

THE VOTE,
AUG. 25, 1922.
ONE PENNY.

A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 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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DR. SOPHIE BRYANT.

A GREAT HEADMISTRESS.

All educated women are to day grieving over the serious news telegraphed from Chamonix, about one of the chief pioneers of Women's Education—Dr. Sophie Bryant. She was the first woman to hold a Degree as Doctor of Science in the Moral Science branch of the University of London (1884), where she had already graduated with honours in Mathematical and Moral Science, and she was also a Litt.D. of Dublin. She came of an educational family, her father taking a prominent part in Irish National Education, and spent her childhood in Co. Fermanagh, Ireland. Gaining the Arnott Scholarship at Bedford College, she continued her career there, but at the age of 19 married Dr. Hicks Bryant of Plymouth. However, her married life was fated to be but brief, and she resumed her mathematical studies in London a year later, becoming Senior Mathematical Mistress at the North London Collegiate School for Girls, where in 1895 she succeeded Miss Buss as Headmistress, retiring in 1918.

In 1894 Dr. Bryant was appointed a member of the Royal Commission on Secondary Education, and in 1900 a member of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education. She was a valued member of the London Education Committee and the Head Mistresses' Association, of which latter body, she was at one time President.

Dr. Bryant was a clear and interesting writer on moral, religious and educational subjects, as well as on

scientific matters, her "Studies of Character," "The Teaching of Christ on Life and Conduct," "How to read the Bible in the Twentieth Century,"—as well as the charming "Genius of the Gael," and "Celtic Ireland," are known to a large circle of readers.

Unlike the typical blue-stocking of the Victorian age, she was a vigorous cyclist and oarswoman, and her love

for mountaineering was well known—she ascended both the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc—and delighted to initiate her colleagues, and former pupils into the delights of the Swiss Mountain resorts. A delightful companion, a true friend, a wise councillor—many a heart will be sad to-day, thinking over glorious days of youth when, after the strenuous climb, the hours of rest among Alpine flowers, snow and sunshine, were passed in delightful converse over "the things that mattered"—and many a successful teacher or business woman will pause to quote that famous epitaph written over the resting place of one, who also was translated from Swiss Glacier to a still more beautiful world,

"Green grow the grass above thee,

Friend of my better days!
None knew thee but to love thee,

None named thee but to praise."

She, who after a crushing bereavement, so nobly took up again the burden of her life and carried it on to the heights of victory, still speaks to us women of to-day whose generation she served so well.



Photo by Reginald Haines.

WOMEN AT HOME & ABROAD.

Women J.P.s at St. Albans.

For the first time women have been appointed as J.P.s at St. Albans. Mrs. Francis Mary Glossop, who has just been appointed as a Justice of the Peace for the City of St. Albans, is the wife of Canon G. H. P. Glossop. The only woman member of the St. Albans City Council, Miss Margaret Wix, who is the daughter of a retired Inspector of schools, has also been appointed to the local bench. Hitherto St. Albans has had no women justices.

More Women J.P.s

Ten new women magistrates have just been appointed for the North Riding of Yorkshire, and three of them have husbands on the same benches—Mrs. Turton, wife of Mr. E. R. Turton, M.P., formerly a Progressive member of the London County Council; Mrs. Wilson, wife of Colonel Murrrough Wilson, M.P.; and the Hon. Mrs. Behrens, wife of a retired major of Artillery.

Mrs. Turton is the daughter of the late Hon. Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Mrs. Wilson is the daughter of the late Sir Powlett Milbank, Bart., M.P., and Mrs. Behrens is the only daughter of the late Lord Rothschild.

Women and the League of Nations.

We understand that Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P. (Liberal Candidate for the Forest of Dean) has been approached with a view to accepting the position of advisory woman member of the British delegation to the League of Nations.

The Nun and the Miners.

At the Glamorgan Summer School of Mining, now proceeding at Penarth, there is busily working in the laboratory, side by side with a small army of keen young Welsh miners, Sister Mary Immaculate, a teacher in a little Ayrshire convent, and for nineteen years aloof from the world, but now sent by the Scottish Board of Education to take a physics course.

Woman Investigator.

Miss Lilian Russell, of Barmouth, who recently obtained the degree of M.Sc. in the University of London for a zoological thesis, has been appointed Ray Lankester investigator for research in marine zoology at Plymouth Biological Station.

Women Swimmers Beat Men.

The outstanding feature of the Swanage regatta was the half-mile swimming race in which women competed with men on equal terms—and beat them. Miss D. Holmes was first and Miss N. Holmes second.

Woman Crack-shot.

At the open meeting of the Enfield and District Rifle League Miss M. A. Lawrence, of the Cheshunt Rifle Club, won first prize in the scratch competition, and tied for first place in the handicap competition. She was the only woman who competed.

First Women's Olympiad.

This week has seen the first Olympic Games ever held for Women, organised in Paris at the Stade Pershing by the French Women's Federation. Five nations contributed the 77 splendid women athletes who competed in these International Games. America sent 15, Britain 13, Switzerland 5, Czecho-Slovakia 7, and the remainder were French.

In the result, Great Britain stood first with 50 points, the United States second with 31 points, and France third with 29. Czecho-Slovakia had 12 and Switzerland 6.

A Muslim Lady's Success.

Miss Begum Sultan, a Muslim lady candidate, heads the list of successful candidates in the Bachelor of Law Preliminary Examination of the Calcutta University. This is the first time that a woman student has come out first in a law examination.

This unique success will rejoice the hearts of all supporters of the progress of women. It goes to prove that it is only opportunity that is needed for women of all classes and communities in India to show their capabilities.

Indian Woman Doctor.

Mrs. Sivakamu, of Madras, has finished her medical course very brilliantly at the Bombay Medical College. She got her Doctor's degree with honours, and carried off as well three medals (one gold) and a scholarship.

And Editor.

Miss Lena Ray has undertaken the editorship and management of the weekly journal "The Indian World," which was formerly under the editorship of her father, but which ceased publication during the war. It is anticipated that a career of journalism will open up to many Indian women in future.

Successes of American Girls.

An American girl, Miss L. Acherson, of Columbus, O., has taken the same examinations that men take when they desire to enter upon a diplomatic career. She is the first woman to be permitted to make application for a position as carrier in the American diplomatic service. Miss Acherson was in France as secretary of the American committee for devastated France and is expected to be assigned to a post at the American Embassy in Paris.

Another American girl, Miss Elizabeth Reynolds, now Mrs. Norman Hapgood, took similar examinations in France to those just taken by Miss Acherson and received a certificate stating that if she had been a man she would have been eligible to a place in the diplomatic service. Mrs. Hapgood speaks many foreign languages, including Russian.

Miss GENEVIEVE WARD.

With the passing of Genevieve Ward, at the age of 85, one of the few figures of commanding genius left to the English stage is gone.

Miss Ward made her first appearance in Opera, in Milan, 65 years ago. After a series of engagements in Grand Opera, she was obliged, through having overstrained her voice, to give it up, and for some time she was teaching music in America.

She then began to study Dramatic Art, and appeared as Lady Macbeth at the Theatre Royal, Manchester. Some years later she made her first venture as an actress manager, and produced "Forget-me-not," in which she appeared over 2,000 times.

It is for her renderings of Shakespeare's heroines that she is chiefly remembered with delight—her wonderful voice and haunting personality are unforgettable.

In March, 1921, on the occasion of her 84th birthday she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire. Her last appearance was in 1920 as Queen Margaret at the Old Vic., when she seemed to have lost nothing of her power and charm.

Her vitality was that of eternal youth, and her recipe for old age was:—Plenty of fresh air, moderate diet, and a cheerful disposition.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1921, £37,191 12s. 10d.		£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged		266	5	11
Special Emergency War Fund:—				
"A Friend"		2	10	0
Mrs. Northcroft			5	0
Miss Lella Faye Secor			5	0
Miss Ida Davies			2	6
Miss V. Key-Jones			1	0
Sundries, per Literature Department		4	10	0
" per Minerva Café		25	19	0
Office Sales		1	0	
Branches:—				
Clapham (No More War Demonstration)			5	0
Branches Delegates' Expenses:—				
Golders Green			9	11
		£300	14	4

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "Barclay's Bank, Ltd."

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN, 1922.

Speaker: DR. LILLIAS HAMILTON.

Hon. Organiser: MISS ALIX CLARK.

In spite of the inclement weather last week, four meetings were held, one of them at Largs, and one day Miss Clark went to Dunoon to sell literature and did very well, though she had to return early, owing to the wind and torrents of rain.

The Rothesay meetings were exceptionally well attended, and the many questions asked showed a lively interest in the various subjects under discussion. At one of the earlier meetings, a woman, who evidently considered that the mere granting of the franchise to a certain number of members of her own sex, did not, by any means, settle the woman's question, asked the speaker whether she did not consider that the vote holders, whether men or women, should take more active means than they were now doing, to press upon their representatives at Westminster, the urgent duty of being in their seats when such questions as the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Child Outrage, etc., came up for discussion. Dr. Hamilton replied that a large proportion of vote holders took their responsibilities far too lightly, and it was partly to impress upon these the need for individual as well as organised action, that the Women's Freedom League was holding such costly campaigns as these on the Clyde and elsewhere. It was the duty of every member of the electorate, whether at a by or a general election to enquire into the principles of the candidates whose names were brought forward, and not merely into the question of the party to which he or she belonged. If the electorate of Great Britain really desired to see our criminal laws amended or little children protected from the moral and physical destruction to which so many of them are exposed through the mild sentences now being passed on offenders, nothing could prevent the requisite amendments from getting through. There was no use waiting for polling day. That was too late to come to a decision. Every man and every woman should make up his or her mind as to what reforms he or she considered of the greatest urgency, and should write to the candidates early, asking them their intentions regarding the particular reforms which they felt to be most necessary to secure the financial, physical, and moral well-being of the community. Besides that, deputations should be organised, and lists containing the names of large numbers of vote holders who demanded these specific reforms, should be submitted to the

candidates under consideration, with the promise that the one who undertook to do his utmost to get such measures through would have the support of all those whose names appeared on the list presented.

Dr. Hamilton then continued to criticise the economies that appeared in the Report of the Geddes Commission, and it was observed that the above-mentioned questioner took note of what was said. The following day Miss Clark met her on board one of the boats. She was going to speak at Paisley on very similar subjects, and had been much interested in the Rothesay meeting. During the various expeditions undertaken to further the work of the League Miss Clark met several past and present members from Edinburgh, Glasgow, North and South Shields, Dumbarton, Hartlepool, etc., and was encouraged to find them eager for news as to the progress of the work.

Asked last Friday as to which political party the speaker belonged, she replied, "I will answer that question by asking another. Will you tell me which political party can be relied upon to carry out the undertakings made to the electors at the time of the election?" There was no reply. "Am I to conclude that no member of this audience can name such a party?" the speaker continued. On again receiving no reply, though she paused for some seconds, she said, "as there appears to be no one here who can recommend any party that can be relied upon, and as I myself know of no such party, I will wait to answer the question that has been put to me until such a party comes into being." (Laughter.)

Asked if she would support Land Nationalisation if she were returned for Parliament, the speaker said she had no intention of standing, and added, "Have you yourselves sufficient confidence in any of our present political parties to wish to add to their responsibilities by placing more of the Nation's concerns in their hands? The Nationalisation of the Land is perhaps the heaviest responsibility that any government could be called upon to undertake, excepting war." She felt that the Land Laws did need reform, but some other day, earlier in the meeting, she would suggest a policy that she thought would be more likely to be successful than pigeon-holing in a government office matters that needed immediate attention.

THE GIRL AND THE BOY.

On July 1st, as previously reported in the VOTE (July 14) a girl of 17, Laurette Coyne, was sent to prison for three months for sleeping out in a garage on the night of June 26. This was her first offence, and no other charge was made against her.

Now a boy of 16, Sidney Baxter, of Manchester, charged at the same police court (Southport) with the same offence of sleeping out (on the night of Aug. 11 in a shelter on Pleasureland), after being remanded till Aug. 16, and telling a number of false stories, was, on the application of the chief constable, Major Egan, dismissed with a caution. The Major explained that the boy had certain things upon him which did not belong to him, but the Manchester police did not desire to charge him.

The same charge was made in both cases, and it appears to have been clearly proved in both—in itself no sensible person would consider it any real offence at all, but in the case of the girl it is made the excuse for shutting her up in a lonely miserable prison cell "to protect her against herself," whilst the boy is let off

altogether, no attempt being made "to protect him against himself," or to remove him from the undesirable companions who surround a young boy unsupported by home influences.

The Southport bench could not bring themselves to inflict a penalty on a boy for the purely technical crime of sleeping out; the fact that they had no such scruple in the case of the corresponding girl shows them to be essentially incapable of administering even-handed justice when a girl is in the dock.

Moreover, to shut a girl up for three months alone, far from protecting her against herself, is to drive her thoughts inward and put her at the mercy of all her worst impulses. Something else besides solitude and silence and the cramping inactivity of the prison cell is needed if she is to have any chance of a desirable future.

Magistrates who send girls to prison for three months for the offences for which they discharge boys, should at least by personal experience of the conditions which they cheerfully impose upon their victims, know something of what they are doing, and we are again reminded of the urgent need for the presence of women justices on every Bench!

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 25th, 1922.

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.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

In 1905 there were 1,010 males and 35 females in our ordinary prisons under the age of sixteen, and in the same year 16,028 males and 2,265 females between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. In 1920-21 there were 6 males and no females under sixteen, 4,211 males and 743 females between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. In the Commissioners' Report for 1908-9 it is stated that four children under twelve had been imprisoned that year, but the Children Act of 1908 prohibited children under fourteen being committed to ordinary prisons, either on conviction or under trial, and the sentencing of young persons between fourteen and sixteen was disallowed unless "the Court certifies that the young person is of so unruly a character that he cannot be detained in a place of detention," or "that he is of so depraved a character that he is not a fit person to be so detained." A part of the fall in the number of prisoners between sixteen and twenty-one is due to the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907, and to the introduction of the Borstal System in 1909; but the authors of *English Prisons of To-day* state that there are no restrictions upon the sending of young persons between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one to prison; they may be sentenced to any term from five days to life, and at the present time there are juvenile adults serving life sentences at Dartmoor. In spite of the elaborate precautions taken to prevent suicide in prison the authors state that juvenile suicides are at least twelve times as frequent in prison as among the general population. In view of these facts, it is of great interest to learn that Mr. Cyril Burt, the London County Council psychologist, is of opinion that 90 per cent. of juvenile criminals are simply 'backward children,' and that if they were treated as 'backward' in a special class they would not become criminal. In examining 200 cases of delinquent children, Mr. Burt says he found that they were nearly all guilty of offences springing from primitive instincts which they had not learned to control. For example: Wandering from home shows the migratory instinct; Stealing is the acquisitive instinct; Anger is the pugnacious instinct. These are all instincts which would have been very useful to the savage, but civilisation demands that they shall be controlled and directed into higher channels. We are glad to learn that the formation of a "backward class" in L.C.C. Schools is now under consideration. The juvenile offender is in need of teaching rather than of punishment, and we should like to see all these young offenders dealt with not by policemen and magistrates in prisons and Courts of Justice, but by the Education Authorities in our Schools. If we increased the ordinary school age for every boy and girl, then through technical, trade or other schools kept them in touch with education until they were eighteen years of age, and held the local education authorities responsible for the conduct of these young people up to that age, we should certainly save an enormous amount of money on our workhouses and prisons in later years. At present children leave school at fourteen. Many thousands of them are now running the streets. They cannot get work at the present time of trade depression and general unemployment. Is it any wonder that they get into mischief? Imprisonment will not help them: more education would, whether they are backward or bright. Is it not truer economy to spend more money on the young and our schools, than on the old and our workhouses and prisons?

POLICE EVIDENCE ONLY.

Time after time The Women's Freedom League has protested against women and men accused of soliciting being charged, tried, and convicted on police evidence only. Women who have visited Police Courts realise how meagre is the chance of an undefended girl or woman to convince the magistrate, in face of the voluble evidence given by various policemen, that she is not guilty of the charge preferred against her. It is a curious fact that when any woman or man accused of soliciting is able to employ legal aid that woman or man is almost invariably found Not Guilty. Last week two police constables gave evidence at Marlborough Street Police Court to the effect that a woman went deliberately up to three men in Piccadilly Circus at night and annoyed them by speaking to them. She was fortunate enough to be able to employ a solicitor, who pulled their evidence to pieces, and pointed out to the magistrate that one of the constables was contending that he saw this woman speak to a man who refused to have anything to do with her when there was the whole width of Piccadilly Circus between the constable and the woman, with a refuge and other things intervening, and it was night time! The defendant was discharged, the magistrate remarking that the case was very slight, even if he accepted the evidence of the officers! We submit that this treatment would not be very satisfactory to an innocent woman, and it does not strengthen the confidence of the British Public in the administration of justice. In our view, if a man or a woman is charged with molesting or annoying another person, that person, in the interests of justice, should be present in court to support the charge. The women and girls who usually find themselves in court on these charges are obviously friendless, without influence, without any money for legal expenses, and they are quite unable to cross-examine the witnesses against them. It is an easy matter for one constable to be able to corroborate another constable's evidence; and we are convinced that the only chance these girls and women have of being sure they will get justice is that the charge shall be supported also by independent evidence.

A MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

It seems incredible that an accused person should be sentenced to death without having had any opportunity to defend herself, but this is what has happened to the girl of 23, Elsie Florence Yeldham.

Charged, with her husband, before Mr. Justice Shearman, at the Central Criminal Court, on July 19th, with the murder of George Grimshaw in Epping Forest on May 18th, they were both found guilty and sentenced to death. At the trial the Judge instructed Mr. Lucy to defend both prisoners, but at a later stage that became impossible, and he was told to confine his attention to the man's defence, and the woman was left undefended and her case not fully set out. She maintained that she had taken no part in the fatal fight, and her husband confirmed this, but the prosecution declared that it was a conspiracy between both prisoners, and that they were equally guilty.

The prisoners appealed, but the Court of Criminal Appeal, on August 22nd, dismissed the appeals; this time the woman was represented by Serjeant Sullivan, who pointed out that she had been the victim of an extraordinary miscarriage of justice, because she had been convicted of murder without having her defence put to the Court, he contended that she should have been specially told that she could go into the box.

The Court "thought that the woman had not suffered a bit by the fact that she was not invited to give evidence, although it was unfortunate that she was not so invited."

This girl is said to be undeveloped and childish mentally. She has grown up in wretched surroundings, and has been convicted on circumstantial evidence only. A petition for her reprieve is being extensively signed. The petition may be signed at 144, High Holborn, and all offers of immediate help will be welcomed.

SPIRITUAL VALUES IN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL LIFE

Conference at Oxford, August 15th to 29th.

Whilst reading the other day, and in Oxford, one of the numerous books that the war has given us, "Le Colonel Bramble," by André Maurois, I came across this strange opinion of the effects of a single life on woman: "Celibacy engenders ferocity among insects and women." The opinion is attributed to one of the characters in the book, so that possibly the author would disavow it as his. Many social observers, at least in our country, declare that the single women furnish an army of most useful workers, like bees in the social hive, many of them bent on redressing and amending what has gone wrong in our civilisation. Even at the Front, there often appeared at French railway junctions, where sick and wounded men were left for hours in sidings, a band of English women, who in a short time started a canteen, and were soon providing the men in those trains with soup, tea, cocoa, and kind and hopeful words. French officers took note of it, and remarked: "Ah oui, ces Anglaises."

M. Maurois is nearer the mark when he says that woman more surely represents the race than man. She is readier for reform, less entangled and bound by present social conditions, more ready to listen to the voice of conscience than is man. To see this large conference of teachers and social workers, and probably most of the other innumerable conferences held this summer at Oxford, is to realise how great is the part woman can play in social reconstruction; how much she is prepared to learn as well as do—perhaps it would be better to say she makes careful inquiry before doing. The Conference (at which 20 nations were represented) numbered 230 Members, of which the majority were women, and is partly the outcome of the activities of the Anthroposophical Society, now established at 46, Gloucester Place, W.1, of which Mrs. Mackenzie (formerly Professor of Education in the University of Wales), is the Secretary. I find that Anthroposophy concerns itself with knowledge of the nature of man; there developed from its search for wider knowledge and its dissemination, this important Conference, of which the Hon. H. A. L. Fisher is President, Principal Jacks, Professors Gilbert Murray, Muirhead, Findlay, and Mackenzie, Messrs. Clutton Brock, Edmond Holmes, Delisle Burns, Dr. Maxwell Garnett and others were announced to take part. There were some disappointments. Mr. Fisher himself did not appear, but the Conference had a fine array of talent to address it, and useful, suggestive work was accomplished. For one thing it secured the services of a philosopher and educationist, Dr. Rudolf Steiner, to give a course of twelve lectures dealing with the Spiritual Basis of Education; Education as an Art; details of the Waldorf School, which Dr. Steiner founded and directs; social impulses of the present day, etc. Thus continuity was ensured to some extent, and the sense of fatigue so often evoked at similar gatherings by constant change of subject was minimised. Dr. Steiner had long thought over the deep problems of modern education and written upon them. He was enabled by the generosity of a wealthy native of Stuttgart, M. Emil Molt, to found a school on new lines in that city and to put his theories to a practical test. Waldorf was founded in that city in 1919 on co-education lines, and with a competent, specially-trained staff. It began with 150 children of factory workers; to-day the pupils number 640. There will soon be started an international training college for teachers of the system at Dornach, near Basle. In England schools will shortly be established on Dr. Steiner's lines.

It is a commonplace that war has given an immense impetus to Internationalism, and I listened with deep interest to what Dr. J. Maxwell Garnett, Secretary to the League of Nations Union, had to say on the Foundations of World's Citizenship; to Mr. C. Delisle Burns, on the Organisation of Peace; and to Mr. Malcolm Thomson, on a Student's League of

Nations. Mr. D. Burns struck the right note, when he pointed out that our teaching against war resembles the decalogue in being mainly negative, thou shalt not; but our procedure must show positive steps, in which it will more resemble the teaching of the New Testament. We are to love our neighbours, be perfect, strike out on the lines of "Thou shalt." We must find the positive tack. Mr. Burns dwelt on the pernicious error of journalists that absence of war is peace; most of the great nations all the time maintain vast armed bands and spend 80 per cent. of the revenue on maintaining them, and on paying for past wars; thus the institution of war, and preparation for it go on all the time. Mentally as in the decalogue; the mind dwells on vice, not on virtue. We must discover what are our common interests with nations or groups of nations. Our clothes, food, exchanges, bring us into peaceful contact with others, and help us to grasp our common interests; our minds have too many limits and frontiers. How many realised that even during the war certain regulations for prevention of epidemics, and the great work of the International Postal Union were still maintained by the belligerents in spite of war? We need to get beyond the Foreign Offices, and recognise international matters, such as commerce, education, the world of industry, the relations of wealth and service, cultural interests of all Europe, to see that these are affairs of all the peoples concerned. History should be taught differently, less place given to wars and battles, and these replaced by peaceful conceptions. Blame should be the portion awarded by history to those who planned and carried out unjust and unnecessary wars.

Mr. Thomson showed how an English branch had been formed by the League of Nations Union among students. In the Oxford branch alone, comprising about a fifth of all the students, 29 different nations were represented. It is a League of Youth; students of all nations are to know and understand each other better, they can correspond with students in other countries in their own special subjects, establish friendly relationships. Something of the kind had existed before the war, but so late as 1919 at the Strasburg Conference, France and her allies were drawing off into one camp, the ex-neutral nations would not join, the Central Empires were excluded, and England was absent; her students had not "joined up." Mr. Thomson, Mr. Macadam and others worked hard, they united all the English Universities, and appeared in the full Congress at Prague in 1921. England was the one country friendly with all the 18 countries there represented; the ex-neutrals also joined, and the Central Empires. And they are practical; the English branch arranged for a visit of Aberystwyth students to Denmark, obtained a small advantage in the way of tourists' rates when travelling, so that many went to Belgium and Germany, and in various ways showed that Culture must be represented in internationalism.

C. S. BREMNER.

THE CLYDE CAMPAIGN

ROTHESAY.

Our Clyde Campaign started on July 24, Miss Alix Clark (Hon: Organiser), and Dr Lillias Hamilton (Speaker), both busy people with their own work, will be giving up their summer holidays and working very hard to spread the ideas of the Women's Freedom League among the thousands of men and women who disport themselves at Rothesay during the summer. The expense is very large, so please remember to send me your contribution to help while you are enjoying your own rest and recreation.

E. KNIGHT,

144, High Holborn,
London, W.C. 1.

Hon. Treas.

AMERICAN WOMEN.

What the Vote has done.

We have received from the Equal Rights Society an interesting record of results achieved in America since the granting of votes to women.

Although State Legislatures usually meet only once in two years, and in some States there has been no legislative session during the last year it has been possible to introduce Equal Rights bills in twelve States Legislatures meeting in regular or special session. Following is a list of the results achieved in the various States:—

WISCONSIN.—Has granted equal rights with men in every respect;

DELAWARE.—The right to hold public office (has passed both houses but must be passed again at the next session);

MAINE.—The right to serve on juries;

MARYLAND.—The right to hold certain public offices;

MASSACHUSETTS.—The right of a married woman living apart from her husband to separate voting domicile; and the right of equal testamentary guardianship.

MISSISSIPPI.—Equal guardianship;

VIRGINIA.—Equal inheritance laws, equal dower and curtesy laws, and the right of a married woman to a separate voting residence;

LOUISIANA.—Has removed 12 discriminations, giving women equal voice in the sale or mortgage of the family home, increased guardianship rights, the same rights as administrators and executors, arbitrators, notaries public, and witnesses to inventories; the right to fulfil all kinds of engagements and functions; and the right to hold any office, civil or political.

We congratulate our American sisters on having achieved so much in so short a time, and wish them complete success in achieving equal rights and opportunities between the sexes.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN HOLLAND.

Commenting on a recent visit to Holland, Miss Joyce Burleigh gives some interesting impressions of the Educational and Political changes which have evolved in that country in these post-war days.

It is surprising to find the high standard of education amongst the Dutch people. English, French and German are taught in all the schools, and it is no uncommon thing for children of ten years of age to converse freely in all three of these foreign languages.

Co-education is very popular, and boys and girls are taught together until they reach the age of eighteen.

With regard to careers for women in that country, Miss Burleigh says that teaching is one of the most popular, although the standard required is very high and the examinations difficult. For those who enter for secretarial work, at least two languages are required as well as the usual shorthand and typewriting.

Nursing is also very popular and quite a large number of women are qualifying in the hospitals.

A fair number of women are doctors, dentists and journalists, also musicians and artists, but an apparently large number of women are studying engineering. This course is rather far-reaching, embracing chemistry, science, mathematics, research and laboratory work and even mining and building to some extent. Girls and women who specialise in this direction occupy responsible positions in factories of various kinds as analysts, chemists, etc. Some are employed in the offices of architects or of shipbuilding and engineering firms in different capacities and some have actually been appointed to posts in certain mines in the colonies belonging to the Netherlands.

It is strange to note that although women have sat in parliament for some years, and played an important part in the public life of the community they have only lately been given the parliamentary vote, and in July were able for the first time to exercise the franchise.

DEPUTATION TO PRIME MINISTER OF NEWFOUNDLAND

The Prime Minister of Newfoundland, Sir Richard Squires, K.C.M.G., granted an interview at the Savoy Hotel to a deputation of women representing the International Woman Suffrage Alliance on Friday morning, when he, although much pressed for time, courteously gave over an hour to discussion.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, contrasted the position of the Woman's Movement before and after the Great War.

Miss Helen Ward, as representative of the British Auxiliaries, spoke of the enthusiasm and interest of the women of all classes, especially in regard to domestic policy.

Mrs. Kate E. Trounson, Secretary of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, stressed the point of the need for the experiences of both men and women being brought to bear upon matters, in order that the best legislation might be achieved in a country. The experience need not be in opposition, and the results obtained in this way would be fairer and more complete.

Sir Richard Squires entirely agreed, and showed that he and his Government were distinctly sympathetic.

Miss Macmillan pressed hard that the Prime Minister should send a Government delegate to the next International Congress of the Alliance, which is to be held in Rome in 1923.

Sir Richard smiled, but made no promise.

The deputation then formally thanked the Prime Minister for his courtesy, and retired.

N.B.—It is, of course, understood that the women of Newfoundland have not yet been given the vote.

"A PIONEER OF POOR LAW REFORM."

The death of Mrs. Kingsley, widow of Henry Kingsley, the brother of Charles Kingsley, occurred at an advanced age, at her residence at Folkestone last week, and under the above heading the *Surrey Comet* states that, if not the first, she was certainly one of the first two women elected to the Kingston Board of Guardians, where she strove valiantly against great discouragements to introduce much-needed reforms into the administration of the workhouse. At that time there was not a single trained nurse employed by the Guardians to look after the sick who were left to the care of other pauper inmates. When Mrs. Kingsley suggested that women who knew how to care properly for the sick should be engaged, the proposal was ridiculed and rejected by men whose chief object was to keep down expenditure. Mrs. Kingsley also pleaded for more humane treatment in the administration of out door relief, but this was ruthlessly ignored and applicants in most cases had to choose between going into "the house" or going without relief. But Mrs. Kingsley began a work which has been carried on and extended by other women and men. *The Surrey Comet* says, "She builded better than she knew and the good seed which she sowed in the face of opposition and even discourtesy, has since borne abundant fruit." All those who know anything of the present day Kingston and District Hospital will emphatically agree. At the same time we cannot pay too great an honour to those pioneer women Guardians who did so much in days gone by to mitigate the harshness of our Poor Law Administration.

REPRIEVED!

As we go to press we have received a message that the Home Secretary has advised that the death sentence in the case of the girl, Elsie Florence Yeldham, shall not be carried out.

This is satisfactory so far, but, of course, it does not improve the extraordinary manner in which this travesty of a trial was conducted.

As a matter of fact, this girl, though a married woman, has the mentality of a child of nine, and lay for five weeks in Holloway, under sentence of death, without the least understanding of her terrible position. And yet the Courts agreed with the theory of the prosecution that she had entered into a murderous conspiracy with the male prisoner.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Monday, September 4, at 3 p.m.—"Fair" Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Friday, September 8th, at 6.30 p.m.—Mid-London Branch Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Monday, September 18th, at 7 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Lucy Bell. Subject: "Public Speaking."

Friday, September 22nd at 6 p.m.—Organisation Committee, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Saturday, September 23rd, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, September 27th at 3 p.m., at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Travel as an Education."

Friday and Saturday, November 10th and 11th.—"Green, White and Gold Fair," Central Hall, Westminster.



DARE TO BE FREE.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Lower Wages for Civil Servants.

Fifty thousand temporary civil servants, mostly in the lower paid sections, are to have their wages reduced by about 8s. a week, on the average.

Unemployment Problem.

Writing in last Sunday's *Observer*, Dr. MacNamara gives the following figures showing the number of persons registered as totally unemployed at the unemployment exchanges:—

	July 1, 1921.	To-day.
Men	1,469,170	1,096,500
Boys	77,884	44,800
Women	429,846	153,700
Girls	63,378	33,600
Total	2,040,278	1,328,600

The "short-time" figures, which were on July 1, 1921, 934,786 are now 69,100, the difference being due a good deal to the improvement in the textile trades. The Minister of Labour estimates that there are something like ten times as many people at work and earning wages as there are totally unemployed. He intimates that a good many schemes for relief work should be in operation as from October 1st; but does not state that any such schemes will involve the employment of women. There is a slowly improving outlook in regard to employment.

Shortage in Dwelling Places.

Day after day distressing cases of overcrowding are recorded in the press. The following, reported in the *Star* last week, is typical of many:—

"I am an ex-service man, and have served four years in France, and for the past 16 months my family of six children, my wife, and I, have been living and sleeping in one room, 10 ft. by 12 ft. I have tried my hardest to find a place, but can find nowhere to go. I could be worse off if I were in a dug-out. There is always one of the kiddies queer. My eldest child is a lad of fifteen years of age, who has been a cripple on crutches all his life."

The mother's difficulties in such cases can be more easily imagined than described. How is it possible to have even a C 3 nation under such conditions? In Southwark no fewer than 226 houses were found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit, and 19,340 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

Education and Unemployment.

No less than a quarter of a million children left school finally and began looking for employment when the elementary schools closed for the summer holidays. As things are, they will swell the ranks of the unemployed. Even if they could remain at school there is no machinery at the present time for giving them adequate further training.

BOOK REVIEW.

English Prisons To-day. Edited by Stephen Hobbhouse and A. Fenner Brockway. Longmans. 25/- net. (Can be obtained from this Office.)

This is a book which should be found in the library of every woman genuinely interested in reform. Its seven hundred pages are packed with human interest, the result of three years' highly intelligent and most careful investigation of the working and effects of the English prison system carried out by the Prison System Enquiry Committee, established by the Executive of the Labour Research Department in January, 1919. The Chairman of this Committee was Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., C.B., and it included in its membership civil administrators, magistrates, retired prison officials, experienced penal reformers, doctors and lawyers, besides a number of ex-prisoners. From January, 1921, it has been unconnected with the Labour Research Department, and has had its own establishment. As the result of its questionnaires and interviews, evidence was obtained from 50 prison officials—Anglican chaplains, Catholic priests, visiting ministers, medical officers, and warders of different grades. To this official testimony, evidence was also added from 34 agents of Discharged Prisoners' Aid Societies and other persons having supervision of, and intimacy with, ex-prisoners, from 22 visiting magistrates, and from 200 ex-prisoners. Among the ex-prisoners were a large number of men and women who had been sentenced to imprisonment (mostly for terms of hard labour) for political offences, but it also included a number of ex-prisoners committed for criminal offences who had had experience of both local and convict prisons. This evidence was taken with great care, and is set forth in the various chapters with an extraordinary restraint of comment; but few women will read them without a sense of burning indignation and shame. Most men and women hate cruelty in any form, yet inside our prison walls human beings of all ages are subjected to an incalculable amount of savage brutality, utter degradation, and the most futile petty tyranny. All self-respect and initiative are crushed out of them. Yet every one of us helps to pay for the upkeep of this system, and every one of us is directly responsible for all that goes on inside the walls of our prisons. The great merit of this book is that it affords the general public an opportunity of knowing the details and effects of our prison system, and we firmly believe that, as soon as the public has taken advantage of this opportunity, the whole of our present prison system will be doomed. One chapter is devoted to Women Prisoners. The authors state that there is no radical difference in the régime between men's and women's prisons. "The same repressive system, the same idea of punishment, with almost no thought of cure, runs through both systems. The wastefulness, the failure to individualise, and the cruelty which comes from looking upon people merely as bodies instead of personalities, are found in both. In both there are the small nameless humiliations, the inevitable abuses of a too-absolute power." Surely the men and women of the twentieth century will not long tolerate this blot on our civilisation!

F. A. U.

SUFFRAGE SUMMER SCHOOL.

At the Summer school now being held under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship at Oxford, 80 of the 150 students are women magistrates.

One of the first lectures was by Miss Beaumont on Equal Suffrage. She demanded that "the extraordinary and glaring inequality" of the age qualification for women be swept away without further delay, and said that one hopeful sign was that the Premier had not refused to receive a deputation on the subject.

Miss Picton Turbervill also spoke in favour of women being admitted to the Ministry of the Church, and said that to read the reports of the debates of Convocation made one despair of the state of mind of some of those who spoke. She contended that the rigid exclusion of women was a deadly insult.

The legal status of the mother was the subject discussed by Mrs. Hubback. She protested against the idea "that the rights of the father should be pre-eminant," with which our Courts and magistrates seem to be all saturated. She spoke of the "Guardianship of Infants Bill," which provided for the equal responsibility of both parents, and which would raise the status of the ordinary married woman. She also asked for more protection for the mother of the illegitimate child.

Mrs. Allan Bright gave an address on Cinema Control.

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