law gave a pledge to the women of this country that it would be the duty of the present Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women. If this Bill goes through in its present form, the pre-War injustices of men Trade Unionists to women will be legalised by Act of Parliament, and new inequalities of the law will be established as between men and women! We urge, therefore, that, if this Bill be proceeded with, an amendment be inserted

to the effect that in operation it shall not be used to disqualify women from working in any trades or sections of trades on the same terms as men. In this way, if the interests of working women are equally safeguarded with those of working men, the Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill will enable the Government to redeem its pledges to both men and women. Men Trade Unionists and the public must not forget that the women workers who responded to the appeal of the Government to enter these trades in order to help save their country were in no way consulted in the matter of the bargain made between the Government and the men Trade Unionists—that these women should be turned out of industry when the War was over. The goal of civilisation is freedom, and industrial, quite as much as political, freedom is as necessary to women as it is to men.

A resolution appearing on the agenda of the Labour Party's conference, in the name of the National Union of Clerks, urges the National Executive to press for the extension of the franchise (both for Parliamentary and Local Government elections) to all adults, male and female.

Our readers will be interested in seeing the following resolution regarding women magistrates, and which is sent by the Derby Labour Party:—

That this Conference is of the opinion that women magistrates should be appointed to every County and Borough Bench throughout the United Kingdom, and urges the Parliamentary Labour Party immediately to take action with a view to the removal of the sex disability which at present prevents the appointment of women as County and Borough Magistrates.

We are glad to see that pensions and separation allowances will be discussed at this conference, and the following resolution sent by the Leeds Trades and Labour Councils will find much sympathy among our members:—

That the wives and widows of sailors and soldiers should now receive a supplementary grant to their allowances, which would enable them to withdraw from industry and devote themselves to their homes and families.

It is with mixed feelings that we read another resolution, with accompanying amendments, calling upon the Government to take immediate steps to secure the salary of Members of Parliament being increased to £600 or £800 a year, and that free railway passes between the Member's home, constituency, and Parliament, be provided! Honestly, we do not think that our present Members of Parliament are worth it; at any rate, we do not consider that their record since the General Election has been a proof of such worth; and we confess that we find ourselves somewhat in agreement with the following resolution sent by the Bradford and District Trades and Labour Council:—

That this Conference strongly objects to any advance in salaries of Members of Parliament so long as millions of our fellow workers are under the Income Tax level, and that we are of opinion that the present salary places them in a far better position than the average worker.

In our opinion, Members of Parliament should have made a much more determined effort during the last few months to bring down the present high cost of living in this country. The food prices are still a scandal; and there is no justification at all for the continuance of increased railway, tram, and bus fares. It is high time, too, that we should return to our pre-War rates of postage. The Government and Members of Parliament have done nothing but talk about the housing problem, and we can only predict that if this Government, or a Government of the very near future, does not deal drastically with this matter the present shortage of houses will prove to be a national calamity. These matters concern intimately millions of people, and until Members of Parliament deal with them in grim earnest, the demand for an increase in their salaries leaves us cold. We cannot but think that if women had been returned to Parliament this increased cost of everything that matters to the ordinary man, and especially to the ordinary woman, would have had much greater publicity in the House of Commons, and that the Government would have been compelled to deal with this problem seriously in less than six months after the General Election.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

At a meeting of the National Executive Committee, held in London last Saturday, and presided over by Miss M. I. Neal (of Manchester), it was decided that the Women's Freedom League should offer its uncompromising opposition to the Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Bill, as it stands; and that our opposition can only be withdrawn by the insertion of a clause to the effect that this Bill shall not be used to disqualify women from working in all trades and sections of trades on the same terms as men. We have issued a manifesto which will be distributed to delegates at the Labour Party Conference next week in Southport.

In the opinion of the Committee, the Women's Freedom League must work strenuously for the industrial and professional freedom of women, as well as for their political freedom, and we intend to press these points at the campaigns which the Committee has arranged to run at New Brighton and in North Wales in July and August, and which we hope our Scottish Council will run on the Clyde coast during those months.

In London the National Executive Committee has decided to press upon the Government and on Members of Parliament the urgent necessity of proceeding at the earliest possible date after the re-assembling of Parliament with the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill, the Women Justices of the Peace Bill, and the Women's Emancipation Bill, as it stands; that is to say, with the retention of Clause 2, extending votes to women on the same terms as men, which the Government, through Dr. Addison, said it could not accept, but which we say must stand as part of the Bill in fulfilment of the pre-election pledge given to women by the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law.

The Committee also decided to support the "Under Thirties" meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., Tuesday, July 1st, at 8 p.m., to demand the vote for women on the same terms as for men, and equal opportunities for both sexes in the professions and public services.

A group procession of members of the Women's Freedom League, the Independent Women's Social and Political Union, the Women's International League, and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, all with their own banners and decorations, will form up at the back of this office at 6.30 p.m., and march to the Memorial Hall meeting, where only women who are under thirty years of age will speak! We cordially invite women, both under and over thirty, to join our group procession and support us in our demand for "Votes for Women on the same terms as men."

Friday evening, July 4th, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, members and friends of the Women's Freedom League will rejoice in celebrating Mrs. Despard's birthday at a party which we are giving that evening in her honour. Mrs. Despard will receive all friends from 7 p.m. till 7.45 p.m. There will be a musical programme arranged by Miss A. M. Clark, from 7.45 p.m. till 8.20 p.m., after which there will be short speeches and a presentation to Mrs. Despard of money collected by our branches, our members and supporters, for carrying on the work of the Women's Freedom League. Tickets of admission can now be obtained from this office at 1s. each. There will be a flower stall and a provision stall, and a very cordial welcome for all comers.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday.

Last Sunday being Mrs. Despard's Birthday the Members of the National Executive Committee, of Headquarters Staff, and of the Staffs of THE VOTE, and of the Minerve Café sent a beautiful hydrangea to Mrs. Despard with affectionate greetings. We have a delightful letter from Mrs. Despard acknowledging this gift in which she expresses her gratitude for the love and thought of those with whom she has worked so long and so happily.

Miss A. A. Smith.

We feel sure that our readers will appreciate the following letter sent to us by Miss Newcomb, the hon. secretary of our valued sister society, the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union:—

Dear Miss Underwood,—Will you allow me, on behalf of my Executive Committee in London, and of the Overseas Societies which constitute this Union, to express deep sympathy with you, your colleagues, and the members of the Freedom League, for the death of Miss Annie A. Smith, editor of your paper, the VOTE?

We know well what a loss it is to every branch of your work in Britain to lose so valuable and able a colleague, but you may not know what a loss it is to the work of the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union. Miss Smith was one of the first to perceive the significance of such a union of women, and to foresee the power it would gradually become. Not only was her pen ever at the service of the idea, but from 1914, when the first conference was held, she has been one of our most sympathetic and most helpful counsellors. The kind appreciation of the last report of the Union's work, which appeared in the VOTE of April 25th, must have been one of the last articles she wrote. We shall miss her greatly. Her memory will live long among us, and the spirit of her work can never die.

I am sending the news of our loss to the Women's Press overseas. With heartfelt sympathy.—Yours sincerely,
HARRIET C. NEWCOMB.

The Middlesex County Council.

The success of Mrs. How Martyn's amendment, making it a condition that the additional medical officer to be appointed for the combined duties of Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical Inspection should be a woman is described by the *Southall Gazette* as "one of the finest things in the history of the Middlesex County Council." The writer also states that—

Woman is coming into her own in England, and Middlesex County Council is to the forefront in facilitating the process.

Her success, too, in securing the passing of a resolution by this Council in favour of widows' pensions is also notable. Moreover, the Middlesex County Council decided to ask all other county councils in the country to pass a similar resolution and to forward a copy of it to the Government.

Turn the Women Out!

The Newcastle Branch of the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers have passed the following resolution, which has been sent to the General Manager of the Newcastle Tramways:—

"Resolved that all women who now occupy the positions held by men prior to the War be dispensed with by July 1st, 1919."

In the opinion of this particular Trade Union branch, brevity is apparently the soul of wit, if not exactly in accordance with manners, to say nothing about chivalry. This resolution will affect about 250 women who are still employed on the backs of cars. The number of women employed on the cars has already been reduced from 400 since the demobilisation of the men began, and now all the available men have returned, with the exception of about 100, who have still to be demobilised. The demand of the men, therefore, can only be described as vindictive—certainly in the case of the women who still fill the places of men serving in the Forces. Moreover, the women concerned are members of the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers, and are in a great many cases those who have done excellent service on the cars since April, 1915. It cannot be said that women are creating a sex war; but it is there right enough.

OUR WEDNESDAYS.

Speaking from the chair last Wednesday afternoon, Mrs. Wheatley declared that she had often said "Thank God for the Women's Freedom League," both before and since our partial victory had been won for Votes for Women. The League was always the pioneer in protesting against injustice to women, and was fearless in its opposition to injustice. Mrs. Wheatley said that she was delighted to welcome Mr. Laurence Housman, who had always been such a staunch friend to the cause of women, and had advocated it with such fervour in the days when it was not nearly so popular as at present.

The title of Mr. Housman's address was, "Who Fears Revolution?" which he thought might act as a rallying cry to those who were in danger of forgetting the rock on which they had built their faith and were now less courageous for freedom than in the past. The world had changed so much during the last five years that something must happen. Was it to be a bloody struggle between sections of the people, or an intelligent revolution—the shedding of old ideas and the assimilation of new ones? In bygone days the majority of revolutions had been racial, religious or dynastic, and had been carried out by force of arms. The revolution of the near future would, he thought, be a social revolution. The speaker reminded his audience that the Women's Freedom League had set out to establish sex equality in our moral, civil and economic life, but had not yet attained that object. Men were still the rulers of the world, and in the Labour market and the Church, women were having a very hard fight to secure equality. He advised members of the League to keep an open mind in regard to a social revolution; it had always been the shut minds that had made revolutions bloody, the shut minds that were in power, and in control, and that wanted to maintain the existing order of things. It was the people with shut minds that feared revolution and linked up with power to oppress the people. Those in authority had striven to maintain class privilege and sex privilege. Modern legislation had mitigated this oppression; but we lived in an age when our Government was prepared to find paid jobs for half our Members of Parliament, so that the people of this country had practically to pay for the Government's majority. Mr. Housman said that the revolution of the future would get rid of inequalities and advised his hearers to remember what Lord Morley said: "Never let extremists turn you aside from reform." The speaker was convinced of the extraordinary failure of war—that force was no remedy. People said that war was necessary. So it was to maintain vested interests. But had not the Crusades resulted in the defeat of the social peace of Europe—the Establishment of the Turk in Europe? The temporal power of the Pope had been necessary to keep his claim for temporal power; the forces of feudalism were necessary to maintain feudalism, and capitalism and all that it involved was necessary to protect capitalism. But were these forces essential for securing human progress? Reverting to the social revolution of the future, Mr. Housman was of the opinion that no one need fear revolution who did not demand more from society than he or she was prepared to give. He agreed that there was valuable head work in the world, but denied that those who did this work needed to lie more softly or feed more richly than other people. In the future arrangement of society no one should be prepared to do only pleasant work; everyone must be prepared to take some share in the unpleasant work of the world. Mr. Housman advocated equal pay for all who worked.

An interesting discussion followed this address, and the meeting closed with a very cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Housman.

These Wednesday afternoon meetings will be resumed in the autumn, and full particulars of them will appear in later issues of the VOTE.

BOOK REVIEW.

How Englishwomen Gained the Vote.*

In this admirable little brochure Madame Cruppi (who visited us last year at the Women's Freedom League offices, and took a keen interest in our work and our views) states that the French Press gave very little space to the fact that six millions of women on the other side of the Channel had been added to the British electorate, but it did not forget to state that no woman had been returned to Parliament. It did not explain that it was only twenty days before this Election was held that women were given a legal right to a vote and a seat in the House of Commons. Yet when the results of this Election were declared, everywhere in France appeared the legend, "No women in Parliament."

Madame Cruppi graphically describes the "Mud-march" of 1907, when 3,000 women went in procession to demand votes for women, and the later procession in 1911 when 40,000 women walked from the Embankment to Hyde Park to demonstrate the fact that women demanded political freedom.

The writer traces the women's movement in England from Mary Wollstonecraft's "Vindication of the Rights of Women" down to the women's meeting in Queen's Hall just before the General Election, which was presided over by Mrs. Fawcett, who told Mr. Lloyd George that women would never tolerate legislation which degraded women. Madame Cruppi refers to the struggle of British women against the infamous Regulation 40D, which was withdrawn because of the weight of opposition to it among women electors.

The section of Madame Cruppi's pamphlet dealing with women's efforts since 1865 to secure higher education for women is extremely interesting, and she writes with appreciation of the work of Miss Frances Power Cobbe, Miss Emily Davies, Miss Lydia Becker, Miss Clough, Miss Sophia Jex Blake, Miss Buss, and Mrs. William Grey.

We thank Madame Cruppi most cordially for so ably presenting our movement to her fellow-countrywomen. We can only hope that it will not be long before our sisters in France have secured their political enfranchisement, and that a British suffragist will be found to give us as careful, as intelligent, and as sympathetic an account of the women's movement in France as Madame Cruppi has written of the women's cause in England.

Women Victim's of the War.

The following letter, dated May 29th, 1919, was sent by the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League to Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., c/o The British Delegation, Paris:—

Sir,—I am requested by the Women's Freedom League to urge you to do all in your power to see that everything that can be done is done to recover women who have been deported into enemy territory, and that whatever reparation that it is humanly possible to make is made to these women. From several sources we have heard disquieting rumours that these women and the injuries they have received are being neglected, and while we have no wish to add to the difficulties of the British Delegation, we feel impelled to ask you to do what you can to have these women remembered in the terms of the Peace settlement.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully.

FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

The following reply, dated June 3rd, was sent from the British Delegation, Paris:—

Dear Madam,—Lord Robert Cecil desires me to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of your letter of May 29th on the subject of women who have been deported into enemy territory, which will receive consideration.—Yours truly,

F. P. WALTERS.

(* "Que les Anglaises ont conquis le Vote.")

Women's Freedom League.

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

Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429 LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

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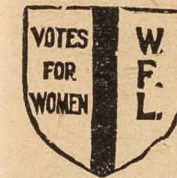
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Mrs. METGE, and Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Wednesday, June 25.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, June 26.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W. C., 12 noon.

Thursday, June 26.—Open-air Meeting, opposite The Clock Tower, Regent's Park 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 2.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 3.—Open-air Meeting, opposite The Clock Tower, Regent's Park 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 3.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 12 noon.

Friday, July 4.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, 7 p.m. Tickets 1s. each from W.F.L. Office.

Saturday, July 5.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 7.—Open Air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 8.—Political Sub-Committee, 144, High Holborn, 12 noon.

PROVINCES.

Wednesday, July 2.—Middlesbrough.—Garden Party at "Agecroft." Games, etc., from 5.30 to 8.30. Tickets 1s. each, proceeds towards the Despard Birthday Fund and Middlesbrough Branch Activities.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, June 29.—Kingston-on-Thames, Humanitarian Society Meeting, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

New Brighton Campaign.

This campaign was highly successful, endowed with beautiful weather, crowds of people, eager and enthusiastic workers who all made it the success we hoped for. Miss Neal came over from Manchester and addressed three meetings, at which Miss Margaret Sackur, B.A., chaired. Many questions were put by the audience, and Miss Neal's answers were received with applause.

Miss Bates, with Miss Sackur, gave valuable assistance in selling the VOTE. Nearly 1,000 were sold during the five days, and after paying the expenses we are able to hand to Dr. Knight over £9 profit. Owing to the success of this campaign the National Executive Committee have decided to run another in New Brighton from July 26th to August 16th. Miss Margaret Sackur will be in charge, and Miss Neal and Miss Dorothy Evans, and other well-known speakers, will be there, but we want still more helpers and speakers; so will members and sympathisers of the Liverpool, Manchester and Chester branches, which are all quite near, communicate with Miss Sackur, Holmlea, Offerton, near Stockport, as soon as possible?

ALIX M. CLARK, Hon. Organiser.

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OUR TREASURY.

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Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 1s. 5d.

Amount previously acknowledged	...	...	393 18 0
SPECIAL EMERGENCY WAR FUND—			
W. R. Snow, Esq.	...	...	£2 0 0
"A Friend"	...	...	1 17 6
Mrs. Angold	...	...	0 3 0
			4 0 6
NEW BRIGHTON CAMPAIGN—			
Donations, per Alix M. Clark	...	...	£5 9 0
Collections, do.	...	...	10 15 9
			16 4 9
Birmingham United Suffragists	...	...	5 0 0
Anonymous (Women Barristers and Solicitors)...	...	...	5 0 0
Mrs. Schofield Coates	...	...	3 0 0
"K"	...	...	2 0 0
Hampton Court Picnic Profit, per Miss Gibson	...	...	1 2 3
Miss M. I. Saunders	...	...	10 0
Misses Sherwood	...	...	10 0
Allan Graham, Esq.	...	...	5 0
Mrs. Isobel F. Lucas	...	...	5 0
Mrs. Leah Manning (Nat. Union Teachers' Conference)	...	...	5 0
Mrs. Northcroft	...	...	5 0
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thompson	...	...	5 0
Miss Hurry	...	...	2 6
Miss Morris	...	...	2 6
Miss Watterson	...	...	2 0
Mrs. Wedgwood	...	...	2 0
Mrs. B. Gilbert	...	...	1 0
Miss O. Rose	...	...	1 0
Mr. L. Thorner	...	...	1 0
Collections	...	...	6 0 4
Office Sales	...	...	6 1
Sundries	...	...	23 10 5
BRANCHES—			
Aberystwith	...	...	2 1 0
Ashford	...	...	6 14 6
Montgomery Boroughs	...	...	6 11 0
Sheffield	...	...	4 0 0
Perth	...	...	10 11 6
Herne Hill and Norwood (Delegates' Expenses)	...	...	10 5
Westcliff (Delegates' Expenses)	...	...	3 0
CAPITATION FEES—			
Westcliff...	...	...	4 3
			£487 15 0

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London Provincial & South Western Bank, Limited."

The Birthday Fund.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party is fixed for July 4th, but we cannot have the Birthday party without the Birthday Gift.

Please let me have your contribution as soon as you can before the rush begins, and make it twice as big as last year.

Our expenses are increased in many directions and the scope of our work is widening all around us.

The work of the Women's Freedom League is to obtain full equality and equal opportunity between men and women. Women Members of Parliament, women barristers, solicitors and magistrates, women judges and women on juries, we must have them all.

Remember it is on this Fund that the League depends for those summer months, when money comes in slowly, but when regular weekly expenses do not diminish. Our Branch members are hard at work getting together their Branch contributions so that we may be in readiness by the Birthday night.

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

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FRIDAY,
JUNE 20,
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

Bexhill.

Miss White, South East Coast organiser, reports:—
"The garden meeting held at Lamberhurst, Dorset Road, Bexhill, last Friday afternoon, was a great success. Lady Henniker Heaton briefly introduced the speaker, Councillor Edith How Martin, who gave an excellent address on 'Local Government.' Her hearers were much impressed by her clear statement of why women are needed on all local Councils, and it is hoped that a strenuous effort will be made to get women on the Bexhill Town Council at the next election. Other speakers were Mrs. Lathbury, Mrs. Bryan Tipps and Mrs. Meads. Fourteen new members were made. Mrs. and Miss Moore provided a delightful tea, for which a small charge was made. A brisk sale in tickets for the forthcoming concert on the 25th of June was made by the secretary, Mrs. Bryan Tipps, who will be glad to sell a ticket to anyone sending to 23, Parkhurst Road."

Ashford.

We were all very pleased to welcome Mrs. Mustard at the Club last Wednesday. Her subject, "The Endowment of Motherhood," was an interesting one to the audience, who expressed their pleasure and approval of all her statements with regard to the need of such a reform.

Women's Freedom League Settlement.

93, Nine Elms Lane, London, S.W. 8.
The Settlement is closing for the summer holidays on July 24th. Whether it re-opens or not in September depends largely on the finding of a third resident helper, to help and eventually replace the present Organising Secretary. The work has quite outgrown the capacity of the present staff; even in this hot summer weather the Restaurant is full of hungry children, and one does not care to think of the blank the Settlement would leave were it to close for lack of workers. Will readers of THE VOTE make a real effort to find someone with enough energy and enthusiasm to come here even till the end of next winter, when the food conditions may be better? Meanwhile, daily help would be much appreciated, from 11.30 to 1.0; or at any later hour in the day. Miss Waldron has given us a beautiful awning for our perambulator, gifts of thimbles have been received from Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Cousins (Cressine), per Mrs. Duncan; clothing from Mrs. Roberts and Miss E. M. Baker's little niece; toys from Mrs. Kelly; roses and marguerites from Patty Harrison. We should like some wild flowers for the play-hour on Tuesdays, and some cool summer clothes for a seven-year-old boy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Women Medical Students.

The prize-giving of the London (Royal Free) Hospital School of Medicine for Women, 7-11, Hunter Street, W.C., will take place on Thursday, June 26th, at 4 p.m., when Miss Frances Nivens, M.S., M.B., will make the presentations.

Musical Recital.

A recital of fairy tales by our member, Miss Katharine Raleigh, with violin solos and songs by Miss Elsie Avril, will be held at the Pembroke Hall, 12a, Pembroke Gardens, Kensington, on Sunday, June 29th, at 6 p.m. Particulars from the Secretary, West Lodge, 13, Pembroke Gardens, or from Miss K. Raleigh, 11 St. Quintin Avenue, North Kensington.

Artist and Reconstruction.

Sir Frank Benson will give an address on "The Artists' Part in Reconstruction," at St. James' Theatre, King Street, S.W., on Friday, June 20th, at 3 p.m. Dame May Whitty will preside, and other speakers will be Lady Forbes-Robertson, Miss Katharine Compton, and Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett.

NEWS ITEMS.

Public Health.

The Royal Institute of Public Health will hold its inaugural meeting at the Mansion House, on Wednesday, June 25th, at 3 p.m. The Lord Mayor will preside.

Miss Royden.

Miss A. Maude Royden will preach at the City Temple Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, June 22nd, at 6.30. Subject: "Can we believe in the Virgin birth?"

SUMMER SCHOOL OF PHYSICS AND EUGENICS, Cambridge, August 2 to 16. Lessons, Lectures, Demonstrations on Sociology, Biology, Psychology, etc.—Particulars from SECRETARY, Summer School, 11, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C. 2.

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WANTED, Organiser for the Women's Freedom League.—Apply, by letter only, giving full particulars, to the SECRETARY, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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