

THE VOTE,  
DEC. 24, 1920  
ONE PENNY.

END OF SIMPSON'S STORY.

MAY SINCLAIR.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 1920.

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

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# A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

GIVES ITS

### VERY BEST WISHES

TO EVERY MEMBER AND FRIEND FOR A

## HAPPY CHRISTMAS OF PEACE AND JOY.

Every member and every friend has worked very hard during the past twelve months and we have as hard a time before us; now in the brief pause that divides one year from another your League gives its best thanks to every individual helper, for it is only the efforts of each one, and the sacrifices of all who work together, that give us stability and endurance in this wonderful time of change and confusion.



## IN PARLIAMENT.

### Civil Service (Women).

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of his promise that the conditions of appointment and service for women in the Civil Service should be controlled by Parliament, he would say when he proposed to give an opportunity for a discussion? THE PRIME MINISTER replied that he hoped the conditions of service would be laid before the House shortly, and suggested that as soon as they were presented a question should be addressed to the Leader of the House as to the opportunity that could be afforded for their discussion.

### Women and the Ministry of Pensions.

SIR THOMAS BRAMSDON asked the Minister of Pensions whether only one woman was included in the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into pensions administration which had recently been appointed; and whether, in view of the fact that a very large proportion of the recipients of pensions, whether as widows or as the wives and mothers of disabled men, were women, and as, moreover, a large proportion of those who had been engaged in administrative work in connection with pensions had been women, he could see his way to increasing the representation of women on the Committee in question? MR. MACPHERSON admitted that there was only one woman on that Committee, and added that he was not prepared to add any further Members to the Committee.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR asked, as it was a very important question affecting women, would not the Minister of Pensions consider the possibility of giving them an equal chance on that important Committee which dealt so largely with women and children, and not wait until the eve of an Election to put women in their right place? MR. MACPHERSON replied that the Committee was already very large, and it had a most efficient woman member at the present time, while women were indirectly represented by the representative of the Association of War Pensions Committees. SIR THOMAS BRAMSDON further enquired if Mr. Macpherson thought that one direct woman representative was sufficient, to which he replied that in that particular case there was no woman in England who knew more about it. "Suppose she is not there?" suggested LADY ASTOR. "She always is there," answered the optimistic Minister of Pensions.

### Nationality of Married Women.

MR. KENYON asked the Home Secretary the names of the Committee appointed by the Imperial Conference to consider the nationality of married women and whether the Committee had met. MR. SHORTT replied that the question of the nationality of married women was referred by the Imperial Conference to a special conference which met in July, 1918, and was attended by representatives of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, besides representatives of the Home Government. Shortly afterwards most of the Overseas representatives went away, and since then various letters and memoranda had passed between the Home Country and the Overseas Dominions on the subject. It was not possible to say at the present moment when the conference could re-assemble and come to any conclusions.

### Unemployment (Women).

MR. LYLE asked the Minister of Labour how many women were now out of work; the six chief trades in which female unemployment was most noticeable; and whether he had recently received representations or noticed instances in which difficulties had been placed in the employment of women? DR. MACNAMARA replied that the number of women on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges on November 25th was 103,420, as compared with 74,416 on October 15th. The six employments in which the largest numbers were registered were: Domestic Service (including office-keeping and daily charing); Clothing Trades; Engi-

neering and Allied Trades; and Commercial and Clerical occupations. With regard to the latter part of the question, while he had received representations on the subject of the growing unemployment among women, he had not observed any special cases of opposition to the employment of women. On the contrary, his information was that there was still a number of cases in which work which before the war was done by men was now being performed by women, who were therefore to that extent keeping ex-Service men out of employment. (*We may take it for granted that, if women are now doing any work previously done by men, and the Government Heads of Departments have been informed of it, there are no ex-Service men competent to take their places!*)

### Women's Employment and Training.

COLONEL NEWMAN asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware of the repeated and unsuccessful requests that had been addressed to the Minister of Labour to allow some representation of women who could represent the needs of women of the professional classes on the Central Committee on Women's Employment and Training, and whether he had received letters on this subject from various women's organisations? DR. MACNAMARA stated that he had been asked to reply. He was aware that various representations had been made with regard to the membership of that Committee, and was informed that the views which had been put forward were at present engaging the attention of the Committee, who had under consideration the advisability of holding a conference on the subject with representatives of the organisations concerned in the near future.

F. A. U.

## PROTEST MEETING.

### Against Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

A Public Meeting was held at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, last Friday evening, to protest against the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) (House of Lords). The chief speakers were Dr. Elizabeth Knight and Miss Dyce Sharp. Dr. Knight pointed out that this Bill did not attempt to raise the Age of Consent, and both speakers offered uncompromising hostility to Clause 3 of the Bill, which proposed to shut up in institutions for a period of years girls accused of soliciting, in lieu of a short term of imprisonment; and to Clause 7, which practically would re-introduce Regulation 40D, D.O.R.A., and make it general. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood, and further speeches in opposition to this Bill were made by Mr. Maurice Gregory, Miss Kilgour, Miss Berry, Miss Dugdale, Mr. Gill, and others. Letters in support of the League's Protest were received from Miss M. I. Neal (Manchester), Miss Gertrude Eaton, Mrs. Eagle (Croydon), Mr. C. E. Maurice, etc., and the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"This Meeting, convened by the Women's Freedom League, pledges itself to offer uncompromising opposition to the Criminal Law Amendment (No. 2) Bill (House of Lords), and to all similar attempts to make vice "safe" for men by penalising women, and calls for the immediate raising of the Age of Consent to eighteen years, as embodied in the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, No. 1."

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## WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE PLACE OF PEACE AND JOY.

### First Woman Cabinet Minister.

Mrs. Ralph Smith, the only woman member for Vancouver in the British Columbia Legislature, is to receive Cabinet position, probably as Minister for Education. This is the first time in any country that a woman has been given such an appointment. Her late husband, the Honourable Ralph Smith, a former Minister of Labour in British Columbia, began life as a Newcastle coal miner. He emigrated to Canada in 1892, and soon became well known as a lecturer and politician.

### Women Cattle Judges.

Women are scoring again in a most unsuspected quarter. A prominent farmer who still employs land-girls, says that many developed into first-rate judges of cattle during the war. "Quite young girls can now tell me," he said, "the good and bad points of a cow, and can tell a sound pig or a healthy sheep the minute they lay eyes on them. I'd quite as soon send my head land-girl to a fair as go myself to buy stock."

### Training Women Preachers.

A movement is on foot, sponsored by a committee representing the Established Church and the Free Churches, to appoint a secretary and open an independent office where advice may be given to young college women who feel that they have a vocation in the Church. Canon Simpson, Miss Maude Royden, and Principal Garvie are amongst those who have signed the appeal.

### Ireland and Xmas Fare.

Housekeepers are beginning to realise the importance of the neglected economic side of the unrest in Ireland. In normal times Ireland sends to the British market more live stock, poultry, eggs, and potatoes than any other country. In bacon, butter, and oats, Ireland is our second or third largest source of supply. In 1918, the Irish egg trade was 7½ times greater than that of Denmark and Egypt combined. The whole food import from Ireland is now in danger of being seriously lessened, or even cut off altogether.

### World's Best Knitters!

In connection with the modern jumper craze, it may perhaps be interesting to recollect that Austrian women invented the so-called "Continental" method of knitting, which is faster than any other, and involves fewer motions, the familiar click of the needles, for instance, being entirely absent. They claim to be the best knitters in the world, and have already turned out thousands of garments, using up the wool faster than it can be supplied.

### The Pope on Woman's Suffrage.

According to a recent letter from Cardinal Gasparri to the President of the Spanish Catholic Society, the Pope is particularly desirous that Catholic women should enter the political arena "so that the light of Christian principles might be spread throughout the world." He therefore urges all women to endeavour to have a clear understanding of social problems.

### A Progressive German State.

Mecklenburg Strelitz, from being extremely reactionary under Junkerdom, has become one of the most progressive under the new régime. To-day in the Landtag (Parliament) there is a Woman Member who is at the head of the Committee of Public Safety. Under the former Government a man had this post, but President von Reibnitz put a woman in his place, being of the opinion that the Committee of Public Safety would be "safer" in the hands of a woman!

### German Women Students.

There are at present 8,000 women students in the German Universities, as against 2,000 ten years ago. Their chief studies are national economy, jurisprudence, and pharmacology.

The Minerva Café was full last Wednesday when the Lady Amherst of Hackney came to talk to us of "the New Spirit in the Home." The Hon. Mrs. Walter Forbes, from the chair, spoke of the new spirit that now pervaded the home. Women were the goddesses, the divinities of the home, and the women who worked outside the home as well as those who stayed in it produced this new spirit.

Lady Amherst thought perhaps it was not the modern girl and woman but the modern home that was at fault when the home failed to appeal to them. The revolt was against the ideal of the Early Victorian home, the home crowded with all that could be collected and put into it; things often not pretty and not necessary. Let women clean and care for their collections themselves if they liked, but not complain that other women would not clean them. Lovely china was stored in cabinets whilst very ugly things were upon the dining table. Thick carpets, felt, curtains, ginger jars, and tear bottles—how they lumbered up the house! A floor covering, at once warm and sanitary, was badly needed, and new houses should have central heating in place of the ugly modern grate. The home was more than the house. Every home-loving woman must keep an eye on her local Council, because its doings affect her home. True economy was not in keeping rates down, but in spending money wisely. Dustbins, water, sewers, and the care of infectious diseases prevented epidemics and saved the expenses of illness. The home used to be a factory; the women were busy making soap and candles, weaving, bleaching, sewing, making preserves, bread, perfumes and remedies. Early Victorian women had lost the home manufactures and had to make work to keep themselves employed. Labour-saving was needed now, rounded corners and a raised shallow shorter bath, to lessen the toil of bathing the children and washing things out. Home is a place of Peace and Joy; everything that does not add to these should be refused admittance. Men, too, help to make the home. They are doing it all their time. The gas company and the shipping industry all serve the home, and women must go out of the home to help in this way too. Some women are poor housekeepers, but can do other work efficiently. The mother who cooked, and economised because the family ate less was not really saving. When a woman earns money she spends it and so gives employment to men, the girl in the Government office helps the finances of the tea planter. A woman does not "keep a man out of a job," for every member of a community who does honest work benefits the rest of the community. What is wanted is more organisation, more education, more brains! Women who work, whether in the home or outside, do not want to have things; they want to be and to do things, and this brings the atmosphere of joy and peace. The jumper girl is a very good sign. We want more of the jumper spirit, the joy in beauty, colour, simplicity and individuality. Whenever Peace is lost in the home look for the cause and clear it out. Savages in mud-huts sit and smoke the peace-pipe. Let us evolve the simple life that suits us, and always in our homes leave time for Peace.

### A BRIGHT EXAMPLE—PLEASE FOLLOW!

Our old member, Mrs. George McCracken, seeing the necessity for women M.P.s, with Mrs. O'Neill, gathered their friends around them and organised a splendid Whist Drive at Bangor on November 20th. All worked enthusiastically; Mrs. Cardwell, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. George McCracken, Mrs. O'Neill, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Scott acted as hostesses. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Scott, Dr. Knight, and Mrs. George McCracken, and though the last-named was very unfortunately struck down with influenza the day before the gathering, the Drive was very successful, and gave a profit of £11 ros. 6d. for our Women in Parliament Fund. Best thanks to our Irish friends for their very welcome and hearty assistance.



## 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.

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## THE UNEMPLOYED WOMAN.

As Christmas approaches the spectre of unemployment becomes more threatening. Processions of unemployed men march daily along the dreary London streets; ex-Service men add to the general din by playing barrel-organs, on which sometimes a written notice informs passers-by, "It is Work I want, Not this"! Other out-of-works, and among them a few women, take to the gutters and offer wayfarers cheap squeaking, quaint and grotesque odds and ends of toys and ornaments. Heaven and they themselves alone know how they secure enough profit to pay for their night's lodging and sufficient nourishment to keep body and soul together. Yet they are aristocrats compared with the penniless unemployed men and women who, as often as not, have dependents for whom they cannot provide. The men come out in processions—the women, what do they do, and where do they go? Dr. Macnamara says there were over one hundred and three thousand registered unemployed women on November 26th. Statistics compiled by the London County Council Special Committee on Unemployment show that on the registers of the Labour Exchanges in and around London there were 21,358 unemployed women on December 3rd. So far as is known, neither the Government nor the London County Council have considered any schemes for the employment of women, although great efforts are being made to draft men into road-making and the building trade. Meanwhile the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party has passed a resolution to the effect that a person for whom no work is available at the Employment Exchanges shall be entitled to maintenance, the rate of maintenance to be at least 40s. per week for each man and 25s. per week for each woman, with additional allowances for dependents. Why, we ask, should there be this astounding difference in the maintenance allowed for an unemployed man and an unemployed woman? Does the Labour Party's National Executive Committee seriously believe that a working woman pays less for rent, firing, lighting and food than a working man, because she is a woman? The world and the Labour Party have grown so accustomed to seeing women paid less than men, even for work of equal value, that they have come to regard the undervaluation of women as an immutable law of nature. Will the Labour Party also suggest that if any of the dependents have the misfortune to be girls, less should be allowed for their maintenance than for that of the boys? The Labour Party, of all Parties, should stand for the equal treatment of working women with working men; for its organisation and machinery were built up on the pence and the work of women as well as on the pence and the work of men; but until the world and the Labour Party accept the principle Equal Pay for Equal Work for men and women workers we shall expect to see the Labour Party's National Executive Committee calculate that the value of a woman is five-eighths the value of a man.

## JUVENILE COURTS BILL.

The Juvenile Courts Bill, which has already had a successful passage through the House of Lords, passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons last Friday. By its provisions juvenile offenders under sixteen years of age are to be tried in the London area at courts elsewhere than in the buildings used as Metropolitan Police Courts by a stipendiary magistrate and two Justices of the Peace, one of whom must be a woman. In the Committee stage, the opponents of this Bill had carried an amendment by which these Justices of the Peace were to act merely as assessors, but after a stiff fight put up in the House of Commons by the Home Secretary, Lady Astor, and Mr. T. Shaw on the one side and Sir Ernest Wild, Mr. Rawlinson and Mr. Burdett-Coutts on the other, it was decided on a division that these lay magistrates should not sit as assessors but as magistrates on the Bench with the Stipendiary, and that both these Justices of the Peace may be women. Sir Ernest Wild referred to them as "a couple of talking women with no experience, and some of the people who want to attract public attention"! Lady Astor contended that the whole point of the Bill was to get the children into a better atmosphere and to give them what no legal training on earth could give a man—the woman's point of view—when it came to dealing with children, and she begged Members present to think of the Bill in terms of their own children. We hope this Bill will be passed speedily into law. No one in these days can maintain that the young offender should come first of all under the jurisdiction of our ordinary Police Court and all its machinery for dealing with the hardened criminal; and we agree with Mr. Shaw, who declared that a woman was infinitely better able to judge what ought to be done with a juvenile offender than any man, whatever his training and legal qualification.

## PROTECTION OF WOMEN.

A woman's voice has been heard in the Assembly of the League of Nations on a recommendation that a commission should be sent to Armenia and Asia to enquire into the facts regarding women and children deported from those regions. The speaker was Mademoiselle Henri Forchhammer, President of the National Council of Danish Women, who went to Geneva as an expert adviser to the Danish delegation, and was given the status of a delegate to enable her to address the Assembly on the question of traffic in women and children. Madlle. Forchhammer made an impressive appeal to the Assembly to realise their duty in wiping out this stain on civilisation. She believed that the problem could only be solved by international co-operation through the League of Nations. There were Armenian, Greek and Assyrian women who had been in captivity since 1915. Of Armenians alone there were 20,000, and it was captivity worse than slavery. The position of girls in China has also been raised repeatedly in our own Parliament recently. It has been rumoured that there is inter-port trading in girls for immoral purposes between Hong-Kong and the chief ports of the East; and that girls in Hong-Kong can be practically sold by their parents to become "adopted daughters" in other people's houses. These matters are of vital interest to women, and we rely on our friends in Parliament and on those who represent us in the Assembly of the League of Nations to see that legislation is instituted in all countries to suppress this traffic. British women, as citizens, are responsible for the treatment of all women within the British Empire, and they must make their Government understand that under no circumstances will they tolerate this vile traffic in women, nor any official connivance in immorality or commercialised vice, because the degradation of women in any country lowers the whole status of women throughout the world.

## END OF SIMPSON'S STORY.

By MAY SINCLAIR.

How it happened?

I don't mind telling you, Furnival, because you've known us so long. What perhaps you don't know is that Frances and I were engaged thirteen years ago, and that she turned me down for the most fantastic reason. She'd fallen in love in that queer, unintelligible way of hers, with young Miles Dickinson—or, rather, with his immortal soul—after his death, mind you. He was killed, you know, in the Boer War. Before he went and made himself glorious, we'd considered him a purely humorous phenomenon; we'd all been, in fact, a bit cruel. Frances more than any of us, because, you see, the poor chap lent himself to that treatment. Then, when he was dead and it didn't matter, Frances—she's morbidly sensitive, you know—tortured herself, just as she did when Mary Blissett suicided. She thought me very cross, coarse, and unkind, because I didn't sympathise with all that extravagant emotion. I couldn't, somehow; it frightened me. I remember thinking that I couldn't live with it, couldn't live with Frances. She'd a way of making you feel you lacked some sense, some fineness of perception. I daresay she knew what I was thinking. Anyhow, she broke it off, and, at the time, I admit I was considerably relieved. Neither of us thought, then, it could ever come on again.

I suppose it was the relief that made me feel such an utter brute, as if it had been I who had broken it off and left her. People thought I had; I sometimes thought it myself, so that I had to keep on telling them she'd chucked me. I had to keep on telling myself. I don't know what there was in the situation to make me feel that remorse, but I felt it. Oh, as if I'd hurt her, as if I were hurting her all the time. It came from having to stand back and see her struggle, against life, against people, getting one blow after another—first Mary Blissett's death, then Dickinson's, then her brother's frightful luck. Jack Archdale, you remember, married, like a fool, a woman who was always dropping things; she dropped the baby on the stairs so that it turned into an idiot, and Jack went melancholy in consequence. Frances fretted as if it had been her own baby. She always took things that happened to other people as if they'd happened to herself. And she never had any success with her painting, though she's worked hard enough for it, goodness knows, and she has talent, a queer, fantastic talent.

She couldn't see that the cure for all these troubles was to marry, even to marry me.

You wonder why—since I saw it—I waited for thirteen years before I tried again. As it happens, I was always trying. My last experiment was made five years ago. But it wasn't a bit of good. She just slid round at me that soft, annihilating look of hers, and when I asked her, "Why not?" she said, "You're too successful, Roly." She couldn't get over my success; she seemed to think it was inevitable, something that I was bound, sooner or later, to "achieve." She couldn't see it was just a beastly accident. I used to try and calculate the precise degree of failure, of misfortune that would have made me possible for Frances. And really I couldn't think of anything short of my dying. That would have purified and refined me, since it was purity and fineness that she wanted. Anyhow, I left off experimenting.

That was my foolishness. We were all fools: Frances and Jack Archdale and me. And Frances, on the top of her foolishness, is as proud as the devil. She made herself believe she didn't care for me, and in the end she even managed to make me believe I didn't care for her. Anyhow, I never knew how much I did till I saw her beaten.

But I do know that if it had been the other way about—if it had been I who was beaten—Frances would have

had me long ago. If I could have made her sorry for me, sorry enough. My only chance was to be beaten, broken down, done for.

And I found her the other day—it was my birthday, my fortieth (please remember I wasn't a day older than thirty-nine), and I was spending the evening of it with Frances. I found her at the end of her tether. Before that she'd always contrived somehow to stretch it out, to give herself another inch. And in the morning it seems that brute, Rickards, had been in, telling her what he thought of her pictures. Her manner, he said, was played out. There was no earthly use in doing the same old thing over and over again, even if other people hadn't done it to death twenty years ago. She'd got to realise that there'd been several bloody revolutions in Art since she was a Slade student in the nineties. To realise that Futurism was death to all that sort of thing. His gesture, which she reproduced for me, simply wiped the floor with poor little Frances and her fantasies.

I found her realising it. Realising, as she said, that she'd wasted all her soul, all her emotions on purely fantastic things.

"When I was young," she said, "I threw myself away on a dead man, a man I couldn't do any good to, who wouldn't have wanted me if he'd been alive. I threw my friendship away on Daisy Valentine who didn't want it, instead of giving it to May Blissett, who did. She died for want of it, poor lamb—mine, anybody's. . . . And I've wasted my whole life trying to paint pictures of dead things—things that never had any life."

Then she burst out defiantly. "I don't care. What I've done, I've done. If it was to be done again I'd do it. I'd have nothing different—except Mary Blissett."

I said, "Even knowing what you know now?" And she retorted, "I don't know anything now. No more do you, Roly."

You see she wasn't going to let me lengthen her tether if she could help it. I wasn't to think that was what she meant. Obstinate little devil. She spat fire. I didn't want to come within her range, so there was a painful silence.

Well, the great thing is to know your hour when it comes. Mine came, shining. I knew it was absolutely mine if I could improve it sufficiently. I'd seen her looking at me with a different expression on her face; and quite suddenly she said, "Roly, your hair's all grey at the corners."

So I replied that my hairdresser had told me it would be grey all over in another six months, but that wasn't to be wondered at considering my age.

"When you're forty-seven," I said.

"But," she said, "you're not. You can't be. I thought there was hardly any difference between us."

I said I thought that the whole point was the difference, the mysterious difference, the immeasurable distance.

And she wanted to know "Point of what?"

"Why," I said, "of your behaviour."

She didn't pretend to understand me.

"That," she said, "was thirteen years ago."

I said I knew it was thirteen years ago, and that in thirteen years of the devilish life she'd led me my hair might well grow grey.

She looked at me—a sudden sweet, humble look—and said, "My dear, I was a prig. A beastly prig. It's inconceivable the prig I was."

"Frances," I said, "do you mind telling me, after all these years, if he hadn't been killed would you have married him?"

She stared up in a sort of tender dismay, and said: "No, of course, I wouldn't."

"Why not?" I said.



BOOK REVIEW.

"I wasn't in love with him."  
 "Then why, oh why," I said then, "didn't you say so at the time?"  
 "I never thought of it," she said. "I've only just thought of it now."

I asked her what had made her think of it, and she said: "Your grey hair."

I asked her how she knew she wasn't in love with him, and she said "You could always tell. You'd only to ask yourself, 'Would I like to touch him? Would I like him to touch me?' Well, I didn't want to touch him, and I'd have hated him to touch me."

"I said, 'I used to touch you. Did you hate it?'"  
 And she said, "No. You know I didn't—if you remembered. . . But that wasn't enough."

"What did you want more?" I asked.  
 "The invisible, intangible, immaterial thing. What I got from him—afterwards. But that wasn't enough either."

"The invisible, intangible, immaterial thing—I never gave it you?"

"Yes," she said, "you did. You gave it me long ago."

I said, "When?" And she told me.

"When Mary Temple went blind. I saw you cared then. For her, I mean."

"But I didn't. I never cared for anybody but you."  
 "Oh—Angelette Burton—"

I wondered how she knew. But she went on, not dwelling on Angelette.

"I mean you cared about her caring. You understood her. And you were kinder to May Blissett than I was. You wouldn't have sent her away."

I could see her, going over and over it, rehabilitating me.

"And this—this immaterial thing you want—you think I can give it you now?" I said.

"She said, 'I know you can. I ought to have known it then, only I was such a fool, Roly.'"

And I said, "Do you want both now?"

And she didn't say a word. She just sat there in a dreadful, uncertain silence. I put my hand on her naked arm and said, "Do you hate that, Frances?" I tried to do it boldly, but I swear to you, Furnival, I was in an awful funk. . . Oh yes, you ought to be able to tell. But how can you, with women like Frances?

I still had my hand on her arm when she turned to me with her question. (She must have been bottling it up for five years.)

Would I have married Angelette if Grevill Burton hadn't?

I had to say Yes, if she'd have had me; and she said she knew that.

I asked her how she knew, and she smiled and began counting on her fingers. "You've had seven friends—Daisy Valentine, May Blissett, Lena Mace, Mary Temple, Phyllis Armour, Angelette Burton, and me. And the only one of them I hated was Angelette. That's how I know. . . If I see her, if I see a woman like her, a white and gold woman, I feel—I feel as if somebody was walking over my grave. And if you, Roly, were walking over my grave."

I said, "You needn't be afraid," and she burst out—  
 "Do you know what I'm afraid of? I'm afraid of Angelette dying and your feeling about her as I felt about Miles Dickinson."

And yet, Furnival, before that woman could be sure she was in love with me my hair had to grow grey.

An hour later she said irrelevantly, "Roly, thirteen and twenty-six don't make forty-seven, they make thirty-nine. I was twenty-four in nineteen hundred, and you were twenty-six."

"I thought," I said, "we'd agreed that I was forty-seven now." But she only asked me what I'd told her such a shocking lie for.

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D. M. N.

*My Canadian Memories.* By S. Macnaughtan. (12s. 6d.) Chapman & Hall. (Can be obtained at this office.)

Miss Macnaughton visited Canada just before the war, and was engaged in putting the finishing touches to her Memories of that country when war broke out. She at once volunteered for service, though she was not young, and was far from strong. She went first to Antwerp, one of a heroic little band of English nurses, where she remained until June, 1915, when she returned home to lecture on the war to the munition workers. In October of the same year she left for Russia with an ambulance party, and the little unit got as far as Persia when Miss Macnaughtan was taken seriously ill. She managed to struggle back from Teheran to her London home, where she passed away, after a lingering illness, in July, 1916. The unfinished MS. describing her Canadian tour was later found in her desk, together with some notes evidently intended for further chapters. These, however, were too fragmentary to be used, and the MS. was re-edited as it stood by an intimate friend who had connections with Canada.

This last book from the pen of one who for many years past has endeared herself to readers of all ages and both sexes, not only in this country, but wherever the English language is spoken and read, differs very considerably from those charming romances of earlier days, "A Lame Dog's Diary," "The Fortune of Christina McNab," or "The Expensive Miss Du Cane," inasmuch as it deals with the founding of a big Dominion, and the life stories of the great men who dug its foundations, Lord Strathcona, Sir William Van Horne, Sir William Mackenzie, Sir Donald Mann, Colonel Davidson, and others. Women, too, played a not less significant, if more retiring, part. ("People wonder," said the old Timer, fiercely, 'why Britain spread so far, and what is the secret which she possesses of colonising. Do you know why it is? Wa'ah, it's because with other nations the women wait till its comfortable before they follow the men, but Englishwomen go with them from the start and before it is comfortable.") There was Mrs. Susannah Moodie, who arrived in Eastern Canada in 1832 after a nine-weeks' sea voyage, and whose first glimpse of her new home was viewed through deluges of rain—a mere shed in which five cows were sheltering from the rain in the principal sitting-room! There was La Mère Marie de l'Incarnation, and her Ursuline Nuns, who came out to Canada to convert the Indian girls early in the 17th century. Their influence in the early days was not only spiritual but civilising, their convents refuges for the destitute and the friendless, the wounded in wars, and the sick. The nuns were statesmen, too, as their history shows, and they could provide funds for a cause, as was proved when they melted down the whole of the silver plate of one convent to pay for the support of the French armies. There was Madeline de Verchères, Canada's Joan of Arc, who held the fort of Quebec almost single-handed against the Iroquois Indians. The entire garrison consisted only of two little brothers, one servant, two soldiers and a few women, but this child of fourteen put herself at their head and bade them never surrender. To come down to more modern times, too, was it not the women voters of Vancouver who finally contributed towards the success of that city? Miss Macnaughtan relates the episode. How Colonel Davidson, in company with Sir William Mackenzie and Sir Donald Mann, had carried the Canadian Northern Railway almost to the shores of the Pacific, and were brought up against an insuperable difficulty, the acquiring of 160 acres of land in the very heart of Vancouver, over which the railroad must run. A deputation of women voters of Vancouver waited upon him to know what were the actual facts of the case, and though the men opposed him, he gained his point from the women voters of the city on condition that they should have no smoke nuisance and a new park allotted them!

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, December 31. — Hogmanay Party, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Tickets, including refreshments, 2s. 7 p.m.

Monday, January 10, 1921.—Hampstead Branch Meeting, 7, Gainsborough Gardens, N.W. 3. 8.15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 19, 1921., at 3 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker: Councillor Jessie Stephen. Subject: "Woman's Right to Work." Chair: Mrs. McMichael.

Saturday, January 22, 1921., at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, January 26, 1921., at 3 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Speaker: Miss K. Raleigh. Subject: "What St. Paul Really Said to Women" (Part 2). Chair: Mrs. Northcroft.

PROVINCES.

Friday, December 31.—Portsmouth. New Year's Eve Party, Unitarian Schoolroom. 7 to 10 p.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

PORTSMOUTH.

Last New Year's Eve Party was so successful and enjoyable that we have decided to make it an annual affair. It will be a real old-fashioned party with Games, Dancing (Sir Roger de Coverley, etc.), Singing, Recitations, Competitions, etc., etc. The fun will commence promptly at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High Street, and the tickets are 1s. each (Children 6d.), which will include light refreshments. Tickets may be obtained from the Hon. Sec., or at the door.  
 Hon. Sec.—Mrs. WHEATON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

BEXHILL.

The usual Monthly Meeting was held at the National Kitchen last Monday. Mrs. Meads, President of the Bexhill Branch of the W.F.L., presided. A good many of the women jurors were present to hear an address on the duties which have to be undertaken by those women who are called to serve on a jury. Miss Edith W. Kirby gave a very able address. She mentioned that women jurors must not be carried away by sentiment. She thought that women would be much quicker than men in detecting perjury. The speaker pointed out that the Women's Freedom League had always advocated women jurors as well as men jurors. Several questions were asked at the end of the speech, which were ably dealt with by the speaker. Five women jurors, whom we gladly welcome as new members, joined the League.  
 The Organiser wishes to warmly thank all those members who so kindly sent her goods for the South-Eastern Branches Stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair.

RYE.

A successful Meeting was held at the Baptist Schoolroom last Tuesday, when the Rev. S. H. Wing presided over a very interested audience. Miss Edith Kirby spoke on "The Need for Women on Town Councils."

HASTINGS.

A Drawing-room Meeting was held at Sea View, Pelham Crescent, by kind permission of Mrs. Mellis, last Monday evening. The very cold weather kept away many people, but those who were present listened to an able address on "The Need for Women on Town Councils," by Miss Edith Kirby, who clearly explained why women's work is needed on Town Councils. She mentioned the various Committees where women are wanted, particularly referring to the Watch Committee. Councillor Annie Lile presided, and gave some interesting facts in connection with her own work on the Town Council at Hastings. Those members present joined in a discussion at the close of the speeches.  
 We warmly thank Mrs. Henchman for so kindly offering to arrange an entertainment in aid of the funds of the League. Further details of this will be announced early in the New Year.  
 Organiser—Miss M. L. WHITE, 8, Holmesdale Gardens, Hastings.

HOGMANAY PARTY.

The Women's Freedom League is having a Party on New Year's Eve, December 31st, at the Minerva Café, at 7 p.m. There will be Progressive Whist, Round Games, and amusing Guessing Competitions. Everyone will be welcome. The inclusive charge will be 2s., including refreshments.

TREASURY LIST.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1919, £33,542 6s. 2d.

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 E. KNIGHT.



FRIDAY,  
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