

THE VOTE,  
MAY 30, 1919.  
ONE PENNY.

## The Case of Miss Douglas-Pennant.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVIII, No. 501.

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FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1919.

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

### WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

"It will be the duty of the New Government to remove all existing inequalities of the law as between men and women."

**NO SHIRKING !**

ELECTION MANIFESTO signed by  
**MR. LLOYD GEORGE**, Prime Minister. **MR. BONAR LAW**, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

### WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

**Lord Beauchamp's Bill.**—"A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being appointed or being or becoming by virtue of office, a Justice of the Peace."

### GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE.

"Declarations were made by leading members of the Government with reference to the general position of women under the altered conditions of our time and language was certainly used, both by the Prime Minister and by the Leader of the House of Commons, which would make it quite impossible to refuse assent to proposals of this kind."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR, HOUSE OF LORDS,  
*May 20th, 1919.*

**I**F you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

**Join the Women's Freedom League.**

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

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## WOMEN MAGISTRATES' BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

### Government's Pledge.

The Justices of the Peace Qualification of Women Bill was read a second time on May 20, and sent to a Committee of the whole House.

EARL BEAUCHAMP thought there was general surprise that such a measure was not already law. Women had educated themselves through experience. The necessary personal qualities were high moral character, fair education, business knowledge, knowledge of the world, common sense and human kindness. Many women were well qualified.

A woman justice would be of great advantage in trying offences against girls. At present indecent assaults on children were punished by a simple fine of forty shillings or by terms of imprisonment up to twelve months' hard labour. Women would tend to secure a better fixed standard in these matters.

In the new Children's Courts women would do admirable work, being far better fitted to understand the minds of the children and to gain their confidence. Women also would better understand the home problems of the mothers summoned for keeping their children from school. He appealed to the Government not to oppose the Bill.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that no woman in this country had ever been appointed a magistrate, no doubt because it is not yet legal. In 1910 the question was raised during the Royal Commission on the Selection of Justices of the Peace, and Lord Halsbury considered that though women could often be helpful it would be undesirable to appoint them as magistrates with limited functions.

If now they sanctioned such a great innovation there must be no distinction between female and male magistrates. Already, for many years past, women had frequently been recommended and strongly pressed. Both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House of Commons had given pledges which would make it quite impossible to refuse assent to proposals of this kind. It was improbable that the Women's Emancipation Bill would have a successful, or at any rate a complete, Parliamentary career. That left Lord Beauchamp's Bill the sole occupant of the field on this part of the women's question, and the Government would either assist this Bill or themselves introduce a similar Bill, so that probably women would soon be eligible as magistrates. The change was far-reaching, the decision a very grave one; but we have reached a point at which we cannot stop. He much regretted the unavoidable addition to his own burden of personal responsibility in the appointment of the women magistrates, and in anticipation of the passage of the Bill into law this Session he must point out to the House and to the many women in the country who aspired to sit upon the Bench that all over the country the Benches of Magistrates had recently been strengthened, and they were now in most cases adequately manned. He would not, and could not, make immense, inconvenient and unnecessary additions so that women might sit upon Benches of Magistrates. This need not discourage the women or their supporters; they should rather comfort themselves by reflections upon the enormous change and increase in usefulness opening to women, and meditations upon the future.

THE MARQUESS OF CREWE welcomed the Government pledge. The last nine years had completely shifted the burden of proof; it was not for women now to prove their special fitness for a particular form of public service; it was their opponents' business to prove them disqualified. The Lords-Lieutenant of counties would be grateful for the Lord Chancellor's caution, for they would receive a large number of applications to send forward women's

names. Much of a magistrate's work was humdrum, irksome and unattractive. It was mysterious that so many people wished for it. Sometimes the reason was the magic letters J.P. or the distinction of an honourable office. He had no doubt his brother Lords-Lieutenant would in all cases consider favourably recommendations of suitable and capable women, and perhaps strain a point at first in appointing women. They were all very glad to hear that the Government would support the measure or a similar one, and that there was therefore not merely a hope, but a definite prospect, that it would become law this Session.

### WOMEN AND THE LAW.

Mr. Cameron Grant and Miss Helena Normanton were the principal speakers at a crowded meeting, convened by the Women's Freedom League and other local women's organisations, held at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, on May 22, when the following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this meeting declares its conviction that grave miscarriage of justice frequently occurs in cases involving charges of offences alleged to have been committed on women and girls, and that these would be minimised by the appointment of women police, the appointment of women as members of the jury in equal numbers to men, and the appointment of women Justices of the Peace, and a law that responsible women should never be excluded from the Court while such cases are being tried."

Mr. Grant contended that—

"Women magistrates and women jurors were essential in dealing with cases in which their sisters are concerned. Their outlook would be from the women's point of view, and their influence and knowledge would go far to combat the nefarious trades and pursuits in which women were largely concerned and were sufferers."

Miss Normanton maintained that the case for women lawyers, police, jurors, magistrates and other things was not the case merely so much of women wanting to try their hand at them, though that was right to an extent. It was that the general interest of the community could not be served by a continuance of the present methods. There must be more women probation officers, and the jury box must be opened to women. If that were done there would be an end to the abominable practice of ordering women out of Court. Women jurors would give to women a protective influence in more than one direction. In cases of criminal assault upon women and girls those women concerned would not be subject to the humiliating and embarrassing ordeal of giving evidence to a Court crowded with men and boys.

### Whitsuntide Campaign.

New Brighton—June 4 to June 14.

An open-air campaign will take place during the Whitsuntide holidays, and meetings will be held on "Women and Reconstruction," "Women and Housing," "Equal Pay for Equal Work," "Women and the Law," "The Need of Women Magistrates," etc. Miss Mary Neal, Miss Janet Heyes and others will speak.

Helpers and VOTE sellers are urgently needed, as these holiday campaigns are far-reaching in their results and effects, touching a large number of people who often find it impossible to attend indoor meetings. But it is impossible to carry them on without the sinews of war, so I shall thankfully receive your Treasury notes and postal orders as soon as possible.

ALIX M. CLARK, Hon. Organiser,

47, Sudworth-road, New Brighton, Cheshire.

## Women at Home and Abroad.

### An Uncomfortable Situation.

The Bill, introduced by Sir R. Horne (Minister of Labour), to make provision for the restoration of certain trade practices abrogated during the war, was read a first time last Monday night. This means the exclusion of women from various branches of industry in which they have shown themselves to be proficient. The Government are in the uncomfortable position of having to redeem pledges made at a time when they were prepared to exchange the moon for munitions. The women, having shown their proficiency and having been assured that the country has been saved owing to their efforts, are now to be dismissed, and the possibility of earning good wages, assuring to them the continuance of the self-respecting existence to which they have become accustomed, is to be denied to them. But the position of the Labour Party is perhaps the most uncomfortable of all. It has posed as the champions of women, and has introduced a Bill, now in the Report Stage, giving full political equality to women and removing all legal restrictions which prevent them from entering any profession or undertaking any judicial office, while at the same time it demands the Government to pass a Bill giving the Trade Unions power to restrict the entrance of women into industry. The situation is one which contains elements of both tragedy and comedy. On the debate on April 4th, speaking on behalf of the Government, Dr. Addison declared that it could not support a clause throwing open all professions to women unless women were to have, at the same time, the right of entrance into the trades. Women recognised long ago that logic played but a small part in politics. Stern necessity may, however, modify the perplexities of the present situation. Speaking in the House of Commons last week, Mr. Lunn, Labour Member for the Rothwell Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire, who described himself as a "workman and as one who is desirous of raising the standard of life of the class to which I belong," said:

We are spending £1,000,000 a week on unemployment doles—that is, we are paying people not to produce wealth when it is urgently needed and when the Government and others are telling us that the way out of our financial difficulties is to increase production.

Truly, a mad world!

### Sex Rivalry or Sex Prejudice?

It cannot be denied that certain disquieting features marked the demonstration of the Discharged Soldiers and Sailors last Monday afternoon. It was stated in the House of Commons on the same evening that 300,000 discharged or disabled men were unemployed. At the same time, one hears on all sides of the lack of labour. Industrial firms complain of the lack of workmen and the difficulty of getting a small job done is a matter of everyday experience. While unemployment may be largely due to the financial situation in this and other countries and to the uncertain conditions of the transition period of war to peace through which we are passing, the accumulation of work waiting to be done and of the workers demonstrating that they demand work and not doles seem to justify the shutting up of the shutters by the Ministry of Reconstruction. Presumably it was felt that it had done its work, or that there was nothing left for it to do. We may gather our own conclusions. This matter of unemployment cannot be regarded altogether from a sex standpoint. It is true that we must concern ourselves primarily with the subject of the unemployment of women, and must demand justice for women. Undoubtedly there is a section of male workers who would like to see every woman and girl thrown out of work till the men are employed, and would then be ready

graciously to permit the women and girls to come back and take up the less agreeable and well-paid jobs. But we do not believe that this is the attitude of the great mass of workers of the country. The animus, however, displayed against the women conductors on the omnibuses as they passed the procession last Monday was very apparent, and at Westminster a party of the demonstrators were prevented by the police from dragging a young woman off a service car in which she was driving an officer who, by the way, did nothing to assist her. There was nothing to show that it was as motormen that they were jealous of her or that she had taken their particular job. Suffragists know more than War Cabinet Committees can teach them of the depth to which sex prejudice can descend.

### Women and the Civil Service.

The Committee appointed by the Treasury under the Chairmanship of Lord Gladstone has made important recommendations in favour of the extension of the work of women in the Civil Service. Though it considers "the time has not come for throwing open Class I. to women, the experiment should be tried of employing women in posts of a Class I. type where the work is specially suited to them." This recommendation appears to be capable of wide discretion in its application, and of very varying interpretation. It does not go beyond the recommendation of the Commission on the Civil Service which sat from 1912 to 1914, and which issued its Report a few months before the war. Though the Majority was not in favour of the opening of Class I. examination to women, it was of opinion that "specially qualified women should be eligible for appointment to particular administrative situations." It is disappointing that five years' experience of the work of women in the Civil Service has not been sufficient to enable the Committee, whose report has just been issued, to make a recommendation that the plunge should be taken and the Class I. examination opened to women without reservations.

The recommendation that "Typists should be given opportunities of promotion to women clerkships" is one which ought to have been effected long ago. Women typists in the Government service have had very well-established grievances. Up to the time of the war their pay was very insufficient, and promotion to a higher class of employment almost an impossibility.

### Miss A. A. SMITH.

Readers of THE VOTE and all members of the Women's Freedom League will share the deep sorrow and regret with which we have to announce the death of Miss Annie A. Smith, the Editor of this paper, which occurred last Monday evening while she was on a few days' visit in Sussex. Early this year she had a breakdown in health, but took up her work again at the beginning of April. It was apparent that she was still far from well, and she was ordered to take a further three months' rest, and was making arrangements to do so. She brought out last week's issue of our paper, and had intended to return here on the very day upon which the end came with tragic suddenness. We hope to publish a memoir next week.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 30th, 1919.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### EDITORIAL.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

## THE REPORT OF THE WAR CABINET COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.\*

It is now a decade since that human document, lucid, logical, and far-seeing—the Minority Report of the last Poor Law Commission—was given to the world. Though signed by four of the Commissioners it was an open secret that it was almost entirely the work of Mrs. Sidney Webb. From forecasts in the Press and from more authoritative statements, we gather that the overdue legislation which is "to break up the Poor Law" will be based upon the findings of that Minority Report. Those who have struggled for Votes for Women, or indeed for any other reform, have frequently been led to doubt the truth of the old Greek's dictum that *all things move*. Individually and collectively the bodies of elected assemblies are in motion, but the collective mind tends to a stationary acquiescence with the *status quo*. Thus reforms, the reasonableness and the necessity of which can be clearly demonstrated, have to make their way to fruition, not only through one but through many decades, though indications are not wanting that events in the world of politics and economics are likely to move with increased momentum in the years immediately before us.

The interest in the Reports of Government Commissions is apt to centre in those put forward by the Minority Commissioners, and the present report is no exception. For it Mrs. Sidney Webb is alone responsible. It is marked by the same characteristics as the Minority Report referred to above, and which we have learnt to expect from all the work whereunto Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb have set their hands. In the limited space which THE VOTE can give to the consideration of Government Reports it would be a temptation to treat of it to the exclusion of the more bulky findings of the Majority. This would appear the more excusable since Mrs. Webb's criticism of the work of her colleagues—that, in their report, they have not adhered to the terms of their reference—seems to be justified.

The Commission was appointed in September, 1918, "to investigate and report upon the relation which should be maintained between the wages of women and men, having regard to the interests of both, as well as to the value of their work. The recommendations should have in view the necessity of output during the war, and the progress and well-being of industry in the future." The two women on the Committee were Mrs. Sidney Webb and Dr. Janet Campbell, of the Local Government Board. The four men Commissioners and one of the women were Government officials, and Mrs. Sidney Webb

\* [Cmd. 135] Price 1s. 6d. net.

was therefore the only independent member. The Report signed by the Majority fills 217 out of the 341 pages issued by the Commissioners. It is an erudite study of the history of women in industry and their industrial remuneration, and there is no doubt that it will be found of great interest and value to the historian whose task it may be to study the social life of the last half century. But, as Mrs. Webb points out, the Commissioners were not asked to make an elaborate survey of the conditions under which women had come into industry and of the terms upon which they should be allowed to remain there. She says:

What the Committee was charged to investigate and to report upon was not the wages and other conditions of the employment of women, any more than the wages and other conditions of employment of men—still less the terms upon which either men or women should be permitted to remain in industry, but "the relation which should be maintained" between them, "having regard to the interests of both, as well as to the value of their work . . . and the progress and well-being of industry in the future."

This criticism may be taken not only as marking the different points of view of the majority and minority of the Commissioners. It is still more significant as a line of demarcation between the areas assigned to women in the past and those she claims for herself in the present.

The real *raison d'être* of the Commission was the failure of different Government Departments to fulfil the pledges that had been given to women as to equality of treatment when they were pressed into work in order to accelerate the output of munition and other war material. Mrs. Webb very clearly proves her contention that these pledges were not kept. Exploiting the work of women had become a national habit, and, in spite of the promises of the Prime Minister and other statesmen, in no Government Department did women receive equality of treatment in regard to payment, either when they were substitutes for skilled or for unskilled men. The section dealing with this matter is one of the most interesting in the Report. The differences of payment and of the war bonuses granted to men and women are of very great material importance to the women workers concerned. Their significance as showing, in familiar parlance, "what the woman worker is up against," is of almost greater importance. As Mrs. Webb puts it, "A long tradition has left the vested interest of the male in all the better paid occupations." We have heard the male Trade Unionist congratulate himself that, through his action, the wages of women were kept at the level of his own in many of the occupations pursued by women during the war. It may seem ungracious to remind him of the fact, of which he is fully cognisant, that in doing so he acted for his own interest and not for that of his women folk. It has taken the greatest cataclysm of history to impress upon him that to safeguard his own interests it is not necessary to debar women from industry, but that it is imperative for him to see that they are not exploited with the result that the whole standard of life of the workers is debased. It is understood that a conference of Trade Union officials and the Board of Trade has been held on the subject of the resumption of the Trade Union rules, which, with the consent of the Unions, were abrogated during the war, and that the clauses of a Bill have been agreed upon by which the Trade Union restrictions are again to come into force. This will mean the dismissal of many women now occupied in the engineering trades. The jealousy with which the male Trade Unionist regards work, *i.e.*, any work that is reasonably well paid, as his special prerogative seems to be motivated by the conviction that work is in itself the highest good and sole object of life rather than the means of life, and, under present conditions, frequently the

## THE CASE OF MISS DOUGLAS-PENNANT.

Most of us remember the sudden dismissal of Miss Douglas-Pennant last year from the Air Force without even the month's notice usually expected. We also remember that at various times questions were asked in the House of Commons, and even in the House of Lords; but Miss Douglas-Pennant's natural and honourable wish that a full inquiry as to the reasons of that dismissal should be made has always been refused or put off. Her position was no sinecure. She found on her appointment that there was little or no supervision by women officers over 500 camps, a supervision that all right-thinking people will agree is very necessary, especially in the case of young girls and boys exposed to unusual risks and temptations.

As far as I know, the London papers have reported little concerning this most important case, but last month a very influential meeting was held at Bangor, with the Bishop of St. Asaph in the chair, and a resolution was passed demanding a full inquiry by the Government.

The Bishop said that Miss Douglas-Pennant objected to five inexperienced ladies being appointed to highly-paid responsible positions, and also declined to grant expensive quarters for officers. She also objected to girls being kept out late by men officers of the Force, and to reports sent in unless signed by a woman officer as well as a man.

Miss Douglas-Pennant became unpopular with the officers, and bogus rudenesses were said to have been perpetrated in her name on the telephone. One General informed her that she was dismissed because she was "inefficient," but General Brancker probably hit the right nail on the head when he said she was "not inefficient, but unpopular."

The Bishop remarked that "no Government dare turn a deaf ear to the demand for inquiry. The supervision of 500 camps was not easy where temptation from the reckless and the unscrupulous was great," and he proceeded to quote from a "*respectable paper*" the following serious allegation: "The only possible explanation of the refusal of inquiry is that the Government fear a scandal, and as the inquiry has been refused we may as well state plainly what is the cause of Miss Pennant's dismissal. It is that some of the officers, who are sheltered from danger of contact with the enemy, wish to have their mistresses maintained by the State in sham appointments at three or four hundred a year."

Colonel Cotton, in his speech, observed that: "It is not in the interest of the State to hold an inquiry—put into plain English it meant it was not in the interest of the State to expose jobbery, corruption, inefficiency, immorality and injustice. The Welsh people intend to see this thing through, whatever the consequences may be."

The Rev. John Williams said that Miss Douglas-Pennant's unpopularity was because she was determined to clear the camps from the disgraces she found existing in them. It was time for the sheltering of falsehood to end.

The Mayor of Bangor said Miss Douglas-Pennant was prepared to substantiate that the intrigue which caused her dismissal was deliberately started in order to prevent the exposure of scandals which were rife in the camps.

These Welshmen, all good men and true, have not been mealy-mouthed in their defence of a country-woman, and were their statements merely "allegations," as the lawyers say, one would think the Government, for their own sake, would welcome a full inquiry, but nothing has been done.

The National Political League has been investigating the case, and has published in *The Manchester Guardian* of May 19 their letter to Miss Douglas-

disagreeable and monotonous means of life. The member of a rationally constituted society, whether man or woman, would surely value the collaboration of every fellow-worker, whether male or female, as one who comes to bear part of his own burden.

The married Trade Unionist frequently opposes equal pay for equal work, or modifications of this formula, on the ground that he has to support a family. It does not seem to occur to him that the difference between his wage and that of a woman employed on a similar work is quite insufficient to bring up a family on. If sufficient for the man with one, two or three children, it is unlikely to be adequate to meet the expenses of the fourth, fifth or sixth child. The injustice of the present system both to men and women cannot be denied. It is unjust to pay a woman less than a man for doing work of equal value, *i.e.*, to pay a man teacher more than a woman teacher for work which is in every respect equivalent. If the rearing of the next generation is of importance to the State, it is a question whether it is not unjust that, except for the slight relief afforded to those who come under the operations of the Income Tax collector, the State should bear no part (or only such a small part as it does at present through the Maternity Benefit of the National Insurance Act, Free Education, etc.) in work by which it will benefit long after those who are now bearing this burden have been gathered to their fathers. Mrs. Webb points out that "something like half of all the families of the United Kingdom have for the last few years been receiving incomes determined according to the number and ages of the persons to be maintained." The State Unemployment Benefit is granted in accordance with the same principle. The Majority Report adopts "the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' in the sense that pay should be in proportion to efficient output." In dealing with the question of teachers' salaries it asserts that "it may be necessary for the State to counteract the difference of attractiveness by a payment for the services rendered to the State in connection with the continuance of the race, or, in other words, by the payment of children's allowances to married men." It goes further and holds that "a similar remedy to that which we have suggested in the case of the teaching profession should be applied in the case of the Civil Service." Mrs. Webb urges that the question of public provision for maternity and childhood should be investigated by a separate Commission or Committee. She finds that not more than half of the men over eighteen in the country have a child or children, while about one in four of working women have dependents to support. She rightly finds it to be impossible to expect an employer to pay the father of ten more than the bachelor, and she sees no logical expedient for doing justice between men and women except in the establishment of a national minimum identical for men and women, and the acceptance by the State of some form of State provision for children quite apart from the industrial remuneration of their parents, thus extending to the children of the employed workers some equivalent to the public money which is spent on the children of drunkards, ne'er-do-wells and of those who criminally neglect or abandon their families.

It has only been possible to touch upon a few of the salient points in this Report, which is a mine of information and a storehouse of thought. For a Blue Book of its size and importance, its price of 1s. 6d. is very moderate, and its study can be heartily recommended not only to students but to all women who desire to see the freeing of women from the shackles which both law and custom have imposed upon them, and who believe that the rejection of the "vested interest of the male" will result in the raising of the standard of life of the whole community.

E. M. N. C.

Pennant, and her reply, dated May 5, in which she says:

I am astonished to learn that at a recent interview with Mr. Tyson Wilson, M.P., you were informed by him that he had been officially advised by the Secretary of the Air Ministry that I knew of the charges made against me before I was summarily dismissed from the Air Force, and that before my dismissal an inquiry was made, and that I was given a full opportunity of hearing and answering the charges, and showed myself unable to make an adequate defence.

I can only tell you that there is not one word of truth in any of these statements.—I am, yours faithfully,

(Signed) VIOLET DOUGLAS-PENNANT.

The League wrote at once to General Seely asking him to give full particulars at once of the exact position as to the inquiry which it is alleged preceded the summary dismissal of Miss Douglas-Pennant. The League concludes:—

Questioned in the House of Commons (May 8) on this point, Mr. Churchill directly refused a reply. No comment is needed. We can confidently leave the public to draw their own inference from the letters here published. The last shadow of a doubt must now be removed. Such methods of subterfuge and evasion only serve to bring into strong relief the grave need of a full judicial inquiry.

Miss Douglas-Pennant has clearly fought a brave and lonely fight, like many a public woman before her, against spiritual wickedness in high places, and we, many of us the mothers of sons and daughters in the Air Force, will rally to her help in demanding a full inquiry. We are voters now, and letters to our Members will not be ignored or acknowledged on postcards as in the old days of our helplessness.

We were promised a new world after the war, but sometimes it seems as if we have sunk deeper in the mire of lust and lies. We are told that an inquiry may compromise leading society people; if they cannot set a better example to the common people it is high time they ceased to lead. Our men have died and agonised in millions for a higher ideal and a better world, and not for politicians to hush up "jobbery, corruption, immorality and injustice." As the Colonel said, let the women join the Welsh in seeing this thing through.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

NOTE.—We quote the report of the speeches at the Bangor meeting from *The Manchester Guardian* of April 17, and the letters, etc., of the National Political League from the same journal, May 24.

### OUR MOVEMENT ABROAD.

#### Woman Suffrage in Sweden.

Victory at last! The Constitutional Reform Bill, granting the vote to women, was definitely adopted by both Chambers of the Legislature on Saturday last.

#### Women Suffrage in France.

The motion to grant women complete rights as electors and candidates at municipal and Parliamentary elections was carried in the Chamber of Deputies by 344 votes to 97. It has still to face the Senate.

#### Women Suffrage in the U.S.A.

The House of Representatives has passed the Anthony Bill by forty-two votes more than were necessary to authorise the Women Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution being submitted to the several States of the Union. It is prophesied that better luck will attend its passage through the Senate than it experienced a few months ago.

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### THE HEALTH BILL IN THE LORDS.

Report stage was passed on May 20 and the third reading taken on May 22.

#### A Dangerous Innovation.

A Government amendment was agreed to directing the Health Minister to "prepare" Measures conducive to the health of the people. The reason for this was the general desire of the Lords for further powers in dealing with useless and injurious patent medicines, but this new power of initiating measures as distinct from co-ordinating and carrying out existing measures will apply just as much to notification of venereal diseases, compulsory treatment on regulationist methods, and we hope to see it deleted from the Bill in the House of Commons.

#### Multiplication of Ministers.

Lord Sandhurst begged piteously for the second Parliamentary Secretary abstracted by their Lordships on Committee to be "given back to him." He had "never been able to find" the Under-Secretary for the Local Government Board, and the President was a most difficult fish to hook, because he was so busy. The work of the new Ministry was quite unestimable; indeed, there was no limit to it. But give him his second Under-Secretary and all would be well.

The House was moved, but not convinced, by this eloquent appeal. Having struck their blow for freedom, the democrats stuck to their guns and slew the evil disease of the creation of new Ministers and officials, rejecting the obnoxious Secretary by 48 to 26.

### Our Picnic.

We are anticipating that the picnic to Hampton Court on Sunday is to be a great success. A large number of tickets have already been sold, but tickets may still be had at the office. We are to have a splendid lunch and dainty tea of home-made scones and cakes at Miss Reeves' Tearoom, The Maze Parlour, overlooking Bushey Park. Even if you have not secured your ticket beforehand, we shall welcome you there for lunch at 1 o'clock. The cost of ticket for luncheon and tea is 3s. inclusive. As there are so many routes to Hampton Court, we have arranged to meet at The Lion Gate, just opposite Bushey Park. A bus now runs direct to Hampton Court from Golder's Green Station, starting at 10 a.m. There is also one from Charing Cross and Highgate. Not only will this be a pleasant and interesting outing, but also the more successful it is the more will our Hon. Treasurer rejoice. Your League has good work to do, and to do it funds are needed, so see to it that you do your share on Sunday. Come in large numbers and make the picnic a success.

### State Registration of Trained Nurses. A Meeting of Protest.

At a very crowded public meeting of trained nurses and others, held at the Medical Society's Rooms, 11, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, London, W., on Friday, May 23rd, a resolution was carried unanimously protesting against the action of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in introducing into the House of Lords a rival Bill to the Bill for the State Registration of Nurses which has already received support from all parties in the House of Commons.

**THE HANDICRAFTS,**  
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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO  
BE FREE.

Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4.—Meeting in Hyde Park, 6 p.m.  
Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans. Chair: Mrs. Metge.  
Similar meetings each Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Thursday, June 5.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

Wednesday, June 11.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject: "Who fears Revolution?"

Thursday, June 12.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

Thursday, June 12.—Golder's Green Branch Meeting at 13, Temple Fortune-court, 8.15 p.m.

Thursday, June 19.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 12 noon.

Friday, July 4.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall.

### PROVINCES.

Saturday, May 31.—Manchester, Jumble Sale, Grosvenor Street, Baptist School, 2.30 p.m. Contributions to be sent to Mrs. Sharples, 9, Hughes Street, C-on-M., Manchester.

Monday, June 2.—Westcliff Branch Meeting, Labour Hall, 6, Broadway Market, Southend, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "Education."

Monday, June 2.—Middlesbrough Branch Meeting, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

Wednesday, June 11.—Ashford Women's Club. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Subject: "The Endowment of Motherhood."

Monday, June 16.—Westcliff Garden Meeting (evening).

### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Saturday, May 31.—Reception, to meet the Garden Suburb Women Councillors, Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., Mrs. Bannister and Miss Hodge, at The Institute, 7.45 p.m. Short speeches by Rev. J. H. Rushbrooke, M.A., and Alfred Baker, Esq., L.C.C. Musical programme by Miss Enid Rose.

Thursday, June 5.—Cothelstone B.W.T.A. Public Lectures afternoon and evening. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Sunday, June 29.—Kingston-on-Thames, Humanitarian Society Meeting, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

### Special Note.

Will readers kindly note the meeting arranged for June 4 in the Minerva Café is cancelled owing to the illness of Miss Ingram?

Next Wednesday Mr. Laurence Housman will speak in the Minerva Café, at 3 p.m., on "Who Fears Revolution?" This will be the last of our Wednesday afternoon indoor meetings this session, but we shall hold open-air meetings in Hyde Park (Marble Arch) each Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock (weather permitting) through the summer.

### OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1918, £31,454 ls. 5d. £ s. d.

Amount previously acknowledged ... 372 14 1

Special Emergency War Fund.

"A Friend" ... 1 5 0

Mrs. Sholl ... 5 0

Miss F. A. Howard ... 1 10 0

Mrs. Linsell ... 5 0 0

Mrs. Budd ... 1 1 0

Miss C. M. Richardson ... 1 0 0

Mrs. Saul Solomon ... 10 6

Mrs. Branch ... 10 0

Miss Julia Lloyd ... 10 0

Mrs. Lawrence ... 5 0

Miss M. H. Saunders ... 5 0

A. Cave, Esq. ... 2 6

Mrs. Evans ... 2 6

Miss Lettice Newman ... 2 6

Mrs. Wheatley ... 2 6

Mrs. White ... 2 6

Mrs. R. J. Mills ... 2 0

Miss E. Bullen ... 1 0

Mrs. Hutt ... 1 0

Mrs. Kirby ... 1 0

Collections ... 2 0 1

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Glasgow ... 2 19 4

Manchester (Delegates' expenses) ... 10 0

£393 18 0

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London Provincial and South Western Bank, Ltd."

### Equal Pay for Similar Duties.

This subject is the subject of the hour. It is one which cannot be shirked, and which may prove to be more important in its ultimate consequences than in its immediate effects. It will be fully discussed on Monday evening next, June 2nd, at the Minerva Café. Members must not lose this opportunity of acquainting themselves with this many-sided question. The discussion will be opened by Mr. Frank Hughes (National Union of Clerks) at 7 p.m.

## Everybody's Business!

The moment has come for:—

**WOMEN BARRISTERS  
WOMEN SOLICITORS  
WOMEN MAGISTRATES.**

Men have done their part in bringing in Bills for all of these.

Women must now do their part in bringing the reforms out of the region of theory and into practical politics by focussing and demonstrating their demand for them.

If you want them ask for them, and if you ask loudly enough they are yours.

The Government is pledged to support these Bills but you must keep them up to it.

Remember we can have AT ONCE:—

**WOMEN BARRISTERS  
WOMEN SOLICITORS  
WOMEN MAGISTRATES**

and these will bring after them very quickly:—

**WOMEN on JURIES**

**A WOMAN PUBLIC DEFENDER  
WOMEN GOVERNORS of PRISONS**  
and many other improvements.

The Women's Freedom League is organising a strenuous campaign, other Societies are co-operating with us.

**EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON YOU.**

Liberal contributions to the expenses of the campaign are necessary. Every member has a chance to help, and without your support we can do nothing.

144, High Holborn.

E. KNIGHT.

FRIDAY,  
MAY 30,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Bournemouth.

A Garden Meeting will be held (by kind permission of Mrs. Hume) at Eversley, Purley-road, Westcliff, on Thursday, June 5, at 4 p.m. Speakers: Miss M. Ballard Dawson on "Women in the Church," and Miss Jessie Marsh (Sister Jessie) on "Women Outside the Church." The chair will be taken by Mrs. Hamilton Grant. Tea, optional, 8d. If wet the meeting will be held at Freedom Hall, Loughton-hurst, Westcliff Gardens.

### Middlesbrough.

A most successful and enjoyable social evening was spent by the members and friends of the Middlesbrough Branch of the W.F.S. on Monday, May 19.

A very excellent musical programme was arranged, and our thanks are due to Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Jones, Miss Nelson, Mrs. Coulthard, and Miss Pardoe. Mr. Thatcher gave a humorous sketch entitled "My Experiences in a Balloon," and Mrs. Thornton gave a recitation entitled "Men."

During the evening Mrs. Schofield Coates gave a short address on the work of the League, showing the need there was for women still to work together, and the work which still remains to be done before women could obtain equal recognition with men—politically, industrially, socially.

To Miss Hawkins and Mrs. Harrison we are specially grateful for their help in arranging the refreshments, etc. To the juvenile helpers we also extend our appreciation.

This is the first of a series of social gatherings, together with discussions and business meetings, held by the League, and in this way we are resuming work in the endeavour to rebuild a strong and active Branch of the Women's Freedom League.

The Chairman put the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch of the Women's Freedom League urges the members for Middlesbrough to be present in the House of Commons on Friday, July 4, when the Report Stage of the Women's Emancipation Bill will be taken, and to vote in favour of this Bill as it stands."

Mrs. Coulthard seconded this resolution, and it was passed unanimously.

It was resolved to send this to Mr. Penry Williams and Mr. Trevelyan Thomson, M.P.

DOROTHY BARRS, Hon. Sec.

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

"The Possibilities of Permanent Health and Complete Immunity" was the subject of an address of extraordinary interest by Mr. William Aird last Wednesday afternoon. The speaker stated that the majority of people apparently looked upon health as an accidental condition, whereas nothing was an accident, and good health ought to be the normal condition of human beings. All disease was in reality curative; it was the process by which the body was trying to get well. Pain was an indication that the body had taken in what was not good for it, and that it was trying to throw out the injury it had received. Mr. Aird maintained that we had failed to secure permanent health because we cooked our food. Wild animals did not suffer as we suffer. They found the food that agreed with them and ate it in a raw state. He maintained that people who wanted to be in really good health must give up meat and tea; and that fresh fruit, fresh vegetables in an uncooked state would be all that they required. Indeed, the produce of one rod of ground would be enough to support a person for twelve months. There were 50 or 60 different kinds of food to draw from, and 12 to 20 of these could be obtained right through the year. A long discussion ensued, some of which was frankly sceptical, but Mr. Aird good-humouredly replied to all his critics, and gave an account of some wonderful food experiments on himself, on wasting babies, and on syphilitic babies.

Miss A. E. Jacob, from the chair, said that this question of the right kinds of food was essentially a woman's question. Women's chief care was for the health of the race. Everlasting cooking had made women into harassed, domestic drudges. A world in which people could live and be healthy on uncooked food would secure for women much more time and leisure, and would give an immense impetus to their emancipation.

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CITY TEMPLE.—Miss A. MAUDE ROYDEN will PREACH at the CITY TEMPLE next Sunday, June 1, at 6.30 p.m.

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WANTED, Organiser for the Women's Freedom League.—Apply, by letter only, giving full particulars, to the SECRETARY, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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