

THE VOTE
June 25, 1915.
ONE PENNY

MAKE A NOTE OF
Our New Address, 144 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 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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COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION.

Choosing the Candidate.

The narration of the doings of the ex-spy Lincoln (M.P. for Darlington during ten months) probably interests women even more than men. I cannot think that women are as poor psychologists, as bad judges of character, as men often are. It may be, as men sometimes hint, that women will be a good deal disappointed when they review their achievements after they have obtained the vote, and compare them with their hopes. It may be so. But I know, because men themselves have told me, that in New Zealand men of doubtful reputation and morality began to drop out of the elective chamber soon after women voted, and their candidature became very rare. In Norway immediately the Storting enfranchised women, the Government hastened to grant all the outlying demands of women in the post-office for better hours, pay, conditions, and this before women had voted at an election. It is matter of common observation that women are less deceived in appraising character than are men. But it might be well if thoughtful women for the present exercised their feminine weapon—we are looking forward, in the spirit, to the choice of candidates—of influence outside the man-dominated existing political associations. There are traps in them for the unwary.

The Democratic Principle.

There is a spice of the droll in the idea of any body of electors choosing Lincoln (shade of Abraham, pardon the name!) in preference to any of the women who lead the various sections of the Suffrage Movement in Britain, women of tried patriotism, distinguished by devotion, high ability, ripe judgment; all of them have made sacrifices for the reform Movement, have led laborious lives to forward it. Nothing better illustrates the folly of limiting choice to one sex when that choice lights on Lincoln. Now, of course, all the small terriers of journalism are yapping in chorus against this "vile creature," "odious scoundrel." I have not seen a single warning to constituencies that the failure to choose right instruments to carry out the

people's will, the failure to train that will along the lines of equality of opportunity for all, for both sexes, striving after greater justice in our social relations, is the failure of the democratic principle, one fraught with evil consequences.

Supremacy of the State.

French critics have often commented on the lack of general principles in the conduct of our public affairs, our tendency to muddle along by means of compromise without any general Declaration of the Rights of Man, much less those of Women. Nevertheless, it is a good thing to look principles fairly in the face now and then, to test our progress irrespective of the mighty *Status Quo*. The taproot of the Woman Movement lies in the fact that women have examined their legal, social and economic position in the light of principle: they have weighed it in the balance. The difficulty with our politicians is that they seem not to have done this. They have not let the right hand of Expediency know what the left hand of Principle is doing, if anything. Their principles, to change the metaphor, are locked up in watertight bulkheads. Occasionally we get various glimpses into this great world of male supremacy and the subjection of women, as when the new Minister of Munitions declared his intention of cajoling trade unions into "allowing" women to manufacture munitions of war. Why not pass a law with the same speed as the Cat and Mouse Act was passed for punitive purposes? The new Home Secretary, Sir John Simon, is a brave talker. So late as June 17 he said in the House of Commons "National interest comes far in front of anybody's personal convenience, be he rich or poor." And it came before the falsely conceived interest of certain trade unions whose failure to admit women to the unions has dealt a worse blow against labour, because its effects reach further, than any that capitalism has yet dealt. How firm is the State in its attitude to unenfranchised women, how gentle, temporising, conciliatory, when it deals with enfranchised men! Almost daily it gives an unconscious demonstration of this "principle."

For the Protection of Men.

The extraordinary impertinence of the attitude taken up both by the Government, the Trades Unions, and the Press, on the question of the employment of women would be incredible were it not a fact. The Government calls for women to volunteer for war service, and asks employers to take on as many women as possible. The men, who in the main have elected the Government, then indignantly declare that nothing will induce them to tolerate the presence of women in the trades in which they work; and so thousands of willing women—many of them sorely in need of work—are left, wasting their time in idleness, while the

country goes wanting the work they could be doing. Under a veiled threat of some sort of compulsion, this intransigence has broken down; and we now have the edifying spectacle of Mr. J. H. Thomas demanding that if "female labour" is to be employed, it must be at equal wage. This will doubtless in the future figure as vast and magnanimous and protective benevolence; but let women not forget that it is the first time on record that a powerful federation of male labour has put forward this request, and that it is in no wise intended as protection for women, but protection for men.

C. S. BREMNER.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

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

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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—After June 24 the address of the offices of the Women's Freedom League will be 144, High Holborn, W.C. Will members kindly note that our "House Warming" has been postponed from Saturday, June 26, to Monday, July 12, when Mrs. Despard has kindly promised to be present and to give a brief speech of welcome. Admission will be 6d.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday we shall hold the last of the series of our meetings at Fabian Hall, the speakers being Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, on "Feminism and the War Baby," and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken at 3.30. We hope to see a good rally of our members and friends on this occasion. These afternoon meetings will be resumed at the end of September.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party.

This will take place Thursday evening, July 8, at Caxton Hall. Tickets (including refreshments and music) can now be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C., at 1s. each.

Appreciation and Thanks.

Mrs. Fisher offers her very cordial thanks to the numerous members and friends who so kindly sent flowers for sale at Caxton Hall last Friday evening; and the Secretary conveys her grateful appreciation to those members (many of whom came from long distances) who distributed bills for our Magna Carta meeting.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE MOVING. £100 WANTED.

Dear Members & Friends,

On June 24th the League will bid farewell to the quiet of the Adelphi and set up housekeeping at 144, High Holborn, the most conspicuous corner premises in London.

A great deal of thought has been given to the New Headquarters and you will be very pleased with the result.

Please come to our help with the amount needed to cover the unavoidable expense for decoration of the offices we are leaving, for the removal, and for necessary alterations and additions to our new home; the general funds must not be called upon for this special expenditure. E. KNIGHT.

WHY NOT WOMEN IN THE CABINET?

A "National" Government has been formed which omits to notice the larger half of the nation. This must leave thinking women profoundly dissatisfied, and all Suffragists would do well to urge that the King even now should remedy this state of affairs by calling some suitable women to the Cabinet.

In the first place there is nothing in the definition of the Cabinet which need exclude women. It is, says Lord Morley, "an informal Committee of the Privy Council." Feilden says of it, "As a body, it is not recognised by law, and its members derive their authority from their position as Privy Counsellors." Maitland states, "The legal composition of the (Privy) Council is as follows:—'No number is fixed; no legal quorum is demanded; the Queen, of her own will, may make a man (not an alien) a Privy Counsellor—in substance he swears to advise the King to the best of his discretion. . . . The Privy Counsellor swears to keep the King's counsel secret, to avoid corruption, to do all that a good Counsellor should do. He is dismissible at pleasure without cause assigned.' In 1850 Lord Brougham's Interpretation Act enacted that "words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed to include females unless the contrary is expressly provided." Hence, in order to prove ineligibility of women to the Cabinet, it is necessary to prove that the term "Privy Counsellor" has been so defined as to exclude women. Probably there is no office in the Cabinet in which a woman Minister could not do good work, but in at least eight there is a special reason for women's co-operation. A capable woman should be appointed by the King first to the Privy Council, and thence to act as coadjutor-minister to each of the following offices, in accordance with the precedent set by Lord Lansdowne co-operating with Sir Edward Grey: namely, to the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, the Home Office, the War Office, the Ministry of Munitions, the Board of Trade, the Local Government Board, the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of Education.

Without professing to go exhaustively into the matter, it is evident that a woman's voice should be heard at the Exchequer in assessing how far war taxation can be borne by women. The treatment of British women married to aliens, and such problems as inadequate factory inspection, occur to the mind as justification for the presence of a woman at the Home Office. The feeding and clothing of the Army and Navy are problems that women could tackle at the War Office. The Minister of Munitions should have a woman coadjutor seeing that the manufacture of munitions is partly in women's hands. Women's influence at the Board of Trade might produce some practical plan for dealing with the high prices now prevailing. The Local Government Board deals with all Poor Law

questions—a sphere wherein women have proved their competence as Guardians. There may be many new problems arising out of the war to which a woman might bring intelligence and vision in a much higher capacity than as a mere regulation-ridden Guardian. Women's services are demanded on the land. It is logical that they should be in demand at the Board of Agriculture, too. The Board of Education is another suitable sphere for woman's work: Thousands of men teachers are being released for war by the substitution of women. The attempt to exploit child labour is also their concern. At present the Education Minister is avowedly in the Cabinet to deal, not with education, but with labour problems. This is indeed a Gilbert-and-Sullivan touch! It would be far better to have an *ad hoc* Ministry of labour in the joint charge of a man and a woman, and put an educationist at the head of the Board of Education. Children deserve some slight attention after all. They are a large part of the nation; more than that, they are the race of to-morrow. And certainly there needs to be a women's Labour Minister; for women are far worse organised industrially than men, and helpless politically through disfranchisement.

In asking for women coadjutor-ministers, it should be borne in mind that every Government Board is in composition really a Board. In practice most Boards do not meet, although the Admiralty is an exception—it is really deliberative. The Board of Trade, for instance, is in form a Committee of the Privy Council, consisting of the President and certain *ex-officio* members, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State, the Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Archbishop of Canterbury. What the last-named could do in that galley is puzzling to conjecture, if the Board ever met; especially as Canon Law forbids Anglican priests to engage in trade, and thus his practical knowledge of trade must be nil. It is reasonable to ask that instead of one-man makeshifts, the Boards of our Government should be constituted as deliberative and consultative Boards to which suitably qualified women could and should be called.

One sees on all sides placards headed "War Service for Women," and one has the uneasy conviction that the 10/- to 15/- a week posts are the trenches to which women war servants are being called. Why not to the new "pooled" Cabinet salary, £4,246 5s. 0d. posts, if they can render adequate service? Any woman who could stop the appalling waste of food at camps would save the tax-payers enough to be well worth it. No office is too low for women; why should any be too high?

One might further remark that the Government—the late Government—proved that it is not necessary for a Cabinet Minister to be a member of the House of Commons by the case of the Rt. Hon. C. F. G. Masterman. His Privy-Councillorship became for a year his only legal qualification for his seat in the Cabinet. We were told that his complete mastery of the Insurance Act was the reason for keeping him in the Cabinet, although he had no seat in the House of Commons. There would be just as good a case for having a woman of Mrs. Sidney Webb's proved mastery of the Poor Law as joint Minister of the Local Government Board. And just as the electors showed their lack of desire for Mr. Masterman's eagerly-proffered services, so also could the King use his prerogative as freely to dismiss a woman proved incompetent as to appoint a competent one.

British women need not be timorous about asking for high political power. Women have held the highest political office of all—that of ruler—with quite as much average success as men in Eng-

land, France, Russia and Flanders. Only in the man-ridden Germany of mediaeval days was it impossible for a woman to be elected to the ruling position in the Holy Roman Empire. This very month sees Denmark granting not only the franchise to women, but the right of eligibility to both Houses of Parliament. Recently in the U.S.A., Chief Justice Clark laid down the following rule:—

"Under the Constitution of the United States a woman, equally with a man, is eligible to any office from that of President or Judge of the Supreme Court down. In fact, women have held many positions under the Government, postmasters and other positions, including, I believe, collectors of internal revenue. To the credit of the makers of that instrument, they wrote into it nothing branding with the stigma of inferiority to share in the government one-half of the race. The word "male" does not appear as a requirement of competency to hold any office."

If our new non-party Government will not carry out the non-party duty of enfranchising women, let us appeal to the King's Prerogative. The fact that it has not yet been used to help women proves nothing. "Remember this, that we have no such doctrine (i.e. in the Constitution) as that a prerogative may cease because it is not used."—Maitland.

When in 1872 a Liberal Ministry could not get through the Lords the bill to abolish the Army Purchase system, Mr. Gladstone invoked the royal prerogative, and Queen Victoria abolished the practice of purchasing commissions by royal warrant, much to the approval of the electors.

"The existence of the prerogative enabled the Ministry . . . to give immediate effect to the wishes of the electors, and this is the result which under the circumstances of modern politics the survival of the prerogative will in every instance produce. *The prerogatives of the Crown have become the privileges of the people,*" remarks Professor Dicey.

As being part of that people, women should petition the Crown to use its prerogative for the creation of women Privy Counsellors and their inclusion in the Cabinet. Then we should have a truly National Government, not a sham. Precedents are being swept aside with a ruthless hand now. Let precedents of sex go with them. Of course, it might be urged that it would be more democratic if women were elected rather than chosen by the Sovereign; to that the obvious answer is:—Women are perfectly ready to accept the burden and duty of the franchise and of service in the House of Commons as part of their War Service to the nation. But if men do not bestir themselves soon to enfranchise women, at a time when women so urgently need political protection, they have no ground whatever for objection if women appeal over their heads to the reserve power in the Constitution—the prerogative of the Crown. If women cannot be represented in the House of Commons, they must have some persons of their own sex in the Cabinet. HELENA NORMANTON.

COMPULSORY SERVICE FOR WOMEN.

In view of the fact that in certain quarters the Government have been called upon to exercise compulsion on women as well as men for National Service, the Women's Freedom League think it right definitely to state their attitude on this question. It is their firm belief that women everywhere are ready for service, and that the coercion of voteless women would be an injustice and an indignity.

THE VOTE.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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NATIONAL HOUSEKEEPING.

The occurrences of the past week, so far as we have been able to read them—and it is impossible to take more than short views at the present moment—cannot have tended to encourage those who, in their pusillanimity have dared to despair of the nation. We wish we could say that panic-mongering had received its death-blow. It is certainly true, however, that Conscription and forced labour have taken a back seat, and that one or two other sensational fictions have been shown in their true colours.

Those who are responsible for the wise guidance of the nation through this time of crisis have, apparently, come to the conclusion that kicking and driving do not suit the temperament of the British people, men and women; for, although, in the hour of their country's need, they are ready to give largely and generously, they must not be compelled.

We are glad also to learn, from the report of an admirably organised committee which has carried out an exhaustive enquiry, that the war baby craze exists only in the imaginations of those who, out of twos and thrices, have built up thousands. War babies indeed there have been. In many a home, both gentle and simple, and under extraordinarily varied circumstances, these little souls have seen the light. The fathers of many of them will never return; such miseries are the inevitable outcome of war; and it should be the part of all who call themselves patriots, as careful custodians of the nation's wealth, to do everything they possibly can to ensure to these despoiled little ones and to their mothers such opportunities as may enable them to lead happy, useful and honourable lives.

We find meanwhile that those who have been casting aspersions wholesale on the manners of young men and women have grossly exaggerated the situation. After careful enquiry, thousands have been narrowed down to units. Dismissals of young women from mercantile establishments, gravely reported, have turned out to be fictitious. Here and there, this particular trouble may have been greater than in normal times; but when it is remembered that on the breaking out of war both girls and men were in certain areas plunged suddenly into an unusual life; when we remember moreover the part that emotionalism plays at moments of crisis, the marvel is that they should have behaved so well. One commanding officer is reported to have said when questioned as to the conduct of his men, "I don't know how it is all my youngsters are saints."

Clearing away sensationalists and panic-mongers; but, at the same time, realising how acute the passing moment in our national history is, let us think out for ourselves what our attitude as a people should be.

In the last three issues of THE VOTE we have dealt with the organisation of industry, drawing particular attention to that immense practically untapped reserve of strength and enthusiasm which women possess, and which they are ready to bring to the help of the country. The good housewife is she who knows what her resources are, and who is able to make the best of them. The nation is only the family writ large. What about the heads of the family? Are they national housekeepers in the true and wide sense? The next few months, whether of war or of peace in the making, will answer these questions. Meanwhile, it must be patent to all that if, in the past, our leaders had been gifted with the foresight, wisdom and constructive ability that our best home-workers possess, we should now, as a nation, be better prepared to meet the difficulties and dangers with which we are faced.

The word to-day is "Organise Labour." It ought to have been spoken long ago; and let it not be forgotten—there is another and more serious side to our national housekeeping. It is well to have willing servants, but the good housekeeper knows that they cannot live on air; therefore, out of whatever material resources she may possess, she provides for their physical efficiency, knowing that, through their strength and skill, these resources will be husbanded and increased.

What is the position of Great Britain with regard to the material, out of which her big family, so many of whom are withdrawn from productive industry, can be fed? It is realised apparently that the problem is a large one, and Lord Selborne, the new Minister of Agriculture, is prepared to treat it in a large way. To us it seems extraordinary that, while small savings of every kind are recommended, and waste is deprecated, our great national heritage—the land—should be neglected. Evidence of this fatal neglect meets us everywhere. East and west, north and south, as we travel through our country, we find barren or half-cultivated land, poor pasture, fields given over to weeds and stones, or poisoned by factory smoke. The ancient art of agriculture which flourished once in this country has been allowed to decline. Britain, for so long the workshop of the world has fed her people from over the seas; and now, at the moment of her great need, she is feeling the effects of her folly.

It may be as well to give a few facts, drawn from articles published in the *Times* and *Morning Post*, and summarised in the *Nation* of this week.

"In normal times we import about 30 million quarters of wheat. Germany imports 10 millions; France 3 or 4; Italy and Belgium 7 millions each."

It is further pointed out that, owing to the devastation caused by the war, there is bound to be a considerable shortage in the European harvest of next year. What, then, are we going to do? The production of munitions of war is being dealt with on a national basis. Surely the time has come to deal in the same way with the food of the people. At present, "we are producing bread on 3 per cent. of our soil against 25 per cent. in Germany, and 30 per cent. in France; and of the land we keep as grass 3 acres maintain one beast, whereas in Germany and France 3 acres maintain three beasts." These are serious facts which must be dealt with. The safety of the nation, the welfare of those who will follow us, demand it.

The difficulties are not insuperable. If our Government throws itself into the work of preparing for life as it has thrown itself into the work of preparing for death, its success will be assured.

Wherever we go now—to seaside resorts, to open moors, to pine woods, to meadows—we find villages and little towns sprung up, as it were, in a night, with large huts, tents, stables, recreation rooms, chapels, shops, apparatus for lighting and drainage, under the sky, in the fresh, open air, and men,

in their thousands, tanned with sunshine, wind, and exercise, moving about, marching, drilling, trench-digging, bringing in supplies by mule waggons or motor vans from neighbouring towns. It is a healthy life they are leading, and one that would be full of promise were it not for that which, if the war goes on, is sure to follow. And yet—the brief respite—the joy of having lived for one spring and summer in the sunshine and the wind is theirs, and we see by their faces that they are glad of it.

Is it altogether a vain dream that, after the same fashion, the great art of agriculture might be built up once more in this country. As the military camps have sprung up at the demand of the nation, so might experimental farms, like those in Canada, poultry farms, dairy farms, agricultural colleges, vegetable and fruit gardens. There are plenty of skilled persons to direct and hosts of workers available; women who are craving to serve; men a little too old for the army, or through some slight physical disability, unable to pass the medical examination; men also who have come home, spent with over strain and partially disabled. These last, who would be pensioned, might work in short shifts. The others, combined in strong unions of both women and men, would, like the soldiers, be Government servants and would receive trade union pay.

It is a splendid vision that rises before us, as we see in imagination that which might be, and in truth, when we consider the present conditions of thousands of our people, it would be exchanging death for life. Moreover it is possible. If the Government will make use of the nation's resources not only in the work of men and women but in the land and in the scientific discoveries the application of which will extraordinarily increase its productivity, we shall be able not only to supply ourselves with life's necessities, but to help the nations that are threatened with famine through war's devastation.

We are glad to hear that a strong committee is working under Lord Selborne. We hope nothing will deter them from carrying through some scheme of national housekeeping worthy of the name.

C. DESPARD.

THE MAGNA CARTA CELEBRATION AND ANGLO-BELGIAN MEETING.

To the spirit of Liberty homage was paid with enthusiasm and devotion at our Caxton Hall meeting on June 18—a meeting which will rank as memorable in the annals of the Women's Freedom League. The valued co-operation of our Belgian friends and their faith in Britain's aid in the vindication of their country's claim to independence added to the interest of the commemoration of the foundation of our own liberties. The heartfelt thanks expressed to them by Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Miss Normanton, the Rev. Ord Warlow, and Mr. Henry Holiday were warmly supported by the large audience. Our President, from the chair, gave cordial greeting to all who by their presence showed their determination to hold aloft the banner of liberty at a time when the liberties of Europe were menaced.

M. Vandervelde, who received an enthusiastic welcome, made a brilliant and powerful speech on liberty, which linked the history of a hundred years ago—the battle of Waterloo was fought on June 18, 1815—with to-day.

Britain was fighting Caesarism then under the name of Napoleon; she is fighting it to-day under the name of

William II.; she conquered then in spite of Napoleon's military genius; she will conquer to-day in spite of William II.'s zeppelins and asphyxiating gases. A hundred years ago the Holy Alliance of monarchs brought about a heavier domination than that of Napoleon; to-day the Holy Alliance of the people must bring about the reign of liberty. The two classes who suffer most in our present social conditions are the workers and women. The workers of Belgium, who before the war were denied the right to vote, had proved their heroism at Liege and elsewhere, and could not be counted as inferior after their great exploits. Owing to the war, women had now found new occupations open to them, which would not be closed when hostilities ceased; they would obtain their great Charter. Victory must first be achieved, and he maintained that the Allies have the men, the money, and the ships to achieve it. Belgium had won the eternal honour of accepting martyrdom for a great cause, and in suffering for the right. M. Vandervelde declared his confidence that Britain, who had never been daunted in her twenty years' fight with Napoleon, would succeed to-day with her Allies in crushing despotism and bringing about the triumph of liberty.

To follow so gifted an orator was no easy task, but Miss Helena Normanton, in a finely reasoned speech, punctuated with keen thrusts at present-day rulers, spiritual as well as temporal, held the close attention of the audience as she showed how important to our liberties is the Great Charter signed by King John seven hundred years ago.

Without Magna Carta, she said, there would have been no Waterloo. In a sketch of the situation at the time, Miss Normanton told how the King, having suffered defeat with his German ally at Bouvines, at the hands of France, returned to England in disgrace and demanded heavy taxation from the barons, who refused to pay. Stephen Langton and other Church dignitaries warmly supported this tax resistance on the ground that the money was not justly demanded. Miss Normanton declared her belief that the real power behind the barons in securing the Charter was economic pressure and cruelty to women. King John had in his possession as hostages a large number of children of noble families, with the idea of preventing rebellion; and on one occasion hanged twenty-four Welsh boys at Nottingham. There is a determined effort in some quarters to write down Magna Carta, and to regard it as nothing more than provisions made by selfish barons for their own benefit. She combated this idea vigorously, and pointed out that it was ordained that Magna Carta should be read publicly in church twice a year. "Why have bishops," she asked, "broken the law throughout the centuries by neglecting thus to read the Charter?" To have done so would have given too glaring a point to injustice. The Charter, she insisted, is *everything to us*; it is the legal basis for the enfranchisement of Englishwomen; only under the great Reform Act of 1832 did women lose the right to vote, and five members of the House of Lords protested against this infringement of the rights of women. Sir Edward Cope described the Charter as so fine and precious that not one crumb should be allowed to escape. Do not let us allow our constitution to be tampered with, added Miss Normanton; we are fighting to free Belgium, but we must see that our own liberties are not thrown away.

An important feature of the evening was the excellent musical programme arranged by our Belgian friends. They brought the foremost of their musicians to share in the celebration. Ysaye, the world famous violinist met with an enthusiastic reception for his splendid rendering of Veracini's "Sonate in la mineur," Svendsen's "Romance," and Saint-Saens "Havanaise," and was recalled time after time. Madame Boïn-Kufferath achieved a fine success with her 'cello solos, and the soprano singer, Mme. Marie Wéber Delacre, sang splendidly a number of French songs. The famous composer and pianist, Joseph Jongen played two of his own compositions, and the delight of the audience testified to their full and deep appreciation of the musical programme so kindly provided. The evening will be an honoured memory with all who took part; its proceeds were shared between the fund for helping Belgian soldiers and the work of the Women's Freedom League. The two quotations on the programme summarised its interest.

To none will we refuse, to none will we deny or delay right or justice.—Magna Carta.

Mieux vaut mourir de franche volonté.
Que du pays perdre la liberté.

(Motto of the Principality of Liège.)

Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation.

In further explanation of the idea underlying the scheme for organising women's work at the present crisis, we point out that although the Government is calling for workers, the women on the Government register still remain idle. There is no doubt that the Government, in dealing with the problem of munitions, is not employing workers registered at the Labour Exchanges to any extent, but an endeavour is being made to collect *voluntary* women workers with the help of some women's societies. We heard a few days ago that an employer enlisted the help of one of these societies to collect women workers and then explained that as they were untrained women, of course, they would be unpaid. We know there are women urgently requiring paid work, and we also know that there are women who, by giving their services for nothing, are disorganising the whole industrial world.

All this points to the needs for watchfulness and organisation. Our office at 144, High Holborn (near the British Museum, entrance Silver-street), is now open, and members are enrolling daily. It is a conscientious duty for us to satisfy ourselves that women are taking their proper share in the nation's work. We endeavour to find work for all members seeking it, and to safeguard their position as workers at this critical time. All who wish to help with this great work are invited to call at 144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRANCES M. PARKER.
ETHEL MOORHEAD.

MISS BOYLE'S VISIT TO LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER.

The recent campaign arranged for Miss Nina Boyle in Liverpool and district was opened by a Reception kindly given by Mrs. Mills in the Institute, Garden Suburb, Wavertree. Mr. J. W. Morrissey presided. Speaking on "Women and War," Miss Boyle referred to the muddles and mismanagements in many of the camps which capable women would have avoided and maintained that the State ought not refuse the help of women because of mere prejudice. This is the first Suffrage Meeting held in the Garden City; Miss Boyle had a most sympathetic audience and we hope to hold another meeting there shortly. At the Clarion Café, a large gathering of members and friends gave Miss Boyle a most hearty welcome. Dr. Alice Ker, presided and Miss Boyle delighted her audience with her witticisms on "Men and Manners," and new members were enrolled. By the kind permission of Mrs. Gibson, Brookside, Maiden Lane, Clubmoor, a number of friends and sympathisers met Miss Boyle at her house. Miss Boyle also addressed the girl workers as they left the Tin works, Aintree; women came out of the surrounding houses to listen to her eloquent and practical speech, and all regretted that similar meetings should be arranged.

During her visit to Manchester an excellent open-air meeting was held in Platt Fields Park, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League and the Manchester Men's League, over which Miss Janet Heyes presided. Professor Merrick and Miss Boyle were accorded a most sympathetic and attentive hearing. The Vote sold well, a good collection was taken. Very successful open-air meetings were held at Sydney-street on Saturday evening when Miss Janet Heyes presided and Miss Boyle spoke, and on Sunday, in Boggart Hole Clough, when Mr. Briarley presided; the speakers were Miss Boyle, Miss Janet Heyes, Mr. Oliver and Professor Merrick. Miss Boyle also addressed a Brotherhood meeting in Oxford Street. At a dinner-hour meeting, the girl workers at the Co-operative works gave Miss Boyle an interested hearing and cordial reception.

Before leaving for London, Miss Boyle met the members of the Sale Branch in the W.Y.C.A. rooms, Sale, and discussed with them plans for future work. She also spoke at the Women's Co-operative Guild, Blackley, where she was accorded a very sympathetic hearing and received a pressing invitation to come again. We feel much encouraged by Miss Boyle's visit and we hope that before long we may have another opportunity of working with her in Liverpool and Manchester.

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

Friday, June 25.—CROYDON, Public Meeting, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Sunday, June 27.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), noon. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Eggett.

Monday, June 28.—CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-road, S.W., 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 29.—BOHEMIAN EVENING (arranged by the Mid-London Branch), 150, Finchley-road, N.W. (by kind permission of Miss Julie Huntsman), 7.45 p.m. Tickets, 1s. each, including refreshments and music.

Wednesday, June 30.—PUBLIC MEETING, Fabian Hall, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, on "Feminism and the War Baby," and Miss Nina Boyle. EAST LONDON, Branch Meeting, 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow, 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 1.—CROYDON, Open-air Meeting, Katharine-street, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Saturday, July 3.—CROYDON, Whist Drive, 32a, The Arcade.

Sunday, July 4.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Mrs. Mustard and Miss Le Croisette. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Mustard and Miss Le Croisette.

Thursday, July 8.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 1s. each, including refreshments and music.

Sunday, July 11.—HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Boyle. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.

Monday, July 12.—HOUSE WARMING at 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C., 6 to 10 p.m. Admission 6d. Welcome by Mrs. Despard.

Thursday, July 15.—CROYDON, Open-air Meeting, Katharine-street, 8 p.m. "DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., N.W.; open every day, 4 to 10 p.m.

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PROVINCES.

Wednesday, June 30.—PORTSMOUTH, Picnic, Portsdown-hill. Meet at Light Railway at 3 p.m.

Tuesday, July 6.—PORTSMOUTH, Members' Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Hattrill, on "Militarism versus Feminism."

Wednesday, July 7.—PORTSMOUTH, Work Party, 17, Duncan-road, 3 to 7 p.m. Hostess: Mrs. Speck. MIDDLESBROUGH, Surprise Party.

Sunday, July 11.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Suffrage Centre, Lecture, 6.45 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Crow on "The Planetary Chain."

WALES.

Friday, July 2.—CARDIFF, Branch Meeting, Welsh Industries, Queen-street, 7.30 p.m. Paper by Mrs. Gibson, on "Mental Deficiency."

OUR GOOD FRIEND, Mr. Harrison Hill, has helped the Women's Freedom League on so many occasions that friends will welcome the opportunity afforded by his concert at the Steinway Hall on Tuesday, June 29, at 8 p.m., to show their appreciation of his services to us. A very fine programme will be given at which Mme. Alice Esty, Madame Gleeson White, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Mr. Thorpe Bates, and other eminent artistes will appear; Mr. Ernest Denny will recite, and Mr. Walter Churcher and Mr. John Hassall will draw. Tickets 10s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d.

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A BEAUTIFUL BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

Mr. Henry Holiday's always delightful hospitality at Oak Tree House to the Hampstead Branch of the W.F.L. at the "Birthday Garden Parties" was rendered more than ever memorable last Saturday by the artist's presentation of a birthday gift to our President in the form of a beautiful drawing for the front page of THE VOTE. Mrs. Despard expressed for herself and for the League warmest gratitude to Mr. Holiday for his valued gift. Lovely weather favoured the party, and a large gathering of friends enjoyed to the full the charm of the garden and the studio. The Branch desires to thank very heartily Madame Ratmirova, the celebrated Russian singer, for her much appreciated help, Miss Julie Huntsman, Prof. Inayat Khan, and Mr. Treadgold, whose recitations and music are always so much enjoyed; the children of Mrs. Sudd Brown for their charming acting of French plays, and Madame Aino Malmberg for her hand-reading.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

On June 16 the speakers at the Fabian Hall were Mrs. Despard, Miss F. M. Parker, and Miss Boyle, the chair being taken by Mrs. Huntsman. Mrs. Despard, in emphasising the fact that men had not been willing that women should take their fair share of work or of credit in the world, referred to Miss Toker's recent book, "Ecce Mater," and her description of women's position during the 18th century. Miss Parker gave an account of the objects and work of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation, and Miss Boyle insisted on the right of women to get their proper share of the work of the nation. Next Wednesday we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, who will speak on "Feminism and the War Baby."

IN THE PARKS.

Hyde Park.

The Sunday morning meeting, under the auspices of the London Branches' Council, was held at noon last Sunday, with the Hon. Mrs. Forbes in the chair and Miss Boyle as speaker. Mrs. Forbes took the chair for the first time, and her opening address, with its sympathetic exposition of the Suffragist position and its true understanding of the feeling now prevailing in the heart of the people, created an immediately favourable impression. Miss Boyle followed, and received an excellent hearing from a deeply attentive crowd. Several people, who came in the hope of hearing Mrs. Despard, were informed that she would speak next Sunday. Miss Adams and members of the East London Branch were in charge of the arrangements for the meeting.

Brockwell Park

Mrs. Leigh Rothwell was the speaker in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning last, when a large and interested audience listened with great attention to her address on the economic position of women and the urgent necessity for their enfranchisement. Mrs. Rothwell gave striking instances of the double standard of wages for men and women engaged in Government work and appealed to the men present for their own sake to support women in their struggle for freedom in order to prevent the exploitation of the ir labour.

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MEETINGS.
Tuesday, 29th June, 8 p.m. Annual General Meeting.
Wednesday, 30th June, 3.30 p.m. Club Tea. (Lecture 4.30.) Miss MARGARET BONDFIELD. "The Problem of Illegitimacy." Hostess: Mrs. BIGLAND.

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THE VOTE

CWEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.

On June 14 an open-air meeting was held at Llanishen, when Mrs. Keating Hill gave a splendid address on the Suffrage question. She pointed out how necessary it was to keep the flag flying, and why women should be enfranchised, especially at the present time. New work is opening up for women, and the vote is a necessity to secure better conditions for them in the labour market.

Clapham

Will members please note that a Branch meeting will be held at 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-road, June 28, at 8 p.m. The time of the Sunday meetings on Clapham Common has been altered to 6 p.m.; the speaker next Sunday will be Miss Nina Boyle, and the chairman, Miss Eggett.

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

A very successful open-air meeting was held on June 17 in Katharine-street, at which Miss Boyle's address was greatly appreciated by the crowd. One of the audience addressing the gathering expressed his convictions on Woman Suffrage, and said he endorsed all that the speaker had said. Will members make known the Whist Drive on Saturday, July 3; the profits are to be given to the "Birthday Fund"? Mrs. E. M. N. Clark will be the speaker at our meeting on June 25; subject: "The Serbian Question." Miss Bennett will preside at 3.30 p.m.

East London.

There will be a Branch meeting at 37, Wellington-buildings, on Wednesday, June 30. All members are invited to make a special effort to attend, as there are many matters of importance to be discussed and settled. Members are reminded to bring needlework in preparation for the November Fair.

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

A business meeting was held on June 14, at which the usual monthly reports were read and adopted. Arrangements were made for the Surprise Party and many out-

of-door meetings. In a discussion on the organisation of women's work, Mrs. Schofield Coates outlined the new scheme of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation. On June 15 there was a gathering of members in the W.F.L. rooms to say good-bye to Miss Dorothy Nicholson, who has since sailed for South Africa. After tea, Miss Amy Mahony expressed the good wishes of the members and their regret at losing such an enthusiastic and helpful worker, also the hope that she would still keep up her connection with the work that is being done for Woman Suffrage.

Saturday, the occasion of our first picnic, was a memorable day in the annals of our Branch. The weather was perfect, and the Cleveland Hills have never looked more alluring. Those who did the big walk over the moors deserve credit for the achievement. Photographs of picnic groups are now on sale at the rooms (the money will be given to the Despard Fund), also tickets for the Surprise Party at 1s.

Paisley.

At our last Branch meeting we had the great pleasure of welcoming back our Branch president, Dr. Ross, who gave a most interesting account of the work done by the Scottish Women's Hospital in France, organised by the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies. Miss Allison presided. We are delighted to have Dr. Ross with us again, and her enthusiasm for Woman Suffrage will be a valuable help in keeping our flag flying.

Sunderland.

On June 17 Miss Goddard gave an address at Westcott House on the work of the League. She emphasised the necessity for the various Branches to keep the Suffrage flag flying; owing to the stress of the present time it behoves women to insist that Suffrage principles should be applied to the regeneration of the community that this war will bring. The members present were very much interested, and various plans were put forward to help to strengthen the Sunderland Branch.

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TO OUR READERS.

OWING to pressure on our space we are obliged to hold over till next week "War Babies" correspondence with the Archbishop of York; and Our Open Column, etc.

SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster (near St. James's Park Station). Wednesday afternoon, June 23. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, on "Feminism and the War Baby," and Miss C. Nina Boyle.

WOMEN AND WAR.—Service of Intercession (arranged by the C.L.W.S.), St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar-square, Saturday, June 26, 1915, at 3 p.m. Address by the Rev.

O. C. Quick. We earnestly invite all members and friends to attend this service.

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