

THE VOTE,
SEPTEMBER 22, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

The Casualty List—At Home

C. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 1916.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: 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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AN ECHO FROM THE ANCIENT TIME.

Many hundred years ago, St. Adamnan and his mother walked through the land of Erin. It was autumn, and the land was fair to see, and goodly the crops it bore. But the hearts of the saint and of his mother were sad as they fared through the land. Strife was everywhere, and women laboured, sore tasked in the field, or at the heavy corn mill, and were thought of as little better than beasts of burden. Ere long the travellers came to a spot where the battle had been fierce, and there lay the bodies of women among the slain, and dead babes lay beside their mothers and one living babe cried to its dead mother for the comfort she could no longer give.

At this sight the saint and his mother were struck with great horror, and the mother of Adamnan turned to her son and bade him go fast and pray till he had won from the Lord the freedom of the women of the Western world. Long was the ordeal and great the sufferings of Adamnan before he won the gift for which he prayed. But at length there came to him an angel and bade him ask what he would, for it would be granted him. Then Adamnan arose and summoned a great assembly of princes and chiefs from all Erin to hear his word. They came armed, but he brought nothing save the little bell from his own altar-table—that, and the power and passion he had gained in his years of suffering.

The message he delivered was a strange one for

those men of war to hear. He bade them remember that a woman was no chattel, to be bought and sold, to labour and to share in the hosting and the fighting, but a heavenly treasure, a sacred treasure, for it was she who bore the child and carried the distaff, who fed and clothed us all, and who had been the mother of saints and martyrs. It should be the law in Erin from that day forth that no violence should be done to any woman, nor should any woman be allowed to share the perils of the battlefield. They and the innocent children were to be the chiefest objects of care, and heavy should be the penalties on those who transgressed this law. The right hand and the left foot of the wrongdoer should be cut off before he died, and for those who saw women or innocent child injured, and lifted not hand to save, the penalty should be as if the onlooker had actually committed the crime. The woman who did violence to another woman or to a child was to be left to the judgment of the Lord. She should be put in an open boat without oars and set drift three boats' length from the shore, and the Lord should deal with her as He would. For lesser offences there were fines and penances, but for him who might seek to do outrage to a maiden, even though stopped in his wickedness and only the hair touched or the girdle loosed, heavy should be the penalty.

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This was the law to which the princes and chiefs listened, and great was their indignation. "A fine thing indeed," they cried, "that men should die in order that women should live. Take away the fool who would have us slay a man for the sake of a woman!" But the wrath of Adamnan waxed hot and he struck his bell against them, and called down the curse of the Lord on those who withstood his law, warning them that all such should go childless to the grave, their name should cease from the land, and the elder and the cornerake and the bramle should be their heirs. So at length the saint bore down all opposition, and by the ancient oath of Erin the princes and chiefs swore to obey this law. By the Holy Trinity, by the Four Elements of God, by the sun and moon, by St. Patrick and by many other saints and martyrs they swore, and from that day forth the edict of Adamnan was law in the land. Women went safe from that day, and the young maid might wander through the length of the land unhurt, and the innocent children were guarded from violence and neglect. Great was the debt the women of Erin owed to St. Adamnan, and deep was their gratitude, and many the tributes sent to his community, from the horse with the golden trappings sent by the wife of prince or chief to the few cakes baked by the bondwoman.

So runs the story of the Law of Adamnan, found by an Irish scholar in a Donegal monastery not many years ago.

The latest return gives the death rate of children under one year in Dublin as 163 per thousand. Of the £5,000 allotted by the Government last March for child welfare in Ireland, not one penny has yet been made available. The maternity death rate rises steadily, as the Midwives Act does not apply to Ireland, and the "handy woman" has her way. The sickness rate among the working girls in Belfast reached a higher figure in August of this year than it usually does in December, owing to short-time wages and the cost of living.

Can those who have ears to hear catch the sound of the bell of St. Adamnan, struck in wrath against all who let women and children sicken and die and do nothing to save? DORA MELLONE.

Keir Hardie.

A year ago Keir Hardie passed away. Memorial meetings are being held all over the country in honour of this brave and consistent lover of the people. One of these will be held next Sunday in Merthyr Tydvil—the constituency he represented for so many years. This I am glad to be able to attend. To the citizens of Merthyr Tydvil he was as a father and friend. I have been with him there, and I have seen with what love and reverence he was received. To us, of the woman's movement, he was always true. Neither friends, nor foes, neither threatened loss of popularity, nor undisguised scorn could move him. It is well that women should pay him tribute. We of the Women's Freedom League can never forget him. I should like to see women represented on every platform from which, during the next few days, his name will be spoken in reverence and his loss will be mourned. C. DESPARD.

The Electoral Conference.

The following letter from the Speaker has been received:—
Campsea Ashe High House,
September 9, 1916. Wickham Market, Suffolk.
MADAM,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday.

As I have not seen the terms of reference, I am not in a position to say whether the enfranchisement of women will or will not be included with registration and any other topics to be submitted to the proposed conference.—Yours faithfully,
(Signed) JAMES W. LOWTHER.
Miss C. Nina Boyle.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, September 22.—CAXTON HALL. Mrs. Despard's Return Party, from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Invitation cards from W.F.L. Office. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Eunice G. Murray and Miss Evelyn Sharp.

Sunday, September 24.—HYDE PARK. Open-air Meeting, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.
Tuesday, September 26.—L.B.C. SEWING MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3—7 p.m.

Friday, September 29.—CROYDON. Sewing Meeting at Mrs. Foster's, The Whitehouse, Heathurst-road, Sanderstead, 3-5 p.m.

Saturday, September 30.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W., Jumble Sale, 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 1.—HASLUCK'S ACADEMY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, Miss Clara Reed, Recital "Becket," 4 p.m. Teas will be served in the Theatre from 3.15—3.50 at 6d. each. Tickets 2s. and 1s., from W.F.L. Office.

Wednesday, October 4.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman, "Hate's Coming of Age," and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. E. M. Moore. Tea 4.30 (6d.).

Thursday, October 5.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Aldridge, "The Responsibility of Serbian Women," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. Tea 4.30 (6d.).

Thursday, October 12.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, at 46, Lynette-avenue (by kind permission of Mrs. Samuel), 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., "The Right of the Soldier," and Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Corner. Tea 4.30 (6d.).

Friday, October 20.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Murray and others.

Wednesday, October 25.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "The Future of Women," and Miss F. A. Underwood. Tea 4.30 (6d.).

Thursday, October 26.—L.B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, "Picking up the Pieces," and Mrs. Corner. Tea 4.30 (6d.).

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Wednesday, September 27.—PORTSMOUTH. Work Party for November Fair, 17, Lombard-street, 3—7 p.m.

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES.—I.

Those whose minds, leaping forward, see in the period "after the war" a hatching-ground for ideals of brotherhood and sisterhood and democratic goodwill would be well advised to turn their attention to the signs of the times. The winds that waft the straws of public opinion and feeling over the face of the land to-day have but little message of comfort for women; and even the slavish, adulating Press, appearing to realise that its fulsome panegyrics may add strength to the women's claims, are beginning to play on another string. *The Daily Mail*, an old offender, has turned its attention from women workers to women shirkers; and we may now expect the streams of praise to be converted into torrents of abuse.

The storm of indignation that women should presume to offer their ministrations in the "National" Mission of Hope and Repentance has hardly subsided. Now the Free Churches, whose boast it ever was to be more broad-minded, more in tune with modern life, than the Church of England, has called together their "National" Brotherhood Council at Whitefield's Tabernacle, Tottenham Court-road, London. Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., gave it as his opinion that "during the next five years the nation would be on trial as never before in its history." Resolutions were passed about the restoration of peace providing a unique opportunity for a great spiritual move forward; about the oppression of conscientious objectors; about pensions, and about the consumption of alcoholic drinks; but no resolution held the field about the status and freedom of the women of the race, nor about their being definitely consulted on Church, political, and industrial conditions. We cannot see what hope can be cherished of a "great spiritual move forward" unless men renounce their evil rights over the destinies of women.

Mr. Henderson is also responsible for appointing a committee, as stated elsewhere, to bring organised labour into touch with the Government. There is not one representative of organised women on this precious committee, in spite of the recognised fact that the powerful unions of men workers, with a few honourable exceptions, are pledged to penalise women workers in every direction possible. Mr. Henderson, at a time when he should have been asked to take such an unfair advantage of his "national" position, has used his place and power

to forward the interests of a section only of the workers, at the expense and to the peril of the others. Those who can see hope of greater consideration for women in the new conditions must indeed be incorrigible optimists.

The "triple Labour Alliance" has heard from Mr. Asquith that he hoped in a "very short space of time the Demobilisation Committee would be able to formulate conclusions to enable the Government to set up in advance machinery which can be brought into active operation the moment the war comes to an end" (we quote *The Daily News*). This truly Asquithian sentiment leaves us cold. Are there women on the Demobilisation Committee? Will any women control the foreshadowed machinery? We trow not. The demobilised troops will be men, and people are apt to forget that they have wives and homes, and that many good women have replaced them in their work during the war, and must also be provided for. Only the very scantiest and most grudging attention is paid to this side of the demobilisation question.

On the committee to consider the rise in the price of the people's food there is but one woman—Mrs. Pember Reeves. We cheerfully grant that she is better than any two men we know of on such a committee, but when we reflect that the vast bulk of the "people" whose food is being gambled in are women—some five millions of men being catered for at Government expense—we ask whether this can be considered adequate representation? It is a sop thrown in contempt; it is not a measure of justice. We will return to this subject in successive issues of THE VOTE, as the question of the steady encroachment of Government committees, unrepresentative of women, on our daily lives and closest interests is a sign of the times no suffragist can ignore. C. NINA BOYLE.

The Despard Arms.

Our new manageress, Miss Vicary, is now installed, and her excellent cooking is winning praise from all. Friends who cannot come to a meal in the middle of the day will do well to enjoy her hot cakes and scones for tea and the appetising hot suppers she provides. We are very glad to have one or two new helpers from 6 to 10 p.m., but we want more, also a regular helper from 1 to 10 o'clock on Tuesdays and Fridays every week, when the manageress and the waitress have their half-day holiday according to L.C.C. regulations. It is interesting and enjoyable work. Come and try! Our best thanks to all who have sent parcels for the jumble sale. We shall be grateful for more—without delay! Can any reader recommend a strong girl of fourteen or fifteen to be trained as a kitchenmaid?



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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, September 22nd, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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THE CASUALTY LIST— AT HOME.

It has been issued—and we hope the nation is not sorry alone, but ashamed. War is slaying its thousands; conditions at home are slaying their tens of thousands. These, it should be understood, did not begin with war time. High prices, general depression, and the difficulty of procuring some of the things that are necessary for family life may have aggravated them. But they have been here; over and over again they have been forced upon the attention of the public; and only a few have treated them seriously. To quote from the *Daily Telegraph* of September 15: "Something has been done in a spirit of splendid devotion to high ideals by a fine body of unpaid men and women." The State, owing no doubt to public apathy, has lagged behind.

And now we are faced with a terrible statement. It is contained in a document issued by no less a person than Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education. He has been making exhaustive enquiries and tabulating the results. Of our six millions of school children, a quarter of a million are seriously crippled, while "no less than a million are so physically and mentally defective or diseased as to be unable to derive reasonable benefit from the education which the State provides."

Add to this awful indictment that sixty thousand children—we wonder how many of them are defective—have, by permission of the Board of Education, been put to work under the age for leaving school; that infant mortality is rising and the birth-rate is decreasing; and we find ourselves faced with facts which, to a wise and self-respecting nation, should be even more sinister and appalling than the holocaust of war.

For who are these who are dying; who are these whom we are wounding and crippling; who are these to whom, on account of their physical deficiencies, life will never bring joy? They are the children—our muscle, our sinew, our blood—that through which we could conquer the earth and make it serve us: that through which "we could speak with our enemies at the gate and force them to respect us."

It is something to the good that public men are placing before us in plain words the fruit of their experience; but, unhappily, such impression as they can make passes swiftly. People quote the statistics, sigh, say "What a pity! Something should be done!" and then forget. Other things—trade, party politics, Government crises—draw off their attention, and the moment for action is lost.

One wonders sometimes what would happen if these people could actually see the sad procession of child humanity that, robbed of its life-heritage of joy, is perpetually passing through our schools and along the streets of our cities; then what we women have prayed and longed for might come to pass. When the people—men and women of all classes—are allowed to speak, we might have a new election cry:

"Our children! Change conditions for them, work out and make possible a far more general scheme of education than has ever yet been tried! Beginning with the birth of the young citizen, see to it that provision shall be made for that which is necessary to its healthy, all-round development."

It could be done. A nation that has been spending six millions a day upon war—that has taken hosts of men and women from productive work and engaged them in manning and equipping vast armies and navies; and that can still supply labour and material for the ordinary national life, can never say again that it is too poor to provide adequately for its children. That the task will not be easy, that it will mean practically the reorganization of whole departments of our ordinary life, cannot be denied.

The food of the children, which consists largely of milk—in order to make that secure the supply should be taken out of private hands. In certain municipalities that is done already, and the result has been that many children's lives have been saved. At the present moment in London and other great cities, while there is no guarantee as to quality, the price of milk has risen to sixpence a quart, and yet, we quote from the *Daily News* of September 14, "Cases could be quoted, like that of a co-operative dairy in a northern city, in which milk of the highest standard of purity and cleanliness has been delivered (in bottles) up to the middle of August at fourpence a quart, the price having since advanced by a half-penny."

Housing, sanitation, open spaces for exercise and play must also be considered; and, to deal with these questions fairly and practically, all of the laws relating to private ownership of land will have to be revised. Comfortable, warm, and hygienic clothing is another of our children's urgent requirements, especially proper foot-gear in the winter. This also gives rise to many problems. None of them, however, are insoluble. If the nation were as deeply concerned about peace work as it is about war work, these—the great peace armies of the future—might be as well clothed as the men in khaki.

Finally, the campaign must begin at once. "Let us settle our differences with the foreign foe first," plead some of our politicians. We answer: No; there is not a moment to be lost. As we speak, as we think, the procession moves on. Children are pouring into our schools, little tots, three and a half or four years of age; some robust, others, alas, bearing on their faces the taint set there by generations of poverty and neglect. Girls and boys are pouring out manifestly unfit, in thousands of cases, to take up successfully the battle of life.

Is it to go on? That is the question we are called upon to answer now; and upon the answer we give the life of our nation in the future depends.

There was a people of old time who have possessed, by general consent, the proud reputation of having reared the most beautiful people the world has ever known. Statues and sculptured groups in many a national museum bear witness to the perfection of their physical form. These people did not neglect mental culture, for they produced a fine art and a noble literature. One who has studied the history, the manners and customs of Greece in her glory told the story of how a stranger sleeping in one of her

towns might be disturbed at dead of night by the sound of muffled footsteps. Looking out he would see a sad procession, with faces covered and bowed heads, moving as if they were ashamed of the task they were doing. On enquiry the stranger would find that what he had seen was the carrying to some burial place of a child or young person. That one of immature age should die was, to these people, a family and a national disgrace.

The day may come when Great Britain will so regard her children—their health her care, their beauty and strength her honour, their achievement her wealth, their immature death or loss of vitality through neglect a bitterer disgrace than the loss of a battle. Then, by the mighty force of public opinion, governments will be compelled to take action, and we shall have no more appalling casualty lists at home.

C. DESPARD.

WOMEN LAY PREACHERS.

At a time like the present, when women are continually entering new spheres of labour, it is natural enough that some should look upon the pulpit as a fitting place for them to occupy.

Coming as I do of a long stock of Wesleyan Methodist ministers, it is not strange that as a child I played at preaching as naturally as I played at shop, or school, or 'buses, little dreaming that one day my play would be changed to reality—for my early years were not passed under suffragist influences. But the war has carried off preachers as well as other men, and has probably affected the Nonconformist churches more than the Anglican Church, since the former depend so largely upon the voluntary help of lay, or (as they are called in the Methodist Church), "local preachers."

In January, 1915, when I was at work one evening in our Soldiers' Club, the minister asked me if I would take the service in a little village chapel on the following Sunday morning. Being a member of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage (now of the Women's Freedom League also), I agreed to do as he asked. The preparation for that service was an ordeal, an ordeal greater than the service itself I afterwards found, but that is often the case.

After that time I was occasionally asked to fill a gap, and later on to take regular work in the villages. Sometimes the people knew I was coming; at others I had to announce myself to the chapel steward as "the supply," and mount the pulpit stairs in front of a wondering congregation.

My third service was at a little village on the coast, about five miles from my home. According to custom, I wrote to the organist, stating the numbers of the hymns I had selected. On my arrival at the chapel on Sunday evening I was informed by the caretaker that the Rev. Mr. Dawson's son was going to preach. "No," I said, "that cannot be, for he hasn't a son; it is his daughter who is to preach, and I am she." The expression on that good woman's face may be imagined, but it cannot be described.

When I went to another village for the second time, I found a great part of the congregation watching for me outside—chiefly big boys. These worthies grinned as I went in, and were thoroughly prepared to be amused; so I took an early opportunity of appealing to them by means of a story, to which they listened with keen attention, as indeed they did throughout the service.

On another occasion, after the service, a man said to me, "I do hope you'll come again, I have enjoyed the service; I expect you've enjoyed it yourself, haven't you?" "Yes," I said, "I have enjoyed it, and I shall come again." "Shall you come in the winter?" he asked. "Yes," I

replied. "But shall you come if it rains?" he continued, anxiously. "Some of them don't come when it's a bad night." "Oh, yes," I said, "I'm not afraid of rain, and I hope to turn up whenever I'm appointed." I have had no experience, as yet, of town work, but doubtless that will come.

There is no difficulty in the Wesleyan Church about entering the pulpit. Laymen as well as ministers preach from the pulpit, and women do the same as a matter of course. I do not understand the controversy on this point of detail in the Episcopal Church if women be allowed to speak in church, for I have heard two laymen speak from pulpits in two different parishes.

Last March I decided to be a stop-gap no longer, but to qualify as a local preacher or withdraw from the work. I experienced no opposition, only goodwill from both lay preachers and congregations, and from the minister—a broad-minded, sympathetic man and a suffragist, whose authority has not degenerated into tyranny. By next March I hope to have completed the necessary reading, and to pass the required examinations.

Women lay preachers are by no means numerous in the Wesleyan Church, but they exist, and are extremely acceptable; and it is not too much to say that the future influence and usefulness of the organised Christian Church will be largely determined by her attitude towards the great spiritual awakening of women.

I have always found that men listen to me quite as intently as women, but sometimes there has seemed to be a special link of sympathy between some woman in the congregation and myself. Surely a woman, with her own experience of the daily grind of domestic monotony and her understanding of the temptations and anxieties that haunt the lives of so many of her sisters, can instinctively transmit to them some comfort and encouragement and help them to grapple with the mental problems that continually assail those who think.

With regard to great moral questions, a few words must be said. In speaking on such a matter as intemperance in drinking, what an opportunity a woman has in the pulpit of pointing out that the road to recovery from the evil lies not in the bullying and insulting (often called protecting) of the lesser sinners by the greater, nor in the coercing of either, but in the co-operation of men and women in levelling up public opinion, which shall become crystallised into legislation controlled by both. Nor must the still greater scourge of immorality be ignored. Twice I have heard men preach on the cure of the man born blind, both omitted the slightest reference to the cause of so much of the infantile blindness we have in our own country at the present, for which man and not fate is responsible.

We suffragists look forward to the day when the sex barrier shall be completely broken down, when personality not sex shall be emphasised, for then and then only shall we be able to cleanse our land of the evils that threaten her with ruin.

M. BALLARD DAWSON.

AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY, on September 17, a fine sermon was preached by Archdeacon Pearce, strongly supporting the valuable work of women in the Church and deprecating restrictions in its scope.



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WOMAN SUFFRAGE PROGRAMME.

Manchester, September 16, 1916.

Dear Editor,—Miss Holiday knows perfectly well that no woman suffragist would be "satisfied if a few duchesses were enfranchised simultaneously with a measure of manhood suffrage." That is not the question at issue, but whether it is politically advisable for the Women's Freedom League and other Woman Suffrage Societies to join as such in the agitation for a Service Franchise, which is manhood suffrage under another name. Miss Holiday thinks it is, and that the men who want more votes will include in their demand a claim for women also as war workers. I maintain that the jealousy of women's influence, shown by most men in their organisations is only too clear an indication that no measure of equal suffrage will receive that official and combined support which would be necessary, and that any Bill weighted with such a demand stands no chance of passing the House. The result is likely to be a withdrawal of the clauses affecting women and the sweeping in of manhood suffrage on the wave of emotionalism caused by the feeling of gratitude to our soldiers and sailors. In the face of such a danger it is the duty of Suffrage Societies to urge more earnestly than ever that a short and simple measure, providing that the word "person"—ratepayer and householder—when used in a Registration Bill, shall be held to apply equally to men and women, be passed before any alteration takes place in the existing franchise law. At the last conference of the Women's Freedom League we pledged ourselves anew to Woman Suffrage as our first object. Adherence to this principle will not delay adult suffrage. A House of Commons prepared for that will pass the simpler measure I have suggested with far less debate, and with its passing the present work of our League would be accomplished. We could then devote ourselves to the larger measure, and reconstitute our work on the entirely new basis.—Yours very truly,

M. J. NEAL.

ABERYSTWYTH CAMPAIGN.

After seven weeks' strenuous work our campaign is over, and the feeling left in Aberystwyth is that Votes for Women are more essential now than ever. From the first meeting it was obvious that the campaign would be enthusiastic and earnest, and the proposal to enfranchise more men—soldiers, sailors, and munition workers—with the danger of leaving the women out aroused contempt and indignation. The Women's Freedom League has now many staunch and loyal friends at Aberystwyth, and Miss Anna Munro, after her third campaign in this part of Wales, is more popular than ever. Cries of "Come again" echoed as we sped out of Aberystwyth Station. Miss Munro is now in Montgomery Boroughs, where we shall do a lightning campaign for a week. Mrs. Tom James mentioned in last week's VOTE should read Mrs. John James. I gratefully acknowledge Miss A. A. Smith 5s. I shall be grateful for a few more contributions to cover the cost of the Aberystwyth campaign.

ALIX M. CLARK.

The Hut, Newton, Montgomery Boroughs.

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PROGRESS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

According to the latest news from British Columbia, in twenty-nine constituencies, which have elected 55 Liberals and 4 Conservatives, Woman Suffrage has been carried by 8,500 votes and prohibition by 6,000. The poll of British Columbian troops in England and France, which has been going on since August 9, closed on September 14; the counting of their votes will begin on October 12, and the results will be cabled to Victoria by the Agent-General in London. By a special Act of the Legislature, every soldier and sailor from the province, irrespective of the ordinary franchise, became entitled to a vote on swearing an affidavit that he had lived in British Columbia six months. He also had the option of voting on separate slips, by way of referendum, on two main questions before the electorate—women's suffrage and liquor prohibition. It is estimated that 40,000 men were entitled to vote.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

The Cabinet and Labour: No Women!

Mr. Henderson, Labour Adviser, has decided to bring the trade unions into direct consultation and communication with the Government by the appointment of the following well-known trade union leaders as a Consultative Committee of Labour: Harry Gosling, London Thames Lightermen; C. W. Bowerman, M.P., Secretary of Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee; J. R. Clynes, M.P., General Union of Labour; G. Barnes, M.P., Engineers; F. S. Button, Textiles; Robert Smillie, Miners' Federation; Stephen Walsh, M.P., Miners' Federation; Vernon Hartshorn, Miners' Federation; J. H. Thomas, M.P., Railwaymen; G. J. Wardle, M.P., Railwaymen, Chairman of Labour Party; J. Hodge, M.P., Steel Smelters, W. J. Davis, Birmingham, Brassworkers; W. Mosses, Patternmakers; J. Cross, Accrington, Textiles; A. Wilkie, M.P., Newcastle-on-Tyne, Shipwrights. Why no women, seeing that "women are winning the war" through their infinitely varied and valuable work?

"Supply of Nurses Committee"—One Woman!

A committee has been appointed by the Secretary of State for War to consider the existing system of obtaining nurses for the hospitals for sick and wounded soldiers at home and abroad, and to make recommendations for increasing the supply. It consists of the following members:—Mr. W. Bridgeman, M.P., chairman, Viscount Knutsford, Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., Hon. Francis Curzon, Mrs. Furse, Captain Harold Boulton, Mr. E. W. Morris. Mr. T. R. Walrond will act as secretary, and all communications should be addressed to him at the War Office, Whitehall, S.W., marked "Supply of Nurses Committee." Women's work, but directed almost entirely by men!

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Investigating Results.

An investigation into the effects of industrial occupations on motherhood is to be undertaken by the Women's Industrial Council. After the war a considerably larger total of permanent woman workers will remain in industry than this country has hitherto known, and the Council desires to obtain the fullest information as to occupations which are favourable or harmful.

OUR TREASURY.
NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1915, £25,531 19s. 2d.

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Amount previously acknowledged ...	25	531	19 2
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend" ...	2	10	0
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Office sales ...	5	4	0
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Glasgow ...	3	10	0
	£937	9	2

In Brockwell Park.

A very successful meeting was held in Brockwell Park last Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Aldridge was the speaker, and a large audience listened with great attention to her address on Serbia. Mrs. Aldridge emphasized the heroic attitude of the Serbian women in holding their country for the future, and pointed the moral of Votes for Women. An enthusiastic supporter (male) suggested that we should take a vote in favour of Women's Suffrage, and this was passed unanimously. A good collection was taken, and THE VOTE sold well.

Excellent National Service.

It is good news that the Royal Victoria Hall ("The Old Vic"), Waterloo-road, nearly opposite Waterloo Station, reopens next Saturday evening for its autumn season. To commemorate the centenary of Sheridan, the first week will be devoted to his plays, beginning with *School for Scandal*. On Saturday, September 30, *Henry VIII.* will be given, and London should not be slow to welcome the company which has gained such a fine reputation for this and other plays during the Tercentenary month at Stratford-on-Avon. Shakespeare's plays, or other classical dramas, will be given five times every week—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, at 7.45; Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, 2.15; Thursday and Saturday are opera evenings, and Tuesday is lantern-lecture night. The admission is from 3d. to 2s. 6d.

General Smith-Dorrien and other critics of public entertainments in London should journey across Waterloo Bridge to see for themselves the splendid recreation offered at most reasonable cost as the result of women's enterprise and the appreciation of the audience. On Miss Lilian Baylis, the able and devoted manager and moving spirit of the "Old Vic," has fallen the mantle of her courageous aunt, Miss Emma Cons, who dared, forty years ago, to try and redeem the evil character of the theatre and provide the workers with clean amusement. Miss Baylis has now the valuable co-operation of Mr. Ben Greet in the production of the plays; and the work done deserves fullest recognition as true national service.

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BRANCH NOTES

Croydon. Office: 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

The next sewing meeting will be held at The Whitehouse, Heathurst-road, Sanderstead, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Foster, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 29th inst. Notice of other meetings will be seen in THE VOTE from time to time.

Glasgow—Suffrage Shop, 212 Bath Street.

Open-air meetings are still going strong in Glasgow and district. On Thursday evening Miss Shennan addressed a large meeting at Wellington-street. She demanded votes for women, not because of their great work in this crisis, but as their right. At the close of the meeting many men, among them a discharged soldier, came forward to congratulate Miss Shennan on her excellent address. "I'm shair there's no the like a' her for fine speeching in the House o' Commons!" said another listener. Miss Murray and Miss Semple had a large turn-out of sympathisers at Partick on the same evening, and were asked when they were coming back. Our Glasgow branch is proud of its able speakers. Miss Murray had also an excellent meeting at Clydebank through the week. THE VOTE and pamphlets are selling well, and our collections are never behind.

Middlesbrough. Suffrage Club, 231a, The Arcade Linthorpe-rd.

On September 11 a branch meeting was held. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. It was arranged to hold a sewing meeting each Tuesday afternoon and evening. Mrs. Stones will take charge, and tea will be provided. Members are asked to attend and bring friends and some article to make up for the Green, White, and Gold Fair. We should like to have a good number of garments to send. Unfortunately, Miss Murray could not come for September 20, and the meeting had to be cancelled.

Women's Freedom League Settlement.

1, Everett St., Nine Elms, S.W.

We gratefully acknowledge a further gift of £2 from our good friend, Mrs. Walpole, of Tasmania; also 3s. for milk depot from Miss Brett (per Mrs. Tippet); Mrs. Presbury, bread; Mrs. Tarrant, flowers; Mrs. Green, Thornton-le-Fylde, baby clothes; Mrs. Delbanco, washing-mop; Mrs. Alvary Gascoigne, pears, plums, and apples; Letchworth Working Party, per Miss Porter, children's overall suits. Helpers are still urgently needed from 12 to 1 daily, especially on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. We ask Freedom Leaguers, when planning out their work for the Cause this autumn, to remember that the Settlement has been built up by the exertions of individual members, that it is doing valuable work, and that it is incumbent on every member to give it some support for the honour of the League. Besides help at the luncheon hour, we should be glad of volunteers to take the guest-children out in the afternoon, do mending either at home or at the Settlement, and beg from their friends with gardens whatever fruit, vegetables, and flowers can be spared, and from their friends with children all sorts of outgrown clothing, boots, shoes, and toys.

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1188.

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