

THE VOTE
Aug. 20, 1915
ONE PENNY

IRRESPONSIBLE CHATTERERS. C. NINA BOYLE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, AUG. 20, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

We congratulate our friends and fellow workers in Dublin on their successful campaign against the illegal and improper exclusion of women from Courts of Justice. By determined effort, not only has entry been effected, but a pronouncement has been wrung from the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland similar to that emanating from the Lord Chief Justice of England, and from the Recorder of Reading by the action of the Women's Freedom League. Lord Chief Justice Cherry declared that women might remain in Court—the case was of a more than usually shocking kind—but also stated that he *could not bind his colleagues*. This extraordinary position, that what the Lord Chief Justice recognised as right, proper and legal, might be resisted and denied by lesser judges, will surprise some, but when one has sampled the peculiar mixture of incongruous elements called Law, one learns to be surprised at no want of logic or absence of common-sense.

Women Police.

We note that the two police women appointed at Hull are acting—as one might expect from the attitude of their organisers—on the vicious principle most women reformers are in arms against. Remaining in Court during the hearing of a certain case, they resisted the order “Women and young persons leave the Court,” *not* on the ground that *as women* they were entitled to stay, but that *as officials* they were entitled to stay. They have been quick to seize on a privileged position and to keep it for themselves—the very essence of the anti-suffrage spirit. The instruction to the Women Police Volunteers of the Women's Freedom League would be that *as women* they were entitled to remain in Court; *as officials* their duty would be to see that other women were enabled to remain also.

Attacks on Women.

With the National Register, and the approach of what some regard as the prospect of compulsion, we see a recrudescence of the attacks on women

which so disgraced the first few months of the war. A well-known minister has sounded the advance, in a letter demanding drastic measures “against excessive drinking, especially among women.” He says:—“Our noble countrywomen of all classes, who are bearing themselves so nobly and patiently under the present stress and strain, will not complain when it is asked that steps be taken to shield their weaker sisters who find themselves in funds and without the restraint of their husbands' presence.” We notice that, as usual, it is the fact that the women have *funds*, and are “free from restraint,” not the far more lamentable fact that they are reared amid degrading surroundings, that vexes pious souls. So long as they are borne down by toil and lack of means, their degradation goes unheeded.

The *Globe*, reproducing this nauseous production, also publishes a “Warning to Women.” Thousands of them, it appears, have been getting excess allowances from Government under false pretences, and the *Globe* and Mr. Hay Halkett (the magistrate at Woolwich) are greatly perturbed that this should be “while the resources of the country are already so heavily taxed.” No mention at all is made of the men who, in the first instance, made the false declarations which enabled the women to make the false claims; nor does the *Globe*, in its other column, publish a “Warning to Men” in dealing with the wholesale thefts and re-sales of Army clothing from the men, and with the connivance of an official, of a well-known Volunteer Corps! An interrupter at a W.F.L. meeting wrote to ask us whether we were in favour of giving votes to these women, “liars, thieves, and corrupters.” We responded that we were not in favour of giving votes to such, the huge majority of which were provided by his own sex. We notice also that Mr. Hay Halkett was much concerned that the women's money was “not spent as it ought to be,” and we recall Mr. Asquith's blaze of sheer fury that anyone should dare question how the Cabinet spends its income.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Women Gardeners at Kew.

Fourteen women are now working as gardeners at Kew, and excite for the moment the liveliest interest of visitors, who seize upon any excuse to get a close inspection of top boots, overalls, and rush hats. In fact, work is somewhat impeded by the numbers of requests to be shown the way. Even in the Eden of Kew Gardens prejudice is, however, rampant. It has taken up the glass-houses as its last stronghold. Here women are not, as a rule, permitted to work. One would have thought that there was something suitable about the shelter of glass-houses for women; but the powers that be have decreed that her "sphere" is rock gardens and herbaceous borders.

Colonel's Daughter as Tramway Guard.

It was stated at the Portsmouth Town Council that a colonel's daughter and a captain's wife are serving as conductors in the corporation tramway cars to release two men for the Army. They are handing their pay to charity. Portsmouth has now thirty women conductors and twenty-five postwomen.

Brave Girl

Maud Preston, aged thirteen, who saved a child of three from a runaway horse at Ash Vale, Surrey, and herself sustained a fracture of the leg, has received the diploma of the Carnegie Hero Trust Fund.

Pauper Women Exploited.

The clerk to the Grimsby Guardians, Mr. J. F. Wingham, stated at a meeting of the Board that several of the women inmates of the workhouse had obtained employment as strawberry pickers in the Wisbech district, and that certain information as to their treatment had come to his knowledge. He instanced the case of a girl who had answered an advertisement which stated that pickers were able to earn from 15s. to 25s. per week, everything to be provided for them. When that girl, with others, was employed there was nothing but a stable and some straw for them to sleep in. This particular girl only had three half-days' work in one week, and she earned 3s. 10d. Altogether there were thirty-four girls employed, and they had no money to buy necessaries with. Six of them left and tramped to Boston, where the court missionary helped them with their fares home. The chairman, Mr. Charles Jeff, said such a state of affairs was too bad for anything in a Christian country. He thought the matter should be brought before the notice of other Boards of Guardians who were sending their women inmates. A lady guardian said that similar complaints had been received from four other women. It was decided that before any steps be taken, the people employing these women should be written to for an explanation.

Getting a Bit of Her Own Back.

To the Editor of "The Daily Mail."

Sir,—Of my five children, the eldest, aged 15 years and 10 months, is a girl. The next are twin boys of a year younger. My daughter has a form to fill in. My boys have none. But they have been two and a half years in the training corps at their school, can shoot pretty well at the miniature range, and are big and strong for their age. You can imagine the scene at home. "The nation has consulted me as to my abilities," says the girl loftily to the boys, and they have to grin and bear it. She sits chewing a penholder and considering her form for hours—when the boys are about to see her. "I am wondering whether I ought to put down that I have two small brothers who might prove useful in time," she said one day.

MATERFAMILIAS.

Women and Administration.

"We are glad," says the *Globe*, "to see that some serious attempt is to be made to give effect to the recommendations made by the Royal Commissioners on the Civil Service in their report, issued in 1914, that specially qualified women should be eligible for appointment to particular administrative situations in certain Government departments. The universities are almost depleted of male students, most of whom have gone to the war, and the number of suitable male candidates for administrative work is so reduced that it is really necessary to fall back upon material provided by the other sex. Plenty of university women are admirably qualified for administrative work in such departments as the Board of Education, the Local Government Board, the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, the Insurance Commissioners, and the Home Office, to say nothing of museums and libraries now working with short staffs. The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has presented a most influentially signed memorial to the Prime Minister on the subject, and it is suggested that a committee of five should meet two members of the staff of each department to discuss the best way of carrying the recommendations of the Commissioners into effect. We heartily support the proposal."

Textile Workers from the Isle of Man.

The introduction of fifty girls and young women from the Isle of Man into woollen mills at Rochdale during the

past week or two is noteworthy as another indication of the smartness with which manufacturers there seize opportunities for obtaining labour. At the time when the Belgian refugees were swarming into this country, Rochdale woollen manufacturers were probably the first—certainly among the first—employers of labour to find work for some of these refugees, and it was reported some time afterwards that the newcomers were working very satisfactorily. The war has caused exceptional hardship to the people of the Isle of Man, and the migration of Manx girls to Rochdale is one result. Whether the girls were previously engaged in textile pursuits or not, the probability is that when once they have handled Lancashire mill earnings they will have little inclination to return permanently to Mona's Isle, and more workers from the Island may not improbably join them.

Sydney Policewomen.

Sydney's two women police are Miss Lilian May Armfield and Miss Maude M. Rhodes. The former was for eight years a nurse at the Callan Park Hospital for the Insane, and the latter is an Englishwoman who holds certificates for sanitary science, and who has been working on the land in New South Wales.

National Service Organisation.

Our work is increasing, but the satisfaction of suiting both employers and workers is ample reward for the labour involved.

We find new and interesting lines of work opening out for women as time goes on, and the women are readily responding to the demand made upon them for work which they have never undertaken before, and which therefore calls for the development of latent powers.

We are expecting some interesting statements to be made at the great meeting, which will be held at Kingsway Hall on September 11. The speakers will include the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, Mrs. Parker, Miss Lena Ashwell, and Mrs. Despard (in the chair).

Tickets may be obtained at the office, 144, High Holborn.

Correspondents are asked to write to the Correspondence Secretary, National Service Organisation, 144, High Holborn, before Tuesdays, or the answers will be unavoidably held over till the next week.

FRANCES PARKER.
ETHEL MOORHEAD.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[Women requiring information about the state of the labour market, the wages obtainable, the conditions prevailing, and the fresh openings that continually present themselves, will be given the benefit of the information at the disposal of the National Service Organisation.]

PUZZLED.—Although you have filled up the registration form, it does not follow that your services will be utilised.

CYNTHIA.—We have applications for women to replace men in shops. There will be even more openings in this direction in September.

GOGGLES.—You do not state whether you can drive a heavy van or not, or if you have a knowledge of London.

VOLUNTEER.—For canteen work at Woolwich and Enfield apply to 58, Victoria-street, S.W.

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"RISE YE WOMEN THAT BE AT EASE."—Isaiah, 36.

The Book of Isaiah is composed of a series of visions followed by a few miscellaneous prophecies and historical facts. In the 36th chapter desolation is foreshadowed for the Jews. A special appeal is made to the women. They are warned of the fate that lies ahead of them unless they rise and gird themselves for the troublous times ahead. The same appeal should be sounded to-day. "Rise ye women that be at ease!" "Tremble ye women that be at ease!" It is because of the carelessness and indifference of the independent women, the women of ease, that women are still in a voteless condition, and it is owing to their voteless condition that they have practically no power in the land. They are dictated to and legislated for by men who, in many cases, are ignorant of the conditions under which they live, or the circumstances in which they find themselves. We get men, well-meaning, no doubt, but of small capacity, interfering with and advising women about matters of which they are palpably unfit to form an opinion. No woman is allowed any say as to how our national money shall be raised, or spent, but now that money is becoming scarce, and when one knows that every penny saved shortens the war, we find men appealing to women as chiefs of the domestic "spending department," and assuring them "that if women will, they can exert an all-important influence on the war." They are told "they have done a great work for the nation by recruiting, they can now do a greater by saving." These articles, which are appearing in all our daily papers, are issued by the War Savings Committee, and are said to be written by experts. If these are the products of the political economists, preserve us from such gentlemen. Had women of ease and position long since roused themselves and earnestly considered the lot of their sisters who were wage-earners, and had demanded for them political and economic rights, these articles would not require to have been written. Women as well as men would have been deciding the affairs of the nation. All women are spenders of the nation's wealth, if not all earners, and long since they would have checked the waste which appals us now in every department. Women are practical economists, not theoretical prattlers. Instead of urging people to eat less, to spend less on their homes, on their servants, on their pleasures, to do without nurses and governesses, to travel less, and especially to substitute third class for first class travelling, they would see that the State led the way. Had it set the example, the people would instinctively have followed. What is the good of asking individual households to save every ounce of meat when tons of food are daily wasted in the camps? It is obvious that men cannot cook and cater as economically as women can; why, then, did not the War Office accept the Women's Freedom League proposal, that it would cook and cater for at least one camp, and show what could be done? What is the sense of imploring the civilians to travel as sparsely as possible, when one hears constantly of thousands of pounds wasted by the authorities in shipping soldiers about on useless expeditions? How many of us know men who have been granted leave from the south of England or to the north of Scotland to say good-bye to relatives, and who have been recalled by wire before half their journey was accomplished, sent back, given leave again next day, only to find another wire recalling them before the farewells had been made! We are to save in coals and light and retire early to bed. What did our M.P.'s do when the Daylight Saving Bill was before them? Less money is to be spent on clothes; women are to make their own and children's gar-

ments. What is to become of the sewing maid, and dressmaker? She must find other work; but where? These institutions set up by the Government known as Labour Exchanges are already overweighed with women seeking employment, and both employers and employees tell the same tale, the Labour Exchanges are stifled by Government red tape. Yet no woman can get Government work unless she apply through the Labour Exchanges. She is forced to use them, yet neither she nor her employer trust them. The giving of presents is to cease, yet in spite of all the prodigious waste in Government food, we are told from men at the Front, that life would be insupportable were it not for the parcels from home. Not one word of practical economy, or economy on a national scale, do we hear from this War Savings Committee. They do not advise reductions in salaries of highly paid officials. So far, the Town Clerk of Kensington stands out as a bright example of an official who can forego some monetary advantage. He is the sole instance of an official who has refused a gratuity for special services rendered to the community. Government saves by offering to take on women postmen at a lower wage than men, and women sorters at a lower wage. One high official in the postal service said he supposed "the reason for the lower wage was just the old-fashioned prejudice which still existed in regard to women's work."

The Committee should have recommended saving in salaries of Members of Parliament. They are now having full pay and six weeks' holiday, in addition to working only half-time, though the working man is urged to curtail his holiday, and he is never paid in any case while having holiday. Savings should be enforced in all Government departments. Printing and stationery accounts should be carefully scrutinised. Waste in food, in transport, in petrol, and in such ways should cease. Women, as well as men, should be consulted as to the management of all departments, and side by side they should work for the welfare of the nation. Let the women who are at ease rouse themselves; let the wealthy women who have not to worry over the wise expenditure of every pound rouse up, let them attack the disease of waste at the root, let them decree that economy must be practised by all, in the State as well as in the home, by the rich as well as by the poor, by men as well as by women. A few days ago the following story was in the papers:—A husband and wife, discussing how they could save, agreed each to give up their extravagances. The wife's luxuries were tea, chocolates and white gloves, and her husband thought it excellent that she should economise upon these unnecessary articles; but he could not see his way to abandon his wine, cigars and club; so, as they could not agree to share and share alike, they decided to wait and see, and in the meantime to continue as before.

Let the women who be at ease rise, and demand their share in all that affects the welfare of men and women. Let them ask that women as well as men be consulted how to spend and how to save and how best to husband the resources of the nation. For, as Emerson says, a nation is best served by the united efforts of men and women.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

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To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
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Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

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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OUR IRRESPONSIBLE CHATTERERS.

The Gods on Olympus, we used to be taught, were believed to watch the events of the human world with a critical eye—sometimes benign and approving, sometimes jealous and resentful, often extremely vindictive. And sometimes, we gather, they were moved to great mirth. Could we, in this prosaic age, but picture the great ones of Olympus bending their lofty brow to study our first attempt at National Organisation, one could hardly fail to see them a prey to gusts of wild laughter.

There were moments when the mighty ones were tempted to imitate the doings of man; but we could not suppose that the recent national manoeuvres would supply that temptation. First, we had the diverting exhibition provided by Mr. Walter Long, who, while not in any way desiring to be hampered with the necessity to include women, whom he frankly said he had not wanted, was afraid to leave them out. The successful pressure brought to bear on him was then publicly acclaimed by those who brought it to bear, as evidence that women's help was needed by the Government! Lord Lansdowne did his little bit towards compulsory service, and incidentally towards embarrassing his Liberal colleagues, by saying women were included because they had not volunteered in numbers large enough; and the Ministry for Munitions meanwhile played, like the porpoise round the ship, all sorts of elaborate antics with a procession. The porpoise is supposed to leap up and down to get rid of certain annoying attentions of a clinging description; we have not yet learnt what it was that inspired the gyrations of the Ministry for Munitions.

For weeks it snowed forms. There were the Labour Exchange forms; the Special War Service for Women forms; the Munitions Department forms; and the Women's Procession forms—god-fathered by the Munitions Department, and some say paid for by them. And now we have the National forms; the while the nation is being called on to economise. And while the National Register forms are going through the post and the enumerators' hands, the post is also taking round circulars from the Board of Trade asking the women who signed the Special War Service forms whether they are employed yet! Besides these forms, there are the "pink forms," unauthorised by the Act and not discussed in Parliament, and whose real purpose is unknown. We are informed that nine millions of these have been prepared, in one of those attacks of lavish absent-mindedness which the Government permits itself at the expense of the people. There are, at the very widest computation, 14 millions of males over the age of 15. Four millions of these are already serving with the Navy,

Army and police. Then there are the aged and unfit; and on no basis of calculation whatsoever can any one in his senses hope for nine millions of "unmarried men of military age."

After the storm of forms came the storm of words. Irresponsible chatters of every kind and class arose and overwhelmed us. The Press, of course, headed it. All the papers, apparently imagining themselves to be some branch of some Government department, immediately began giving the public instructions how to act. Some warned the public against posting their forms; others encouraged us to do so. Some disapproved of the folding it up, or sealing the envelope; others waved these points aside. The *Evening News* specially distinguished itself by its comforting advice to persons living together without the formality of marriage. There was no harm, it said, in pretending to be married and in giving the man's name as being his wife, and putting the children down as legitimate. This calm advice to falsify the National Register deserves attention; we can imagine for ourselves the lofty attitude of rebuke to dishonest women that the editor will take up when some woman gets found out and is prosecuted.

Then we come to the secrecy. The forms had hardly been filled in, when hosts of other irresponsible chatters—journalists and enumerators, apparently—began talking of their "experiences" and the "humours" of the national event. Columns appeared in the Press, purveyed with the most indecent haste, of "amusing" matter at the expense of the public. And what stands revealed is that in this, our first, attempt at "national organisation," no sort of pains have been taken by the authorities to protect the public from indiscretion, or to make any wise selection of persons as enumerators. Any irresponsible volunteer was accepted; the formality of ensuring that they belonged to some established body or institution was not even insisted on. Busybodies who seized on the opportunity to become acquainted with other people's affairs have given grave concern to decent people; but this concern has been brushed aside with some offensive (and ancient) witticisms about the dislike of women to tell their age. In one instance the enumerator deputed the housekeeper and porter to collect the forms in a certain building; in another, the clerk to an estate agent and landlord collected those of tenants of his own firm! No attempt was made to send persons to other localities than those in which they themselves lived. The scandal of it cries aloud.

"Already," boasts one paper, spies have been unearthed, and unregistered Germans. *By whom?* Did the enumerators, pledged to secrecy at a penalty of three months, rush to the police instead of making a confidential statement to the local authority, and leaving it to them? Will they be prosecuted? And the pink forms; they are to be sent to recruiting agents, whose notorious indiscretions and improprieties are everywhere exciting comment and actually hindering recruiting.

If the other "national" arrangements have been as defective, as erratic, and as amateurish as this, we cannot wonder that the Government is afraid of criticism. One thing, however, stands out clearly. The nation has no machinery ready for any form of national compulsion, and does not seem to know how to prepare any. Prudence would dictate making the best of what we have in the great national gift of willing service and voluntary organisation; it would seem in the last degree perilous to trust to the new and half-baked devices of compulsion at a time when new experiments in government are fraught with exceptional danger and have as yet given us few results of any consequence.

C. NINA BOYLE.

A LIFE WORTH LIVING.

J. VIRIAMU JONES.

During the last twenty years of the nineteenth century, Welsh education started on a period of expansion that has perhaps never been surpassed in any country. It was fortunate for women and for the working classes, that Professor J. Viriamu Jones was one of half-a-dozen men who were the life and soul of the Movement; one may infer from the Life that his wife has published that her husband was the leader of the central figures of the Movement. The good fortune of women and labour lies in the fact that he was equally devoid of sex prejudice and class bias. It is probably true to say that Scotland, Ireland, and Wales are all much more democratic than England; this is very evident in the religion and education of the partners who are not predominant. In the Great Readjustment that must take place after the present disastrous war, we shall miss much if the institutions of the British Empire are not democratized to an extent that has never yet prevailed; only thus shall sweet come out of bitter.

The life of Viriamu Jones was short as men count years, but crowded, brilliant, full of the things that count most. His work may best be epitomised as a leader, stimulator and organiser of education; in its final stage, he was a legislator. Born in 1856, he came of a Welsh family which has distinguished itself in the ministry, in law, and in temperance work. Two of the brothers are members of Parliament, Sir David Brynmôr Jones and Mr. Leif Jones, President of the United Kingdom Alliance. After a brilliant career at Balliol, where he distinguished himself in physics, Mr. J. V. Jones, when a very young man, was chosen to be Principal of the Firth College at Sheffield. He only remained there two years, but it was long enough to start the institution on right lines, in a career of success which Parliament stamped with the hall-mark of a University; this dignity Firth College attained in 1905. From the very first, women were admitted to all its degrees and honours on the same terms as men, so that it never has presented to the world the niggardly and undignified spectacle of our ancient universities which present women students with the "equivalent of a degree" when women not unfrequently head its honours and pass lists. And this is the very place for VOTE readers to observe that the generosity of numerous women benefactors has thus been very badly requited, and that at least one college, that of Jesus, Cambridge, was a receiver of stolen goods at the Reformation. Its endowment is largely composed of the site and landed property of St. Ravegund's Priory, a convent for women. Firth College has never closed its doors to women. It served as a model for the Working Men's College, established in Great Ormond-street, London, but its founders immediately gave proof of the anti-democratic ways of the South: women were not admitted, and to the students was given no share in the government of the College. Professor Jones helped to raise Firth College from the dead; he worked hard, begged boldly for help of every kind, and has himself left on record how he began to eye everybody with the idea of how much he could get out of him for the College.

In 1883 he was called to Cardiff when he was still a young man of 27. He had every good quality except age, and we learn from this exceedingly interesting life how the Principal used his

fine qualities to bring age over to his side. Lord Tredegar observed that he had a thorough knowledge of the art of teaching old people, an art infinitely superior to any number of years, even the exalted figures reached by Adam and some of his immediate descendants. This art of teaching the old is not surprising when one reads of the wonderful qualities of Viriamu Jones. They included tact, judgment, force of character, courtesy, deference, quick sympathy, zeal, enthusiasm, intention, personal magnetism, a sunny joyous temperament; he was a master of the art of saying pleasant things. Those of us who have been connected with education well know how soon the society of headmasters, headmistresses and principals palls on young people. Between them is a great gulf fixed, which heads occasionally bridge, but the young people, never. Professor Jones is the great exception; the students at Cardiff could never have too much of his society, and from his portrait one can easily see that he was a man of exceptionally attractive personality. He built up Cardiff College from being the mere name of a College; it had to do a great deal of secondary teaching such as is usually undertaken in a good school, until under his aegis it became a worthy constituent College of the Welsh University, doing its full share of adult education, in the various faculties which he fostered and assisted to found. He held high the University standard and spent his energies in teaching and maintaining it. His great qualities as an organiser and legislator were shown in the Charter of the Welsh University, obtained in 1893; in the relations and various activities of the three constituent Colleges; in their government; and in the curriculum. There seems to be a good deal of government in the Welsh University as evidenced by the Senate, the University Court and the Guild of Graduates, and if each College has not everyone of these governing bodies, at least, it will have something like them; every detail had to be carefully thought out. Nor was there only a renaissance of Welsh education in its upper ranks; the whole field of secondary education was examined, its shortcomings exposed, and by dint of hard work and much lobbying, at last, the Welsh Intermediate Education Act was passed in 1889, and machinery and money thus obtained for the better education of young people up to the University age. Professor Jones recognised fully that education is an affair of soil, of foundations, and of the final storeys being brilliant only when the lower ones are sound and thorough.

An immense amount of his great ability was used in administration, in finding funds to carry on the great work of his own College. The governing body spent thousands in scholarships, and the money had to be squeezed out of Trade Councils, local authorities, the corporation of Cardiff, Parliament itself. There are many touching stories of the devotion of the Welsh people to education, of their walking many weary miles to hear lectures, and of the handsome sums working people brought to the University chest.

C.S.B.

To be continued.

A PENNY A DAY.

Many thanks to our members and friends who are busy putting by their extra penny a day for 100 days, to swell this year's Birthday Fund.

This is a way in which all can help during the holidays, and I should be glad of many more names to add to my list. E. KNIGHT.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

The Only Woman Forester.

California has a woman in the forest service. She is a fire warden, and occupies a cabin on the top of Mount Klamath. Every morning and night she mounts her horse and makes the circuit of her territory. A telephone keeps her in communication with the dwellers in the valley.

Turkish Hello Girls.

The telephone has changed life for Moslem girls. Telephone companies are employing girls at the switch-boards, and a woman, Miss Osman, has entire charge of the exchange at Stamboul. The swathing veil interfered with the head-piece, so off goes the veil, letting the light of day in on Mohammedan women's faces.

International Suffrage Congress.

Early this spring the Swedish Society, affiliated with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, submitted to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, the president, proposals for a Congress to be called by the Alliance. This Congress is to be called, after the war, in the same city as that selected for the re-settlement of Europe. It is to be composed of delegates from the Suffrage Associations of all countries, exactly paralleling in numerical equality the representation of the Congress of the Powers. The co-operation of other international women's organisations will be asked. The object of this Congress will be to "place before the plenipotentiaries the claims of women to share in the governments of their respective countries, and the reasons for believing that the enfranchisement of women would strengthen the foundations of a lasting peace." The reception of this Swedish proposal as "a measure to promote mutual understanding and good will," compares favourably with the earlier attempt for a woman's peace congress. It shows an advance in public confidence in women's councils. "Whereas the Hague Congress met with a hostile reception, in the belligerent countries, the Swedish proposal has thus far led to nothing but approval and promises of co-operation."

What Women Do with the Vote.

Seven out of the nine Bills recommended by the women in Illinois since they secured the franchise have been passed. These seven Bills are:—Compelling every husband to support his wife and children; the suppression of disorderly houses; abolition of fining system when dealing with women offenders; State care for the feeble-minded; raising the age of consent from 16 to 18 years; compulsory birth registration; better care of the blind, and punishment of adults causing crime or delinquency among children. And the Suffragists believe that the next Legislature, when the women will vote, will do even better for them than the present one has.

More Allies.

Hard on the heels of Mr. Nugent's attack on Suffrage over the shoulder of Senator Root, comes the good word through the President's secretary that President Wilson will announce his views on Woman Suffrage before returning to New Jersey to vote at the special election in October. That is the date when Suffrage and other constitutional amendments will be decided at the polls. Meantime, Suffragists are jubilant with what they regard as well-founded confidence in the outcome. Mr. Champ Clark is another friend of the Cause who has come into the field, and will support the Suffragists in the coming State campaigns.

A Great Trustee.

"Women are the best friends that women can have." So says Miss Bina M. West, supreme commander of the order of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the World, speaking of the united effort for the betterment of homes being carried on by the 2,872 chapters of the organisation. As commander of the order, Miss West manages a trust fund of \$9,000,000. She transacts all the details of her office work with a force of eighty employees, whom she has trained to work in the most methodical and systematic manner; yet this woman ranks with imbeciles, idiots and criminals in the eyes of the New York law.

An American Pilgrimage.

The Maryland Suffragists have organised a caravan pilgrimage to St. Mary's City, the home of the first American Suffragist, Mistress Margaret Brent, who in 1647 demanded political rights. Margaret Brent was attorney for Lord Baltimore, and executrix of the colonial estate of Governor Calvert. The pilgrimage will start from Baltimore, and distribute Suffrage literature and make Suffrage speeches.

The Traffic in Women.

A white slaver in Boston, on being asked whether Woman Suffrage was coming, said: "Going to have Woman Suffrage? Well, I guess not. We've raised a big

sum of money to defeat it, and it isn't going to pass." Every unfortunate girl who is exploited by the traders in vice is being taxed an extra sum from her earnings, to be used in fighting equal Suffrage.

Women's Courage.

Women did not prove "hysterical" in the Eastland disaster in Chicago, according to the *New York Times*' account of July 26. "All witnesses agree that in the crisis women showed the stronger nerve and were more sensible," says the dispatch. "While the men fought madly for their lives, the women and girls, after the first panic, quickly recovered. They clung patiently to bits of wreckage and obeyed commands of rescuers. Those trapped in the hull waited calmly for death or rescue. The men, however, chiefly young foreigners, dragged women from places of safety, and, even after their own safety was assured, stood around without offering to assist."

Tax Resistance in the States.

The little yellow car, "Eastern Victory," presented to Dr. Anna Howard Shaw by New York Suffragists, and seized for non-payment of taxes, was put up at constable's sale at Media, Pa., last week, bought in by the Woman Suffrage Society of Delaware County for \$230, and returned to Dr. Shaw. There were two bidders against the Media Society.

Women Farmers in New South Wales.

The farm for women, established by the Rural Industries Company, is in full swing. The trainees are at present learning, amongst other things, the care and management of horses. There are some seven or eight horses, and, as some are valuable, they need special care and attention. One young trainee, Miss Gardiner, has proved herself most capable in that direction; while Miss Robertson, another trainee, is becoming an expert in trench making.

The Peace Delegates.

President Wilson last week received Miss Jane Addams and Miss Lillian D. Wald, and gave them an hour in listening to the recital of Miss Addams's experiences at the Hague and her subsequent trip through Europe, in the course of which she was received by nine governments, including the Papacy.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Sunday, August 29.—HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Chair: Miss St. Clair.

Thursday, September 2.—MID-LONDON, Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7.30 p.m. (Business: Resolutions for Conference.)

Monday, September 6.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m.

Friday, September 10.—SOCIALS' COMMITTEE MEETING, at 144, High Holborn, 2.30 p.m.

DARE TO BE FREE

Tuesday, September 14.—Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation Public Meeting, Kingsway Hall, 8 p.m. Speakers: Right Hon. The Earl of Derby, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. Parker and others. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Admission Free. Reserved Seat Tickets 5/-, 2/-, 1/- and 6d, from 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Wednesday, October 6.—PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle.

Saturday, October 16.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference.

PROVINCES.

Monday, August 30.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Branch Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, September 4.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Garden Whist Drive, "Wynbury," Orchard-road, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Smith), 3.30 p.m. Tickets 1s., including tea, on sale at the Suffrage Centre.

WALES.

Friday, September 3.—CARDIFF, Branch Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Stevenson Howell, on "Women and Evolution."

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.

Many thanks are due to Madame Ben. Davies for the excellent way in which she carried out the programme of the concert, held at the Ruskin Institute on Wednesday, August 11. The concert was a great success, although there was not a large number present. Miss Ethel Earl was much appreciated, as were also the children's solos and choruses. We hope to hold another one later on in the year. The proceeds are to be sent to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Will members and friends kindly keep in mind the next Branch meeting on Friday, September 3, when Mrs. Stevenson Howells will give her address on "Women and Evolution."

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

Will members please remember the coming "Fair," to be held in November, and make something for sale during their leisure hours? Two new members have joined this week. Miss Becher can be seen at the office for business connected with the Employment Bureau on Mondays, 11 to 12.30, and Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2.30 to 4 p.m.

Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

A Branch meeting was held on August 9, at which it was decided to open a Branch of the W.F.L.N.S.O. as soon as possible. Arrangements were made for a Garden Whist Drive, to take place on September 4, at 3.30 p.m., at "Wynbury," Orchard-road, Linthorpe, by kind permission of Mrs. Smith. Tickets 1s. each, including afternoon tea, can be obtained at the above rooms every evening between 6 and 8. The next Branch meeting is fixed for August 30, when we hope to have a full attendance of members.

BIJOU HOTEL.

All readers of THE VOTE know the Strand Imperial, the little bijou hotel opposite the Gaiety, where so many members and friends of the Freedom League have at various times stayed. It is one of the prettiest, as well as the most comfortable hotels in London, and has the charm of the unusual, besides that of genuine comfort. None of the garish and rather vulgar effects of the great modern Americanised caravanserais are found at the Strand Imperial; the decorations are in perfect taste and would not be out of place in one's own home. The cuisine is admirable, the kitchen arrangements excellent, hygienic and scientifically clean; the bedroom accommodation, bathrooms, etc., of the most comfortable; and in spite of its situation on a main thoroughfare, the sleeping apartments enjoy complete quiet. There is no better value for one's money to be got in all London, and the rates charged are extraordinarily moderate.

REVIEWS.

The War of all the Ages.

For sheer poignancy and pity, for that real "realism" that only the artist in observation can attain to, Miss Evelyn Sharp's collection of incidents, grim, pathetic, or comic (with that hopeless kind of comedy that leaves one sighing, not smiling) would be bad to beat. The perception of their complete truthfulness to life is depressing; that there are reformers like Miss Sharp, who can go on working and hoping in spite of the vision that sees these truths, is inspiring. No Suffragist should fail to seek the inspiration, and face the truths.

A booklet called "One moral standard for all," published by M. F. Darwin, care of the Caulon Press, 241, West 37th Street, New York, contains a stirring account of the moral crusade inaugurated and carried on through years of bitter persecution and misrepresentation, by the brave sisters Chafin, better known as Victoria Woodhull Martin and Tennessee Cook. Mrs. Martin and Lady Cook planted the banner of the moral regeneration of society on heights from which it has never been lowered. Their pioneer work is to be classed with that of Josephine Butler, and should never be forgotten by the freer women who to-day can still find no worthier standard than that so nobly battled for in the days that are gone.

The *Irish Citizen* published admirable accounts of the struggle, so splendidly upheld by our fellow workers in Dublin, to secure freedom of entry for women to Courts of Justice. There is never any lack of interesting matter in this able little publication.

NATIONAL REGISTER PROTESTS.

The following protests against the compulsory filling up of the National Register forms have been forwarded to us for publication:—

No Vote—No Register.

August 15, 1915.

I REFUSE, without the safeguard of the vote, to help the Government in any way to build up the lost trade of the country (England, through her own faults, having allowed Germany, through her greater industry, openly to obtain it) on the forced labour and sweated work of myself or my fellow women.

I REFUSE, without the safeguard of the vote, to help in any way to compile a register of women which can and may be used for forced emigration schemes, and other degrading and humiliating purposes, by those in power.

Finally, I REFUSE to take part in any underhand plot to force men against their will to give their lives in defence of the country. I shall always insist that no woman has any right to help to force men to such a sacrifice, just as I have always fought, and always shall fight, against any man presuming to have the rights to force a woman against her will to either marriage or childbirth.

ALICE HEALE.

Birmingham Protest.

A remarkable leaflet issued by some Suffragists in Birmingham states the case for resistance to the National Register:—

"Englishwomen have no more direct voice in the Government at Westminster than they have in the Government at Berlin. Yet, willing or unwilling, they are to be compelled to place themselves and their services, under the threat of severe penalties, in the hands of their political masters, who contemptuously class them with paupers, criminals, lunatics, and aliens.

"The idea of state compulsion is disliked by many men, although they have the power of the vote to protect themselves against abuses. To apply it to the unenfranchised is nothing short of tyranny. For women to acquiesce in this would be a definite betrayal of those principles of freedom for which they so steadfastly have stood."

Miss Pankhurst writes:—

400, Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

10th August, 1915.

"I intend to refuse to fill up the National Register form because I believe that the register has been initiated solely for the purpose of exploiting the workers and will be used for that object.

I believe that the war is being used by powerful and wealthy sections of the community to enrich themselves at the expense of the majority of the people. This is not only bad for the nation as a whole, but provides a dangerous incentive to private persons to use their influence to prolong the war, and I base my conclusions on the following, amongst other facts, of which there is abundant proof:—

(1) Instead of the munitions being manufactured directly by the state, in order that war profits might be

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1915

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ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

saved, munition making is passing more into the hands of private firms. Even such firms as Bryant & Mays, the match makers, are having a share.

(2) When the Munitions Act was passed, the Government promised that if the workers would give up their Trade Union conditions and the right to strike, and to go freely from one place of employment to another, the employers would not be allowed to make greater profits than before the war. This promise has been broken.

(3) Women are being employed at a very low wage to do work hitherto done by men at a comparatively good wage. Children are being brought in at starvation rates to do the work of adults. Thus, the standard of wages for the whole community is being brought down.

(4) In work that has always been done by women, women are being employed by Army contractors at sweated rates, though the contractors are making great profits. The Government refuses to prevent this.

(5) Extra war profits are being made out of food, coal, and other necessities and on the carrying of necessities from overseas to this country. The Government refuses to control prices or to limit the profits that private individuals are making; yet the workers are steadily being deprived of the power to enforce up their wages to meet the higher cost of living.

(6) The Government and the local authorities are curtailing expenditure on education, housing and public health, and essential things such as public baths and washhouses are being shut down. Yet, unnecessary waste in Government departments continues, and not one single official salary or pension has been reduced, though many are unnecessarily huge.

(7) An economy committee has been formed, on which a large representation is given to such people as Lord Middleton and others, who advocate the abolition of Old Age Pensions and the taxation of food and wages. At the same time generous interest is being paid to those who have more money than they actually need and thus are able to spare some of it to invest in War Loan, so that for every £100 invested, £235 will have to be paid back in 30 years.

(8) A year has been allowed to pass in which the nation has gone heavily into debt, and those who draw great incomes and have been making great profits, have

not been forced to contribute any substantial share of their income to the cost of the war.

If a limit of income were set up for all, Lords and commoners alike, say, of £500 a year for a household, or £2 a week for an adult and £1 a week for a child, or any reasonable standard beyond which all income would be confiscated by the State, then, and not till then, we should see all classes sharing with some semblance of equality, the burdens of the war. (Of course, if absolute justice were our aim, we should need to level up some of the lower incomes at the same time.) No one who is patriotic should shrink from such a limitation of income which would entail no actual physical hardship.

Yet, the powerful persons who are conducting the war and running the country, show us the mettle of their enthusiasm by being prepared to live like the majority on simple necessities. Let them be prepared to give their superfluous incomes for national use, and neither hoard them up for their own future benefit nor lend them out at heavy interest. Let them remember that to shield the wealthy few at the expense of the physique of the majority is dangerous to the well-being of the nation.

I believe that we shall not end wars until we prevent individuals making money out of them. We cannot prevent this all over the world as yet, but we can make a beginning in our own country.

I object to filling up the National Register because I am a voteless woman, and I see that the fact that women are politically helpless is being taken advantage of by those who are in power.

I also object to signing the register because I believe it to be the first step towards conscription, and I believe that conscientious objections to military service should be respected. They are not on the same footing as refusals to contribute superfluous wealth to the necessities of the State.

Many who are agreeing to sign the register do so on the ground that they can make what protest they please upon the form, but when they fill up the paper they supply the Government with the information it needs for applying coercion when it chooses to do so.

I refuse to fill up the register because I cannot agree to give any aid to a procedure which I consider wrong.—
Yours, etc.,
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