

THE VOTE,  
APRIL 27, 1923  
ONE PENNY.

## A WOMAN M.P.'s VIEW OF THE BUDGET

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. XXIV. No. 705.

*(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)*

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1923

**OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.**

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

CHILD WELFARE IN AMERICA.

Interview with Miss Grace Abbott.

IN PARLIAMENT. F.A.U.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

HOW TO GET WOMEN INTO PARLIAMENT.

WOMEN IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. By Rudolf Krnansky.

A WOMAN M.P.'s VIEW OF THE BUDGET.

IN MEMORIAM—MABEL FLORENCE BRIMSON.

## CHILD WELFARE IN AMERICA.

Miss Grace Abbott, Chief of the Children's Bureau in Washington, is the first American woman to be appointed by the United States in an advisory capacity to the League of Nations, where she has been placed upon the Commission on the Traffic in Women and Children. The work of the Children's Bureau at Washington was explained by Miss Abbott to our representative during a flying visit to London.

"The Children's Bureau was the outcome of a Conference in 1912, presided over by President Taft," said Miss Abbott, "though, two years previously, enthusiasts in Child Welfare had voiced the desire for a national Bureau which should promote research work on this subject, and so make more rapid headway in ameliorating existing conditions. Miss Julia Lathrop acted as Chief of the Bureau from 1912 to 1921. The development of the Bureau, and the general esteem with which it is regarded, are entirely due to her efforts.

"Investigation, problem sifting, and fact gathering form the main objects of the Bureau. For this purpose it is divided into various sections, each one bearing on some one aspect of children's welfare. For instance, one section is devoted to Child Hygiene, another to Maternity and Infancy, a third to Child Labour and Industrial Employment of Children, a fourth to Social Service, which includes research work in the field of neglected or dependent children, a fifth to Recreation, a sixth to Statistics and Editorial work, and so on. The Maternity and Infancy section administers the new Maternity and Infancy Act, which was passed in 1922, and, up to the present, has been accepted by 42 States. This Act was promoted by American women immediately after their enfranchisement in 1920.

"With regard to the problem of Child Labour, we have already collected statistics of children's employment in agricultural areas, in the cotton and sugar beet districts, in tobacco picking, ordinary farming, hop picking, market gardening, cranberry picking, fruit farming on the Pacific coast, etc. Only two States,

so far, have made any attempt to regulate children's employment in agricultural areas.

"In the Social Service section we have arrived at certain conclusions. The principle of Juvenile Courts is now generally accepted all over America. In the metropolitan areas these Courts reach a high standard of efficiency, but in the smaller cities and rural communities the children do not always receive the skilled care and attention they need. We are now endeavouring to promote better Courts in these districts. In the matter of dependent children—that is, children who have lost one or both parents, or whose parents are unsuitable—we prefer placing them in families rather than in Institutions.

"The enfranchisement of American women is going to influence Child Welfare enormously. All the State Legislatures now realise that they can only secure the women's votes by promising due consideration of the interests of the children, of whom there are 30-35 million in the United States. American women watch British methods of Child Welfare with much interest, and there is no doubt that, just as the Woman's Movement is rapidly developing on international lines in all the different countries, in the same way must the Child Welfare Movement become international in its scope, and its promotion become the object of friendly rivalry in all countries. As long as there are neglected and uncared-for children in any nation, real progress in world humanitarianism cannot be made."

Miss Grace Abbott was nominated by President Harding as Miss Lathrop's successor to the Children's Bureau. Before her appointment she worked at Hull House, Chicago, with Miss Jane Addams. From 1908-17 she acted as Director of the Chicago League for the Protection of Immigrants, and later was Secretary of the Child Welfare Standards Conference of Children's Year, held under the auspices of the Children's Bureau in 1919. Miss Abbott also served as adviser on the War Labour Policies Board, and on the Executive of a State Immigration Commission in Illinois. She was in charge of the Round Table Conference on Child Welfare at the Pan-American Conference at Baltimore, U.S.A., last year.



## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Hong Kong.

LORD HENRY BENTINCK (Nottingham) asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies what steps were being taken by the Secretary for Chinese Affairs to satisfy himself that no girl under the age of 19 years was allowed to enter the brothels of Hong Kong; what was the nature of the evidence of age produced to that official; and what evidence did the girl herself take to the brothel-keeper to show that the Secretary of Chinese Affairs had given the girl permission to enter a brothel? MR. ORMSBY-GORE replied that, according to the Governor's report, where doubt existed as to a girl's age, the Committee of the Po Leung Kuk was consulted, and, if doubt still remained, permission was refused. The statement of the girl herself was not accepted as evidence of age. Brothels were visited to check the ages of the inmates, and cases of unregistered girls, or girls apparently under 19 years of age were reported. With reference to the last part of the question, he had no information, but promised to ask the Governor for a report.

### Seven Days' Imprisonment!

MR. BRIANT (N. Lambeth) asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to the sentence of seven days' imprisonment imposed at the Hants Assizes in February on a man of 44 found guilty of an offence against a girl of 14, who, as a result, was shortly to become a mother; and if he had made any enquiry into that case. MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that his attention had been called to the case, but he had no authority to take action in regard to it. LORD HENRY BENTINCK asked if the attention of the right hon. Gentleman had been drawn to the frequency of the very inadequate sentences in similar offences, and would he circularise the magistrates in regard to the necessity of dealing with those cases adequately? MR. BRIANT enquired if the right hon. Gentleman had compared such sentences with those passed for the theft of sometimes a few shillings? MR. BRIDGEMAN said he was not prepared to circularise the magistrates about cases of which they must of necessity know more than themselves. LORD HENRY BENTINCK asked if the Home Secretary in this and similar cases might not very well take upon himself to circularise the magistrates, as his predecessor had done? MR. BRIDGEMAN said that if there was any reason to suppose that the general practice was unsatisfactory then it would, or might, be a different matter. But on a particular case, or one or two cases it was not, he thought, desirable to circularise the magistrates. MR. HOPE SIMPSON (Taunton) asked if that sentence had been imposed by a magistrate or by a judge? THE SPEAKER explained that the mention of Assizes implied that it was the sentence of a judge.

*Our own opinion is that an immediate enquiry ought to be made into this case. On the face of it, seven days' imprisonment is a scandalously inadequate sentence to pass on a man 44 years of age who was guilty of this offence against a girl of 14.*

### British Army (Venereal Disease).

SIR S. RUSSELL-WELLS (London University) asked the Under-Secretary of State for War the rates of venereal disease admissions per 1,000 per annum in 1921 and 1922 of the British Army of the Rhine, the British Army in Constantinople, and the British Army in the United Kingdom, respectively; whether there was any difference, and, if so, what, in the methods of medical prophylaxis adopted in the different armies. LT.-COL. GUINNESS said that the ratios per 1,000 were:

	1921.	1922.
British Army of the Rhine	212.34	213.53
"    in Constantinople	228.48	83.41
United Kingdom	40.26	33.66

The same methods of medical prophylaxis were followed in each of those Commands.

### Probation Officers.

MR. C. WILSON (Attercliffe) asked the Home Secretary the number of Courts of Summary Jurisdiction in England and Wales, and if he could state in how many of them probation officers had been appointed; whether such officers were male or female, full time or part time; and whether their remuneration was provided out of Court funds, public funds, or voluntary contribution, and what was the proportion of each? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that there were 1,042 petty sessional divisions in England and Wales. Of these, 840 had appointed probation officers, but in many cases the same officer acted for several Courts. The total number of probation officers was 851, of whom 538 were men and 313 women. Many of those officers did not devote their whole time to probation work in the strict sense, but undertook duties of a similar character connected with the Courts or other social work. Probation officers were paid out of local rates, but many of them belonged to societies, and their remuneration was supplemented out of voluntary contributions. Information on the subject would be found in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training, Appointment, and Payment of Probation Officers which was published last year.

### Borstal Institutions (Technical Instruction).

MR. R. YOUNG (Newton) asked the Home Secretary if he could say what was the total number of technical instructors in male Borstal Institutions, and what was the number of those who had served the full period of apprenticeship in the trade for which they were acting as instructors; whether he could give the number of improverships arranged for boys leaving those institutions in 1922-23 in the trade in which they had received instruction during their period of detention; and whether special technical advisory committees had been established for each trade in order that the Borstal Association might have the best advice in placing the lads on their discharge? MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that the technical instructors in male Borstal Institutions at present numbered 22. He could not answer the second part of the question without obtaining the particulars from each institution. To answer the third part would require examination of the records of the Borstal Association, who supervised the lads on discharge and were responsible for providing employment. The answer to the last part was in the negative, but certain proposals for improving the organisation of trade teaching, and bringing it into closer touch with the requirements of possible employers, were now under his consideration. MR. HOPE SIMPSON asked if the right hon. Gentleman could give the number of Borstal Institutions. MR. BRIDGEMAN replied that he was not quite sure!

*We should like to see a similar question asked regarding technical instruction given to girls in Borstal Institutions, but replied to more completely.*

### Kew Scandal Continued!

MR. GRIFFITHS (Pontypool) asked the Minister of Labour under what recommendations of the Lytton Committee citizens of Richmond, who had become notorious for their attacks on the right to employment of his women employes, were invited to attend the recent confidential investigations into the private circumstances of the women concerned. SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW said that representations were made to him by the Richmond Local Employment Committee about the retention of women clerks at Kew, and it was suggested that some of them were no longer "hardship" cases. He then decided to have a further investigation made by the Director of Establishments and a senior woman officer, and he gave an opportunity to members of the Local Employment Committee to attend the investigation, though not to participate in it. *Could persecution of these women go farther?*

F. A. U.

## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

### Women in High Positions.

At both the Foreign Office and the Treasury, the two Departments supposed to be the preserve of University men, two women hold high positions. Miss Emily Henderson, who at one time was a Mistress of Foreign Languages in Barbados, is a most efficient clerk in the Foreign Office. Mrs. Lucas Somerville, at the Treasury, has recently provided Mr. Stanley Baldwin with interesting information on the question of the taxation of betting, for her main work is the investigation of foreign Budgets and taxation. Among the languages with which this lady is conversant are French, Italian, German, Russian, Hungarian, and Scandinavian. She has three daughters and a son, and was left a widow in 1920.

### "Obey" and the Prayer Book.

A campaign is about to be started by women enthusiasts, represented by the League of the Church Militant, for striking out of the marriage service in the Book of Common Prayer the promise of the bridegroom, "with all my worldly goods I thee endow," the word "obey" in the promise of the bride, and the ceremony of "giving away" the bride. It is hoped to finish visits to a number of centres by July, in time to communicate with the National Assembly of the Church of England when it meets in that month to consider in detail Prayer Book revision.

### Women Artists.

The collection of works by women artists at the *Daily Express* Woman's Exhibition at Olympia is probably more fully representative than any recent exhibition limited to the sex. Except Mrs. Swynnerton, who, no doubt, is reserving her work for the Academy, all our leading women artists seem to be represented, including Mrs. Laura Knight, Miss Sylvia Gosse, Miss A. K. Browning, Miss Hilda Carline, Miss Hilda Hecke, Miss Mary McCrossan, and Mrs. Anne Fearon Walker.

### Woman Solicitor's Triumph.

Miss Agnes Hughes, B.Sc. (Lond.), who was recently awarded special distinctions in the Final Examination of the Law Society, now stands at the head of the list in the Honours Examination of the same Society, where she is bracketed (first in order of merit) with Richard Antrobus Lynex, of Birmingham. These two have each received the Clement's Inn Prize, valued about £42.

### This Freedom!

Lady Dorothy Mills, the traveller, reports that Touareg women, especially of the upper classes, are veiled and hidden away from Europeans, but in no country in the world are women freer or more respected. They have all rights: they can divorce their husbands, while husbands cannot divorce them, and their virtue is never questioned. Touareg women go in for politics and choose their own husbands.

### American Women in London.

The American Women's Club is about to move from Hertford Street to Grosvenor Street, having recently purchased Sir Edgar Speyer's house, on which he spent nearly a quarter of a million. The membership of the Club is between five and six thousand. Its main object is to provide a social centre for American women in London, and to keep them in touch with the homeland. The Club is affiliated to the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

### Women and the Bar.

Although no women students were called to the Bar at any of the Inns of Court on "call night," last Wednesday, there is no falling off in the number of women Bar students. The Middle Temple has at present about 40 women students, the Inner Temple 15, and Lincoln's Inn the same number. None of these have yet passed the final examination which qualifies them to apply for admission to the Bar. Women barristers are now to be admitted to the Central Criminal Court Bar Mess.

### Woman Mayor's Long Sitting.

Bermondsey's woman Mayor, Mrs. Ada Salter, presided over a sitting of the Council, last week, which lasted from 7 p.m. on Tuesday until 2 a.m. on the following day. She had a ten minutes' interval for a cup of tea at 11.30 p.m., and then returned to the chair, directing the business until the close. Mrs. Salter appeared none the worse for the night sitting. It is her second experience of the kind.

### Women Trade-Unionists' Progress.

A "Women's Department" for women members, and controlled entirely by women, is being set up by the National Union of General Workers. This novel departure from trade union organisation has been introduced largely through the influence of Mr. Will Thorne, M.P. It is regarded as a significant move, indicating wider control by women on terms of equality with men in the same organisation.

### Bournemouth Jury Forewoman.

To Mrs. Rachel Lynn belongs the distinction of being the first woman in Bournemouth to have charge of the jury in a Quarter Sessions case. It was Mrs. Lynn's first experience on a jury, but her voice was clear and firm when she announced the finding of the jury to the Recorder.

### Women and the French Academy.

For the first time since the foundation of the Académie Française by Richelieu in 1634, the official list of candidates for a vacant seat in the Academy includes the name of a woman, "Aurel," the pen-name of Madame Alfred Mortier.

### CAMBRIDGE WOMEN GRADUATES.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Bill was read a second time in the House of Lords on April 19th. The chief object of the Bill is to appoint an Oxford and a Cambridge University Commission, each consisting of nine men, to make statutes and regulations for modernising these bodies, more or less in accordance with the findings of the Royal Commission on these Universities which reported last year. Women are entitled to demand both that women shall be added to the list of Commissioners, and that a clause shall be embodied in the Bill, providing for the immediate admission of women to full membership of Cambridge University on equal terms with men, with no insulting limitation of numbers, and no ridiculous "titular degrees." Lord Haldane and the Earl of Selborne looked to the House of Commons to insert this clause, though Lord Ernle and the Marquis of Salisbury preached the superior gracefulness of spontaneous action by a reconstituted Senate. But women have already been patient over-long, and the quickest path is now the best.

### WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC.

Last week the League of Nations Council at Geneva considered and approved the report of the Commission for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children. The Secretariat has been asked to summarise the annual reports received from Governments, and the laws and regulations regarding this traffic in each country. With the aid of the International Labour Office, an inquiry is to be made as to the best methods to be adopted for the protection of emigrants. The report of the Commission on the employment of foreign women in licensed houses is to be forwarded to Governments, who in their turn are invited to furnish information on the question of regulations on prostitution. States maintaining regulation are to be asked why they maintain it, and States that have abolished it are to be asked why they have done so, and with what results in each case. Further, the Council has decided to appoint a number of experts, who will study these conditions on the spot, and will draw up a questionnaire, which the Secretary-General will forward to the various Governments.



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.  
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27th, 1923.

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

Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1423, London."

Telephone: MUSEUM 1423.

### 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.

### HOW TO GET WOMEN INTO PARLIAMENT.

There is a Resolution on the Conference Agenda which will be discussed by Women's Freedom League delegates at our Sixteenth Annual Conference tomorrow (Saturday), dealing with women candidates for Parliament. A good deal has been written on the reasons why so many women candidates were defeated, but the important question now is, how to make sure of getting more women into Parliament.

On February 6th, 1918, about six million English, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh women over thirty years of age were granted the right to vote at Parliamentary elections. On November 21st, 1919, the Royal Assent was given to a Bill making women eligible as Members of Parliament. Twenty-one days later, the General Election took place, at which 13 English, one Scottish, one Welsh, and two Irish women stood for election. Only one Irishwoman, the Countess Markievicz, was successful, and she refused to take her seat, in accordance with Sinn Fein tactics. All together these 17 women received 58,978 votes between them. Several women subsequently stood at by-elections, and Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham were successfully returned to the House of Commons.

On November 15th, 1922, we had another General Election. This time 33 women contested seats in Great Britain; only two—again Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham—were elected, but the 33 women between them secured 228,257 votes. It must be remembered that only three women contested seats previously held by members of their own political party. Two of these were elected, and the third (Lady Cooper), after polling 14,349 votes, failed only by 325 votes.

There are several lessons to be learned from the candidature of women at the last General Election. Not any of the political parties were anxious to allot any tolerably safe seats to women. Women are not more averse than men from winning their spurs, but at the next Election the women who, though unsuccessful, did yeoman service for their party in the constituencies in which they put up must make it unmistakably clear to their Party that they expect a better chance to be given them when the next opportunity occurs. They cannot for ever contest hopeless seats, even for the sake of their Party's prestige! Further, when women agree to stand for a constituency, they must have some assurance that they will receive the full support of the Party organisation which is responsible for their candidature. In one constituency that we know of, where the woman had really a fair chance of success, the men of her own Party voted against her, rather than see a woman returned! We do not ask for unanimous support, or any impossible arrangement, but the women who spend their time and money fighting for a constituency under the ægis of a political party have every right to expect the same measure of support and encouragement as would be given to a man candidate.

In addition to Party support, we believe that a woman candidate who makes it clear in her Election address, and at her meetings throughout the Election

campaign, that she stands for the equality of the sexes, and, in addition to the items on her Party programme, that she will stand firm for the interests of women generally, will attract to herself a very great number of votes from women, not only those who are unattached to any Party, but even those who have other Party leanings. Women are not hide-bound by Party ties, and the great majority of them feel that they have little to hope from any political Party; whereas, if they could be sure of getting fifty suitable women into the House of Commons, all pledged to work unhesitatingly for women's interests, it really would not much matter, at any rate from the point of view of women workers, to which Party they belonged. Men always manage to take care of their own interests; but, so far, in spite of fair promises, women are not very likely to get from this Government, any more than from the last, equal voting rights with men, equality before the law with men, equal opportunities with men to work in Government Departments, with equal pay, as well as in all the professions and throughout every branch of industry. In spite of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, marriage is still a barrier, so far as women are concerned, to all posts in the Civil Service, and to nearly all posts under local governing bodies; and we are convinced that the speediest means of removing all these inequalities is to get women into Parliament pledged to work for their removal. When fifty women are in Parliament we think the Chancellor of the Exchequer will pay more attention to the housewives' point of view when drafting his Budget. At present he thinks it sufficient to placate working men; but when their wives have an adequate number of representatives of their own sex in Parliament he will certainly feel compelled to make some concessions in the way of reducing taxation on sugar, tea, cocoa, dried fruits, and other purchases made by the housewife.

Frankly, we have very little faith in any political Party's desire or power to secure the equality we are demanding, or to deal fairly with women's interests, until at least fifty women belonging to all Parties are in the House of Commons to enforce it. We therefore strongly urge all women who believe in the equality of the sexes to work with might and main for the return of all suitable women candidates who stand for Parliament, irrespective of the political Party to which they belong. It is well known that the average male elector prefers a really good woman candidate to an indifferent man candidate; and women who know of a really good local woman should use every effort in their power to get that woman adopted by the political Party to which she belongs, especially when there is no local man who is equally popular in that Party, and to run her for the constituency. Finance, of course, comes largely into the matter, and if she herself is not in a position to pay her own expenses, her Party organisation should lose no time in getting a fund together to help her candidature.

Women's organisations can also be of very considerable assistance. The Women's Freedom League has a fund for this purpose, and when all its members and friends realise that contributions to it are the best and surest investment that can be made for the future of women's interests, it will not be long before many tried and trusted women will have a very fair chance of getting into the House of Commons.

### A DEPLORABLE SENTENCE.

Last week a boy of nine years, who lived at Kingston, was ordered to be sent to an industrial school until he is sixteen, because he had a habit of playing truant from school, and walking about the country instead of going to his class-room. His father explained he had thrashed him, but that did not cure him, and his mother had apparently no influence in the matter. But seven years in an industrial school for this childish offence! Perhaps our readers will compare it with other offences and sentences mentioned in THE VOTE!

## WOMEN IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

By RUDOLF KRNANSKY.

There are very few countries in which women take such an active part in public life as in Czecho-Slovakia, the newly formed Central European State. Woman's equality with man is not considered there merely as an empty catchword, for Czecho-Slovakian women compete with men in all kinds of mental and manual occupations, including literature, politics, art, education, trade, co-operative movements, social undertakings, etc.

Although women in Czecho-Slovakia have only enjoyed civic rights and political equality with men since 1918, they have always played an important rôle in the national life. Their heroism has been a prominent feature in the history of the Czecho-Slovak people, for women were always in evidence when important national issues were at stake.

One distinguished national heroine of Czecho-Slovakia was the writer Bozena Némecová, born in 1820. Her writings mainly concerned the lives of the humble people, and from them she collected the necessary material for her stories and poems, which are pervaded by strong humanitarian sentiments. Her masterpiece, entitled "Babicka" (Grandmother), has been translated into nearly every language, including English.

The Great War was a time of sorrow and anxiety to all wives and mothers. But how much greater the grief in the hearts of Czech women, whose brothers, sons, and husbands were not only compelled to go to the battlefield by the Austrian Government, but to fight against Serbians, Russians, and others of the Allies with whom they had always been friendly! These pro-Ally tendencies of the Czecho-Slovak women were not unknown to the Austrian authorities, who severely punished them for their pro-French and pro-English sympathies, irrespective of age and profession.

Women, however, were fully rewarded for these sufferings after the defeat and dismemberment of the former Austro-Hungarian State, which had denied them equality with men as well as all political rights. These rights were accorded to them in the new independent and democratic Republic, after its formation in 1918, and the Czech women at once made practical use of their new privileges. The Czecho-Slovak Par-

liament contains 13 women Deputies, belonging to five different political parties, and three women Senators. The women of both legislative bodies are carrying on very useful work, especially as regards social legislation.

It is obvious that the comparatively large number of women members in these two legislative bodies is an index of the great propagandist and constructive work carried on by other women in the political, trade-unionist, co-operative, and other organisations. The work of Czech women in these different associations is very effective.

Czecho-Slovak women do not always devote themselves solely to politics and public life, however. Many of them prefer home life, especially in the country. The peasant women are specially skilled in decorative designs, and the wonderful hand embroidery with which the Czecho-Slovak women adorn their national costumes has won for them fame throughout Europe. These costumes are worn mainly on the occasion of national fêtes and great holidays.

When speaking of Czecho-Slovak women, one must not forget the women's Red Cross Society, which is an important organisation, with a membership of 400,000, under the able leadership of Miss Alice Masaryk, the daughter of the President of the Republic. This Society is doing very useful work. It devotes its activities to the poor and sick, and particularly to suffering children, for whom, during 1921, 16 clinics and two hospitals were established. It has given aid to 12,000 emigrants, collected money for the starving Russian people, and has placed Russian children from the famine districts in Czech families.

Czecho-Slovak women have every opportunity of acquiring the highest education. In addition to the elementary schools, which must be attended by all children from six to 14 years of age, there are secondary schools and colleges, to which girls of well-to-do families are generally sent. In Czecho-Slovakia women may enter all the professions, and are admitted to all public institutions. Dr. Benes, the well-known Czecho-Slovak Foreign Minister, has also admitted in principle their right of entrance to the Diplomatic Service.

## A WOMAN M.P.'s. VIEW OF THE BUDGET.

Speaking last Monday in the Budget Debate, Mrs. Wintringham said:

"I think it is a very one-sided Budget. It is essentially a man-made Budget, and I could not help having a vision of this House if, perhaps, the benches were filled with the other sex, with only two men Members. If that had been the case, there certainly would have been some remission in the taxes on the food which the housewife has to provide. I think the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not quite realised that nearly half the voters in England are women. They were expecting a very great deal from this Budget, and they certainly would have liked the question of tea and sugar to be considered before the question of beer. . . . I think that women, generally speaking, resent the fact that they have been rather overlooked in this Budget. The middle-class women no doubt appreciate the fact that their telephone is going to be cheaper; that their postal charges will be a little cheaper—that is particularly appreciated by the women Members of Parliament; and also that the Income Tax is reduced. I want, however, to make a plea for the ordinary working housewife, who at the present time is one of the most heavily taxed people in the country. There is nothing in the Budget that is going to promise her relief. The

food taxes are left as they were, and she feels that, instead of the Beer Duty being reduced, she ought to have had some relief for her breakfast table. In Courts of Summary Jurisdiction a wife is often asked by the magistrate, 'What is wrong with your husband?' and she usually says, 'He is a good husband if it were not for the drink.' I do not think the opposite could be said—that a wife would be a good wife if it were not for tea. Tea is a beverage which is very unharful, and in a small home it is used to a considerable extent. The wife brews her own beverage, and it is very often taken three or four times a day. Certainly, half a pound or a pound is consumed per week in small homes where the wage is small, and the tax is very heavy. In homes that I know well, where the weekly wage is only 25s., a tax of 8d. on tea is a very large item. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has not the excuse that there is not a good crop. There is a good crop at present, and it is a good season, and there is no reason in that respect why the duty should not be reduced. For these reasons I make a plea on behalf of the housewife, who is, in a sense, a small Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a reduction of the duty on tea."

But on a Division, by 257 votes to 179, it was decided to retain 8d. per lb. duty on tea.



## BILLS IN PARLIAMENT.

### Children of Unmarried Parents.

Capt. Bowyer's Bill, the object of which is to amend the present bastardy laws and secure better provision with regard to the children of unmarried parents, came before Standing Committee C of the House of Commons last week. The Committee agreed to the withdrawal of the first clause, which provided that, where a collecting officer had not been appointed under the Affiliation Orders Act, 1914, the Clerk to the Justices, or Clerk to a Metropolitan Police Court should be appointed collecting officer, after Capt. Bowyer had explained that this clause would be unnecessary if the 1914 Act was properly carried out. Two new clauses were also agreed to by the Committee, the first of which increased the amount which the mother of an illegitimate child might receive from 10s. to 20s. a week, the sum to be fixed at the discretion of the Justices; but this clause gave the Justices the power to order payment to the mother for a shorter period than sixteen years. The second new clause gave the magistrate power to order that, when a man is sent to prison for non-payment of an affiliation order, the imprisonment shall not extinguish the liability of the father to pay the amount due to the mother—a very important matter from the point of view of the mother and her child. This Bill, as amended, was ordered to be reported for third reading. It is to be taken into consideration on Friday, June 15th.

### Lady Astor's Bill.

The following compromise clause was passed un-amended during the Committee stage last week, and the Bill was ordered to be reported to the House for its Third Reading:

"The holder of a Justices' on-licence shall not knowingly sell, or allow any person to sell, nor shall any servant of his knowingly sell, to be consumed on the premises, any intoxicating liquor to any person under the age of 18 years, and no person under the age of 18 years shall purchase or attempt to purchase in any licensed premises any intoxicating liquor for his own consumption therein.

"The holder of a Justices' off-licence shall not knowingly allow, nor shall any servant of his knowingly allow, any intoxicating liquor to be consumed by any person under the age of 18 years in any bar as defined above on his licensed premises, and no person shall purchase or attempt to purchase any intoxicating liquor for consumption by a person under the age of 18 years in any such bar."

### Liquor Traffic Prohibition Bill.

Last Friday, Mr. Scrymgeour (Dundee) moved the Second Reading of the above Bill, and Dr. Salter seconded the motion. Sir A. Holbrook (Basingstoke) moved its rejection, which was seconded by Viscount Curzon (S. Battersea). On a division, the Bill was rejected by 236 votes to 14.

### Employment of Women and Children Bill.

Mr. Rhys Davies (Westhoughton) has introduced into the House of Commons a Bill to amend the Employment of Women and Children Act, 1920. Its object is to prevent unscrupulous employers taking advantage of weakness which has emerged in connection with the administration of the original Act, particularly so far as relates to the two-shift system.

### Adoption of Children Bill.

This Bill, "to make further provision for the adoption of children by suitable persons," has been presented by Sir Leonard Brassey (Peterborough).

### Marriage (Prohibited Degrees of Relationship) Bill.

This Bill, "to amend the Law relating to the marriage of persons with their nephew or niece by marriage," has been presented by Major Entwistle (Kingston-upon-Hull).

### Guardianship of Infants Bill.

On April 10th the House of Commons received a message from the House of Lords that they had appointed a Committee consisting of six Lords to join

with a Committee of the House of Commons to consider the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and requested the appointment of an equal number of Members of the House of Commons to be joined with the said Lords.

### Health Visitors (Salaries).

Mr. A. Bennett (Mansfield) asked the Minister of Health whether he would consider the appointing or suggesting a statutory salary for health visitors, so as to avoid the under-payment which was too frequent at the present time? Mr. Neville Chamberlain replied that the general question of the salaries of health visitors was receiving his consideration.

### The Government's Housing Bill.

This week Mr. Neville Chamberlain has moved the Second Reading of this Bill. Members of the Women's Freedom League have been lobbying Members, urging upon them the necessity of Parlour-Houses.

### Humane Slaughter Bill.

This Bill, to enforce the humane slaughter of animals, is down for its Second Reading to-day (Friday).

## In Memoriam.

### MABEL FLORENCE BRIMSON.

It is with very great regret, which will be shared by all with whom she came in contact, that we have to record the sudden death of our Organiser, Miss M. F. Brimson, who was taken ill last Wednesday night in her rooms in Glasgow, and died before the morning.

Miss Brimson was the very active Hon. Secretary of our Westcliff Branch, worked for a time in the office of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and became our Organiser in February, 1922. She worked in Manchester, Southport, Liverpool, and Wallasey, made many members, and established the Waterloo and Wallasey Branches; then proceeding to Scotland, visited Edinburgh, and worked for the past three months in Glasgow, where she had the joy of seeing our branch firmly re-established. We were all looking forward to having her among us at the Annual Conference. The League has sustained a severe loss, Miss Brimson's perfect sincerity and determination, with her brave, cheery optimism and unselfish life, making her an ideal organiser and a valued member.

The following tribute has been sent from our Glasgow Branch:—

The members of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League very deeply regret the sudden death of Miss Mabel F. Brimson, Organiser from London, on the 19th inst., at Glasgow.

It may be mentioned that Miss Brimson was sent from Headquarters, a few months ago, in order to re-form the Glasgow Branch. It was a very difficult undertaking, but Miss Brimson proved herself a very capable organiser. She had had a wide commercial and League experience, and her tactful and pleasant manner won her many friends. She worked very hard indeed while in Glasgow, and by her untiring efforts was able not only to re-form the Glasgow Branch, but by her inspiring influence enlisted new members. She also made arrangements whereby the members in Glasgow would be able to get the official organ of the League—THE VOTE—regularly.

Miss Brimson was heart and soul in the League and its work, and it is very gratifying to know that before her death she accomplished successfully the work for which she was sent to Glasgow. The death of Miss Brimson is a very great loss, not only to the Women's Freedom League, but to women all over the country, as she was a great champion of women's rights.

The best memorial we can give to Miss Brimson is to make sure that the Branch for which she worked so hard to re-form does not go back. Let us all be as enthusiastic as she was. (Press Sec.) R. McDUGALL.

## Women's Freedom League.

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

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, April 27th, at 2.30 p.m. National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, April 28th, at 10 a.m. Women's Freedom League Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

Sunday, April 29th, at 3.30 p.m. Tea and Reception at Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, to Delegates, London Members and Friends. Visitors specially invited.

Monday, May 7th, at 3 p.m. "Fair" Subcommittee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Thursday, June 7th, 2 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Garden Fête at "The Hill," Hampstead (kindly lent by Viscount Leverhulme), Women's Freedom League, Green, White and Gold Stall.

Friday, July 6th, Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster. Further particulars later.

#### SCOTLAND.

Friday, May 11th. Glasgow. Branch Meeting, Delegate's Report of Conference.

#### PROVINCES.

Tuesday, May 22nd, at 8 p.m. Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Meeting at St. John Ambulance Hall, 76, Queen's Road. Speaker to be announced later. Subject: "Birth Control."

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, May 2nd, at 8 p.m. Women's League of Union, Oak Room, Kingsway Hall. Speaker: R. J. Tasker, Esq. Subject: "The Work of the L.C.C."

Sunday, May 27th, at 6.30 p.m. Kingston Church of Humanity, 39, Orchard Street, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker: Miss Mary Richardson. Subject: "The Use of Beauty to the Mind and Soul."

## BRANCH NOTES.

### PORTSMOUTH.

The Women's Freedom League held a meeting on Tuesday evening at 2, Kent Road, when Miss Hall, of the Technical College, spoke on "International Politics." The room was full, and the interesting address was followed by many questions which Miss Hall dealt with very thoroughly. Mrs. Whetton opened the meeting, and Miss Hall, in the course of her lecture, traced the rise of International Politics from the days when countries were in the power of their kings, and the people were not considered at all, down to the present complicated diplomacy. England, she said, was the first country which believed in appealing to the people and giving them some power in foreign politics. Miss Hall touched upon the Ruhr Occupation and other interesting subjects, and finally spoke of the League of Nations, remarking that the next war would probably be a war of chemicals, and the League was the only thing to prevent it.

### BEXHILL.

Miss Elsie Morton and Mrs. Meads spoke on "Women's Duties and Responsibilities" at Glyne Hall last Monday evening. Mrs. Meads presided over a very appreciative audience. Miss Morton has been asked to speak again on "Proportional Representation." We hope to have her at a Garden Meeting later in the year. (Organiser) MAUD L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Garden, Hastings.

### GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD STALL AT GARDEN FETE.

The Women's Freedom League is taking a Stall at the Garden Fête, for which Viscount Leverhulme is kindly lending The Hill, Hampstead, on Thursday, June 7th, from 2 to 9.30 p.m. Mrs. Holmes has undertaken to be in charge of the Stall, and Mrs. Catmur, Miss Lyndon, and Mrs. Pierotti have already promised to assist her. Many articles in the colours are needed for the Stall, but all gifts will be most acceptable. Will every reader of THE VOTE send one article in Green, White, or Gold, to help to provide for the Stall? We require children's garments, cushion covers, ladies' jumpers, pin-cushions, etc. Gifts should be sent to the Hon. Fair Secretary, the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, not later than June 4th.

The Fête will be opened by the Marchioness of Carisbrooke at 2 p.m. Please remember to keep Thursday, June 7th, free, to bring your friends to visit Viscount Leverhulme's beautiful garden, and the Women's Freedom League Stall. There will be various attractions, including Bands, Concerts, Plays, Dancing, etc. The tickets will shortly be on sale at these offices, price 2s. 6d. (including tax); after 6 p.m., 1s. 3d. (including tax). Children will be admitted at half-price.

(Hon. Fair Sec.) ELIZABETH BERRY.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS BRANCH.

Newtown Urban Council has elected Mrs. Williams, wife of the Deputy Chief Constable of Montgomeryshire, as the Vice-Chairman of the Council. Mrs. Williams has already proved an excellent member of the Council.

## DR. MILDRED STALEY'S APPOINTMENT IN FIJI.

Readers of THE VOTE will recollect that Dr. Mildred Staley's appointment, which was made at the suggestion of Australian women who had investigated unsatisfactory conditions in the life of Indian women in Fiji, and had produced excellent results, was terminated on grounds of economy, in spite of the fact that Indian women themselves had petitioned the Governor to retain the services of a woman. The Estimates of the Colony for the year 1922 permitted of four Medical Officers, including the Chief Medical Officer, being stationed in Suva. If one of these had to be dismissed, we think it should have been one of the men, and certainly not the only woman.

In addition to writing to our own Colonial Office on this matter, the Women's Freedom League wrote to the Governor of Fiji, urging him to consider if it was not possible to economise in other ways than by discontinuing the appointment of a woman doctor in whom the native women had such confidence. The following reply has been received to our letter:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Suva, Fiji.

February 27th, 1923.

MADAM,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th January last on the subject of the termination of the appointment of Dr. Mildred Staley as Junior Medical Officer at the Colonial Hospital, Suva.

2. In reply, I am directed to inform you that the Governor regrets that the depressed condition of the Colony's finances at the present time demands reduction in establishment, by which all Departments, including the Medical, must, unfortunately, suffer.

3. In effecting this reduction, the Government is proceeding upon the usual principle, and, before retrenching officers on the permanent establishment with pension rights, is abstaining from the confirmation of temporary appointments and from the renewal of engagements which are about to expire. Dr. Staley's engagement comes within the last-named category.

4. The Governor appreciates the work performed by Dr. Staley, and regrets that it is not possible to extend her engagement. He recognises the benefits which have resulted from her work amongst Indian women in Suva.

5. It is, however, in the country districts of the Colony, where the majority of the Indian population resides, rather than at Suva, that the need of such services is most felt, and in a communication addressed to the Australasian Women's Co-operating Societies on the 25th November last, it was suggested that, if that or any other philanthropic Society desired to consider the advisability of establishing a lady doctor in Fiji in private practice, for work more particularly amongst Indian women, the Government of Fiji would be prepared to consider the payment from public funds of a contribution towards her income, should it prove that her practice was insufficiently remunerative to provide her with suitable maintenance.

6. The financial position of the Colony is mainly dependent on the Sugar Industry, and the fall in the world price of sugar, together with local labour difficulty, is largely responsible for the present depressed condition. Whether revenue is available in the future to maintain or to inaugurate necessary services, including medical services for Indians, will depend upon the continuance of the industry on satisfactory lines; and, at the present time, its prospects are adversely affected owing to the prohibition placed by the Government of India on emigration to the Colony.

(Sgd.) T. E. FELL, Colonial Secretary.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

### Equal Pay and National Union of Teachers' Conference.

MADAM,—I think I am correct in stating that an Equal Pay Resolution has been voted upon at a Conference of the National Union of Teachers. It was moved by Miss A. E. Hall, Vice-President of the Equal Pay League (now the National Union of Women Teachers) at Portsmouth in 1904. Although unsuccessful, the minority vote in favour was, I believe, fairly considerable, added to which it had the backing of a then member of the Executive of the National Union of Teachers, now a prominent official of that body. Perhaps, Madam, Equal Pay had not passed into the realms of practical politics in 1904, and so support (?) was easy to give!—Yours faithfully, ELEANOR MARDON.

### The Housing Problem.

MADAM,—Surely something can be done by women on the housing question. I have made repeated applications to the Board of Trade and Ministry of Health, and no hope is held out, even of an empty house and a position as caretaker. The question has been under notice since March 20th, 1921, until March 17th, 1923. One is glad of a roof such as Princes Mews offers, where, when it rains, you sit and dodge the raindrops, whilst basins, pails, and pots of all sizes decorate the room. It is simply dreadful to go from place to place to see the crowded houses of the poorer classes.—Yours faithfully, ALICE M. SINCLAIR.

### "Vote" Correction.

MADAM,—I note with regret that you state in your current issue that until now no women had obtained a First Class in the Bar Examinations in the subject of Real Property and Conveyancing. This is by no means the case. Several women have already achieved this success; four certainly, and probably more, as you will find by searching the files of your own paper. Will you kindly insert this correction in your next issue?—Yours faithfully, EMILY PHIPPS.



FRIDAY,  
APRIL 27  
1923.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Please send me THE VOTE every week, post free, for 6 months, for which I enclose 3/3.

Name .....

Address .....

THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**B**USY Women requiring Rest will find comfortable Board Residence at MISS TURNER'S, "Sea View," Victoria Rd., Brighton. Early Dinner. Tel. Brighton 1702

**M**ISS NICHOLAS, Ex-transport Driver. R.A.F. Landalette Car for hire. Tel. Hampstead 8341. Private address: 3, Christchurch Road, Hampstead.

**W**ANTED.—An Experienced Cook-General. Help Given. Good Salary, 42, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, London, S.W.

**C**OUNTRY COTTAGE, Furnished, Cornwall, near sea and station (Perranporth); 5 rooms, one acre garden and meadow, 30/- weekly.—Appy 33, Ardleigh Road, N. 1.

**H**UT CAMP in Sussex Woods for artists, writers, teachers. Choir of nightingales every May. Descriptive leaflet free.—NICHOLLS, Ballinger Grange, Great Missenden. Bucks.

**M**AUDE ROYDEN, lately returned from U.S.A., lectures on England and America, Kingsway Hall, Thursday, May 17th, at 8 p.m. Supported by Rev. H.R.L. Sheppard. Chair: The Viscountess Astor, M.P. All numbered and reserved seats, 10/6, 5/-, 2/6, 1/- Apply (kindly enclosing stamped addressed envelope) Miss Braithwaite, Guildhouse, 12 Berwick St., Victoria, S.W.1.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE MINERVA CLUB,**  
**BRUNSWICK SQUARE, W.C.**  
(Corner of Coram Street and Hunter Street.)

Open Daily to non-residents for Lunches, 12.30 to 2.30 p.m. Dinners, 6.30 to 8.30.

Sunday Lunches only, from 12.45 to 2.30 p.m.

Afternoon Teas Daily from 3.30.

Home Made Cakes, Rolls and Jams a Speciality.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**64**-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM. 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.  
**H**OME School on Progressive Thought Lines; Large Garden; Cricket Field; Sea Bathing; Small Classes; Special care given to backward and delicate girls; Coaching for advanced pupils. Principal: MISS RICHARDSON, B.A.

**T**YPEWRITING. Duplicating. Translations. Temporary shorthand typists by the hour. Best work. Lowest charges. Quotation on application. E. & A. Cox, 50-51, Fulwood House, High Holborn, W.C.1.

**F**ELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, April 29th. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Dearmer. 6.30. Miss Maude Royden. "Psychology and Religion."

**T**O LET.—Caravan Furnished, sleep two; also large Tent, if required. Short or long periods. South Coast.—Apply NEWMAN, 26, St Ann's Terrace, N.W. 8.

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

**C**ONVINCED Feminist (Practising Midwife) books lecturing engagements.—GATTY, 30 Retreat Place, Hackney.

### Prepaid Classified Advertisements.

Number of Words	Once.		Three Times.		Six Times.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
20	1	6	4	0	7	6
30	2	3	6	3	12	0
40	3	0	8	6	16	0

### Displayed Advertisements,

8/- per Inch.

### LET US QUOTE FOR YOUR NEXT PRINTING ORDER!

Visiting Cards, Addressed Stationery, Billheads, Circulars and Printing of all descriptions undertaken.

We know we can please you, and you will be helping the "VOTE."

**THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,**  
**144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.**

**Suffrage Health Food Stores,**  
231-233, THE ARCADE, LINTHORPE ROAD,  
MIDDLESBROUGH.

### ALL VEGETARIAN SPECIALITIES STOCKED

Food Reformers experiencing any difficulty in obtaining Health Foods in their districts are invited to send for Price List. Orders over £1 carriage paid.

Manageress: Mrs. E. A. WALLACE.

## Membership Application Form.

To be returned to The Secretary, 144, High Holborn.

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

Name .....

Address .....

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

Minimum Annual Subscription, 1s.