

THE VOTE,
SEPTEMBER 13, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

Women and the Liberal Party Programme

F. A. U.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 13, 1918

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN IN WAR-TIME.¹
REGISTRATION VAGARIES.
UNCLE SAM'S EXAMPLE TO JOHN BULL.
WOMEN M.P.S. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

WOMEN AND THE LIBERAL PARTY PROGRAMME - F. A. U.
MILK: A PRESSING PROBLEM. - - - E. M. N. C.
REGULATION 40 D: CASES, PROTESTS, &c.
OUR GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

WOMEN IN WAR-TIME.

Trades Union Delegate to U.S.A.

Miss Margaret Bondfield was elected by the British Trades Union Congress at Derby last week their delegate to the United States. Her fellow delegate is Mr. S. Finney, of the Miners' Federation.

Diver to U.S.A. Government.

The American Government has provisionally accepted an offer of service from Mrs. Aleen McKay Bryant, a woman diver, who thinks the sowing of German mines along the Atlantic coast may provide opportunities for her specialised skill to be of use, says *The Manchester Guardian*. She is the widow of an American aviator who was killed in a flight five years ago. She has had considerable experience in searching the sea depths for wrecks both in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Her success in her profession has won for her the honorary life membership of the National Association of Marine Engineers and an invitation to attend its convention. No other woman has been offered this distinction.

Glasgow Tram Drivers Brighten the Streets.

The girls not only "conduct" the trams, but they drive them in Glasgow. The municipality,

says a *Daily Chronicle* correspondent, seems to choose its best and bonniest lasses for this job, and in their tartan skirts, green jerkins, and saucy green cloth caps these charioteers irradiate the grim old streets. There is a latent decorative instinct in the solid Scottish character which breaks out in an unexpected way at times.

Success in a Jam Factory.

Scientific industry affords a peculiarly suitable field for woman's labour, said Dr. Ethel Thomas at the British Products Exhibition last week. She must have a proper chance to use the qualities most useful to the nation by securing a perfectly free labour market and a fair field for her efforts. Let women have their fling, and they would very soon settle down to the occupations most suitable to their temperament and physique. They had not yet done much in the way of technical control, but there was promise that they would.

In one case a woman had been given entire control of the machinery in a jam factory, with the result that the output had been doubled, while the bill for engineering repairs was less than in any previous season.

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 to the
Secretary, Women's Freedom League,
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 13.—London Branches Council Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18.—Sewing Meeting, 144, High Holborn. 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 21.—Bowes Park Branch. Drawing-room Meeting, 121, Bowes-road, Palmer's Green, N. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge, on "Child Welfare."

Saturday, September 28.—London Branches Council. Debate 3 p.m., Minerva Café. Opener: Mrs. How-Martyn. Subject: "That it is in the National Interests that Women should be Members of the next Parliament."

Wednesday, October 2.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lind-af-Hageby. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Café at 6d. if desired.

Wednesday, October 9.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Hall Simpson on "How Women of India and England can Co-operate."

Wednesday, October 16.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Mr. J. W. Williams on "The Empire's Greatest Menace."

Sunday, October 20.—Herne Hill Branch. Drawing-room Meeting at 69, Danecroft-road, 4 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard on "Women and the Future." Admission free.

Wednesday, October 23.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge, on "Child Welfare."

Wednesday, October 30.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, September 24th.—BOURNEMOUTH. Public meeting at Freedom Hall, "Loughtonhurst," West Cliff Gardens (by kind permission of Mrs. Hume), 4.30. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner on "How to Use the Vote." Chairman: Alderman Mate, J.P.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, September 15.—Ashford P.S.A. Meeting at Wesleyan Church, Bank-street. 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard, on "Spiritual Alchemy." Chairman: Mr. H. Lee, J.P.

Co-operative Hall, High-street, 6.30. Speaker: Mrs. Despard, on "Hope in Failure." Chairman: Mr. J. Marsh (N.U.R.), supported by Councillor W. Bolton and Messrs. J. Eveleigh B. Noble, G. Gardner, J. Jolley (N.U.R.).

REGISTRATION VAGARIES.

How long are women to be victimised by the prejudice and ignorance of individual Registration Officers? Why should busy women be put to the trouble and inconvenience of conducting an appeal in the County Court in order to secure the vote which is their right, and which other women in similar circumstances have obtained without difficulty in neighbouring constituencies where a more enlightened Registration Officer holds sway?

The Women's Freedom League calls upon the Local Government Board at once to instruct those local authorities which are acting in this arbitrary manner how to amend their ways and come into line with the rest of the country, and give effect to the real intention of the Local Government Board and the House of Commons.

The Fight at Swansea.

Mr. Lang Coath, the local Registration Officer, and other Borough officials have found a hard nut to crack in the local officials of the National Federation of Women Teachers.

All along every obstacle has been put in the way of enfranchising a number of Swansea teachers, members of the Federation. Pink forms were only accepted from women Local Government electors and from married women. All other qualified women were compelled to claim their votes for themselves, and the necessary claim forms were only extorted from the authorities by the unwearied persistence of Miss Neal and other members of the Federation.

The claims were heard last week, and after prolonged discussion Mr. Lang Coath took the extraordinary course of disfranchising all qualified women (renting their own unfurnished rooms) who took their meals in the family dining-room. Does Mr. Coath expect his daughters to consume their dinner in their bedroom whilst his sons keep him company downstairs?

The Registration Officer for West Glamorgan makes no such ridiculous distinction, and it was distinctly negated at the Conference of Registration Officers summoned to London in July last by the Local Government Board. We are glad to state that the Swansea Branch of the Federation at once proceeded to appeal to the County Court on behalf of certain of their unjustly treated members, and a test case will be fought.

The Women's Freedom League supports these proceedings with its whole heart, and gives its best wishes for success to Miss Neal and the teachers for whom she is working so strenuously; many of whom are our fellow-members of the Women's Freedom League.

Votes for Nurses if they belong to a Prominent Institution.

We reported in THE VOTE, page 383, that nurses in an institution at Enfield were refused the vote, but the London Hospital is a well-known place, and more intelligence has been shown by the Registration Officer of that district, who has informed the governors that their nurses who each occupy a separate bedroom are entitled to exercise both the Local Government and Parliamentary vote.

Votes for "Living-In"—A Mayor's Appeal.

The Mayor of Stoke Newington, a draper, will appeal in the Edmonton County Court on September 14 against the refusal of the Registration Officer to grant the vote to three women members of his staff. This will be an important test case for women employed in the drapery and other trades to whom the protection of the vote is a necessity.

Votes for Peeresses.

The Marchioness of Anglesey was disfranchised by the Registration Officer at Burton because as a simple peeress by marriage she could not remain on the voters' list after the removal from it of her husband, Lord Anglesey.

The Local Government Board subsequently expressed the opinion that peeresses by marriage should be included in the Parliamentary list, so Lady Anglesey is now a Parliamentary voter.

Votes for Wives Only.

"WHAT WAS SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE IS"—At Finsbury, three husbands lost their Parliamentary votes, the value of their business premises being insufficient to qualify them. Their wives, however, become Parliamentary electors by virtue of the husbands' Local Government vote.

UNCLE SAM'S EXAMPLE TO JOHN BULL.

The busts of three great pioneers in the Woman's Movement have recently been sculptured in marble to be placed in the Capitol at Washington, U.S.A. They are busts of that great trio, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony, and the sculptor, Mrs. Adelaide Johnson, says *The Christian Science Monitor*, "is one who knew and loved them all, and who has herself been an earnest worker for their great cause." Said Mrs. Johnson in an interview:

"These three women stand as a unit, and a unit of unique historical significance. They kept the Ariadne thread of their great vision untangled through the labyrinth of spiritual darkness. They were greater than any men revolutionists, greater even than Washington or Garibaldi or any of those men, who, great and glorious as their fights have been, have fought according to precedent for those things for which men throughout the ages before them have fought, as these three women, with no precedent behind them, delivered an initial attack upon the spiritual darkness engulfing them. They fought not for one nation nor for one people, but for womankind all over the world. And the uprising of women, led by these three, is a part, I am convinced, of the redemption of the human race. It was not for womankind alone, but for all mankind."

The placing of these busts in this New World Valhalla recalls that somewhat more than a century ago a small group of American women, deeply interested in an anti-slavery conference held in London, were, to their amazement, refused recognition as delegates. Not even were they allowed entrance to the floor of the conference hall, but were relegated to the visitors' gallery. This treatment aroused them to a realisation of the position of women in general, and led to their founding, upon their return home, what is to-day known all over the civilised world as the Woman Suffrage Movement. In those days, however, they called their cause a movement for Woman's Rights. In their first timidly yet bravely put forth summons to that momentous gathering held some eight years later in a New York Wesleyan chapel, the call was "to discuss the social, civil, and religious condition and rights of woman."

Two of the leaders in this surprising undertaking—and history relates that they did not dare sign their names to that call to their convention—were Lucretia Mott, a Quakeress, who had recently written a "Discourse on Woman," and Elizabeth Cady Stanton. At this now famous two-day meeting of theirs in Seneca Falls, New York, was read and discussed that remarkable document known as the "Declaration and Resolutions." The "Declaration" is acknowledged to have stated the whole case for women as comprehensively as it has ever been stated, and the "Resolutions" included practically all demands that have since been made for women. The ballot, signifying political freedom, was but one of these demands.

It was not until some three years later that Susan B. Anthony, then a young school teacher, and actively interested in the cause of temperance, joined their ranks. The sculptor describes Miss Anthony as the first militant of the Woman Suffrage Movement, and tells the following story:

At the time of the United States Centennial celebration in Philadelphia in 1876 the suffragists were holding a convention in that city, Lucretia Mott presiding. When Miss Anthony asked permission to follow the reading of the Declaration of Independence at the celebration in Independence Hall on the Fourth of July with the reading of that famous Woman's Declaration of Rights, the scandalised

Centennial authorities refused. Miss Anthony said nothing, but when the moment came she quietly stepped down from her seat, and, making her way swiftly through the aisles, distributed to the audience leaflets containing the Woman's Declaration. This, according to her biographer in marble, was the initiation of the militant movement for individual liberty which is the basis for human rights. "And now to-day," says Mrs. Johnson, the sculptor of the busts, "England, which long ago denied these pioneers recognition at that anti-slavery convention, has, in her fighting for world-wide democracy, not forgotten to practise that same democracy at home, and so has enfranchised her women. The leaven has worked and is working in other civilised lands; while in the United States, the home of the trio, an amendment to fulfil the ideals of that same democracy for which this country is also fighting has passed the lower house of Congress, and now awaits action by the Senate."

How much longer must we wait to see some ancient hall of fame like Westminster Abbey or Westminster Hall similarly honoured by placing in it the statues of our own great women pioneers of liberty? In addition to Florence Nightingale—the only woman outside members of the Royal family honoured by a public statue in London—Mary Wollstonecraft, Elizabeth Fry, and Josephine Butler should be remembered as three great pioneers of days gone by. To take in those of more recent and present times—pioneer women in medicine, education, politics, literature, art, science, social service, etc.—would keep sculptors busy for many a long day. The tribute must be paid, however, and in the near future. We hope it will be the women sculptors who will show how true art can honour great women and take away from London the reproach of its public statues.

WOMEN M.P.s.

The Labour Party's Bill.

Every week shows the dominant importance of clearing the way for women to stand as candidates for Parliament at the next General Election. The Government is bound to take action speedily, and in a way which will at once ensure equality between men and women voters in this respect.

The Bill drafted by the Labour Party consists of one operative clause as follows:—

A woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage for being elected to or voting in, and shall for all purposes be deemed to be capable of being elected to and voting in the Commons House of Parliament.

Women's Conference.

At the National Conference of Women in London, to meet under the auspices of the Labour Party on October 15, a special resolution will be proposed by Miss Mary Macarthur, who is the adopted Labour candidate for Stourbridge, demanding:—

(1) That the Government should immediately on the re-assembling of Parliament introduce and pass through its stages a Bill enabling women to be elected to and vote in the House of Commons.

(2) That further legislation admitting women to professions from which they are now excluded should be passed.

(3) That the Representation of the People Act, 1918, should be amended so as to give the Parliamentary and Local Government vote on a short residential qualification to all men and all women of 21 years of age.

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WOMEN AND THE LIBERAL PARTY PROGRAMME.

The Executive Committee of the National Liberal Federation has been busy preparing resolutions for consideration at a meeting of its General Committee to be held in Manchester at the end of this month. The Women's Freedom League is, of course, chiefly concerned with the resolutions referring more especially to women's interests, and these are ostensibly dealt with under the heading "Women's Questions," which reads as follows:—

"This Committee, while recognising that all the objects set forth in the accompanying resolutions affect women equally with men, declares its opinion that special measures are needed for the removal of artificial restrictions on their opportunities. In particular this Committee favours the opening of professions to women on the same conditions as to men; the conferment of University degrees on equal terms; the admission of women to share in the administration of justice; a revision of the law relating to the guardianship of children; better provision with respect to maintenance orders; and equality of the sexes in the laws relating to divorce and morals."

The following comment by *The New Statesman* is significant:—

"Women are to be granted equal opportunities (but not equal wages, not equality in the franchise, and, above all, not equality in eligibility for Parliament)."

Women suffragists may congratulate themselves on the difference which the power of the vote has made to the amount of consideration which all parties are now giving to women's position and their requirements in the State. It is, we suppose, something to the good that the Liberal Party should publicly recognise that all its resolutions affect women equally with men, and that it is of opinion that special measures are needed for the removal of artificial restrictions on their opportunities; but we think that the Committee should do a great deal more than "favour" certain reforms in the direction of securing an equality of status and consideration of women with men in various branches of our national life. We have no wish to rake up old grievances, but we cannot help remembering that the fact that many Liberals "favoured" the granting of the Parliamentary vote to women did not give us very substantial assistance in obtaining that vote. We, therefore, strongly urge the General Committee of the National Liberal Federation to press and secure support for definite action, to enable women to become co-partners in the State with men. We ourselves suggest that the Liberal Party should concentrate on passing through all its stages as soon as possible an Amending Bill to the Interpretation Act of 1889, which would state simply and definitely, and without any limitations, that

"In every Act on our Statute Books words importing the masculine gender shall include females, and this shall apply also to customary or common law."

This proposed Amending Bill would be a test of the sincerity of the professions of members of all parties in their advocacy of equal opportunities, rewards, and responsibilities for women with men.

If the Liberal Party cannot shoulder this short, simple measure, let them at least unite with the

Labour Party in demanding that as soon as Parliament meets the Government shall bring in a Bill to enable women to be elected to and to vote in the House of Commons. In times gone by Liberal stalwarts were very anxious to prove that they were better democrats than women suffragists, and urged adult suffrage in preference to, frequently in opposition to, our demand for votes for women on equal terms with men. Now that a Coalition Government has practically conceded manhood suffrage the Liberal Party has the opportunity to affirm its belief in democracy by securing that not only women over thirty years of age shall have the Parliamentary vote, but that women generally shall have this vote on the same terms that men have it. To be true to its profession of equality the Party must also press the Government to grant time and facilities for the Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Bill (which has already passed its third reading in the House of Lords) to pass through all its stages in the House of Commons; and, above all, to secure the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40 D (D.O.R.A.), which is an irreparable insult to British women.

We view the executive's resolution in regard to conditions of industry with the keenest disappointment, more especially its last paragraph, which states:—

"Apart from such changes as may be made by general consent, the pledges to restore Trade Union regulations, suspended during the war on grounds of patriotism, should be completely fulfilled."

The restoration of pre-war Trade Union regulations would mean that women can be prevented by the Trade Unions from working in many sections of trades in which they are now earning good wages, and into which the Government urged them to enter "on grounds of patriotism." It must be remembered, too, that most of the women now working in these trades are women of under thirty years of age, and that they will not have the protection of the Parliamentary vote when the matter of this restoration of pre-war conditions is considered. It is idle for women to take for granted that they will not have to struggle for their rights in the industrial world. Even in the printing trade the women who took men's places have in many cases already been displaced by boys because men trade unionists refused to work with them. We therefore urge the General Committee of the National Liberal Federation to advocate something more novel than the restoration of pre-war trade union regulations, something which will deal more equitably with the interests of working women, and not leave them to the mercy of men's trade unions.

The Executive of the National Liberal Federation has also drafted resolutions on Housing, Health, and Education. We urge that in all such questions the Government Departments and the Committees which deal with them should consist of an equal number of responsible men and women. Women's point of view is becoming increasingly necessary on these matters, and must have an equal opportunity of being considered with that of men. It cannot be denied that the future of our race depends very largely on the housing and health of our people and the education of our children, and women are to, as great an extent as men the custodians of the race.

In the future men alone cannot be responsible for their political and legislative programmes. We want to have done with one-sided legislation and see that women are equally consulted with men in the plans of reconstruction. Men and women together must be equally responsible for the building of the new world, in the direction and organisation of which they must take an equal share.

F. A. U.

MILK: A PRESSING PROBLEM.

The Trades Union Congress held its jubilee meeting at Derby last week, and, although little attention was given to some of the industrial questions affecting women, it elected a woman, Miss Margaret Bondfield, on the Parliamentary Committee, and it discussed one question of paramount interest, *i.e.*—the desirability of the national control of the milk supply. A resolution was passed urging that "the whole supply and distribution of milk should be nationally owned and managed."

Housekeepers, and more especially mothers, recognise the importance of a pure milk supply, but they have to fill the baby's bottle and make the pudding with the fluid which is left at their doors once during the twenty-four hours, at a time convenient to the milkman, and are unblissfully ignorant as to whether, inferior as it often seems, it is yet of a nature to satisfy the not too exigent requirements of the Local Government Board. One delegate said that "the milk which went into London was of such a quality that an average spoonful contained more bacteria than an average spoonful of sewage." It is doubtful, however, if London milk is more adulterated than it is in other parts of the country, although it is on record that when, some years ago, the city of Manchester obtained from Parliament special powers to control the sources of its milk supply, a Derbyshire farmer, who was asked what he did with the tuberculous milk rejected by Manchester, replied cheerfully, "I send it to London."

Up to the year 1907 the rate of adulteration was always higher in London than in the provinces, but in recent years the adulteration returns in London have declined by 35 per cent., while those which relate to the provinces show a rise. This differentiation is explained by the Local Government Board as being due to the fact that London is largely supplied by public companies, who know the law and are able to keep within it by "toning" the pure milk with separated milk (from which the fat has been extracted to make butter) down to the minimum standard required by the Board. That this is not a very high standard may be gathered from the fact that, in addition to separated milk and water, it is permissible to add boric acid, formaldehyde, glycerine, sodium nitrite, and colouring matter. A report issued by the Local Government Board says: "We understand that, as a fact, toning or standardising milk is regularly practised in certain quarters, and that this is done with skill and precision, so that official limits are seldom passed. It is most difficult, under the present law, to bring home any offence to the scientific 'toner.'"

"Unlucky Consignments of Milk."

In these days of fat and sugar shortage, milk of good quality becomes more necessary than ever, while the fact that medical opinion now inclines to the view that the boiling of milk, while it destroys deleterious germs, at the same time destroys the vitamins, or most nourishing elements, makes some guarantee of purity essential. The mover of the resolution at the Trade Union Congress said that "the Consumers' Council, on which he was one of the representatives of the Congress, had no more pathetic problem to handle than the milk question. They had been told time after time that milk prices must go up and milk supplies must decrease. Let the Congress reflect what that meant to child life. Under the present system it was impossible to ensure for the children cheap milk, or safe milk, or anything like pure milk."

The difficulties do not, of course, begin with the milk retailer, who frequently receives milk from the farmer which has already been contaminated. There are model farms and model dairies; there are others in which gross carelessness prevails. "It wouldn't

pay me to be so pertieckler," was the remark attributed to an old-fashioned farmer whose attention had been called to the dirty hands of the men who were milking his cows. The police divisional surgeon of a South-Eastern district of London attributed the death last week of four infants at a private nursing home to syncope following acute diarrhoea. He added that "an unlucky consignment or two of milk might have been the cause of the trouble." Steps should certainly be taken to make these unlucky accidents less frequent. It will scarcely reassure mothers to know that 10 per cent. of the samples of milk taken are found to contain the bacillus of tuberculosis, which is held to be a contributory cause of abdominal tuberculosis in children. In a letter in one of last Sunday's papers, addressed to the new women voters, Mr. W. L. George, who claims to have been a consistent friend of the women's cause through good and evil report, and who has on several occasions addressed our League, writes: "You must demand pledges for your children because you hold their votes in trust. Your candidate must recognise those electors of the future. Notably, he should pledge himself to insist at once on the compulsory feeding of children in every school; also he owes to his infant constituents a cheap supply of sterilised milk, straight from the Borough Council; he must promise you that when you go to the factory there shall in your district be a nursery similar to the admirable nurseries open to munition workers, so that you may for sixpence a day be sure that your baby is well tended."

Power of Women Electors.

Undoubtedly these are matters of primary concern to women. They pertain partly to the sphere of central and partly to that of local government, and, both as Parliamentary and local government electors, women will be able to stand for the interests of their children and to make effective demand that an adequate supply of pure milk of good quality shall be within the reach of their families. Better means must be devised than the present haphazard methods of milk production and milk distribution. To the inhabitants of such cities as Manchester and Birmingham the statement that their home is supplied with the city's water is a guarantee of its purity. The supply of good milk is an equally important matter, and it is a question whether women should not demand that the local authorities should undertake this service, under the regulations of the Local Government Board, that they should own their own cows and be responsible for delivering to the consumer an adequate supply of milk of good quality. By the elimination of the profits which now accrue to the retailers, transit agents, etc., the cost to the individual housekeeper could be greatly reduced, and the passing of the old days of plenty makes the suppression of waste still more necessary.

It is frequently urged that the extension of the public services connotes the tyranny of a host of officials and "bureaucrats." But we have to determine whether the tyranny of the officials of the Borough or Urban Council, over whom we have some measure of control as ratepayers and at local elections, could be more heavy-handed than that of the private individuals and of the officials of public companies, in whose hands the supply rests at present, whose profits depend to some extent upon the "tricks of the trade," and over whom we have no effective control of any kind. It is clear that the subject is one which has passed from the sphere of academic collectivism to that of actual practical politics, and that it calls for clear thinking on the part of women. E. M. N. C.

REGULATION 40D.

CASES OF THE WEEK.

Leicester Police Court—First Conviction.

ETHEL MULLEY, charged on remand (August 29) with infecting a Colonial soldier. On her first appearance (see THE VOTE, page 374) she pleaded guilty, but was remanded by the magistrates for medical examination, apparently to satisfy their own curiosity, not to safeguard her "rights" and interests. The prisoner was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for the offence. The remand has given her a quite unnecessary additional week in prison, and we are investigating the legality of this very questionable action of the Leicester Bench.

Brighton Police Court.

TWO YOUNG WOMEN were charged under 40 D, convicted, and sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

Luton Police Court.

EVA COX, aged 19, a munition worker, charged on remand (September 9) with infecting three soldiers. The case had been adjourned a fortnight ago for medical examination of the girl. Two doctors now gave her a clean bill of health; no evidence was offered, and she was discharged. A cynical comment on the contention that 40D does not embody the principle of the C.D. Acts, and is not intended to ensure "clean women" for the troops.

Protest Resolutions.

Trades Union Congress.

At the Trades Union Congress at Derby last week a resolution was passed pledging the Congress to work for the restoration of civil and industrial liberty. Speaking in its support, Mr. C. G. Ammon (Fawcett Association) said that Regulation 40 D was the most disgusting of the Government's interferences with liberty. It not only set up a different standard of morality for men and women, but blackmailed a woman unless she submitted to treatment to which no man would allow his wife and daughter to submit. After an unsuccessful attempt had been made in Parliament to introduce the Contagious Diseases Acts the Government went behind the backs of Parliament and the people and brought in the Regulation by a side wind.

Cork Trade and Labour Council unanimously adopted resolutions of horror and indignation at 40 D.

Women's Freedom League's Letter to the Prime Minister.

As yet only a formal acknowledgment has been received, but the Press has given wide publicity to our indictment of the Regulation. We specially congratulate *The Manchester Guardian*, which publishes the letter in full, and in a leading article says:—

Another demand is to-day added to the hundreds that have already been made upon the Government by women's organisations, labour conferences, trade unions, and religious and other bodies for the repeal of Regulation 40 D of the Defence of the Realm Act. We hope the tide of protest will not slacken till the aim is secured, for there is no possible defence of the Regulation on grounds of public health, morals, or common justice between the sexes, and it has already inflicted an amount of shame and injury that could never have been tolerated had the nation been less obsessed with other concerns. It may well, since doctors are called under it to give evidence, undermine the value of the new clinics for the treatment of the disease, for it is a prime condition of their success that patients should repair to them with the assurance that confidence will be preserved. It is a revival under cover of D.O.R.A. of the worst features of the old C.D. Acts, which were swept away in a storm of popular anger—a revival to which Parliament, had it been able to consider it in a Bill, would never have consented. The Government should therefore annul it without waiting to have its hand forced by the pressure of resentment that is steadily growing as the facts become known.

Northern Men's Federation.

Through its energetic and resourceful founder and president, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage continues to agitate for the withdrawal of Regulation 40 D. From a letter to Mrs. Sennett, written on behalf of Lord Milner by the Earl of Stanhope, Parliamentary Secretary to the War Office, asking to which aspect of 40 D objection was taken, we take the following extract:—

"Is it that it deals unfairly as between soldiers and women—as I think I can prove to you that soldiers are much the more severely dealt with—or is it the question of the medical inspection of women?"

In her forceful reply Mrs. Sennett says:—

"I, and all who are associated with me in this matter, object to the whole spirit of Regulation 40 D, which is loathsome and obnoxious to us,

1. Because of the flagrant injustice of publicly prosecuting women and sending them to hard labour for six months for an offence for which their guilty partners are not equally punished. We denounce this principle for its inherent injustice.

2. Because to allow a man to tell upon the woman he has consorted with is bad enough, but when Governments ask him to do so they are in effect turning him into the sort of moral coward that hides behind the petticoats of the individual he has helped to corrupt, and this is to unman a man.

3. Because we hold the medical examination of women to be a principle so foul and indecent that it comes as a shock to find that Englishmen are willing enough to subscribe to it in the pursuit of their living, and we will never submit to it.

"You say that you can prove to me that soldiers are much more severely dealt with:

1. Are soldiers or any other men arrested on the word of a single woman with whom they have consorted?

2. Are they publicly brought before the bar of justice for communicating venereal disease to these women?

3. Are they medically examined by another sex than their own, as women are being examined to-day?

4. Are they sentenced to six months' hard labour for communicating venereal disease?"

"We hear that a soldier's pay is stopped under the circumstances. If this is so, in the case of married men the Government are punishing the wife and making her pay for her husband's infidelity and her own dishonour.

"Women are becoming so furious and maddened at the continued operation of Regulation 40 D that every day it obtains is a danger to the country and a spoke in the wheel of the Coalition. A powerful committee of public women have decided to make this question of the State regulation of vice a test question at the coming election. They are organising in the constituencies and already instructing women voters upon its meaning. I have the co-operation of the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage, and the Glasgow Town Council is already moving in the matter.

"The Duke of Wellington subdued Napoleon and kept the honour of his country bright without violating the honour of its womanhood by this degrading regulation of vice which Napoleon inaugurated for France. And we women are utterly ashamed that our Government of to-day can find no better reward than this legislation for a sex which, according to the utterances of the Premier and M. Clemenceau, has saved the Allies from disaster.

"As soon as I was enfranchised I put my savings into War Loan to help the Government. As soon as Regulation 40 D was passed I took them out again, for as an individual I will never support a Government which discredits my country; and I am bound to say I think it is a mistake to turn friendly public-spirited women into deadly enemies. We will resist this Regulation, and every principle of the Contagious Diseases Acts, as stubbornly as our men are resisting the Germans abroad, and we will die before we will yield."

40 D in Belfast.

The actual enforcement of 40 D in one case in Belfast has roused fresh interest in the agitation carried on unremittingly by the Women's Political League against the notorious Regulation. From the time it was first issued until the present the Women's Political League has watched the administration of the Order, and has been in frequent communication with local M.P.s and others on the matter. Members of the League, and many people outside its circle, have written to their local Parliamentary representatives, and resolutions of protest have been passed by many religious organisations and social and philanthropic bodies. The agitation will be carried on with greater energy during the coming autumn, when the need for constructive work in the direction of moral reform will be kept before the new electors.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Women Trades Unionists.

At the Conference last week at Derby the Women Trades Unionists, under the presidency of Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, made an emphatic demand for Equal Pay for Equal Work. This demand was strongly supported by Mr. J. H. Thomas and Mr. Clynes, together with earnest advice to the women not to be satisfied with what they had gained in resisting exploitation because of their sex. The movement has made great progress since women have the power of the vote behind them; we now see men eager to support their demands and denouncing sex exploitation. It is interesting to know, on Mr. Clynes's authority, that Ministers of State are visited almost daily, whether Parliament is sitting or not, by women representing the interests of women, and mark the result!—"This valuable work is elevating women to a higher status and giving them an influence in the industrial world they never had before." No greater testimony could be given to the wisdom of those who insisted upon the need for women to possess political power in order to right economic wrongs.

The Trades Union Congress Agrees.

On the motion of the National Federation of Women Workers the Trades Union Congress at Derby protested against the violation of the principle of equal wage for equal work by the exclusion of women from the war advances granted to men, including that of 12½ per cent. It also denounced the "cynical discrimination" made by the Ministry of Munitions between men and women employed in the making of aircraft and other woodworking processes.

London Teachers Busy.

The London unit of the National Federation of Women Teachers celebrated its recent triumph in the salary campaign at a mass meeting at the Kingsway Hall on September 5. A reserve fund for the continuance of the fight for equal pay was started, messages of sympathy and congratulation on recent victories were sent to other women workers, and a resolution forwarded to the President of the Board of Education, requesting him to consult the Council of the Federation in the framing of the new pensions scheme for women teachers.

Now the Prison Wardresses!

Following the police strike, efforts are being made by prison officials throughout the country to get their conditions of service and pay placed on a similar footing to those of the police. Every wardress in London, it is stated, is a member of the Police Union, and the women are asking for equal pay for equal work with the warders. It is further stated that the pay and pensions of the prison service are much below that of the present rate enjoyed by the police.

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER.

Friday and Saturday, November 22 and 23, 1918.

Once again our Green, White, and Gold Fair is drawing near, and, being the Fair of the Great Year of Victory, we should all be inspired to make it the greatest success we have ever attained.

Organise at Once!

All Branches of the Women's Freedom League which have not already formed their work parties should organise at once. If I can help in any way I shall be glad to do so. I am ready to be inundated with letters from secretaries!

Everyone Must Help!

There are many readers of THE VOTE who are not yet members of the Women's Freedom League, but they are interested in its work. I appeal to them to translate their interest into contributions in kind or in cash. Every gift helps to bring the success we all desire; in our work there is no great nor small. I am ready to be inundated with gifts!

Send Your Suggestions!

Let us make our Victory Fair both novel and attractive. Send your suggestions for success. Women are showing their originality and capacity in many unexpected ways. Our Fair should focus attention on what they mean to do with their new power, the VOTE. I am ready to be inundated with ideas!

Write to me without delay at the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1.

ALIX M. CLARK,

Secretary, Green, White, & Gold Fair.

IN MEMORIAM.

Dr. Margaret Todd.

The name of Dr. Margaret Todd has been prominent in THE VOTE lately in connection with our review of her masterly work, "The Life of Sophia Jex-Blake." We deeply regret to have to chronicle her death, which took place in London last week. It is thought that she overtaxed her strength in writing so important and complete a book. It is certain that she put her great powers of mind and her valuable experience as a medical woman into this notable biography, and her devotion has won the abiding gratitude of the many who appreciate a service which will be historic. For herself, too, Dr. Todd was greatly beloved, and far and wide her loss will be keenly felt.

To praise women for their help in prosecuting the war is merely in the nature of a drug to keep them quiet, if we refuse to recognise their absolute right and fitness (which are at any rate equal to man's) to consult with men on matters that affect both equally. By what moral right should one sex without consulting the other legislate or enter into international engagements.—E. A., *Westminster Gazette*.

WILL YOU HAVE THE C.D. ACTS?

You will have them unless you take action to prevent it. The Women's Freedom League is fighting tooth and nail against the reintroduction of State Regulation of Vice in this country. Josephine Butler did her part and secured the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts. You have the easier task of preventing their re-enactment. The Government will not move in the face of the people's determination. Do all you can yourself by writing to your Member of Parliament and talking to all your own friends, and send your contributions to the Women's Freedom League to maintain the fight to victory.

E. KNIGHT,

Hon. Treas.

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

FRIDAY,
SEPT. 13,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms Lane, London, S.W. 8.

The Settlement reopened for children's dinners and the Milk Depot on September 6, and four guest-children are expected shortly. The Devonport-Tasmania Cot baby has been boarded out in the country for the whole of the holidays, chiefly at the expense of the Settlement; but the well-timed gifts from Tasmania, per Mrs. Walpole, of £7 (collected), and £3 (proceeds of children's entertainment) will cover the cost of this child's convalescence and keep other occupants of the Cot going for some time. Donations are also gratefully acknowledged from Miss H. Fryer (£2 2s.); Craiglands, Ilkley, per E. M. G. (4s.); Mrs. Golding (5s.); Mrs. Hoffa (£1); Miss Gladys Pitt (5s.); Miss Rigall (1s.); groceries from Mrs. Brend; fruit and herbs from Mr. P. H. Miller; Guest House clothing from Mrs. Clark, Miss Wood, and Miss Riggall; jumble goods from Hon. Mrs. Forbes and Mrs. Miller. Mrs. Tippett and her sons are warmly thanked for the trouble they took in getting up a jumble sale at Wetherden, which realised the substantial sum of £13 3s. Will readers please remember that we are always collecting for such sales, and clothing, boots and shoes, and household goods are a help both to those who buy and to us who sell them?

The Despard Arms.

123, Hampstead Road, N.W. 1.

To meet the constant requests made to us from far and near, and to help us to meet the difficulties of the fifth winter of the war, we are arranging a jumble sale for Saturday, October 19, at 6 p.m. With more than a month in which to collect "jumbles," we look to our friends to send us a good supply of personal or household "needfuls." Kindly mark all parcels "Jumble Sale," and address them to the Manageress. Our pressing need for tables for our bedrooms continues. Will four friends each supply one table?

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, post free 2d.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Established 1879.

TO LET, FURNISHED APARTMENTS (two bed and sitting-room); £2 2s. per week, with attendance; board extra.—ARCHARD, Hill House, Pitchcombe, near Stroud.

A MEMBER of the Women's Freedom League would be glad to

hear of a clever **DRESS RENOVATOR**, for evening dresses; must be resident in North London.—Reply J. B., 202, Brecknock-road, N. 19.

COMFORTABLE HOME for business people; bed-sitting rooms or board-residence; moderate charges; most conveniently situated for City or West-end.—S., "THE VOTE" Office.

A LADY and GENTLEMAN wish to be received into a country house in a bracing locality as paying guests.

Preferably where shooting is to be had. Could bring young cook.—Apply Mrs. JAMES, Office of "THE VOTE."

WANTED, THREE FURNISHED ROOMS for Three Persons out all day; slight attendance.—Write, "THE VOTE" Office.

TO LET, FURNISHED FLAT, consisting of sitting and bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, all on one floor; electric light and gas; facing Clapham Common; very moderate terms to a careful tenant.—Mrs. S., c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY,

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Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

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