

THE VOTE,
Nov. 12, 1920
ONE PENNY.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to ALDERMAN C. DESPARD!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXI. No. 577.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 12, 1920.

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

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GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR,
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 }
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27 } **CAXTON HALL,**
WESTMINSTER.

3 to 9 p.m.

Please send in Contributions for all the Stalls, and come and help, and make appointments with all your friends to meet you and buy their Christmas Presents at the "Fair."

Women's Freedom League Stalls.—General (Mrs. Mustard); White (Mrs. Holmes); Toy (Misses Stutchbury and Miss Avila); Handkerchief (Misses Underwood and Miss Berry); Men's, Stationery and Cards (Mrs. Legge); Scotch (Miss Buntin and Miss Munro); Literature (Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Bergman, Miss Telling); Montgomery Borough General and Welsh Produce (Miss Alix Clark and Montgomery Boroughs Branch Members); Manchester; South Eastern Branches (Two).

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR

Music, Songs, Recitations, Dancing by Children, Psychie Delineations (Mrs. Thomson-Price), Character Reading (Mrs. Goodall and others), Psycho-Dietetics (Mr. D'Arcy Denny and others), Old Lady with 100 Pockets, Competitions and Games. Refreshments by the Minerva Cafe.

THERE WILL ALSO BE STALLS for the Women's Freedom League (Nine Elms) Settlement, League of the Church Militant, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, "Crusader," Federation of Women Civil Servants, Friends of Armenia, London Vegetarian Society (two), Peasant Shop (Misses Perry and Davis and Miss Burford).

TICKETS, 2/6 on FRIDAY 3 to 5, after 5 and on SATURDAY 1/3,
(tax included), from 144 High Holborn, from the Societies taking Stalls, and
at the Door.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Women Bakers Victimised by Trade Unionists.

CAPTAIN ELLIOT, on October 28th, asked the MINISTER OF LABOUR whether he was aware that ninety women bakers had recently been dismissed from their employment in Glasgow, while the master bakers were perfectly willing that those women should continue at work; whether the general secretary of the Scottish Bakers' Operatives' Union had declared that he, personally, was not in favour of those women being forbidden to follow their employment; and whether, as the women were suffering from grave hardship, having now been some weeks out of work, he would cause an immediate inquiry to be instituted? DR. MACNAMARA replied that he was aware of the circumstances attending the dismissal of certain women in the baking trade at Glasgow, and understood that the Scottish Bakers' Industrial Council had the matter under consideration. He, therefore, did not think an inquiry now would serve any useful purpose.

On November 3rd CAPTAIN ELLIOT inquired of the MINISTER OF LABOUR whether any decision on the case of the women bakers of Glasgow recently dismissed under threat of a strike had yet been come to by the Scottish Bakers' Industrial Council; whether it was the case that one woman in the oatcake-making industry had been for sixteen years working at her trade before this dismissal; and whether, in view of the hardships that such cases entailed, he would recommend that those women be temporarily reinstated and that their case should be investigated before, instead of after, they were thrown out of employment?

Replying to the above, DR. MACNAMARA stated that the scheme dealing with the employment of women in that trade, which had been prepared by the Scottish Bakers' Industrial Council was now awaiting consideration by the Scottish Master Bakers' Association, and by the Executive Committee of the Scottish Bakers' Operatives' Union. The question of the temporary reinstatement of the dismissed women was a matter for agreement between those bodies, who were fully aware of the circumstances of the case, and he could not usefully intervene in the matter at the present time.

Women Jurors.

CAPTAIN R. TERRELL asked the HOME SECRETARY whether any instructions had been issued as to the calling of women jurors; whether any fixed percentage of men jurors was recommended; whether a prisoner could demand to be tried by a jury of his or her own sex; and whether the right to challenge could be exercised in regard to sex alone?

SIR JOHN BAIRD replied that Rules had been made under the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act with regard to the service of women on juries by the Rule Committee of the Supreme Court on July 12th last, and by the Rule Committee established under the Indictments' Act on the 15th of the same month. They provided that on every panel of jurors men and women should be as nearly as possible in the same proportion as in the list from which the panel was drawn. A prisoner was not entitled to be tried by a jury of his or her own sex, but it was within the discretion of a Court, on application being made to it, to order that a jury should be composed wholly of men or wholly of women. The right of challenge remained as it was before the Act. It was for the Court in each case to determine how it might be exercised.

League of Nations.

In regard to the appointment by the British Government of its representatives for the meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations on November 15th, 1920, MR. HURD asked the PRIME MINISTER if he would take into consideration the possibility of nominating one woman as a delegate.

No answer was given to the above question.

Dressmakers (Training).

MR. CROOKS asked the MINISTER OF LABOUR whether he was aware that girls who were trained in the Joan of Arc Hostel, at a cost of approximately £100, were unable to find employment because employers to whom application had been made stated that the applicants had not served a sufficiently long apprenticeship; and whether, in view of the money already expended, he would consider the possibility of extending the period to make the training complete, or of taking special steps to have these girls employed as improvers until such time as they were fully efficient?

DR. MACNAMARA replied that the implication in the question that the girls were unable to find work owing to any insufficiency in their training was not borne out by experience. Of the girls who had completed their training in dressmaking in similar centres during the earlier part of the year, approximately ninety per cent. had found immediate employment at standard rates, and it was not until the present depression of trade occurred that any difficulty had been experienced in placing these trainees. He was assured that no complaints had been received from employers as to the training given by the Ministry of Labour. He would add that the total cost of training was £35 per head, and not £100 as stated in the question.

Marriage with Deceased Husband's Brother.

Last Monday the Prime Minister was asked if he would introduce a Bill legalising marriage with a deceased husband's brother. It was pointed out that as a result of the casualties in the war there were a great many widows with children who were desirous of marrying their deceased husband's brother; and if there was to be equality of the sexes under our marriage laws they ought to have the right to do so, just as a man has the legal right to marry his deceased wife's sister. The PRIME MINISTER, however, refused to introduce such a Bill, and, when pressed to give his reason, merely stated that he remembered the struggles over the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill! What then becomes of his election pledge: "It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women"?

F. A. U.

THE 'ENGLISHWOMAN' FOR NOVEMBER.

DR. S. E. White contributes a second instalment on "Lunacy Law, Safeguards and Secrecy," in which she points out the dangers lurking in the Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, Clause 10. This clause was also commented upon in a leader in last week's VOTE. It allows a patient suffering from early mental disorder to be confined in an approved "home" for a period of six or twelve months without the formality of the present Judicial Order which at present protects the liberty of the individual. Miss Vera S. Laughton pays an eloquent tribute to the Women Police Service, and its widely lamented Founder, the late Miss Damer Dawson. Miss Olive Hockin contributes some amusing and sympathetic "Notes from a Devonshire Holding," which we suspect is the well-known Women's Farm in the South of England from which great things are expected in the immediate future. That ever-absorbing section, "Echoes," deals as shrewdly as ever with those burning questions of the day which chiefly affect women.

IRELAND.

Return of the English Women's Mission.

PUBLIC MEETING, KINGSWAY HALL, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 8 p.m.

Illustrated with Lantern Slides.

Speakers—Mrs. DESPARD (in the Chair), Mrs. ANNOT ROBINSON, Miss CHEVENIX (Irishwomen's International League), Mrs. H. M. SWANWICK (Chairman, British Section, Women's International League).

Admission Free. Collection. Reserved Seats 2/6 and 1/- from the Secretary Women's International League, 14 Bedford Row, London, W.C.1.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE MEETING.

How Ba-ila Women Strike.

We learn from a recent lecture at King's College on the "Native Customs of the Ba-ila of Northern Rhodesia" that the women of this tribe have an exceedingly effective strike weapon against their men comrades. If any man in a village does and says something which the women take as a slight upon them, every woman in the kraal goes on strike. They throw down their tools, and the men are faced very quickly by starvation. The women have the food in their hands, and they will not give the men anything to eat. The men very soon succumb, and every one of them has to make apologies to the women for the bad behaviour of the man who has offended. The women then reluctantly extend forgiveness, but, before doing so they insist that they shall have not only apologies, but presents of beads and the like.

More Women J.P.'s.

Caroline, Lady Petre, and Mrs. Hawken, a Southend town councillor, were sworn in recently as the first women Justices for Essex. Mrs. Parker Brooke, of Rugby, mother of Rupert Brooke, the poet, took the oath at Warwickshire Quarter Sessions recently as the first woman magistrate for the county. Mrs. Pease (Labour candidate for East Surrey), Miss D. C. Egerton, and Mrs. Spender Clay were also sworn in as the first women magistrates for Surrey. Mrs. Gibbon, the first lady magistrate appointed for Newcastle, was congratulated by the Lord Mayor when she took her seat for the first time. Miss A. M. Davies, of Tielorth, qualified as the first lady magistrate for the county at Anglesey Quarter Sessions recently. Miss Kerrison, who has been made a J.P. for West Ham, is the only lady member of the West Ham Town Council. Mrs. Higson, a new J.P. of Stalybridge, is a weaver in a local mill.

Peeresses and the Lords.

Viscountess Rhondda's petition to be accorded a seat in the House of Lords, as a peeress in her own right, will, if the principle is conceded, lead to the entry of nearly a score of ladies into the Upper Chamber. These peeresses in their own right include one Duchess (Princess Arthur of Connaught, Duchess of Fife), two Countesses (Roberts and Cromartie), and two Viscountesses (Wolseley and Rhondda). Of the peeresses holding Baronies, two are sisters—the Countess of Powis (Baroness D'Arcy de Knayth) and the Countess of Yarborough (Baroness Fauconberg and Conyers). These two ladies would furnish instances of husband and wife holding seats in the same Assembly.

A Loss to the Woman's Movement.

Mrs. James Stuart, of Carrow Abbey, Norwich, whose death was reported last week, was a well-known leader in the philanthropic and social life of Norwich. She was the first woman magistrate for Norwich, and the second member to be elected to the Norwich City Council. Like her father, and like her husband, she was a broad-minded Liberal, an active member of the Women's Liberal Association, and one of the most cultured public speakers that the woman's movement has produced. Her late husband, the Rt. Hon. James Stuart, M.P. for Hoxton, shared in all her activities for the cause of Woman's Suffrage.

American Woman's Victory.

Miss Alice Robinson, who has been elected to Congress from Oklahoma, will be the only woman member. The curious part about her election is that she herself opposed Woman's Suffrage, and used every effort to defeat its ratification in Oklahoma. She is very popular in the district, chiefly owing to the restaurant she supervises. She is sixty-five years of age, and will work in Congress for laws that will help women and children.

Another Woman's Company.

The Remy Car Co., Ltd., with directors Miss F. Hodgson and Miss I. MacDonald, both ex-Service girls, has just been started as a motor-hiring business at Abercorn Place, Maida Vale, N.W.

Equal Pay for Equal Work.

Last Saturday's Procession of Women's Organisations to Trafalgar Square to demand Equal Pay for Equal Work for both sexes formed a blaze of colour in the London fog, with its remarkably fine range of banners and streamers specially designed for the occasion. The Federation of Women Civil Servants lined up in hundreds at the conclusion of their morning's work, and over two thousand clerks and secretaries marched direct from the Government offices in Regent's Park to join the main procession on the Embankment. Other women's societies supporting the Meeting included the Women's Freedom League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, City Women's Club, Fabian Women's Group, League of the Church Militant, National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, etc.

Miss A. G. Hewitt, L.L.A. (President, National Union of Women Teachers) presided, and moved the following resolution: "That this meeting of Women Teachers and other women's organisations protests against the findings of the Burnham Committee as being derogatory to the economic status not only of women teachers, but also of all women workers. This meeting, further, reaffirms its belief that the only possible solution of the salary question lies in the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work." She said that afternoon's demonstration signified the solidarity of all women workers. It meant that the National Union of Women Teachers repudiated the findings of the Burnham Committee. As British citizens women claimed the right to dispose of their labour at its full value to the community without any consideration of sex, and protested against any official or semi-official pronouncement which sought to standardise the work of women teachers as worth only four-fifths of that of a man doing similar work.

Miss A. Summers, B.A. (National Union of Clerks) said this principle of paying women less than men militated against men just as much as against women, since employers were tempted to take the lowest-priced worker, and so women undercut men.

Miss D. Smyth (Federation of Women Civil Servants) contended that if the principle of equality were observed, only the best men and the best women would get posts, and this was what was wanted for the nation. If payment was made on the basis of responsibility, why was not legislation passed to the effect that a married man with dependants should receive more than a man without?

Miss A. Dawson (Ex-President National Union Women Teachers) said the authorities and the Board of Education acknowledged women teachers' greater usefulness, for they had made provision for the training of more women teachers than men. Women were placed in infants' schools, girls' schools, mixed schools, and in boys' schools, where men were not so easily and usefully distributed.

Miss M. Fedden (Catholic Women's Suffrage Society) and Dr. Helen Hanson (League of the Church Militant) also spoke in support of the resolution.

The Chairman then moved the second resolution: "That the Prime Minister be asked to receive a deputation of organised women workers with regard to the fulfilment of his election pledges concerning equal opportunities and equal pay for men and women workers, and to state the immediate policy of the Government in these respects.

Miss Nina Boyle (Voters' Council), speaking in support of the resolution, said all Governments were the better for an occasional hard push from the people. During the war women were called upon to take their share of responsibility, but now the pre-war practice of trying to push women out of industry was springing up again.

Miss Smith Rose (Association of Civil Servants' Sorting Assistants) and Dr. Haden Guest also spoke in support of the second resolution.

Both Resolutions were then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, 1920.

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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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WOMEN AND ELECTIONS.

That so few women were returned at the recent Municipal Elections is a disappointment to all who know the magnificent work which women can do, and have already done on these local Councils. There was no dearth of really suitable women among the candidates who contested these Elections; and it is difficult to understand why so many of them were unsuccessful. In many of the boroughs the number of women on the electorate was greater than the number of men electors, and yet out of a Council consisting of over forty members perhaps only one of the members was a woman. During these Elections some men electors and some men councillors openly stated that men always had done the work on these Councils and they saw no reason now to alter the arrangement. That may be a typical man's view; but should it be the point of view taken by women? It is precisely because our laws and the administration of our laws have been in the hands of men alone since time immemorial that the world and our ideas of progress have hitherto been so lop-sided and chaotic. The whole object of the Suffrage movement was to establish a balance of power between the sexes which alone could ensure real progress along the lines of order. The first step was to get the vote; but it was realised that getting the vote was only a first step in the march of events. The next step was to get women to use it; but the most important step is to elect women in numbers on to local governing bodies and into Parliament. If woman's influence in our national affairs is to be a reality she must have the necessary power to exercise that influence; and never was her influence more urgently needed in local affairs than it is to-day. How can Councils consisting of men only deal effectively with the pressing problems of Education, Housing, Health administration—to mention no others? Women candidates fare badly under the party system, to the workings of which so few of them are accustomed; they have not so much money to spend as the men candidates, and have not anything like the same opportunities that men have of becoming personally known and personally popular among their constituents. Prejudices die hard, and there still lingers among many people a deep-rooted prejudice against seeing a woman in a position of authority. It rests with women who realise the necessity and value of women on local Councils and in Parliament to make a determined effort to remove these difficulties from the path of women candidates. By organisation and determined effort; by work inside and outside the Party camps, and by generous financial assistance, women can, if they will, persuade the community that a new and a better world for us all is possible if men and women have an equal share in its structure. Women must not be content with the appearance of equality with men. Until women are in a very much greater number on all local governing bodies and in Parliament itself they are not even in sight of the equality of the sexes.

THE HEALTH BILL.

The Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill came in for a good share of criticism at its second reading debate on November 4th. It is an omnibus, or an "omnivorous" Bill "produced to satisfy the insatiable appetite of the Health Minister," and is "nearly a dozen Bills thrown into one." "Only one in ten members had looked at it, and the Cabinet was not much better." It includes a clause, apparently unpractical, intended to ease the house famine by giving local authorities compulsory powers of hiring unoccupied dwellings suitable for the working classes (but structural alterations are not intended, and suitable empty houses are conspicuously absent), a number of clauses making alterations in the machinery of local administration, and Clause 10, which was referred to in last week's VOTE, which overrides the Lunacy Act and allows certain mental cases to be detained for profit without the safeguard of the present independent judicial enquiry. Here the sensible suggestion was made, both by Lord Hugh Cecil and by Mr. Edwards, that mental patients should pay their expenses and no more, and that no one should be allowed to make a profit out of mental disorder.

Clause 11 is intended to allow transference of Poor Law Infirmaries to the County Councils. Dr. Addison produced figures showing that while voluntary hospitals were overcrowded and with long waiting lists, the Poor Law Infirmaries had 30,000 empty beds.

Clause 12 enacts that no clinical thermometer shall be sold unless hall-marked by the Ministry of Health. Other clauses deal with inspection of food and drugs, the medical inspection of aliens at our ports, post-mortem examinations in mortuaries, payments to members of local authorities when attending meetings, and various financial matters in connection with local authorities.

Lord Hugh Cecil took the opportunity to insist that the present was no time to launch out into additional expense, the crippling effect of high rates being already seen in bringing many persons into the pauper class from the self-supporting class just above them. The very best thing for economy and for the country would be for the House once to pluck up courage to reject a Government Bill rather than risk further expenditure. A different atmosphere would immediately pervade all Departments, and in a thousand ways and places economies would follow.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY (SCOTLAND) BILL

This Bill proposes to amend the law regarding the property of married women in Scotland. As the law stands, the wife is incapable of legal obligation, and the husband must be called to any suit in which she is sued, and in general his concurrence is required to any action raised at her instance. According to the Lord Advocate, the aim of this Bill is to make important changes in these matters, and to place a married woman, as regards her own property, in exactly the same position as the husband is. By its provisions the husband's right of administration is abolished; a married woman may enter into contracts, and sue and be sued as if she were unmarried in regard to her own estate. It provides that if a husband cannot maintain himself, and his wife has a separate estate or a separate income "more than reasonably sufficient for her own maintenance," she will have to provide him with such maintenance as he would in similar circumstances be bound to contribute towards her maintenance. Sir Frederick Banbury thought that this last clause ought to be extended to England. The Lord Advocate pointed out that under the law of England a woman who has a superfluity of estate is bound to free the parish from the maintenance of her husband. The Scottish Bill, of course, does not limit the wife's obligation to indemnifying the guardians for keeping an indigent husband in the workhouse, but it was maintained that the object of this particular Bill was to place the estate of husband and wife in exactly the same position.

ST. PAUL AND THE WOMAN MOVEMENT.

What St. Paul really Said About Women.

The Christian Woman as Wife.

St. Paul's idea is clear as to wifely obedience, but in a special and very guarded sense. The Anglican Marriage service, wrongly supposed to be founded on St. Paul's teaching, and really shewing the marital views of Henry VIII., imposes on the woman the vow to "love, honour and obey," and there is no condition attached, and no qualification as to wrongful commands. Therefore, when the Bishop of Birmingham, examined as a witness by Lady Frances Balfour before the "Royal Commission of Marriage and Divorce" in 1910, stated that a Christian woman was bound to obey a husband, even if he told her to earn money by prostitution, he was not giving his opinion in favour of immorality, but was merely shewing the logical and frequent result of the unconditional promise given in the Anglican Marriage Service. (The promise, we may add, is now refused by all really educated women.) St. Paul is an opponent of this kind of immorality. He instructs the wife to obey, but only on conditions that the Christian religion allows.

The text is correct if read without the comma, and all in one. It is a command with a condition. "Wives be subject to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord." The comma in the translation is wrong, for it makes the command appear universal, which it is not. See also Marriage "in the Lord." "Neither is the man without the woman neither the woman without the man in the Lord."

Moreover the word "obey" "hypotasso" is used by St. Paul for the whole Church, men and women alike. "Be subject to one another," i.e., "consider each the other's interests." This word cannot denote slavish submission.

Marriages between Christians and persons of other religions must have been frequent, and St. Paul's toleration gives equal freedom to man and wife. It is important to observe that the conditional nature of wifely obedience would save a Christian wife from the danger of being forced by her husband to worship Roman Divinities, or practise Jewish rites. The unconverted consort, man or woman, was counted "holy" by association, and so were the children. One member of a family made all Christians, potentially, and, in most cases, really. However, should any remain unconvinced, St. Paul's principle is clear. Neither wife nor husband need make difference of religion a reason for separation, so long as both are agreed to live together. But if one of the partners wishes to go away, there is to be "no slavery." That one has freedom to depart. Critics of divorce, who found their objections on St. Paul, seem to have overlooked this passage.

Women as Christian Apostles (i.e. Missionaries).

St. Paul himself was unmarried, and considered celibacy the higher state. This brings us by natural transition to the subject of Missionary women, most of whom must have been young and unmarried. "Missionary" is the Latin form of the Greek word "Apostle," and means the same thing, an "envoy," one "sent" bearing a message.

If women were missionaries, they were apostles, and were probably numbered among "the seventy-two," or even among "the twelve." (Scholars know that many feminine names in the Scriptures, old and new, have been masculinised.)

The apostles formed the first "Order." They proclaimed the Gospel. For safety, they travelled man and woman together, as brother and sister. St. Paul states that he could do the like if he chose. "Have we not power to lead about a sister-woman (i.e., a Christian missionary woman) as other apostles?" Here St. Paul is not referring to marriage, and husbands were not in the habit of "leading their wives about" at that period of civilisation. He is referring to apostolic journeys.

What hardships they faced together, these brothers and sisters! "Help those women which laboured with me in the gospel" should read "struggled or agonised along with me." The word means the striving of a racer with the goal in sight. The translators, here and in many other instances, chose a word with a great many meanings, with the result that women's record has been lowered from special to ordinary work. Should the relation of brother and sister become irksome owing to the presence of a deeper interest, the man may marry "his virgin," i.e., his Apostolic partner. Here the Revised Version rendering should be noted as a beacon warning against insincerity. St. Paul's advice as to the dress of Missionaries is often quoted without the previous verse, thereby making truth into a lie. He says (Douai version): "I will therefore that men pray in every place lifting up pure hands without anger and contention in like manner women also in decent apparel adorning themselves with modesty and sobriety not with plaited hair or gold or pearls or costly attire but as it becometh women professing godliness with good works." This translation gives the whole meaning, but the word "professing" is (again) too vague, and should be rendered "announcing"—"proclaiming" (the gospel). It is clear that St. Paul is not giving a general instruction for women's dress in private life. He never does. The advice is simply a counsel of prudence to women as missionaries, who "pray in every place," to dress plainly and avoid putting on their jewellery. The authorised version is blatantly false here.

K. A. RALEIGH.

(To be concluded.)

MUNICIPAL SUCCESSES.

We heartily congratulate the Battersea Town Council upon the acquisition of its new Alderman, our late President, Mrs. Despard, who has worked so indefatigably and for so many years in this part of London.

The Women's Local Government Society has received the names of the following women who have been elected in the Town Council Elections, 1920.

BIRKENHEAD.—*Miss A. Laird (C.) (unopposed).
BOURNEMOUTH.—*Mrs. Laney (Ind.) (unopposed).
BRECON.—*Miss Morgan (Ind.), Miss Jane Downs (C.)
CHESTER.—Mrs. H. F. Brown.
COLCHESTER.—Dame Catherine Hunt (unopposed).
CROYDON.—Mrs. Roberts (Ind.)
DONCASTER.—Miss H. M. Clark (Ind.).
EASTBOURNE.—Miss E. M. Thornton (Ind.).
GLASGOW.—Mrs. Barbour (Lab.), Mrs. Baird-Smith (Ind.), Mrs. Bell (Ind.), Miss Mary Snodgrass (Ind.), Mrs. Stewart (Lab.).
GLOUCESTER.—*Mrs. Siveter (unopposed).
GODALMING.—*Mrs. Wilde (Ind.)
LEWES.—Mrs. Wood.
LIVERPOOL.—Mrs. Max Muspratt (Co.-Lib.), *Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Ind.) (unopposed).
MANCHESTER.—*Miss Caroline Herford (Lib.).
OSWESTRY.—Mrs. Lodge (Ind.).
RAMSGATE.—*Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills (Ind.).
READING.—*Miss Edith Sutton, J.P. (Ind.).
RICHMOND.—Mrs. Johnstone (Middle Classes Union).
SCARBOROUGH.—*Mrs. Catt (Ind.).
SHEFFIELD.—*Mrs. Barton (Lab.).
SOUTHAMPTON.—Mrs. Bell (Ind.), Mrs. Morris (Ind.), *Mrs. Welch, J.P. (Ind.).
SWINDON.—Mrs. Tanner (Lab.).
TORQUAY.—Miss E. F. Wrey (Ind.).
TYNEMOUTH.—*Dame Maud Burnett, D.B.E., J.P. (Ind.) (unopposed).
WELSHPOOL.—Mrs. Joseph H. Davies.
WIGAN.—Nurse Hogg (Lab.).
*Standing for re-election.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The first Public Meeting of the season was held at 2, Kent Road on October 27th. The speaker was Mrs. Probyn Turnbull, of the Executive Committee for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and her subject was "Child Outrage." Mrs. Whetton presided, and said the Women's Freedom League had always been interested in this question. Mrs. Probyn Turnbull made an eloquent plea on behalf of little girls, and said in cases of criminal assaults conviction depended largely on corroborative evidence, which was extremely difficult to obtain. It was not always drunken and depraved men who committed these assaults, but very often educated, well-to-do men. After an animated discussion the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That this meeting is of opinion that some drastic change is necessary in the existing law which will enable unsworn and uncorroborated evidence of very young children to be accepted at the discretion of the magistrate in order to obtain conviction in cases of criminal or indecent assault." A good collection was taken, and two new members were made. After tea the Annual Meeting was held. A good year's work was reported by the Secretary, who was heartily thanked for her energetic services. The report and balance sheet presented by the Treasurer showed that, apart from the ordinary funds of the branch, upwards of £25 had been collected for the Election Fund. A vote of thanks and appreciation to the Treasurer was unanimously carried. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Speck were re-elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The following two questions have been sent to the candidates at the November Municipal Elections: (1) Do you uphold a high and equal moral standard for men and women? (2) If elected, will you work for the withdrawal of the measures for the prevention of Venereal Disease recently passed by the Town Council. We have received 17 replies out of a possible 24. Only two candidates said "Yes" to both questions. Thirteen replied "Yes" to the first, and "No" to the second. The other two "Yes" to the first and would not give a definite reply to the second.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

HULL.

We are delighted to record the formation of a new Branch at Hull, the Hon. Secretary of which is Mrs. Stowman, 195, Hedon Road. The first meeting was held on October 12th, and was addressed by Mrs. Schofield Coates, the subject being the Aims and Objects of the Women's Freedom League. This address aroused great enthusiasm, and before Mrs. Nelson (the chairman) closed the meeting sufficient members were enrolled to form a Branch. Copies of THE VOTE sold well, and Mrs. Stowman has undertaken to see that local members are supplied with them regularly. A very warm vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Schofield Coates for her stirring speech. We wish our new Branch every possible success.

LIVERPOOL.

Petition Forms for Votes For Women under Thirty have been circulated among members, and at a meeting held on the 13th inst. a resolution was passed that a deputation be sent from the Branch to Col. Buckley, M.P., to impress upon him the need for equal suffrage for men and women. This deputation was received. Mrs. Harrison, the President of this Branch, acting as chief spokeswoman, stated our case very clearly and concisely. Col. Buckley promised to give this matter his consideration.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. KERSHAW, 13, Princes Avenue, Crosby.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

There was a very good attendance at a meeting held by the above Branch at Purcell House on November 8th. Dr. Maude Kerslake gave a very interesting and instructive lecture on General and National Health. She pointed out that Education on this matter was of primary importance, and that Health was pre-eminently woman's sphere, and that the ordinary man, apart from the medical profession, shows very little interest in this matter.

KENSINGTON.

A meeting of the Kensington Branch was held on Monday. Various matters were discussed, but most consideration was given to the Fair, for which it was decided that members should work as hard as possible for Mrs. Holmes' stall.

M. REEVES, Secretary.

CENTRAL LONDON PARLIAMENT.

Last Wednesday evening the Coalition Government inaugurated its reign of reform by introducing a Bill purporting to remove some of the disabilities under which women are now labouring. The points raised were chiefly obscure ones dealing with the manner in which a man may leave his property when he dies; the object being to preclude a wealthy man from leaving his wife without sufficient means of subsistence. If the Government could have seen its way to introduce a Bill embodying some vital principle such as that of equal pay for equal work—something that would affect the whole community and not only the two per cent. which ever has property to leave—women, no doubt, would have been even more grateful to the Government for turning its attention, at last, to their rights and wrongs.

A member of the Opposition moved the adjournment of the House for the introduction of urgent business—that of unemployment. Amidst uproarious scenes the motion was lost, and the House proceeded to deal with the Bill already before it. This was passed with very little discussion, for, as a Labour Member pointed out, the principle embodied in it was part of the programme of the Labour Party.

THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN INDIA

The British Dominions Women Citizens' Union gave an "At Home" at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, on Wednesday, November 4th. The guests were asked to meet Mrs. Jinarajadasa, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Indian Association, and wife of the well-known theosophist and lecturer, who gave a most interesting account of the recent awakening of Indian women. She spoke of her own work in organising groups of women in the villages for the study of modern hygiene, and these have now become centres for the study of political questions. This change is very important, as the influence of the woman over her husband cannot be overrated, and as the mother in the home begins to take up these questions, the whole household will soon become her eager disciples. Many examples of women's newly awakened activity and ready initiative in political matters were cited by Mrs. Jinarajadasa. The great contrast between the Indian National Congress of 1915 and that of 1918 was emphasised. At the former there were no women present, at the latter the platform was half-filled by women, a curtain being provided to screen those who were purdah, and the body of the Hall was crowded by women eager to participate in the work of the Congress. When Mrs. Besant was interned, a great procession of women was organised in Madras to petition for her release, and marched through the town to deputise the Governor, to the surprise and wonder of the inhabitants. In reference to the question of the so-called illiteracy of 99 per cent. of Indian women, our conventional standard of literacy was, in effect, no standard of culture. Like the women of ancient Greece, the Indian women, without being able to read or write, are well versed in the works of the great writers of their country, and can quote long passages from them by heart; and surrounded as they are, too, by the most wonderful specimens of artistic, as well as of natural, beauty, their aesthetic training is far in advance of that of their sisters in the West. Mrs. Jinarajadasa also drew attention to the fact that our Eastern sisters are not troubled by frequent changes of fashion, for, having arrived at a simple and graceful method of clothing some thousand years ago, they have had the wisdom to adopt it in perpetuity. Questions were asked upon the municipal vote in the towns, and the information was elicited that women are now eligible for seats in the Municipal Council in Bombay. One set-back, however, was mentioned—that they no longer have votes for the Village Councils. The rapid and eager questions at the close of the lecture showed the intense interest felt by the large audience, which had listened with the closest attention. A copy of the *Stri-Dharma* (Woman's Duty and Ideals), the official organ of the Women's Indian Association, was exhibited, containing articles in seven out of the hundred and forty different Indian languages. Copies of this paper can be obtained from Miss Cousins, Adyar, Madras.

MARGARET HODGE.

SOME POPULAR FALLACIES

Speaking last Wednesday at the Minerva Café, Councillor Margaret Hodge attacked certain false statements which circulated freely in popular parlance under the guise of truth. She described the English people as fond of getting their thinking done for them, and therefore liking epitomised sentences, or, rather, short epigrammatic generalisations. Epitomised titles, such as Barrie's "Twelve pound look," and "Dear Brutus," endeared themselves to theatre-goers. Shakespeare's popularity was mainly due to his frequent generalisations. Many of these epitomised statements, when examined, however, were found to be composed of the prejudices of a past age, and utterly foreign to the feelings of the present day. There were, for instance, many false generalisations concerning women, such as "the fair sex," "the weaker sex," women's want of judgment and inability to keep secrets; and about domestic relationships, notably "mothers-in-law," "spinsters," etc. In proverbs and pithy sayings, too, there lurked in the same way a great deal of incorrect assumption. "You cannot touch pitch and not be defiled" was contrary to the ideals of Christianity with its doctrine of redemption. "You cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" was essentially undemocratic in the light of present day politics. "Give a dog a bad name and hang it" was one of the most pathetic proverbs in existence, and in this case, unfortunately, all too true. "A burnt child dreads the fire" was not always verified, for people did not invariably learn wisdom from experience. "Ill-gotten goods never prosper" was, unfortunately, not always verified. "Enough is as good as a feast" bore an ascetic tendency which was not wholesome for the masses who required legitimate feasting on occasions. "Never look a gift horse in the mouth" was a very insincere axiom, which led to the accumulation of white elephants that did no one any good. "Love me, love my dog" was another misnomer which frequently gave rise to private bickering and domestic jars. "To rise with the lark" was most unnecessary, and originated primarily in self-righteousness. "The exception proves the rule" was an example of the wrong use of the word "prove" in place of "test." A little knowledge was a dangerous thing" was quite false, and emanated from Pope, who was a living example of want of learning.

PROPERTY!—"In the seventies," says Mrs. Fawcett, "I had my pocket picked. The man was caught and charged. When I attended the court the charge read out was in these words: 'John Jones, charged with taking a purse from the person of Millicent Fawcett, property of Henry Fawcett.'"

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Friday, November 12.—Mid-London Branch. Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Ayres Purdie. Subject: "The Relation of Feminism and Labour."

Saturday, November 13.—Clapham Jumble Sale, at Morris Hall, Clapham. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, November 17.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Sub-Inspector More-Nisbett, W.P.S. Subject: "Why and How We Need Policewomen." Chair: Dr. Knight.

Wednesday, November 17.—Working Party for the "Fair," 5 p.m. "Fair" Committee, 6 p.m. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, November 24.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Russell. Subject: "Education among the High-Caste Women and Girls in India." Chair: Miss Reeves.

Friday, November 26 and Saturday, November 27.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster. 3 p.m. Monday, November 29, at 8 p.m.—Mass Meeting at Central Hall, Westminster. Speakers: Mrs. Chapman Catt, Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., and others. "T celebrate the enfranchisement of the women of the United States, and to welcome Mrs. Chapman Catt."

Wednesday, December 1.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss E. Pieton Turberville. Subject: "Religion and Politics." Chair: Rev. W. C. Roberts, M.A.

Wednesday, December 8.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. La Chard. Subject: "One Year of Municipal Work." Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Saturday, December 11.—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. National Executive Committee. 10 a.m.

PROVINCES.

Friday, November 12.—Bexhill. Public Meeting, National Kitchen, St. Leonards Road. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevins, J.P. Subject: "The League of Nations." Chair: Mrs. Meads.

Friday, November 12.—Hastings. Drawing-room Meeting, "Sea View," Pelham Crescent. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevins, J.P. Subject: "The League of Nations." Chair: Mrs. Strickland.

Monday, November 15.—Manchester. Public Meeting, Milton Hall. Speaker: Miss Connaughton. Subject: "The Teachers' Fight for Equal Pay." Contributions for the Fair should be brought to this Meeting.

Tuesday, November 16.—Rye. Members' Meeting, Baptist Schoolroom. 6.30 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Wells.

Monday, November 22.—7.30 p.m. Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. Speaker: Mrs. Hutchings. Subject: "My Work on the Board of Guardians." Chair: Mrs. Gunn.

Wednesday, November 24.—Hastings. Whist Drive, Hastings Pier.

Monday, December 6.—Westcliff-on-Sea. Purcell House (School of Music), London Road. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Alexander. Subject to be announced later. Chair: Mrs. Nichols.

Wednesday, December 8.—Bexhill. Public Meeting at the National Kitchen. 3.30 p.m. Subject: "Women Jurors."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, November 17.—Central London Parliament will meet at Holy Trinity Hall, Kingsway, W.C. (adjoining Holborn Restaurant) at 7.30 p.m., and every Wednesday.

Monday, November 22.—Penge Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Need for Women Members of Parliament."

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT,

93, NINE ELMS LANE, S.W. 8.

We are still hoping that Fate will send some helpers along, being threatened with a very large family in the Guest House in the New Year. We are still needing pillow slips, towels and tablecloths. Our best thanks are due to the following friends for their help in a very pressing time of need: Mrs. Clark, £1; Mrs. Waldron, £1; Miss Riggall, 2s.; Mrs. Gastor, £2; Miss Bergman, 5s.; Mrs. Shawcross, 5s.; Mrs. Whyte, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Aaron, 2s. If anyone would like to do some needlework for our stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair we shall be glad to send them some.

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	£425	10	6

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclay's Bank Ltd."

TWO WEEKS MORE!

The next two weeks are very busy ones of preparation for the "Fair" on November 26th and 27th. Please be sure and come to Mrs. Holmes' Wednesday Sewing Party (5 p.m. at the office) for the White Stall. We still want more helpers, also money for materials or gifts of calico, etc. Garments will be forwarded ready cut out if you can do them better at home. Suggestions for little fancy articles, too, will be very welcome, and help in making them. Remember this "Fair" must be a great success, and that can only be if every member and friend co-operates in piling high the stalls with goods worth buying.

BOOK YOUR SEATS NOW!

MRS. CHAPMAN CATT, who led 26,000,000 American Women to Victory, will land in England on November 26th, and on NOV. 29th at 8 p.m. in Central Hall, Westminster, the Women's Freedom League is co-operating in the Great International Mass Welcome and Celebration of American Women's Freedom.

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