

THE VOTE,  
Nov. 5, 1920  
ONE PENNY.

MARCH TO THE SQUARE!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 5, 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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## WOMAN MAYOR FOR WORTHING.

*Interview with Mrs. Chapman.*

Mrs. Chapman, the new Mayor of Worthing, has always been keenly interested in public work, especially in anything that affects the lives of women. In the dark ages, before even a limited number of women were allowed to record their votes in the ballot box, she was a staunch supporter of the Suffrage movement, and was for some years President of the local branch of the National Union of Suffrage Societies.

Her first essay in public work was made in Buckinghamshire, where she was elected to the Rural District Council of Radnage, and through that to the Board of Guardians. In 1903 Mrs. Chapman came to live in Worthing, and was elected to the East Preston Board of Guardians in 1909. She was the first woman Chairman of any Committee on this Board—this was the Nursing Committee. She has also acted as Chairman of the Boarding-Out Committee. Mrs. Chapman continued to serve on the Board of Guardians until in 1919 she was elected to the County Council, on which she and the Lady Amherst of Hackney are the only women.

In 1910 Mrs. Chapman was asked to contest the municipal elections for Broadwater Ward. This she did, and came in at the top of the poll. During the 10 years that she has represented Broadwater on the Town Council she has served at various times on the Public Health, Housing, Museum, Library, Parade and Licensing Committees. For eight years Mrs. Chapman was the only woman on the Worthing Town Council. Since then three other women have been added to the Town Council.

During the war Mrs. Chapman rendered much useful service. She served on the local Military Tribunal, an arduous and often heart-breaking occupation. Only two women served on these Military Tribunals in the whole Kingdom. It was said of one of these Tribunals

by an important official at the War Office that the woman was the only capable member of that particular body. Mrs. Chapman also served on the Food Control Committee, and acted as Chairman of the Profiteering Committee.

She is at the present time President of the Allotment Holders' Association. She used all her influence to encourage the starting of an open market in the town, and for a month she herself served at a stall where the surplus products of allotments were sold. Worthing is not very progressive, and the open market was suppressed, but it is hoped only temporarily.

This energetic and hard working woman did much to brighten the lives of the sick and wounded who were treated at the temporary Hospital at East Preston Infirmary and at St. Mary's Red Cross Hospital in Worthing. To the latter she gave a splendidly-equipped operating theatre.

Not the least useful service that Mrs. Chapman has rendered her town is the encouragement and financial assistance she has given to the local Toy Factory. When the war first broke out the women of Worthing, as in most other towns, suffered from unemployment.

Fortunately this did not last long, but no one foresaw how women would be absorbed into war industries, and the little Factory was started. It employed a limited number of young girls and a few women who could not leave their homes all through the years during which the war lasted. Happily this industry did not end with the war, but continues to grow and flourish.

Mrs. Chapman is a great dog lover. At one time she owned a small pack of ten-inch beagles, and has taken many prizes with her pets. Indeed her rooms are filled with silver trophies won at dog shows from all over the country.

FLORA LUKE.



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## WOMEN MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES.

## Town Council Elections, 1920:

The names of the following women candidates appended have been received at the office of the Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, up to Saturday, October 30th:—

- BIRKENHEAD.—Mrs. Nerron (Co-op. and Lab.), \*Miss A. Laird (C.), Mrs. Moore (Lab.).  
 BIRMINGHAM.—Mrs. Andrews (Co-op.), \*Mrs. Cottrell (Co-op.).  
 BLACKPOOL.—Mrs. M. Harrison.  
 BOLTON.—Mrs. Agnew (Ind.), Mrs. Farrington (Co-op.), Mrs. Nothersole (Ind.), Mrs. Rose (Lab.).  
 BOURNEMOUTH.—\*Miss Laney (Ind.).  
 BRECON.—\*Miss Morgan (Ind.).  
 BRIGHOUSE.—Miss M. G. Sugden.  
 BURY.—Miss Johnston (Ind.).  
 CAMBRIDGE.—Mrs. Arthur Hutchinson.  
 CARLISLE.—Mrs. Fyfe (Lab.), Mrs. Reay (Ind.).  
 CHELMSFORD.—Miss F. Chancellor.  
 COLCHESTER.—Mrs. Green, J.P. (Ind.), Dame Catherine Hunt (unopposed).  
 CROYDON.—Mrs. Alefounder (Lab.), Mrs. Neaton (Lab.), Mrs. Roberts (Ind.).  
 DONCASTER.—Miss H. M. Clark (Ind.).  
 EALING.—Mrs. Morris (Lab.).  
 EASTBOURNE.—Miss E. M. Thornton (Ind.).  
 EXETER.—Miss Edith Splatt (Ind.).  
 GATESHEAD.—Miss Mary Gunn, Miss Annie Hanlop (Lab.).  
 GILLINGHAM.—Mrs. Green (Ind.), Mrs. Rumsby (Ind.).  
 GLASGOW.—Mrs. Bell (Ind.), Miss Gilchrist, Miss V. Craig Robertson, P.C. (Ind.), Mrs. Baird Smith (Ind.), Miss Mary Snodgrass (Ind.), Mrs. Mary Barbour (Lab.), Mrs. Beaton (Lab.), Mrs. Helen Crawford (Lab.), Mrs. Agnes Dollan (Lab.), Mrs. J. Ferguson (Lab.), Mrs. Agnes Lauder (Lab.), Mrs. Florence Mossman (Lab.), Miss Eleanor Stewart (Lab.).  
 GLOUCESTER.—\*Miss Edith Sessions (Lib.), \*Mrs. Siveter (C.) (unopposed).  
 GODALMING.—\*Mrs. Wilde.  
 HARROGATE.—\*Mrs. W. H. Thompson (Ind.).  
 HARTLEPOOL.—Mrs. Beckett (Co-op.).  
 HOVE.—Mrs. Hutton (Ind.), Dr. Christine Shearer (Ind.).  
 HULL.—Mrs. Willoughby (Ind.).  
 KIDDERMINSTER.—Mrs. Smith (Lab.).  
 KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—Mrs. Jane Astbury.  
 LEEDS.—Miss Beatrice Kitson (Ind.), Miss B. Quin (Lab.).  
 LIVERPOOL.—Mrs. Max Muspratt (Co.-Lib.), \*Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. (Ind.) (unopposed), Mrs. Julia Taylor (Lab.), Mrs. Jessie Daniels (Co-op.).  
 MANCHESTER.—Mrs. Quas Cohen (M.P.U.), Mrs. Goodwin (M.P.U.), \*Miss Caroline Herford (Lib.), Miss Mary L. Kingsmill Jones, J.P. (C.), Mrs. Annot Robinson (Lab.), Mrs. Claber (Co-op.).  
 MANSFIELD.—Mrs. Godfrey (Ind.), Mrs. Wainwright (Lab.).  
 NORTHAMPTON.—Mrs. Stanley (Lab.).  
 OSWESTRY.—Mrs. Lodge (Ind.).  
 PORTSMOUTH.—\*Miss K. Edmonds (Ind.), Mrs. Murphy (Co-op.).  
 RAMSGATE.—\*Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills (Ind.).  
 READING.—Miss Blackall (Lab.), Mrs. Alice Jenkins (Lab.), \*Miss Edith Sutton, J.P. (Ind.).  
 REIGATE.—Miss Roma Austen (Ind.).  
 RICHMOND.—Mrs. Johnstone (M.C.U.).  
 RYDE (I.W.).—Miss Barry, Miss Friend, Mrs. Perrott (Ind.).  
 SCARBOROUGH.—\*Mrs. Catt (Ind.).  
 SHEFFIELD.—\*Mrs. Barton (Lab.), Mrs. T. W. Casey (Ind.).  
 SOUTHEND.—\*Mrs. Hawken, J.P. (Ind.).  
 SOUTH SHIELDS.—Mrs. Galloway, Nurse O'Neill.  
 SWANSEA.—Mrs. Kelley (Lab.).  
 TORQUAY.—Mrs. Hardman (Ind.), \*Mrs. Towell (Ind.), Miss E. F. Wrey (Ind.).

TYNEMOUTH.—Miss Norah Balls (Ind.), \*Dame Maud Burnett, D.B.E., J.P. (Ind.) (unopposed).  
 WELSHPOOL.—Mrs. Joseph H. Davies.  
 WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.—Mrs. Stafford Bailey (Ind.).  
 WINCHESTER.—Mrs. Munt (Ind.).  
 WOLVERHAMPTON.—Mrs. Highfield-Jones (Ind.), Mrs. Trench (Ind.).  
 YORK.—Miss Mary Cudworth (Ind.).

\*Standing for re-election.

(A complete list of successful candidates will be published in next week's VOTE.)

## IN PARLIAMENT.

## Maintenance Orders.

MR. NEWBOULD asked the PRIME MINISTER whether maintenance orders for separated wives were still limited to £2; whether that limit was irrespective of the means of the husband and father and the size of the family; and whether, in view of the rise in the cost of living and the hardship consequently inflicted on separated wives and their children, he would consider the desirability of entirely removing the limit of £2 to be paid under these orders, and substituting an arrangement whereby the sum granted should be such as the Court, having regard to the means both of the husband and wife, considered reasonable? THE HOME SECRETARY replied that £2 was the most a defendant could be ordered to pay in the cases in question. He hoped it might be possible to amend the law in this respect, and a Bill for that purpose had been prepared and was ready to be introduced.

## Women and the Civil Service.

LT.-COL. SIR SAMUEL HOARE asked the LORD PRIVY SEAL whether the Regulations to be made by the Civil Service Commission regarding the admission of women to the Civil Service would be laid before the House, and would there be an opportunity of discussing them then instead of the time promised for discussion of the Order in Council? MR. BONAR LAW replied to both parts of this question in the affirmative, and further stated that if the House was given time to discuss the Regulations and express an opinion on them the Government would certainly not be disinclined to bow to that.

MR. FORREST asked if the Treasury could now define the decision of the Government with regard to the claim of women civil servants for equal opportunities as regards pay, status and promotion? MR. CHAMBERLAIN replied that His Majesty's Government had carefully reviewed the recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee of the National Whitley Council, and did not feel justified in varying them; those recommendations would only be tentative, and the Government would be prepared to review the situation afresh within a reasonable period of time, which in no case would exceed five years, and might be considerably less. This answer applied to the subject of equal pay for men and women in the Civil Service, and to the provision of separate establishment lists for the promotion of men and women. With regard to status, His Majesty's Government had adopted the recommendation of the Reorganisation Committee, that within each class women should be given a status and authority identical with that accorded to men.

## Women and Young Persons (Employment in Lead Processes) Bill.

This Bill, which prohibits entirely the employment of women and young persons in certain Lead processes, passed its Second Reading last Monday, and was committed to a Committee of the whole of the House. By this Bill it is intended to carry out the obligations under which this country rests to the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations which met at Washington last November and made certain recommendations.

The Treasurer of the Green, White and Gold Fair has much pleasure in acknowledging, that in response to an appeal, Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove have kindly forwarded a cheque for £2 2s.

## WOMEN AND SPECIAL POLICIES.

At the Minerva Café, last Wednesday, Miss Lind-af-Hageby discussed the advisability as to whether women should join existing political parties, or create special policies of their own. Miss Lind-af-Hageby contended that there were some special policies very dangerous to women. There was a controversy now raging at Cambridge over the question of a separate University for women. The Duchess of Westminster advocated a special Parliament for women. And there was the prospect of the creation of a new order of Deaconesses, to keep women quiet who wanted to serve in the Church. To all such suggestions of separate treatment the speaker described herself as resolutely hostile. The special policies which women needed for their future development were policies which primarily concerned themselves with righting all the old wrongs against women: injustices in the marriage laws; denial of the vote to women under 30; inequalities in the nationality laws; refusal to allow women free entry to certain industries and trades. As long as these social and legal inequalities continued women would need to pursue special policies with all their might. They would also need to run special women candidates who were not representatives of the old political parties, but who would stand for the equalisation of the laws as between men and women. The manufacture of armaments must cease. In all the great European laboratories preparations were still being made for the next war. Women must reform themselves prior to the great work of reconstruction they were now being called upon to carry out. "New" women were not yet sufficiently numerous. There were still too many women about of an "old" type who lived for dress and comfort and pleasure, rather than for social service and mental freedom. The vanity of the oversexed woman was the worst enemy of the feminist movement.

## THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League was held at 144, High Holborn, W.C., last Saturday, the members present being Miss A. M. Clark (Montgomery Boroughs), Councillor Miss Ballard Dawson (Swanage), Dr. Knight, Miss C. Neal (Swansea), Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Mrs. Pierotti, and the Secretary. From the chair Miss C. Neal very cordially welcomed as a member of the Committee Miss Ballard Dawson in the place of Mrs. Keevil Rickford, who, to our great regret, has resigned prior to her departure for India. New members for the Women's Freedom League were reported in London and the provinces, and letters from Branch secretaries showed renewed activity among Branch members. The Committee was particularly pleased that our Westcliff Branch was running its own woman candidate in Chalkwell Ward for the local Borough Council. A great many Petition Forms for votes for women under thirty years of age are still circulating among our Branches, and the Committee urges all members and friends of the Women's Freedom League who are able to do so either to send to this office for a form and secure signatures to it as early as possible, or to send young women here to sign it. The Committee further considered and agreed to a number of questions to be put to women candidates standing for Parliament, and also to men parliamentary candidates. The Committee was delighted to learn that Mrs. Chapman Catt, who has so successfully carried through the Suffrage campaign in the United States with the result that twenty-six millions of American women are now voters at the Presidential elections, will shortly be in London, and gladly agreed to co-operate in making the Mass Meeting to welcome her a success. This meeting will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, November 24th, at 8 p.m., and readers of THE VOTE who wish to be present should immediately apply for tickets (price 10s., 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.) to Dr. Knight at this office.

## THE TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM.

*The Two-Shift System for Women and Young Persons. The Labour Party's Memorandum. Price 2d.; post free 3d. (Can be obtained from this office.)*

(The two-shift system is the system under which men work. During the war women worked under it in special cases, but there is an attempt now being made to abolish it in the case of women.)

This memorandum is a truly illuminating document! It puts forward the objections to a two-shift system for women as follows: It involves bad meal times—a late breakfast after several hours of work, followed by a late dinner after work is over on one shift; an early dinner—and a meal probably at the works—followed by a late meal at home—and not getting to bed till between eleven and twelve at night on the other, both involving a "great disturbance of family life and a great deal of extra work for the woman at home." Amazing consideration! Would anyone gather that the first shift would begin at 6 a.m. and must end at 2 p.m., with one break for a meal, while the present system allows work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours off for meals, of which one hour only *must* be before 3 p.m.? Remembering the appreciation shown by many women, young and middle-aged, of the shift system employed in munition works during the war, one wonders where the signatories of the memorandum have gathered their impressions. Have they really not realised that workers on both shifts have time for shopping, mending and enjoyment in daylight—all quite impossible under the twelve-hour plan? Is it nothing that for the first time open-air recreation would be placed within their reach? What of the tennis, bowling and croquet clubs often run in connection with works in the summer, and the complaints of the members that the evenings are not long enough for full advantage to be taken of them?

The word of consideration repeated more than once for the "housekeeper" rings entirely false. The "extra work," "late hours" (say eleven or twelve), "the supply of meals going on all day," and so forth. In the ordinary working family, with the father and perhaps one or two elder children at work, and younger ones at school, that problem is, and must continue to be, presented daily; and most women have found it possible to solve it by making the time of the principal meal—the midday dinner—fit as nearly as possible the *earliest* to return, and "keeping hot" for the later comers, while the late hours will remain much as they are now, when theatre and cinema attract until eleven o'clock.

The question of the cleanliness and ventilation of the factory is an important one, and if the alteration of hours involves more attention being paid to it it will certainly be an advantage, but it surely cannot be seriously suggested that it is better *sometimes*, with a special permit, to use a factory which cannot be properly cleaned and ventilated for extended periods of work, than to insist on improvements which would enable it to be used continuously without danger to the workers? The question of evasion of the law by working the same staff for more than the proper shift and of time cribbing is *one for the workers themselves*. To advance this as a reason for opposition is to show the weakness of the whole case.

But the whole of the Memorandum is based on the assumption that women are not capable of judging for themselves of their conditions of work, and for that reason we shall not cease to oppose the conclusions. Regulations of this sort must apply *all round*, if at all. Not one word suggests that the shift system is bad for men, or that the fact of the man of the house coming in at odd hours to meals involves *equally* hard work for the woman at home! Anything that involves special regulations for women's work must inevitably militate against their employment, and place them at a disadvantage as compared with men, and to this women can, and will, no longer submit.

M. I. NEAL.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5th, 1920.

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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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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## EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

Equality is the old but ever new battle-cry of the Women's Freedom League. From the beginning of its existence members have realised that the subjection of women, their inferior position, and the fact that men throughout the world were accustomed to think that women should be legislated for and restricted in their efforts just as if they were children, could only be altered by a long struggle for equality of opportunity, reward and responsibility, throughout all branches of our national life. We are gaining ground in our struggle; but women in this country have not yet won political equality with men, and are still a very long way from securing equality of opportunity and reward in the economic life of our nation. Women Teachers intend to bring this fact home to the minds of the British public to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon, in their Demonstration in Trafalgar Square. No one can pretend that the great army of women teachers are less efficient, less capable, less conscientious or less successful than the men teachers in this country. Many of them, indeed, have higher and more numerous qualifications than the men, and their work is certainly as arduous. Yet simply and solely because they are women the Government and the local authorities dictate that they shall have less remuneration than their men colleagues, the salaries being fixed, not according to the value of the work to the community, but according to the sex of the worker. There is neither justice nor logic in this arrangement, and women of all professions and all occupations must band themselves together to fight its supporters, and insist, when the output of women in any direction is equal to the output of men, that their remuneration also shall be equal. Until women have secured the recognition of the principle of equal pay for equal work they cannot claim to have travelled very far towards the equality of the sexes. Women have but very little share in the wealth and resources of the world, and their present economic position militates against the influence of women in the world's affairs. So far as men are concerned, it is generally conceded that they shall have equal remuneration for similar output, and women claim that this principle should apply equally to members of both sexes. We venture to think that men are not really surprised when women prove that their work is in every way as good as men's; but what seems to stagger them is the fact that women can accept and expect an equal reward for it. The Prime Minister prophesied a New World after the War. We suggest that he should spend a little time in converting his colleagues to new ideas in regard to the pre-war values of the sexes, for women are determined, whether men like it or not, to secure for themselves a new position which will give them complete equality of opportunity and rewards with men throughout all branches of our national life.

## JUVENILE COURTS.

Last Monday the Juvenile Courts (Metropolis) Bill was read a second time in the House of Commons. The proposal is to have separate Courts in London dealing with children only. Each Court will consist of three persons—a legally trained police magistrate, chosen from a panel, who would act as president, and two lay people, one of whom must be a woman—and both might possibly be women—chosen from a panel of lay justices of the peace. One advantage of having these lay people would be that they would know the district and have some knowledge of the children, their parents and their home life. The Home Secretary stated that the children would be taken to a building quite away from the Police Courts, where all the police would be in ordinary plain clothes. Major Hayward welcomed this Bill as a further development of that enlightened and humane administration of the criminal law that applies to Juveniles, 5,462 of whom came before the existing Courts in London during the year 1919. Lady Astor stated that all women's organisations were in favour of the Bill. Sir Frederick Banbury considered that that was a very good reason for voting against it; but Mr. Bartley Dennis, who said he had been married for 43 years and had grandchildren, declared that his wife understood them a great deal better than he did, and that if he had to consider the conduct of a child he would much rather she sat with him to try the case, than that he should sit alone, although he was a lawyer. The chief argument of the opponents of the Bill seemed to be that it was framed at the instigation of women who had recently been appointed as magistrates in order to find work for themselves. This argument did not weigh much with the House, most of the Members agreeing that the Bill was in the interests of the child offender, and therefore supported it in the belief that it would help to save children from becoming criminals.

## SHELL SHOCK.

It is a very urgent problem at the moment to know what to do with the many persons, chiefly ex-Service men, who, while not certifiably insane, require assistance in recovering their normal mental balance. The war has greatly increased this class, but it is one which the stress of modern life produces, and it is always with us.

The Ministry of Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, introduced by Dr. Addison on Aug. 16th, and down for second reading on November 4th, amid a multitude of other matters, contains two clauses which refer to these early mental cases. One clause is excellent; the other must not be allowed to pass.

Clause 11 enables County Councils or County Borough Councils to supply, maintain or contribute to hospitals, either general or special. This would be the very best means of dealing with these cases. Hospitals or wards in hospitals free from any connection with Lunacy, controlled by the Health Committees of the Councils as purely voluntary institutions from which a patient could discharge himself at will, could offer the best conditions for recovery from non-certifiable mental disorder.

Clause 10 must be deleted from the Bill. 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 Judicial Order which has now to be obtained, and which protects the liberty of the individual.

This Clause 10 would annul the safeguard of Section 315 of the Lunacy Act, which imposes a penalty on anyone detaining a mental case for profit without the prescribed Judicial Investigation.

We all have a hankering to shut up troublesome people, to clear out of the way political opponents, social undesirables, eccentric persons, unruly boys and girls and bores and nuisances generally, but freedom is the breath of life, and any infringement of it must be hedged about with every possible precaution.

## UKRAINIAN WOMEN.

### A FEMININE UTOPIA.

From the earliest times Ukrainian women have enjoyed esteem and consideration from their menfolk. Literary and juridic landmarks of the Ninth Century show us that women in the Ukraine occupied themselves with State affairs, enjoyed civil rights, were interested in literature and arts, and played an important part both in family life and in society. The princesses of Kiyv received the same education as their brothers.

Passing on to the heroic period of the history of the Ukraine (15th to 17th centuries), to her wars with the Tzars and the Poles for independence, we find that these special conditions of life greatly influenced the position of women, their faculties and their nature. It is probably to this period that we must look for the origin of the relative independence of Ukrainian women during ensuing epochs.

The superior classes of the Ukrainian population—as well as the common Cossacks—led a warlike existence defending the frontiers against foreign invasion. Women were often obliged to follow their husbands in these expeditions, even to

### Taking Part in the Battles.

Fighting at the side of the men for the defence of their country, the Ukrainian women of these days displayed great energy and great strength of character, and at home, in their husband's absence, were accustomed to rely on their own initiative. They took part in the political life, in the sittings of the Diets and public assemblies, and they were admitted into the law courts. The religious movements of the time found passionate partisans among Ukrainian women, who not only studied religious doctrines, but founded monasteries and schools, and actively collaborated in the promotion of practical charity and learning. They took part in the ecclesiastic communities that played so great a rôle in the struggle for national independence in the Ukraine. Paul d'Aleppo, an Arabian scholar, who travelled in the Ukraine 1652—1653, and Beauplan, a French engineer, who lived in the Ukraine, both speak with great praise of the Ukrainian women, and state with astonishment that whilst almost everywhere at this epoch women were considered as inferior beings, Ukrainian women were treated in every particular as the equals of men.

Ukrainian women in the 17th and 18th centuries enjoyed material and moral independence as sanctioned by the law. They were allowed to freely dispose of such fortune as they brought with them in marriage, and of any goods they inherited later. The law granted wives a certain part of their husbands' fortunes in the event of widowhood. During the lifetime of her husband, the Ukrainian woman was consulted in all important cases, such as sale or purchase of property, especially of an estate, her signature as well as her husband's being required. These

### Characteristic Features

of Ukrainian social life have been preserved up to the present, in spite of the fact that the laws of the Russian Empire curtailed the rights of women.

When comparing the position of women of inferior classes in the Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries, one can judge of the comparatively superior position of the Ukrainian women. Where Russian peasants and the peoples of the Caucasus treat women as inferior beings entirely subject to men, the Ukrainian peasant woman is almost equal to man. A widow who continues her husband's business or trade is frequently admitted to the guild, or to the communal assemblies of the village.

The women in Ukraine knew that as soon as the men got their independence they would not be forgotten, and it was by their activity and self-sacrifice and patriotism in the struggle with the Tzarist régime that

the Ukrainian women conquered a place equal to that of man in the new state created by their common efforts. They have taken part in the elections of 1917 for the Constituent Assembly and in the municipal councils. In the "Central Rada," the first Ukrainian Parliament, there were six women members. All the posts in the Civil Service are accessible to women. In the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs several women occupy important positions.

The chief problems of the women of Ukraine, therefore, lie entirely in the philanthropic, patriotic and educational sphere. They have to struggle against famine, and against the horrible sanitary conditions prevailing in their country. For the last six years Ukraine has been a huge battlefield, where cities were bombarded, plundered, starved and annexed by foreign conquerors. Kiyv has changed masters eleven times in two years. It is not surprising, under these circumstances, that terrible epidemics should be ravaging the country, and that infantile mortality should reach, in some regions, 90 per cent.

There is also an Education problem to face; for education has been very much neglected in this country under the yoke of the Russian Tzars. One recollects the answer of Katharine II. of Russia to the Governor General of Kiyv, who complained about the fact that in his district so few children attended school regularly. "My dear sir," said Katherine II., "you should be very pleased about it, for if the Ukrainian children went to school regularly neither I nor you would remain where we are." This policy has been faithfully followed since Katherine II. by all Russian Governments in this country, whether Imperialistic or Bolshevik.

MARIE ZARCHI.

(Ukrainian Delegate to the International Council of Women, Christiania.)

## WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Roman Dutch Law forms the foundation of the four Provinces which compose the Union of South Africa, and it is decidedly more favourable to women than English law or the Code of Napoleon. Twenty-five years ago the age of consent was various, and always below fourteen; now it is sixteen in all the provinces. Women were given the municipal vote several years ago, and in Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State they have used it with good effects. But it is only within the last three years that they have been eligible to sit on town councils in the Cape Province. School boards were inaugurated fifteen years ago, and women have been eligible as members, either by election or nomination. The Cape School Board has had one woman on it for many years. The Transvaal leads in the matter of medical inspection of schools, but recently two appointments have been made in the Cape Province of a medical man and a medical woman, both South Africans by birth, with identical duties and equal pay. In the South African Universities men and women have equal opportunities, and about a quarter of the students are women. The first three years of a medical course can now be taken in this country by both sexes alike. Law, however, still remains closed to women, though three or four women have passed the necessary examinations. Just as in England, the women's societies in South Africa are fighting for the principle of equal pay for equal work, and in the case of teachers it has always been a test question at elections. Hospitals and schools are much more under Government in this country than in England, though it is the Provincial and not the Union Government, and women feel it specially hard to be debarred from the vote for the Provincial Council, as this also controls Housing.



FRIDAY,  
NOV. 5,  
1920.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
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