

THE VOTE,
Oct. 22nd, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

OUR TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, OCT. 22, 1915

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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.
WOMEN IN WAR TIME.
THE EXECUTION OF NURSE EDITH CAVILL.

PATRIOT OR PESSIMIST?
HEADQUARTER NOTES.
A POLICE STATION SCANDAL.
HOW WOMAN SUFFRAGE WORKS IN ALASKA.

Eunice G. Murray.

C. Nina Boyle.

PATRIOT OR PESSIMIST?

Every man or woman who goes about foretelling disaster, or prophesying defeats, imagining that our navy will fail us, and expecting a German invasion, is an enemy to society and a danger to the community. When one thinks of the Northcliffe Press, its sensational head lines, its pessimistic utterances, its treasonable words, one wonders why the Government and the Censor who were so quick to suppress the *Labour Leader* have not long ago taken action, and why these Jeremiah wails are allowed to go forth unheeded. In the good old days men believed one British ship was enough to chase the enemy from the sea, and this was a wholesome feeling. The many non-thinkers who cull their ideas from the Northcliffe Press and suffer from consequent depression had better read Wordsworth's series of beautiful sonnets to England, written when this country was at death grapples with Napoleon, when the fate and liberty of Europe depended upon the British army. Wordsworth sounded the calm note of confidence, the joyous promise of victory. In winged words he besought his countrymen never to give way to despair, and never to lose confidence and trust in their country. After years of warfare when other countries had given up the struggle against Napoleon and had made peace, when all seemed lost, Wordsworth wrote his inspired and inspiring sonnet:—

Another year!—another deadly blow!
Another mighty Empire overthrown!
And we are left, or shall be left, alone;
The last that dare to struggle with the foe.,
'Tis well? from this day forward we shall know
That in ourselves our safety must be sought;
That by our own right hands it must be wrought.
That we must stand unpropped, or be laid low.
O dastard, whom such foretaste doth not cheer!
We shall exult, if they who rule the land
Be men who hold its many blessings dear,
Wise, upright, valiant; not a servile band,
Who are to judge of danger which they fear,
And honour which they do not understand.

To-day we have need of a Wordsworth to sing the glories of our country and our Empire; we have need, great need, of a purified and clean Press to recount the achievements of the last fifteen months of army and of navy, and not to croak about future failures, or mistaken tactics in the past. A Press that is run for party, not for country, is a pest to society, and the Northcliffe Press lives upon panics, sensations, and scandals. If they affect men's nerves and outlook, and cause them to go about shaking their heads in dolorous fashion, let us suffragists show that our patriotism is of a better stuff. We are patriots because we are suffragists and suffragists because we are patriots. We believe in the invincible might of the British navy and army, and after fifteen months we can truly say we are satisfied with what it has done and is doing. We are proud of our country and we rightly think this is not the time to groan over its shortcomings. We love our country, and it is because we love it that we wish to help and serve it.

We have always maintained that not only is it unjust to withhold the vote from women—because women need and desire it—but it is wrong, for by withholding it the country is the loser. Every department, every council, every law is to-day the poorer because women are not consulted in that which pertains to us all.

A certain portion of the Press and a number of speakers, both men and women, are doing this country a great disservice when they go about with gloomy looks, and write and speak idle, foolish words, stirring up strife at home, and letting outsiders think that we in Great Britain are uneasy about the future. Not so. The bulk of us look forward with the utmost confidence to the victory that must come. Women after all are the mothers of the men in the fighting line, whether on land or sea, and they know their sons will neither disgrace them nor the country they serve. Suffragists may be relied on to maintain a calm and dignified demeanour at this time. Serving the country, if the Government,

which hitherto has thrown every obstacle in their way, will accept their services.

But above all, let us be of good courage, and show that we are not afraid of the future. It takes more than the criminal attempts of Lord Northcliffe to daunt us, rather we will show that we are proud of the past records of soldiers and sailors and confident that if the worst comes to the worst this country, and this country alone, would keep Germany at bay, and beat her as we have beaten former despots. What Britain has done she can do again, and without resort to expedients which are absolutely foreign to the spirit of liberty and the traditions of freedom which have always inspired her.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429

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Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon at St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mr. Laurence Housman, who has chosen as the title of his address "What Price Salvation Now?" Mrs. Mustard will take the chair promptly at 3.30, and as we have no other speaker that afternoon there will be full opportunity for questions and discussion. We hope to see St. George's Vestry Hall full on this occasion. The following Wednesday, November 3, Mrs. Montefiore will speak on "Women and the Food Supply."

Sunday Afternoon Lecture Recital.

Miss Clara Reed is giving a lecture-recital on Stephen Phillips' "Herod" at the Bijou Theatre, on Sunday afternoon, November 14, at 3.30. "Herod" is one of Stephen Phillips' masterpieces, special music will form part of the afternoon's programme, and as the proceeds are to go to the funds of the Women's Freedom League we confidently call on our members and friends to support us by purchasing tickets for this performance. The prices are 2s. (numbered and reserved), 1s. (reserved), and they can be obtained from our Offices at 144, High Holborn.

Our Green, White and Gold Fair.

Will each of our readers ask herself what she is doing for the Fair we are holding at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27? Mrs. Fisher and Miss Ada Mitchell, the joint honorary secretaries of our Social Committee, would be glad to receive contributions either in money or in comforts for sufferers in the war, for Christmas presents for your friends, for home made produce, and for articles of use of all descriptions. Mrs. Corner is in charge of the Entertainments and Sideshows, and reports that she has already a good programme of plays, songs and dances. Mrs. Thomson Price has kindly promised to give her Psychic Delineations which have been so popular on former occasions. We rely on our readers to relieve the Social Committee of much anxiety by sending promises of help at an early date.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

We who are suffragists know and feel very bitterly the shortcomings and iniquities of the Press. We remember very well the constant misrepresentations that were circulated about suffragists, their meetings, their actions and their behaviour. We remember how the Press injured us when it suited them, and equally when it suited them how they deliberately inflamed public opinion against us. The Government, because the Prime Minister disliked Woman Suffrage, did not interfere, but now surely when it is a question that affects the whole country, and our prestige abroad, they will see that something must be done to purify the Press and to stop the croakers.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT. A Police Station Scandal.

It will be remembered by readers of THE VOTE and members of the Women's Freedom League that a warrant for the arrest of the head of the Political and Militant Department has been hanging fire for some weeks. This warrant was executed last Friday, and instead of being at the Conference I was at Stratford-on-Avon police court helping to instruct magistrates in police law. The case was conducted by our good friend Mr. Gush, and was dismissed, three guineas costs being allowed to the victim of the precipitate action of the police.

The case itself was not discussed. It turns on the right of hotel and boarding-house keepers to keep a register of aliens, for police inspection, under the Aliens' Restriction Act. The action was dismissed because the warrant for arrest was issued without first serving a summons in accordance with the law in regard to summary jurisdiction—a technical matter in which the magistrates acted with a haste of which they are likely to repent at their leisure.

The police station at which I was detained has furnished us with fresh ammunition for our Cause. Never have I been so disgusted with the arrangements which men in authority think good enough for women. Instead of a cleanly, smart, trained, uniformed official to keep me company (I was not allowed to be alone), there was a poor soul of the charwoman class in her workaday clothes, divided between her duties of cleaning and scrubbing, searching women prisoners, and keeping me under observation. So far as I could find out, the couch on which I took uneasy rest was that on which medical examinations are conducted. There were neither pillow nor sheets; the blankets came from under the couch and were palpably those used for patients: the matron assured me they were clean, because she had slept in them (in her working clothes!) the night before! The washing arrangements consisted of a tiny lavatory basin, greasy and unkempt, with an end of soap crusted with dirt; the sanitary accommodation was in the kitchen, where the men's food was prepared and where various men were performing various duties.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the hygienic impropriety and indecency of all the arrangements. Four times during the night and during my dressing in the morning did the male officers enter the room, without knocking or other ceremony. Truly, indeed, it is impossible to trust the interests of women or the requirements of decency to male hands only; that this should be the treatment meted out to women when in the Government keeping is not only an outrage to civilisation, but an irresistible argument in favour of Votes for Women.

I cannot close this account without expressing



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my appreciation of the courtesy shown me by the inspectors, sergeants, and women officials while I was in their hands. Their individual courtesy was a pleasing contrast to the scandalous want of consideration displayed in all the Government arrangements.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

The Execution of Nurse Cavell.

"The Florence Nightingale of Belgium" is the noble title accorded to Nurse Edith Cavell, who, according to information received, has been shot at Brussels by order of the German military court for assisting Belgian men to escape to England. The news has evoked widespread sorrow and indignation, but proves that the German court is dealing out its death sentences irrespective of sex on those whom it judges to have broken military regulations. The United States has instructed its Ambassador in Belgium to make inquiries into the circumstances of the execution. According to one account, the execution ground was a garden or yard in Brussels surrounded by a wall. A German firing party of six men and an officer were drawn up in the garden and awaited their victim. She was led in by soldiers from a house near by, blindfolded with a black scarf. Before she reached the place of execution, Nurse Cavell fainted and fell, and the officer in charge of the firing party shot her through the head as she lay. "One of the bravest and most devoted women I have ever met," is the declaration of a business man who knew her. "It is pitiable now to think that she and her staff worked hard and cheerfully in the Royal Palace among wounded German officers after the enemy's occupation of Brussels." Nurse Cavell was the

daughter of the late Rev. Frederick Cavell, Vicar of Swardeston, near Norwich, and deepest sympathy is felt for her mother who is still living. She was trained at the London Hospital and was most devoted to her profession. She went to Belgium at the request of Dr. Depage, now head of the Belgian hospital at La Panne. He had formed an institute called the Institut Medical de Berkendael, which was situated in Uccle, a suburb of Brussels. He was working under the patronage of King Albert and Queen Elisabeth with the object of instructing women in the art of nursing. A friend who knew her in Brussels relates in the *Daily Mail* that she achieved great success in organizing up-to-date nursing in Belgium. On the outbreak of the war, she started a Red Cross Ambulance, but after the entry of the Germans into Brussels, she put her staff wholly at the disposal of the authorities. She could have escaped, but refused to leave her post.

Two other women, it is understood, have been condemned to death, Louise Frulier, a teacher, and the Countess Johanna de Belleville. Princess Marie de Croy, of Bellignies, has been sentenced to 10 years' hard labour, and Lady Ada Bovart to 15 years.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN

Woman Lawyer's "Manual for Magistrates."

The legislature of South Carolina has adopted for the State a "Manual for Magistrates," a book written by a South Carolina woman lawyer, Miss Ruth Durant Evans. The manual was pronounced by the judiciary committees of the two legislative houses complete in every respect. The legislature bought one thousand copies for the magistrates of South Carolina. Miss Evans is deputy county clerk of Hamilton, co. Tennessee.

California's Voters.

California has about one million and a quarter men and women who will be eligible to vote for the next President. California had doubled her voice in the Federal Government since women have been given the vote. She has more voters than any other State west of the Mississippi.

Explorer Discovers Prehistoric Remains.

Dr. Lucy Wilson, who has spent several months exploring and excavating the ruins of ancient Indian cities in New Mexico and the south-west, has now returned to Philadelphia, U.S.A., with fifteen skeletons of prehistoric men, believed to be among the greatest discoveries ever made in America. The cities which Dr. Wilson visited had been buried and almost forgotten for 500 years before that great territory was conquered by Coronado and his Spanish adventurers in 1540. The skeleton which is regarded as the most valuable in the collection is that of a "casique," or high priest, which Dr. Wilson discovered buried beneath the floor of an ancient house in the city of Otowi, San Doval County, New Mexico. This house contained thirty-six rooms, and was used as a communal residence by the Otowi citizens. "I found the priest," she said, "with the knees drawn toward the chin. His face was turned toward the west, toward the new world where he expected to be born again, and his mouth was filled with corn to keep him from hunger during his journey." Dr. Wilson added that she explored several of these communal houses, prototypes of the modern apartment houses, and discovered hundreds of specimens which will prove of immense value in tracing the history of ancient life on the American continent.

About Newspapers and Suffrage.

Anti-Suffrage propaganda, paid for by the line or inch, is being introduced into the news columns of some New York State newspapers. Anti-Suffrage display advertisements, likewise paid for, are being presented in the advertising columns of many papers. With the latter method of publicity there can be no quarrel. The former opens an old question of newspaper ethics that each paper has to settle for itself. It is not supposed to be possible to buy news space in the highest grade newspaper at any price. Suffragists would gladly favour their friends of the Press with orders for display advertising in the legitimate advertising columns at the usual rates if the Suffrage campaign were well enough financed for them to do so. It isn't. The advertising the Suffrage Cause is given outright by friends of the Cause.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, October 22nd, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.

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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 PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

At the Women's Freedom League Conference, 1915

It is my duty and great pleasure, as President of the Women's Freedom League, to receive and welcome the delegates from our Branches all over the country. I do this in my own name and in that of the officers and National Executive of the League to whom about eighteen months ago you entrusted your business—to whom you gave the charge to maintain the principles which had been accepted by you as a League, and to carry out the policy you had chosen to adopt. It will be for you to judge as to whether or no we have been faithful to the trust given to us.

You will have already observed that this is our tenth annual Conference. I think, when we entered upon our career, it was prophesied that we would not live six months. That prophecy and many others that followed have been falsified by events. We will not pretend that our life has not been a chequered one; but we survive and—may I venture to say?—in spite of the difficulties that have surrounded us, especially since our last Conference—we are stronger to-day than ever.

It has been my custom in these Conference addresses, since you did me the honour of electing me as your President, to begin with a few words about the political situation so far as it has affected our repeated demand for the recognition of our citizenship. Since we last met, eighteen months ago, politics, like everything else, have undergone a remarkable change. Broadly speaking, there are no political parties now. That there is a strong sub-current of party feeling and action no one who has watched the progress of events can deny. On the surface, we are asked to understand that controversy no longer exists, that political parties waive their differences until the big business that engrosses all the energies of the nation is settled. We cannot but feel, in view of arguments used by lukewarm friends and open enemies in the past, that this would be an admirable time for passing a non-party measure such as Woman Suffrage to take effect after the war. Had all the women been united—nay, had only the suffrage societies held together as suffragists, that might have been possible. I am not going to assert that it is not possible still.

On two points we at Headquarters stand firm, and I believe the Branches will agree with us:—

Firstly. Urgently as we needed representation before the war, we need it still more urgently now.

Secondly. Amongst the men of the country, there is an extraordinarily changed attitude with regard to the subject.

With regard to the first point, many of us looking

back over the economic history of our country will remember that the broadening out of the basis of representation is coincident in time with the growing importance of labour, or rather perhaps with the workers' consciousness of their value and their need. Since the war began women have been called with ever greater urgency into the field of men's work. We suffragists know that the entry of women into every sort of industry is not new; on this fact our strongest plea for representation has always been based. We believed that such protection as the voting-power brings is to the full as necessary to women as it is to men. Since, however, a host of men-workers have joined the army, two things have happened. An immensely increased number of women have been engaged in trades up to now belonging exclusively to men and—an important point—it has come to be known that they are there. Still more! Woman's capacity for national service of the highest kind is beginning to be recognised. From this I draw a hopeful augury for the future.

For my second point is that the nation generally is far more alive than it was to the justice of our demand. And here I offer my tribute to those who worked through the hard, dark days valiantly to spread the light. Had it not been for them, our work would have been taken, as has always been the case, and the nation would have failed to read the claim that lies behind it. I believe firmly that at the next General Election, if we are not then enfranchised, there will go out from the male electorate a mandate which no Government will be able to ignore.

I turn now to the general business of the League.

1. The Hon. Treasurer's report, and here I hope you will try to realise (for we are dealing with that which is of vital importance to the League) that, in the first place, it required considerable courage on the part of our Treasurer to continue in office when faced with a situation so unique and difficult as the opening of the war presented. Remember here that other great societies deliberately gave up propaganda work, believing, I presume, that it would be hopeless to ask for money for Woman Suffrage. In the second place, that the Hon. Treasurer, having with the utmost tenacity held her post, is able after fourteen months of war to present such a report as that which is before you. I make no further comment; I leave that to you. I know, however, that the Hon. Treasurer will not wish me to pass from this question of finance without a word of warning. We must not veil from ourselves that every month of war is going to make our position in this respect more difficult. And I say to you, as President, that it is up to us not to slacken in our efforts, but rather to increase them, and so to show ourselves worthy of our Hon. Treasurer.

I pass next to the report of our General Secretary, and I note first, with extreme pleasure, the increase in membership. That points to the success, even in war time, of missionary effort.

Another point that has struck me, and that I think will strike you, is the large amount of actual propaganda work that has been done. The success of that work is the best answer we can offer to those who say that direct suffrage activities are inexpedient in war time. Please also understand that the other work approved and organised by the League, such as that done by the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps and the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation, has been for the women and children affected by the war and for refugees who have sought the shelter of our shores.

Except during the months of my illness, I have been in close touch with our activities, but I confess, when I see them in the aggregate, I am surprised at the amount of work that has been carried

through with such very small resources, and when I add to the special Headquarters' work that which has been done by our Branches all over the country, I feel that we have every reason to be proud of our League.

I come now to that which, to us, as political persons and militants, is always most interesting—the report of our Political and Militant Secretary. There is no lack of sensation in these memorable years, 1914 and 1915. I feel, in fact, that by and by this report will be looked upon as a valuable and interesting historical document. To me it seems that, in the true sense of the word, militant, which means warring, not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against spiritual darkness in high places, the Women's Freedom League has proudly and steadfastly persevered in its militancy through the whole of these fourteen months. In that, I rejoice. I would ask you, as with the secretarial and financial departments, when reviewing the volume of work, correspondences, protests, deputations, special tilting against special wrongs, that fills this last few months, to remember how very limited are the resources of the League and the strict economy which has to be practised. I would venture to add that which to me constitutes one of the lessons of the report—a lesson which the nation has yet to learn: that if we hope to work effectively, our eyes must be turned upon the future. We must exercise a wise foresight. In war time it is our bounden duty and service to prepare for peace.

I leave this with you and proceed to the report of the Honorary Organising Secretary, which, but for the unexpected changes in our social and political outlook, would have been very voluminous. As it stands, however, I wish to say that it is far too modest. When I remember the money that has been collected, the journeys that have been made, the encouragement and help that have been given to organisers, I feel not only that this department is valuable now, but that it opens out great possibilities for the future.

I cannot close my address without, in a very special way, thanking my fellow-officials and the other members of the National Executive Council, and I am sure I can do this in your name as well as my own, for the fine service that at this difficult time they have rendered to the Woman's Movement and to the League; personally, too, for un-failing courtesy and more than courtesy, affection. In the midst of much sorrow, depression and perplexities, the consciousness of their constant support has helped me to be strong, has filled me with courage and hope. Some, for various reasons, are not offering themselves for re-election this year. We shall miss them. One is away from us through illness. Our hopes have gone out for her swift recovery, and that she may soon again take her place amongst us.

Finally, to you, my fellow-members, feeling as we all must that the occasion is a great one, that on the strength, the determination, the wisdom of our League, gathered together in Council, the progress of our Woman's Movement for this generation at least may depend, remembering our past, looking forward gravely, but without fear, to our future, we shall enter upon our work to-day.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE Tenth Annual Conference.

After an interval of eighteen months, the Women's Freedom League held its Annual Conference on Saturday, October 16, at The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, London.

The President, Mrs. Despard, occupied the chair, and was supported by the following members of the National Executive Committee:—Miss Andrews, Miss Alix. M. Clark, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Miss Hare, Mrs. Huntsman, Dr. Knight (hon. treas.), Miss Munro, Miss Eunice G. Murray, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Tippett, and Miss Underwood (secretary). The reason of Miss Boyle's absence until about 5.30 p.m. is explained on page 790, and Mrs. Snow's absence through illness was much regretted. The following resolution, moved from the chair, took precedence of all business:—

That this Conference of the Women's Freedom League desires to take this opportunity of expressing its great gratitude to Mrs. Snow for her long and unremitting work in the Merchandise Department, without which the organ of our League would not have been able to go on, also its deep sympathy with her in her illness and its sincere and earnest hope that she will soon completely recover.

The following telegram from Mrs. Snow reached

What are **YOU** doing for the
Green, White and Gold Fair?



the President during the proceedings, and was warmly welcomed:—

From her sick bed, Mrs. Snow sends affectionate greetings to you and all friends at the Women's Freedom League Conference.

Miss Boyle and Miss Murray entertained the outgoing National Executive Committee to dinner at Talbot House after the Conference, and a cordial message of affection and sympathy was sent to Mrs. Snow.

The following Branches were represented:—

Bowes Park, Miss Todd; Clapham, Mrs. Corner and Miss Read; Croydon, Mrs. Terry; East London, Miss Adams; Golder's Green, Miss Hodge; Hackney, Mrs. Catmur and Mrs. Pierotti; Hampstead, Mrs. Putz; Harrow, Mrs. Johnson; Hornsey, Miss Clayton; Mid-London, Miss Jacob; Tottenham and Stamford Hill, Miss Eggett; Tufnell Park, Miss Hurrell. PROVINCES: Brighton and Hove, Miss Hare; Chester, Mrs. du Plerigny; Ipswich, Mrs. Hossack; Letchworth, Miss Lee; Manchester, Miss Neal; Middlesbrough, Miss W. Jones; Portsmouth, Mrs. Whetton; Reading, Mrs. Corry; Sale, Miss Fildes. SCOTLAND: Dundee, Miss Husband; Edinburgh, Miss Nannie McLaren; Glasgow, Miss McLelland; Paisley and Scottish Scattered, Miss Eunice Murray; Rothesay, Miss Gilmour. WALES: Aberdovey and Montgomery Boroughs, Miss Alix. M. Clark; Cardiff, Miss Barrs.

The President's address, which was heard with interest and evoked enthusiasm, appears as the leading article in this issue.

Many important matters were considered by the Conference, and it was emphatically decided that Votes for Women should continue to be the first objective of the Women's Freedom League.

The following resolutions, among others, were passed:—

That as there is now a non-party Government in power, the time is opportune for proceeding to the non-party measure for the enfranchisement of women.

That in view of the possibility of Women's Franchise becoming an accomplished fact within a measureable period of the termination of the war, it is essential that the Women's Freedom League should not be unprepared for the contingency; and a political programme should be sought for which, while avoiding matters likely to be incorporated in the programmes of solely party organisations, should include measures which shall establish a more secure basis for the liberties already won and improvements secured for the people of Great Britain.

That this Conference asserts the right of the Women's Freedom League to represent Great Britain in the International Suffrage Alliance as its premier Suffrage Society, both in point of membership and continuation of suffrage work.

The Conference decided that strong representation should be made to all Branches to organise special efforts to extend the circulation of THE VOTE.

The Conference congratulated the Danish Government on having obtained a greater national unity at a critical time by the admission of women to the franchise; the Scottish Federation of Suffragists on their fine work in France and Serbia; and placed on record its appreciation of the noble spirit effectively shown by women since the outbreak of war. It censured the Government for the reckless waste of food in the army and navy at a time of high prices, for delay in utilising women's services, and for over-readiness to sanction the use of child labour.

In the intervals for lunch and tea, the Club Room at Headquarters was well patronised and warm approval expressed of the able way in which it is managed by Mrs. Fisher and Miss White and the good fare provided.

On Sunday morning an excellent meeting was held in Hyde Park at which Mrs. Whetton, of our Portsmouth and Gosport branch, presided, and Mrs. Sproson and Miss Eunice G. Murray were the speakers. A large crowd gathered to hear the vigorous speeches, and many questions were asked.

In the afternoon, the Despard Arms was crowded with delegates, members and friends, who were interested to explore the building and hear of the aims and achievements of the scheme. After tea,

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short speeches were made by several members on special work that is being carried on under the banner of the Women's Freedom League. Mrs. Harvey's moving story of the Brackenhill Hospital, with its record of 30 babies born in less than twelve months and many women and children nursed back to health after serious operations and illness, was heard with deepest interest; Mrs. Tippett gave a vivid account of the work at Nine Elms in the Vegetarian restaurant, the Children's Guest House, and the Play Club, bringing help and joy where sorely needed. Miss Husband told of the work done in Dundee, and of the success achieved in getting women suffragists on councils and other bodies dealing with war time needs; she criticised severely the administration of the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund. Miss Underwood made a special appeal for help for the Green, White and Gold Fair and for VOTE sellers in order to extend the circulation of our paper. Mrs. Huntsman's story of one success after another achieved by the Harrow Branch was not only most interesting but stimulated resolves to "go and do likewise," especially with regard to the parcels for prisoners of war. Miss Boyle gave a stirring account of her arrest outside the office last Friday, of her night in a Police Station, and of the proceedings before the magistrate at Stratford-on-Avon—the case was dismissed with costs and further attacks on bad management in Police Stations will result. Miss A. A. Smith spoke briefly of the Despard Arms in its new house and of the promise of success warranted by the first fortnight of its existence. She told of the appreciation of the food provided, the facilities for rest and recreation, and of the opportunities for further help by gifts of furniture for the bedrooms for women workers. The reception afforded a welcome opportunity for scattered members to come into personal touch.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Thursday, October 21.—RICHMOND & DISTRICT, Branch Meeting, 47, Morley-road, East Twickenham (by kind permission of Mrs. O'Flaherty), 8 p.m. Speaker: Madame Anna Carola.

Sunday, October 24.—BROCKWELL PARK, 3.30. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Wednesday, October 27.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman, "What Price Salvation Now?" and Mrs. Mustard.

Thursday, October 28.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL Annual General Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 6 p.m.

Friday, October 29.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Madame Anna Carola.

Wednesday, November 3.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Montefiore, "Women and the Food Supply," and others.

Thursday, November 4.—MID-LONDON BRANCH Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 6.30. Delegates Report of Conference.

Wednesday, November 10.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 14. Lecture-Recital by Miss Clara Reed, "Herod" (Stephen Phillips), at the Bijou Theatre, Bedford Strand, W.C., 3.30. Music, Refreshments. Admission by Ticket, 2/-. Numbered and Reserved; 1/- Reserved, from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, November 15.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, November 19.—CROYDON, Public Meeting, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th. Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, 2.30 9 p.m.

NINE ELMS, VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT, 1, Everett-street, 1d. and 3d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Play Club.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinners and suppers from 6d.), and recreation. Week days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, October 25.—BRIGHTON. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

WALES.

Wednesday, October 27.—CARDIFF, Whist Drive and Oddfellows' Hall, Charles-street, 7.30 prompt. Tickets 2s. each, from Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, November 2.—BLACKFRIARS MISSION AND STAMFORD-STREET CHAPEL, Stamford-street, S.E. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner, on "Woman the Peacemaker," 8 p.m.

Monday, November 8.—NATIONAL BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION, St. George's Hall, Wimbledon. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Woman's Duty during the War," 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 28.—BLACKFRIARS' MISSION & STAMFORD-STREET CHAPEL, Stamford-street, S.E. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, "Women's Work in War Time."

£500 WANTED FOR THE VOTE.

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Per Miss Eunice Murray:—			
Miss White	5	0	
Miss Allan	5	0	
Mrs. Murray	5	0	
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BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper leaving a margin on the left, and address to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside...All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Tuesday mornings.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.

Will members and friends please send, as soon as possible, to the secretary, or leave at the Office, goods for our Autumn Jumble Sale? The next afternoon meeting will be held on Friday, October 29, when Mrs. Tanner will be the speaker. At a recent Committee Meeting, Miss Bennett started a special fund for helping the Branch, by giving 1s., and promising to give that amount whenever she could; several other members "followed suit," and it is hoped that every member, who can, will do likewise—the sooner the better!

East London.

Members are reminded to send their gifts for the Fancy Fair to Miss Adams as soon as possible. The next Branch meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, at 56, Gore-road, South Hackney, by kind permission of Mrs. Shadbolt.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Nine Elms.

Mrs. Tippett is most grateful to Miss Hogg for the gift of a step-ladder; also to Miss Riggall for £1 towards the Milk Depot and to Miss Kearton for margarine and butter. Gifts of jam, scrubbing brushes, brooms, large baking tins and all kinds of groceries, onions, carrots, potatoes, turnips, and apples will be most welcome.

The following letter just received from Gwendyth Buckley Jones, of East London West, South Africa, shows how valuable has been the work of the Overseas Dominions in interesting little helpers far away:—

DEAR MRS. TIPPETT.—Thank you very much for your kind letter telling us about little Daisy and the other children, and I am glad to be able to send another 10s. to help a little bit. Mother took us to England for a visit about three years ago, and I remember quite well seeing some of the poor little children, but I think we were very thoughtless then. Wyndom is sending her pocket money to the Belgian children; we do wish we had more to send, but we are going to save all we can, and it will be lovely when we go again to England to see some of the little babies and children.

Glasgow.

Mrs. Sinclair will be at the Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road, on Mondays, at 8 p.m., to hold a work party for making the "Fearnought" gloves so greatly in demand and so much appreciated by our navy. Ladies may have parcels of them to sew at home. It is hoped that Miss McCallum and Mrs. Sinclair will be well supported by the League members.

JUMBLE SALE.

The London Branches Council is arranging a Jumble Sale in aid of its funds for the first Saturday in December. Please will members do all they can to collect parcels of clothing, etc., and send them to Mrs. Fisher at The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W.? Articles of any description are welcome.

CANTEENS FOR WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.

The Y.W.C.A. is taking up for women workers similar service to that rendered to soldiers by the Y.M.C.A. in providing canteens and recreation huts. Such canteens and huts are urgently needed by women employed at munition works in many parts of the country, and wherever they are already established they are greatly appreciated; rest and recreation rooms are attached to each canteen. The Munition Workers' Welfare Department, 23, Bruton-street, W., is carrying out the work, and on the committee are Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein, Lady Proctor, Lord Derby, and Lord Sydenham.

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OCT. 22,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

HOW SUFFRAGE WORKS IN ALASKA.

In expressing to the Empire State Campaign Committee his hope that the great Empire State will soon be added to the sisterhood of suffrage states, Gov. Strong, of Alaska, says: "Woman suffrage in Alaska, though but two years old, is an unqualified success. The operation of the law has not besmirched the women of Alaska; it has not unsexed them nor caused them to take on "unwomanly attributes," or unfitted them to become wives and mothers, or to attend to their domestic duties generally. And their votes, as a rule, are cast on the side of progress and morality. To the votes of the women of Alaska may be ascribed the crystallization of public sentiment against the liquor traffic in the territory. As a matter of fact, in my opinion, there is not one logical argument against the enfranchisement of women. Those who oppose it must be living in a past age unmindful of the fact that the world of progress and efficiency moves steadily forward. Old prejudices and traditions must give way, for the new wine of democracy won't be contained in the old bottles of prejudice and tradition.

"The women of Alaska were given the right to vote without asking for it. They are exercising it wisely and well, patriotically, and for the moral uplift of the Territorial citizenship, just as intelligently as their fathers, husbands or brothers. The male alien is admitted to citizenship after a residence of five years in the United States, if he be found eligible; and to deny to the women of this Republic the privilege thus accorded to the 'free and oppressed of all nations' is to my mind a brutal admission of musty prejudice, and indicates a lack of knowledge of the rights due to the women of the nation."

"A lie and delusion in those states which have not granted woman suffrage," is the way Ex-Governor Alva, of Colorado characterized the preamble to the Federal Constitution in a public speech in Boston recently. "It would never be justified," he said, "until women had the vote."

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Higher Posts in the Civil Service.

The Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries has at a recent meeting of its Executive Committee passed the following resolution, with which all suffragists will be in sympathy:—

"The Executive Committee of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries protests strongly against the policy of the Government in restricting the employment of women clerks to the lowest paid posts, and considers that in view of the number of efficient and experienced women who would enter the Government service if the prospect were sufficiently attractive, it is in the interest of the public that women should be offered a fair share of the higher positions in the Civil Service."

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Mrs. Tanner, presiding on October 13 at our weekly gathering, pressed for a non-party measure for women's suffrage. There is no time like the present, she said, but politicians always favour some other time which seldom comes. Mrs. Nevins gave a most interesting account of her work as a masseuse among the wounded. She told how red tape delayed her progress in getting the work for which she had been trained, but spoke of marvellous cures achieved. Dr. Mansell Mullin had declared that the miracles had been worked by massage. Many humorous incidents were recorded and Mrs. Nevins maintained that to massage one of her very big patients was like massaging the rock of Gibraltar. Miss Murray insisted that women's work and counsels would have been invaluable to the country had the Government not churlishly refused to have them. Hospitals financed and run by British women had gone to the Allies, because rejected by the British Government. Her amusing stories of experiences in Germany were much enjoyed.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

IPSWICH.—Lady conductors on Glasgow tramways are paid 27s. per week—six days of eight hours. Sunday work is optional, and is paid extra if taken and another day off given.

Mrs. Charlotte Nicholas, of Gloucester, has been granted a patent in connection with mine sweeping apparatus on vessels.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Entrance in Little Russell-st. (Near Holborn, British Museum and Tottenham Court-rd. Tube stations) every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. Oct. 27: Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman on "What Price Salvation Now?" and Mrs. Mustard. Discussion invited.

MEMORIAL HALL, Manchester, Wednesday, November 17, at 7.30 p.m. Recital of Works for Two Pianofortes, by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick. Tickets 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126 Deansgate, and at the door.

Miscellaneous Advertisement Charges

FIFTEEN WORDS 1s.; every additional 7 words or part of 7 words 6d. **FOUR** consecutive insertions for the price of **THREE**.—Address, The ADVT. MANAGER, THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn. Latest time for receiving copy, Monday morning each week.

A MEMBER of the W.F.L. undertakes the re-modelling and repairing of dresses, costumes, etc., at moderate charges. A trial solicited.—DAISY, c/o THE VOTE, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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