

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

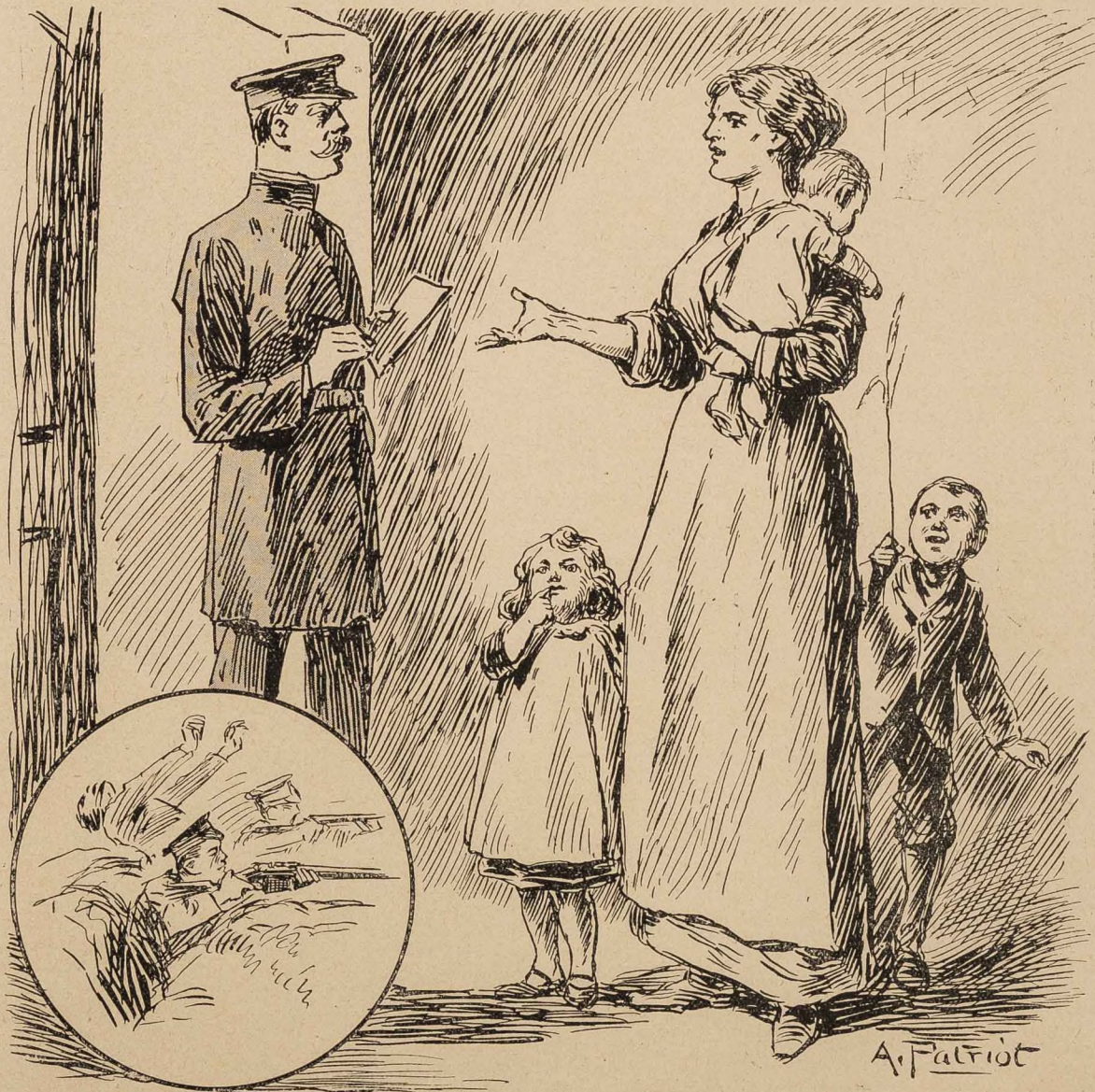
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 349.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1914.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free)
14d.

INSULTING THE HERO'S WIFE



SOLDIER'S WIFE: "I, too, am serving my country. I, too, have a right to my pay. If women had votes, you would not dare to come prying here!"

(According to a War Office order issued through the Home Office, soldiers' wives are to be submitted to police surveillance and their separation allowances stopped if "unworthiness" can be proved.)

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, Regent 5150
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, November 16; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting in co-operation with the E.L.F.S. to protest against the Government's treatment of our soldiers' wives. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mr. Henry W. Nevinson, A Soldier's Wife, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver, Mrs. Drake. Chair: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Admission free. A few reserved seats at 1s. each from Ticket Secretary, U.S. Offices.

Friday, November 27; 8.30 p.m.: Committee "At Home."—Eustace Miles Restaurant, Chandos Street, W.C. Short speeches, discussion, conversation; tea and coffee. Morning dress. Members can obtain invitations, and non-members, tickets, price 6d. each, on application to Ticket Secretary at U.S. offices.

Friday, December 4; 3-11 p.m.: Christmas Sale.—Eustace Miles Restaurant, Chandos Street, W.C. To be opened by Miss Cissie Loftus. Proceeds to be devoted to the U.S. Women's Club in Southwark.

PORTMAN ROOMS MEETING

The large and interested audience that made its way through darkened streets to the Portman Rooms on Thursday evening in last week, showed intense appreciation of the fine speeches that were made, and of the work that is being done by the United Suffragists to keep the Suffrage Flag flying. Mrs. Frederick Whelen, from the chair, outlined that work, and dealt emphatically with what the U.S. are doing in defence of the soldiers' wives. We greatly regret that our limited space prevents our publishing a report of the meeting, but we give extracts on page 53 from Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck's stirring appeal to Suffragists on behalf of the war at home, which came with special point from one whose son had been recently wounded seriously in the war abroad. She seconded the resolution proposed admirably by Mr. George Lansbury, which ran as follows:—

"That this meeting, recording its deep sense of the bravery and unselfishness of British men now giving their lives for a cause, records also its sense of the bravery and unselfishness shown by women who are left at home to fight alone in a battle they cannot win because they have not the weapon of the vote; it protests emphatically against all attempts to take advantage of their helplessness, whether by C.D. Acts, by mean attempts to curtail their allowances, or by imitation temperance reform; and it calls upon the Government to lighten their unnecessarily heavy burden and at the same time to give their men-folk a country that is doubly worth dying for by granting to women the right, the protection, and the dignity of enfranchisement."

Mrs. Pember Reeves spoke with knowledge and feeling of the industrial suffering caused here through the war, Mrs. Israel Zangwill of the desolation abroad resulting from the same cause; and Mr. Baillie Weaver wound up with a spirited and ironic analysis of the phrase, "How Women can Help," concluding with an expression of regret that all suffragists were not still occupying themselves with demanding the vote, and saying:—

"I am delighted and honoured to appear on the platform of the United Suffragists to-night, because they have declared their intention of going on pegging away as usual, and that is why I wish them God speed, and why I say to them, not 'Business as Usual,' but 'As you have never done it before.'"

A sum of £97 6s. 11d. was raised at the meeting, besides promises of monthly sums amounting to £4 16s.

OUR PROTEST MEETING

All are urged to come to the Caxton Hall next Monday evening (see programme above) to join in our united protest with the East London Federation of the Suffragettes against the shameful attitude assumed towards soldiers' wives by the Government, with which we deal in other parts of the paper. Admission will be free, but a few tickets at 1s. can be obtained from our Ticket Secretary.

OUR NEXT "AT HOME"

All members of the U.S. are warmly invited to apply to the Ticket Secretary, at 3, Adam

Street, for invitation cards to the next "At Home," to be held by the Committee at the Eustace Miles Restaurant (Chandos Street, W.C.) on Friday, November 27, at 8.30 p.m. These friendly little meetings have now become so popular that we know members will need no inducement to come, and to bring as many strangers as they can, for whom tickets (price 6d.) can be obtained on application.

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

92, Borough Road, Southwark, S.E.

Important Notice.—All friends who have kindly promised, or are eager to promise, gifts of furniture, crockery, draughts and other games, kitchen utensils, newspapers, magazines, for our Women's Club, are asked to send them to the Secretary, at the above address (92, Borough Road) next Tuesday, November 17, when it is hoped that the painters will be out and the house ready for occupation.

The Club will be thrown open to members in the course of next week. All women are eligible at a membership fee of 1d. per month. Promises of food (tea, coffee, cocoa, milk, sugar, materials for sandwiches, eggs, cakes, bread, meat patties) will gladly be received by the Hon. Secretary at the U.S. Offices, who will state in each case when these can be sent to the Club.

CHRISTMAS SALE

Eustace Miles Restaurant—December 4: 3-11 p.m.
Hon. Sale Secretary: Miss Brewster,
3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

The arrangements for the Christmas Sale, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the Women's Club, go on apace, and Miss Brewster reports that offers of help are coming in well.

Will friends kindly send similar promises for any of the following stalls?—

Farm Produce and Flower Stall—Mrs. Harben and Miss Walford.
General Stall—Mrs. Drinkwater.
Books—Miss Craies.
Toys—Miss Postlethwaite.
Parcels—Mrs. Davies and Miss Young.
Bran Tub (6d. and 1d. dips)—Mrs. Hutt.
Sweets—Mrs. Goodman.

Miss Cissie Loftus to Open the Sale

Miss Cissie Loftus has most kindly promised to open the Sale on the 4th, and all who have enjoyed so often her delightful performances on the stage will gladly welcome this—her first appearance on the Suffrage platform, we believe, in this country.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN"

Space prevents our publishing the Fund this week, which has received so generous an impetus through the collection at the Portman Rooms meeting. Great applause was roused at the meeting by Mrs. Whatmough's (our publisher) announcement of a substantial increase in the circulation of the paper, and we make a special appeal to our readers this week to help us to make that increase profitable by (1) dealing with our advertisers; (2) telling them that you are doing so; (3) getting new firms to advertise in VOTES FOR WOMEN.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

1d. Weekly.

4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

WE SUPPORT THOSE FIRMS
WHO ADVERTISE IN OUR PAPER

Now that advertisements, on account of the war, are not so plentiful as in normal times, we appeal to our readers to cut out the above form (or write to the publishers, 4-7, Red Lion

Court, Fleet Street, E.C., for a book containing twenty-five of these labels, gummed, post free, 1½d., and stick it on their letters and accounts in dealing with the firms who advertise in our paper. Only in this way will advertisers be convinced in the present crisis that it is worth their while to advertise in VOTES FOR WOMEN. Those who cannot send us money can thus help to bring us in a revenue.

PAPER-SELLING

Miss R. G. de Cadiz writes from "Iona," 9b, Annesley Road, Rathmines, Dublin, that she is keeping up the sale of the paper in Dublin, and would like local paper-sellers to communicate with her.

In London

Miss Elsie Boulting writes to ask for a volunteer to sell the paper regularly at a Wednesday afternoon meeting. Useful paper-sellers' bags in the colours can be obtained from the U.S. office, 1s. 6d. each in serge, and 1s. 9d. each in American cloth.

AMERSHAM U.S.

Mrs. Drinkwater (Fieldtop, Amersham-on-the-Hill) wishes to remind members that tomorrow, Saturday, the 14th, is the last day for sending in to her gifts for the Competition. These will be judged by Mrs. Jopling Rowe, the well-known painter, who will be present on November 21st at the At Home kindly given by Mrs. Frank Colenso, at "Elangein," from 3 to 5 p.m., when Mrs. Agnes H. Harben will present the prizes to successful competitors. There will be competitions, music, tea, and a sale of inexpensive children's garments. (Mrs. Drinkwater also reports several new readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN.)



**BOUDOIR
GOWNS**

With a view to keeping our workers fully employed, we are making up 250 Boudoir Gowns, of which the garment illustrated is an example. These gowns are copied and adapted from exclusive Paris Models in rich quality Lyons Brocades and Silks.

BOUDOIR WRAP
(as sketch) in Silk Crepe Faconne Brocade, with draped front and long stole end tied at back, the bodice edged with fur.

Price .. 49/6

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street, London, W.

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom; to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it; to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

As we go to press, the last Session of the present Parliament is being opened in State. Forecasts of the King's Speech are unanimous in respect to its brevity; it is expected to contain very little beyond a request for a second Vote of £100,000,000. So while their crying grievances remain unredressed, women will be compelled to subscribe towards the expenses of a war in which they had no deciding voice.

Good News From America

While reaction wins temporarily at home, it is splendid to be able to record that, out of the seven States of America in which Woman Suffrage was submitted to the electors at the recent State Elections, two have enfranchised their women—Montana and Nevada; while three more, Nebraska and North and South Dakota, are still undecided; and only two, Ohio and Missouri, have, we conclude, cast their votes adversely to the women. Even if the three doubtful elections prove to be defeats, the victories in Montana and Nevada mean that the eleven westernmost States are now solid for equal suffrage, the other nine being Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and Kansas. In Illinois, the one regenerate eastern State, women enjoy a suffrage very nearly equal to that of the men.

The Anti-Government Policy

Liberal papers have tried in various ways to explain away the losses sustained by the Democratic Party in the recent American elections. We have not the exact particulars of the States in which these occur, but we have no doubt that they are largely the result of the anti-Democrat campaign of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, which has been waged for some time in all those States where women have votes. The Democratic Party is the one responsible for the blocking in Congress of the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Constitution, which, if passed, would allow the question to be submitted at once to the Referenda of all the unenfranchised States. This anti-Government policy, borrowed from the English militants, is doubly effective, backed by women's votes.

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's Mission

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, to whom we are indebted for the swift transmission of the good news from America (the British Press had announced six defeats and no victories!), is meeting with universal encouragement for her international peace mission in her tour through the States, of which we give some account on page 54. In addition to the mass meeting in New York, mentioned in our last issue, a large and enthusiastic audience has been addressed by her in Boston; and she is now in Washington, where she will speak again before proceeding to Chicago on the seventeenth of this month. No one who realises the horrors of war will fail to wish her well in her attempt to weld the women of the civilised world into a solid body, deter-

mined to prevent the stupid inhumanity of war in the future.

Our Anti-Suffrage Government

Our Anti-Suffrage Government have underrated the honour of their countrymen. They thought that British men shared their contempt for women, their hatred of women's freedom and women's economic independence, and they are finding to their cost that this is not true. Even the *Times* admits in a leading article that "we have had more than enough of Ministerial hesitation and confusion of mind" on the subject of separation allowances for soldiers' wives and pensions for their widows, and considers this muddle to be one of the first reasons for the falling off of recruits. Thanks to the vigorous Suffrage movement of recent years, men will no longer offer their lives to their country unless they are assured that their country will in return respect and support their wives and families.

The Latest Insult

And what have the Government done to give them this assurance? Their latest method of rendering the soldier's career an attractive one to the civilian is to issue from the War Office, under a covering letter from the Home Office, an astounding document, a copy of which is in our possession, which virtually places all soldiers' wives, and relatives receiving separation allowances, under the surveillance of the police, who have the power to report to headquarters that any of the recipients are "unworthy to receive

CABLE FROM MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE

Special to "Votes for Women"

Boston, November 7, 1914.

"Montana and Nevada sure. Nebraska and North and South Dakota doubtful."
EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.

it." This preposterous order concludes with the words:—

"When the separation allowance is stopped the allotment of pay will also cease unless the man himself should signify his desire that it should be continued."

There are bad men, no doubt, who will like this sort of way of dealing with women. But we refuse to believe they are in the majority; and the Government have only themselves to blame if they find themselves faced in consequence with a shortage of recruits.

Mothers and Wives for Half-a-Crown

There is, as the *Daily Chronicle* aptly puts it, "a truly masculine flavour" about the new Government scale of payments to the wives and relatives of killed or disabled soldiers, which, it adds, "advocates of women's suffrage will be justified in regarding for the future as a classical argument for their case." The scale has been raised considerably for women with children—a widow with three children, for instance, will now get 17s. 6d. a week—but a childless widow gets only 7s. 6d. The new scheme, in fact, works out at half-a-crown a week for the mother or wife; for the disabled man gets only half-a-crown more if he has a wife, while three motherless children get only half-a-crown a week less than if they had a mother. Will some Cabinet Minister tell us how a woman can live on half-a-crown, or even seven-and-sixpence, a week? These Anti-Suffrage gentlemen are surely not suggesting that she should go out of her home to work? Yet they leave her no alternative, save the Poor Law—or "the oldest trade in the world."

Driving Women to Drink

Under the circumstances, no fair-minded person can wonder that some soldiers' wives have been driven to drink. We said last week what we thought of the imitation temperance reform that seeks to square both the drink and the temperance interests by excluding only women from

public-houses, while drunkenness among men is allowed to continue unchecked. And now we have that arch "Anti," Mr. McKenna, telling a deputation of women from whom Suffragists were rigorously excluded, that while he could not hold out any hope that the Government would close the public-houses altogether till noon, he asked them to consider whether advantage might not be taken of such powers as they might get by agreement, to close public-houses, at any rate to women. Agreement with whom, since women in this country have no power?

Come and Protest!

Was there ever such a clear statement of the meaning of women's votelessness? Because they are politically powerless they are to be made the scapegoats for, the increase of drunkenness all over the country. Because the Government have failed to enfranchise the more temperate sex they have not the support that would give them the power to close the public-houses to men. Those who, like us, are sick of all this canting humbug about women and drink, and of this bullying of soldiers' wives, should make a point of coming to the protest meeting organised by the United Suffragists and the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, in the Caxton Hall next Monday evening.

Sweating and the Government

Honour is due to Mr. H. D. Roberts, chairman of the Liverpool Anti-Sweating League, for an outspoken communication in the *Manchester Guardian*, in which he gives actual instances of the sweating of women by Government sub-contractors, including cases of women working at khaki garment making for twelve hours a day, and a half-day on Saturday, at the rate of five shillings and sixpence or six shillings a week. He comments:—

No one can wonder that revolt is in the heart of the woman worker, though she feels helpless, only just learning to organise, and having no vote.

(The italics are ours.) We agree with Councillor O'Grady, who, speaking on sweating in Bethnal Green Borough Council last week, said: "While our men are fighting our battles we must guard the matters which want watching at home." But women can guard them only insufficiently without the help of the vote.

Relief for English Wives of Aliens

We have nothing but admiration for the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Thewlis, and other members of the Manchester Committee of the National Relief Fund, who recommended at a recent meeting that the English wives of arrested aliens—of whom there were known to be 160 in Manchester alone—should be entitled to relief as if they were still technically British subjects. We hope that other relief committees will follow this lead from the north and drop the niggardly policy of referring these British-born women to foreign societies already overburdened with cases of real foreigners in distress.

Items of Interest

Although Miss Vida Goldstein was defeated in her plucky attempt to enter the Lower House of the Commonwealth Parliament of Australia, the election figures just to hand show that she polled the fine total of 10,264 votes, as against 18,545 polled by her successful opponent, and 2,420 given to the third candidate. Better luck next time!

The Manchester, Salford, and District Women's Trade and Labour Council have passed a resolution, which they have sent to the Plymouth Town Clerk, protesting against the suggested revival of the C.D. Acts as "futile for the protection of men against disease and outrageous to the liberty and ordinary human rights of women."

The Suffragist Churchwomen's Protest Committee have sent a fourth instalment of signatures to their protest to the Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by a letter pointing out how the disabilities of women are accentuated by the war.

CORRESPONDENCE

TEN SHILLINGS A WEEK

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—I see in VOTES FOR WOMEN a protest against a maximum wage of 10s. per week to be paid to women for their work. If I may express an opinion, I should say that (except in the case of forewomen) it is more just and equal to give two women the opportunity of earning sufficient to exist upon than to pay one woman a full wage and another nothing at all. Is not the money which is paid to women under the present distressing conditions intended to help tide them over a very difficult period more than a proper remuneration for their work, when distress among women is unusually prevalent? I think it fairer to give two women 10s. each than £1 to one and nothing at all to another. There is a proverb which says, "Half a loaf is better than no bread." Why should a whole loaf be given to one woman and not any to another?—Yours, &c., M. JENSEN.

[Would our correspondent think it fair to pay two men the wages due to one? The argument that the money paid to the women in question is relief, not wages, does not hold good; because if she cannot live upon it, it fails to relieve her distress, and merely helps her to starve a little longer. We hold that it was not for this purpose people have subscribed to Queen Mary's Fund.—Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

WOMEN AND DRINK

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—Would you kindly allow me to make a protest against those social "reformers" who are declaiming so much on the increase of female drunkenness? Also most of the Press are quite as bad. It is untrue, as many of the Chief Constables of the country have proved by their reports. The appeals that have also been made by licensing magistrates to licensees not to serve women during certain hours, while the same restraint is not placed upon the men, is most unjust. Such a differentiation between the sexes in serving them would necessarily cast a stigma on the female sex. A respectable person, either man or woman, should not be refused to be served during the hours the premises are open. It seems to me that various sections of the community are taking advantage of the distressing times to accentuate still more the different moral standards between the sexes. What excuse have men to curtail the hours in serving women, when soldiers and recruits are free to get

drunk almost at any hour of the day, full of idle hours as they are, not knowing what to do with their time?—Yours, &c., JUSTICE.

"THE RIGHT TO SERVE"

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

After reading your article in VOTES FOR WOMEN, entitled "The Right to Serve," it occurred to me that perhaps the most effective way for women to have a chance of filling in the gaps made by the scarcity of men might be achieved by local U.S. members applying to their own Local Authorities. Could they not suggest that where there have been vacancies caused by the deficiency of men, there are women ready to fill those vacancies if the authorities would advertise the capacity in which they would accept them?—Yours, &c., C. LUCIE LEEDS SAUNDERS.

102, Hills Road, Cambridge.

[We think this a very good way of emphasizing to the authorities what they so far have refused to admit, that there are plenty of qualified women ready to fill the posts vacated by men now on active service.—Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

THE WAR AND THE THEATRE

Some Distressing Cases

(From a Correspondent)

The following are a few of the distressing cases among actresses and stage workers that come to the notice of the Actresses' Franchise League week by week:—

Miss D. C.—A girl of 22, deserted by her husband, in pitiful health, is struggling to earn a living. Has been offered work in a laundry, for which she is totally unfitted. It is comforting to know that some help has been afforded to the girl who is making this brave struggle, and that she is being placed in comfort in the country till the pantomime season comes round, when it is hoped an engagement may be found for her.

H. F.—A worker in the property department of a London theatre now closed; has a wife and four little boys under 10. He is in wretched health, having suffered last year from rheumatic fever, which has left his heart weak. The wife has earned a few shillings at shirt-making. Our visitor found them with bare bedstead and no bedding left—all were in pawn.

R. K. has a husband who works as advance agent for touring companies; there are six little children.

The husband has now enlisted, and they have a weekly allowance from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, but back debts press heavily on them. We were able to take out of pawn all her blankets and the warm clothing of the children "put away" in the warmer weather.

Winifred Mayo.

MRS. PETHICK LAWRENCE IN AMERICA

The American papers are full of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's tour, conducted through the States on behalf of an international women's peace movement which shall tend to prevent wars in the future and insist upon the immediate enfranchisement of women as well as men.

In an interview with the New York Evening World, Mrs. Lawrence spoke of the Suffrage movement in England. "Unless something unforeseen brings us the victory, militancy must go on," she is reported to have said. "The war is a thing apart, which has brought only a temporary truce. Ah! you American women hardly appreciate your good fortune! Here, with your slogan of 'Victory in 1915' [this refers to the movement in New York State] and a real possibility of that victory, you have only to educate the public and the vote will be yours. But with us the public is already educated, yet we are to all appearances no nearer success than before."

Asked if she thought that with the vote Englishwomen could have averted the war, Mrs. Lawrence replied: "Ah! hardly that. But they could do much to prevent another war—women's influence in all countries must work for that."

THE WAR AT HOME

The Manchester, Salford, and District Women's Trade and Labour Council has passed a strong resolution protesting against the wages paid in workrooms run in connection with Queen Mary's Fund. "They view the fixing of this very low maximum [3d. per hour] as an industrial disaster for women"; and they conclude by saying: "It seems disastrous that the wages under the National Fund should undercut not only the ordinary rates of private employers, but the wages given by private Committees engaged in the same kind of relief work."

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES
Ruin a Girl
The Lincolnshire Gazette (October 29) reports case of a farm labourer, aged 16, charged at the Lincolnshire Assizes before Mr. Justice Avory with committing a rape upon a girl aged 16, whom he overtook on the road and threw off her bicycle.
Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

HEAVY SENTENCES
Stealing Blankets
The Kent Messenger and Maidstone Telegraph (October 31) reports case of a hawkier charged at the West Kent Quarter Sessions with stealing two blankets and some clothing. The defence was that he was drunk at the time. There were previous convictions.
Sentence: Three years' penal servitude.

False Pretences
The Morning Advertiser (September 18) reports case of an organist charged at the Central Criminal Court before Judge Atherton Jones with obtaining three guineas by false pretences, representing that he owned a valuable estate which he wished to mortgage. There were previous convictions.
Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

Assault on Woman Clerk
The News of the World (November 8) reports case of a managing director summoned at the Mansion House before Alderman Sir E. Cooper for an assault upon a young woman clerk who applied to him for a post. He pleaded guilty to a technical assault only. Alderman Cooper said "girls must be protected from this sort of thing," and admitted he was taking a merciful view of the case, having regard to defendant's "good character."
Sentence: Fine of £5 on one month's imprisonment.

Attack on a Wife
The Willesden Chronicle (October 16) reports case of a carrier charged at Willesden Police Court before Mr. W. B. Luke (Chairman), Mr. George J. Furness and Mr. J. Cash with kicking his wife in the back (when drunk) through stealing her money, with striking her on the head, and smashing her finger. There were previous convictions for assault.
Sentence: Two months' hard labour.

Stealing Four Ducks
The Kent Messenger (October 31) reports case of a labourer charged at the West Kent Quarter Sessions with receiving four ducks, knowing them to have been stolen. There were previous convictions against him.
Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

WOMEN AND DRINK

The Press has been by no means unanimously on the side of the authorities in penalising women in the matter of increased drunkenness. The Nation, in an outspoken article, declares that "not one person in ten of the classes that are shaking their heads over the profligate habits of soldiers' wives would keep out of the public-house if it was only there that he or she could hear or talk over the news or the music of the day."

Is It Legal?

The Globe says of the order excluding women from public-houses: "The object is entirely praiseworthy; but the measure itself is an inexcusable discrimination between those who have every right to equality of treatment. That it is also a straining of the law is unquestionable. . . . To say that women are to be treated differently from men in a matter of civil rights is a proposition that is not only illegal but unjustifiable from any point of view."

Temperance in New Zealand
Our New Zealand correspondent informs us that no intoxicating drinks are sold in canteen camps, or where divisions of the Expeditionary Forces are stationed.

Deputation to Mr. McKenna
Although Suffrage organizations were unrepresented in the women's deputation to the Home Office last Monday, the Government could not succeed entirely in excluding Suffragists, and Lady Byles protested against any discrimination being made with regard to the sale of drink as between men and women. It was a slur upon women, she said, which they would repudiate with all their power, for there was no evidence that there had been a greater increase among women than among men.

"The Old Controversies"

In spite of this protest Mr. McKenna, in his reply, repeated the unproved slander that there had been a greater increase among women, and were they, he asked, to decline to deal with this state of things because of the old controversies which existed before the war?

If this cryptic allusion was to Woman Suffrage, we can assure Mr. McKenna that the report of its death has been much exaggerated, as he will soon find to his cost if he continues his policy of bullying defenceless soldiers' wives.

THE ALIEN ENEMY

An instance of the suffering caused to women through a war in the making of which they had no voice occurred recently at Marlborough Police Court, when the Scottish wife of a German soldier now at the front was charged before Mr. Mead with being an alien enemy and travelling more than five miles without a permit. She had duly registered, but had travelled to Newcastle and back without giving the proper notice. She said she did not know she was doing anything wrong. The magistrate said she ought to have known, as she was given the necessary papers on registering herself, and she had committed a double offence through visiting a proscribed area. Although she was Scotch, he added, her sympathies would be with her husband. He sentenced her to five weeks in the second division. The woman, who was shortly to become a mother, "burst into tears," says the Morning Advertiser (October 12), on hearing the sentence.

The Old, Old Story

Some quite kindhearted persons, while admitting the pathos of such cases as these, are inclined to agree with the magistrate that a wife's sympathies must be with her husband, and that she takes the risk of becoming her country's enemy when she marries a foreigner. We should be more inclined to accept this theory (as a matter of fact we reject it on the ground that husbands and wives have a perfect right to retain their individuality) if it applied equally to the man. But an Englishman who marries a German woman is not considered a German in the eyes of the law, and his sympathies are not calmly supposed to be identical with hers—nor is the German who marries an Englishwoman credited with absorbing his wife's views of nationality. It is, in fact, the old story—and the sad case recorded above, though apparently the result of the inequality of the sex standard in this country. That, of course, is why Suffragists opposed the British Nationalisation Act last summer.

THE WOMAN'S THEATRE
We regret to have to announce that owing to the difficulties now surrounding theatre-going in London—the result of the darkening of the streets and stricter regulations regarding traffic—the Committee of the Woman's Theatre have decided to postpone their variety week until early in the New

Year. All those shares already taken up hold good, of course, for the changed date of the production.

COMING EVENTS

The Rev. John Hunter, D.D., is delivering a series of Sunday morning sermons at the Eolian Hall, the subject for November 15 being "The Long Day of God; or, the Slowness of Progress." The service is at 11 a.m.

The New Constitutional Society will hold a meeting at the Knightsbridge Palace Hotel on Tuesday, November 17, at 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Synd Brossain, on "The Significance of India's Attitude to the War," Mrs. Arcliffe-Sennett and Lady Muir Macenzie. Chair: Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a meeting at the Suffrage Club, York Street, on Wednesday, November 18, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard.


The League of Justice will hold an at-home at their offices, 22, South Molton Street, on Wednesday, November 18. Speeches at 3.30 and tea at 4.30 p.m. Members and friends are invited.

The United Suffragists will hold a free public meeting to protest against the Government's treatment of soldiers' wives, at the Essex Hall next Monday at 8 p.m., in conjunction with the E.L.F.S. For particulars see page 50.

The same Society will also hold a Christmas Sale at Eustace Miles' Restaurant on Friday, December 4, from 3 to 11 p.m. (See also page 50.)

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NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

HIGHER THOUGHT CENTRE. 40, Courtfield Gardens, S.W. 11.30. Mr. Henry Proctor, "The Spirit (a) Universal, (b) Holy, (c) Human"; 7. Mrs. Flora Paris Howard, "The Pyramids of Life."

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THE REV. JOHN HUNTER, D.D., will deliver a series of Sunday morning sermons in the Mollan Hall, New Bond Street, November 15, "The Long Day of God, or the Slowness of Progress." Worship at 11 o'clock.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAGUE OF JUSTICE. 22, South Molton Street, W. "At Home" Wednesday, November 18. Speeches 3.30; tea 4.30. Members and friends invited.

MEMORIAL HALL, Manchester. Monday, December 7, at 7.30 p.m. Hope Squire and Frank Merrick will play Unfamiliar Works for Two Pianos. Tickets 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d., and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126, Deansgate, and at the door.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY. — SCOTISH PATRIOTIC CONCERT, in aid of dependants of Scots soldiers. November 30, 7.30 p.m., Fulham Town Hall. Tickets: 1s., 2s., 6d., 4s., from Margaret Grant, 36, Ridgway, Wimbledon.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Meeting Tuesday, November 17, at 3 p.m., at Kensington Palace Hotel, Mr. Syud Hossain, "The Significance of India's Attitude to the War." Mrs. Arnelife Sennett, Lady Muir Mackenzie. Chair: Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds Public Meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Nov. 18, Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard. The Chair will be taken at 3.30. Admission free.

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