

THE VOTE,
OCTOBER 31, 1919.
ONE PENNY.

POLICE COURT SCANDALS.

ELISE GRANGE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XVIII. No. 523.

(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, OCT. 31, 1919.

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

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TO HOLLOWAY!

A large crowd and an army of photographers assembled in good time last Saturday outside the offices of the Women's Freedom League to witness the start of our protest procession from Holborn to Holloway. Special banners calling for the release of Elsie Kathleen Smith were carried, and the march through North London aroused much interest.

Outside Holloway a great mass of men and women awaited the protest meeting. Dr. Knight from the chair gave brief details of the case, and emphasised the point at issue, that an action which was dependent upon temporary weakness of body and mind had been wrongly named a crime, and had been met, not by the increased care, kindness and attention it demanded, but by prosecution and a sentence of four months' imprisonment.

Mrs. Tanner proposed the resolution: "That this meeting considers the imprisonment of Elsie Kathleen Smith a serious miscarriage of justice, and requests the Prime Minister to advise the Home Office to effect her

immediate release." Great enthusiasm was aroused when Mrs. Tanner, pointing to the prison, asked whether this poor girl's six weeks of misery must be followed by ten weeks more.

Miss Dorothy Evans, seconding the motion, urged that infant life was not protected by the imprisonment of mothers, but by the provision of decent conditions for infancy.

Messages of heartiest support of the resolution were read from Mr. H. G. Chancellor (who was prevented from speaking by a provincial engagement), and from various branches of the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors.

The resolution was unanimously carried. The large number of VOTES on hand was quickly sold out, the audience signing and returning the printed petition forms. A good collection was taken for the protest campaign, and the crowd dispersed to write to its local M.P.'s for their assistance in the House of Commons.

E. KNIGHT.

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

Join the Women's Freedom League.

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

Name

Address

THE VOTE AND HOW TO MAKE IT EFFECTIVE.

IV. The need for immediate action.

It has been said that representative institutions in this country are on their trial. Indeed, by large and important sections of opinion, they are already weighed in the balance and found wanting. This attitude has been much in evidence lately in the attempt to settle industrial disputes by a resort to extra-parliamentary action. Such a policy, although in existing circumstances it can be plausibly defended, is ultimately destructive of the community of national life. If a section of the nation, employed in a vital industry, is able to force its will by the threat of withdrawing its labour, the result is the rule of the majority by the minority—the negation of democratic government. The strongest argument which can be used in support of such a course is that representative government has failed, that it does not reproduce in their true force the different elements of our complex civilisation.

To those who retain their belief in parliamentary government, the House of Commons can still be restored to its authority as the grand assize of the nation, where men and women, mouthpieces of living forces in the body politic, can take counsel together, interchange ideas and views, express our wants and needs, and adjust the demands of the parts in their relation to the whole. Our representative system is yet far from its ideal, but the remedy is in our hands. The large measure of enfranchisement of women now won will doubtless be carried to the logical conclusion of

equality between the sexes.

Already we might say practically two persons out of every five have a voice in the government. But the true will of the people cannot make itself felt through the instruments of the present representative system. The obsolete machinery must be scrapped—and soon, if we are to save political democracy, as we know it, from destruction.

Proportional representation is no new thing. It has been before this country for over fifty years. But we have lagged behind. There is now hardly a country of Europe in which the principle is not applied in the most important elections. It is used for parliamentary purposes in our dominions overseas of South Africa, Tasmania, New South Wales and New Zealand. In Great Britain we have made a commencement by applying the system to University Parliamentary elections, for education authorities in Scotland, and for all local authorities in Ireland.

Everywhere the system has justified its adoption. As to its practicability no doubt remains. As to effect, the principle of proportional representation will strengthen our representative assemblies by giving the assurance that such assemblies undoubtedly are the

reflex of the nation

and a real organ of popular will. At the same time, it will improve the character of the representative bodies by ensuring the election of the best candidates of all parties, and by enabling the elected members to formulate more clearly their political principles and to take their stand firmly upon them. It is a necessary complement of universal franchise, and as a means of securing justice to the elector, independence to elected representatives, freedom and power to the people, it is worthy of the support of all who have at heart the highest good of our nation.

A. J. GRAY.

The Women's Freedom League has decided to take a postal vote of the candidates who are taking part in the Mock Election at the Green, White and Gold Fair, Saturday, November 29th, in addition to the vote given that day in the Central Hall. The list of candidates will appear in THE VOTE, Friday, November 28th, and we hope all our readers who have been so interested in Mr. Gray's articles will send in their votes, which will be corrected by the Proportional Representation Society, and the result given in the following week.

POLICE COURT SCANDALS.

Needful Reconstruction.

During the past five years there has been a noticeable change in every police court of any importance—a change which has aroused much curiosity, much questioning, and much interest. It is the presence of two ladies sitting within the well of the court, listening attentively, and, indeed, earnestly, to those cases which concern women and girl prisoners, victims, or witnesses. As one of these police court "visitors," I have long since come to the conclusion that the administration of the law, as it pertains to the female sex, at once changes a so-called court of justice into a court of injustice.

Look at a girl in the dock! A row of magistrates, a stipendiary magistrate, or a judge, tower immediately above her head; from over their *pince-nez* they cast furtive looks upon her. By her side two stalwart constables take their stand. A row of male Press reporters are seated near by. The "charge" is read over by a male official. She is cross-examined by male counsel—all this from a sex which usually openly avows its

inability to understand women.

Take a few typical police court cases. A fragile little girl of nine, who had been criminally assaulted by a powerfully-built man of over fifty, stepped into the witness-box to give her evidence. All women were immediately excluded from the court, but the varying types of men present were allowed to remain. True it is the criminal in this case was sentenced to six months' imprisonment; but was it likely that a child, encircled by masculinity, could possibly do justice to her case? Was it possible for these men to understand the mind and words of a little girl in such a position?

Then we have the cases of young men and girls found "sleeping out" together. They are not rare cases—the rarity is to find both culprits within the precincts of the court. As a rule the woman alone is brought to judgment, the constable—bubbling over with *esprit-de-corps*—not having arrested the guilty one of his own sex. On one solitary occasion I did see both parties in the dock. The girl was severely spoken to from the Bench—the man was ignored. The girl was sentenced to three months' imprisonment—the man was dismissed.

With regard to the prosecutions connected with disorderly houses, the women again stand alone in the dock. The men, who make the existence of such houses possible, are not even brought before the court as aiders and abettors; nor even as witnesses, as they certainly would be had they shared in any other offence against the law of our country. The administration of the law towards these women is unfair and unjust, for only

half the case is presented

and police evidence is not substantiated by reliable witnesses—the true witnesses being absent.

The pretty woman culprit still creates a favourable impression upon the masculine mind; attractive clothing or a flood of tears are always great sentence reducers. A display of "femininity" will often erase from the mind of those in power the sentence which they intended to inflict. But these same gentlemen appear never to notice an ever-present fact—the fact that a decent woman, rather than tell to an assembly of men the indelicate truths which would win the case for her, leaves the court with a story untold and a case unwon.

Reconstruction of the whole machinery of police court procedure is a crying need, for, as at present constructed, it is a place of injustice to women, and an outrage on decorum. It is a practical demonstrator of the diabolical aphorism, "The woman pays."

ELISE GRANGE.

TRADE UNION FOR NURSES.

At last Saturday's largely attended meeting of trained women nurses at the Mortimer Hall, Great Portland Street, it was unanimously agreed to take immediate steps to form a professional union, registered under the Trade Union Act, for the mutual help and protection of trained nurses.

IN PARLIAMENT.

The House of Commons reassembled last Wednesday, and proceeded to deal with the Aliens' Restriction Bill, as amended by the Standing Committee. The Government opposed and succeeded in securing the defeat of the Committee's amendment, the effect of which would have been to prevent any person or company employing aliens to a greater number than 25 per cent. of the total number employed. It also secured the defeat of a new clause making the conditions of entry for foreigners much more stringent.

Mr. Bottomley proposed that no alien shall be entitled to sit upon a jury in any judicial or other proceedings if challenged by any party to such proceedings: This was read a second time and accepted by the Government. Mr. Billing said he would take it very unkindly if he found himself being tried by aliens, and Sir John Butcher wanted "to lay it down broadly and simply that a Britisher shall be tried by Britishers." We wonder if it ever occurs to these gentlemen that women have a right to take it very unkindly that it has been the custom of this country for so many years to allow women to find themselves being tried solely by men?

The following clause, also proposed by Mr. Bottomley, was read a second time but not accepted by the Government and negatived on the ground that the Government did not want to interfere in people's marriages!

"It shall be unlawful for any alien to enter into a contract of marriage with any British subject without first obtaining a licence authorising such marriage from a Secretary of State."

The Government came to grief on Thursday over its amendment to the effect that in certain cases Frenchmen might be allowed to hold a pilotage certificate, the majority maintaining that no alien should hold a pilotage certificate for any pilotage district in the United Kingdom. On Monday, however, Mr. Bonar Law persuaded the Government's opponents of the preceding Thursday to agree to allow Frenchmen to navigate their ships into the ports of Newhaven and Grimsby.

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill passed through its committee stage in the House of Commons last Monday. If passed into law it will remove certain sex disqualifications; but will not deal with the franchise disqualification. An amendment by Major Hills was accepted by the Government ensuring that by reason of her marriage a woman should not be legally disqualified from exercising any public function or holding a professional appointment, the Home Secretary stating, however, that he would have to move certain provisoes later in the interests of the State, of the women, and of the children! Major Lloyd Graeme moved an amendment to permit women to sit and vote in the House of Lords. The Solicitor-General urged the House to oppose the amendment, but on a division it was carried by 171 to 84. As the Government had learnt a lesson in prudence from its experience in the House of Commons the previous Thursday, it refrained from putting on its Whips in this division, so that it does not count as a technical defeat of the Government. We shall be interested to see what the Lords will do with this amendment when the Bill goes back to the Upper House. There would be twenty peeresses eligible to sit in the House of Lords if this amendment became the law of the land.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement last Monday shows that this country is faced with a 473,000,000 deficit, which will have to be dealt with in the coming Budget. It will also interest our readers to know that in reply to a question by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Chamberlain said that the total cost to the Exchequer of the recent railway strike is believed to be, roughly, about £10,000,000, including delay in demobilisation estimated at £5,000,000, and that the cost of publicity and propaganda was £32,657.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

A NEW OPENING FOR WOMEN.

Several years ago the idea came to me that poor householders who wished to let their houses or flats furnished—and tenants who wished to occupy them—were entirely at the mercy of incompetent ignorant house agents' clerks, who charged £1 a day for inventory takings and checking on the letting of these furnished houses or flats, and that the work (or profession rather) of inventory taking and checking was far better suited to women than to ordinary clerks, who, I doubt not, are excellent at their own job, but can know nothing of this eminently feminine side of life. I think so good and necessary a profession should be entirely in women's hands, as they, naturally, are more observant, more cunning at seeing blemishes, breakages and burns in furniture than are men.

My idea is that a centre or bureau should be formed where intelligent women and girls should be trained in different branches of this profession, who should be taught to distinguish valuable furniture, glass, carpets, china, from ordinary stuff; that they should even pass examinations in it before being qualified as fully trained inventory makers and checkers; that people who wish to let their houses or flats furnished should be able to apply to these centres and feel their interests are protected by the inventory taker on their behalf; also that an incoming tenant should have an intelligent and capable woman checking the inventory on their behalf. Furthermore, these inventory takers and checkers (given that they are constantly in work and give satisfaction) would be able to make at the rate of £1 a day, which sum is demanded by the house agents' clerks, who very often do the inventory taking and checking imperfectly and carelessly. I speak as one who knows, having suffered by their incompetence, for I have had to pay for damage done in a house before I took it which had passed unobserved by the house agents' clerks when they made and checked the inventory.

KATHLEEN FORBES.

SPECIAL INJUSTICES FUND.

The Home Secretary refuses to release Elsie Smith. We cannot let the matter rest here—we are continuing the fight. Public opinion is our strongest weapon, Parliamentary pressure too is now being vigorously employed.

We look to all readers, members and friends, and the general public to help in securing this poor girl's release by giving us their active support and donations towards the expenses of this campaign. We must spend a large amount to carry through this piece of work, and it is our readers who must make this possible.

E. KNIGHT, Hon. Treasurer.

144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

VOTES FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

PUBLIC MEETING

QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, W.

(Sole Lessees - MESSRS. CHAPPELL & CO., LTD.)

Friday, November 14th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:

MRS. ANNIE BESANT. MR. JAMNADAS DWARKADAS,
MISS M. A. TATA.

Chair: MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.

Reserved and Numbered Seats (Sofa Stalls, Grand Circle Front), 2/6.
Unreserved, (Grand Circle, Stalls, Area), 1/-.
Tickets from the Organiser, - Tel. Holb. 5498. Women's International League
14 Bedford Row, W.C.1.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st, 1919.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Editor—on all editorial matters.

To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.

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.

At Home and Abroad ... Post free, 6/6 per annum.

THE OFFICIAL OCTOPUS.

The domestic servant supply problem has been taken up by the Ministry of Labour by securing for the period of one year "co-operation" between private registry offices and the Employment Exchanges. The chief result likely to follow seems to be a vast deal of filling up of forms and making of card indexes. We are extremely sceptical of any increase of happy homes thereby, but it will have the required result of giving a further lease of life to our rather debilitated Labour Exchanges, with their army of clerks and officials, stacks of cards and typewriters, who are, in their own opinion, necessities of our existence. Girls applying to Employment Exchanges are to be given, not situations, for mistresses do not care to apply to the Exchanges for servants, but cards of introduction to "approved" private registries. What is to be done if they have themselves gone to a registry, as most girls do if they want a situation, we are not told. At the registry the girl is put into communication with vacant situations; and particulars of the places to which she is sent and results must be forwarded to the Employment Exchanges. Private registries become "approved" if they pass satisfactorily through an investigation by the local Employment Committee and Juvenile Employment Committee. They then furnish lists to the Committee of the vacant situations on their books and keep the Committee posted as to everything they do.

A registry office is essentially a woman's business: very few are run by men. It requires painstaking care and thought to conduct with success, but it does not necessarily require the trained official mind which delights in elaborate records. Many women running these businesses have but little office training, and will be quite unable to cope with the amount of book-keeping that the Labour Ministry demands, with the result that before long, being not "approved," their businesses will dwindle and their means of livelihood will vanish, whilst the public will be the poorer for the loss of their service. A card index is a beautiful invention, but the increased output of them is not productive work, and will not assist in reducing the deficit on our national balance sheet; nor is it sound public policy for bureaucracy in self-preservation to stifle with official tentacles the private initiative of a class of hard-working, honest women now doing very useful work.

ANOTHER INJUSTICE.

The Drapers' Company considered the other day the scale of remuneration to be awarded to assistants. They agreed that experience, and not age, should be the basis of remuneration and that the minimum rate of wages for adults should commence at 18, with not less than three years experience. The period of learning for both sexes would be three years, with arrangements for continuing education in the employer's time without the reduction of wages. So far so good. It is on the question of pay that we join issue.

The minimum scale suggested in the case of learners ranged from 12s. 6d. for boys and 10s. for girls for the first six months, to 25s. for boys and 20s. for girls for the next six months. On completion of the term of learning, the assistants would be regarded as junior assistants for another three years, the rates of pay for each of the three years being: first year, 35s. for men and 28s. for girls; second year, 40s. for men and 32s. for girls; and, third year, 45s. and 36s. respectively. In the provinces the weekly rate of wages paid to learners will be 5s. lower than in Greater London.

Drapery is probably the occupation in which women have secured most work in the shop-keeping world. For what reason under the sun should girls of 15 and onwards receive less pay than boys of that age? Often girls of 15 are quicker and more handy than boys of the same age, and when the Drapers' Company discriminates against them it simply shows incapacity to aid society in the great reconstruction scheme now due, favours the continuance of that defective regulation and organisation which has brought it to the verge of ruin, and bolsters up woman's great enemy, *status quo ante bellum*. Women must ask and often repeat the question: "By what authority do ye these things?" They must remind drapers and others of the dictum of Mr. Thomas Holmes, the well-known London police court missionary: "*The under-payment of women has a curse that smites all the way round.*" We ask the drapers if the quality of goods deteriorates when feminine hands handle them, or if the price paid diminishes automatically when women's brains work out the bills?

WOMEN CANDIDATES.

Lady Astor has accepted the invitation to stand for the Plymouth vacancy caused by her husband's succession to the peerage. She will be standing as Unionist-Coalition candidate; but a few days ago it appeared that some effort was likely to be made, by the agreement of all local parties to her candidature, to secure her return as an Independent. We cannot but regret that this effort failed. There are nearly seven hundred men in the House of Commons and not one woman, while there is so much work on Committees and generally inside the House which would be far better accomplished with the assistance of a woman, and more especially if that woman found herself in the happy position of being independent of party ties. We hope that Plymouth will seize this opportunity of being the first constituency to send a woman to the House of Commons.

We learn also that a woman candidate is a possibility in the Thanet election, and that Mrs. Hatfield, chairman of the Thanet Guardians, has received many invitations from Liberals, Conservatives, and Labour people. It seems that her supporters are largely moved by a desire to have a local candidate in Mrs. Hatfield, the candidates chosen by the different parties being outsiders in this constituency.

Shrewsbury intends having a woman candidate at the General Election; Miss Mabel Billson, president of the Shrewsbury Women's Liberal Association for the past 15 years, has been adopted by the Shrewsbury Divisional Liberal Association as the prospective Liberal candidate for the Parliamentary Division of the County of Salop. We trust that all parties are now seriously considering the necessity of putting forward a good number of strong women candidates at the next election.

OUR WEDNESDAYS.

An exceedingly interesting and enjoyable meeting was held on October 15th, on the subject of the "Revaluation of Women." The Chairman, Mrs. Mustard, remarked on the changes which she personally had found in men's attitude towards the value of women. In the sphere of local government it was no longer necessary for a woman to approach any party in order to be nominated as a candidate—all parties now approached women.

Miss Lind-af-Hageby said she was there to be discouraging. The adulation of which women had been the object during the war had changed to criticism; the "splendid women" of 1914 had become in popular estimation (if we were to judge from the Press) the "giggling young women" and the "flappers" of 1919. Everywhere a force of reaction was at work which was striving to drag women back to their pre-war position. The Government itself emphasised this attitude; from a recent Government report we learned that "no man must be worse off owing to the employment of women." At present 99 per cent. of all interesting and remunerative work was earmarked as man's—the scrubbing was left for woman. In future there must be no jobs for men, but for human beings. To attain this ideal women must attack the existing system at the root, and the root was the prevailing idea (in which numbers of good men and good women believed) that woman was the sex-machine. This idea was erroneous; the physical differences between the sexes were

entirely artificial.

Any such differences were practically non-existent among the peasantry, who led a life of nature. In Switzerland, among the peasants, there was no difference between the work of men and of women, except that women carried rather heavier weights—one hundred pounds was quite an average burden for a woman to carry. In these circumstances child-bearing became merely an incident, something hardly sufficient to upset the normal routine.

We were living in a time of inflated values, and the only way of reaching the normal was through production. We must all be producers. It was thoroughly stupid for the nation to make use of women in the emergency of war and to discard their services in the still greater emergency of peace. What could women do? A sex-strike was impracticable. Women must organise, start co-operative businesses, and cast out the idea that receiving doles from men was the only way of gaining a livelihood. Self-confidence was the one thing necessary to enable women to attain their rightful position.

Turning to foreign affairs, Miss Lind-af-Hageby referred to the League of Nations as, at present, only a besmirched ideal. She considered the love of war was unconsciously very deeply rooted both in men and women, and this could only be superseded by the

"feminine" side of humanity,

the merciful, just, mother-side.

Labour papers sometimes objected to the existence of women's organisations, but these must continue until there was not one woman's grievance left and until women had the right of entry into all walks of life.

In her closing remarks, Miss Lind-af-Hageby paid a tribute to the Anglo-Saxon race. Their women had more freedom than those of the Latin races, and they, therefore, had a mission to the womanhood of Europe.

In the discussion which followed further stress was laid on the necessity for the continuance of Women's Societies. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence drew an interesting parallel between them and the Labour organisations; both must exist until their own particular grievances were swept away; women must not allow themselves to be influenced by a sentimental pseudo-humanitarianism and so become merged in other societies until their own rightful position was secured.

CHILD EMIGRATION.

The subject of Child Emigration was discussed last Friday at the office of the British Dominions Women Citizens' Union (19, Buckingham Street, Strand), when Mr. Kingsley Fairbridge described his farm school at Pinjarra, Western Australia, which has been so successful in training children land workers that it is now in part financed by the Government of the State. Mr. Fairbridge is the first organiser of child emigration who has succeeded in securing the aid of one of the overseas Governments for the maintenance of children from the Motherland. Not only is this a convincing guarantee of the usefulness of his work, but it is also an eloquent testimony to his care for the general welfare of the children in a country where these are justly regarded as the chief asset of the State. There can be no doubt of the advantage of an outdoor life and breezy Colonial environment to the children's moral and intellectual development, and, in addition, an excellent school and playground are provided.

Mr. Fairbridge is now anxious to extend the scope of his scheme, and is arranging for a department for the training of girls under the supervision of Mrs. Fairbridge, as well as accommodation for many more boys. For the girls he has visions of settling them in a number of cottages, each built to accommodate ten, with a matron presiding over each, and where domestic work can be satisfactorily taught and personal human relations preserved. Mr. Fairbridge's great object is to avoid anything in the shape of an institution, such as our big barrack orphanages, erected with the most philanthropic intentions but failing to secure health, happiness, or even a really useful training for the little inmates. Personal experience and genuine interest in each individual child is an essential feature of his scheme.

M. HODGE.

SEW FOR THE "FAIR!"

Mrs. Holmes hopes that as many members as possible will offer to help make up the many garments already cut out. They are all easily made, and will be sent (with instructions if necessary) to members who apply to her for them. Her address is 97, Upper Clapton Road, N.E.

REMEMBER!

OUR
GREEN, WHITE, & GOLD FAIR

AT
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

Friday & Saturday, November 28th & 29th.

SEND us Goods for Christmas Presents, and
BUY your Christmas Presents from us.

General Stall ...	Mrs. Tanner & Mrs. Mustard
Handkerchief	Miss A. Underwood, Miss Marian Reeves and Miss A. C. White
Stall ...	
Toy Stall ...	The Misses Stutchbury and Miss Avila
White Stall ...	Mrs. Lloyd & Mrs. Holmes
Literature Stall ...	Mrs. Metge & Mrs. Pierotti
South Eastern	Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Kither and Miss White.
Branches Stall	
Variety Stall	Kindly provided by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes
Penny Stall ...	Miss White
Vote Stall	Mrs. Presbury, Mrs. Northcroft and Miss Jacob

(In Memory of Mrs. Snow, kindly provided by Mr. Snow).

Montgomery Boroughs Stalls—

(1) General ...	Miss A. M. Clark
(2) Produce ...	

The Friends of Armenia, the Independent W. S. P. U., the Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement, League of the Church Militant, Women's International League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, and Free Church League will also have Stalls at this Fair.

WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR BOROUGH COUNCILS.

BEXHILL.—Mrs. MEAD (Independent). W.F.L.
Miss RICHARDSON, B.A. (Labour). W.F.L.
Mrs. TUCKWELL (Labour). W.F.L.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Mrs. HULL, for Boscombe
West Ward (Labour), Member of W.F.L.
Mrs. TILLER, for Winton District (Labour).

BRIGHTON.—Mrs. HUTTON, for Pier Ward
(Independent).
Mrs. RYLE, for Pavilion Ward (Independent).
Both these Candidates are supported by the
local branch of the Women's Local Govern-
ment Society.

BROMLEY.—Miss STAFFORD SMITH (Inde-
pendent).

CHELSEA.—LADY PHIPPS, THE HON. ALICE
BRAUDT, Mrs. GILBERT SAMUEL.

DULWICH.—Mrs. MOCKFORD (Labour), Mem-
ber of Women's Freedom League.

EDINBURGH.—Town Council. Mrs. MILLER
(Independent); Miss NEWPORT (Labour);
Miss SOMERVILLE (Independent).
Parish Council. Miss GREENLEES; Miss
BÈME; Mrs. INGLIS CLARK; Mrs.
JOHNSTONE (Labour), Member of W.F.L.;
Mrs. MELVILLE; Mrs. MILLAR; Mrs.
SIDAN (Labour).

(The polling for Edinburgh will not take place till
November 6th).

FALMOUTH.—Miss WHITBURN (Independent).

FULHAM.—Mrs. SMILES.

GODALMING.—Councillor Miss H. ROBINSON.

GUILDFORD.—Mrs. W. H. HARRIS (Inde-
pendent); Mrs. HICKS (Independent);
Miss VAUGHAN (Independent).

HACKNEY.—Mrs. MUSTARD, for Stamford
Hill Ward (Progressive), Member of the
National Executive Committee of Women's
Freedom League.

Commissioner ADELAIDE COX, for Down's
Ward (Progressive).

Mrs. PEARSON, for Clapton Park Ward
(Progressive).

Mrs. MUIRHEAD, for West Ward (Progressive).
Mrs. BENWELL, for Stamford Hill Ward
(Municipal Reformer).

Mrs. ASHDOWN (Municipal Reformer).

HAMPSTEAD.—Mrs. DOW (Municipal Re-
former); Mrs. BEDFORD; Mrs. CLAYTON;
Mrs. FISHER (Independent); Mrs. VERNON
(Labour) for Town Ward.

Miss FAWCETT (Municipal Reformer); Mrs.
BURNS; Mrs. ETHERIDGE; Mrs. WHITE
(Labour) for Belsize Ward.

Mrs. MUNRO (Municipal Reformer); Mrs.
BLUES; Mrs. THOMPSON (Labour) for
Adelaide Ward.

Mrs. MADDOX; Mrs. PARSONS; Mrs. SMITH
(Labour) for West End Ward.

Miss BALKWILL (Municipal Reformer); Mrs.
ROLAND (Labour) for Kilburn Ward.

Mrs. ANDERSON (Labour) for Priory Ward.

HASTINGS.—Miss ANNIE M. LILE, for St.
Mary's Upper Ward (Independent).

Miss RUTH KENYON, for St. Helen's Ward
(Independent).

Both these Candidates have been asked to
stand by the Hastings Womens' Citizens'
Association.

HOLBORN.—Miss NORA H. MARCH (North
St. Giles Ward).

Miss EMILY DIBDIN (North Bloomsbury).

KENSINGTON.—Dr. BENTHAM.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—Mrs. ASTBURY
(Independent); Mrs. DENNY (Independent)
and Mrs. HYSLOP (Independent).

LLANFYLLIN (Montgomery). Mrs. FELIX.
JONES, Mrs. R. A. BRYAN (Independent),
Members of, and run by, the local branch of
the W.F.L.

MANCHESTER.—Miss ZANETTI, for Long-
sight Ward (Labour).

Mrs. E. C. ARUNDALE, for Levenshulme Ward
(Co-operative Party).

Miss ANNIE LEE, for Gorton South (Labour).
Mrs. SMITH, for Beswick (Labour).

Mrs. JONES DAVIES, for New Cross
(Independent).

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Mrs. SCHOFIELD
COATES, for Ayresome Ward (Labour),
Member of the National Executive Com-
mittee of Women's Freedom League.

Mrs. HEWITSON, for Grove Hill Ward
(Co-operative Party).

Mrs. COATES HANSEN for Exchange Ward
(Labour Party).

NOTTINGHAM.—Mrs. SHEPHERD for St.
Alban's Ward (Independent), Member of
W.F.L.

PORTSMOUTH.—Mrs. HOLMES (Co-operative
Society).

RICHMOND.—Lady NOTT BOWER for East
Ward (Independent).

Mrs. EDWARDS for South Ward (Independent).

SCARBOROUGH.—Miss. BROWN (South
Ward); Miss ROTHERFORD (West Ward).

ST. MARYLEBONE.—Miss MOTT, Dr.
ADELINE ROBERTS, Miss HENRIQUES.

Mrs. ELMER (Labour).

Mrs. ALBERG, for South Ward (Labour).

Mrs. CRAWFORD, for South Ward (Labour).

ST. PANCRAS.—Miss BEATRICE KENT, for
South West Ward (Municipal Reformer),
Member of W.F.L.

Miss E. M. VANCE, for Ward No. 3 (Labour).

Miss K. B. KOUGH, for Ward No. 3 (Labour).

Miss FRANKLIN, Miss MILDRED RANSOME,
Miss ADA CROSBY.

STEPNEY.—Miss IDA SAMUEL.

WANDSWORTH.—Dr. HENRIETTA
STEPHENS.

Mrs. H. S. SAMUEL, for Clapham South Ward
(Labour), Member of W.F.L.

Mrs. EDITH C. WILLIAMS, for Clapham South
Ward (Labour).

Mrs. CHARLOTTE SPRULE, for Clapham North
Ward (Labour).

Miss ALICE MARLOW, for Clapham North
Ward (Labour).

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.—Mrs. ANNIE K.
ALDERMAN, for Chalkwell Ward (Inde-
pendent), Member of, and run by, the local
Branch of the W.F.L.

Mrs. GAUNT, for Westborough Ward
(Labour), Member of W.F.L.

Mrs. HODGES, for St. Clements Ward (Co-
operative Candidate).

WESTMINSTER.—LADY BRADFORD, HON.
Mrs. DOUGLAS VICKERS, Mrs. RIDLEY
SMITH, Miss GASCOIGNE, Miss AMY
HUGHES, Mrs. O'SULLIVAN.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Mrs. EMMA SPROSON
for Park Ward (Labour), Member of
W.F.L.

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Hon. Heads: Miss H. NORMANTON, B.A. (Literary);

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

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO
BE FREE

Wednesday, November 5.—Public Meet-
ing, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs.
Wheatley. Subject: "Does the Bible
Advocate Women's Freedom?"

Monday, November 10.—Public Meeting,
Minerva Café, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mr.
W. L. George. Subject: "Woman in the
Modern Novel."

Wednesday, November 12.—Public Meet-
ing, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss
M. I. Ingram (Law Trip. Cantab). Sub-
ject: "Why Women Need Women
Lawyers."

Wednesday, November 19.—Public Meet-
ing, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs.
Keevil Rickford. Subject: "The Problems Immediately Con-
fronting Women."

Wednesday, November 19.—Dance arranged by Golder's Green
Branch. Tickets 3s. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, 59,
Ashbourne Avenue, N.W. 4.

Wednesday, November 26.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3
p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "Come, and She
Cometh; Go, and She Goeth."

Friday, November 28.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central
Hall, Westminster. Opening ceremony, 3 p.m., Mrs. Besant.

Saturday, November 29.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Central
Hall, Westminster. Opening ceremony, 3 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, November 3.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broadway
Market, Southend-on-Sea. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. Charlotte
Shields. Subject: "Pre-Natal Conditions and the Mother."
Meeting held here fortnightly.

Monday, November 3.—Rye. Public Meeting, The Monastery,
6.30. Chairman: The Rev. A. Wing. Speaker: Miss F. A.
Underwood. Subject: "The case of the W.R.A.F. clerk, Elsie
Smith."

Friday, November 7.—Bexhill. Public Meeting, Kahveh
Café, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Women
and Municipal Work."

Friday, November 7.—Hastings. Public Meeting to demand
the release of Elsie Smith, Wellington Square Lecture Hall, 3
p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Monday, November 10.—Jumble Sale, Middlesbrough. All
Saints, Schoolroom, 3 p.m. Parcels to be sent to 231a, The
Arcade, Linthorpe Road.

Monday, November 17.—Westcliff. Labour Hall, 6, Broad-
way Market, Southend-on-Sea. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans.
Subject: "Penal Reform."

SCOTLAND.

Wednesday, November 5.—Edinburgh. Goold Hall. (Joint
Meeting with N.U.E.C.). Subject: "Widows' Pensions."

Thursday, November 6.—Edinburgh. 44, George IV. Bridge,
7.30 p.m.

Other Societies.

Thursday, November 6.—Public Meeting of the Police and
Public Vigilance Society, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.,
to demand safeguards against unjust prosecution.

Tuesday, November 11.—Kingston Church of Humanity,
Bishops' Hall, Thames Street, Kingston-on-Thames. Speaker:
Mrs. Tanner. Subject: "Why Women Must Sit in the House
of Commons."

WOMAN M.P. RESIGNS.

Miss Alice Masaryk, daughter of the President of Czecho-
Slovakia, has resigned her seat as Deputy in the National
Assembly in order to devote the whole of her time to Red Cross
work.

BRANCH NOTES.

EDINBURGH.

A conference of women's organisations met at 44, George IV.
Bridge on Thursday, October 9th, to discuss the bearings of the
Pre-War Practices (Restoration) Act on the position of women
in industry. After considerable interchanges of opinion it was
felt that further information regarding women's employment in
various trades was requisite before a definite policy was decided
upon. Suggestions were made regarding representations to Trade
Unions on the subject; also the desirability of approaching the
Labour M.P.'s with a view to their pressing for the opening of
all trades and callings to women in the immediate future. A
committee was elected to gather information to enable the de-
ferred Conference to take action later.

At a joint meeting on Thursday, October 16th, at 40, Shandwick
Place, the subject of the Equal Moral Standard was dealt with.
Miss Muir was in the chair. Dr. Aimée Gibbs, of the Women's
Freedom League, gave a very fine address, urging the need of
early and accurate sex knowledge for our boys and girls. She
emphasised the fact that medical opinion was becoming more and
more insistent that chastity for men was not only not harmful
but possible, since incontinence was not "natural" as claimed
by those ignorant of the fact that our "nature" was spiritual as
well as physical.

The address was followed by speeches by two Edinburgh police-
women, Mrs. More-Nisbett and Miss Kempthorne, giving their
experiences of work during the war and since, the outcome being
a conviction of the urgent need for a single moral standard for
both sexes and a reform of the present solicitation laws which
condemned in women what was condoned in men.

Hon. Sec.—Miss JACOB, 34, Dalkeith Road.

PORTSMOUTH.

There was an excellent attendance at the annual meeting held
on Wednesday afternoon, October 22nd, at 2, Kent Road. Miss
Irene Laws was unanimously elected to the chair. The Secretary
reported that five public meetings had been held during the
year, eight debating classes, and fortnightly work-parties. To
raise funds four whist drives and one jumble sale had been held.
The Treasurer's report showed a small balance in hand. Mrs.
Whetton and Mrs. Speck were re-elected hon. secretary and
hon. treasurer respectively. The resolutions (1) demanding the
immediate release of Elsie Smith, and (2) the passing into law
of the Sex Disqualification Bill, were passed unanimously.

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

SWANSEA.

Please remember the jumble sale at Trinity Place Schoolroom
on November 8th. Parcels may be sent to Miss Kirkland, Goat
Street, before that date, or to the Schoolroom on the day of
the sale. Kindly mark all parcels with the words "Jumble Sale."

Owing to the kindness of Mrs. Hutton, the branch was able to
hold a very successful drawing-room meeting on the afternoon
of Friday, October 24th, when Miss Munro spoke to an appreci-
ative audience. The evening meeting was not a success, as far
as numbers went, but that was probably due to the inclemency
of Swansea weather. Those who attended the meeting, however,
were rewarded by a fine speech from Miss Munro on "Municipal
Elections," in which she laid special stress on the need for
women councillors. Miss Neal took the chair, and in her intro-
ductory address showed the need for greater interest in local
government. Resolutions re the case of Elsie Smith, the need for
women on the Housing Committee, and the Sex Disqualification
(Removal) Bill were passed, and we had the satisfaction of
enrolling several new members.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. JELLEY, 14, Carlton Terrace.

BEXHILL.

A meeting of members, presided over by Mrs. Williams, was
held at 19, Marine Mansions last Monday. Mrs. Mead clearly
explained what the prospective women candidates intended to
do about the forthcoming election. A discussion took place about
future meetings, and it was eventually decided to hold these in
the room over the Kahveh Café on the first Monday in every
month. Members will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Bryan Gipps
has resigned the secretaryship owing to having very little time
to give to the work. Her place has been filled by Mrs. Winter
Perry, whose keenness in women's work will stand her in good
stead in the work she has kindly undertaken to do. Will all
members remember that a public meeting is to be held at the
Kahveh Café on Friday, November 7th, at 8 p.m.? After then
all meetings will be held on the first Monday in every month in the
room over the Café, at 3 p.m.

ASHFORD.

All members and friends will be sorry to hear that Mrs.
Huckstepp has been ill and will not be able to act as secretary
of the Women's Club any longer. Her place has been filled by
Mrs. Ware, who has been a member of the Committee since
the club was started last February. Miss Clara Andrew, of the
National Children's Adoption Association, Mrs. Cavendish
Bentnick, and Mrs. Despard are all speaking at the club before
Christmas.

Organiser S.E. District—Miss WHITE, Magazine House,
Winchelsea.

FRIDAY,
October 31
1919.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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The Women's Freedom League Settlement,

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

This week our thanks are due especially to Mrs. Allen, who very kindly sent (per Miss Greenville) two very nice parcels of clothing for the guest-house, to Miss K. Holmes who gathered up for us a sackful of windfall apples, and to Mr. L. P. Skinner and Miss C. Harvey also for very welcome presents of apples, to Mrs. Shaw-Sparrow for Michaelmas daisies. Miss Dye is kindly spending her Tuesday evenings at present painting up some of our old furniture, and Miss Greenville and Miss Turton work away at the play-club. Miss Isobel Harvey has crocheted for us a charming cot blanket, most artistically worked out of odds and ends of wool. Miss Haward has given us some pieces of linen, at which kind friends are now working, but we would like more workers and more work sent in for our stall. We thank Miss Lydall for boots and Miss Haward for a cot sheet and other goods. We still need workers—resident and outdoor.
A. M. COLE.

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Safeguards against Unjust Prosecutions

The Police and Public Vigilance Society are holding a public meeting at University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C., on Thursday, November 6th, at 8 p.m., to demand that the powers of the Court of Criminal Appeal shall be extended, that a ready and practical means of appeal to Quarter Sessions shall be established, and that a Commission of Inquiry shall be appointed to review cases of injustice still unredressed, with a view to discover proper safeguards against unjust prosecutions. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and the speakers will include Professor Hugh Candy, J.P., Miss Vera Wainwright, and the Rev. C. Ensor Walters.

THE HANDICRAFTS, 82 HIGH STREET, HAMPSTEAD, N.W. 3.

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Petition for the Release of Elsie Smith.

The following petition form appeared in *Lloyd's News* one Sunday, with the result that we received by Tuesday morning about three thousand signatures sent by post. Hundreds are pouring in by every post. If any of our readers have not yet signed any petition for Elsie Smith's release, and would like to do so, will they please put their signatures to this form and return it by Monday's post to 144, High Holborn, W.C.?

To the Home Secretary,
THE RT. HON. EDWARD SHORTT, K.C., M.P.
I, the undersigned, petition for the immediate release of Elsie Kathleen Smith.

(Name)

(Address)