

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVIII, No. 480.

(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. 3, 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.

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### VOTES POLLED BY WOMEN CANDIDATES.

Miss CHRISTABEL PANKHURST	Coalition.	Smethwick.	8,614.
COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ.	Sinn Fein.	Dublin (St. Patrick's).	7,835.
Miss MARY MACARTHUR (Mrs. W. C. Anderson).	Labour.	Stourbridge.	7,587.
Mrs. DESPARD.	Labour.	Battersea (N.).	5,634.
Miss ALISON GARLAND.	Liberal.	Portsmouth (Southern D.).	4,283.
Miss VIOLET MARKHAM (Mrs. Carruthers).	Liberal.	Mansfield.	4,000.
Mrs. DACRE FOX.	Independent.	Richmond.	3,615.
Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE.	Labour.	Manchester (Rusholme).	2,985.
Miss E. PHIPPS, B.A.	Independent.	Chelsea.	2,419.
Mrs. HOW-MARTYN, B.Sc.	Independent.	Hendon.	2,067.
Mrs. J. McEWAN.	Liberal.	Enfield.	1,987.
Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY	Liberal.	Birmingham (Ladywood).	1,552.
Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY.	Independent.	Chiswick.	1,263.
Miss EUNICE G. MURRAY.	Independent.	Glasgow (Bridgeton).	991.
Miss W. CARNEY.	Sinn Fein.	Belfast (Victoria).	395.
Hon. Mrs. MACKENZIE.	Labour.	Welsh University.	176.

### NOT YET STILL TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Mrs. LUCAS.	'Safe'	Ind. Unionist.	Kennington.
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IF you Believe in Equal Rights and Opportunities and an Equal Moral Standard for Women and Men,

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Women's Freedom League.**

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 Hon. Head of Literature Department—MISS MARGARET HODGE.  
 Secretary—MISS F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.**



**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**

Friday, January 3.—W.F.L. Dinner in honour of our Women Candidates for Parliament. Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., 7 p.m. Tickets 3s. 6d each.

Saturday, January 4.—National Executive Committee Meeting, 10.30 a.m., 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Sunday, January 5, at 4 p.m. Hackney.—Drawing-room Meeting, 49, Moresby-road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Mustard. Speaker: Miss Alix Clark. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

Monday, January 6.—Golder's Green Branch.—Meeting at 13, Temple Fortune-court, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 15.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss B. Kent, on "The Organised Bodies of Trained Nurses and Their Long Struggle for Freedom." Admission Free. Collection. Tea can be obtained in the café, 6d. each.

Wednesday, January 22.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, January 29.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "A New Menace."

Wednesday, February 5.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Whish. Subject: "The Humorous Side of Journalism."

**PROVINCES.**

Monday, January 6.—Hastings Sisterhood Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. Chair: Mrs. Menheer.

Sunday, January 12.—Ashford Wesleyan Church, Bank-street, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Mr. Herbert Lee, J.P.

Friday, January 25.—Bexhill. Speakers' Class at 19, Marine-mansions, 3.15 p.m. Hostess: Mrs. Williams.

Tuesday, January 28.—Manchester. Political Meeting for Women only at Milton Hall, Deansgate, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Maudie Hingworth (Liberal Women's Organiser). Subject: "Peace—and After." Open discussion. Admission free. Silver collection.

**SCOTLAND.**

Thursday, January 9.—Edinburgh. Branch Meeting.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

Sunday, January 5.—North London Branch of the National Secular Society. Debate at St. Pancras Reform Club, 15, Victoria-road, Kentish Town, 7.30. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans. Subject: "Equal Pay and Sweated Housewives."

**Dinner to our Three Candidates.**

The dinner will take place at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, January 3, at 7 p.m., our honoured guests being Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc., and Miss Phipps, B.A., who will make short speeches on what they think of the results of the election. Tickets, 3s. 6d., from the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

**Women in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons.**

In answer to the letter of the Women's Freedom League asking for a place in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons for a representative of THE VOTE, the following reply has been received from the Serjeant-at-Arms:—

Dec. 20, 1918.

MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th inst., which I shall have pleasure in laying before the Speaker after his election to that office.

I should inform you that at present there is no vacancy in the Press Gallery.—I am, Madam, yours faithfully,

COLIN KEPPEL,  
 Admiral, Serjeant-at-Arms.

Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD, Secretary, Women's Freedom League.

**MRS. DESPARD'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE.**

DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW MEMBERS,

At the end of the momentous year 1918, at the opening of the new year I give you greeting. It is needless—indeed it would be impossible—to clothe in words that which we all feel about the weeks and months that face us. The result of the General Election—the comparatively small numbers that polled, the defeat in England and Scotland of every woman who, either standing on an independent platform or backed by a political party, came before the electors—and the general unrest throughout the country will, and must, create in the minds of many of us a feeling of despondency against which it is difficult to struggle. I know this; but my message to my friends of our brave League is: Be hopeful; be strong.

"We fall to rise, are baffled to fight better,  
 Sleep to wake."

After all, in 1911 or 1912 could any of us have imagined that in 1918 no less than sixteen women would even be able to present themselves to the electors as possible parliamentary candidates? Again and again, and yet again we were baffled; but, never despairing, we have fought on.

So shall it be with us now. And let us remember the more complicated the issues, the more menacing the situation, the more need there is for the exercise of watchfulness, determination, and the spirit of unity. What we have done in the past is only a small measure of what we may do in the future, if only we remain true to ourselves and one another.

With this proud consciousness in our souls we shall go forward without fear, never for a moment shrinking from sacrifice, never for a moment falling back before difficulties. Fair though the present may seem to be with the reactionist, the world of the future is ours.

With all my heart I wish you, my fellow-members, and the League to which we belong, God-speed in this New Year.

Yours in the greatest of all causes,

C. DESPARD.

**The New Parliament.**

COALITION.		OTHER PARTIES.	
Unionist	334	Unionist	50
Liberal	133	Liberal	28
Labour	10	Labour	62
		Nationalists	7
		Independent	9
		Sinn Fein	73

**Position in Old Parliament.**

The "Long Parliament," at the dissolution, consisted of—

Unionists	282
Liberals	260
Labour	38
Nationalists	78
Sinn Feiners	6
National Party	5
Independent...	1

670  
**The New Parliament will meet on Tuesday, February 4, 1919.**

**Married Women's Names.**

By an oversight there was a misprint of dates in Mrs. Fenwick Miller's recent article. She was elected to the London School Board in 1876, at the age of 22, and unmarried; she married Mr. F. A. Ford in April, 1877, and won the next election in 1879 as Florence Fenwick Miller, her signature still to-day.

**WHAT WE EXPECT OF THE PRIME MINISTER.**

Early in December the Prime Minister, appealing for the support at the General Election "of all those who love their country," declared that he stood for a general improvement in the conditions of life throughout the country, the development of resources, no sweating, justice to labour, increased production for the enrichment of all classes of the people.

The Government, he maintained, must tackle the housing problem with the assistance of the local authorities; even with the high cost of building material, it will pay the State in the improved health of the people.

"We cannot make an A1 Empire with a C3 population," he added, on insisting on the need for improved health, which is largely a question of improved conditions all round: housing, wages, humaner conditions of industry, and better aid from the medical profession for the prevention of disease.

Urging the perfecting of the education system beyond the recent Education Act, Mr. Lloyd George added:—

"I am profoundly convinced that we need to devote more thorough and systematic care to child welfare problems and the care of the mother. . . ."

Speaking at the Queen's Hall to a large gathering of women, the Prime Minister declared himself in favour of equality of opportunity for women and men. Women, he said, had till now "been assigned what was left after men had had their choice," but now they must have equality in education, in the marriage laws, in physical conditions of industry and service, and equal pay for equal work.

The Prime Minister stands committed to a great programme of reconstruction, and as he pointed out that so much depends upon the votes of women, we bring home to him the fact that we shall not be satisfied now, any more than we were in our unfranchised days, with words. Words must be followed by deeds. We shall be on the watch, and, as voters, we count. Our new power, which we have been urged to use, is a power to be reckoned with; no longer can women be pushed on one side as negligible.

Every point in the Prime Minister's programme concerns women as well as men, and our message to him is

**Dare and Do!**

He has the power. The majority behind him now is capable of carrying out this great scheme of reconstruction—a scheme which will also have the support of members who did not receive his blessing at the General Election.

This is what we expect of the Prime Minister. We are continuously on the watch.

**ELECTION ECHOES.**

**Why not a Few "Safe" Seats for Women?**

A visitor to this country—not a voter, but one who follows keenly the new conditions in politics—asked why the Government did not put their sincerity to the test by setting aside a few "safe" seats for women. In Parliament and out those in high authority insisted that the presence of women in the House of Commons would be most beneficial to the community. Every masculine point of view, as Lord Robert Cecil said, is represented, but not the woman's angle of vision. It would have been a simple way to meet the difficulty of a new idea—new ideas are slowly assimilated by the masses—to have given women two or three or more unopposed seats or seats that were absolutely safe, and, said our visitor, it would have been a popular move.

**Coalition and Country.**

The idea, however, did not commend itself to the powers that were, in the person of Sir George Younger, the Coalition Unionist Whip, and his helpers, who gave out the Coalition coupons with the wisdom of men intent on accomplishing a certain purpose. Coalition and country was their cry: those who opposed were suspect, unpatriotic, even treacherous. The measure of the success achieved is the measure of the astuteness of the politician. Comparatively few of the Coalition candidates failed, though in many cases they were complete strangers to constituencies held by well-known men.

**Plucky Pioneers.**

Only one woman had the coupon, but she complains that it was not given in time to be of use. The other women candidates had to stand against this strong backing, and several had to fight against two and more candidates. We honour the plucky attempt they made to bring before the electorate the country's need of the woman member of Parliament, and of one and all of them we say:—

'Tis not in mortals to command success,  
 But they've done more, deserved it!

**Beginning the New Chelsea Campaign.**

Last Saturday afternoon a most delightful gathering of Miss Phipps' friends and helpers was held at Sydney Hall, Chelsea. Short speeches, full of vigour and determination, were made by Miss Phipps, Mrs. Despard, Mr. Proctor, Mrs. Mustard, Mr. Smith, Miss West, Miss Bathurst. Old Chelsea residents declared that Miss Phipps had accomplished almost the impossible in "making good" in so Conservative a constituency as Chelsea, to the extent of 2,419 votes in a short campaign, and urged that the new campaign on behalf of Miss Phipps for the next Chelsea election should be started as soon as possible.

**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE PROGRAMME.**

**Full Equality in every direction of Women with Men.**

1. Votes for Women on equal terms with men.
2. Women Members of Parliament.
3. Women Judges, Barristers, and Solicitors.
4. Women Magistrates throughout the Country.
5. Women Commissioners of Prisons.
6. Women on all Juries.
7. Women on all Local Government bodies and on all Reconstruction Committees, on Trade Boards, Education and Health Committees, and all public bodies which regulate the lives and surroundings of the People, and especially on all the Watch Committees of Local Councils.
8. The opening of all trades and professions to Women, with equal opportunities and equal responsibilities, and the opening of all trade unions to women on equal terms with men.
9. Equal pay for equal work in all trades and professions and Government Departments with an equal chance to fill the higher posts.
10. The immediate restoration to British-born women of full control of their own nationality.
11. The recognition of an equal moral standard for men and women and an even-handed justice in the administration of the law in sex offences, no laws to be passed which will in practice operate unfairly as between men and women, and all inequalities already existing to be removed.
12. No man or woman to be convicted on police evidence only.
13. An equal number of women with men on all Housing, Food, Health and National Committees.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd  
Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

FRIDAY, January 3rd, 1919.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Editor—on all editorial matters.

To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.

To the Secretary—on all other business, including Votes orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

## THE GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS: WHAT WE THINK.

The recent General Election has resulted in a sweeping majority for the followers of Mr. Lloyd George. We cannot but regret that many of our staunchest friends will have no place in the new House of Commons, and that no woman was returned for any of the constituencies of England, Scotland, or Wales. Ireland is more fortunate, and has elected Countess Markievicz for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin.

But while the non-success of the women is a disappointment to those of us who realise the urgent necessity of women's counsels in all schemes of reconstruction, we must acknowledge that the women candidates have done remarkably well considering the immense difficulties against which they had to contend. The conditions of this election were altogether different from the conditions prevailing in other elections. We had just concluded the greatest war in the history of mankind, a war in which the whole world had been engaged. For the first time in the history of our country six or seven millions of women over thirty years of age were able to exercise the Parliamentary vote, and for the first time, too, women had the right to stand as candidates for Parliament. The existing party organisations, however, gave them very little assistance and no "safe" seats, and the women, who stood independently of party, had no well-tryed machinery or experienced political organisations through which to work. In view of all these circumstances, and the further fact that the electorate itself was staggered by the new conditions under which it voted, we must express our pride in the magnificent fight put up by the women candidates, the results of whose candidatures compared very favourably with that of many old parliamentary hands. We are confident they will have a better chance at the next elections.

In the meantime much spade work must be done by women's organisations in educating the public—both men and women—as to the need for women representatives in the House of Commons. There must be much greater activity in our branches in arousing local interest on this matter, and we hope to see many of them in the near future forming themselves into election committees for running or supporting women candidates for borough, county council, and parliamentary elections. There is no time to be lost if women candidates are to become women members, and with the initiative power of organisation and the resourcefulness of women shown all through the suffrage movement, there

should be no doubt at all of their success at the next elections.

The great majority of the members of the new House of Commons are entirely unknown to us, but it will probably not take us very long to find out who are the friends and who are the opponents of the interests of women. The Women's Freedom League will, as ever, be on the alert, and our watch-dog policy on this subject will be carried through with vigour. Mr. Lloyd George has expressed his strong sympathy with the women's struggle for equality of opportunity, rewards, and responsibilities with men throughout all branches of our national life, and we have urged upon him the necessity of the recognition and maintenance of an equal moral standard for men and women. He has an enormous majority in the House, and the power to carry through all these reforms. We expect him to begin on them at the earliest possible moment, and we can assure him that the Women's Freedom League will keep his Government well advised on all matters of special concern to women.

F. A. U.

## WOMEN AT WORK.

### Mrs. Lloyd George as Trustee.

His Majesty King George V. has approved of Mrs. Lloyd George as a trustee of the King's Fund for the Disabled; the other trustees are five men.

### Railway Workers' Programme: No Sex Distinction.

Any concession gained under the railwaymen's national programme is to apply to men and women without distinction.

### Woman Probation Officer.

Mrs. Rivers Moore, a daughter of the Dean of Worcester, has been appointed woman probation officer at Croydon police-court, at a yearly salary of £200.

### Dr. Anna Shaw, Policewoman.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, president of the National Woman's Suffrage Association, has taken the oath at Washington as a policewoman in the district of Columbia, realising an ambition she has had for forty years. "They made fun of me when I suggested it forty years ago," she said. Dr. Shaw is seventy years old.

### A Strike for Woman Suffrage in South Africa.

*The Woman's Outlook*, just to hand from South Africa, tells of the possibility of a "woman's strike or passive protest," with the object of arresting public attention to the fact, surprising to many, that women are still unenfranchised in South Africa, and of forcing the hands of the Government. It is proposed that on March 1, 1919, every woman and every man who is a suffragist shall cease his or her public activities until the vote is granted to women.

Another item of news, as follows, shows how badly the vote is needed by women:—

During the influenza visitation distressing cases were revealed. A great deal of poverty has been brought to light. Many of the dwellings are unfit for human habitation, and in many cases overcrowded.

### "Single Women."

The following occurs in the course of an editorial announcement of the programme of *The Christian Commonwealth* for 1919:—

We rejoice that the cause of the enfranchisement of women, for which *The Christian Commonwealth* broke many a lance in the wilderness, is won. In realising the further liberties that follow on their enfranchisement women may count on our unflinching support. Particularly does the case of the single woman command our sympathy. Slighted, scoffed at, the most valuable asset of the Churches, yet least loved, the most disinterested section of society, yet least esteemed, *The Christian Commonwealth* sees in the unmarried woman one of society's greatest assets, and with the co-operation of our readers we hope to fight her battles and secure for her the recognition and honour she deserves.

## ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE FEMININE IN FICTION. By L. A. M. Priestley (Mrs. George McCracken). London: George Allen and Unwin, Ruskin House, 40, Museum Street, W.C. 1. Price 2s. 6d.

This century has been rightly called the Woman's Century, for her activities are innumerable, her capacity apparently unlimited, and her influence most potent in our national life. Foolish, superficial thinkers look upon this transformation in her position as due to the war. "Women have won the war," says Mr. Bottomley, and therefore they are to be raised from obscurity to eminence; they are to be regarded with admiration instead of contempt. The wiser among us see in woman's position to-day the natural result of her evolution, gradual and sometimes painful, during the last hundred years. This Mrs. Despard points out in her "Foreword" to Mrs. McCracken's series of essays on "The Feminine in Fiction." It is a position gained by persevering effort and inherent merit, and it is not due to a sudden revolution in public opinion.

The growth of confidence in woman's powers has been slow, but it has been steady, and all that the war has done has been to open out for her new fields of labour, less responsible and less arduous than the work she has done quietly for centuries. Indications of the wonderful evolution of women are shown by Mrs. McCracken in the heroines of novels by different writers at different epochs. Elizabeth Bennett would have horrified Clarissa Harlowe; her sprightliness would have been impertinence. Tess of the D'Urbervilles would have received merciless treatment at the hands of the gentle Lady Castlewood. Yet, as writers of good fiction are always ahead of their time, and see the light of the sunrise on the hilltops before it illumines the valleys, so we find in each of the authors quoted in this useful little book an intuitive perception of the change that is in process. Thus in the "Scarlet Letter" Hawthorne says of Hester Prynne that even after all her sufferings, she felt confident that "in Heaven's own time a new truth would be revealed in order to establish the whole relation between man and woman on a surer ground of mutual happiness." Meredith puts into Diana's mouth words that would have been "rank blasphemy" in Addison's day: "Our old lawyer assures me that the day will come when women will be expected to work for their independence; that is the secret of the opinion of us at present—our dependency." Charlotte Brontë makes Shirley yearn for some profession or trade, and Caroline, gentle, affectionate, and clinging, echoes her sentiments. George Eliot shows us again and again what the world has lost by not providing a legitimate outlet for woman's powers. "Here and there is born a Saint Teresa, foundress of nothing, whose loving heart-beats and sobs after unattained goodness tremble off and are dispersed among hindrances, instead of centring in some long-recognisable deed." George Gissing recognises as clearly as any woman how the repression of woman has acted deleteriously upon the human race. "Let the responsibility for disorder rest on those who have made us despise our old selves. At any cost we will free ourselves from the heritage of weakness and contempt." Could any militant suffragette speak more emphatically?

In "Julia France" Gertrude Atherton represents a woman who rebels against the anti-suffrage view of feminine influence. "I hate such a life!" said Julia, her eyes blazing. "Of course you do, but so long as men are unreasonable we must limp along on credit and gain our ends by devious methods." The need for woman to develop her own individuality is well brought out by H. G. Wells in

"The Wife of Sir Isaac Harman," and the quotation from *Punch* aptly sums up the moral of the story:—

Eric: "Come here, Dora; I want you."

Dora: "Thank you, Eric, but I want myself."

The whole series of essays shows us how during the last three generations the moral ideals of women have been raised, and how marriage, instead of being regarded as "the pleasantest preservative from want," is becoming what it was always meant to be—"the union of kindred souls."

MARGARET HODGE.

## HONOURING THE WOMEN PIONEERS.

It is a delightful way of celebrating the Woman's Franchise victory to pay appreciative and affectionate tribute to the women pioneers of the past. Mrs. George McCracken has done this in a very interesting and enlightening article which appeared recently in the *Belfast Telegraph*. Beginning with Mary Wollstonecraft a century ago, she gives a graphic little sketch of women who have suffered in the school of sorrow, but by reason of suffering and service have helped to bring about the political triumph of to-day and the coming realisation of full equality. "I do not want women to have power over men but over themselves," said Mary Wollstonecraft, called by Horace Walpole "a hyena in petticoats"; "it is not empire, but equality and friendship they want." Caroline Norton holds an honoured place in Mrs. McCracken's list; it was her personal suffering which, on the word of Lord Brougham, contributed largely to the reform in 1855 of the wickedly cruel divorce laws; it was her writings which to a considerable extent were embodied in "The Infant Custody Laws." Among the other torchbearers are Florence Nightingale, who, at the request of the War Department, reformed the whole system of military nursing, amid insults and sneers, and, after accomplishing that Herculean task, established the new order of civil nursing which, superseding "Sairey Gamp," has won devoted praise from the whole community. In the sphere of education stand such pioneer women as Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., and Madame Bodichon, founders of Girton College, Cambridge; Frances Mary Buss, Dorothea Beale, A. I. Clough, and Isabella Todd; and the pioneer women doctors—Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, and Sophia Jex-Blake—who, heedless of the scandalised disapproval of their contemporaries, inaugurated the fine dynasty of medical women whose aid, so readily given, was so urgently needed and highly valued in the great war. Then Josephine Butler, the tireless crusader, fighting for twenty-one years for social purity and the overthrow of the infamous Contagious Diseases Acts, and feeling, as did the other noble women workers and suffragists, the powerlessness of unenfranchised womanhood. Afterwards come the veteran suffragists, Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, who did such good work for the Married Women's Property Act, and Lydia Becker, who started and edited the first suffrage paper, *The Women's Suffrage Journal*. To be followed by suffragists of modern times: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Pankhurst, Lady Constance Lytton, and others. A great "Roll of Honour of Women" who have endured hardness as good soldiers in the suffrage army that the way to equality, justice, and opportunity of service might be cleared to all women!

Miss Maude Royden preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday at the 6.30 p.m. service. Subject: "The Kind of World We Want."

### "BUT WE SHALL BE THERE."

By the kind permission of the editor of *The Nation* we reprint below "A Letter from a Candidate":—

"I was addressing a meeting of miners in one of the little villages of Lanarkshire. The place was typical—a few rows of houses facing black heaps of slag, beyond them the mouth of the pit. The meeting was in a little rude hall. It was an afternoon meeting held for the men who later in the day would be down the pit. There were a few women present. They sat together and appeared a little shy at being found at a political meeting with their men. There was one exception. They sat around a woman who had evidently brought them to the meeting. She was like a figure from the French Revolution. She was tall and gaunt, with black, burning eyes, and sat for the most part with folded arms. Sometimes she applauded. Once or twice she shouted out. The other half-dozen women watched her attitude and copied it, sharing in her demonstrations shyly at first, but with increasing confidence as the meeting went on.

"The meeting came to its end and the men walked towards the pit. The women remained and their leader came forward and held my arm. 'Come with me,' she said. 'We want to show you where we live.' She kept hold of my wrist, as though afraid I should refuse, and we left the hall side by side, the other women following. 'I will show you my own house first,' the woman continued. 'You shall see where my man and our six children live.' 'Ours is just the same,' came from the little group behind us.

"I was led to the foot of a flight of stone steps in the open air. Each step was broken, and it was difficult to stand upright upon them. The protecting handrail had rotted away, and there was nothing to prevent the children running up and down the steps from falling off if they stumbled. At the top of the steps I entered the woman's home. It consisted of one room which served every purpose for a family of eight.

"This is my home,' the woman said quietly, and then, one by one, she described the details. There was no water supply. Every drop of water used in the house had to be fetched from a common pump some distance away and brought up the broken stairs in all weathers. There was no drainage of any kind from the room. All dirty water had to be carried down the steps and poured into an open sewer at their foot, the smell from which was always in the house. There was no lighting. There was no oven or other facilities for cooking beyond three bars between rough bricks. The room contained two beds, and to provide a little space in the centre of the rooms they were pushed against the walls, which were covered with fungus, the result of damp. Except for a small box in the room, there was no provision for storing coal, and it had to be bought in tiny quantities.

"Now come outside again and see how we have to wash our children's clothes.' I followed the woman down the crazy steps. In front of us was a piece of waste ground. They explained to me how they collected a few stones upon it, lit a fire between them, and boiled their clothes over it in a pot. This in all weathers.

"We were now joined by an old miner. He had been injured in the mine a few years ago, and now hobbled about, a cripple. He drew me aside from the women. 'There's something else you ought to know,' he whispered. 'There are no closets for these houses: that's the only place for the entire row.' He pointed to a broken down building, on one side of which was a shoot for the ashes and house refuse. 'It's always too filthy to use. We don't go near it in the dark.'

"I rejoined the women. They stood at the foot of the steps in a swamp of mud, for around their homes there was no paving of any kind, and the passage through the swamp whenever they entered or came out was unescapable. 'There's no polling station for us here. We've to walk three miles to Lowaters,' the leader said, 'But We Shall Be There.'"  
—*Letter from a Candidate.*

The General Election at any rate has made some women articulate. The housing conditions of many of the people, not only in Scotland, but also in England, are scandalous, and our great regret is that there will not be women in the next House of Commons to protest against these conditions. Housing reform is a foremost subject in the Prime Minister's programme, and with the strong support on which he can now count he has a great opportunity of adding deeds to words. The pressure of women voters will be continuous; no shuffling or delay will be allowed.

### OPEN COLUMN.

\*\*\* Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

### Disease Delivered at the Door Daily.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR EDITOR,—The facts about Manchester's contaminated milk reported by Dr. Sheridan Delepine, Director of the Public Health Laboratory of Victoria University, Manchester, should give us a powerful weapon wherewith to force action on this matter.

In 39 per cent. of samples taken there were over 1,000,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre, and in 43 per cent. from 100,000 to 1,000,000. The proportion of tuberculosis samples was three times as great as before the war. Dirty treatment of the milk at the farm is the most serious source of pollution, strained milk being found to be thirty thousand times more contaminated than the same milk unstrained.

The Manchester City Council has been considering the provision for a clean milk supply since 1896, and the London County Council even longer.

To ensure proper sterilisation of cans, rapid and cheap transit, an equitable and effective distribution, we must have a National Milk Service, locally controlled. We cannot leave it any longer to the procrastination of the Councils.

As the health of the people was seriously endangered until the municipal water supply was compulsory, so we shall continue to lose our tens of thousands of infants every year, as we are told by a medical correspondent, from milk-borne tuberculosis, summer cholera, and other infectious diseases delivered daily at our doors."

Maternity and child welfare centres ought to organise demonstrations and deputations on the same days all over the country to bring pressure to bear on Municipal Councils and upon the Local Government Board to take action at once. We need a Ministry of Health, but this question of pure milk must not be delayed for that or any other matter.—Yours faithfully,  
DOROTHY EVANS.

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9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. 1. For men and women.  
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LECTURES, HOUSE DINNERS, Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte.—For particulars apply Secretary. Tel.: 3932 Mayfair.

### The General Election: Press Comments.

Throughout the election the Press interested itself particularly in the women candidates. This was fitting, seeing that the seventeen women who entered the arena have made history. For the first time British women had the right to stand as representatives of the people, and the pioneers who, at the eleventh hour, contested most varied constituencies, will be honoured in our annals. The Act of Parliament enabling women to stand as candidates only received the Royal Assent immediately before the dissolution of Parliament at the end of November.

Press and personal comments since the declaration of the results of the election reveal a genuine regret that only one woman was successful, Countess Markievicz, who won at Dublin (St. Patrick's Division) by a majority of more than 3,000 as a Sinn Féin candidate. Whether she takes her seat at Westminster or not, she will have the distinction of being the first woman to be chosen as representative of the people.

*The Times*, commenting on the result, says:—

A word is due to the new women voters for their share in the verdict on the immense issues of the election. It has been, if not decisive, at least very powerful. They need not be discouraged by the defeat of all the women candidates except the Sinn Féiner. Their time will come.

*The Daily Express*, which gave great prominence to the women candidates every day during the contest, ascribes their lack of success to insufficient time and machinery, but expresses confidence in the future. It remarks:—

"If there had only been more time," is the usual complaint when candidates fail to secure election, but in the case of the defeated women it has a special relevance. Their task in this election was twofold. They had not only to make friends with the electors and explain their programmes, but, what was infinitely more difficult, they had to familiarise the people with the idea of a woman candidate for Parliament.

Thinking people accepted the startling change in the Constitution with so much equanimity and even approval that there has been a tendency to overlook or at least minimise the prejudice against "a female for Parliament" to be found in most constituencies, and particularly in those with a large semi-illiterate electorate.

Five weeks' splendid campaigning [In most cases it was only two weeks.—Ed.] (I have heard no one say that the women candidates did not work hard enough—they out-paced their election agents in almost every instance) did much to overcome this prejudice, although not enough, and in consequence of the fine spadework of the pioneers the prospects of the next group of women candidates will be much brighter.

The failure of the women candidates this time is disappointing, but in no way disquieting. Those behind the scenes were fully prepared for it, and are confidently hoping for big things next time.

*Sunday Herald*, expressing regret that more women were not returned, observes:—

There are soldiers who will tell you that women have "won the war." Every Service man acknowledges his immense debt to them in helping to "carry on" during the worst days, and he would like capable women to look after their sex in Parliament as well as after his.

*The Financial Times* says:—

The women's day is, probably, yet to come.

The Sunday papers expressed the general feeling that some women would be returned, and regretted the results. In practically all the forecasts of the new Parliament women members were included.

With regard to women as voters, the Press, immediately after the elections, paid tribute to their appearance in good numbers at the polling stations. Since the declaration of the results still further recognition is made.

Mr. Illingworth, Postmaster-General, speaking after the declaration of the poll in the Heywood and Radcliffe Division (Lancashire), said that this had been the first time women had had the opportunity

to vote, and he was glad to say, as far as one could tell, that they had attended to their duties in a better way than the men.

*The Birmingham Post* says that doubt as to whether the woman voter would take advantage of her new right has been disproved by facts:—

It would seem from all accounts that women have voted freely throughout the constituencies; in some they are believed to have polled more heavily than the male part of the electorate. Evidence that they have done so is discovered in the comparatively good percentage of votes recorded. It is not possible in definite figures to say what that percentage is, still, it is certainly much higher than the party organisations anticipated.

### Votes for Women in the United States.

In the past the great successes of woman suffrage in the United States, passing from West to East, State by State, have greatly encouraged British women and others striving for victory. It is now our success which strengthens the hands of our sisters across the Atlantic, and we join with them in urging the Congress to pass with the necessary majority the Federal amendment which will make woman suffrage a part of the Constitution of the United States, requiring only the ratification of the Legislature of each State. There are already 16 States of the Union which have enfranchised their women; the rest must follow.

When the amendment, passed by the House of Representatives, came before the Senate recently, it secured a majority which fell short by only a very few votes of the two-thirds required by the Constitution for a constitutional change. President Wilson, who received a most enthusiastic welcome during his visit to this country, is a strong supporter of votes for women. Last week part of his speech to the Senate, urging the justice of the Federal amendment, was quoted in *THE VOTE*. "We need the moral sense of women to preserve what is right and fine and worthy in our system of life," he said, "as well as to discover just what it is that ought to be purified and reformed. Without their counsellings we shall only be half wise."

From the *Christian Science Monitor* (Boston, U.S.A.) just to hand, we find that the United States are beginning to feel ashamed of being left behind in the great democratic movement of giving women the rights of citizenship. Senator Jones, of New Mexico, chairman of the Committee on Suffrage, said:—

In these epochal days when the peoples of all countries are accepting the doctrines of democracy and social justice the greatest of all republics should not be reactionary. Out of the European turmoil democratic governments are springing up, and without exception and as a matter of course women are accorded the same political rights as men.

At the November election more than a sufficient number of Senators and Representatives favourable to the proposed constitutional amendment were elected. Why should the Senate as now constituted cause further delay? Now is the time to keep pace with civilization. Now is the time to give substantial recognition of the indispensable service which women have rendered in this crisis. In the language of the President, these great days of completed achievement would be sadly marred were we to omit that act of justice.

According to the *Monitor*, this session of Congress is to be an exceedingly busy one, but the Federal suffrage amendment has been long pending, and the indications are that the suffrage leaders in the Senate will bring up the measure as soon as they feel confident that the necessary two-thirds majority is forthcoming.

The *Monitor*, always sympathetic and helpful to the woman's movement, contains several articles of special interest concerning the progress of the movement and the work of women suffragists in various parts of the world.

FRIDAY,  
JAN. 3,  
1919.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## Women Workers After War.

Employment of women who have been engaged as substitutes during the war in civil work, as apart from munitions and Army and Naval contracts, when demobilisation takes place is the distinguishing feature of the final report to the Ministry of Reconstruction by the Civil War Workers' Committee. The number of such female substitutes employed increased by 878,000 from the outbreak of war until April last, while the net replacement of male labour increased in the same period by 1,064,000. In the report it is stated that as regards the male substitutes the number who are likely to be left without employment is not serious.

The position of women is more critical, and "the whole question of the future position of women in clerical and commercial occupations, not only in London, but in the provinces, is one of great importance and difficulty." Following is a summary of the chief recommendations affecting women:—

That a decision in regard to the future position of women in the permanent Civil Service should be arrived at, and carried into effect, if possible before demobilisation commences.

When vacancies in the permanent Civil Service come to be filled the claims of the temporary clerks should be considered together with the claims of men discharged from the forces and of established Civil Servants.

As regards temporary posts, vacancies should, wherever possible, be filled by the transfer of clerks displaced from other departments.

Period of notice should not be less than one month.

General recommendations are to the effect that a committee in connection with the Labour Resettlement Committee should be set up to consider the whole conditions of women's employment in clerical and commercial occupations, and that the railway companies and the trade unions concerned should be asked without delay to arrive at an agreement in regard to the conditions of the future employment of women on railways.

Dr. Addison, Minister of Reconstruction, appends the statement to the report that the principal recommendations have been adopted by the Government.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, London, S.W. 8.

We end the year with grateful acknowledgment of the many gifts which provided a quite splendid treat for 300 children on December 20. Each took home a chunk of plum pudding (pronounced by their elders to be "almost pre-war"—the last word in praise nowadays), a mince pie, orange, cracker and toy. Father Christmas was there presiding over the pretty tree given by Mrs. Alec Nathan, together with oranges and toys; dolls, crackers, toys, etc., were also given by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, the Lady Wenlock, Miss Wells, Miss Broad, Mrs. Gregory, the Misses Holford, the Misses D. and E. Holmes, Mlle. Agostini, Mrs. West, Mrs. Hope, Miss Margaret Kennedy (37s. for oranges); Mrs. Wills, the Misses Haward, Miss Jane Barrow, Mrs. Hope, Mrs. Beamish, Miss Kennedy, Mrs. Whitlock, sent clothing; Mrs. Coleman, 2s.; Mrs. Roberts, 5s.; Miss Choisy, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. West, 5s., oranges and sweets; W. R. Snow, Esq., £3 3s.; Dr. Südmersen, 4s.; A. Archer, Esq., 10s.; Mrs. and Miss Fox-Bourne, £1; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Girls at Whit-church, Salop, High School, per Miss E. M. Harvey, £1 1s.; Miss Ibbotson, £1; Mrs. Lacey, gramophone records and needles; Mrs. Barber, Zoo tickets. The dinners, from twelve to one daily, are still in need of servers.

## The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1.

For the benefit of enquirers who, in these days of extreme difficulty in finding bedrooms in London, write to ask the terms charged at the Despard Arms, we have a general charge of 2s. a night. The manageress makes arrangements with those who desire to stay for a considerable time and for friends sharing a room. Meals are served in the restaurant by arrangement. Visitors can be sure of comfort and cleanliness.

## Women's Freedom League Literature Department.

We have on sale an admirable little pamphlet, entitled, "League of Nations," by James Johnston, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, ex-Parliamentary correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, and published by the Liberal Democratic Union. Those who wish to have a clear statement on this all-important subject cannot do better than purchase copies, price one penny (by post three-halfpence) from the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

## WANTED.

WANTED, end of January, small, self-contained FLAT, 3 rooms; rent not exceeding 15s.; overlooking or near Hampstead Heath.—Box 40, "THE VOTE" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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