

THE VOTE,  
MARCH 10, 1922  
ONE PENNY.

PRUDERY OR JEALOUSY?

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1922

**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.

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## WOMEN FOR THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

We congratulate Viscountess Rhondda most warmly on having won her claim to be summoned to the House of Lords. It is just over a year since she petitioned the King, as a peeress in her own right, to issue to her a writ of summons to sit in the House of Lords. Her claim was based upon Section I of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, which provided that a person should not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post; and this claim was considered last week by the Committee for Privileges—Lord Donoughmore (Chairman), Lord Haldane, Lord Desart, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Wrenbury, Lord Phillimore and Lord Askwith,—Mr. G. J. Talbot, K.C., appearing for Viscountess Rhondda, and the Attorney-General (Sir Gordon Hewart, K.C.) for the Crown. Mr. Talbot said the intention of the Legislature by the Act of 1919 was to obliterate all distinctions between a man and a woman as regards the exercise of public functions. Those words were as wide as possible, and included the right to sit in either House of Parliament. The terms of the section showed no exception, and the Court was not entitled to read in to those words any exception or to construe them otherwise than in their plain and ordinary meaning. Mr. Talbot referred to the famous Chorlton v. Lings case in which Mr. Justice Willes, in explaining why a peeress in her own right, who had most of the privileges of her peerage,

could not sit or vote in the House of Lords, attributed the absence of such right to the respect in which women were held in this Country and to a sense of decorum; but Viscountess Rhondda's counsel contended that any such argument had been blown to the winds, and it was not now thought that a seat in either House of

Parliament detracted in any way from the respect due to women. Here was a person who, if not a woman, would be entitled to sit in the House of Lords. By the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act women were allowed to take part in the public affairs of the Country without any exception. The common law barrier of sex having been swept away there was no further obstacle to her right to sit in the House of Lords. The Attorney General, on behalf of the Crown, said that he so entirely agreed with the arguments advanced in support of the claim that there was very little for him to say. When once it was established that the words "public functions" included sitting in Parliament, the conclusion in favour of Lady Rhondda's claim was irresistible. Lord Donoughmore said that the Committee would report in favour of the petition. We



Viscountess Rhondda.

presume that this ruling of the Committee will apply to each of the twenty other English peeresses in their own right, and to the peeresses of Scotland, and that each will receive their summons to the House of Lords in due course, without being called upon to present a separate petition in each case. THE TIMES declares



that the blow which Lady Rhondda has struck for a limited number of her sex cannot fail to have far reaching consequences for good; and refers specially to a message received from Baroness Beaumont, one of the peeresses directly affected by the Committee's decision, who express the belief that the admission of women to the House of Lords will have a marked influence on the passing of measures connected with subjects such as welfare, education, housing and the betterment of social conditions. We rejoice that another barrier to women's equal rights with men in our Legislature has been broken down, and look forward to every peeress in her own right taking her share at no distant date in the debates and decisions of the House of Lords. We hope, too, that in the future distinguished women who have deserved well of their Country will be remembered in the National Honours Lists, and have the same opportunity as men of being raised to the peerage.

The following ladies hold in their own right Peerages of England or of the United Kingdom:—

Duchess of Fife (H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught), Countess of Cromartie, Countess Roberts, Viscountess Rhondda, Viscountess Wolseley, Baroness Beaumont, Baroness Berkeley, Baroness Botreaux (Countess of Loudoun), Baroness Burton, Baroness Clifton, Baroness Darcy de Knayth (Countess of Powis), Baroness De Ros (Countess of Dartrey), Baroness Dorchester, Baroness Fauconberg and Conyers (Countess of Yarborough), Baroness Furnivall, Baroness Lucas, Baroness Strange of Knockyn, De Molines, and Hungerford (Viscountess St. Davids), Baroness Strathcona and Mount Royal, Baroness Wentworth, and Baroness Zouche of Haryngworth.

The following ladies hold Scottish Peerages but they can only sit in the Upper House if elected as representative Peeresses. They will, presumably, have also the right to vote in the election of Scottish representative Peers, and there is at present a vacancy on this body:—

Countess of Loudoun (Baroness Botreaux in England), Countess of Seafield (a minor), Baroness Dingwall (Baroness Lucas in England), Baroness Gray, Baroness Herries (Duchess of Norfolk), and Baroness Kinloss.

### WOMEN AS ELECTION AGENTS.

Last Monday evening, in the Minerva Café, Miss Anna Munro gave a racy account of her recent experiences as an election agent in North Lambeth. Miss Telling presided, and gave a short explanation of the aims and objects of the Women's Freedom League before introducing the speaker.

Miss Anna Munro told the audience she had worked as an election agent in three Elections, two in North Lambeth, and the third, a Parish Council Election in the rural district where she lived, where she herself was a successful candidate. She emphasised the enormous importance of keeping within the law during election times, and described the various pitfalls which await the unwary on every hand. Every election agent, too, had so much money to spend, and was not allowed to exceed this. In Parliamentary Elections 5d. per head was allowed, and 2d. per head in Municipal Elections. In her first election in North Lambeth, three years before, the electorate was 24,000. To-day it had increased to 27,000, which meant increased overcrowding in a locality already noted for its bad housing conditions. A certain amount of extra housing accommodation had been provided during the last few years by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Prince of Wales fund, but it was not nearly sufficient for the needs of an ever growing community.

Miss Munro explained that the object of her campaign in North Lambeth was, not only to get their candidate, Commandant Allen, returned, but to educate the electorate of that district. The Women Teachers had supported her magnificently, giving up all their evenings and weekends. The result was that, although their candidate was not successful, 34 per cent. of the electorate voted this year as against 16 per cent. last year.

## WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD

### More Women Parliamentary Candidates

Lady Lawson, wife of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, is meeting the Independent Liberals of Bedford with a view to becoming the candidate of the party against Mr. Kellaway, the Postmaster-General, in the Bedford Division. Miss Helen Fraser has been adopted for Govan, where she will oppose the present member, Mr. Neil McLean. During the war she lectured widely in the United States on British war work, and on her return took up an important branch of the War Savings organisation. She has recently completed a second tour in the United States.

### Italian Women and Progress.

Since the Law of 1919 removed the civil and legal disabilities of Italian women, much progress has been made. The first women lawyers and barristers are now practising. Women engineers are in evidence, and for the first time the Minister of Education has admitted women as applicants for the post of teachers and professors in boys' schools. Suffragist Societies are going ahead, and several conferences of women have been held, one notable one being of women doctors who discussed the treatment of venereal disease. Another was a conference of women on the reform of laws dealing with the juvenile delinquent.

### Irish Woman House Surgeon.

Miss Ruth Edmiston, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., of Derry, has been appointed house surgeon of the Derry City and County Infirmary. Dr. Edmiston is the first woman house surgeon to be appointed to this hospital, and Dr. John Honeyford, F.R.C.S. (Edinburgh), the eminent surgeon in charge, at a recent meeting of the Committee of Management, paid a high tribute to her skill and ability. Dr. Edmiston is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, and acquired her hospital experience in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, and the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. She has already acted as *locum tenens* in the Londonderry Infirmary.

### Mrs. Wicksell's Appointment.

Mrs. Anna Bugge-Wicksell, who was one of Sweden's official representatives at the meeting of the League of Nations at Geneva, has been appointed as expert in the preparatory inquiry being made by the Department of Justice for the changing of the Swedish laws, which has become necessary with respect to the covenant of the League of Nations.

### Swiss Married Women Teachers.

Basle Grand Council has decided that married women teachers must be dismissed. The only exceptions are widows, or wives living apart from their husbands, or any specially valuable teachers. This means that all the married women teachers in Basle Canton will be thrown out of work at the end of the school year.

### Woman Financial Expert.

Miss Nellie T. Roche is the new Comptroller of Nashville, Tennessee—the first woman in the city's history to hold this important fiscal position. Formerly a teacher, Miss Roche has for some time been successfully engaged in the insurance business. She was an active suffragist, working with the League of Women Voters' Ratification Committee, and is at present an official of the Tennessee League.

### The Feminist League.

#### MISS ABADAM

will Lecture at the

Upper Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, Regent Street, (Oxford Circus Buses and Tube), at 6.30 p.m. (Music at 6) on

Tuesday, Mar. 14. Secrets of Secret Societies—Exclusion of Women.  
 " " 21. Order of Vestal Virgins and Sybils—Reasons of their Power and Knowledge.  
 " " 28. Danger of Intellect without Intuition.  
 Monday, April 3. Duality. "What was the "Original Sin?"  
 " " 10. Purity. "Be ye Perfect." Likeness to the Divine.

ALL WOMEN WELCOME. ADMISSION FREE. Collection for Expenses.

## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Lunatic Asylums (Women Commissioners).

VISCOUNT WOLMER asked the Home Secretary whether he was aware that there were ten gentlemen who were Commissioners on the Board of Control and only two women, one of whom was an honorary member; and whether he would take steps to secure that there were sufficient lady Commissioners on the Board of Control to ensure that all female lunatics could be inspected by women instead of by men? MR. PARKER replied that the facts were as stated in the question, except that there were at present only nine men Commissioners. His right hon. Friend (Sir Alfred Mond) did not think it would be desirable to vary the number of Commissioners in the manner suggested.

### Franchise (Women).

MR. T. THOMSON asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the definite pledges given at the last General Election that the Government would remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women, he would consider the desirability of passing this Session an amending Act whereby women would be entitled to the Vote on the same terms as men? MR. CHAMBERLAIN referred him to the Prime Minister's reply on Feb. 13th, to the effect that it was not wise to re-open this question at present. MR. THOMSON further enquired if it was not possible to reconsider the matter, but received no answer.

### Female Prisoners (Police Cells).

MR. W. THORNE asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the death of Maud Moore in the cells at West Ham Police Court, and the subsequent attempted suicide of Margaret Swain in the West Hampstead Police Court, he would now grant permission to the women justices of the peace of London to inspect the cells attached to the Metropolitan Police Courts, and to enquire into the conditions under which women were detained there? SIR JOHN BAIRD replied that both those women were detained in cells at Police Stations and not Police Courts. In each case the facts were fully investigated by the Coroner and no blame whatever attached to the police, nor was any fault found with the conditions of detention. As regards cells in which female prisoners were detained, the Home Secretary was prepared to consider any application for permission to inspect them by women who were interested in such matters, whether they were Justices or not.

### Milk Supply.

MR. HURD asked the Minister of Health whether he would consider the advisability of at once setting up, in consultation with the Minister of Agriculture, a small Committee to consider the simplest means of ensuring the cleanliness and purity of the milk supply of the urban areas, with a view to the necessary amendment of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, before that Act is brought into operation? LADY ASTOR enquired if it was not true that the Minister of Health had received representations from influential producers and distributors of milk that if those proposals were put into an Act, towns would be able to adopt model clauses which would enable them to improve the milk supply at very little cost to the taxpayer, and great gain to the infant welfare of the Country? SIR ALFRED MOND said he was considering the introduction of legislation to deal with the question, that he had been in consultation with a number of local authorities, and that a Bill was now being prepared which he thought would meet the general view and would lead to amendment and modification of the Act of 1915, which was rather difficult to administer under present circumstances.

### Venereal Disease.

MR. STEWART asked the Minister of Health whether his attention had been drawn to the details of the ravages in certain families wholly caused by venereal disease; whether any steps, other than voluntary clinics, were being taken by the Government to combat these ailments, which disastrously affected so many

innocent victims, and added so much to the burdens of the taxpayers and ratepayers in maintaining throughout their lives so many citizens, who from ill health were incapable of doing any proper work; and whether he would consider the advisability of making such diseases notifiable so that they could be dealt with more effectually in their initial stages? SIR ALFRED MOND replied that the answer to the first part of the question was in the affirmative. The steps taken by the Government to combat these diseases were based upon the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and included not only the provision of clinics at which skilled treatment was provided free of cost, but also an organised campaign of education and publicity as to the dangers of the diseases and the necessity for early treatment. He was not prepared, as at present advised, to suggest legislation for compulsory notifications.

### Women and Government Departments.

CAPT. ELLIOT asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury which departments, employing permanent women above the typist grade, still had separate establishment lists, and which departments had abolished them as a result of Clause 2 of the Resolution of the House on 5th August, 1921? MR. YOUNG replied that at present the practice of keeping separate establishment lists of men and women still obtained generally. He would, however, add that the Government had decided to give immediate consideration to the question of instituting common seniority lists for men and women, and that it was proposed to move for the appointment of a committee, on which the various grades would be duly represented, to examine and report on the detailed application of this general principle.

### Ministry of Labour (Women Accountants).

MR. CAPE asked the Minister of Labour whether women accountants were employed in the Claims and Records Office, and other departments of the Ministry, on work of an inferior nature, at salaries in excess of those paid to other officers for more important work? DR. MACNAMARA replied that women accountants were employed in the Finance Department of the Ministry, which included the Claims and Records Office, on duties analogous and not inferior to those performed by male accountants and other officers on similar scales of salary. There was no foundation for the suggestion made in the question.

### Post Office (Women).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the Postmaster-General's statement on the 20th February, that there was no woman in the Post Office who possessed the necessary qualifications for the controllership of the money order department, he could state what provision it was proposed to make to give the women the necessary training for such posts; and why, in view of the facts that 90 per cent of the staff were women, and that women had been employed in the department for 25 years, no opportunities had hitherto occurred for them to qualify for higher posts? MR. KELLAWAY said, that as indicated in his reply of the 30th February, opportunities would be taken to extend the scope of employment for women in the higher accounting duties of the Post Office. The last part of the question involved considerations which he could not deal with within the limits of the reply to a question. F.A.U.

## OUR LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

"My Experiences as an Asylum Doctor." By Dr. Lomax. The Literature Department of the W.F.L. is prepared to lend this book at the rate of 6d. a week.

"Woman: A Citizen." By A. E. Metcalfe, B.Sc. (2/6.) This very useful little book, which is intended more especially for the guidance of voters, and which deals with Government, both Municipal and Parliamentary, is a perfect mine of information, and can be obtained at this Office.



## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### PRUDERY OR JEALOUSY?

We cannot think that the staff of the London Hospital will thank Lord Knutsford for holding them up to ridicule last week, for it is ridiculous to the last degree to suggest that competent men doctors cannot without embarrassment give instruction in medical subjects to men and women students. Men doctors have to give instruction to women nurses in regard to their patients, many of whom are women. Why then do they find special difficulty in lecturing to women students? We understand Lord Knutsford better when he explains that as a result of taking women students women would be appointed resident house physicians, and resident house surgeons, and from such appointments there would arise difficulties. The special difficulty he has in mind is the fact that a medical man might be placed under the jurisdiction of a medical woman in a hospital! Hospitals are run for the benefit of suffering humanity, regardless of the sex of the sufferer, and men and women students alike should have every possible access to knowledge by which patients can be healed. The Public—men and women—contribute funds to these institutions, and it is curious to note how few women are placed upon any of their committees of management. Women should insist that more women should be placed upon these Committees; then perhaps the medical staffs of the majority of our hospitals would not remain exclusively male, and the appointments in them would not continue to be reserved for men only. We are glad to see that many other hospitals are not prepared to follow the London's example. According to the TIMES, Charing Cross Hospital, which admitted women students in 1916, emphatically declares that it sees no reason to make a change. Dublin and Belfast have never found any difficulty in connection with the admission or teaching of women students. Edinburgh has 400 women medical students, and there the London difficulty in discussing sex matters does not exist. Aberdeen is cautious, and, although it does not find difficulty in teaching sex subjects to mixed classes, sounds a note of warning to women—there may be too many women practitioners for the posts and practices available for them! One professor at Dundee frankly declared that if he had his way there would be no women doctors. It was a profession, he said, in which women seemed to lose their femininity. He admitted that the difficulty could be overcome if there were female teachers, but with rare exceptions he had not found women fit to be professors in a medical school! In neither Birmingham nor Glasgow have difficulties emerged in the giving of instruction to mixed classes. A professor at Cardiff declared that the London Hospital decision was absolutely nonsensical. At Leeds Medical School both students and professors are laughing at the decision of the London Hospital; and the male students there appear to be more

annoyed than the women. Manchester, which has 140 women out of a total of over 600 students, admits that there are occasionally difficulties, one of them being that men patients do not care to have their cases discussed in their presence before a mixed class of students. But are women patients naturally less sensitive than men in this respect? After all, the great desire of men and women patients is to get well as speedily as possible; and so long as men are content to be nursed by women we cannot think that the woman student is an insuperable difficulty.

Mr. Berry, consulting surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, which has 500 students, said that in 30 years' lecturing he had never found any embarrassment in teaching mixed classes. In all the French schools the men and women were treated and taught exactly the same, and it seemed to him a pity that any other system should be possible. Miss Aldrich-Blake, M.S., M.D., Warden of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, said she could not express an opinion on what Lord Knutsford had said. Women must make their own efforts. If the public desired opportunities for medical education to be extended to women as freely as to men they should give the greatest financial support to those Hospitals which admit women. General Hospitals in London admitting both men and women students are: King's College, Charing Cross, University College (twelve only), St. Mary's, and the Westminster Hospital. In addition to these the Royal Free Hospital has always taken women students only, and this is the only General Hospital in London from which women can be quite sure they will never be banished. Its size is now quite inadequate to the number of its students, and all is ready except the necessary funds, for its extensive enlargement. Women can quite well find a way out of the difficulty so far as it concerns them through the more progressive schools and hospitals; but is it in the public interest that a huge institution like the London Hospital should arbitrarily exclude women medical students from the rare opportunities of experience and knowledge which its multitude of patients affords?

### WOMEN & L.C.C. ELECTIONS.

We are delighted to put on record, at the London County Council Elections last week, that the highest number of votes ever polled at a L. C. C. Election, viz.: 12,076, was cast for Mrs. Dunn-Gardner, in the Norwood Division. The women candidates who were successful are as follows: Mrs. E. M. Lowe (Labour), Bermondsey, W.; Miss R. M. Parsons (M.R.), Finsbury; Mrs. Hudson Lyall (M.R.), Fulham, E.; Mrs. A. Elliott, (M.R.) S. Pancras, N.; Mrs. E. J. Hopkins (M.R.) S. Pancras, S.E.; Mrs. Lankester (M.R.) Stepney (Limehouse); Miss Rosamund Smith (M.R.) Islington; Mrs. Dunn-Gardner (M.R.) Norwood; and Miss Susan Lawrence (Labour) Poplar, S. The following were amongst the candidates who were returned unopposed, Lady Trustram Eve (M.R.) Hackney, N., Miss Henrietta Adler (P), Hackney, C.; and Dr. Adeline Roberts (M.R.) Marylebone. The total number of successful women candidates was twelve (9 Municipal Reformers, 1 Progressive, and 2 Labour) as against seven last year.

The Woman's Freedom League warmly congratulates the National Union of Women Teachers, their candidate Commandant Allen, and their Election Agent Miss Anna Munro, upon the plucky fight they put up at North Lambeth, and for their breadth of vision in running an Independent woman candidate in that district. We greatly regret that the party system proved in this case too strong for them, and that North Lambeth is without a woman representative on the London County Council. We also much regret that our member, Mrs. Miall-Smith (Labour), who has such a long record of public work failed to secure election at Islington, and that Miss Margaret McMillan (Labour) was not returned for Deptford, or Miss Lilian Dawson (Labour) for Westminster (Abbey.)

## WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

### DEPUTATION OF WORKLESS DELEGATES.

Unemployed women delegates, drawn from all parts of the country, met in conference at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Tottenham Court Road, last Monday. Amongst the women's organisations represented were the Lancashire Weavers, the Cradley Heath Chainmakers, the Nottingham Lace Workers, the Staffordshire Pottery Workers, Women Clerks and Secretaries, women from the Civil Service, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Actresses, Clothing Workers, and many other skilled and unskilled trades.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, who presided, said the conference was unique in that all the delegates were unemployed women. They were there to demonstrate the sisterhood of the unemployed, and the fact that women with a united voice demanded that the Government should give some attention to their particular problems, and realise that employment for women was an indispensable condition of good government. The women wanted work, not doles. They demanded that the Government should inaugurate an extensive scheme of training classes so that unemployed women might receive further experience in their own trades. This would effect a saving of time to the nation, and would give some return for the money spent on maintenance. There were 310,368 women and 24,196 girls whom the Ministry of Labour recognised as being wholly unemployed. This did not take into account the women unemployed who were in uninsured and unregistered trades, and a great many others who had given up going to the Labour Exchanges in despair. In addition, there were 110,628 women and 11,295 girls working short time. That meant that at the present time practically half a million women and girls were not earning sufficient to keep body and soul together, and the purpose of that conference was to bring pressure to bear upon the Government to give more serious consideration than they had hitherto done to the unhappy lot of the unemployed women workers.

The various delegates, though many were unused to public speaking, stated their cases with considerable skill. One young girl pointed out that out of her 12/- unemployment money she had to pay a rent of 7/6. Another delegate, from the Actresses Association, stated, that out of 6,000 members of her Association, 4,000 were unable to get an engagement. The average salary was £2 10s. weekly, out of which 5/- agency fee had to be deducted, whilst a room, with light and attendance average 18/-—24/- weekly.

The following Resolutions were passed unanimously:

#### Work, Training, Maintenance.

This Conference:

(a) Deplores the failure of the present Government to provide either work or training for unemployed women.

(b) Draws attention to the fact that women will not benefit by the inadequate sum of £5,500,000 allotted by Parliament to general unemployment relief to March, 1922, which can only be allocated to schemes for the employment of labour on land improvement and drainage, forestry, roads and light railways, in all of which schemes only men are employed; and to the fact that the only training schemes at present in existence are those of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, whose funds do not permit of any wide extension of their training centres.

(c) Urges the Government to allocate further sums for the provision of:

(1) Work on which women can suitably be employed.

(2) Training schemes with maintenance, not only on the lines of the existing homecraft and homemakers' classes, but also, where desirable, to improve the technical skill of the industrial worker.

(d) Declares that, failing the provision of suitable work or training, it is the duty of the Government to provide maintenance for all unemployed women on an adequate scale.

#### Domestic Service a Skilled Trade.

This Conference records its conviction that domestic service should be regarded as a skilled trade, for which adequate training is necessary. It demands a higher status for the domestic worker, together with improved wages and conditions; it protests against the attempt to make use of the existing industrial depression to force women into domestic service without regard to their suitability, or to the conditions of the work.

#### Women and Government Services.

This Conference deplores the dispersal of women clerks trained on the administrative side of the health, housing and employment services and in the administration of war pensions, and the consequential difficulties which will arise in maintaining the efficiency of these Departments. It calls upon the Government to cease this wasteful policy of substituting for the competent labour of experienced women the untrained labour of ex-service men.

#### Foreign Policy in Relation to Unemployment.

This Conference declares its conviction that the problem of unemployment is an international one which has been greatly aggravated by the foreign policy of the present Government. It draws attention to the fact that trades in which women are largely employed are particularly affected by the closing of the markets of Russia and Central Europe. It emphatically denies that unemployment can be remedied by further reductions in wages, especially those of the lowest paid workers. And it calls upon the Government to take immediate steps towards bringing about the stabilisation of the foreign exchanges, the extension of credits, and the re-establishment of world trade.

#### Unemployment Insurance.

This Conference condemns as inadequate and defective the present Unemployment Insurance Act, and records its opinion that no scheme of unemployment insurance will be satisfactory which does not:

(a) Affirm the principle that one of the first charges on industry is the maintenance of the worker during unemployment not caused by her own act.

(b) Provide for the inclusion of all wage-earners at present excluded, such as persons employed in domestic service, and agriculture, and as home-workers.

In the afternoon a Deputation proceeded from the Conference to the Ministry of Labour to put the case of the women before the Minister, the speakers being introduced by Miss Julia Varley, of the Women Worker's Group of the Trade Union Congress, and Miss Symons (National Federation of Women Workers). The only definite promise they had from Dr. Macnamara, however, was that the Government would not take back the £11,000 that was left from the donation of £50,000 to the Central Committee on Women's Employment. Dr. Macnamara also promised to reconsider the claim of the office-cleaners for benefit under the Unemployment Insurance Act, but could make no promise in regard to domestic workers.

On the suggestion of Miss Margaret Bondfield, the delegates passed a resolution expressing dissatisfaction with the result of the deputation, and with the Government's apathy regarding unemployed women.



## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

## Equal Franchise.

The struggle for Equal Franchise continues in Great Britain and Ireland. Lord Robert Cecil's Bill was postponed until this week, and was backed by members of all parties, including Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Henderson, Major Hills, Sir Donald Maclean, and Mr. Aneurin Williams. Meanwhile many single women over thirty are losing their votes. The deputy registration officer held revision courts on Thursday at Seaham Harbour, Castle Eden, and Easington. At Castle Eden a number of claims were made for votes for unmarried women living in Wingate Parish. The overseer stated he was not satisfied the qualification of occupying unfurnished rooms was fulfilled, and the deputy registration officer upheld the objection. It was pointed out that unmarried women over thirty were not entitled to the Parliamentary Vote on the same residential qualification as unmarried men over 21. The latter were entitled to the vote purely by reason of residence, but an unmarried woman over 30 required to be an occupier of unfurnished rooms before being qualified.

A deputation consisting of members of the Irish Women's Franchise League, Irish Women's Labour Council, Women Workers' Union, Women's International League, and the Cumann na mBan waited upon Mr. Griffith, the Dail President, and urged him to grant Votes to Women between the ages of 30 and 21. Mr. Griffith made it plain that he believed absolutely in extending the franchise to women at the same age as men, but the difficulty was that it would take eight months to prepare a new register. That would involve postponing the election beyond three months. He could not agree to that, for it would mean the destruction of the Treaty. Some of the women disputed Mr. Griffith's statement that it would take eight months to prepare a new register and said it could be done in three months. Mr. Griffith denied this, and said that he intended to allow no further obstruction designed to torpedo the Treaty and to prevent the will of the people being taken upon it.

## House of Lords and Committee for Privileges.

It seems that the report of the Committee for Privileges has to be considered by the House of Lords. It is rumoured that one of the law lords has discovered a legal point in regard to the claim of peeresses which was neither raised nor argued at the sittings of the Committee, so that there is a possibility that the matter may have to be re-considered. Well, we must "wait and see"!

## No Pensions for Women Police.

In a written reply to Sir J. D. Rees, the Home Secretary, Mr. Shortt, states that the women patrols on disbandment will have no claim to pensions, but the deductions made from their pay as part of the pension schemes will be returned to them. Any rights to pension on retirement conferred by the Act of last Session were contingent on the women patrols remaining part of the Metropolitan Police organization, and on the individual members completing the specified periods of service.

## Women and the League of Nations.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon presided at the Annual Meeting of the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations held at Caxton Hall last week. Twenty Societies, including the Women's Freedom League, were represented. Miss M. I. Neal, who served on the Council's Executive last year, was unfortunately not able to stand for election to it this year. Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P., and Miss F. A. Underwood secured election to this Committee. The following resolution, proposed by Mrs. Oliver Strachey and seconded by Miss Cecile Matheson, was carried unanimously:—"That, in view of the present difficulty, amounting almost to impossibility, of securing the inclusion of women as full delegates to the general conference of representatives, or as members of the governing body of the International Labour Office, this Council urges: (a) That the composition of the

General Conference shall be six representatives (instead of four) of each of the States members, two of whom shall be women representing respectively the Government and the workpeople; (b) That the governing body of the Labour Office shall include not fewer than six women; (c) That on all conferences and commissions appointed by the Labour organisations a due proportion of women shall be included, and in no case fewer than one-fourth; and (d) That the duly authorised technical advisers shall be given the right of speech at meetings."

A resolution appealing to the Council of the League to give immediate effect to the recommendation of the Assembly, and appoint women to serve alongside men on the Health Committee of the League, was put forward by Lady Barrett, who urged the view that women tended to look at health matters in a different way from men, and were "not so steeped in admiration for methods" which were likely to impede progress. At the afternoon session the Chairman moved a resolution on behalf of the Executive Committee, calling attention to the fact that whereas women belonging to other countries had been included in official capacities as delegate, alternate delegate, or technical adviser in the delegation to the Assembly sent from several of the States members of the League, no British woman had, as yet, been given a place in the British delegations to the Assembly, either as delegate or alternate delegate, or even as a technical adviser. The Council also urged all organisations of men and women interested in securing the full weight of women's influence in support of international peace and arbitration, to impress upon the British Government the importance of including women in official delegations. The resolution was unanimously passed.

## In Memoriam.

## VIOLET TILLARD.

Last week the Women's Freedom League heard with pride and sorrow and regret, of the heroic death of our old member, Violet Tillard. After being trained, and working for 10 years as a hospital nurse, Miss Tillard, in the early days of the Women's Freedom League, became one of our most valued and enthusiastic organisers.

In October, 1908, during a deputation to the House of Commons, she was arrested, and served a month's imprisonment in the 3rd division in Holloway.

Subsequently she worked in Ipswich, Carmarthen, Cardiff, and other parts of the country, and in Battersea and the London suburbs.

When war broke out she became the General Secretary of the No-Conscription Fellowship, and there came in conflict with D.O.R.A., this time serving an imprisonment of 61 days in Holloway gaol. Over a year ago she proceeded to Germany to help in relieving the distress among the destitute and starving University students, and last November joined the Friends' Unit in Buzuluk, the worst famine district in Russia. In that typhus infested region, say her fellow relief workers, she was one of the most splendid and one of the bravest of women, cheerfully carrying out the repulsive details of the work, in daily contact with pestilence and death. She nursed to health one English worker stricken with typhus, then, in a little four-roomed wooden outpost where two relief workers lived with a few Russian peasant servants the woman worker fell ill with the scourge, and a nurse was sent from the Unit. She found the man worker had also been attacked, so she sent back for another nurse. Miss Tillard volunteered to go, and after the long cold night journey over the snow, she and one or two companions who were to take over the relief organisation, knocked at the door, to find that all three were stricken with the disease, lying helpless and untended in three of the rooms of the little house. Miss Tillard set to work, and undertook the whole nursing of the three patients. They all recovered, but to the anxiety and over-exertion which saved their lives was due the fatal ending of her own illness when soon afterwards she was herself attacked by the disease.

## Women's Freedom League.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

## LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, March 13, at 3 p.m.—Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 16 Denning Road, N.W. 3.

Monday, March 13, at 6.30 p.m.—All Women's Freedom League members are invited to a meeting to discuss the Resolutions for our Conference, at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Friday, March 17, at 6 p.m.—Organisation Committee will meet at 144 High Holborn.

Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, March 20, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D. Subject: "The Interests of Women Electors." Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

Monday, March 27, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker and Subject to be announced later.

Monday, April 3, at 6.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. E. G. Clayton. Subject: "Old London—some quiet backwaters and other relics of the past, in a great Capital."

Friday, April 28, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m.—Annual Conference, Caxton Hall.

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Caxton Hall, Green, White, and Gold Fair.

## PROVINCES.

Friday, March 10, at 2.45—6.15 p.m.—Montgomery Boroughs.—"At Home," Scala Theatre, Newtown. (see Branch Note).

Monday, March 13, at 3.30 p.m.—Hastings.—The Club Room, 40 White Rock. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. Subject: "The New Generation." Chair: Mrs. Strickland.

Monday, March 13, at 7.30.—Bexhill.—The Sisterhood, Victoria Hall. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. Subject: "Mental Hospitals." Chair: Miss Thornton.

Tuesday, March 14, at 2.30 p.m.—Ashford.—The South Ashford Women's Adult School. Speaker: Mrs. How Martyn, M.Sc. Subject: "Mental Hospitals." Chair: Mrs. Banks.

Tuesday, March 14.—Hull.—Monthly Meeting in the Metropole Hall, West Street. Speaker: Miss M. Harrison. Subject: "Equality of Work, Opportunities, etc." Refreshments.

Wednesday, March 15, at 7 p.m.—Rye.—The Monastery.—Members' Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., on "My Experience as a Magistrate." Chair: Councillor J. L. Deacon. (Mayor of Rye).

Thursday, March 16, at 8 p.m.—Bexhill.—Town Hall.—A Debate (Arranged by the W.F.L. and the Bexhill Debating Society). Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson, J.P. Subject: "Should Marriage interfere with a Woman's Professional Career?" Chairman: Councillor F. Bending, (Chairman of the Bexhill Debating Society).

Monday, March 20, at 8 p.m.—Southend-on-Sea and District.—Public Lecture, at Metropolitan Academy of Music, 10, London Road, Southend-on-Sea. Speaker: Mr. H. H. Elvin. Subject: "Rates and Assessments."

Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m.—Portsmouth. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "The Training of Children in Personal Hygiene."

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, March 17, at 6 p.m.—39 Brunswick Place, Brighton. Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin. Subject: "Nasal Hygiene as an essential factor of Health."

Thursday, March 23, at 3 p.m.—24, Lower, Clapton Road. Mrs. Mustard, on "Women and Politics."

Wednesday, April 12, at 7.30 p.m.—Hoxton Hall. Mrs. Mustard on "The Aims of the Women's Freedom League."

## MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

The Annual Shareholders' Meeting of the above Company will be held on Friday, the 17th inst., at the Company's Office, 144, High Holborn, at 5 p.m.

## BRANCH NOTES.

## CROSBY AND WATERLOO (LIVERPOOL).

After working in this district for just over a fortnight it was unanimously decided by the members to re-form the Branch, which had disbanded. A very enthusiastic meeting was held on Monday, February 27th, and the officers were elected. A programme of monthly meetings is being arranged, at which the members will read and discuss the various Bills before the House which mainly affect women and children. The meetings will be on the first Tuesday in each month, alternately afternoons and evenings. The first meeting was on Thursday afternoon last at 3 o'clock, when Mrs. Stewart-Brown, the Prospective Liberal Woman Candidate spoke on the "Need for Women Members of Parliament." It was well attended, and six members were added to the ranks after the meeting, Mrs. Stewart-Brown herself being one of the number. My reception in this district has been extremely kind and cordial and the results, so far, seem gratifying.

Organiser: Miss M. F. BRIMSON, 4 Rossett Road, Crosby, nr. Liverpool.

## MONTGOMERY BOROUGHES.

The Montgomery Boroughs Branch of the Women's Freedom League has arranged an "At Home" in the Scala Theatre, Newtown, on Friday, March 10th, from 2.45—6.15 p.m. Tea and coffee will be provided, and an attractive concert programme, after which Mrs. Haslewood will speak on "Child Slavery in Hong-Kong." Other speakers will be R. Owen Morris, Esq., J.P., F.R.S., M.A., M.D., who will preside, Mrs. Joseph Davies, J.P., and Miss Alix M. Clark. A silver collection will be made at the close of the afternoon.

## WOMEN'S POSITION IN THE CHURCH

A Public Meeting in connection with the Annual General Conference of the League of the Church Militant was held in St. John's Institute, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Friday of last week, the principal speakers being Miss Maude Royden and Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, with Mr. F. Shewell Cooper in the Chair.

Women's position in the Church, said Miss Royden, was the crucial test of their position in the world. There could be no real equality of the sexes without spiritual equality. The exclusion of women from the Churches could only be interpreted to mean that they were definitely set on a lower level as compared with men. This attitude was not only utterly illogical, but hideously unchristian, compared with the attitude of Christ who put an equal value on each individual soul.

Mrs. St. Clair Stobart summarised the popular arguments against the admission of women to full spiritual equality with men. (1) It was contrary to Holy Scripture; in spite of the fact that it was a woman, Huldah the Prophetess, to whom Hilkiah went in order to enquire concerning the true interpretation of the Book of the Law which he had discovered, and a woman, Anna the Prophetess, who testified publicly in the Temple to the Birth of Christ. (2) It was contrary to tradition. But what after all was tradition? The first time an operation was performed under an anaesthetic was contrary to traditions of medical science, yet none the less it was a boon and a distinct mark of progress. Florence Nightingale's mission to the Crimea was another breach of tradition, which none the less heralded a great reform in the nursing world. Christ showed Himself after His Resurrection to women first. This could only be explained by the fact that women were more psychic than men, and so recognised Him more quickly. (3) Women were alleged to be incapable of the Grace of Holy Orders. Yet Church work required no special physical force, but a preponderance of moral and spiritual fervour, in which direction it was generally admitted that women excelled. This ban against women originally arose out of a decision of one of the early Church Councils, which tradition asserted were infallible. Such infallibility, however, hardly coincided with certain decisions of other Church Councils, notably the anathematising of Galileo, whose sentence was signed by seven Cardinals, and an announcement passed by the Council of Trent to the effect that Christ instituted seven Sacraments, whereas the Anglican Church taught two only. The rising power of women in the world since the war pointed to the fact that women could not exercise their appointed mission in the world until the age of materialism had passed away. The Church, by refusing to admit women to her offices, was actually thwarting the scheme of Divine evolution, and postponing, perhaps for ever, the spiritual inheritance of mankind. The present preponderance of women in the world was a Divinely appointed plan for making full use of their spiritual gifts, chief of which was to convert the mummified religion of the Churches into a practical religion of everyday life.

## MR. GILL'S SCHEME.

Miss K. Stone, (Crouch Hill), writes us as follows: "I was glad to see that there were eight more members forwarding their copies of THE VOTE as per the suggestion made by Mr. Gill. I have taken an extra copy since I saw the announcement in THE VOTE, and am sending it to a place where several people are employed."

We thank Miss Stone very warmly for her enterprising action.



FRIDAY,  
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# THE VOTE

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**Q**UEEN'S HALL. Six Point Group Meeting. Tuesday, March 14th, 8 p.m. Speakers include Miss Clemence Dane, Miss Agnes Dawson, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and others. Tickets, 5/-, 2/6, 1/-. Admission free by ticket, from Six Point Group, 92 Victoria Street. Tel. 2855 Victoria.

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### Theosophical Order of Service.

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March 15. "Animals and Evolution."  
Mrs. BAILLIE-WEAVER.  
Chair: Miss F. BONNER.  
" 22. "Cinema Reform."  
Miss ENID LORIMER.  
Chair: Mrs. WILLIAMS.  
" 29. Modern Racial Movements & Values."  
Mrs. JOSEPHINE RANSOM.  
Chair: H. S. L. POLAK.  
April 5. Social: Music, Refreshments.  
(Members and Friends cordially invited).  
" 12. "The Abolition of the Death Sentence."  
CAPTAIN A. J. HOUNSFIELD.  
Chair: H. B. PRATT.  
" 19. "Individual Relationships."  
Miss ENID LORIMER.  
Chair: MAJOR A. E. POWELL.  
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