

THE VOTE,
JAN. 20, 1922
ONE PENNY.

THE CHILDREN'S BIRTHRIGHT.
C. NEAL.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. XXIII. No. 639.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate)

FRIDAY, JAN. 20, 1922

OBJECT: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the powers already obtained to elect women in Parliament, and upon other public bodies, for the purpose of establishing equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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OUR FIRST WOMAN BARRISTER.

By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY (author of "The Feminine in Fiction," etc.).

When I met Miss Kyle a few weeks ago my first impressions were of her youth and her unassuming manner. She looks so very young to have behind her such a brilliant record of academic honours, and she speaks so modestly of her achievements. At the recent B.L. examination in Dublin she came out at the top of the list, outdistancing some forty male students, and has gained in addition the highest legal prize it is possible to obtain in Ireland — The Brook Scholarship, which confers upon the fortunate winner £50 a year for three years.

"You are the very first woman," I said, "to secure this coveted distinction — the blue ribbon of the Irish Law Schools. How splendid! and how proud you should be!"

But Miss Kyle protested it was merely "good luck" and that "other women would take it again." "Yes, I replied, "but you are the *First* woman Brook Scholar, and that means fame for you, and history in the woman's cause!"

Miss Kyle, who is a Belfast girl, is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. She took her B.A. degree with honours two or three years ago, and in the following year her L.L.B., being a Senior Moderator and Gold Medallist in legal and political science. She is

particularly attracted by the study of economics, and had some interesting remarks and suggestions to make of the advantages of co-operation as applied to trade and commerce.



Photo by Beula Martin, Belfast.

Miss Kyle was educated on the Continent, first at a French boarding school, and later in Switzerland. Naturally, therefore, she speaks French fluently. She recalls the winter sports in Switzerland — skiing and sleighing, etc. — into which she entered with zest as a school girl; and also her later travels in Italy, and especially does she recall the charm and glamour which she found in Venice.

Miss Kyle, in spite of her legal studies, has cultivated her musical talent, and plays that most difficult but most delightful instrument, the violin, with taste and skill. She told me that right through her University career, two or three hours' reading was all she did daily. "Well then," I said, "with your remarkable successes, the theory of reincarnation is suggested, and you must have been a famous lawyer in some previous life!"

Miss Kyle laughed and said; "My grandmother used to remark, 'Thank Goodness we are five generations removed from a lawyer!' " indicating the traditional odium that attaches to the lawyer — "and now," added

the barrister granddaughter with a merry twinkle, "I have brought the law element back to the family again."

Miss Kyle speaks in grateful tones of the unflinching kindness and courtesy extended both to her and her sister barrister (Miss Deverill) all through their University course by the male students, law professors, and the Bar—a commendable attitude which, I, as an Irishwoman, record with pride, evidence surely of the once boasted chivalry of our dear green Island. Miss Kyle and I recalled the very different story of the pioneer medical women both in Scotland and England. Here again, I believe, Irish medical women students always received considerate and generous treatment from the men students.

Miss Kyle had something to say of the inevitable "eating of dinners" which custom and convention prescribe for the budding barrister. There are four dinners to be eaten with the Judges, Benchers and students of King's Inns in each term, and there are twelve terms! A Brook Scholar is excused three of these functions.

Miss Kyle had just been "called" one week when—thrilling moment—she received her first Brief! It came from a Co. Tyrone Solicitor who was personally unacquainted with her. Since our interview Miss Kyle has made her first appearance in a High Court Motion, as an advocate at our Northern Law Courts, thus breaking another record, for though certain ladies have been called to the Bar, this is the first time one has appeared in actual practice. In chronicling this unique event the Belfast press speaks in eulogistic terms of Miss Kyle's exceptionally brilliant qualifications.

"How do you like the wig?" I asked as the short winter afternoon closed in, and we rose to say "good-bye." "Oh, not at all," said Miss Kyle, "it is so hot and heavy, and both Miss Deverill and I fought against wearing it, and petitioned the Lord Chief Justice that it might be dispensed with in our case, but he was adamant and would not hear of such a thing." Each Counsel has his (or her) wig made specially to order, "and women require a larger size, not that our brains are larger, but our back hair needs more room than the closely-cropped male head!"

As I bade Miss Kyle good-bye, I could not refrain, when looking into the clear brown eyes behind which lie the alert brain, the trained intellect, the logical acumen and ability, which have placed there possessor in so distinguished a position, from a rapid mental retrospection, of the history of those wonderful pioneers, who have made possible the equality of opportunity, and freedom of choice, in education and the professions, which belong to the women of the present generation.

WOMEN'S BAR SUCCESSES.

The names of twenty two successful women law students appear in the Hilary Examination of Students of the Inns of Court, held in December, and published last week. Four women passed in Roman Law; Miss Kathleen Snell, who obtained a first class, and the Misses Ilma De Jonge, Agatha Munroe, and Anne Smith. Eight women passed in Constitutional Law and Legal History; Miss Chrystal Macmillan and Miss Kathleen Snell, who obtained first classes, Miss Charlotte Bruce and Dr. Letitia Fairfield, who each obtained a second class, and the Misses Ilma De Jonge, Mary Jones, Alice Malcolm, and Edith Price. Six women passed in Criminal Law and Procedure; Miss Anne Hastings, who obtained a first class, and the Misses Ilma De Jonge, Edith Morrison, Rita Reuben, and Alice Troup, who each obtained a second class, and Miss Beatrice Davy. Seven women passed in Real Property and Conveyancing; Miss Berce Bicknell, who obtained a first class, the Misses Winifred Cocks, Ilma De Jonge, Naomi Wallace, and Elsie Wheeler, all of whom obtained second classes, and the Misses Edith Morrison and Evelyn Sanderson. Two women students passed the Final Examinations, Miss A. Doherty, who obtained a second class, and Miss Theodora Davies.

WAGES AND PRICES.

The first of the Monday Evening Lectures of the Easter term, arranged by the Women's Freedom League, was held last Monday, at 8 p.m., when Miss Ida Hyett, of the Social Credit Group, placed a new scheme before the audience, which had for its object the lowering of prices without any accompanying reduction in wages. The chair was taken by Mrs. Northcroft.

Miss Hyett pointed out that no subject was of more absorbing interest to women than the problem of prices. Economists divided themselves into two schools, those who desired to reduce wages, and those who desired to reduce or abolish profits, and a constant struggle went on between the two. But both were beside the mark, for the key to the problem lay in the price of the commodity. This importance of prices was too little realised by the community, who laid the emphasis instead on the size of incomes. In the Middle Ages this question of a just price received a great deal of attention. Though the mediæval economists did not solve this problem they tackled it very sturdily. They certainly attained to a much greater measure of social justice than has been reached in modern times. Industry in those days, however, was a simple problem. Everything depended on individual labour and individual skill. The introduction of machinery, and the progress of science and inventions magnified the ordinary power of production at least fifty times. Human labour became enormously cheapened, wealth increased, and the whole process of production developed into an international affair. Hence the tremendous drop in wages in the last century.

Miss Hyett explained that what was needed to-day was to make this increased wealth a reality for every member of the community. Prices were bound to fluctuate according to the amount to be distributed and the demand. The Social Credit Group, founded by Major C. H. Douglas, had devised a scheme of price regulation which he maintained would enable a nation to buy exactly as much as it was capable of producing.

A WOMAN RADIO ENTHUSIAST.

Miss Mary Loomis, of Washington, D.C., has the distinction of being the only woman in the world who conducts a radio school. It is already a distinct success and is known throughout the world. The men who have graduated from the Loomis school are to be found on ships in all parts of the world.

In the desire to co-operate in some form of war service, Miss Loomis mastered wireless telegraphy during the great war. The United States Department of Commerce granted her a first grade licence, and she became so interested in the work that after the armistice she determined to found her school. To-day she enrolls men students not only from America and Canada, but from Great Britain, India, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Austria, Rumania, and the Philippines. These young men keep in constant touch with their instructress, and hardly a day passes that she does not receive a letter or a present from one or more of them from all quarters of the world.

Every conceivable radio appliance is to be found in the Loomis School, and almost all of it has been constructed by Miss Loomis herself. Every wireless apparatus used on battleships, merchant vessels, or land stations is put into the school for the benefit of the student. Miss Loomis has also fitted up at combination carpenter, machine, electrical, drafting, and blue print shop, in addition to the regular classrooms. She knows how to operate a lathe, use a handsaw, a monkey wrench, pliers, or any other tool used in these particular trades. Every one of Miss Loomis' students has to know how to make every part of wireless apparatus before he can graduate efficiently. Miss Loomis works from twelve to fifteen hours a day in her school, and spends the remainder of her time in writing text-books, and lecturing on the theory of radio.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Women Workers in Japan.

According to the industrial Census of 1918 there are a million and a half employees working in factories employing more than ten "hands." More than half of them are women. In the silk and cotton mills women work on twelve hour shifts; women are also employed in the mines. A considerable proportion of the women workers are mere children. There are over 50,000 girls, working twelve hours a day in the factories, who are under fourteen years of age; and of the 80,000 female workers in the mines, 22,000 are under twenty years of age.

Englishwoman's Discovery.

Mrs. Alexander Grosse, F.R.G.S., has just returned from Brazil from an expedition into the interior, where she is reported to have discovered a radium mine. She is the first English woman to penetrate into these regions. At the base of the mountains is a medicinal lake used by the natives. This lake is radio-active. Mrs. Grosse is at present in Paris in consultation with Mme. Curie.

Women in Orchestras.

During the war, women were admitted to the Symphony Orchestras of both London and Paris, and some women musicians are still playing in them. In Paris the famous Lamoureux Orchestra is closed to women, but the equally famous Colonne Orchestra has a number of women playing side by side with men. In the United States, except as harpists, women are not found in any of the Stage Symphony Orchestras.

Women Workers in Russia.

Women are in a majority in many Russian industries, including the garment, tobacco, textile, and public feeding trades. Over 14 per cent. of railway workers are women.

English Literature Prize for a Woman.

The Rose Mary Crawshay Prize for English literature, of the value of £100, has been awarded to Miss M. E. Seaton, M.A. (Lond.), of Girton College, Cambridge, and Bedford College, London, for a study of the relations between England and the Scandinavian countries in the seventeenth century.

Sweden's Women M.P.s.

Women occupied seats in the Swedish Parliament last week for the first time in the history of the nation. There is one woman representative in the First Chamber and four in the Second Chamber.

Women Justices of the Peace.

Mrs. Winch and Miss Jackson, two ex-Mayoresses of Rochester, have been appointed, the first Women Magistrates of that City. Mrs. Sutcliffe is the first woman to be appointed to the Bridlington Bench and received the Chairman's congratulations on taking her seat last week.

Fewer Women Prisoners.

There is a marked decrease in the number of women prisoners in England. Some years ago there were 100 prisons (or sections of prisons) for women in this country. There are now only 25, and in 1920 only six of these had a daily average exceeding 50. The women's prison at Carlisle has recently been closed.

Toronto Women.

Mrs. Sidney Small is the first woman of Toronto, Canada, to serve on the Toronto Board of Health, and is one of the two women who have been elected to the Toronto City Council.

Medical Women Students' Successes.

Over fifty women passed the first examination for medical degrees at London University last month.

AN URGENT APPEAL TO WOMEN.

GIVE A THOUGHT TO THE ANIMALS.

As a housekeeper you have the power to reform the methods of slaughtering animals used for food.

If you were to spend some days in the private slaughter-houses of England you would readily support our Slaughter Reform Campaign. Animals are still bled without being stunned; the pole-axe—the cause of terrible cruelty in the hands of the inexperienced, the heartless and the careless—is still in use. There are no schools for slaughtermen, no fixed standard of humaneness and efficiency, without which no one should be permitted to kill animals for food.

THE MEAT YOU BUY.

Do not turn away from this subject because it is unpleasant. We ask you to pledge yourself to obtain a guarantee from your butcher that the home-killed meat you buy is derived from animals stunned by humane and mechanically-operated instruments. Economic pressure and public opinion can achieve this reform.

OFFICIAL SUPPORT.

The Ministry of Health has issued Model Bye-Laws relating to Slaughter Houses with directions for the humane killing of animals. As yet such Bye-Laws have only been adopted by some Local Authorities. We ask you to use your influence on Town and Urban District Councils to hasten the general adoption of such Bye-Laws, and especially of Clause 9 B.

THE ANIMAL DEFENCE & ANTI-VIVISECTION SOCIETY,

35, OLD BOND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

YOUR INFLUENCE CAN SECURE THIS REFORM.

Our ultimate object is to ensure the abolition of private slaughter-houses and the installation of humanely-conducted sanitary Public Abattoirs. Other countries have accomplished this reform. Why not England, admittedly the pioneer in movements for the protection of animals? Meat derived from animals which have suffered pain and anguish is a danger to health. Your help is needed, not only because compassion calls for a change of system, but also in the interest of public health.

INDUCE YOUR BUTCHER TO BUY AND USE THE ANIMAL DEFENCE SOCIETY'S HUMANE KILLER. ::

(Price 16/6, and sold without profit to the Society.)

Many advanced butchers have already adopted this instrument, which ensures a painless and instantaneous death to bullocks, horses, calves, pigs, &c. We hold numerous testimonials from butchers who praise it.

If you are willing to help our Slaughter Reform Campaign by your personal influence, please send your name and address to Miss Lind-af-Hageby, Honorary General Secretary,

THE VOTE.

Proprietors: THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
Offices: 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20th, 1922.

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

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.

OURSELVES AND A GENERAL ELECTION.

For some weeks past the chief matter of discussion in the Press has been the possibilities and prospects of an early General Election—at one time it was to come at the end of this month, then it receded to February. Its date is still uncertain but the *Times* says authoritatively "There will be no February Election. That is settled." We can only "wait and see" what is finally decided. We only wish that women were in a position to say that there shall be no General Election until women are enfranchised at the same age and on the same terms as men, just as we said in pre-war days "there shall be no extension of the franchise to men unless it is also extended to women." We are glad to see that the Labour Party and a Coalition-Unionist M.P. share our views on the necessity of granting equal franchise to the sexes without delay. The postponement of an immediate General Election will enable women to press their claims more urgently upon the Government for a simple measure, the effect of which will be to enfranchise women at the same age and on the same terms as men. Such a measure should certainly be included in the King's Speech, and should be passed through all its stages into law with the least possible delay early next Session. February 6th next will be the fourth anniversary of the date on which the majority of women over thirty years in this country were given the right to vote at Parliamentary elections. These women were able to vote at the last General Election, and what we want to ensure is that all women from twenty-one years of age shall be able to exercise the vote at the next General Election on the same terms as men now exercise it. Our readers should lose no time in urging upon their Member of Parliament this point of view, and ask him for a definite promise to press the Prime Minister to include an Equal Franchise Bill in the King's Speech. We can put no faith in any but a Government measure for this purpose. Whenever the General Election comes the Women's Freedom League will approach candidates of all parties, asking them, if elected, what support they will give to legislation to establish the full equality of status between men and women in all respects—political, economic, social, educational, professional, industrial, and moral; and if they are promoted to office, whether they will exercise their administrative powers in the spirit of full equality between the sexes. It is gratifying to record the fact that a good number of the women who have been adopted as prospective candidates at the next General Election have answered these questions quite satisfactorily, and, wherever it is possible, the Women's Freedom League will give these women candidates its wholehearted and enthusiastic support. We recognise that the quickest way to secure the realisation of our equality programme is to send a good number of women to Westminster pledged to carry it out.

WOMEN, TRAINING AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment states that it will not be able to consider applications for training after March. Two years ago this Committee received a grant of £500,000 from the National Relief Fund to enable them to carry out special schemes of work and training for unemployed women, whose earning capacity had been injuriously affected as a result of war conditions. A large part of the funds of the Central Committee have now been allocated for this purpose, and the Committee has, therefore, been obliged to fix a closing date for applications for training. Throughout the whole of last year the Women's Freedom League urged that the Government and local governing bodies should include women in any schemes of work they devised for unemployed men; but we were merely a voice crying in the wilderness. We are glad to announce that the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations (to which the Women's Freedom League is affiliated) is calling a whole-day Conference on Unemployment among women, which is to be held on Monday, January 30, at Morley Hall, George Street, Hanover Square. The morning session will be devoted to a general survey, with two expert speakers on the industrial aspect, and two on the professional. It is not always realised that unemployed professional women, such as sanitary inspectors and health visitors, as well as clerks and secretaries, may suffer actual want as severe as that among industrial women, which the ordinary unemployment insurance schemes do not touch. In the afternoon session various resolutions proposing measures for relieving or diminishing this unemployment will be put forward for discussion. These resolutions will deal with Training schemes, Relief Work, the raising of the School Age, Advance Government Orders, Women in the Civil Service, and Insurance. It is hoped that not only the constituent Societies of the Consultative Committee, but all the Women's Organisations, will support this Conference, for the vast amount of unemployment amongst women in this country should be a matter of very serious concern to every woman's organisation, and any proposals they can agree upon would doubtless have great weight with the Government.

WOMEN AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The reform of the House of Lords has been a good deal discussed in the controversy raging around the possibilities of an Early General Election. Our chief interest in this particular matter centres round the position which women are likely to occupy in this "reformed" House. Last week, by the command of the King, the Peers of Scotland assembled in Holyrood House, Edinburgh, for the purpose of electing three of their number to sit and vote in the House of Lords in place of three Scottish Peers who have died recently. We should have thought that the provisions of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act would have allowed Scottish Peeresses to vote at the election, although women are still excluded from taking their seat and voting in the Upper House. There are, we understand, four Scottish Peeresses in their own right, and we regret that not one of them appeared to be public-spirited enough to put forward her claim to vote on this occasion. It is reported that the "reform" which Sir George Younger and his friends desire is that the hereditary peers shall elect from among their number about one hundred life members of the Second Chamber, that the House of Commons shall elect a certain number, and that ordinary voters shall be conceded the privilege of electing another section by grouped constituencies. In our view no part of this "reform" should be proceeded with until peeresses in their own right have been allowed to take their seat and to vote in the present House of Lords, and until they have established their right to vote with peers for the election of any of their number to the House of Lords.

THE CHILDREN'S BIRTHRIGHT.

By C. NEAL.

"We Germans can proudly point to the fact that our expenditure on the education of our children has been fully maintained during the war at its former level. In Prussia and elsewhere it has even, for certain objects, been increased. But the money-making, so-called democratic England finds it necessary to cut her expenditure bill to the lowest limit. We rejoice at the fact that our enemies are discouraging the education and instruction of the masses. By the mere fact that British children are being deprived of education we have a great victory over England, for, after the war, more than ever before, will knowledge and education, on the part of all classes of the population, bring victory in the economic struggle."

The above is an extract from a German paper published in the middle of 1916, and recently reprinted in the *London Daily News*. The fact that during war time the German nation not only maintained its former high standard of education, but, in some cases, even augmented it, shows that the leaders of that country recognised that, when the war was over, another one for economic superiority would be entered upon, and that the victory in the long run would be gained by the country which could depend most upon highly educated recruits for industry, upon workers who could beat the rest of the world in skilled efficiency and scientific methods. Since the armistice, Germany has continued to put the greatest possible vigour into its schemes of education, especially in the technical or scientific branches. Belgium too, has resumed and improved its education system, while France is making great strides in its provision for secondary and more advanced work. But in England, State-aided education has always been looked upon with suspicion by a certain section; probably it is because we have never had enough of it that we have never learnt to appreciate education properly. The Primary Schools, in which ninety per cent. of the children of the country received all the education they ever obtained, were often badly equipped, and staffed with insufficient, badly-paid teachers. Just before war broke out, a big effort was being made by educationalists to obtain better conditions; a few of the more enlightened authorities were beginning to spend a little more on books and apparatus, and to reduce the size of classes from 60 to 48, 45, or even 40. Because insufficient teachers could be obtained at the salaries previously offered, a campaign was being inaugurated to make the teaching profession more attractive by higher salaries and better conditions.

Then war came, and the slight improvements, effected nearly all disappeared. Men teachers enlisted, either voluntarily or compulsorily, and the remaining teachers, slightly augmented by temporary helpers, many of whom had been out of the profession for many years, had to cope with largely increased classes; the expenditure on books and apparatus was often cut down, though the prices of these were rising enormously; few repairs were done to buildings, and all fresh building was stopped. Teachers immediately dropped their campaign for improved salaries and conditions, and patriotically made the best of things with the result that, while wages were increasing and the cost of living soaring, many teachers found themselves in actual poverty.

But then hope came. The experiences of the war had taught some of our statesmen the lesson that Germany had already learnt, that the ultimate victory would be to the nation that had the best educated, the most highly intelligent and skilled work-people. As a result we had the Fisher Education Act of 1918, which was hailed with delight by the educationists of the country, but was looked upon with great suspicion by certain reactionaries. And, taking advantage of the financial straits of the country, those reactionaries have won, and are winning, a great triumph. The 1918 Fisher Act is practically dead. Very few of its

provisions have been put in force, and those few in a truncated form. A circular from the Board of Education has cut down expenditure on children who are Mentally Defective. Do not our Statesmen know, that money saved in this way now will have to be spent later in caring for these poor people in asylums and in poor-law and other institutions, whereas, with proper training and under good control, many of them can be taught to earn their own livings, and be, if not useful citizens, at least not harmful ones?

Again, some local Education Authorities, who have aspired to make Secondary Education free for all who have proved their fitness to benefit by it, have been informed by the Board of Education that, for the future, fees must be charged where education has been free, and that higher fees than before must be charged in other cases. Merthyr Tydvil is a notable example.

The Board of Education's grants to University Colleges have already been cut down by £300,000; the immense harm done to the individual Colleges by their share of this loss is altogether disproportionate to the gain to the National Exchequer by with-holding the sum.

The Board is also interfering with the power of local Education Authorities to take advantage of gifts made to them. Thus, both in Salford and in Manchester, offers have been made of houses, as gifts, to be used as Nursery Schools. The authorities in both towns have decided that such Nursery Schools would be an immense benefit, and that they would bear locally the cost of necessary alteration and equipment. But the Board has refused to allow this to be done. In another locality, the offer of a house to be used as an open-air school for delicate children was made and refused.

The Press-reading public knows at least the name of "The Burnham Committee." This Committee, formed at the instigation of, and with the consent of the Board of Education, drew up scales of salaries which it considered suitable for teachers in different areas and in various grades of schools. It was understood that, if the terms suggested were accepted by the teachers, the State would also accept them as a binding agreement. But, while the bulk of the teachers reluctantly accepted the terms, the Minister of Education, after many months' delay, refused to agree to the method by which the new salaries were to be reached. For many teachers, therefore, the actual result of the recently adopted Burnham Scales has been a gain of only a few pence a week, while for some there has been a considerable drop on the salaries formerly received.

And all this has been done even before the publication of the Geddes report. Now, at the beginning of 1922, a teacher must be a breezy optimist indeed to be able to look forward to the immediate future in Education with anything but the utmost misgiving. The power of the reactionaries has already prevailed; should Mr. Fisher, in his consideration of the Geddes suggestions, consent to any further reduction which will re-act upon the children of the country, then, as a nation, we must consent to drop far down in the list, from a first-grade to a fifth or sixth grade country. The Washington Conference has accomplished something; but too big a proportion of the country's revenue is still spent on things military: in the words of a recent speaker, "we can apparently afford to teach men how to kill, but it is not so clear to these so-called economists that we cannot afford not to teach them how to live."

Before it is too late, all those who are interested in the future welfare of our nation, and who believe that full education is necessary for individual and national development, should take steps to ensure that there shall be no more wasteful "economies" in this department; Members of Parliament should be circularised, and the Petitions against future retrenchment in Education should be asked for and signed. (Petitions can be signed at this office.—Ed.)

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Equal Franchise for Women and Men.

We congratulate the London Labour Party on calling Mr. Lloyd George's attention to the urgent desirability of extending the franchise to all women on the same terms as it at present applies to men. "My Committee," says Mr. Morrison, the Secretary, "is of opinion that no serious reason exists to render inadvisable the granting of full electoral equality to women and urges the Government to delay no longer in doing this act of justice to our women citizens." We understand also that every Trade Union and Labour Candidate standing in the interest of the Labour Party will henceforth have Equal Franchise as one of the prominent items in his or her Election Address.

Equally, too, we congratulate Sir Robert Burton Chadwick (C.U. M.P. for Barrow-in-Furness), on the following letter appearing in *The Times* Jan. 12, under the heading "An Injustice to Women."

Sir,—In regard to the controversy for a General Election in February or at a later date, one of the main considerations in my mind is the serious disadvantage that an immediate election and the establishment of a new Parliament would cause to the women of the country, and I am surprised that this view has not been urged. There is little doubt that the majority of the present House of Commons is favourable to the view that the franchise, so far as women are concerned, should be on exactly the same footing as men; but to reach this very desirable equality new legislation is necessary to reduce the age from 30, as it is now, to 21. I think I am right in assuming that such legislation, which would mean a very large addition to the Register, would, by our Constitution, involve a General Election at an early date. It was exactly this argument which was so widely used in 1918 in answer to those who then thought that the time for election was inopportune, and it was a very just view. During the present Parliament, crowded as it has been with legislation of immense importance, there has been no opportunity to extend women's franchise to women of 21; but if a new Parliament is now formed, it is practically certain that every effort will be made to again postpone such a measure indefinitely, and I see very little chance of this absurd inequality between men and women being put right for some time to come. I am not arguing for or against any particular date for an appeal to the country, but I do think we have incurred a measure of responsibility towards the women of the nation to which we should give practical effect without delay by putting these women on the Register and allowing them to have their voice in the General Election, whenever it comes.

Women on Local Governing Bodies.

Contributing to a discussion following an address by Lady Frances Balfour to the Dundee Branch of the National Council of Women, Miss Husband, who was for some years a member of the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League and Hon. Sec. of our Dundee Branch, said that in Dundee there was a great need for women representatives on all the local governing bodies and especially the Town Council. They grumbled and complained about all the things that should be done, and yet they stood aside and would not make the least sacrifice. If women were represented on such bodies they would be doing much more valuable work than the work they are doing just now. It was through self-denial and self-sacrifice that the greatest amount of satisfaction came.

Cheeseparing in Education.

We are glad to see that Councillor Miss Evans and Councillor Mrs. Chalkley spoke courageously at a meeting of the Wimbledon Town Council last week against the reduction of teachers' salaries. Unfortunately the other Councillors did not agree with them, and it was decided by a majority of 14 to 7 that the teachers should be paid under Scale III instead of IV. We agree with a writer in *The Observer* last Sunday, who said that National Education was National Efficiency; that expenditure on Education was on a different footing from any other kind of public expenditure, and that cheeseparing here was not a virtue, but a danger. What the cheeseparers asked was that the nation should walk in darkness to save the price of candles.

Mental Deficients.

The Committee appointed by the Surrey County Council for the care of the mentally defective, reporting last week on the circular letter issued by the Board of Control calling upon local authorities to restrict their duties and limit their expenditure to dealing only with urgent cases, stated that the policy of the Government would prove to be a disastrous and costly one, and they recommended the County Council to make a representation to the Ministry of Health with a view to securing such an alteration as would enable local authorities to deal with all defectives coming within the definition of urgent. From all parts of the Council Chamber protests were made against the policy of the Board of Control, the effect of which, it was stated, was to turn mental deficients loose with disastrous results. The recommendation of the Committee was unanimously approved.

Look after your Vote!

If your name is not on the Autumn register and there is an election before April 15th next, you will be disfranchised, even if your name has been omitted from the list by accident, the last day for claims to be made for entry on the present register being

August 18th last. If there be no election till after April 15 the new Spring register will come into operation, and for this list February 18 is the last date for claims. Those of our readers who are entitled to vote should enquire if they are on the present register, and, if not, should at once make claims on the necessary forms to secure that their names shall appear on the new register. In any case of doubt or difficulty in this connection, see your Town Clerk at once. F.A.U.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged October, 1907 to December, 1920, £35,513 1s. 9d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	180	8	1	1,010	15	4
Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund (tenth year):—						
Amount previously acknowledged	180	8	1			
Branches:—						
Clapham	1	1	0			
Manchester	2	0	0			
Mid London (additional)	14	13	0			
Montgomery Boroughs (additional)	12	16	0			
Swansea	8	9	0			
Anonymous	100	0	0			
"Freedom Leaguer"	10	0	0			
Miss Frances A. Howard	5	0	0			
Misses Ellen and Edith Beck	1	1	0			
Mrs. V. A. Budd	1	0	0			
Mrs. Roger Clark	1	0	0			
Mrs. V. Taylor (collected)	1	0	0			
Miss Doris Brookman (collected)	16	6				
Minerva Café Customers	12	9				
Miss Eamsonson (collected)	13	0				
Mrs. Branch	11	0				
Mrs. George Cadbury	10	0				
H. G. Chancellor, Esq.	10	0				
Miss Barbara Fallowfield	10	0				
Mrs. Norman Lee	10	0				
Miss Mac Munn	10	0				
Miss Jessie Maxwell	10	0				
Miss Mina Steven	10	0				
Miss D. Olive Turton	9	0				
Miss D. B. Allwork	5	0				
Miss Bergman	5	0				
Dr. Clifford	5	0				
Mrs. Gilbert	5	0				
Mrs. Nelson	5	0				
Mrs. Padfield	5	0				
Misses E. F. and G. Hodgson	4	6				
Miss Isabel Harvey (collected)	3	0				
Miss K. Stone	2	6				
Miss Whitton	2	6				
Mrs. Frettingham	2	0				
"J"	1	6				
Anonymous	1	0				
Miss A. L. Henry	1	0				
Green, White and Gold Fair				347	8	4
				320	7	5
				£1,678	11	1

To Branch Treasurers.

Please let me have your Capitation fees for 1921 in as soon as possible, and send me in your branch statement of accounts for the year 1921, for insertion in the VOTE. E. KNIGHT.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

March 2nd, 1922.

Under the above heading the *Women's Local Government News* suggests that the following questions should be put to candidates:—

- 1.—Are you in favour of the full co-operation of women with men in local government?
- 2.—Are you prepared, so far as possible, to give careful scrutiny to all estimates, and to advocate careful spending?
- 3.—Are you in favour of strict economy in the internal administration of the Council, as, for example, reduction in printing, postage, stationery, etc.?
- 4.—In the event of further equalisation of rates, are you in favour of the Central Authority having strict financial control over expenditure for which the local authority is not directly responsible for raising the money?
- 5.—Will you, while advocating careful spending, urge that educational facilities, both for young persons and adults, in essential subjects, should not be reduced?
- 6.—Are you of opinion that marriage should not be a disqualification for women for service under the Council?
- 7.—Will you urge that the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913 shall be actively carried out?
- 8.—Are you in favour of all bodies administering Public Assistance being to the extent of two-thirds of the number of their members directly elected?

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 1.

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Hon. Heads: Miss H. NORMANTON, B.A. (Literary);
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Vote Sales Department—Hon. Head: Miss ALIX M. CLARK.
General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, January 21, at 4—6 p.m.
Minerva Club, Tea-Dance, Admission, 1/6.

Monday, January 23, at 8 p.m.—Public Debate, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C.
Subject: "Family Endowment." Resolution: "That the present system of providing for families from individual wages is unsatisfactory in its social results, and wasteful of national resources."

Proposed by Mrs. E. M. Hubback. Opposed by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Chair: Mrs. Dexter.

Wednesday, January 25, at 3.30 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High-Holborn, W.C.
Speaker: Miss F. Penrose Philp (Secretary of "The State Children's Association"). Subject: "The Young Offender in our Courts, Penal Schools, and Prisons." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Thursday, January 26.—Hampstead Branch Meeting, at 16, Denning Road, N.W.3. Tea 4 p.m. Business 4.30.

Saturday, January 28, at 4—6 p.m.—Minerva Club, Tea-Dance. Admission 1/6.

Monday, January 30, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Mr. F. Thoresby. Subject: "Freedom of Responsibility."

Wednesday, February 1.—"Fair" Committee, at 3 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.

Friday, February 3.—Organisation Committee, at 6 p.m., at 144, High Holborn.

Saturday, February 4, at 10 a.m.—National Executive Committee Meeting, at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Saturday, February 4, at 4—6 p.m., Minerva Club, Tea-Dance. Admission 1/6.

Monday, February 6, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. Edward Cecil (Dramatic Writer and Author). Subject: "The Inefficiency of Women." Chairman: Dr Octavia Lewin.

Saturday, February 11, at 4—6 p.m., Minerva Club, Tea-Dance. Admission 1/6.

Monday, February 13, at 8 p.m.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Speaker: Miss Agnes Dawson (National Union of Women Teachers). Subject: "False Economy in Education."

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

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

PROVINCES.

Monday, January 23, at 8 p.m.—Southend-on-Sea and District. Public Lecture at Storrington College Hall, Imperial Avenue, Westcliff. Speaker: Dr. Maude E. Kerslake. Subject: "The Duties of a Medical Officer of Health."

Tuesday, February 14, at 7 p.m. Portsmouth. Public Meeting, 2, Kent Road. Speaker: Mr. A. G. Yeaxlee. Subject: "The Work of the Portsmouth Welfare Association."

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, January 27.—Stockton, Thornaby and District Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Councillor Schofield Coates, J.P. Subject: "The Washington Conference."

Monday, January 30. Bishop Auckland Branch of B.W.T.A. Annual Meeting. Speaker: Councillor Mrs. Schofield Coates, J.P. Subject: "National and International Outlook for Women."

Friday, February 10, at 8 p.m.—St. Albans Debating Society. Public Library. Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Debate: "Should women cease to be employed when married?"

Sunday, March 5, at 11 a.m.—Ethical Church, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W. Speaker: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject: "Living Sacraments," 6.30 p.m., "Departmental Morality."

STANSFIELD LECTURE.

Mr. Arthur Underhill, M.A., LL.D., (Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, Senior Conveyancing Counsel to the High Court of Justice and late Reader and Examiner in the Law of Property to the Council of Legal Education) will give a lecture on "The Position of Women as Compared with Men under the Law of England" at University College, (Gower Street, W.C.) on Friday, February 10th. The Chair will be taken by Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., J.P., at 5.30 p.m. This lecture is open to the Public.

BRANCH NOTES.

EDINBURGH.

Unfortunately on Friday night weather conditions were bad, and consequently only a small number of our members met to welcome Mrs. Schofield Coates on her visit to Scotland. In the afternoon Committee members had discussed Branch affairs with her at some length, and placed before her certain difficulties that confront us here in Edinburgh. This was done out of the desire to make the evening meeting fruitful, for it was felt that, if Mrs. Schofield Coates was brought face to face with realities, she would be able to make the fullest use of this knowledge in her address to the members. We thank her heartily for her strenuous efforts to impart to us some of the hope and enthusiasm and untiring energy of which she possesses so large a share.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. A. STEWART, 7, Mentone Terrace.

GLASGOW.

The Glasgow Branch had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Schofield Coates last week, when she spoke on the injustices and inequalities under which women still suffer. We were very interested indeed in her arguments, backed up as they were by illustrations, drawn from her personal experience as an active worker in the public administrative service, and we are much indebted for the interest which prompted her to undertake such a long and cold journey to meet us.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss SHENNAN, 81, Armadale Street.

PORTSMOUTH.

Mrs. Haslewood made a great impression on the large audience who came to listen to her address on "Child Slavery in Hong Kong." As readers of "The Vote" know, Mrs. Haslewood speaks from personal experience, having investigated the matter during her residence in Hong Kong. Mrs. Whetton moved the following resolution from the chair: "That this meeting of the Portsmouth Branch of the Women's Freedom League calls upon the Government to take steps forthwith to abolish the system prevailing in the British Colony of Hong Kong by which children and girls are transferred and re-transferred from owner to owner for money payment." This was carried unanimously and has been sent to the local M.P.'s, the Prime Minister, and the Colonial Minister. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Haslewood.

It has been decided to hold the public meetings on alternate afternoons and evenings, so the next will be held on Tuesday, February 14th, at 7 p.m. The speaker will be Mr. A. G. Yeaxlee, Hon. Gen. Sec. Portsmouth Welfare Association for the Young. Subject: "The Work of the Portsmouth Welfare Association."

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. WHETTON, 89, Festing Grove, Southsea.

SOUTHEND AND DISTRICT.

On Monday last a very interesting and instructive lecture was delivered by Mr. A. S. Culham, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.T.P.I., on the subject of Town Planning, which was listened to with great attention. The lecture was made all the more attractive by a large number of plans and diagrams illustrating the various methods of town planning, and the audience had an opportunity of visualising, from the architect's point of view, the ideal conditions under which one would choose to live from the point of view of the town arrangement. Mr. J. H. Dudley was Chairman, who warmly thanked the lecturer on his own behalf and that of the audience.

A very jolly New Year's Party was held by this branch last week which was enjoyed by all.

(Hon. Sec.) Mrs. STAFFORD BAILEY, 48, Argyle Road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

HAMPSTEAD.

With a view to increasing the membership of the Hampstead Branch, Miss Ruth Young most kindly arranged a meeting at her flat on Thursday, January 12th, when Miss F. A. Underwood spoke on the work of the Women's Freedom League. Much interest was shown. Miss Young kindly entertained those present to tea and coffee before the address and a very pleasant evening was spent.

(Hon. Sec.) Miss E. BERRY, 16, Denning Road.

WOMEN AT CAMBRIDGE.

The Past Students' Associations of Girton and Newnham Colleges held their annual meetings in London at Morley Hall and Bedford College last week. At both meetings, which were largely attended, the following resolution was passed unanimously: "That this meeting of the members of the Girton (Newnham) College Roll wish to express their firm opinion that the continued refusal of the University of Cambridge alone among all British Universities to admit women to membership will seriously impair the educational efficiency of the women's colleges at Cambridge; and they are unable to regard a titular degree as in any sense a substitute for admission to membership."

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

(To the Editor of The Vote),

DEAR EDITOR.—In answer to Mr. Gill's appeal in last week's "Vote," please give me a letter and I will send a copy of THE VOTE every week to some one whose name begins with that letter. I wish the scheme every success, and congratulate Mr. Gill.

[We have given MRS. WHETTON the first letter of the alphabet, A, as hers is the first letter we have so far received on the subject of Mr. Gill's letter in the Vote, of Jan. 6, 1922. Other readers, please line up, and follow Mrs. Whetton's public-spirited example as speedily as follows.—ED.]

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 20,
1922.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

REST AND HOLIDAYS.

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Guild-house, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, January 22nd, 6.30. Miss Maude Royden.

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