

Miss Pennant defeats the Government!

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 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.

MAKE SURE OF YOUR VOTE.

The New Lists of Electors for Municipal and Parliamentary Elections have now been published, and can be seen at Post Offices, Town Halls, on Church doors, &c. This is the list for the Third Register, on which the very important Borough Council Elections will be fought this autumn. Every woman must look and see that her name appears upon it; if not you can get a claim form from your Registration Offices and send it in to the Town Hall before August 9th. In case of any difficulty write to us:—

REGISTRATION GUIDE, 144 HIGH HOLBORN.

Miss DOUGLAS-PENNANT DEFEATS THE GOVERNMENT!

"Jobbery, Corruption, and Immorality?"

Twice within two weeks the Government has been defeated on a woman's question.

On July 19th the House of Commons carried the Votes-for-Women-under-Thirty Bill third reading against obstinate Government opposition. A few weeks ago the Women's Freedom League corresponded with Lord Stanhope on the subject of an inquiry into Miss Douglas Pennant's case, and on July 30th, in the teeth of virulent Government opposition, the House of Lords, by 69 votes to 42, carried Lord Stanhope's resolution for a select committee appointed by the Lords to examine the circumstances connected with Miss Douglas Pennant's dismissal from the Women's Royal Air Force, with power to call witnesses, to take evidence on oath, and to ask for the production of documents.

Two months ago, Lord Stanhope reminded the House, they decided by a 3 to 1 majority that a judicial inquiry should be held. Later on the Government casually announced, in answer to a question in the Commons, that they did not intend to hold this inquiry. On August 7th, 1918, the Under-Secretary of State for the Air Force stated that Miss Pennant was given her position because from her experience and qualifications she was the most suitable person available. On August 16th Miss Pennant tendered her resignation, which was refused, and then on August 28th she was summarily dis-

missed. No adverse report had been made by her superior officer, although, by the King's regulations, this is a necessary prelude to dismissal. The reasons given for dismissal did not bear examination. The Lord Chancellor said that they would be flooded with a multitude of similar cases, but should justice be refused to any individual because there were numerous other cases?

No officer could be dismissed from the Army or the Air Force under the Army Act except by sentence of a general court-martial. Miss Pennant had no court-martial. Under the Pay Warrant officers might be asked to resign, and might be dismissed "at any time for misconduct." Miss Pennant was not asked to resign her commission; she was dismissed. An officer so dismissed was always turned out of his clubs as having done some disgraceful act. Against Miss Pennant's personal character both the Air Council and Lord Weir himself stated that no charge could be made, therefore Lord Weir had obviously set aside the King's Regulations and disregarded the law. It was pretended that Miss Pennant was not a commissioned officer in the Air Force; then why was she ordered to wear the uniform? Why was she not court-martialled for wearing it, and General Paine for ordering it and the Air Ministry for advancing the money to buy it, an illegal expenditure?

Either she was wrongfully dismissed or the Government had broken the law. Magna Charta enacted that *no freeman should be damaged but by lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land*. The elected House of the People was not interested in the right of trial; the peers must take action against oppression.

The real reason for refusal of an inquiry was the Government's fear of the scandals which it would bring to light. He had definite details, which he was convinced were true, of systematic immorality between men and women officers, carefully screened and acquiesced in by the authorities.

The Government, not Miss Pennant, refused this inquiry, and, as Robert Burns said:

"None ever feared that the truth should be heard
Save those whom the truth would indite."

More important than justice to Miss Pennant was the purity of the public service, the duty of a Minister to obey the Regulations, and the right of every freeman of this Country to a trial.

LORD WEIR, in reply, declared that he had been competently advised that Miss Pennant was not a member of the Women's Royal Air Force, but was loaned from the Welsh Insurance Commission, and that he was re-transferring her to that department. General Paine, Miss Douglas-Pennant's immediate superior, always supported her, but described increasing difficulties, and seemed doubtful whether she would be able to overcome them. Gradually, Lord Weir felt that she was unsuitable for the job, and when General Paine was promoted he decided to give his successor a new start in the women's section, involving Miss Pennant's return to the department which had given them her services. All she had to do was to go back and resume her work there. He was not consulted by his Under-Secretary on August 7th. The sole factor which weighed with him was the interest of the service.

Lord Weir's Apology.

He regretted that he did not show Miss Pennant more consideration and speak to her more frankly. He had already apologised in a letter to the Prime Minister, which was conveyed to Miss Pennant, and wished to tender any further apology that was considered necessary. He did not object to an inquiry, but no good could come of it; it was waste of time and money and a very dangerous precedent.

LORD PONTYPRIDD found in Lord Weir's speech the strongest possible case for an inquiry. A good many people believed that everything possible was done to prevent the lady being successful in spite of her conduct and ability. Lord Weir's explanation made an inquiry necessary. In Cardiff, his native place, where Miss Pennant worked as an insurance commissioner, she was described as "a most gracious lady," and her unassuming demeanour and kindness of heart and her desire for the social welfare of the people had won her unbounded esteem and confidence. It was high time to end the question, and he trusted they would now make a good job of it.

LORD SHEFFIELD, in spite of Lord Weir's defence, thought the inquiry was quite essential. He was surprised that Lord Weir did not refer to the charge that girls in training were given all-night passes by the colonel in charge of the camp, returning from London, often drunk, at 4 a.m. in Government motor lorries. If Lord Weir was ignorant of this it pointed to grave mismanagement and neglect, and almost connivance of somebody to keep him uninformed.

An Augean Stable.

An Augean stable was suggested—if true it should be cleansed, if false the suspected person should be cleared.

THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN, trying to be funny, recommended Miss Pennant to precipitate an action for libel by the Air Ministry against her. "She should be regarded as a casualty in the civil side of the war, a

splendid woman fighting the Germans, knocked over by her own artillery, and we cannot wait to hold an inquest after the men have gone over the top!" Were they to tell their children that in the Great War they spent hours and hours and days considering the efficiency of Miss Douglas-Pennant?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR declared that Miss Pennant's character was unassailed and unassailable, standing far above any detraction that any man could ever suggest or bring. But with her character and her ability she failed in successfully organising the Royal Air Force. An inquiry would cost perhaps £20,000 or £30,000, and be a very dangerous and bad precedent.

LORD AMPHILL hoped they would not be bluffed by the eloquent and charming verbiage of the representative of the Government, every word of it an evasion of the real issue. There could be no precedent, for there were no similar cases. Magna Charta was no laughing matter, and the right of trial was the very bedrock of our liberties. Lord Weir's defence strengthened the case for the inquiry. He admitted irregular action which disposed of all the miserable quibbles, evasions and equivocations made by the Government. A very unwholesome atmosphere had been present. What motives induced Lord Weir to take irregular action? An officer so dismissed was in by the authorities. If everything was straight, why these evasions? Four times the Government had promised to hold an inquiry if a *prima facie* case were made out. He called for it in the interests of the general public as a security against an arbitrary and tyrannical bureaucracy.

Serious Charges.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY put it to the Government that these charges of pecuniary corruption and immorality could not be passed over in silence; it was impossible to escape an inquiry.

THE PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR declared the case most regrettable in many ways.

The Government had promised to investigate any real charge of corruption or immorality, and they had set up a formal inquiry for next week into the charge of corruption, substantiated by a subordinate officer, of Miss Pennant.

The Government could take no part in the proposed inquiry, their Lordships must hold it themselves if they wanted it.

Earl Stanhope then explained that the formal inquiry mentioned, regarding a clothing contract for the Air Force, *has only been forced upon the Government by the Commons Committee on National Waste*, after the Clothing Controller had already repudiated the charge, and the Government had held an inquiry which baulked the whole thing.

E. KNIGHT.

A New Venture.

Gertrude, Lady Decies, has converted her house at Sunningdale, Berkshire, into a first-class golf hotel for the benefit of the houseless, and those who wish to give up housekeeping. There is bedroom accommodation for twenty-two people, and, needless to say, all the rooms, whether single or double, are furnished in admirable taste, and also with genuine comfort. All the sanitation is devised upon the latest plans. The views from the upper windows over 45 acres of ground are delightful and extensive. A kitchen garden and small farm form part of the estate, from which fruit, vegetables, milk, butter and eggs will be supplied to the hotel. Lady Decies did good service in the war, first with the Friends' Unit at Dunkirk, and later with the late Dr. Elsie Inglis at Odessa, and with Lady Muriel Paget in Roumania and at Jassy. She deserves all success in her patriotic venture, which might well be copied by other owners of big country houses, and would prove an important factor towards coping with the present housing crisis.

M.P.'s Salaries at Home and Abroad.

English M.P.s, according to Sir Henry Lucy, in the *Westminster Gazette*, are not only the highest paid legislators in Europe, but, except for members of Congress in the United States, are the best paid in the world. Members of the two Houses of Congress in the United States receive a salary of a little over £1,000 a year, paid monthly. Travelling expenses, at the rate of 10d. a mile, are also paid on going to and returning from Washington at the opening and closing of a session, as well as a yearly allowance of £25 for stationery, which is supplied to members at cost price. If a member does not expend the whole of his allowance in pens and paper he may take out the balance in cash!

Enemy Countries.

In Austria before the war members of the Lower House of the Legislature were paid 16s. 8d. for every day's attendance at the session. In addition, they received travelling expenses to and from their homes and the seat of the Legislature. Members of the Hungarian Parliament, seated at Budapest, received a fixed salary of £200 a year and an allowance of £66 13s. for house rent. Season tickets were also granted for journeys to and fro between their homes and the capital. In addition, deputies were furnished with certificates entitling them to travel over all the State lines of Hungary in one class higher than the ticket paid for. In Belgium great economy prevailed before the war, and is likely to continue. Members resident in towns where a Parliamentary session is held receive no allowance of any kind. Country members are allowed something less than £20 a month during the actual sitting of the House, but no provision is made for travelling expenses.

Cheap Refreshments!

French legislators receive £360 a year. Out of this sum 4s. a month is deducted for "refreshments," which entitles members to free and constant admission to the "buvette"! Members of both Assemblies travel first-class on all State railways free of payment.

In the days of the Empire, members of the Reichstag received no payment, but had free passes on all the German railways. In "Tino's" time Greek deputies received £72 per session, but no railway passes. Members of the Italian Senate and Chamber of Deputies receive no salary, but have the privilege of travelling by rail or steamer free of expense. In Holland, members of the Second Chamber of the States General are paid £166 a year. Those of the First Chamber receive 16s. 8d. per working day. Members resident in the capital do not draw this pay. Country members of both Chambers are permitted free travel to and from The Hague at the opening and closing of a session. Since 1892 the payment of Portuguese deputies was discontinued by a Royal decree, but municipalities are allowed to grant a subsidy to any member not resident in Lisbon whose means are limited. Such payment, however, must not exceed 14s. 10d. per day.

Fines for Non-attendance!

In Sweden, members of the First Chamber of the Riksdag get no pay for travelling expenses. Members of the Second Chamber have an allowance of £66 13s. for ordinary sessions, but are liable to be fined 11s. for any day they fail to attend, unless they have first obtained leave of absence! Free railway tickets are granted to country members for the journey to Stockholm at the opening and closing of a session. Members of the Swiss Legislature receive 16s. for every day of a session on which they have answered the roll call! Country members have an allowance for travelling expenses to Berne and back at the opening and closing of a session. In Spain representatives of the Senate and House of Deputies receive no salary or allowances!

D.M.N.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women on Juries.

Since the second reading of the Sex Disqualification Bill in the House of Lords, the subject of jurywomen has been uppermost in the feminine mind. It may not be generally known that there are three sorts of juries—special, grand, and petty. Special juries consist of people with special knowledge, and are not likely to affect the ordinary woman very much. Grand jury has the power to declare a man innocent, but cannot find him guilty. The jury have to decide whether there is enough evidence against the defendant to make it worth while to send him or her to trial. If they think there is, they return a "true bill," and then a petty jury takes over the responsibility of finally deciding the guilt or innocence, otherwise the suspect is discharged. Grand juries are specially summoned by the sheriff, and are nearly always chosen from among better educated people. All ratepayers are eligible for serving on juries, unless they happen to be peers, criminals, etc. Most Government employees are exempt from serving, also doctors and solicitors.

Schools for Husbands.

The *Daily Mail* records a thrilling suggestion from an irate woman correspondent that, in place of schools for wives or mothers, so frequently advocated in the Press and elsewhere, schools for husbands might be advantageously set up, some of the features of the new school to be as follows: What to do in cases where dinner has to be kept back a couple of hours to suit the convenience of the master of the house? (where the candidate is unable to answer this question, the present prices of the food spoilt to be eloquently indicated!); practical demonstrations with ash-tray, door-mat, and boot-scraper after confronting the candidate with a drawing-room carpet sprinkled with tobacco ash and caked in mud; the effect of motor grease on clean towels, and that of brilliantine on clean pillow-cases, with ocular demonstration of difficulty of removing; how to keep a dressing-room tidy! It is confidently believed that the establishment of such schools would go far towards answering the ever popular enigma which even *Punch* failed to solve.

No Votes for Frenchwomen!

On May 20th last, the Chamber, by a majority of 247, passed a resolution that the women of France and Algeria should be allowed to vote on the same terms as men, and should be eligible for election to all public bodies. Despite this overwhelming majority in the Lower House, the Senatorial Commission on Women's Suffrage has decided, by 10 votes against 3, and one abstention, to reject not only the Chamber's resolution, but a more moderate measure for enfranchising women over 30. This defeat is attributed largely to M. Clemenceau's opposition. Two ex-Prime Ministers, however, M. Briand and M. Viviani, are staunch advocates of Women's Suffrage in France, and the latter, referring to the Senate's action, declared: "We rightly seek to maintain harmony between the two houses. Nevertheless, the House elected by universal suffrage has rights which it will not always allow to be overshadowed."

Presidential Addresses.

Two women delivered presidential addresses at the resumed conference of the Royal Sanitary Institute at Newcastle last week. These were the Lady Mayoress of Newcastle (Mrs. Sutherland), in the section in personal and domestic hygiene; and Miss E. Orange, in the section for sanitary inspectors and health visitors.

Railway Policewomen.

Railway companies are now employing policewomen. One of them, wearing the uniform of the Underground Electric Railway Company, and with the new hat and striped armband issued to the women police, is on patrol duty in the booking halls at Piccadilly Circus station.

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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.

Profiteering and High Prices.

It is with mixed feelings that we learn that the Government, after five years of suffering on the part of the consumer from the ravages of the profiteer and the inflation of prices of all commodities, has, during the last week, appointed a High Prices and Profits Committee. The business of this committee is to enquire how far the present high prices are due to excessive profits on the part of any persons concerned in their production, transport or distribution, and to advise the Government on action which can usefully be taken in the matter. We are not at all surprised to learn that this committee consists of men only—fifteen of them, in addition to the chairman, Colonel Jackson. The first witness to be called is the Food Controller, in whose department again there is no woman in authority. Women are the principal consumers in this country, the most numerous purchasers of food and other necessities, and it is chiefly on the women of the nation that the burden of high prices falls. Yet no woman has ever been asked to be a member of this committee and no woman is to be invited to cross-question the witnesses called by the committee.

From the Press, women know that a milk producer in the South of England has retired from business, having made his fortune during the war, while they know only too well that thousands of children in this country have suffered incalculably because their mothers could not afford to pay the high prices demanded for milk. Women learn that the Food Controller holds out no prospects of food prices coming down; that the big London teashops are increasing by one halfpenny each cup of tea or coffee, and raising the price of the present inadequate penny "currant" bun to three-halfpence, which means so much to the thousands of City girls who can only afford to spend sixpence on their midday meal. Women have been unable to secure sugar for making jam for home consumption, and learn with indignation that jam manufacturers have obtained sugar in large quantities for jam which is sold to women at inflated prices and of inferior quality; and, further, that there is a British combine to maintain high prices in jam and keep Dutch fruit out of the market! And what can women think of this Government and its juggling with the price of coal? Women have a right to expect protection from the Government, and that they shall not be allowed to become the victims of the rapacity of the capitalists on the one hand and of the workpeople on the other. Women have no part in the quarrels of these two sections of the community, but they look to the Government to exercise their brains and their powers to safeguard the interests of consumers who form the great bulk of the nation.

The Vicious Circle.

We, alone among the peoples of the world, have a law on our Statute Book that women may have no voice in electing members to our House of Representatives until they have attained the ripe age of thirty. This decision was arrived at by the Mother of Parliaments while the Great War was in progress, clearly because the majority of the members of that Parliament were afraid, as Lord Kimberley said, that they "would be swamped by women," if the vote was given on equal terms to both sexes. This "age of thirty" is being hailed as a very present help in trouble by some of our legislators who, whatever they say, deep down in their hearts believe that "men are men and women are women," and that therefore all ideas as to the equality of the sexes are unsound, and in some way subversive to the best interests of the State. Otherwise, it is curious to account for Lord Strachie's amendment to the Women Justices of the Peace Bill, enacting that women may not become justices of the peace until they have attained the age of thirty; but it is significant to note that he used the precedent set under the Franchise Act in support of this amendment. It is still more significant that when the Lord Chancellor was opposing the enfranchisement clause of the Women's Emancipation Bill in the House of Lords on July 24th, he reminded their lordships that they had only a very few nights previously, after much consideration, decided that the age of thirty should be the minimum age for a woman justice of the peace, leading them to infer that this was a reason for adhering to the disfranchisement of women under thirty. We quite expect that the same reasoning, or want of reasoning, will induce the Lords, should they agree to give at some distant date peeresses in their own right a vote and seat in the House of Lords, to safeguard themselves and their heirs by inserting a clause to the effect that no such peeress may take her seat or use her vote until she has reached the age of thirty; and their lordships will probably use the Franchise Act as an argument for their action. This sex differentiation of age is becoming an obsession in certain quarters; and if women's influence and activities are not to be handicapped for at least a generation by this newly-established disability, women must work with might and main to secure the franchise on equal terms with men, and thus break this ever-increasing vicious circle.

Where the Money Goes!

Last week the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated, in the House of Commons, that our national expenditure was still at the rate of about four and a-half million pounds a day. Notwithstanding this fact, the Government is now busily engaged in getting through Parliament a Bill to raise the salaries of Ministers, under the provisions of which the Minister of Education, the Minister of Labour, and the President of the Board of Agriculture will each have £5,000 a year.

In dealing with the cost of officialdom, "Ways and Means" points out that no less than 23 new ministerial posts have been created since the war for the benefit of Members of Parliament, 6 of them carrying a salary of £5,000 apiece, 5 a remuneration of £2,000 each, while the remainder run from £1,000 to £1,200. To these must be added the Parliamentary Under-Secretaryships attaching to each office. There are also no less than 33 distinct and separate new Government Departments, as compared with the position when Mr. Balfour was last Prime Minister. The personnel of every Government office has been extended, and if the increase of salaries and superannuations from £924,600, in 1905, to £2,597,918, in 1919, for the Board of Customs and Excise, may be quoted as a fair sample in the increase of expenditure in other Offices of State, we may well make up our minds that, unless there are stringent measures taken in the near future to effect retrenchment in every direction, this country will be faced with financial disaster.

WOMEN JURORS ABROAD.

The question of English women as jurors is occupying a good deal of interest at the moment. Their value has been proved for many years past in other countries more enlightened than our own.

In Norway, and also in America, in the States of Wyoming, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, and Illinois, women for some considerable time have served upon juries with very great benefit both to themselves and to the community. Of all these countries, Norway is perhaps the most systematic in the management of its juries of both sexes. Norwegian juries consist of ten or eleven members, and the panel is drawn, according to a law passed in 1902, from a certain number of men and women. Women sit along with men on ordinary civil cases, when everyone listens equally to the procedure, and afterwards attests to the regularity of the proceedings. Women, however, take no part in civil cases requiring special knowledge, experts only being empanelled on such occasions. In criminal cases, the power of decision where the maximum punishment does not exceed three years' imprisonment, is vested in a judge learned in the law, in conjunction with two men, or one man and one woman. A proof of the absolute impartiality with which both sexes are treated, appeared some few years ago, when a woman, Mrs. Randi Blehr, was unanimously appointed foreman of the jury in Christiania.

Entire Satisfaction.

Judging from the opinions expressed from time to time by judges and other persons in authority, entire satisfaction with women jurors also seems to prevail in those of the American States which have instituted the custom. In Chicago, women act as jurors in the Insane Court, and recently saved three helpless, but harmless, women from being immured in asylums, while they sent twelve women to institutions for treatment. The President of the Court, Judge John Owens, made the following comment on their action: "The women jurors in the Insane Court are becoming more effective with each session. They are giving attention to women's cases such as was never thought of by men juries." The first women's grand jury in California was spoken of by those fully qualified to judge as "the best inquisitorial body" ever seen in the States, the members of which were described as "absolutely fair and fearless, knowing no politics, and caring nothing for private interests except to give everyone justice." Some years ago, Governor Marion Hay, of Washington, refused to recommend a Bill exempting women from jury duty on the ground that their services were absolutely necessary to the State. Other authorities have testified to the improvement in the moral atmosphere of the courts, due to the earnestness and refinement with which the women jurors discharge their duties.

Personal Intuition.

It stands to reason that women jurors, in all cases where their own sex, or that of children, is concerned, will inevitably bring to bear upon their decisions an element of personal intuition from which men are necessarily debarred by virtue of sex limitations. The public would no doubt grasp the logic of this assertion more speedily if one could point to actual cases where juries of women were permitted to try men, giving the latter no representation. Arguments connected with the chivalry of the male sex towards the weaker vessels of the community are absolutely beside the point in this connection, for leniency with wrong-doing, however well meant, is nothing short of a miscarriage of justice.

In the Divorce Courts, if nowhere else, women jurors are an absolute necessity, and it is significant that the Sixth Annual Conference of the Women's Labour League, some years ago, passed a resolution to this effect. Already women are serving as borough councillors, guardians, inspectors, aldermen, and also as mayors, all of which offices involve much more experience and judgment than is requisite for the average juror.

D. M. N.

The Domestic Service Problem.

Among the many displacements caused by the war, that of domestic service is one of the most prominent. For years past a ferment has been brewing, servants have been growing more discontented, and mistresses more despairing. Recently the Ministry of Reconstruction appointed a committee to deal with the question, and some of their investigations materialised into the following conclusions: (a) Loss of social status; (b) Long hours of duty; (c) Lack of companionship.

The memorandum by Miss Lilian Harris contains the following suggestions: "The lack of freedom arising from living in the employer's house can only be met by a system of day workers living out . . . and paid an adequate wage; greatly improved house planning and the provision of labour-saving appliances; the organisation of co-operative services." The Committee themselves were also of the opinion "that some form of municipal service might help solve this difficult problem."

A Skilled Profession.

Efforts have been made since the war to turn the stream of unemployed girls into the domestic fold. These efforts have been met with great reluctance on the part of the girls, and there is doubtless a suspicion that under what appears a new guise the old evils remain. With a living-in system it is practically impossible to regulate hours. A well-trained methodical girl may find herself in the house of a muddling untidy mistress. Also those with moderate incomes struggling with present prices cannot pay high wages.

One of the really essential facts we must not lose sight of is that domestic work is vital and fundamental, that nothing can go on without it; consequently our best endeavours should be directed in raising it to the dignity of a skilled profession. In order to secure a good-class girl it is necessary that she must be able to work under really good conditions. We, therefore, suggest that the present National Kitchens, now promoted to the sounding word "restaurant," furnish the nucleus for the perfect kitchen of the future. That, besides providing all branches of cookery, they shall be training schools at the same time. In connection with the kitchens there shall be domestic service hostels and nurseries. Just as sanitary work is municipalised, so can domestic work be organised on the same lines.

Kitchen Transport.

Equipment plays an enormous part in an enterprise of this kind. The motive power of Mr. Gattie's scheme for transport difficulties can equally well be applied to kitchens and the transport involved. The food could be eaten on the premises, and also sent out, and delivered much as we get our letters now. Here comes in occupation for our women motor drivers. It is not necessary to enter into the details of such a scheme, as each branch is a concern for the specialist; but we do contend that modern inventions that surmount difficulties, and that do now exist, shall be put into force. Another feature of the scheme will be that girls living out under first-rate conditions, and working by the hour, shall themselves be skilled professionals. No doubt some would still prefer the living-in system, and there is nothing to prevent it still continuing. From the ranks of those trained under a public system there should be a promising supply.

At present we have an array of vested interests consolidating against reform. Registry offices, restaurants, and last, and by no means least, the wealthy woman who is afraid any change may lead to a divine discontent on the part of her domestic retainers.

These questions are not isolated, but are bound up in the body politic. They cover diet, hygiene, and child welfare and housing. It is impossible to attack one point without being projected into another. It is much to be desired that some comprehensive practical scheme shall be formulated as soon as possible without fear of favour, only with the view to serving the general good.

V. J. F. HEAD.

In Parliament.

Removal of Sex Disqualification.

The committee stage of this Bill, the text of which is given below, was taken in the House of Lords on July 31st, the Earl of Kintore being in the chair.

Clause 1. Removal of Disqualification on Grounds of Sex.

1. A person shall not be disqualified by sex from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil profession or vocation, and a person shall not be exempted by sex from the liability to serve as a juror:

Provided that—

(a) notwithstanding anything in this section, His Majesty may by Order in Council authorise regulations to be made prescribing the mode of admission of women to the civil service of His Majesty, and the conditions on which women admitted to that service may be appointed to posts therein, and providing for the exclusion of women from admission to any branch of the civil service in any of His Majesty's possessions, or in any foreign country; and

(b) any judge, chairman of quarter sessions, recorder or other person before whom the case is heard may, in his discretion, on an application made by a woman to be exempted from service on a jury in respect of that case by reason of the nature of the evidence to be given or of the issues to be tried, grant such exemption.

Peeresses and the Bill.

Clause 2. Right of Peeresses to Writ of Summons.

2. His Majesty may include in the letters patent for the creation of a peer of the United Kingdom a provision to the effect that where the holder of the peerage is a woman she shall, if otherwise qualified, be entitled to a seat, place, and voice in the House of Lords.

With regard to Clause 1, paragraph (a), Lord Muir Mackenzie unsuccessfully tried to secure the deletion of the phrase relating to regulations by Order in Council, and that equal consideration should be given to the suitability of both sexes.

In respect to juries, their Lordships agreed to the insertion of a clause empowering a judge, if application was made on behalf of the accused or of the prosecution in certain criminal cases, to make an order that the jury should be composed of men only or of women only, as the case might require. It was pointed out that this arrangement was intended to cover cases of rape, indecent assault and unnatural offences.

VISCOUNT FINLAY moved an amendment to delete the whole of Clause 2 referring to peeresses, and this, after some discussion, was agreed to by their Lordships. If the object of the Government by the introduction of this grotesque measure was to mock womens' claims for equality of treatment under the law, they have completely succeeded in attaining that object, and women will know how to deal with their pretensions when the members of this Government again appeal to the electorate.

Women Police.

The Police Bill came before Standing Committee "D" on July 30th, when Major W. Murray (Dumfries) moved the following amendment:

"For the purposes of this Act, unless the contrary intention appears, words importing the masculine gender shall include females."

Major Murray stated that at the present time over 450 women were employed as policewomen, while there were only 164 a year ago. This showed that local authorities had found policewomen very useful. These women were employed in a variety of ways; many of them had been sworn in, and had exercised the power of arrest. They had been employed in quelling riots in the Eagle Hut in the Strand and elsewhere, and even in arresting drunken men. He also urged that the

employment of these women was popular with the Force, and he wanted to see them recognised on an equal footing with men in this Bill.

Major Baird (Rugby), on the other hand, urged that women could not become statutory policemen because there were duties the police had to perform, such as the breaking up of riots, which the law would not ask women to do. It was not desired to impose on women the statutory obligations imposed on men.

This amendment was negatived, apparently on the strength of Major Baird's arguments. F.A.U.

The Wages of Men and Women—Should they be Equal?

By Mrs. Sidney Webb. (Can be obtained from our Literature Department, 1s. net; by post 1s. 1½d.)

Twelve months ago suffragists were rejoicing that the women conductors on tramways and omnibuses had, after a struggle on the part of the employees of both sexes—the men standing by the women in their demand on this occasion—secured an advance of wages equivalent to the advance which had previously been given to men. This particular award resulted early in September, 1918, in the appointment by the War Cabinet of a committee on women in industry "to investigate and report on 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 recommendation should have in view the necessity of output during the war, and the progress and well-being of industry in the future."

This committee consisted of four men and two women, including Mrs. Sidney Webb; and after months of careful investigation a majority and a minority report were issued, the latter being signed only by Mrs. Webb. It is not too much to predict that this minority report on women in industry will have as far-reaching effects as the minority report issued many years ago on Poor Law Reform, and that the adjustments and legislation of the future in regard to women's work will lie along the lines of the conclusions arrived at by Mrs. Sidney Webb, rather than those scheduled in the report signed by her fellow committee members.

This little book, which might well be called the "Vindication of the Rights of Women in Industry," sets forth these conclusions with the facts and reasonings which led up to them. All readers of THE VOTE should be in possession of a copy; it cannot fail to strengthen the faith that is in them in regard to the necessity of women's struggle for equality with men, not only in the industrial, but also in the professional world. They will find special interest in the sections dealing with the rejection of the principles of a Male Rate and a Female Rate, and of the vested interest of the male in industry; and every Freedom Leaguer will agree that not only is the book a masterpiece of close reasoning and lucidity, but that there is not a dull page from cover to cover.

Women's Degrees.

Karl Pearson, in a letter to the "Daily Telegraph," on the above subject, urges women as follows:—

Large Government grants are to be made to Oxford and Cambridge. It lies with Mr. Fisher to determine the conditions under which those grants shall be made; it lies with any member of Parliament to move that these grants shall not be made until justice is done to women at these universities. Let every woman interested in this matter—and it is personal to every woman—write to her member a brief letter on this point, urging opposition to any monetary grants until men and women are treated equally by Oxford and Cambridge. No doubt we shall be told that the matter will be referred to a commission. That means endless postponement of the customary type. Let women insist on an immediate raising of the question in the House of Commons, and if the matter comes to a vote, let a careful record be made of how their members vote and who abstain from voting.

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Wednesday, August 13.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 14.—Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 20.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, August 21.—Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 6.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Provinces.

Thursday Aug. 21st.—Ashford: Jumble Sale, Guild room, Co-operative Hall. 3 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 17th.—Ashford: Public Meeting, Co-operative Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

New Brighton Campaign.

Meetings daily. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans.

Scotland.

Clyde Campaign.

Rothsay: Meetings at the Pier Head every evening at 8 o'clock. Speaker—Miss Anna Munro.

Aug. 8th and 9th.—Speaker at Rothsay Meetings: Miss Mary Shennan.

Dunoon, Largs, etc.: Daily at 11 and 3. Speaker—Miss Anna Munro.

Wales

Aberystwyth Campaign.

Meetings each evening near the Bandstand at 7.30. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Chairman: Miss Alix M. Clark.

SCOTTISH COUNCIL.

Clyde Campaign.

In charge Miss Anna Munro, c/o Miss Gilmour, 5, Victoria Street, Rothsay.

On Friday and Saturday Miss Mary Shennan is expected to speak in Rothsay and Largs. The meetings continue to be well attended although the large Fair crowd from Glasgow has now departed. The questions and discussions are always animated, the people waiting for the meeting to begin, and after, stand arguing among themselves long after we have departed. Miss G. Munro and Mrs. Forrest have been assisting at the meetings and Miss Munro undertakes the speaking.

ABERYSTWYTH CAMPAIGN.

Every evening our flag is unfurled at 7.30 p.m. near the band-stand, when visitors come flocking round eager to hear Mrs. Mustard expound the programme of the Women's Freedom League. Questions are asked and animated discussions take place. The Vote sells well, and much interest is shown in our work.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123 Hampstead Road, N.W. Good accommodation now ready, under new management. Bed-sitting Rooms, single or double. Write—Mrs. FISHER, Minerva Café, 144 High Holborn, W.C.1.

Remember the
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Start your Working Parties, and send your gifts to the Secretary to the Fair, c/o Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.
All goods, useful and ornamental, will be gratefully acknowledged.

Signs of the Times.

The women's colleges next term at Oxford and Cambridge will be filled to overflowing. Disappointed candidates have only the "extern" universities to look to, with their lack of academic atmosphere. At Somerville College 70 candidates have had to be refused, 30 more put on a waiting list, and about 15 of these only can hope to achieve residence. At St. Hugh's College, Oxford, about 40 had to be refused. About half the applications to St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, have also had to be refused this year, but it is hoped to add about 30 to the present students' rooms. At Girton, Miss Jex-Blake has three applications for every vacancy. At Newnham there is practically the same condition of things. Applications for next October exceed the places available by about 100. The larger secondary schools for girls are similarly crowded out. In some places rooms are being taken outside to hold classes, and in others there are classes even in the corridors.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members £2 2s., Country Members £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte.—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

The Club will be closed from August 15th till September 12th during which period hospitality will be given, first at the "New Century" Club and afterwards at the Emerson Club.

Miss Clara Reed.

Readers of THE VOTE will be interested to know that Miss Clara Reed is starting classes in elocution and dramatic art, particulars of which will be found on the back page.

Anonymous Donor.

Best thanks to the kind anonymous friend whose generous donation of fifty pounds for the Birthday Fund was handed to me by Mrs. Despard. E. KNIGHT.

London Graduate Union dissolved.

The members of the London Graduate Union for Women's Suffrage have decided, by a postcard vote, to dissolve the Union now that the principle of women's suffrage has been established.

SPECIAL APPEAL.

Many readers will be seeing the "VOTE" for the first time this week, and will want to know how they can help the Women's Freedom League. Our greatest need at the present moment is for additional organisers, and several good workers are ready to come forward if our friends will send in the necessary funds. Expenses of living and fares are much increased, and contributions are urgently invited, and will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

144, High Holborn. E. KNIGHT,
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FRIDAY,
AUGUST 8,
1919.

THE VOTE

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Branch Notes.

Hastings.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Brock Lane as new members. Mrs. Despard is addressing a meeting for working women at the Wellington Square Lecture Hall on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 4 p.m. It is proposed to give a tea to the women, and the organiser will be very glad to receive names of those who will help by giving cakes, etc., for it. Mrs. Strickland has kindly undertaken to give as much help as possible, and suggests that we might have an open-air meeting in the evening of the same day. As so many members were out of Hastings last month when Mrs. Darent Harrison gave her meeting, the organiser has been asked to secure Mrs. How Martyn for a return visit. She will probably come in October, when Mrs. Jowers has kindly undertaken to give the first of a series of drawing-room meetings. Miss Lena Ashwell cannot come just yet, but we hope to secure her for a Town Hall meeting later.

Could Anything improve the Judge?

We take the following paragraph, grandiloquently headed, "Ethics of Thrashing," from the *Daily Express*, and would ask our readers if they do not consider it is high time that those of our judges who hold such antediluvian ideas should be replaced in our courts of justice by women of more modern education:—

"If you had given her a good thrashing it might have effected an improvement," was the comment of Judge Granger yesterday, at the Southwark County Court, to a man who pleaded that his wife when in drink was awful, but when sober was a thoroughly good woman.

Penalisation of Marriage Going?

The L.C.C. Education Committee proposes to "allow" married women to clean the schools. How soon will it "allow" married nurses and medical officers to attend the children? The revised scheme of the L.C.C. Asylums Committee withdraws the prohibition against married asylum doctors.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, 2d. Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond Road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

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TYPEWRITING.—Authors' MSS. Examination Papers, Letters, Circulars, General Copying, Duplicating, etc.—Miss J. Trimnell, 8 Moira Terrace, Cardiff.

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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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