

THE VOTE,
May 29, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

COVENANTERS, MILITANTS, AND HOOLIGANS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 240.

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FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

IPSWICH BY-ELECTION.



By courtesy of]

[“The East Anglian Times.”

Crowds listening to Miss Anna Munro, with Mrs. Tippet and Miss Alix Clark, at a Dinner-hour Meeting.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Bishops and Christians!

Another convert from the ranks of the Lords Spiritual has been made, and his confession of faith appears in the Episcopal organ (need we say we allude to *The Times*?). The Lord Bishop of Down, under the influence of one of two emotions—justice or a sense of humour—advocates votes for women if and when they are the mothers of four children. Apart from the element of caprice, which it seems impossible to eradicate from the masculine mind in dealing with women, we wonder which of the elements aforesaid induced this Right Reverend gentleman so to commit himself? Was it after banging the big drum of Ulster and blessing its banners that he suddenly awoke to conviction that resistance to wrong is always right? Or was it that it suddenly struck him what a ludicrous figure anti-suffrage rebels, who deny other people's rights to rebel, are cutting? We will not bother about his "qualification" for voting; there is no more reason why the mother of four should vote than the mother of three; and no less reason why the mother of one should not. We suspect him of getting round slyly, in the dark as it were, to the old episcopal position on the declining birth-rate; and we are tempted to wonder which he would choose—a vote or four confinements—if he were a woman! But we are distinctly of opinion that a suggestion embodying the principle that the home deserves a heavier vote than the single man or woman, indicates an advance in clear thinking that ought to be welcomed. If the owning of property confers that distinction described as "a stake in the country," how much more should the possession of a family confer it? All the same, we should have rejoiced more if the Bishop, while dealing in fancy qualifications, had suggested the accompanying disfranchisement of, say, the men who abandon their illegitimate children and desert their wives.

"Misapprehending" the Law: How Married People Stand.

We have not failed to notice the extremely ingenious way in which Mr. Justice Rowlatt, when giving his decision in the High Court on Mrs. Ayres Purdie's case on May 19, shielded the Government Department which, according to his ruling, has for seventy-two years been breaking the law of the land. He threw the white sheet of "misapprehension" over their heads and trusted all would be well. Would this have been the "justice" meted out to a long firm swindle in the City? We are not surprised, however, for Mr. Justice Rowlatt, before his promotion to the Bench, was for a number of years Junior Counsel to the Solicitor of Inland Revenue and has trod the tortuous ways of Somerset House. His decision last week affects married people of all ranks—husbands as much as wives—and proves clearly that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had absolutely no legal right to the million and a-half sterling which he declared in the House of Commons he would lose if husband and wife were treated as separate individuals for purposes of income-tax. In the eyes of the law they are treated separately where unearned income is concerned, and every married woman will now be within her legal right in claiming from the Inland Revenue Department the same rebate to which she would have been entitled if unmarried. The decision should be a boon to husbands, for they now have Mr. Justice Rowlatt's authority for refusing to add their wives' unearned income to their own in making their returns. The least they can do will be to indemnify Mrs. Ayres Purdie for the expenses incurred in exposing the injustice of which they have been the victims at the hands of rapacious and lawless Governments which have been enjoying, as Mr. Lloyd George said, "a million and a-half per annum" of ill-gotten gains. Wives should lose no time in demanding their legal rights from the lawbreakers at Somerset House. "Misapprehension" will no longer cover their

multitudinous sins. The article we publish on page 89 explains the situation, and Mr. Justice Rowlatt's decision will be their Open Sesame. We congratulate Mrs. Ayres Purdie, who dispensed with the services of Counsel and so ably conducted her own case as to win the spontaneous compliments of the Judge, on having placed the Department on the horns of such a dilemma that she was bound to triumph whichever way the decision went.

Poster Paraders Attacked in Hyde Park.

Empire Day was celebrated last Saturday in Hyde Park on a masculine basis only. Boys' Brigades and organisations, marshalled by detachments of Boy Scouts, politicians, officers of the Army and the Empire, and a general gathering of important persons, came to the observation of the "national" holiday in a spirit of contempt for the feminine half of the nation—without whose services and devotion no "national" institutions could survive for a year. The Women's Freedom League organised a poster parade which, under the guidance of Miss Leahy and Mrs. Watson, effected an entrance with the crowd to the Park and hoisted posters inscribed "Shame! Where are the Girls' Brigades?" An organised onslaught was made by hooligans, not all of whom were of the poorly dressed class. Miss Leahy says: "Poster-boards and sticks were smashed, and pieces of turf, stones and other missiles hurled; and one of the paraders would have been badly hurt but for the plucky manner in which she defended herself until the tardy arrival of the police." Miss Leahy further remarks on the courtesy and consideration of the constables, with the objectionable exception of one inspector, who declined to intervene when appealed to against a swarm of filthy hooligans.

Mob Law in the Park.

On Sunday the same evil gang was well to the fore, unarrested and unmolested, in full view of the police forces. After smashing up the platform of the Men's Political Union and injuring their speakers, these delicate attentions were transferred to the Women's Freedom League. The Kensington Branch held its evening meeting there, and Mrs. Juson Kerr and Miss Boyle secured a good hearing from a huge crowd for the better part of an hour and a-half. Then the gang proceeded to create the usual disorder, and mobbed the chairman and the secretary with the usual circumstances of obscenity and brutality. The police did not intervene, except finally to help the women into omnibuses. Out in Oxford-street a grinning constable, whom Miss Boyle accused of taking no steps to keep order, complained that the M.P.U. man who was being pursued would not go away in the Tube. There was no attempt to make the hooligans go away in the Tube. Mrs. Cubley, who applied at Bow-street and Marlborough-street for a summons against a man who assaulted her and others, was grossly insulted by those choice paragons of judicial impartiality and correctness, Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Paul Taylor, and driven away without redress. Women are indeed the "protected sex!"

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

Photograph: IPSWICH BY-ELECTION.
OUR POINT OF VIEW.
THE WOMEN'S REMINDER OF MAGNA CHARTA.
MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT.
AT HEADQUARTERS.
AN OPEN LETTER TO THE KING. F. A. U.
BY-ELECTIONS:—
IPSWICH, N.E. DERBYSHIRE.
A GOVERNMENT SWINDLE EXPOSED: MARRIED WOMEN AND THEIR INCOME-TAX.
COVENANTERS, MILITANTS, AND HOOLIGANS. C. NINA BOYLE.
THE SIGN-POST: IT DON'T DO TO BE A WIDOW. MARY MAUD.
OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN: CANADA.
THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

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THE WOMEN'S REMINDER OF MAGNA CHARTA. 1215—1915.

The Women's Freedom League is organising a grand commemoration, in June, 1915, of the seven hundredth anniversary of the signing of Magna Charta. All who are interested are invited to communicate with the Secretary, Women's Freedom League, 1 Robert-street, Adelphi, London.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

Dear Colleagues, Fellow-members and Friends,—I had hoped when I wrote to you last that by this time I would have been amongst you doing my little to help in the great and arduous work that lies around and before us. Over and over again, when the contest at Ipswich was proceeding, I longed to be with the gallant Women's Freedom League Branch there and to help them in the fight. It was, I assure you, with a trembling hand that I took up the paper this morning. When I read "Government defeat" it was like a tonic to me. I said to myself joyfully, "The women have had a hand in this!"

Friends and colleagues, there can be no doubt that our shortest and surest road to victory is to make ourselves politically felt. The time will come—and that shortly—when party politicians will be bound to reckon with us; and then we shall be able to make our own terms with Governments.

Indeed, I long to be with you. It is said that "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Whether or not that is true generally, I know that I have never loved the League so much. I have never been so passionately interested in its progress as during these weeks of enforced absence.

Heartily do I thank you all for your love and loyalty. Surrounded as I am with care and attention, and living, whenever the weather permits, in the open air, I have every chance of complete recovery. Another few weeks and I hope I shall be with you once more. My very true love to all.—Yours sincerely and gratefully,
C. DESPARD.

Brackenhill, Bromley, Kent, May 25.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Caxton Hall Meetings.—Our meetings at Caxton Hall will be resumed Wednesday afternoon, June 10, when we shall have the pleasure of again hearing Mrs. Nevinson, who will speak on "The New Poor Law Orders as they Affect Women." Mrs. Tanner will also speak, and the chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m. The speakers on the following Wednesday afternoons will be: June 17, Miss Lucy H. Yates, on "Women and Financial Independence"; June 24, the Rev. Dr. W. A. Houston Collisson; and July 1, Miss Rosika Schwimmer, on "What Finnish Women Do for Their Country." After this date the Caxton Hall Meetings will be discontinued until the autumn, but we hope instead to hold open-air meetings in Hyde Park Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer, further particulars of which will be announced later.

Summer Campaigns.—More volunteers are cordially invited to help in our Summer Campaigns. Our caravan

is proceeding along the Great North Road throughout the summer months, and campaigns have been arranged in July and August on the Lancashire, Welsh, and South Coasts. We should be glad to hear from members and sympathisers who are likely to be taking their holidays in these districts.

"Vote" Sellers.—We are making a special effort to increase our VOTE sales in London. Many more sellers are wanted. Will all who can spare time for this work, even if it is only for an hour at a time, call at this office to see THE VOTE sales organiser? Pitches have been arranged, and now that the days are long and evenings light, we have excellent opportunities of making the public acquainted with our paper. We feel sure we shall not appeal in vain for this extra effort on the part of our members.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE KING.

SIR,—I refrain from addressing your Majesty more elaborately because I wish this letter to be as brief as possible, because I am convinced you would prefer sincerity to ceremoniousness, and because what I wish to deal with now are realities and not conventions.

Your Majesty's women subjects are sorely discontented at the present time. For over a generation they have, as girls and young women, received equal education with their brothers; they have won distinction in the world of Art, of Science, of Literature, of Commerce, and, indeed, in every sphere in which they could compete with men, and they have won these distinctions, not always with the co-operation of men, but frequently in spite of their powerful opposition. The common experience of life is that the average trained intelligence of women is quite equal to the average trained intelligence of men. Women have not shirked the burdens of citizenship; with their own money they have contributed to the upkeep of our country; they have educated their sons and their daughters to be worthy members of our great Empire. Women, no less than men, have worked hard for social reform in your Dominions, and those of them who are most keenly interested in social reform, in the welfare of the mothers of our race, and in the lives of the children of this country, find that before any reform can be brought about some legislation is always necessary. Their passionate desire is, therefore, to gain some control over legislation,

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and this is only possible by means of the Parliamentary Vote. Year by year more and more women find themselves in the labour market. The conditions of their labour are controlled by legislation over which they have no authority; and women workers are handicapped in their struggle for existence because their grievances and hardships are a matter of no concern to Members of Parliament or candidates for Parliament. Why should they be when these paid representatives owe their election or rejection to the votes of men only?

Throughout their lives women are taxed and legislated for without their consent. For nearly fifty years thinking women have been trying to alter this. At the present time there are no less than fifty-three societies working for the enfranchisement of women, and among the members of those societies are many of your most loyal and most patriotic women subjects. After many years of patient effort on the part of these women a Government which yields to force in Ulster has done nothing but shuffle with this question of votes for women, and when British women showed their natural and just resentment against this treatment of a question so vital to their interests, your Government resorted to brute force to coerce them into submission. Voteless women, who had no other constitutional means open to them, went on deputations to Your Majesty's Ministers to ask for the redress of the grievance under which they suffer, and they were brutally batoned by forces of policemen acting under Your Ministers' orders, and flung into prison for daring to ventilate those grievances. When they turned from Your Ministers to their King, women were even more brutally treated. Last Thursday's deputation was a sickening sight, and one that made every true lover of freedom feel that the past history of our country had been in vain. It made us ashamed of our country and of our King. Your Majesty has too long acted on the advice of your present Ministers, who are discredited at home and the object of ridicule abroad for their insane attempts to coerce free women.



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We therefore appeal to you for the sake of the honour and of the best traditions of our country to ignore the advice of a Government which can be bullied by armed men voters in Ulster whilst wreaking its vengeance on unarmed voteless women, to receive your women subjects, and to learn from them the cause of their present discontent, and of their revolt against the injustice meted out to them by the members of a Government to whose salaries women as well as men are compelled to contribute. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

BY-ELECTIONS.

Two Liberal defeats at the polls, recorded this week, will gladden the hearts of all good Suffragists. The ineffective Mr. Masterman has again been rejected for what was considered a Liberal seat and Mr. George has vindicated his reputation as a Jonah. Or, if we may use his own expression, has torpedoed yet another sinking hope. His presence at a by-election appears to be an expensive luxury for a Liberal candidate; and it must be beginning to strike the Party that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's disregard of precedent was not altogether a happy innovation.

Mrs. Sproson, assisted by Miss MacLennan, had her share of the triumph in the North-east Derbyshire Division; and those who know her sturdy eloquence will also know that her share was in all probability a big one. The Political and Militant Department is greatly beholden to her, to Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Hull, and the Branch members who assisted in the work at Grimsby and Dronfield. More especially, however, does it acknowledge the services of those who, at Ipswich, actually took their lives in their hands during a campaign of such brutal, insensate, and obscene violence and indecency as has rarely been equalled and never exceeded at any time of the militant campaign. Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Tippett, Miss Alix Clark, Mrs. Hossack, and Miss Howard have earned the deepest admiration and respect for the splendid and undaunted fight they put up against shameful mishandling and sickening rowdiness; and they not only earned the gratitude of their colleagues, but finally won, too, the respectful sympathy of the very people whose antagonism they broke down.

No arrests of the hooligans were made!

Ipswich.

COMMITTEE ROOMS—22, Queen-street, Ipswich. In charge: Miss Anna Munro.

Result—	
Ganzoni (C.)	6,406
Masterman (L.)	5,874
Scurr (Ind.)	395
Unionist majority, 532.	

After a strenuous fight—VICTORY.

The victory was dearly won. The fight through was one of the most pertinent arguments for Votes for Women that we ever faced. To see youths and young men adorned with the Liberal colours and the anti-Suffrage badge fighting free speech and argument by knocking women down and pelting them with missiles, hard and soft, smashing the platform when it was possible, running the waggon round the town with the intention of throwing us into the river, wrenching our hats off our heads, tearing our clothes and behaving with grossest indecency. Such was the experience which Mrs. Tippett, Mrs. Hossack, Miss Howard, Miss Cooper, Miss Alix Clark and Miss Anna Munro passed through, and won through, at Ipswich.

The police throughout were magnificent. Our thanks are given to Mr. and Mrs. Lane, who, to prevent any repetition of the horseplay of the previous evenings, brought down the historic farm waggon which is so often sold for our tax-resistance policy.

By Thursday and Friday pluck and righteousness began to tell. At the earlier meetings of the last two days we were listened to with silence and attention, and applauded at the close.

Throughout the campaign the dinner-hour and work-gate meetings were most successful and sympathetic, other speakers having scarcely a listener when we were on our feet. Many rumours were current in the town as to antagonism to Suffrage on the part of the factory girls. These we proved to be absolutely untrue.

Mrs. Cooper kindly made the preliminary arrangements, and Mrs. Tippett spoke to the girls as they left work at 5 and 6 p.m. on Tuesday evening. They listened with great attention, realising from Mrs. Tippett's speech that her knowledge

and sympathy were with them. As we drove away their applause testified to their appreciation of her address. In spite of all precautions for Mr. Lloyd George, Mrs. Hossack greeted him with "Votes for Women" as he left by special train.

On Saturday morning, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lane, who again lent the waggon, we drove round the town with our colours flying and members holding mottoes—"Dare to be Free!" "Keep the Liberal Out!" "Votes for Women!" "Women's Freedom League!" Kindly greetings were given us. Our acknowledgments are due to all the members who helped in many and varied ways, and to the electors of Ipswich who listened to our message and kept the Liberal out.—A. M.

The following resolution was passed by the National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League:—

"The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League expresses its hearty appreciation of the efforts made by Mr. John Scurr to stand by the women suffragists and to keep the Liberal out, and congratulates him warmly on the result of his second successful campaign against Mr. Masterman."

North-East Derbyshire.

Result—	
Major Harland Bowden (U.) .. .	6,469
Mr. J. P. Houlton (L.) .. .	6,155
Mr. J. Martin (Lab.) .. .	3,669
Unionist majority, 314.	

SPECIAL APPEAL.

The last of the series of by-election campaigns resulted in a triumphant success for Votes for Women. The foster-father of the impertinent Insurance Act, forced on women without their consent, is still minus his seat. After reading the account of the events of the Ipswich contest, we shall all want to bear a part with Miss Munro and her comrades in this fight. The way is still open; the expenses are not yet covered, and I should like another £20 to come in this week as a special mark of appreciation of Miss Munro's courage, endurance and wise judgment, and thankfulness for her safe return.

Many thanks to Mrs. Bryant, Miss Corbett, Mrs. Fulton, Mrs. Schofield Coates and Mr. H. F. Brown. E. KNIGHT.

A GOVERNMENT SWINDLE EXPOSED. MARRIED WOMEN AND THEIR INCOME TAX.

The decision given in the Petition of Right brought in the High Court on May 19 is of enormous importance to married women, and incidentally to other persons.

It appears that there has always been a complete misunderstanding of the law in this matter, which "misapprehension," as the judge delicately described it, has enabled successive Governments, for generations past, to collect millions of pounds to which they had no lawful claim.

In these circumstances it is quite unnecessary to be surprised, or to wonder how this extraordinary "misapprehension" was first originated, or why it has been so long perpetuated. We may be quite sure that had it been a "misapprehension" which tended to reduce the revenue available for purposes of Government, instead of unduly inflating it, it would have been discovered and corrected without a moment's loss of time.

As it would be wholly impossible for anyone to perceive the true point of Mr. Justice Rowlatt's decision, or to realise its immense significance to married women, without knowing exactly what he was dealing with, it becomes necessary to quote *in extenso* Section 45 of the Income Tax Act of 1842, which deals with the income of married women and the manner in which it is to be charged. This is the Section on which has been founded this hoary-headed "misapprehension":—

(The Income Tax Act 1842, Section 45.)

And be it enacted, that any married woman acting as a sole trader by the custom of any city or place, or otherwise, or having or being entitled to any property or profits to her sole or separate use, shall be chargeable to such and the like duties, and in like manner, *except as hereinafter is mentioned*, as if she were actually sole and unmarried.

Provided always, that the profits of any married woman living with her husband shall be deemed the profits of the husband, and the same shall be charged in the name of the husband, and not in her name, or of her trustee:

(Note.—In this Act the word "profits" is a synonym for "income," and includes any kind of income.)

Now the income, in respect of which this Petition of Right arose, belonged to Mrs. Ethel Ayres Purdie and was derived from shares in a Limited Company, Norwegian Bonds, Brazilian Bonds, and Consols, all of which had been charged with income tax by the method of "deduction at the source."

In 1913 Mrs. Ayres Purdie made a formal claim for repayment of income tax, just as if she had been an

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unmarried woman. The Board of Inland Revenue refused to consider this claim, referring her to Section 45 of the Income Tax Act (quoted above) and informing her that if her husband made the claim, repayment would be made to him, as her income was "deemed" to be his.

Mrs. Ayres Purdie thereupon took up the strictly logical and consistent attitude that, if such was the case, the tax must be charged to her husband. She would be quite prepared, on receiving back the tax with which she had been wrongly charged, to retire from the matter altogether, leaving the Board and her husband to settle it to their mutual satisfaction.

This reasonable proposition also failed to commend itself to the Board, who flatly refused to consider it or to repay the tax to her. Feeling she was being "had" all ways, she embodied her grievance in a formal Petition of Right, which document came to a conclusion in the following quaint form:—

"And your suppliant therefore humbly prays your Gracious Majesty to issue your Majesty's fiat, "Let Right be Done."

This went, in the first place, to the Home Office, where the Home Secretary considered it until the days ran into weeks, and the weeks ran into months. At last he passed it along to the Attorney-General, and another long pause ensued. Then the Attorney-General passed it on to the King, and finally it was returned to the Suppliant bearing across the top, in the Royal calligraphy, the following:—

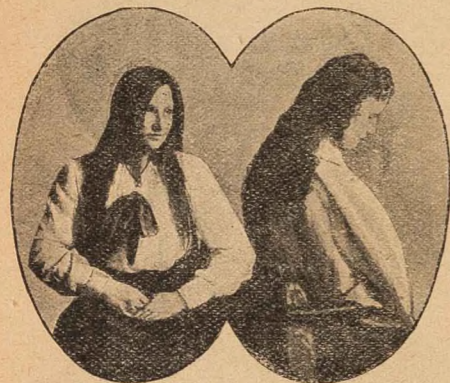
Let Right be Done.
George R. & I.

On this the Petition was duly entered for hearing in the High Court, so that His Majesty's judges might carry out the Royal fiat.

From the drawing up of the Petition until it actually came into Court a period of fourteen months elapsed.

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Towards the end of this period the Attorney-General was supplied (at his own request made to the Suppliant's solicitors, Messrs. Tiddeman and Enthoven) with some score or so of copies of the Petition, which was in printed form. This request was considered at the time a somewhat remarkable and unexpected one, but it is now surmised that these copies may have figured at a meeting of the Cabinet, when the situation it created was discussed in its relation to the forthcoming Budget.

When the Petition came at last before the High Court, Mr. Justice Rowlatt dismissed it, remarking that although the Petitioner's arguments were very clearly put, yet her whole position was founded on a misapprehension of the meaning of Section 45. This Section, he said, consisted of "an enacting part," and a "proviso" thereto. Nothing was a more fruitful source of error than to take a mere proviso and substitute it for a "substantive enactment." The proviso did not apply to the Petitioner's case, as this was dealt with in the "substantive enactment" which covered the case of all income taxed by deduction at the source. The "proviso" thereto was never intended to apply, and could not possibly be applied, to any income except that which was not charged by deduction, but had to be charged by means of a direct assessment, and demand for payment, made in the name of an individual taxpayer. In such a case the "proviso" would hold good, and the individual taxpayer, in whose name the tax would have to be charged, would be the husband. But the Petitioner's was not such a case. Her income was charged, and rightly charged, at the source; and therefore her position as regarded income tax was governed entirely by the "substantive enactment." If one endeavoured to extend the proviso to her case, which was what she was contending for, then the proviso would become meaningless and "nonsensical," and so her petition must be dismissed.

Now those women who have the gift of seeing through a brick wall will at once appreciate what the judge's decision necessarily involves.

Let us look at the words, "shall be deemed the profits (i.e., income) of the husband," and mark where they occur. They occur *within the proviso*, and are not to be found at all in "the enacting part," which is the part governing Mrs. Ayres Purdie's case. Ergo, her income is not to be deemed to be her husband's income. She is to be chargeable "as if she were actually sole and unmarried"; and so, if she has had too much tax deducted at the source, she can reclaim the whole, or the appropriate portion, just as persons sole and unmarried can reclaim.

It is therefore clearly apparent that, instead of losing the day, as nominally she would appear to have done, she really scored a complete triumph. She has, by means of her Petition, forced the Board of Inland Revenue into the position of having to accept one of the two alternatives she offered them. So long as they can no longer have things "both ways," it matters not in the least to her which way they are compelled to act.

She has now renewed the original claim which she made to the Board of Inland Revenue in the very first instance. They can no longer refuse her claim, as they did before, on the ground that her income is deemed to be her husband's income; because a judge in the High Court, complying with the King's fiat, has now declared it is not so, and that the proviso in which such words occur does not affect her. All married women who have incomes which are charged to income tax by deduction at the source should use this decision for their own profit, following Mrs. Ayres Purdie's lead, and claiming their repayments as other people do.

Husbands, too, who have been under the "misapprehension" that they must add their wives' income to their own when making a return, or when claiming exemption or abatement, should note that there is no obligation on them to do so, save in the very rare and exceptional cases to which the "proviso" is to apply.

As with the income tax so with the super tax, as the rule is that in calculating the income for purposes

of the super tax it shall be estimated in the same manner as the income is estimated for the purposes of income tax.

The Board of Inland Revenue, in insisting that the two incomes must *always* be added together, has misunderstood the meaning of Section 45. In fact, Mr. Justice Rowlatt must surely have had the Board in his mind when he remarked that "in construing the meaning of Acts of Parliament nothing is a more fruitful source of error than to take a proviso and treat it as if it were the substantive enactment." This is precisely what the Board has been doing for seventy-two years, until it had become a sort of tradition which no man dared to question. But women in the shape of Mrs. Ayres Purdie, backed by the Women's Tax Resistance League, dared; and so a colossal swindle, practised successfully on generation after generation of taxpayers, has at last been exposed and ended.

"VOTE" BRIGADE: HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

What are you ready to do for THE VOTE during the holidays? Why not resolve to sell a copy of THE VOTE to every friend you meet? Take extra copies for extra demands! The number of VOTE sellers is increasing, but there are still pitches needing sellers. Come and help to make our paper known! P. LEAHY.

FEMINISM AND PASSION.

Mr. W. L. George's lecture was very successful. The audience disagreed a great deal with what he said on "Feminism and Passion," but his provocativeness and obvious sincerity were a pleasing challenge to those who wished to discuss this subject. Mr. George dogmatised a good deal about woman and what she might do in the future. He thought that she had every reason to be dissatisfied with our Divorce Laws as they are at present, and that in the dim and distant future, at a stage beyond Socialism, she would not be content with marriage but would probably insist on free unions. Mr. George thought that very few people really fell in love to-day; women at any rate, through force of circumstances, could rarely "let themselves go." He advocated votes for women because this was a means of development for women. He wanted women to be cooler, more logical, more emphatic, and rejoiced that the woman's movement had turned the ladies of England into women. Mr. George thought that when women first gained the vote they would use it against men. He did not profess any great liking for men—they showed an impenetrable stupidity; but, later on in his address, he confessed that he thought that men were what women had made them. Mr. George put in a fine plea for the working woman who lost her youth and grace and beauty so early in life through the pressure of economic necessities, and he looked forward to the time when there would be a New Morality—a change in the heart of men and women.

A lively discussion followed, which showed that women were rather tired of always being referred to in capital letters, that there were other interests in life besides sex, and that the pursuit of art, of science and even of causes was just as exciting as the pursuit of love, which after all was a mere incident in life, strongly personal and temperamental, and not in every case eternal. Ordinary men and women preferred to regard marriage as a partnership in which the interests of the children could be properly safeguarded; and as for the New Morality, it might be more tyrannous than the Old, and possibly even more dull. Among those who contributed to this discussion were Mr. and Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, Miss Neilans, Miss Reeves, Mr. John Scurr, Mrs. Tanner and Dr. Alice Vickery.

A cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. W. L. George at the close of the proceedings, and although it is not usual to thank our own people every member of the Freedom League who was present was delighted when a visitor proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Huntsman for her admirable chairmanship at this meeting. F. A. U.

IN HYDE PARK.

Despite the rain we had a tremendous crowd to hear Mrs. Juson Kerr and Miss Nina Boyle last Sunday. Organised attempts to break up Suffrage meetings had been made earlier in the day, but it was only after we had closed our meeting that the well-dressed hooligans became very prominent. We thank the men who came to our aid, determined to see fair play.

Too Good to Miss.—Miss Alix M. Clark, 11, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs, has begun again to make the famous mayonnaise sauce, the sale of which last year added substantially to the Birthday Fund for our President. This year Miss Clark hopes to realise £15 from its sale. Will members send orders to her direct, enclosing postal order 1s. for 9d. jar, post free?

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, May 29, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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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COVENANTERS, MILITANTS AND HOOLIGANS.

Not many people, viewing the British situation today, would endorse the description of the people of these islands as "constitutional and law-abiding." We doubt if they ever could have been so described in sober truth. For certain periods they hug themselves in the belief that they have won to their full rights and liberties and are a free people; and that being free, they love the law and order which keeps them free. They also love comfort; and they are fond of routine. We cannot discover, however, that they have ever remained for a very long period in this pleasing state of somnolence and illusion. They wake up to the fact that, while they were bragging of their freedom, or contemplating its prospect with a sleepy smile, the illusion had vanished. They find themselves held up by some fetter, old and half-forgotten, maybe, or newly forged while they dozed. And then the frantic struggle begins again, and law and order is set at naught until a fresh illusion is created.

To-day, the British Isles is convulsed with disorderly factions, defying the law and the by-law in the struggle to obtain the Government, the enactment, or the status each desires or claims as its right. Nationalist and agrarian agitators in the South and West of Ireland still fire into dwellings, or intimidate the witnesses concerned in criminal cases, to keep the agitation going. The "men of the northern iron," who so bitterly resented the establishment of the union a generation or two ago, are in arms against the King's forces and officials to prevent the King's writ running in Ulster, and are printing and publishing a journal to voice their views. Both these sets of men, have votes and representatives in Parliament. Both have a standing army in defiance of the King's regulations. Each side protests that any "indiscreet" action of the other, or of the Government—or, alternatively, of the Opposition—would precipitate bloodshed and all the horrors of civil war. And each is franked and supported by one of the great Parliamentary parties, whose leaders encourage or at the very least condone, these illegal and disorderly methods, while they shriek aloud in fury at the disorder created by voteless women.

These women have no constitutional channel of communication with the Government. They have no voice that may mingle with that of the male voice in the nation's councils. They have no instrument to use in obtaining constitutional redress of grievances or alteration of unfavourable conditions. They are the governed, and men the governing classes. Some have taken up the attitude of passive resisters or active protestors; others have adopted a campaign of open disorder like the Nationalists. They, and they alone, because of their votelessness, their lack of representation, and their lack of armed forces, are being vengefully attacked by the governing powers. Their meetings are prohibited, while the Ulstermen drill and parade and receive stirring speeches advocating defiance of the Army, the Law, and the Government, from their leaders;

while the Nationalists plot and conspire to defeat the aims of justice; while from strongholds like Walsh's Fort, boiling whitewash is poured on the heads of the constabulary by persons in official positions. Suffragist organs may not be issued; but *The Daily Mail*, *The Glasgow Herald*, and *The Covenanter*—a new publication in the Rudyard Kipling vein—may be published with impunity. Printers are afraid to set up suffrage militant matter; but they know themselves sure of strong protection from the great ones of the earth when they set up the blood and thunder paragraphs of the Ulster rebels.

The vote, therefore, is a powerful weapon. People armed with it do not need to resort to militancy, except in extreme cases. The filthy hooligans of Ipswich, who committed nameless indecencies to daunt unarmed women, have votes. Therefore they escape arrest, while the women who endeavour to use their indubitable right of deputation to the King, are ridden down by constables and bludgeoned off to prison. Contrast the matter, for printing which Mr. Drew has been committed to take his trial, with extracts from *The Covenanter*, *The Daily Mail* and other Unionist journals, controlled by big financiers, Members of Parliament, and from speeches of public men of all professions; and it will be impossible for an impartial judge to decide why the one is not permissible and the others are. It can only be explained by the possession of the weapon with which you can protect yourself from attack.

Need it be asked, then, why women want the vote, fight for the vote, and are prepared to sacrifice almost anything to win the vote? It is a means not only of obtaining liberty, but of preserving liberty. With it, necessary protective legislation can be passed; with it, oppressive legislation can be defied. With it, the fight to resist wrong and tyranny is easy; without it, every fresh movement in the fight provokes a fresh crop of restrictions and inroads on liberty hardly won. And women, who regard law-breaking and militancy as only justifiable, while and because they are debarred from constitutional procedure, see with amazement and bitter resentment that it is when equipped with all the armoury of constitutional power, so that no excuse for militancy remains, that excuses for militancy are made! The Yahoos who swarm to the parks to commit indescribable indecencies in their zeal for the rights of property which they never possessed, while their own degenerate frames and evil faces testify to the nation's disregard of humanity's needs, are allowed a licence which Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pankhurst, after a life spent in the service of humanity, are denied. The men who defend Ulster's illegal acts, place the blame for their own improper conduct on the shoulders of the Government and its "provocation." The women, embroiled in another encounter with the Government, also place the blame on the Government's provocative attitude; and the militant men either ridicule or condemn them. The hooligans, supported and indulged by the authorities, defend their actions by blaming the women. (It is always safe to blame women.) History will, however, bear out the plea that unheeded demands for justice end in outbreaks of disorder; and posterity will know how to allocate the blame. Lord Haldane's wise words to this effect should be printed large above every Government Department and every exit to the House of Commons. Those responsible for the unmanly episodes round Buckingham Palace are Mr. Asquith and Sir Edward Henry; and the rumour that the latter is resigning from his position in the Metropolitan Police is the best that has come to us from official quarters for a long time. The statement is, of course, "officially" denied, which appears to be the usually accepted confirmation of its truth. It is to be hoped that his successor will use methods other than those imported from India, and that a standard of civilised decency may once again prevail in the capital city of the United Kingdom.

C. NINA BOYLE.

The Sign-Post.

"IT DON'T DO TO BE A WIDOW."

She said it with most heartfelt conviction; and she was accounting for her second husband—a gentleman who did not always walk home straight.

Widowhood may be a state of happy release;

In some cases one can but think that the fine funeral, new "blacks," and general "putting 'im away 'and some" are all the marks of regret that could be expected; but

peace is bought at a price.

A man brings home his money—some money at any rate, and there is the rent, and there are the children!

We hear a great deal about

"woman's sphere is the home"!

the

"sacred duty of motherhood,"

and the

"birth-rate."

How do our wise legislators meet these important matters when the home, the sacred mother, and the necessary children are left

without the breadwinner, to their tender mercies?

"Four of 'em, there was, the eldest not more'n seven. I'd buried two, you know—and what they allowed me? Well, I 'ad one-an'-six a week for each, that's what I 'ad. They would 'ave took away the eldest, but I wouldn't let 'im go—not if I 'ad to work on my 'ands and knees day and night. And I wasn't going to the 'Ouse neither. But 'ow they think a woman's going to keep four children and pay the rent on six shillings!

"There! let them try it!"

I have often wished "they" had to try it. Also that the nice, kind gentleman with £5,000 a year, who thinks

twenty-three shillings a week

provides

modest comfort for a young working-man with a family

in London, had to try it. Oh! that Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did may some time and somewhere see to it that "they" do have to try it.

So the mother went out from the home to work:

needs must when "they" drive.

She cleaned gentlemen's offices from 6.0 to 10.0, both morning and evening, and got 10s. a week for this most trying labour. The home and the babies were a bit neglected. Office hours for women are rather disintegrating to the sacred home duties.

Inspectors—men, of course—came at odd and inconvenient times and closely examined children, clothes, beds, &c., and questioned them as to what they had had for dinner. This was owing to the handsome allowance made the widow by a Paternal Government; and this, more than anything else, made her exclaim:—

"It don't do to be a widow."

And the alternatives offered her?

The whole family can go into the "House" and cease to be a family. Incidentally each child will cost the ratepayers 8s. to 12s. a week. This varies with different districts. An adult costs somewhere about 18s. a week.

If the children are boarded out by the Guardians the foster-mother is allowed 5s. a week each and something for clothes.

But the idea of

keeping the home together,

enabling

the mother to look after it

and the children, by giving her as much as the foster-mothers receive, this, for some occult reason,

"they" consider extravagant.

Needless to say, where the Government has the benefit of being both

Paternal and Maternal,

the widow has not such a cruel hard time.

It is recognised practically not as mere talk

that her work for the State is

a very real one,

and cannot be properly performed if she is driven out of the sacred home into the sweated labour market. So her allowance from the State

meets the needs of the home

and the children.

Has the Vote anything to do with such matters? See what Australia and New Zealand have done,

Where Women Vote.

MARY MAUD.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Head of International Department: MRS. HARVEY,
4, Cleveland-gardens, Ealing, London, W.

CANADA.

A Canadian "Almroth Wright."

Canada has its "Almroth Wright" under the name of Dr. Macphail; he has recently expressed his opinions on woman in an essay entitled "Certain Aspects of Feminism." From the sprightly article in *Beck's Weekly*, in which Mrs. Fenwick Williams deals with the Doctor and his beliefs, we take the following extracts:—

"Certain Aspects of Feminism" is a cheery and entertaining little essay—its dominant note being, as far as I can make out, hearty and deep-seated contempt for that wretched sex which has the misfortune to own me as a member. . . .

"There can be no doubt whatever that there is a great deal the matter with us. We bawl in public (I consider this a direct reflection on myself, who have repeatedly brawled in Sunday-schools and Y.M.C.A. halls and similar resorts). We are coarse (if we marry); useless (if we don't); deficient in the instinct for husband-getting, and apt to put ourselves and our hearers at ease by a "freedom of speech" which is "very embarrassing." A careful perusal of "Certain Aspects of Feminism" has left me unable to imagine any kind or degree of "freedom of speech" which could possibly embarrass the illustrious author; but that is neither here nor there. Suffice it to say that any woman who feels that Dr. Macphail's is an accurate portrait of feminism must have considerable courage if she consents to go on living. . . . Dr. M. has a talent amounting to genius for transforming lukewarm Suffragists into enthusiasts of the most red-hot and radical type. Each utterance of his on the subject is dollars in our pockets. Moreover, he has never yet charged us one cent of commission for the dollars he has earned for us, although simultaneously with the appearance of an article by him on Feminism, agitated men and women appear at our portals furiously demanding immediate enrolment in our lists. Therefore, for this and for other reasons, I refuse to hear Dr. Macphail called names. He is the most valuable worker for Feminism that we possess."

Referendum on Woman Suffrage: Great Advance.

The Grain Growers' Guide, the organ of the Grain Growers' Associations in the Prairie Provinces, has recently taken a referendum on eleven questions which it has agitated in its columns ever since it was founded. The Grain Growers' Associations are the most active of the organisations which deal with public questions; the result of the referendum is significant for the whole of Canada. The voting was open to men and women readers alike.

Woman suffrage was one of the questions submitted to the referendum in these terms:—Are you in favour of extending the franchise to women on equal terms with men? The result shows that woman suffrage has made the greatest advance in popularity during the past year. In the previous Referendum, woman suffrage was carried by 2,957 votes to 965. This year 6,121 votes were cast in its favour and 553 against. Last year suffrage carried by 3 to 1, this year by 11 to 1.

Our Duty to be Indignant.

Mrs. Nellie McClung, the famous Canadian writer, contributed a most able article on the Woman's Movement to a recent issue of *The Canadian*, of Toronto. It is entitled "For the Chivalry of Women." The following extracts will give a taste of its quality:—

"For centuries women have been acting the good Samaritan by their philanthropies, their private and public charities, their homes for the friendless, for orphan children, free Kindergartens, day nurseries. They have been picking up the robbed, wounded and beaten; now they are wondering if they cannot do something to clean up the road.

"Investigation is taking the place of resignation. For too long we have believed it our duty to sit down and be resigned. Now we know it our duty to rise up and be indignant. Long ago people broke every law of sanitation, and when plagues came,

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they blamed the Almighty, and said, 'Thy will be done.' They were submissive where they should have been investigating. "This is the meaning of the Woman's Movement, and we need not apologise for it. "Now politics is only public affairs, yours and mine, as well as other people's. . . . If politics are corrupt, it is all the more reason that a new element should be introduced. Women will, I believe, supply that new element, that purifying influence."

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND. (Now Including Branch and District Funds.) Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged				1,379	10	2
<i>By Election Fund—</i>						
H. F. Brown, Esq. (for Ipswich)	5	0	0			
Miss Ethel Gore Browne	5	0	0			
Miss F. Corbett	1	0	0			
Mrs. Walter Carey	10	0				
Mrs. C. Bryant	5	0				
Messrs. Greensmith, Downes and Son, per Mrs. Catmur	5	0				
				4	5	9
<i>Special Levy for General Election—</i>						
Miss Lea, per Manchester Branch	1	1	0			
Croydon Branch	1	17	6			
East London Branch			18	0		
Gravesend Branch			5	6		
Portsmouth and Gosport Branch			3	9		
				4	5	9
Mrs. Valentine Russell			2	2	0	
Mrs. Arnold Brown			2	0	0	
"Tax Resistance"			13	8		
Miss Bisdoo			10	0		
Miss K. Holmes			10	0		
Miss Hurry			2	0		
Miss Cutten (Lowestoft Campaign)			1	0		
Miss Emma Pischel			1	0		
Miss Editha Phelps			1	0		
Miss M. K. Trott			1	0		
Profit on THE VOTE, per Mrs. Tanner			2	0		
Tickets			1	0	0	
Collections			4	10	1	
Office Sales			12	9		
<i>Branches: Capitation Fees—</i>						
Brynawr			4	0		
Reading			10	0		
				4	108	17

Cheques to be made payable to the Woman's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."
To Branch Treasurers.—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treasurer.
Special Notice.—The Birthday List will be published on July 10.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAY."

Presiding at our meeting at Caxton Hall on May 20, Dr. Helen Bouchier reminded those present that it was the anniversary of the birth of John Stuart Mill and of the day when the question of Woman Suffrage was first raised in the House of Commons. Dr. Bouchier made an earnest appeal for more workers, and more money for the Freedom League's war chest. Mrs. Mustard declared that the Cause of Woman Suffrage was the greatest Cause of the present time, and Women Suffragists were united in open revolt against a Government which tried to govern women without their consent. She repudiated with scorn Mrs. Humphry Ward's suggestion that Women Suffragists should be content with a vote for domestic legislation only, and stated definitely that the Women's Freedom League would accept nothing less than complete political equality for women with men as a settlement of the suffrage question. The Rev. W. J. Piggott followed with a rousing address. He told the audience that he was one of the defenders in the Montefiore siege, and when only seventeen years of age seconded with such fervour a resolution moved by the Rev. Page Hopps at Croydon in favour of the enfranchisement of women that he was led gently but very firmly by the stewards to the outside of the hall. Mr. Piggott believed that women's work was every activity that commends itself to their judgment. Women had a social right to the Parliamentary vote, and their voice and judgment were needed to solve the problems of the day, which problems were neither masculine nor feminine, but human. Mr. Piggott further stated that he was not only in favour of women having the vote, but he considered they had as much right as men to a seat in the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and on every governing body of the land.
Mrs. Huntsman made an eloquent appeal for money, and urged all present to gladden Mrs. Despard's birthday by making as large a contribution as possible before that date towards the funds of the Women's Freedom League.

N.B.—Remember that Messrs. Alexander, Florists, 16, New Bond-street, are offering a reduction of 5 per cent. to all Freedom League customers.

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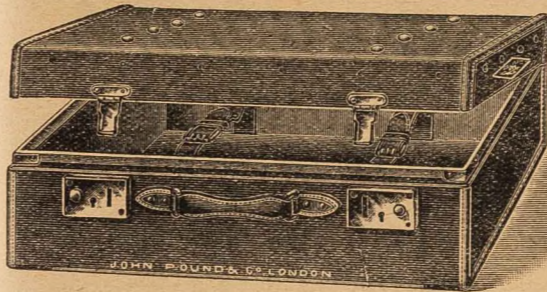
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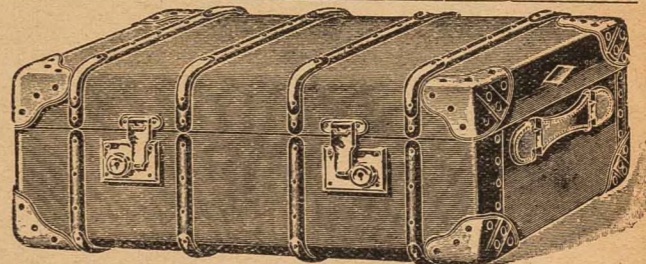


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81-84, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Killed.
Ethel Dibb, aged two, throat cut by father while she was playing with her doll in a perambulator. In a statement written to his brother, the father made improper suggestions against his wife and admitted having contracted a contagious disease through his own immoral conduct. Tried to cut his throat. Verdict at inquest, **Wilful Murder.**

Assault.
Girl of fifteen, mill hand, Dundee, attacked by James Brady, against whom were six previous convictions. Knocked her about, hitting her against a stone wall and a shop window. Sentence: **Two months.**

Mrs. Harvie, Dundee, assaulted by her husband, who seized her by the feet and kicked her savagely. **Ten days.—Dundee Advertiser.**

(Compare: Audrey Jeckell, at the Old Bailey, convicted of stealing various articles of small value, with previous convictions. **Four months.**)

Miss Newbalt and Miss Smith, Hampstead, walking home, attacked by Kaspar Estermann, who overtook them on a bicycle, struck Miss Newbalt, and robbed her of her purse. On being pursued by the girl's fiancé, fired at him, hitting him more than once.

An Offensive Comparison.

1. Henry Manning, barrister, of Watford, charged at Marylebone, before Mr. Paul Taylor, with insulting and molesting ladies in Regent-street. Last Monday week a constable saw him go up at different times to five ladies, stop them and try to get into conversation with them, to their great annoyance. A sergeant later saw him speak to a young lady who was waiting for a 'bus'; and when she turned away he again annoyed her, speaking close to her face. Manning said the evidence was simply lies, and denied he was the worse for drink. Mr. Taylor, who apparently believed the constables, said he "had come to the conclusion that accused had certainly been guilty of *indecent behaviour*. It might be that he had taken a little too much to drink, and that had led to his *foolish behaviour*." As it was the first time he had been in trouble, **discharged.**

2. Miss Seham Yousry, Bayswater, an Abyssinian lady, charged before Mr. Hopkins, at Bow-street, with annoying men in the West-end. A policeman arrested her in Piccadilly, and said he had frequently seen her in the neighbourhood (which does not seem a serious offence!), and another constable said he had warned her before. Evidence was given that she was an entirely respectable person, living respectably with her maid in good lodgings. **Bound over in £20.**

THE CRIMINAL COURTS.

The Old Bailey.

Noel Craven, twenty-four, was found by Judge Rentoul to be a moral imbecile, and was dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act, and ordered to be detained in a private asylum for twelve months. He was apparently incurably dishonest although of good parentage and in a good position. He had taken one of the highest honours in engineering. The exceeding efficiency of our man-made laws is shown by the fact that there is no place provided by the Government yet to receive these mental deficient, although the Act was passed last year! In this case the prisoner was committed to the care of one Dr. Corner, a private practitioner in lunacy, who gave evidence at the trial to the effect that Craven was a moral imbecile. This system of administering the new law is unsafe and improper and bids fair to provide us with a whole new crop of first-class scandals.

Shameful!

Thomas Spencer, the lad of sixteen who recently shot Kate Butler, a girl of fifteen, in the back with a pistol, causing her death, was charged with manslaughter and found **Not guilty.** The pistol was bought on the understanding that it would kill birds, rats and vermin. The young ruffian who killed this girl for sport gets off without punishment of any sort, in spite of the judge's very strong remarks (the jury giving a favourable verdict); but Minnie Scott was found guilty in spite of the awful physical and mental misery she underwent, and was given twelve months' probation and supervision.

Still More Shameful!

A Roll of Honour has been presented recently to the police of the "J" Division. VOTE readers will remember that all the constables concerned in the Wetherall case were in "J" Division, and that they are still unpunished.

EDITH M. WATSON.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY.—The enterprising firm of Messrs. T. W. Thompson and Co., Tottenham Court-road, is providing two special attractions this week. One is a sale of household linen which affords a rare opportunity for securing that best of all bargains—unusual value for a small outlay. In sheets, tablecloths, serviettes, pillow-cases, &c., temptation prices accord with irresistible goods. Do not lose a day in replenishing your store of linen at Messrs. Thompson's, and you will find their second attraction, the floral week, during which they not only show beautiful flowers, but present one to each customer.

PLEASE MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

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BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

On May 22 members of the Branch made a successful poster parade through the town, advertising THE VOTE and our afternoon meeting. Mrs. Baillie presided at the meeting, and Mrs. Nevins gave an excellent address. Under the title of "Recent Legislation for Women" the speaker dealt with the dangers and difficulties that may arise, especially for women, from various Acts lately passed by Parliament. Mrs. Ridley acted as hostess. In the evening an open-air meeting was held at Morland-road. Mrs. Tanner was the speaker, and kept the listeners very interested, and dealt effectively with several men who wanted their questions answered before question time.

The office will be closed from Friday morning, May 29, until Wednesday, morning, June 3.

WANTS.—Mat for office door, goods for jumble sale, subscriptions for Poster Fund.

Gravesend.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the last Conference that the Branches should ask local public bodies to pass a resolution calling for a Government measure enfranchising women on the same terms as men, we wrote to the Town Council, the Board of Guardians and the Free Church Council, asking them to receive a deputation. The Town Council and the Free Church Council asked for the matter to be sent them in writing, which we accordingly did. We have as yet received no reply from the Free Church Council, but the Town Council refused by a large majority to discuss the resolution. The Board of Guardians met a deputation, and as a result passed the resolution which has been forwarded to the Prime Minister. We are now busy preparing for Miss Munro's visit to us during the second week of June, which we are anticipating with much pleasure.

Hackney.

The first of a series of drawing-room meetings, for the purpose of raising money for the "Birthday Fund," was held on May 21, at Evering-road by kind invitation of Mrs. Williams. Miss Le Croissette, from the chair, introduced Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, who gave a most interesting account of her first meeting and subsequent working with Mrs. Despard. The meeting was preceded by tea in the garden, and although we expected a larger attendance, the collection was good; and all present greatly appreciated the excellent arrangements made by Mrs. Williams on their behalf. Mrs. Catmur invites all members and friends to our next meeting at 23, Terrace-road, on Thursday May 28, at 6.30 p.m., when the chair will be taken by Mrs. Stebbing, and Mrs. Huntsman will be the speaker for the occasion.

Kensington.

Very earnest crowds gather at the open air meetings in North Kensington. The speeches of Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Hyde,

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Mrs. Merivale Mayer and Mrs. Jason Kerr, have aroused so much interest, the people have listened for hours.

Tufnell Park.

During the past month several members have made a practice of giving out back numbers of THE VOTE, each in her own district. Arrangements are being made for holding a social on Friday evening, June 5, at Spencer Hall, the corner of Spencer-road, Dartmouth Park Hill, N.W. Miss Munro has kindly consented to speak. Tickets 6d. each, may be obtained from the hon. secretary, Miss J. Barrow, 202, Brecknock-road, N., after May 29.

PROVINCES.—Anfield.

The first meeting of this Branch of the W.F.L. was held on May 21. Mrs. Shaw presided, and her opening remarks were very encouraging. Miss Andrews came from Manchester to address the meeting, and spoke on "The Vote, Its Need and Value." An interesting discussion followed. A committee was formed to carry on the work of the Branch, the following being elected: Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Davey, Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Leather, the treasurer and secretary. Miss Maxwell promised to act as librarian, and several of the members availed themselves of the privilege of borrowing the books so kindly presented to our Branch by Mrs. Carv.

Brighton and Hove.

Miss Hare addressed a meeting on Monday of the Eastbourne Sisterhood, where her presence is always appreciated. A study class was held at 35, Pembroke-crescent, on Wednesday, by kind invitation of Miss Gregory, and members discussed the vote in connection with working women. Arrangements were made for Mr. Baillie Weaver's meeting.

Middlesbrough.

The committee met on May 21 at Wilstrop House and discussed arrangements for Jumble Sale and open-air meetings. The next branch meeting will be held for business in Hinton's Café on Tuesday June 9, after which open-air meetings will be held every Monday night.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A very successful open-air meeting was held at Gosport on May 19. The crowd listened attentively to speeches from Miss Trott and Mrs. Whetton. An open-air meeting was also held on Saturday afternoon, near the Clarence Pier. Miss Trott spoke and answered questions. We are hoping to have Miss Boyle in Portsmouth in June, during the Home Counties Agricultural Show and the Abolitionist Conference, and we earnestly ask the members to give all help possible to make the campaign a success. The meetings will be advertised in THE VOTE.

Reading.

A "Faith Tea" was held in the Council Room on May 18, followed by readings from "The Doll's House," by Miss Ruth Hinder and friends, also songs by Mrs. Sawyer and Mr. Woods, accompanied by Miss Hoare-Smith. Mrs. Broadley presided. A members' meeting will be held in the "Parlour," Palmer Hall, Friday, May 29. After business, there will be a discussion on the debate in the House of Lords on Woman Suffrage.

Sale.

On May 18 a meeting was held at Thornlea, by kind invitation of Miss Geiler. Miss Fildes opened a debate, taking the anti-suffrage point of view. Discarding the usual worn-out arguments, she attacked the weaknesses of women, and so provoked an interesting discussion. Mrs. Nidd presided and made, as usual, an excellent chairman, adding at the end a good contribution to the debate.

Southampton.

At the Clock Tower, on May 22, Mrs. Whetton, secretary of the Southsea and Portsmouth Branch, held a large and evidently most interested crowd for nearly an hour. Her logical and convincing arguments won converts to the Cause; students who evidently "came to scoff," remained—attentive and quiet listeners, and bought VOTES, of which we sold a large number. The interchange of speakers between the Branches is most helpful and makes it possible to hold many meetings otherwise impossible. Mrs. Leigh Rothwell chaired.

Swansea.

A Branch meeting was held in Dynevor-place Schoolroom on May 21, Miss Neal gave an interesting account of the Freedom League Conference and the work done by the League during the Teachers' Conference at Lowestoft. Members were specially reminded to keep the General Election levy in view and to subscribe towards Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Mrs. Wheatley made an appeal for volunteers for VOTE selling.

Winchester.

Our open-air meeting on May 22 was largely attended; there was some unurliness, but much interest is being aroused in Woman's Suffrage. Winchester seems to be really waking up.

SCOTLAND.—Cowdenbeath.

A meeting was held on May 21, in the Co-operative Hall, the chair being taken by Mrs. Beaton. Mr. Wilson Paul gave a most interesting address, which was much appreciated, and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him. After questions a discussion followed on the accusation that women do not take sufficient interest in local government. Suffrage literature sold well and new members were enrolled.

Dundee.

A very successful "At Home" was held in Lamb's Hotel, on the occasion of Miss Boyle's visit on May 18. Previous to that, an open-air meeting was held by Miss Boyle and Miss Broughton, a big crowd listening interestedly for an hour and a-half. Representative men and women of all societies were present, and all were intensely delighted with Miss Boyle's vigorous and breezy speech and her boundless faith in womanhood. Miss Husband presided in her usual able manner. Regret was expressed at Miss Murray's absence. Songs were sung by Misses Anderson, Bryan and Mitchell, and piano selections were given by Miss Cissy Jones.

Dunfermline.

A fine open-air meeting was held at top of New Row on May 19, when Miss McCullum presided and Miss Alexia B. Jack (Edinburgh) spoke for almost two hours to a large and appreciative audience. On Friday night a public meeting was held in the Masonic Hall. Dr. Bell, who presided, declared that women were making a legitimate claim for the Parliamentary franchise and, in introducing Miss Boyle said she was ardently working for the attainment of an ideal which he believed would be realised in the near future. Miss Boyle spoke on "The Present Political Position as it Affects Women," and in a most eloquent speech drew attention to the different treatment meted out to women and men offenders of man-made laws, and ridiculed the enormous expense incurred in sending large drafts of policemen to attend to a small batch of Suffragettes. Hearty thanks were accorded to Miss Boyle and Dr. Bell.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop: 90, Lothian-road.

During the past week Miss Nina Boyle has addressed a public meeting, two drawing-room meetings, and two in the open-air, under the auspices of the Edinburgh Branch, in addition to those arranged by the Scottish Council and the Northern Men's Federation. At the Oddfellows' Hall, speeches by Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Boyle were greatly appreciated, as were the remarks of the Rev. James Black from the chair, and those of Baillie Rose, who moved a vote of thanks. Miss Jack made a very successful appeal for funds, and pamphlets by the speakers, as well as THE VOTE, found a ready sale at the close of the meeting. The drawing-room meetings, arranged by Miss Sara Munro and the Misses McLaren, were well attended, and at the former five new members joined the Branch. Miss Boyle's visit has been a source of fresh encouragement to the workers here, all of whom join in the parting words of a member of one of the open-air audiences, who "didn't ken when she had an efermune like this"—"Haste ye back!" We are greatly indebted also to Miss Murray for her ever-ready help.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop: 70, St. George's-road.

The third of a series of Kitchen Meetings arranged by Miss White was held on May 20, in Govan-street, S.S. Mrs. Leckie kindly lent her kitchen for the meeting, which was most successful. Most of those present had never attended a Suffrage meeting before, but they listened with great interest to the speakers. Miss White took the chair and Miss Bunten spoke.

Perth.

Another week's vigorous campaign has been carried on in Perth. Open-air meetings have been held at the Port, and last Tuesday evening a very successful indoor meeting was held in the Guild Hall. The place was crowded out long before the time and many were unable to gain admittance. Miss Eunice Murray presided, and the speaker was Miss Nina Boyle. The speeches were much appreciated, and many expressed the opinion that it was the best Suffrage meeting ever held in Perth. In the afternoon Miss Boyle held a successful dinner-hour meeting at Pullar's Dye Works, while Miss Leckie and Miss Murray spoke for more than thirty minutes to the girls, who at the close bought Suffrage pamphlets from the speakers. On Saturday Miss Ada Broughton held two splendid open-air meetings at the Port. Miss Barrs presided, and large crowds listened attentively for more than an hour. During the week Scone and Bridge of Earn were visited, and



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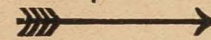
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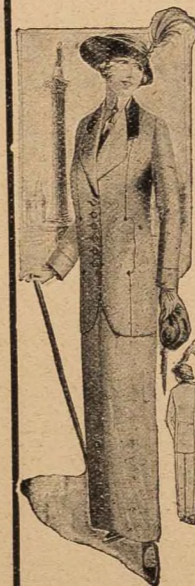
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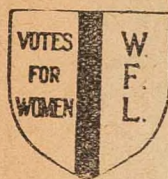
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LONDON AND SUBURBS.
 Fri., May 29.—CROYDON, Morland-road, Open-air Meeting, 7.45 p.m.
 Sun., May 31.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Hyde. HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Mrs. Merivale Mayer and Mrs. Juson Kerr. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.
 Thurs., June 4.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.
 Fri., June 5.—SPENCER HALL, Dartmouth-park-hill, Social Evening arranged by Tufnell-park Branch, 8 p.m. Music and cards. Speech by Miss Anna Munro. Tickets 6d.
 Sat., June 6.—BROMLEY, Miss Munro.
 Sun., June 7.—REGENT'S PARK, noon.
 Miss Nina Boyle.
 Mon., June 8.—KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
 Wed., June 10.—CANTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "The New Poor-law Orders as they Affect Women," and Mrs. Tanner.
 Thurs., June 11.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street. Speakers' Class, 7 p.m.
 Fri., June 12.—CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Dr. W. M. Weston. MORLAND-ROAD, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.
 Sat., June 13.—ANERLEY, 112, Marlow-road, Garden Party (by kind permission of Mrs. Myers), 3.30 p.m.
 Sun., June 14.—REGENT'S PARK, noon.
 Mon., June 15.—KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Beatrice Kent.
 Wed., June 17.—CANTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lucy H. Yates, "Women and Financial Independence."
 Thurs., June 18.—HIGHBURY CORNER, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke.
 Fri., June 19.—CROYDON, Morland-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.
 Sun., June 21.—REGENT'S PARK, noon.
 Wed., June 24.—CANTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Rev. Dr. W. A. Houston Collinson and others.

PROVINCES.
 Fri., May 29.—Reading, Patmer Hall, Members' Meeting, Discussion on House of Lords Debate on Woman Suffrage.
 Tues., June 2.—Aintree Institute, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Winifred Moore on "Women in Industry."
 Mon., June 8.—Gravesend, Miss Anna Munro. Open-air Meeting.
 Tues., June 9.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Business Meeting, 8 p.m. Gravesend, Garden Meeting afternoon, Open-air Meeting evening. Miss Anna Munro.
 Wed., June 10.—Gravesend, Women's Meeting afternoon, Open-air Meeting evening. Miss Anna Munro.
 Thurs., June 11.—Winchester, Open-air Meeting. Gravesend, Open-air Meeting. Miss Anna Munro.
 Fri., June 12.—Gravesend, Public Meeting, 8.15 p.m. Miss Anna Munro and others.
 Mon., June 15.—Middlesbrough, Open-air Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates. Reading. Miss Anna Munro.

SCOTLAND.
 Sat., May 30.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, Summer Sale to be opened by Mrs. Shaw McLaren, at 2.30 p.m. Tea, character delineations, &c. Admission Free.
 Wed., June 3.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Forbes, "The Position of Women in France."
 Thurs., June 4.—Glasgow, 70, St. George's-road, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.
 Sat., June 6.—Glasgow, Open-air Meeting. Miss Shennan and Miss Johnstone.
 Tues., June 9.—Kilmarnock, Open-air Meeting. Miss Eunice Murray.
OTHER SOCIETIES.
 Sun., June 7.—BLACKFRIARS MISSION, Stamford-street, The Men's Club Room, 3.30 p.m. Miss Anna Munro, "Religion and the Women's Movement."
 Sun., June 21.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "Women and Independence."

BRANCH NOTES (continued from p. 97).
 Open-air meetings were held in the village. Leaflets, "Why Women Want to Vote," were distributed from house to house, and every consideration was accorded to our workers.
Rothsay.
 The public meeting on May 17, organised by the Rothsay Branch of the Women's Freedom League, at the Good Templars' Hall, was a great success. A large audience gathered to hear Miss C. Nina Boyle. The chair was taken by Baillie E. R. MacMillan, who explained the aim and policy of the Women's Freedom League, and made it clear that militancy with us did not include the burning or injuring of private property. Miss C. Nina Boyle was received most enthusiastically and listened to with the closest attention during her delightful and invigorating speech. She declared that it was only the organised voice of men which was listened to, and never that of voiceless women; Politicians and Press alike supported male militancy in Ulster, but condemned it in women. Miss Eunice G. Murray also spoke on the power of the vote in the industrial world; and said that 90 per cent. of the sweated workers were women. It was very different in countries where women had votes. An open-air meeting was held at the Pierhead on May 16, when Miss Boyle spoke for over an hour to a large audience and evoked much sympathy and enthusiasm.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Olive Schreiner's Quest.—Speaking at a meeting of the United Suffragists at Portman Rooms, on May 21, Olive Schreiner said:—"Many years ago when as a child of nine I first began to think upon the question of the franchise I failed to see any reason which could appeal to a thoughtful, rational mind why the franchise should be given to human beings on the basis of their sexual differences. Throughout the course of a long life I have been seeking to find this reason, and I have not done so, so now I feel I never shall. Therefore I am in favour of giving the franchise to women." At the same meeting Miss Lena Ashwell mentioned that she had asked Olive Schreiner to speak of what she saw at Hyde-park-corner of the treatment of the W.S.P.U. deputation to the King, but she was so deeply moved and shocked by the scenes she witnessed that she was unable to refer to the matter in public. "When you see women flung down by the police," said Miss Ashwell; "when you see people who are only trying to get out of the way deliberately attacked and hurt by the police; when you read what the papers are constantly saying, you realise that by our indifference we are making militants."

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
A LANTERN LECTURE on "Blessed Joan of Arc"
 Will be given by the REV. T. J. WALSH (Liverpool), in the KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, High Street, Kensington, On TUESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1914, at 8 p.m.
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OTHER SOCIETIES.

Women's Tax Resistance League.
 The monthly meeting was held at Wimpole-street, on May 20, by kind permission of Dr. Octavia Lewin. The Criminal Justice Administration Bill was expounded by Mr. Laurence Housman, and warmly discussed by the audience.
ANOTHER RESISTER IN THE EAST END.
 Mrs. Zakheim had her goods sold for tax resistance in Plaistow on Friday evening, May 22. After the sale a very successful protest meeting was held outside the Public Library in Ilford. Speakers: Mrs. Kineton Parkes and Miss Haslam.
FORTHCOMING SALES.
 FRIDAY, MAY 29.—Mrs. Cecil Chapman will have goods sold for tax resistance at 7 p.m., at 68A, Battersea Rise. Procession from auction room to protest meeting after sale. Chair: Mrs. Cecil Chapman. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Rev. Chas. Wills, Miss Constance D'Oyly.

The Women Teachers' Franchise Union.
 At the general meeting, at Essex Hall, on May 18, the President, Miss Agnes Dawson, was in the chair, and reports of the Union's activity at Lowestoft during the N.U.T. Conference. Miss Froud gave an account of the Conference of the National Federation of Women Teachers. Mrs. Dawson-Tollett's description of the poster para ea caused much amusement. Miss Poulter reported the W.T.F.U. meeting at Lowestoft before reports on Equal Pay and Suffrage resolutions were given by Miss Dawson and Mrs. Chandler. The report of the London Teachers' Association Conference, May 2, was given by Miss Lightman. Mrs. Kineton-Parkes followed with a most interesting address on "Tax Resistance."

Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.
 THE ATTACK ON MR. ASQUITH'S CONSTITUENCY.—The Federation was honoured last week by the presence of Miss Nina Boyle, who accompanied the party making the attack on Mr. Asquith's constituency, and by her brilliant and witty speeches at Leven, Colinsburgh and Largo made a most favourable impression on East Fife's. Great interest was shown in the campaign, there was no opposition of any kind; the large audiences, mostly composed of men, listened with the utmost attention to speeches by Ex-Baillie Gordon, Mr. John McMichael, J.P., Mr. J. Wilson McLaren, Mr. J. R. Wilson, Mr. Thomas Shaw, and Mr. James Brunton, in addition to Miss Boyle. The Northern men mean to put up a good fight against the Prime Minister and will return to East Fife at an early date.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
 Members and friends are heartily invited to hear the interesting lecture on "Blessed Joan of Arc," by the Rev. T. J. Walsh, of Liverpool, on Tuesday, June 2, at the Kensington Town Hall. The chair will be taken by the Ranee of Sarawak at 8 p.m. It is an opportunity not to be missed. Tickets on sale at 55, Berners-street, W.

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 Wednesday, June 17, 8.30 p.m. DISCUSSION: NATIONALISM AND PROGRESS.
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W.S.P.U. Offices Raided.—On May 23 the Headquarters of the W.S.P.U. were raided by the police—for the second time—and Miss Grace Roe, the general secretary, arrested.

"Very Shocking."—The repulse of the Women's Deputation to Buckingham Palace on Thursday afternoon seems to have been conducted with needless roughness. The deputation was, after all, as lawful in its intent—which was to petition the King under the Bill of Rights—as the proceedings of the Opposition a mile away were lawful. Women have no votes; while the Tory Party has many, and the House of Commons is the seat and centre of our voting system. We should therefore have thought that the minimum of force should have been used to repress a demonstration of this kind. Yet we read in the papers that many women were bludgeoned, flung down, and thrown about the roads. If this is true, it is very shocking. The deputation to the King is about the most lawful thing which has been lately done by the W.S.P.U. And it has been the most harshly treated.—*The Nation*, May 23.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

PLEASE REMEMBER.—THREE PLAYS.
SPECIAL MATINEE, ARTS CENTRE,
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