

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 30, 1918.
ONE PENNY.

SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE, M.D.

Pioneer Fighter for Equality.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVII. No. 462.

(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, AUGUST 30, 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.

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WHY I WANT WOMEN M.P.s.

By JOSEPH KING, M.P.

The House of Commons was lately amused when Mr. Bonar Law reminded members that a few years ago it was often said: "Oh, give the women the vote, and they'll be content, and not want to sit as members!" Now, of course, many want to know why women should not sit as M.P.s if they may vote. Why not, indeed? I am one of the M.P.s who always voted for woman suffrage; but as I have changed my view about women as M.P.s, I want to confess my former error and proclaim my present faith.

Before the war I held, with many others, that women should be made equal citizens with men as far as equal voting goes. I thought, and still think, Adult Suffrage for men and women alike over 21 logical and desirable, likely both to amuse and advance mankind. But I then thought, and now think no longer, that women's domestic bent, sex diversity from men, the peculiar conditions of parliamentary life, and other reasons were sufficient to justify the view that women should have the vote some years, say ten or fifteen years, before their right to sit as M.P.s was considered. The war, the wider and new insight into life and humanity which the war—or let

us say the new world of the last four years—has brought changed by mind. I am now ardently desirous of women being allowed to be nominated and qualified to sit as M.P.s. Here are some of my chief reasons:—

A—Women have shown themselves so capable of labour, heavy as well as skilled, of devotion, of patience, of self-denial, and of good temper withal, that they deserve full rights of citizenship. They are morally qualified to be M.P.s; they must also be legally qualified.

B—Men have made such a mess of things in Parliament—yes, in all Parliaments—for the past four years, that new life, new ideas, new methods, new aims are wanted. Let women try to mend things by taking a hand as M.P.s. Waste of money and waste of men, stupid suppression of the truth, useless restrictions of liberty, continued profiteering, bowing down to the military staffs regardless of morality and common sense—these things are witnessed in every country at war. They are rampant in England and Germany, France, and the United States; they have been widely spread in Russia, Austria, and Japan;

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and the Parliaments have all been dumb dogs. I think women would have cried and struggled more against the ineptitudes and abuses of Government. They could not have protested less. So let women have a chance as M.P.s.

C—Certain economic and moral questions have during the last four years assumed a new significance and import; just those questions which affect women's lives are now vital as never before. The food problem, with rations, economy, substitutes, home production, etc., is with us, and will remain for years after the war. Luxury taxes are proposed; they may become, with or without tariffs, things touching women's ways more than men's. The problem of how to nurse and care for the millions of crippled men, disabled soldiers, widows and orphans, which will be one of war's legacies to peace, needs female solution.

Women's place in the world of labour, in public offices, on farms, in factories, in commercial undertakings has been achieved. Surely it is to be maintained for her! If so she must help to settle her new conditions in the new order. So women are needed as counsellors in the great inquest of the nation to decide how to continue or amend or modify the problem which has arisen, that the world in every department is being run by women as much as men. Four years ago who would have understood if he had been told that very soon the war would bring us to a motor bus system in London absolutely dependent on woman labour, and that for days no buses would be on the streets because bus conductor girls were all on strike?

D—Another very serious matter has arisen during the war—a determination to cope with Venereal Disease by State action on a scale and with a widespread system as never before. The effort to combat this hidden scourge is admirable, if kept on right lines. For collecting and popularising information and scientific facts, for providing free treatment in a private way, for preventing the spread of these horrid diseases new means must be used. All, or nearly all, will readily submit to them, even if they involve restrictions on liberty. But on one condition only. They must be fair to both sexes. The Government and a callous, careless House of Commons, composed entirely of men, have been imposing them on the country, but making them press harder on women. Gross civil injustice and moral outrages, involved in *maisons tolérées*, the Regulation 40 D, the proposals of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, etc., are an evil which must be crushed in the next Parliament with the aid of women M.P.s. So at least I was one of the first to declare. I see men coming to support this view who a few months ago were against me. We shall win, but we want women there to increase good man power by sound woman force.

Even if Parliament assembles in October, only to clear up its business in order to prepare for a General Election, no effort must be spared to secure that women may be duly, legally, and efficiently nominated, and, if elected, qualified to sit in the next House of Commons.

Declaration by W. E. Gladstone.

"To give votes to women involves as a fair and rational, and therefore morally necessary consequence, their sitting in the House of Commons. For a long time we drew a distinction between competency to vote and competency to sit in Parliament. But this distinction was felt to involve a palpable inconsistency, and therefore it died away. It surely cannot be revived. So then the woman's vote carries with it, whether by the same Bill or by a consequential Bill, the woman's seat in Parliament."

Women's Freedom League.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Saturday, September 21.—Bowes Park Branch. Drawing-room Meeting, 121, Bowes-road, Palmer's Green, N. 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, September 23.—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. 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.

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

Wednesday, October 23.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard and others.

PROVINCES.

Monday, September 16.—Hastings. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A.

Tuesday, September 17.—Bexhill. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A.

The Minerva Dressmaking and Exchange Department will be closed until Monday, September 2.

WOMEN M.P.s.

Demands of Women M.P.s in Denmark.

Nine women were elected to the Danish Parliament last May, four to the Lower House, the Folketing; five to the Upper House, the Landsting. They have quickly made their influence felt. According to news just received a new child labour law has been passed.

Women have been elected to three commissions to consider rights in the family. A stern fight is being carried on to give to mothers equal guardianship rights. "Let no candidate have a woman's vote who has not given a clear promise to support the reform of this law," said the Danish official journal early this year.

A widow's pension law has also received attention this year, and the right of women theological students in the University of Copenhagen to enter pulpits is one of the most recent reforms considered.

The names of the women M.P.s are:—

Members of the Folketing—

MRS. ELNA MUNCH, President of the Danish Union for Woman Suffrage, member of the Copenhagen Municipal Board, and wife of the Minister of Defence. Radical.

MATHILDE MALLING HAUSCHULTZ, solicitor. Conservative.

KAREN ANKERSTED, member of the Frederiksberg Municipal Board. Teacher. Conservative.

HELGA LARSEN, member of the Municipal Board. Social Democrat.

Members of the Landsting—

MRS. MARIE HJELMER, well known as a prominent member of the Danish Union for Woman Suffrage and member of the Town Council of Præstø. Radical.

MISS NINA BANG, Master of Arts. Social Democrat.

MISS OLGA KNUDSEN, well-known member of the Danish Union for Woman's Suffrage and member of the Town Council of Vejle. Liberal.

MISS INGER SCHMIDT, religious worker. Liberal.

MARIE CHRISTENSEN, teacher, member of the Board of Guardians, and president of the Fund for the Poor. She polled almost all the votes of her district.

Celebrating the Entry of Danish Women into Parliament

A great festival was held in Copenhagen to celebrate the entry of Danish women into Parliament, at which women members and Cabinet Ministers were present. A beautiful cantata, specially written for the occasion, was sung, and stirring speeches delivered by Mrs. Elna Munch, Mrs. Hjelmer, and other women M.P.s. Mrs. Munch welcomed the presence of so many women of different political opinions, indicating a welcome spirit of comradeship and co-operation.

Lady Rhondda's Claim.

According to *The Sunday Times*, "The right of women to sit in Parliament is to be raised in another place, for Lady Rhondda has definitely decided to claim a seat in the Upper House as a peeress in her own right. In what precise manner her claim will be put forward has not been finally determined, but it is probable that, in the first instance, the question will be submitted to the Committee of Privileges."

Texas Women's Influence as Voters.

Despatches from the city of Austin state that the returns from the Democratic voting primaries show that the women of Texas have won a notable victory. Every candidate who received the endorsement of their organisation won by a big majority, says the New York correspondent of *The Daily Express*. "This is true from the Governor down to Constable, including candidates for Congress. Each candidate, in order to receive the endorsement and vote of the women, had to declare in favour of liquor prohibition, equal suffrage, and pledge his local support to the win-the-war policy of the national Administration and to clean government."

More Press Pronouncements.

Labour Leader.

The Law Officers have decided that women are not eligible under the existing law to sit in the House of Commons. This is merely the opinion of the Law Officers, and it would not be a difficult matter to get the opinion of two more eminent legal authorities to the opposite effect. The question is not settled by this decision, though it will probably have the effect of inducing the Returning Officers not to accept the nomination of a woman until Parliament has definitely settled the matter. In every country in the world where the Parliamentary franchise has been conferred upon women, their right to sit in Parliament has been at the same time recognised, in most cases, I believe, without any special legislative declaration. I think it is very unlikely that a Bill enabling women to sit would meet with much opposition in Parliament. Curiously enough, there are many members of the House of Commons who have been strong opponents of Woman Suffrage who have always been in favour of women sitting in Parliament.

Empire News.

One of the interesting things Parliament will be asked to consider when it reassembles is to legalise the election of women to the House of Commons. Apparently the proposal would receive a majority vote in the House of Commons in any circumstances; the cynics say that with a General Election close at hand, and six million women on the register, it is a foregone conclusion. How the measure will fare in the House of Lords is quite another matter.

The Glasgow Bulletin.

recognising the vital importance of the question, satirises the legal opinion in a cartoon entitled "Barred against

the Woman M.P." It shows a notice board outside the Houses of Parliament bearing the words "No Woman Need Apply." The women who are reading it are not likely to regard it as final.

Western Morning News.

No one will be astonished if a Bill enabling women to become M.P.s is introduced on the reassembling of the House. Sooner or later it is inevitable that women shall sit at St. Stephen's. Without going into the merits of the question, it may safely be predicted that few M.P.s who are to seek re-election will have the courage to vote against the Bill, though some may try to render it unacceptable by amendments. With the War Cabinet rests the decision as to whether such a measure will be proceeded with, but they could not withstand pressure from a House anxious to propitiate enfranchised woman.

Vagaries of the Registration Courts.

In the Representation of the People Act, 1918, we read that a woman becomes a parliamentary elector if she is a local government elector "in respect of the occupation of land or premises (not being a dwelling-house) of a yearly value of not less than five pounds or of a dwelling-house." Here, just as in the case of men, no rent limit is demanded for the dwelling-house in which the woman or the man resides, but many registration officers are interpreting the Act to mean that the rent limit shall apply not to land or business premises only, but also to the dwellings in which the women live; thus, when the rental value is below five pounds a year, giving them the local government franchise, but refusing the parliamentary. When this is done the woman claimant should ask for an appeal form within five days, and her case will subsequently be heard in the county court.

At Bolton, in Bath, and other places a number of women have been disfranchised for this reason.

Many women have lost their votes from neglect to put their family arrangements upon a business footing. Sisters keeping house for brothers, and daughters for fathers, render them service of market value, but receive no cash payment, and pay no rent for their rooms. This they will doubtless rectify before the next Register becomes due.

Oxford and Cambridge Dons' Wives.

An unfortunate oversight in the Act has disfranchised a large number of the wives of Heads of Colleges at our oldest Universities. Heads of Colleges are not qualified as local government electors by their College residence, therefore their wives cannot be qualified by them either as local government or parliamentary electors. Some wives of Heads have their own University qualification for the parliamentary vote; many of the others were shining lights of our old ally, the Anti-Suffrage Society, and will be able to console themselves with the arguments which used to seem so convincing.

Nurses' Votes.

At Enfield the Registration Officer ruled that nurses in a local institution were not enfranchised. If the service franchise does not apply to them, it is difficult to see to whom it would apply, and it is to be hoped that nurses in hospitals and institutions, if refused their vote by the local authority, will appeal to the county court.

"Don't Care" will be Made to Care!

MAGISTRATE AND POLICEWOMAN.

"During the hearing of a case of grave offence at Marlborough-street a few days ago, Mr. Mead noticed that a policewoman remained in court after women had been ordered to leave it.

"The policewoman explained that her 'headquarters' desired her to be present in court when women were witnesses.

"Mr. Mead: You must go out. I don't care anything about headquarters. It is a most disgraceful thing you should want to come in under such circumstances."

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, August 30th, 1918.

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

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THE EQUALITY OF THE SEXES: THEORY AND PRACTICE.

"When the women have the vote in the British Isles things will begin to hum," said a West Australian woman in 1913. She had been a voter for fourteen years, yet was obliged still to deplore the fact that political equality in the Commonwealth had not brought about the economic equality of the two sexes; the salaries of men and women teachers, for example, showed a startling disparity.

The principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work was affirmed to be a fair and just one by Judge Higgins in 1910, but its application to all branches of industry has been delayed in the Australian Commonwealth, partly through want of union among the women, but more from a groundless fear on the part of the men, and from the popular delusion, encouraged by employers, that a woman's work is worth less than a man's, that her physical needs in clothing, housing, feeding can be supplied more cheaply, and that her responsibilities are fewer than those of a man. If the first proposition be true, no employer would pay the same wages for inferior as for superior work, and if the second be conceded it may be that underfeeding and bad housing account for the lowered vitality and inferior working power, and that it is not a matter of sex at all.

In the recent tram and omnibus employees' strike the transport workers show their wisdom in insisting that the acceptance of the principle of equal pay for equal work should not be confined to one occupation, but should be extended to all. No more must the plaintive cry be heard: "Yes, the pay is small, but I cannot earn much. I am only a woman." We must have instead a number of earnest, enthusiastic women eager to rise to the standard—nay, even above the standard—of work expected of them and rejoicing in their new and great opportunity of exercising powers that have hitherto lain dormant within them. "Effort is the highest contribution that man can make to the moral world," says Professor William James, but neither the easy victor nor the despairing vanquished can render this contribution.

It is not, therefore, for economic reasons alone that we continue to urge that the great principle of equal payment should become an invariable practice. The ethical aspect of the question is infinitely more important. Woman, so much accustomed to her handicap in the labour market as to have become unconscious of its baleful influence, has too often sunk into a condition of despair over her own incapacity, a condition that found articulate expression in Hood's "Song of the Shirt." This attitude of mind

is widespread among the worst paid women workers, and it will take more than the glowing eulogium of Mr. Lloyd George or the patronising encouragement of Mr. Horatio Bottomley to abolish it. Man, also, has been too long convinced of his superiority—because his labour can command a higher price—for his conviction of his value to be easily shaken. The action of the transport workers shows that some men are beginning to realise that competition on equal terms between the sexes will give preference to the better worker, and it is within the power of each one to prove him or herself to be such by putting forth the highest effort.

It is significant that we now hear of the protest of signalmen against the employment of women signallers on the railways, as "a woman is constitutionally unfitted for the work." We recognise that very great responsibility falls on railway signallers, and considerable physical strength and endurance are required, but under the men's anxiety for the safety of the travelling public there is the old plea for the retention of monopoly and privilege, most altruistic, no doubt, but somewhat officious. The public may be trusted to protect itself. It is impossible to exclude woman from trades and professions, lest she should prove herself too competent—at a time when the Prime Minister is flattering the sex by the assertion that their efforts are winning the war! Truly, "words are the counters of wise men and the coinage of fools," as Hobbes said nearly three centuries ago. If a woman can make guns and build ships, why should she be unable to undertake other branches of skilled work?

Beneath all these attempts to belittle women's work, to lower their pay, and to place limitations upon their capacity, physical and mental, is the great fear that they will learn to become economically independent and cease to be regarded as parasites. Addison voiced this fear in his article on "Pinmoney" in *The Spectator* in 1710. This definite allowance to a wife was to be deprecated, he wrote, because it tended to destroy the right relations between man and wife, taking away from him the joy of giving and from her the humble gratitude and graceful adoration that besem the recipient of a favour.

Women are to-day passing through a period of transition. Before the war they were often told they were superfluous; now statesmen are never tired of repeating that they are indispensable. The strike of the tram, omnibus, and tube girls is among the first fruits of the consciousness of a new power—the power of the competent worker. "The labourer is worthy of his hire," and it is comforting to think that in the great struggle for justice in all spheres of the work of the world, woman, conscious of her ability, is determined to be no longer a drag on the wheels of progress.

MARGARET HODGE.

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.

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

E. KNIGHT,
Hon. Treas.

A PIONEER FIGHTER FOR EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN:

SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE, M.D.

* "Life of Sophia Jex-Blake, M.D. By Dr. Margaret Todd. (Macmillan. 18s. net.)

There are certain books that ought to be read by every man and woman in the movement for equal opportunities for all, for the abolition of all useless, unnecessary and even dangerous sex distinctions. This "Life" is one of them. We are all, women as well as men, *à titre égal*, placed here to make the best we can of our lives; and on those who think and act as if they had a better right than others, lies the onus of proof. At every turn in the history of civilisation, especially during a Revolution or Great War, there appears once more that insistent need of greater justice in our social relations. Women are now facing this need again and claiming equal pay for equal work, the opening of Parliament, of the great Government departments, of the Church and the legal profession to their sex.

Utopia at Eight.

It fell to Sophia Jex-Blake (1840-1912) to enforce the claim that the medical profession should be opened to women. Her life covered a very important part of the enfranchisement of her sex, and it may be truly said that she saw of the travail of her soul and was satisfied. She was possessed of extraordinary ability. From eight to ten she was busy writing up a Utopia, the happy Isle of Sackermena, in which she dealt with the civil, military and judicial officers, with codes of laws to meet various contingencies, such as murder, robbery, injury, succession to the Throne. People in the Army or Navy indulging in spirits or strong drink were to be shot, and the position of woman seems to be disposed of by the population question—viz., Men, 7,000,000; women, 5,000,000. Although her own dress in later life occupied her mind too little, that of the inhabitants, and especially the officials, of Sackermena occupied it a great deal.

Mid-Victorian education was eminently unsuitable for this brilliant girl. She was one of the first pupils of Queen's College, London, in 1858, and being a born teacher, in a few months she was tutor in mathematics, her father deeply objecting to her taking pay for her excellent work. She had to refuse the salary for one term, and we find her at 19 laying down the reasons for her father why her work should be paid just as her brother's was. Teaching at Mannheim, where a much smaller person could have filled the post, showed rather an undesirable, monotonous side of woman's great profession, and she returned to England in quest of some other opportunity for using her great gifts. Profoundly religious, a good deal of a mystic, with a high degree of practical efficiency, the Church would have benefited by her service if only men and women had been less prejudiced. As an author she might easily have achieved distinction, for at a later date the literary papers praised her style and lucidity. As a lecturer she showed marked expository powers, good command of diction, the power to fascinate her audience, enhanced by a musical voice and agreeable presence. She would have made a better lawyer than nine out of ten, for she could cut to the very root of the matter, and had the power to master and present facts. Members of Parliament with whom she worked perceived her capacity, and would wire her to send them a draft Bill for the admission of women to the medical profession.

The Call to Medicine.

In 1866 she visited the United States, and this led to the book by her which Macmillan published in

1867, *A Visit to Some American Schools and Colleges*, greeted with genuine respect and appreciation by educational authorities. "S. J.-B.," as Dr. Todd affectionately styles her pioneer woman, paid a long visit to Dr. Lucy Sewall at Boston, became the colleague and helper of her hostess, and thus finally reached in 1866 the great decision that medicine should be her career. Dr. Lucy had graduated at a woman's college; but Dr. Sophia informs us early that through vanity or ambition she would not do so. She appealed to Harvard University for admission, and immediately met with an unqualified refusal, the first of a lengthy series. At least two friendly professors favoured her admission, and this caused her to prolong the fight for 18 months, during which time she ably assisted Dr. Lucy, her life-long friend, and followed some medical classes. Family bereavement caused her return to England; and in 1869 we find her knocking at the doors of various universities, inquiring as to the possibilities of a medical education. Able women who ought to have joined her, and wished to do so, were prevented by their families. To many it seemed a very strange, unwomanly thing that woman should dream of looking over the wall that hemmed in that sacred entity, the family.

Knock, and it shall be Opened.

On March 15, 1869, our heroine went to knock at the gates of Edinburgh; she was 29, and the event was fateful. For quarter of a century she knocked. Whenever a new chance, a new disposition of the defending forces, presented itself, once more she was there. At first the faculty consented to admit women to matriculation. When they had matriculated, the University refused point blank to carry its students on to graduation, and was thus guilty of bad faith. It is an exceedingly easy but very incorrect diagnosis of the movement for women's enfranchisement to represent it as woman *versus* man. All who look under the surface quickly distinguish that the battle is between justice and injustice, for equality of opportunity, for the right of the woman patient to be attended by the woman doctor, if such be her wish. Mrs. Josephine Butler pointed out with her strong, clear common-sense that for women to be attended by men is a recent innovation.

Thus S. J.-B. immediately divided the medical faculty of Edinburgh into two sides—the reformers and the anti—and the campaign was a long one, embittered by many an unpleasant incident. Admirable men, able, cultured and more or less influenced by a sense of justice and fairplay, took part. Miss Jex-Blake had nearly all the Press on her side. The editor of the *Scotsman* married one of the women students, and his adhesion to the cause knew neither variation nor shadow of turning. Two others became engaged, and thus the little group became sadly diminished in numbers, though it fought on tenaciously as ever. S. J.-B. had a genius for friendship with men as well as women; she won and retained their esteem and regard.

Philip Drunk or Philip Sober.

An ugly incident was the riot at Surgeons' Hall in November, 1870. On reading the account most candid persons will come to the conclusion that it was engineered by one or two of the opposing professors against the women. Chief of the rioters was Prof. Christison's class assistant, who egged on 'lewd students of the baser sort' to pelt the eight women with mud and the most opprobrious epithets English

can furnish. It ought here to be said that certain students behaved as gentlemen, protected women on later occasions, stewarded at some of their meetings. In explaining what had occurred to a meeting of subscribers of Edinburgh Infirmary, and the part the assistant had played, S. J.-B. alluded to a common report that he was intoxicated. An action for libel resulted, damages one farthing for the assistant. But "The Cause" had to pay his bill; the sum for both sides was £1,000, which the British public immediately subscribed.

C. S. BREMNER.

(To be concluded.)

40 D—UNWORKABLE. Protests.

At a largely attended public meeting in Dublin on August 16, under the auspices of the Irish Women's Franchise League, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"That this meeting of men and women expresses its horror and indignation at the attempt to reintroduce *legalised vice* into Ireland by means of Regulation 40 D, D.O.R.A.; emphatically protests against this attempt to make *vice safe for men* by introducing compulsory medical examination of women—a discredited device, which enlightened medical opinion is unanimous in declaring to be futile as a safeguard, and liable to increase the danger of disease by giving men a false sense of security; denounces 40 D as an outrage against the *liberty, honour, and integrity* of every woman, and as a deliberate attempt to perpetuate the evil *double-moral standard*, which assumes that vice is natural and necessary to men; and insistently demands the withdrawal of this obnoxious Regulation, which has been illegally introduced by *Order in Council* without the knowledge, authority, or sanction of Parliament."

A further resolution was passed, declaring that women should use their votes against the public representatives who tolerated the indignity that was being put upon their sisters, while men were allowed to go free.

At the Swanwick Methodist Fellowship a few days ago, after a lecture by Sister Emmeline Downing, the following telegram was sent to the Premier, the Leader of the House of Commons, and the Home Secretary: "Women of Wesleyan Methodist Church demand instant withdrawal of Regulation 40 D, and protest against any legislation involving State Regulation of Vice, and earnestly appeal that subject be not dealt with in dying hours of session."

"War to the Knife."

The *New Statesman* says that if the Joint Select Committee recommends a Bill on the lines of "40 D for Everybody Everywhere" it will be "war to the knife between the aggressive feminist organisations and 'the 40 D Government.'" In any case, if there is an election in the autumn, thorough steps will be taken to familiarise the millions of women voters with the subject. Already those who are dealing with the women electors are reporting that furious indignation is stirred up wherever it is mentioned."

Cases of the Week.

Lambeth Police Court.—Mr. Muskett Again!

MRS. OLIVE CALLAGHAN, aged 21 (see THE VOTE, pages 357 and 366), charged on further remand (August 22).

Mr. Muskett, on a previous appearance, genially remarked that "he thought the prisoner would find an examination by the medical officer at Holloway Prison entirely to her satisfaction." The resulting sentence of four months' imprisonment is, of course, eminently "satisfactory" from Mr. Muskett's point of view, but cannot be expected to give much satisfaction to this unfortunate girl, and we strongly protest against such shameless statements from a public servant to a prisoner in the dock. On the last remand the magistrate, Mr. Leicester, had raised the question of knowledge by the prisoner of her infectious condition, and suggested that prisoner should obtain a solicitor. This is just a case where a woman solicitor ought

to have been available. Mr. Muskett argued that knowledge was not a necessary ingredient in the offence, and quoted a number of authorities. Mr. H. I. Sydney, defending, contended that knowledge must be proved.

Mr. Leicester was convinced that the absence of knowledge constituted no defence whatever under 40 D, but as he thought the prisoner was ignorant as to her condition he would only give her, instead of the maximum sentence, four months' imprisonment without hard labour. He was willing to state a case on the question of knowledge.

Mar ylbone Police Court.—Professional Secrecy Violated.

MABEL HEWLETTE, aged 20, domestic servant, charged on remand with infecting, on April 18, Private Melville Bertram Turnbull, of the Canadian Forestry Corps, who entered a Canadian military hospital on June 11. The soldier and his doctor gave evidence as to disease. Dr. Murphy, resident surgeon at the Lock Hospital, Harrow-road, where the prisoner had gone for treatment, never suspecting that the hospital was an auxiliary to the gaol, gave evidence that she had been under his care from June 6 to June 26, and then left uncured, contrary to advice. The prison doctor said she was still infectious. The poor girl herself pleaded that if she had infected the soldier she did not know it, and was very sorry. Sentence—Five months' imprisonment with hard labour—kill-or-cure treatment for a sick girl.

We are obliged to point out to the authorities that by carrying out 40 D they had depleted the ranks of patients at the venereal centres even before this plan of calling upon the hospitals for medical evidence against the accused was set on foot. If it is to be pursued the free treatment, almost the only hopeful method of fighting the disease, as apart from preventing it, will become a dead letter for all girls and women. What chance has an infectious woman, however innocently she may have contracted the disease, when charged under 40 D by some malicious soldier or sailor?

Westminster Police Court.

CECILE HARRIS (see THE VOTE, page 366), charged on remand (August 20) with infecting a soldier in the Canadian Field Artillery on June 21. Dr. Marsh, who had examined the prisoner, found no disease. Several men and women known to him, had, he said, contracted the disease from public lavatories. The prisoner was discharged.

Bournemouth Police Court.

LILY ANNE YOUNG, charged on remand (August 13) with "endangering the health of a soldier" on June 27. Medical evidence showed the prisoner to be free from disease. Dismissed, but the chairman lectured the police and the military authorities on their dilatoriness in doing nothing for over a month. The police superintendent said the woman was interviewed immediately after June 27, and if she had obtained a certificate she would not have been prosecuted. "The onus is on these people, not on me." A plain statement of the plain object of this legislation, so often denied in the House of Commons, to ensure "clean women," as Mr. Macpherson calls them, for the troops.

Leicester Police Court.—Extraordinary Action of Magistrates.

ETHEL MULLEY, aged 29, charged (August 22) at the instance of a soldier. The soldier and the police gave evidence. The girl herself pleaded guilty; but as this was the first case under 40 D the magistrates remanded her for a week for medical examination, though the Regulation runs, "a woman charged shall, if she so requires, be remanded . . . for the purpose of such medical examination as may be requisite," to ascertain whether she is infectious, and it ought not to be used for any other purpose.

E. KNIGHT.

"OUT OF CHAOS."

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EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK Settlement of Strikes.

The significance of last week's Equal Pay for Equal Work strikes is that the settlement is not confined to the women conductors on trams and 'buses. They have benefited by the pressure of the claims of women teachers, and the question is now to be settled on "a national basis." All honour to the pioneers who have brought the matter to this point. Full and complete settlement is not to be expected in a week, but the position of women in industry has been lifted out of the slough of despond, into which it must never be allowed to sink again. A victory in one part of the field means hope and encouragement to others who are less advanced and not so well able to fight.

The possession of the vote by six millions of women, even though they have not yet exercised it, has been the great lever of progress; it has changed the attitude of the men in power, whether in politics or industry, and some men are willing openly to avow the truth. Suffragists have always declared that women's work for the nation would not end, but really begin, with their enfranchisement. Recent events, especially the championship of the men, who now know that they stand to gain, not to lose, by doing justice to women, and the remarkably sympathetic tone of the Press, have abundantly justified the claim of suffragists. The victorious attitude must be cultivated; it will tell in yet many other directions.

London is once more brightened by its coloured 'buses, and work was resumed in various parts of the country on the promise of speedy consideration by the Committee on Production of equal pay for equal work for women as a national basis. As we go to press the Committee is still sitting, but the decision is not yet announced. Sir George Gibb presides, and the other members are Sir W. Mackenzie, Colonel Denny, Mr. A. S. Button, and Mr. G. Barker. We trust that we shall soon hear of women being appointed to this and all other committees concerned with the affairs of women and men.

Equality—Without a Strike.

The tramway authorities at Wolverhampton and Blackburn, where there has been no strike, have decided to give their women workers the 5s. increase in wages which was granted to the men by the Committee on Production. This decision was reached before the strike took place in London.

Railway Workers.

The Tube girls returned to work, after a day's holiday "to celebrate the victory," on the understanding that the whole question of equal pay for equal work would be considered in the immediate future. The Ministry of Labour has undertaken to negotiate with the various Strike Committees should the National Union of Railwaymen Executive Committee fail to act.

Women clerks on the North-Eastern Railway, supported by the Railway Clerks' Association, are seeking improved conditions regarding salaries, bonus, and payment during sickness. Their application has been promised consideration by the general manager.

Munition Workers.

As the result of the recent arbitration women munition workers are to receive an increase in wages of 5s. a week and girls under eighteen 2s. 6d. a week without prejudice to their demand for equal war advantages with men. But the increase in wages is to begin three weeks later than the advance to men. The War Cabinet is to consider the relationship of women munition workers' wages to those of men.

Sound and Satisfactory.

The *Daily News* ("Under the Clock") gives credit where credit is due in ascribing to the Woman Suffrage Movement and the future power of the woman voter, the remarkable unanimity of the Press in supporting the principle of Equal Pay for Equal Work. It says:—

When they do agree their unanimity is wonderful. Who could ever have foreseen two or three years ago—not to speak of the remote century before the war—that *The Times* and *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express*, and *The Westminster Gazette* would all be united in supporting earnestly the principle of equal pay for equal work, whether the worker be man or woman? It can scarcely be unduly cynical to suppose that the fervour of some of the more recently converted apostles of the principle is not entirely spontaneous. I imagine it has certainly been stimulated by the prospect of an early General Election, in which the women's vote will play a very important part. If that is so, the pioneers of the campaign for women's franchise are entitled to congratulate themselves. The first fruits of the reform at any rate are eminently sound and satisfactory.

CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

Headquarters: 4, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothersey, Bute.
Hon. Organiser: Alix M. Clark.

The girls of to-day will be the women of to-morrow—women, indeed, of the great war. They were children in 1914, but at the most impressionable period their young lives have been swayed by those moral inspirations which serve far more than any intellectual force to mould character. The absence of a father or brother cast a veil over their joys; they saw their mother suffer, and longed to console her. When these girls are called to take their rightful place in the council of nations they will be the great bringers of comfort and givers of happiness. Their joys may be graver than ours have been and their pursuits loftier; this is befitting in an epoch which has to set aside the sorrows of yesterday and look forward to the hopes and realisations of to-morrow.

This is the tenor of a conversation I had last night with a man after Mrs. Mustard had finished a brilliant discourse on full equality and equal opportunities between men and women, received with the most spontaneous and hearty applause from a large audience. The ideas of equality and the common brotherhood of man are more than mere words now in Scotland, especially to the audiences which come nightly to hear Mrs. Mustard speak on some aspect of the Woman's Movement. Unanimous resolutions supporting the demand for women Members of Parliament, the abolition of Regulation 40D, and the practical application of equal pay for equal work have been carried. Largs, Dunoon, and Etrick Bay have been visited with excellent results. The chair is taken daily by Alix M. Clark.

Miss Phyllis Mustard, our little helper of thirteen, still continues to give her valiant assistance, which is wonderfully efficient for her age. One thousand VOTES have been sold during the week.

I am still hoping that members and sympathisers will send me further financial assistance, as it is imperative that this Victory Campaign shall close free of debt.

ALIX M. CLARK.

The Education of Mr. Fisher.

In the summary now issued by Mr. Fisher of his School Teachers' Superannuation Bill all annuities, retiring and disablement benefits, and gratuities to relatives on the death of teachers are to be equal for men and women. The Bill will require careful consideration when the full text is before us, but we congratulate Mr. Fisher on the first public recognition of this elementary principle of justice and fair dealing.

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 30,
1918.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

The Prime Minister's Latest Eulogium.

Mr. Lloyd George, in a message to a mass meeting of Allied women war workers held in Paris last week, said:—

If it had not been for the splendid manner in which the women came forward to work in hospitals, in munition factories, on the land, in administrative offices of all kinds, and in war work behind the lines, often in daily danger of their lives, Great Britain, and, as I believe, all the Allies would have been unable to withstand the enemy attacks during the past few months. For this service to our common cause humanity owes them unbounded gratitude.

The authors of the war cannot have foreseen that one of its main effects would be to give to women a commanding position and influence in the public affairs of the world. To their ennobling influence we look not only for strength to win the war but for inspiration during the great work of reconstruction which we shall have to undertake after victory is won.

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