

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JULY 11, 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.

THE WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION BILL

passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons on July 4th. The first of the two following lists gives the Members who voted for this Bill, the second those who voted with the Government against it. Readers will notice that out of a House of nearly 700 Members, only 100 were present to vote for the Bill and 85 against it, giving a majority of 15 for the Bill!

AYES.

Adamson, Rt. Hon. W.
Arnold, Sydney.
Barrand, A. R.
Billing, Noel Pemberton.
Borwick, Major G. O.
Bowerman, Rt. Hon. C. W.
Bowyer, Capt. G. W. E.
Breese, Major C. E.
Bromfield, W.
Brotherton, Col. Sir E. A.
Burdon, Col. Rowland.
Burn, T. H.
Carter, W.
Cecil, Rt. Hon. Lord R.
Clynes, Rt. Hon. J. R.
Coote, Colin R.
Cowan, D. M.
Crooks, Rt. Hon. W.
Devlin, Joseph.
Dockrell, Sir M.
Donnelly, P.
Doyle, N. Grattan.
Duncannon, Viscount.
Edge, Capt. W.
Edwards, C.
Elliot, Capt. W. E.

Entwistle, Major C. F.
Farquharson, Major A.
Galbraith, Samuel.
Ganzoni, Capt. F.
Glanville, Harold.
Goff, Sir R. Park.
Graham, W.
Greame, Major P. Lloyd-
Grundy, T. W.
Harbison, T. J. S.
Hartshorn, V.
Hayday, A.
Hennessy, Major G.
Hills, Major J. W.
Hoare, Lt.-Col. Sir S.
Hodge, Rt. Hon. J.
Hogge, J. M.
Holmes, J. S.
Hughes, S. L.
Hunter, Gen. Sir A.
Johnstone, J.
Jones, J.
Kenworthy, Lt.-Com.
Kiley, James Daniel.
Locker-Lampson, G.
Lunn, William.

Lyle-Samuel, A.
Lynn, R. J.
M'Donald, Dr. B. F. P.
M'Laren, Hon. H. D.
M'Laren, R.
Maclean, Neil.
Maclean, Rt. Hon. Sir D.
Moles, Thomas.
Morgan, Major D. W.
Mosley, Oswald.
Murray, Dr. D.
Murray, John.
Norris, Col. Sir H. G.
O'Connor, T. P.
O'Grady, James.
Palmer, Brig.-Gen. G.
Parkinson, John Allen.
Parry, Major T. H.
Richardson, R.
Roberts, F. O.
Rose, Frank H.
Rowlands, James.
Royce, William Stapleton.
Scott, A. M.
Sexton, James.
Shaw, Tom.

Simm, Col. M. T.
Sitch, C. H.
Smith, Capt. A.
Spencer, George A.
Spoor, B. G.
Sugden, W. H.
Swan, J. E. C.
Thomas, Brig.-Gen. Sir O.
Thomson, F. C.
Thomson, T.
Thorne, G. R.
Tryon, Major G. C.
Wallace, J.
Walsh, S.
Waterson, A. E.
White, Charles F.
Wignall, James.
Williams, A.
Williams, Col. P.
Wood, Major Hon. E.
Wood, Major Mackenzie.
Young, Robert.

Tellers for the Ayes: Mr. Tyson Wilson and Mr. Frederick Hall.

NOES.

Adair, Rear-Admiral.
Amery, Lt.-Col. L. C. M. S.
Archer-Shee, Lt.-Col. Martin.
Astor, Major.
Baird, John L.
Baldwin, Stanley.
Balfour, George.
Barnes, Major H.
Barnett, Capt. R. W.
Barnston, Major H.
Beck, Arthur Cecil.
Bellairs, Com. C. W.
Betterton, H. B.
Boseawen, Sir A. G.
Bowles, Col. H. F.
Brassey, H. L. C.
Bridgeman, W. C.
Briggs, Harold.
Bull, Rt. Hon. Sir W. J.
Campbell, J. G. D.
Campion, Col. W. R.
Carr, W. T.
Coates, Major Sir E. F.

Conway, Sir W. M.
Craig, Col. Sir James.
Craik, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Davies, Sir D. S.
Dawes, J. A.
Dean, Com. P. T.
Dixon, Capt. H.
Edgar, Clifford.
Eyes-Monsell, Com.
Fell, Sir Arthur.
Fisher, Rt. Hon. H. A. L.
FitzRoy, Capt. E. A.
Forestier-Walker, L.
Forster, Rt. Hon. H. W.
Fraser, Major Sir Keith.
Gibbs, Col. G. A.
Grant, J. A.
Green, J. F.
Greenwood, Col. Sir H.
Greig, Col. J. W.
Harris, Sir H. P.
Haslam, Lewis.
Hope, J. F.

Hopkins, J. W. W.
Illingworth, Rt. Hon. A. H.
Jodrell, N. P.
Kellaway, F. G.
Law, A. J.
Law, Rt. Hon. A. Bonar.
Lewis, Rt. Hon. J. H.
Lloyd, G. B.
M'Curdy, C. A.
Magnus, Sir Philip.
Morrison, H.
Murray, Lt.-Col. Hon. A. C.
Murray, Hon. G.
Parker, James.
Percy, Charles.
Pollock, Sir E. M.
Pownall, Lt.-Col. Assheton.
Pratt, John William.
Raeburn, Sir W.
Rees, Sir J. D.
Roundell, Lt.-Col. R. F.
Samuels, Rt. Hon. A. W.

Sanders, Col. R. A.
Stanley, Col. Hon. G. F.
Stewart, Gershom.
Strauss, E. A.
Sturrock, J. Leng-
Surtees, Brig.-Gen. H. C.
Sykes, Sir C.
Vickers, D.
Ward, W. Dudley.
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Sir T.
Warren, Sir Alfred H.
Williams, Lt.-Col. Sir Rhys.
Worthington-Evans, Rt. Hon. Sir L.
Yate, Col. C. E.
Young, William.
Younger, Sir George.

Tellers for the Noes: Lord E. Talbot and Captain F. Guest.

Mrs. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Caxton Hall was crowded on the evening of July 4th with members and friends of the Women's Freedom League, all bent on giving their personal congratulations to Mrs. Despard on her birthday, and in rejoicing together on the victory women had secured by the passing of the Women's Emancipation Bill at its third reading in the House of Commons that afternoon, in spite of the opposition of the Government. "This is Women's Independence Day!" "The Freedom League Whip has beaten the Government Whip!" was heard on all sides, and Mrs. Despard was as enthusiastic on this triumph as the youngest suffragist in the hall.

Mrs. Despard was the recipient of many lovely bouquets, and gladly welcomed friends from the North, South, East and West of England, as well as from Scotland and Wales. A short musical programme, in which Miss Anita Price delighted all with her whistling solos, and pianoforte solos and accompaniments were given by Mrs. and Miss Van Raalte, served as a prelude to the speeches of the evening. All speakers referred to the Women's Emancipation Bill, and, from the chair, Mrs. Mustard expressed the hope that when we celebrated Mrs. Despard's birthday next year there would be quite a number of women in the House of Commons!

Women and Trades Unions.

Mr. Cameron Grant paid a high tribute to Mrs. Despard's work, and said that, although he did not share her political views, he was an ardent admirer of her unflinching zeal in all women's causes. Mr. Grant urged women to fight for the opening of all Trades Unions to women on the same terms as men. Women, he said, must insist on getting equal economic power as well as equal political power with men.

Mrs. Tanner congratulated Mrs. Despard on the victory of many causes for which she had worked so ardently, and referred with pride to the work of the Women's Freedom League in keeping abreast of the times in all matters which concerned women.

Mrs. Zangwill referred with affection to the inspiration Mrs. Despard had always been to the women's movement. She had never wanted independence for herself only, but had demanded it for all, even those who might be dependent on her.

Dr. Knight outlined the immediate work of the Women's Freedom League, and emphasised its urgent need of money for carrying on that work and for embarking upon other equally important work in women's interests in the near future. She read out a long list of contributions received from members and friends of the Women's Freedom League for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund, and, on her invitation, the secretaries or treasurers of many branches handed in their branch donations to this fund to Mrs. Despard.

Work of the Women's Freedom League.

In acknowledging this gift, which she subsequently handed to Dr. Knight to be put to the funds of the Women's Freedom League, Mrs. Despard said that the work of the League was very near her heart. She loved the League, which had never wavered in its demand for the complete equality of women with men. It had gone straight for that equality irrespective of any obstacles in the way. When a request had come to her from India that British women should espouse the cause of their Indian sisters in their struggle for enfranchisement, Mrs. Despard said she had instinctively turned to the Women's Freedom League for help in carrying out this request, with the result that a meeting had been at once arranged to demand votes for Indian women, and Mrs. Besant had been secured to speak on "Indian Women as Citizens" the following Friday evening at Essex Hall. Mrs. Despard thanked the League most heartily for the warm welcome given to her that evening, and for the affection which the members of the League had always shown her for so many years.

The last speaker was Mrs. Schofield Coates, the

hon. organising secretary of the League, who gave many delightful reminiscences of her earlier work with Mrs. Despard in the Women's Freedom League. She said Mrs. Despard had gone with them all the way towards women's enfranchisement, and she had always considered her the finest figure in the Suffrage movement. Mrs. Despard had done a tremendous amount of hard work for women, and although Mrs. Coates lived at Middlesborough, never once had Mrs. Despard refused to go there to speak at a meeting on the ground that the distance was too great. Mrs. Coates said there was a new spirit abroad amongst women; women now intended to go all the way in their complete enfranchisement. There was no need for anyone to be a pessimist; we could all be optimists—as optimistic as Mrs. Despard had always been.

For the great success of this party the Women's Freedom League offers its warmest thanks to all those who acted as hosts and hostesses and stewards during the evening; to the artistes; to Miss Ibbotson, who decorated the hall so artistically; to Mrs. Pierotti and her helpers for the catering; to Miss Pierotti and her helpers at the flower stall; to our Letchworth Branch members, Miss Wells, and others who so liberally supplied the stall with flowers; to our Montgomery Boroughs Branch for their generous stall of provisions, and to Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Evans, Miss Freda Felix Jones, the Misses Codd, and others who so ably took charge of this stall; to Mrs. J. R. Knight, who presided at the strawberries and cream table; and last, but not least, to Miss Mary Elizabeth Knight, who so charmingly presented a bouquet to Mrs. Despard from the members of the Women's Freedom League.

Manchester Liberals and Women's Interests.

We take the following from the "Programme of Liberal Policy," issued by the Manchester Liberal Federation, and adopted at a recent conference composed of 450 delegates:—

Position of Women.

Women in industry should receive equal pay for equal work, with some mutually agreed arrangement for the payment of special foremen or assistants, such as tool-setters and men required for heavy manual labour, out of the aggregate women's wages, and they should be properly represented on Whitley committees.

To ensure a juster representation of the whole people in the government of its affairs, and that the special experience of women may not be wasted, it is important to secure equal political and legal status for women, and especially—

- (1) The removal of sex barriers to the professions and higher branches of the Civil Service, the police service, the magistracy, juries, and both Houses of Parliament.
- (2) In all cases where women are tried for any offence, at least half the jury should be composed of women.
- (3) Adequate representation of women on Government committees and commissions.
- (4) The embodiment of an equal moral standard as between men and women in divorce laws, and other legislation regarding the relations of the sexes.

Income Tax Reforms.

Readers of THE VOTE will also be interested to learn that this conference declared that there should be a separate assessment for income tax of the incomes of husbands and wives, and that, in dealing with the matter of public health, maintained that "the most urgent step is the provision at the earliest possible moment of half a million new houses, which should be built on town planning lines, and should go far to inaugurate a new era."

We would suggest that the surest way to carry out the part of the programme referring to women's interests would be by adopting a good number of progressive Liberal women candidates at the next General Election.

ANNA HOWARD SHAW.

"Nothing bigger can come to a human being than to love a great cause more than life itself, and to have the privilege throughout life of working for that cause."—A. H. Shaw.

Dr. Shaw's death at Philadelphia last week, at the ripe age of 72, removes the final connecting link between the pioneer suffragists of the New World and their fortunate successors of to-day, to whom has descended a rich inheritance of Freedom wrung from the struggles and conflicts of fifty years ago.

Originally of ancient Scotch ancestry, Anna was born in comparatively humble circumstances, in 1847, at Newcastle-on-Tyne. When she was only four years of age her parents, with six children, emigrated to America, there to take up life in surroundings which should certainly have contented the most ardent pioneer.

Life in the Backwoods.

Anna has described those scenes of her early girlhood in the Michigan backwoods, amidst pages of tears and laughter, in the autobiography written in the early part of the war. How year in and year out the daily fare consisted of potatoes and green corn, wild berries, and fish—which the children snared from the brooks by "making horrible noises." How one year the cow died, so that they had no milk all winter, and when the coffee gave out, how browned peas and burnt rye had to be substituted instead. How at night the wolves and wild cats screeched and howled round the cabin, and in winter the children could only keep warm by slowly revolving their small bodies before the log fire like joints on a spit. There are breathless accounts of unexpected visits by Red Indians; of members of the Ottawa tribe, who returned Mrs. Shaw's frightened hospitality with gifts of venison and cranberries, and a general invitation all round to a dance; of the terrible Marquette warriors who spent the night in a drunken orgy on the cabin floor, whilst, one by one, the family crept through the trapdoor into the attic, and spent the night in shivering anticipation, watching the vagaries of their guests below ground through chinks in the log flooring.

Pastor, Suffragist, and M.D.

At fifteen, we are told, Anna began to teach school, and by 1878 the girl teacher had developed into the college graduate, and ordained woman minister of the Methodist Protestant Church, the whole expenses of both these careers having been paid for by Anna out of her own earnings. For seven years she held the pastorate of a church at East Dennis, Cape Cod, qualifying in medicine also during that period, not for purposes of practising, but to gain a wider experience. By this time she had begun to take an active share in Suffrage work, and the same year in which she gained her degree in medicine saw her severance from the ministry, in order to devote herself the more entirely to the fight for women's freedom. "My real work had begun." In 1888 commenced her lifelong friendship with "Aunt Susan," the veteran Susan B. Anthony.

In 1885 she became lecturer for the Massachusetts Women's Suffrage Association. She held numerous posts under the Association and from 1904-1915 was President. She was also honorary President of the National Women's Suffrage Association. During her tenure of office she spoke in every City of the Union, and before Committees of both Houses of Congress.

During the war she served as Chairman of the Women's Committee of National Defence. Latterly she had been invited by the League to enforce Peace to tour the country with former President Taft on behalf of a Campaign of Education in relation to the Peace Treaty. For this service she had recently been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. She was ardently pursuing these activities when the end came.

D. M. N.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Housing.

Last week members of the House of Commons discussed the housing difficulties. Sir Donald Maclean declared that men had been coming back from all the horrors and ravages of the war to what was little better than a pig-stye, and some of them could not find a pig-stye to get into. Notwithstanding this, there were thousands of men in the building trade who were unemployed, and, whatever the causes, the building trade was prevented from getting to work on the urgent housing problem. Sir Donald also reminded the House that we had got very nearly half through the time when the President of the Local Government Board anticipated getting 100,000 houses. There were only a few score, at the most, completed, and none were officially known. In continuing the discussion, Mr. Hogge, M.P., pressed upon the Government the urgent necessity of dealing with this housing difficulty immediately. He quoted the following letter he had received from a woman:—

Serious Overcrowding.

"My husband works at Woolwich Arsenal. He was not fit for the Army. My son is in Egypt. We are in two rooms, and I have twelve children. The landlord gave us notice last November, and since then I have walked for miles but cannot get a house. I almost smuggle my children in and out, as my landlord does not know how many I have got. We are three storeys high, and I have to carry the water up and down, and I have no convenience whatever. Nine of my children are under fourteen years of age."

A second letter quoted by Mr. Hogge was as follows:—

"I am the wife of a demobilised soldier. I was obliged to give up my little house and go home to my mother and father. My husband had his heel blown away and has two silver screws in it, but as we cannot get a house he has to walk over half an hour each night and morning before he gets to the tram. When you try for a house they say 'It is sold,' or 'Have you any children?' and as I have three little ones I cannot get any sort of a place. There are five of us now in one room."

A third letter quoted by Mr. Hogge was from a man:—

"I was taken a prisoner of war on the 20th October, 1914. I have a wife and four children, and have to live in one room. Our eldest daughter is fourteen years of age, and I think it is a disgrace to humanity to have her sleep in the one room with me."

Mr. Hogge told the House that at the time when we were signing Peace there were in this country at least 400,000 discharged men without work, and that over 100,000 of their families were without real and decent accommodation.

Poor Law Administration.

In dealing with the matter of outdoor relief, Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck said that a very great improvement had been effected in the out-relief grants to women and children. He knew of instances where women were now given 10s. a week, where with one child they got 16s. 6d. per week, and with two children 21s. He also knew of a Board of Guardians in the North of England who were giving 8s. per head. On the other hand, the out-relief of a certain Board in the South-East of England averaged only 3s. 4½d. per week. Lord Henry quoted another instance in the West of England where in 1914 the out-relief to widows and children was 18s. 7d. In September, 1918, it had risen to 28s. 9d. per person, and the inspector actually congratulated the Board of Guardians on this advance, stating that 28s. 9d. per week adequately represented the cost of living in the country! Lord Henry wanted to know if there was any means of bringing pressure to bear on these backward Boards of Guardians to cease this system of the semi-starvation of women and children, but received no reply from the Government on this point. The noble lord also informed the Government that there was a very strong feeling in the country that the investigations into cases for outdoor relief should be conducted only by women, and not by men. These investigations were often of an intimate character; they had to deal with a woman's physical condition, her underclothing, and her bed clothing.

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EDITORIAL

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

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THE WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION BILL.

The Women's Freedom League's three-lined whip, urging Members of Parliament to be in their places on July 4th, and to vote for the third reading of the Women's Emancipation Bill as it stands, proved to be more potent than the Government's two-lined whip, and secured for the Government its second defeat last week. This Bill, put forward by the Labour Party, provides that—

(1) A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from holding any civil or judicial office or place of profit or trust under the Crown.

(2) The franchise shall be extended to women between 21 and 30 years of age.

(3) A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from sitting and voting in or from receiving a writ of summons to attend the House of Lords if a peeress in her own right.

In spite of the fact that it enables the Government to redeem the pledge contained in the Election manifesto signed by the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, that

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

Major Astor, on behalf of the Government, opposed the motion

"That the Bill be now read a third time,"

and moved to leave out the word "now" and to add the words "upon this day three months," chiefly on the grounds that this Bill was badly drafted and that the present was not an opportune time to re-open the Franchise question.

A Drifting Policy.

Major Astor told the House that it was only six months since the passing of the last Franchise Act, and that it was far better that the House should not be tinkering at this matter constantly. As our readers well know, the Representation of the People Act received the Royal Assent in February, 1918, which is considerably more than six months ago. This inaccuracy shows clearly the Government's whole attitude to this particular Bill. It did not consider that it was serious business. The President of the Local Government Board, who was supposed to be in charge of the Bill, was not in the House of Commons last Friday; he was not present when it was considered in committee when the drafting might have been amended, and ought to have been amended if imperfect—indeed, the Government was not then represented by any Minister. On the third reading, it was left to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Major Astor) to state the case for the Government against this Bill, and for the President of the Board of Education (Mr. Fisher) to reply to the criticisms on the Government's position. We submit that the Government has treated

women's interests with contemptuous indifference, and we hope that members of the Government and its supporters on this occasion will be called upon by the women electors to answer for their conduct at the next General Election.

Several Members reminded the House that the Women's Emancipation Bill had the support of every responsible women's organisation in the country, and in regard to the Government's contentions that the compromise about the voting age of women arrived at by the Speaker's Conference ought not to be altered, and that after any great addition to the number of electors a General Election should immediately follow, Member after Member pointed out that the findings of the Speaker's Conference only had to do with a particular Bill of a previous Parliament, that it had nothing to do with this Parliament, and that since that Conference of All the Talents there had been a General Election. They could not admit that the provisions of that Conference were the last words on franchise reform for all time; nor would they agree that because it had been customary in times past to have a General Election after an extension of the franchise that it was necessary to follow that precedent. Had not many precedents been set aside by the present Government?

Broken Pledges.

The whole weight of the Government's opposition was against Clause 2, the object of which is to extend votes to women on the same terms as to men. Major Astor said it was the intention of the Government to introduce another Bill which would enable all persons, including women, to hold civil and judicial posts, to enter and exercise any civil professions in the future; but Lord Robert Cecil elicited from Mr. Fisher that the Government did not consider itself bound by its pledge to re-open the question of the franchise. Pledges to women by various Governments have so frequently been treated as "mere scraps of paper" that it may surprise the Government to know what deep resentment this cynical breach of faith has caused amongst the women of the country. The Women's Freedom League has all along considered that the franchise clause was much the most important clause of the Women's Emancipation Bill, and we say to the Government that their promised Bill is not good enough for us. We rejoice in the Government's defeat, and although it is said in some quarters that the Government intend to secure the defeat of this Bill in the Lords, we can only say that our experience of the House of Lords, so far, has been that it is much more democratic, and very much fairer in dealing with women's interests than the present Government. Good luck to this Bill on its journey in the Upper House! F. A. U.

MAISONS TOLERÉES AGAIN!

Dean of Lincoln Challenges the War Office.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Lincoln reports a proposed campaign by the Dean of Lincoln (Dr. Fry) against War Office indifference to the vices in the Army of Occupation. He is bringing up the subject at Convocation on July 8th, and quoted from a chaplain's letter that the British Army had practically taken over the brothels in one German city.

He had, he said, extracts enough to fill a Blue Book, and he must ask for how many days Mr. Macpherson's instructions to put the *Maisons Tolerees* out of bounds was enforced.

"Let the women of the country be called upon to give evidence; it was a crusade for them, and ex-officers and men must help."

He would continue the attack, and help in every possible way.

Field-Marshal Haig and General Plumer and General Horne were with him.

"He would not rest till the King's Regulations were altered so that officers who countenanced State-regulated vice could be made responsible."

A Word to My Fellow Members, Chiefly Reminiscent.

Our delightful party of last Friday, with its troop of friendly faces, its music, its flowers, its congratulations, its speeches set me thinking; and, as is almost inevitable on such occasions, my thoughts went back over the past.

It is possible, they say, to live too long. My life—especially its later years—has been so full that it has not come to me yet to consider gravely whether it has been short or long.

A Changing World.

Few historic periods have seen so many and such momentous changes. Literally, when, looking back I compare the days of my youth with the days through which we are living now, I seem to be moving in different worlds.

While this is apparent in every aspect of human life, in that which concerns women, their relations with men, with one another and with society, it is more evident than in any other direction. In my youth we were just emerging from the mental and spiritual apathy of the mid-Victorian era. The woman was then, by law, the chattel of her husband. "Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?" is, I believe, still part of the English church marriage service. But even at that time the breath of the new era was beginning to be felt. Brave and strong spirits of revolt there were. Not numerous enough to make their voices generally heard, sneered at as "blue stockings," "new women," "disappointed old maids," their influence was not in vain.

Early Reforms.

I was not actually in the swim of the movement then; but I remember my solemn exultation when I heard that the Married Women's Property Act, which marked the first step in advance, was passed. I watched also with deep interest and keen admiration the gallant fight of women for higher education and an entry into professions which had been closed to them. There were long periods of comparative inaction.

But, all the time, the seed sown by the valiant women of the dead and dreary days was working. Men as well as women were coming to see that politics touch the home at every point; and step by step the movement grew. Bill after Bill was introduced into the House. Jeered at, ridiculed, talked out, made the occasion for bad jokes and feeble witticisms, they came up again, and there were always some to support them.

At last the women would bear it no longer, and we had the great Militant movement, in which our League took so fine and valiant a part.

Women and the Future.

It did not win the victory. That must be credited to what lay behind and made it possible—I mean the great conception which, through the awful war years, has made women strong and capable, and which I cannot doubt they will bring into the future—the unity of womanhood.

Has it struck you, I wonder, that women understand women, love women, admire women as they never did before? I believe it is so; and, while this gives an added sweetness to our lives, it gives us mastery over a power that nothing can really vanquish.

With this thought I hail you, my sisters of the coming time. Be yourselves: recognise the oneness of your womanhood; believe that it is your mission to bring about the reconciliation between warring forces that is so sorely needed, and you will overcome every difficulty in your path toward the glorious liberty of the days that are to be.

C. DESPARD.

Domestic Service. A Scheme of Co-operation.

Something like a satisfactory working agreement seems to have been arrived at by the Hampstead Council of Social Welfare in the vexed question of domestic service. The plan of action they have decided to adopt might well start a new policy in this matter. The Council itself has been in existence for some twenty years, and has formed a medium through which voluntary and statutory bodies have co-operated with one another, and in the presence instance it has assisted the formation of a Joint Domestic Association of employers and employees—of mistresses and maids. The committee managing the Association consists of eight householders and eight domestic workers, and agreements are settled only after full and frank consideration from both points of view. It is unnecessary to give the details of their programme, as that can easily be procured, but the two most important conclusions arrived at after much debate will be heartily endorsed by all who have thought seriously about the subject.

Give and Take.

The first conclusion is that it is impossible to lay down rules and regulations as if domestic service were on a par with other industries; household work is not, and cannot be, likened to factory work. More elasticity and more "give and take" are essential. Mistress and maid work in co-operation to produce something that is for their mutual comfort and convenience—the home. The circumstances and requirements of every home will vary, and mutual forbearance is required from both sides. Where this is given and the principle of co-operation is understood the machinery runs much more smoothly than where fixed rules are laid down, for these invariably create friction because of their rigidity.

The second conclusion arrived at is that wages must be regarded as paid partly in kind and partly in cash, hence the maid's right to comfortable lodging and adequate accommodation, privacy, good food and household conveniences. Laundry and part provision of uniform, where that is deemed desirable, are also part of the remuneration for service. This is a side of the subject not sufficiently appreciated by the employee until "living out" has brought home the high cost of board and lodging.

Military Discipline.

The "Joint Domestic Association," which is seeking to act fairly by both parties, has agreed that the term "servant" is objectionable, but it has not yet found the right substitute. At a recent public meeting held in the Hampstead Town Hall, when Lady Londonderry spoke of the work of the Women's Legion, she had to admit that "legionaries" has not been altogether a happy choice as a substitute for domestic servant, but it has become fairly familiar. A suggestion made by a member of the audience that "household orderlies" might be a better designation hardly got the notice it deserved, for the term "orderly" is good and has much to recommend it.

The war has accustomed us to military terms and methods, and women orderlies in hospitals earned great commendation for their smartness and efficiency. But whatever the name that may be chosen to replace "servant" it is quite certain that until some substitute is found the *status* will not be changed.

The giving of "characters" is likewise a somewhat difficult point, and the Joint Domestic Association recommend that a few simple questions, to which written answers are given, should suffice as between one employer and another. It is desirable to avoid giving an opportunity for anything more than the usual "references exchanged" between contracting parties in other agreements; that is to say, the personal bias ought not to be allowed to come in. Work that is so essential to family and social welfare deserves not only a good name but good social laws, written and unwritten, for its safeguarding.

L. H. YATES.

"UNDER THIRTIES" AND THE VOTE.

In last week's procession to the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, for the "Under Thirties" meeting on The Women's Emancipation Bill, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the Free Church League, the Independent W.S.P.U., the Women's International League, and the Women's Freedom League were represented, whilst the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Irish Women's Suffrage Society, the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, the Federation of Women Workers and various other societies joined forces in the Hall.

Banners in honour of celebrated women authoresses, reformers, pioneers and warriors hung from the balcony to call to memory the achievements and heroism of women in the past.

Miss Madeleine Symons (Industrial Women's Organisations), who presided, maintained that the Women's Emancipation Bill should be regarded as one measure; yet the Government was prepared to give its assent to Clause I (the professional part), and withhold it from Clause II (the political).

Mrs. Stocks (National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) moved the resolution that the meeting demanded the vote for women on the same terms as for men, and equal opportunities for women in the professions and public service, and supported the Women's Emancipation Bill.

A Sound Measure.

Mrs. Stocks urged that the Bill was a Feminist Bill, in that it enfranchised a large number of women; a Socialist Bill, in that true Socialism was impossible while women were cut off from a share in the Government; and a Nationalist Bill, in that it would eliminate the present waste of human power. As a member of the teaching profession, she welcomed Clause I. She felt it would raise the status of the teaching profession—a profession underpaid and formerly overcrowded, because it was the only avenue open to educated women. Clause II would enfranchise the younger teachers, and give the Government the benefit of their opinion.

Miss Ruby Part (Workers' Union), who seconded the resolution, said the vote had been given to women because it was agreed by men they had earned it during the war, but women under thirty had borne a large share in the toil and peril of war work, and yet were excluded.

Miss Rea (Cambridge University) said that she, and those she represented, should have two votes—the University vote and the political vote. University women were a highly educated, section of the community, and it was a serious waste of mental energy to deny them a share in the government of the country. Miss Florence Campbell (National Federation of Women Workers) pointed out the anomaly that whereas women under thirty were not entitled to the Parliamentary vote, they were considered intelligent enough to sit in Parliament if elected.

Injustice in the Civil Service.

Miss Anderson (Federation of Women Civil Servants) called attention to the appalling outlook of women in the Civil Service. Things were so manoeuvred that women found it very difficult to support their claim for equal pay for equal work. Men and women were carefully segregated, and the women's work slightly changed from time to time, so that they were never able to claim that they were doing exactly the same work as the men. She urged that all civil service examinations should be thrown open to women. At present women worked up to a maximum salary of £120, and when that was reached they might have to wait from 15 to 20 years for further advancement. Such an outlook could not fail to have a prejudicial effect upon the worker. The Women's Emancipation Bill would automatically open these higher posts to women, and

they would then no longer have to apply to the Treasury, or elsewhere, for the privilege of serving their country.

Miss Jessie Stephen (Poor Law Guardian) called attention to the fact that although a woman may not vote until she attains the age of thirty, in another respect she is considered a woman, by law, at the age of sixteen!

The resolution, which was then put to the meeting, was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Despard arose, amidst loud applause, and proposed a vote of thanks "to those who are fighting the battle for us all," and Mrs. Haslam, who seconded, said that although she alone remained of the band of pioneers who had fought with her in the past, she knew she was surrounded by a crowd of witnesses who would carry on their labours.

E. HAMBLING.

WOMEN AT HOME AND ABROAD.

A Famous Brother-in-Law.

The death of Lord Rayleigh brings back reminiscences of the first women's colleges at Cambridge. In 1879 Lord Rayleigh succeeded Clark Maxwell in the chair of Experimental Physics at Cambridge. He held this office for five years, and during that time did much valuable scientific work in collaboration with his sister-in-law, Mrs. Henry Sidgwick. Mrs. Sidgwick at that time was vice-principal of Newnham, an office which she held for two years, from 1880—1882. She became principal of Newnham after Miss Clough's death, and remained in office from 1892—1910. Mrs. Sidgwick is, of course, well known as the sister of Mr. Arthur Balfour, being the eldest daughter of the late James Maitland Balfour, of Whittinghame. Another sister became Lady Rayleigh. It was at Lord Rayleigh's house that Professor Sidgwick died in 1900.

More Sex Prejudice.

It really looks as if women will not be allowed to earn their living by any means in the near future. Last week two women applied for licenses as publicans to the Tower Division Licensing Sessions, but were refused on the ground that they were women, notwithstanding the fact that the outgoing licensee, who had been there for years, was also a woman. These women took the matter to a King's Bench Divisional Court, and a rule nisi for a mandamus was granted by the Lord Chief Justice, who remarked that sex had not hitherto been ruled to be a disability to hold a license. The matter will be tested in the High Courts.

Women Listeners in the House.

The popularity of the Strangers' Gallery among women was shown in a marked degree last Thursday, on the occasion of the delivery of the Prime Minister's speech. As many as 78 women were counted in that gallery as against 39 men. The Ladies' Gallery proper was also full, so that about two-thirds of the visitors in all parts of the House were women.

Votes for German Women Over 20.

The National Assembly in Berlin has passed a Bill giving every German subject, irrespective of sex, who is over 20, the right to vote in the election of members of the Reichstag.

Women M.P.'s in Canada.

The Dominion House of Commons has passed a Bill granting to women the right to vote and sit in Parliament.

Women's Freedom League.

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Mrs. METGE, and Mrs. PIEROTTI (Business).

General Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, July 11.—Lecture by Mrs. Annie Besant, on "Indian Women as Citizens," Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand. Chair, Mrs. Despard. Admission, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Wednesday, July 16.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 17.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 12 noon, 144, High Holborn. Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23.—Open-air Meeting, Hyde Park, 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 24.—Political Sub-Committee Meeting, 12 noon, 144, High Holborn. Open-air Meeting, Regent's Park, opposite The Clock Tower, 7 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Friday, July 18.—Bath: Garden Meeting at 2, Cedar Villas, Lower Oldfield Park, 7—9 p.m. Speaker, Miss C. Gordon (of Cheltenham). Subject, "The Housing Problem."

VOTES FOR INDIAN WOMEN.

A Lecture by Mrs. Annie Besant on "Indian Women as Citizens," will be held at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Friday, July 11, at 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Admission 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Branch Notes.

Portsmouth.

It was decided at the last members' meeting to send £5 to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund, and the Treasurer gratefully acknowledges the following subscriptions: Mrs. Ball, 1s.; Mrs. Layton, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Owen, 2s. 6d.; Miss Maynard, 1s.; Mrs. Speck, 10s.; Mrs. Whetton, 10s.; Miss Avery, 2s.; Mrs. Merritt, 1s.; Mrs. Ware, 10s.; Mrs. Davies, 2s. 6d.

Women's Freedom League Settlement.

The Settlement closes for the summer vacation on July 24th, when Miss Cole has very kindly arranged to take five children from the Guest House to the country for a month. She will also take over the management of the Settlement after the summer holidays on September 1st, and will be glad of any help VOTE readers can offer, either personally or by gifts of garden produce, provisions, clothing, etc. Another resident worker would be very welcome during the busy winter months. Two useful parcels of children's clothes have been received, post-marked Barnes; also jumble goods from Miss Riggall; flowers and lettuces from Miss I. Harvey; flowers and cucumbers from Miss M. Holmes; cakes from Mrs. Delbanco; rat poison from Mr. Delbanco; flowers from Miss Greenville, Mrs. Allan, Miss Choisy. There are some little garments cut out ready for sewing that we should be glad to have made up in time for the re-opening.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE CAMPAIGNS.

Clyde Coast:

Miss Anna Munro begins the Clyde Coast Campaign this week, and we understand that meetings will be held each evening on Rothesay Pier, and other meetings during the day at various places in the surrounding district. Volunteers are urgently needed for VOTE selling, speaking, etc.

New Brighton Campaign:

Miss Sackur is in charge of this campaign which will begin on July 16th. We are pleased to know that she will have as helpers: Miss Rainford, Miss Dorothy Evans, and Miss M. I. Neal. Miss Sackur will be grateful for any other offers of help.

The Birthday Fund.

A nice sum of money has come in for the Birthday Fund, and will be acknowledged in the VOTE next week; but we have not nearly enough to enable us to carry out all the important work in hand till the autumn. Much political work is now opening, and cannot possibly be curtailed. We must push through into law the Bills for Women Barristers and Solicitors and for Women Magistrates, we must secure an Amendment to the Pre-war Practices Restoration Bill, and see the Women's Emancipation Bill upon the Statute Book. All this entails constant political activity.

Propaganda and the education of the public is equally important. We shall have three holiday campaigns in full swing—at Aberystwith, New Brighton, and on the Clyde. These will increase our strength and membership, but will cost much money. Therefore, please make a great additional effort to support the Fund.

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

E. KNIGHT,
Hon. Treasurer.

Story-Telling by Katherine Raleigh.

An attractive recital was that given by Katherine Raleigh and Elsie Avril at the pleasant little theatre, Pembroke Hall, Kensington, on June 29th.

Miss Raleigh began by telling her hearers that in olden times story-telling appears to have been a very general and well-appreciated custom, and that in this entertainment it was to be revived.

She then gave us many charming examples of old folk and fairy stories, many of which contained a moral if one had sought it. The sources ranged from the Far East, Japan and India, through Norway and France to Ireland, and we were given as an "enore" the old favourite, "The Real Princess," who was so sensitive she felt a bean in her bed, even though it was covered by twenty mattresses.

Between the recitations Miss Elsie Avril gave charming renderings, both vocally and with violin, of folk songs and airs, assisted by the sympathetic accompaniment of Miss M. Symons.

Manchester University.

In the Medical School final examinations, out of three distinctions, two (in medicine) have been gained by women. The third (in surgery) was awarded to a man. But to prove that the women can also excel on the surgical side, a fortnight ago the surgical prize and the surgical scholarship, open to students in the last year of their course, were both awarded to women. This in spite of the fact that there are still many more men in the school than women. In other schools, too, women are increasing the number of firsts. In the History Honours School, up to four or five years ago it was very rare for a woman to obtain a first class, partly because the number of women at the University was comparatively small, but for the last four years women have carried off at least two firsts each year. Up to 1914 there had been only seven firsts gained by women in the whole history of the school. Since then there have been at least nine.

Hendon Rural District Council.

We are pleased to note that Mrs. Ida Causton, of Pinner, has been appointed the first woman member of the Hendon Rural District Council. Needless to say, Mrs. How Martyn was very active in trying to secure this result, and she urges women generally to be on the look-out for vacancies occurring on all local governing bodies, and to see, wherever possible, that suitable women are nominated for them without delay.

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Scientific Work for Women Graduates

In a recent article on "Education and Industry," which appears in *Ways and Means*, the Marquis of Crewe writes:—

"No little anxiety has been expressed for the future of women graduates as a class. A skilled woman graduate in chemistry has, or ought to have, as good a chance of employment in a works as a man. I have heard it said that too many University women take up botany as a subject, perhaps a singular survival of the old-fashioned tradition which regarded this as a peculiarly refined and feminine science. But, if a woman is willing to travel, she should find endless openings as a skilled economic botanist or plant biologist in connection with timber, with the multiplying wood industries, and the industries which depend upon vegetable fibres, and also in connection with the diseases of food plants."

It is expected that over two hundred women will attend the second summer school of civics and eugenics, which is to be held at Cambridge from August 2nd to August 16th.

Internationalism in the Universities.

A scheme for an international exchange of women students between England and America is to be discussed at the annual meeting of the Federation of University Women, which is to be held in London this week. Miss Virginia C. Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College, New York, is coming to England as the representative of American women graduates, with a view to closer co-operation with British University Women.

Signs of the Times.

Visitors to Bushey will be edified to observe a new sign recently displayed there by a firm of motor and cycle repairers. It is to the effect that "Moore and Daughter" are doing business there! Miss Moore, who is only twenty years of age, has just been taken into partnership by her father. She has passed a course at an engineering college, and has great talent as a mechanic. She also holds a Government appointment as inspector of magnetos.

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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