

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIII. No. 335.

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FRIDAY, MAR. 24, 1916.

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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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Nurse Rodwell: Royal Sympathy.

The King and Queen have sent the following letter to the relatives of Sister Mary Rodwell, who went down with her cot cases on the ill-fated hospital ship *Anglia*:

The Private Secretary is commanded to convey to Mr. J. Rodwell the true sympathy of the King and Queen with him in the grievous sorrow which has befallen him by the loss of his daughter in the sinking of the *Anglia*. At the same time, their Majesties desire to express their admiration of the courage and noble self-sacrifice with which Nurse Rodwell met her death.

This valiant woman had the honour of attending on the King when he crossed from France after his accident. The Matron and other nurses saved from the *Anglia* were decorated by His Majesty last week.

Miss Vivian Tremaine, acting matron of the Daughters of the Empire Canadian Hospital for Officers, who nursed the King after his accident in France, was decorated by him with the Royal Red Cross, First Class; also Miss Alice Wainwright, of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service.

In Mesopotamia.

Five weeks ago Miss P. F. Watt, Lady Superintendent, Military Nursing Service for India, who has been sent with the Rawal Pindi Hospital to Mesopotamia, wrote: "We are on a steam barge with an armed escort going up the river Tigris. . . We are the first Sisters to go up the river, so I have no doubt we shall find plenty of work waiting for us on our arrival."

Sleeping in Trenches in Winter.

Millicent Duchess of Sutherland, who is taking a brief respite from her hospital work in France, spoke at Streatham College for Girls, on March 16, on her experiences in France and Belgium. When she went out on August 8, 1914, she found that red tape was much in the way, for the British authorities could not understand how much of the work could possibly be done by women. "They are learning better now," she remarked, "and the next genera-

tion will be astonished to find how hide-bound their fathers were." Motors and ambulances were entirely driven by women where she was stationed, and in the depth of winter the nurses were quite happy sleeping in trenches when they could snatch a brief interval for rest.

France's Day: Unique Memento the Work of Women.

The album presented by the British Municipalities to the French President as a unique memento of France's Day, when £22,600 was collected, was a splendid example of the combined arts of printer, binder, and illustrator, and was the work of women. The design, decoration, and binding were carried out by the Misses Woolrich, 50a, Elizabeth-street, Chester-square, London, and the illumination by Miss Jessie Bayes, 82, Fellows-road, Hampstead. There were 450 seals and signatures.

Deaf and Dumb Sculptor.

The marble memorial to Mrs. Henry Wood, the well-known novelist, recently unveiled in Worcester Cathedral, is the work of Miss Dorothy Wise, the deaf and dumb sculptor of Hendon, London.

Station Mistress.

A station mistress is in charge of Sandy Lodge Station, Great Central Railway.

Robbing the Children, Killing the Teachers.

One of our members writes: "Last year I was appointed head—without a rise of salary—of a large elementary school. The first war economy was to take away one of my staff, although the school is in a specially difficult neighbourhood, and I have to be head and assistant all in one. We are eight women responsible for the safe keeping, the education, the cleanliness, the everything, of 380 children. I sometimes think the Council cannot know what it is doing. It is not merely a question of robbing the children who are to be the nation after the War, but of crushing out the very life of the teachers whom it has taken a life-time to produce!" Economy?

Women's Freedom League.

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

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, March 24.—CROYDON PUBLIC MEETING, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30. Speaker: Mrs. Duncan Harris on "Baby Welcomes."
Saturday, March 25.—GOLDER'S GREEN BRANCH DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 45, Ashbourne-avenue, Hendon, N.W., 4 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Hodge. L.B.C. DRAWING-ROOM MEETING at 47, Upper Clapton-road, N.E. (by kind permission of Dr. Annie Black), 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray and Mrs. Corner. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.
Tuesday, March 28.—L.B.C. SEWING MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 29.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. Admission free.
Sunday, April 2.—LECTURE by Mrs. Despard on "Brotherhood—Theoretical and Practical," at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, 4 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. Tickets, 2s. and 1s. each, from W.F.L. Office.

Wednesday, April 5.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. R. M. French, "Women Police in California," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Admission free.

Saturday, April 8.—CROYDON WHIST DRIVE, at 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 6.30 p.m., to help 50,000 Shillings Fund

Sunday, April 9.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, by kind permission of Miss Forbes Robertson, 9, Museum-chambers, Bury-street, W.C. (opposite W.F.L. Offices), 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m.

Monday, April 10.—BOWES PARK BRANCH MEETING, at "Corbally," 59, Truro-road, Wood Green, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. H. N. Flewker, "The Urgent Need for Reform of the Lunacy Laws and for Remedial Treatment," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Despard.

Friday, April 14.—CROYDON PUBLIC MEETING, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30.

Saturday, May 6.—DEBATE on "What Should the Suffragists Demand Be?" between Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., and Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, W.C., 3 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d. (reserved and numbered), 1s. (reserved unnumbered) and 6d. (unreserved).

PROVINCES.

Monday, March 27.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice G. Murray.
Tuesday, March 28.—PORTSMOUTH. Members' Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, April 3.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lucas, of Darlington.

Wednesday, April 5.—LETCHWORTH. Working Party, at Miss Woodward's, Woodrow, Norton Way. PORTSMOUTH. Sewing Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 3 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre, Violin Recital by Mr. Walter Hampton ("Casey").

WALES.

Friday, March 31.—SWANSEA. Jumble Sale (proceeds to be sent to Headquarters).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, March 26.—BLACKFRIARS' MISSION, Stamford-street, S.E., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner on "Why Men Need Votes for Women."

Wednesday, March 29.—INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, 8 p.m. Miss Rebecca West, "The Art of Reviewing." Chair: Miss Otter.

"Getting Home."

"Let it not be supposed that an armlet is a substitute for a vote. Recognition to be worthy must be complete. If women can save and serve the nation, as we are now daily told, and as we knew long ago, let them be part of the citizenship of the nation."
—The Herald.

FIFTY THOUSAND SHILLING FUND.

We have passed our first milestone, the St. Patrick's Day Rally, and with promises and contributions the Fund now reaches well over 5,000 shillings.

Best thanks to all Branches and friends who worked so hard to have their first instalment ready.

The general enthusiasm and determination to persevere in continuous effort for generous support of the League are very striking, and make our ultimate success assured.

Meanwhile, we must now start preparations for the next Rally, and contributions, jewels, or useful articles for sale will be gratefully received.

E. KNIGHT.

FIRST LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

BRANCHES.	£	s.	d.
Bowes Park	10	0	0
Clapham	4	15	0
Dundee	5	0	0
Edinburgh	6	10	0
Glasgow	1	18	0
Golder's Green	5	12	0
Hackney	3	0	0
Hampstead	7	11	0
Harrow	1	12	0
Herne Hill	6	0	0
Highbury	2	18	0
Hornsey	1	3	6
Letchworth	5	0	0
London Branches Council	6	2	0
Manchester	2	0	0
Middlesbrough	5	0	0
Mid-London	10	6	0
Montgomery Boroughs	5	0	0
Portsmouth	10	6	0
Regent's Park	10	0	0
Rothsay	14	14	8
Scottish Scattered Members	1	0	0
Sheffield	2	10	0
Southampton	1	6	0
Stamford Hill and Tottenham	3	4	0
Tufnell Park	5	0	0
Waterloo	25	0	0
Mrs. Snow	10	0	0
Mrs. Murray	10	0	0
Mrs. A. W. Thomson	7	6	0
Mrs. Julia Wood	6	3	0
Mrs. Despard	5	0	0
Captain and Mrs. Walter Carey	5	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Forbes (self-denial)	5	0	0
Miss F. A. Howard	5	0	0
Dr. Knight	2	0	0
Mrs. Fox Bourne	2	0	0
Mrs. Walter Carey (self-denial)	1	5	0
Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett	1	5	0
Women's Freedom League Club Council (self-denial)	1	2	6
Miss Eunice Murray	1	0	0
Miss Margaret Hodge	1	0	0
Mrs. Marion Holmes	1	0	0
Miss Beatrice Kent	1	0	0
Mrs. C. Linsell	1	0	0
Miss A. A. Smith	1	0	0
Mrs. Thomson	1	0	0
Miss F. A. Underwood	1	0	0
Mrs. Zangwill	1	0	0
Miss Ada Dunkley (collected)	15	0	0
Miss Marguerite Penrose	14	0	0
Miss Fox Bourne	10	0	0
Miss Nina Boyle (self-denial)	10	0	0
Mrs. W. Broadway (collected)	10	0	0
Mrs. Cunningham (collected)	10	0	0
Mrs. Sargent Florence	10	0	0
Miss Holmes	10	0	0
Mrs. Dora B. Montefiore	10	0	0
Miss Anna Munro	10	0	0
Mrs. Mustard	10	0	0
Mrs. Thomson-Price	10	0	0
Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson	10	0	0
Mrs. Stebbing	10	0	0
Mrs. Tudor	10	0	0
Miss M. B. Williamson	10	0	0
Miss Marguerite A. Sidley	9	0	0
Women's Freedom League Settlement	8	0	0
Miss Forbes Robertson	7	6	0
Miss Isaac	7	0	0
Miss G. M. Telling (collected)	7	0	0
Miss Lole (money-box)	6	8	0
Miss Brouneau	5	0	0
Mrs. Bryant	5	0	0
Mrs. Gillies, per Mrs. Bryant	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Miss E. Hunt	5	0	0
Miss Husband	5	0	0
Mrs. E. Langridge	5	0	0
Nurse J. A. Meyrick	5	0	0
Mrs. Sholl	5	0	0
Mrs. Sidley	5	0	0
Mrs. Sutcliffe	5	0	0
Miss Winifred Holiday	4	6	0
Mrs. W. Geiler-Howsley	4	0	0
Miss Bisdee	3	0	0
Mrs. E. Gomersall	3	0	0
Mrs. A. Linley Price, per Mrs. Thomson-Price	3	0	0
M. N. S.	3	0	0
Miss Christy	2	6	0
Mrs. Herman Lea	2	6	0
J. B. Pennington, Esq.	2	6	0
Miss M. I. Saunders	2	6	0
Mrs. Tritton	2	6	0
A Friend	2	0	0
Miss C. Hare	2	0	0
Mrs. E. Leale	2	0	0
Miss M. Bayliss	1	0	0
Miss Bertram	1	0	0
Miss E. Campbell (flowers)	1	0	0
Mrs. Rosa French	1	0	0
Captain and Mrs. Giles	1	0	0
Miss I. Harvey	1	0	0
Miss Holman	1	0	0
Miss Booth Scott	1	0	0
Mrs. Dudley Ward	1	0	0
Tickets	3	4	6
Collections	10	7	6
Sale of Bag and Shoes	2	1	6
Sale of Flowers and Shamrock	1	15	0
Sale of Programmes	4	3	0
Cloakroom Profit	2	6	0
	£236	14	5

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Presiding at our meeting at Caxton Hall last Wednesday afternoon, Miss Alix M. Clark said that many people who had never worked for women's political enfranchisement now told us that Votes for Women were practically won; others who had worked most strenuously for it declared that we must keep our Cause before the country and our flag flying at all costs. Miss Clark urged all women who cared for the interests of women and children, and who had the welfare of our country at heart, to join the women's movement without delay, and to work unceasingly until women had secured political liberty.

Miss Margaret Hodge's address on "Lands where British Women Vote," was full of interest. Five years ago she had attended a Congress of Women under the auspices of the International Suffrage Alliance at Stockholm, and received special attention because she was a woman voter amongst the women of so many countries who were demanding the vote. In Australia, where women had enjoyed the right to vote since 1893, they there felt absolutely free. The working women were specially eager to use their vote, and they had a labour party organisation apart from that of the men. Their prosperity was evident in their good housing conditions and in their wealth of gardens. The effect of women's political power was seen in a diminished rate of infant mortality, in a diminished death-rate of women in child-birth, in the better education and care of the children, and in the minimum employment of child labour. In the Australian Commonwealth the child was the State's greatest asset, and women and their point of view were respected.

Miss Anna Munro, who received a warm welcome after her long absence, gave a lively account of her recent visit to Scotland, where she had addressed crowded meetings, and found a good increase of membership in our Scottish Branches. She endorsed Sir Frederick Milner's recent statement in connection with another matter that "Governments don't pass measures because of their common-sense!"—otherwise women would have been enfranchised long ago. Speaking of the conditions of women in munition works, many, said Miss Munro, were

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breaking down under the strain of seven days a week; no man, woman, or machine could stand that strain for long. With regard to the education economies, Miss Munro declared that to deprive children of education, from the point of view of economy, was the most thriftless form of economy of which any nation could be guilty!

Women's Freedom League Settlement
Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

Our grateful thanks and acknowledgments for gifts of apples from Miss Leach and Miss Murray; Mrs. Dreyfus, 10s. and goloshes; Miss Ibbotson, butter; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Mrs. Green, towels; Miss Kearton, butter, oranges, stationery, and a window leather; Miss Belle Lewis, 5s., eggs, and clothing for jumble sale; M.V.S., Shepherd's Bush, 2s. for milk depot; Miss Harris, shoes; Miss Ethel Bull, sleeping suits; blankets from an anonymous donor in South Wales; and a beautiful double perambulator from T. F. Simmons, Esq. We hope to meet all the friends of the Settlement on Monday, March 27, when Mrs. Despard has kindly lent us her clubroom at 2, Currie-street, for a demonstration of economical cake-making by Miss A. M. Cole. Will anyone who has not received a card accept this intimation that we shall be delighted to see them at 3.15 on that day? Cake-making at 3.30 sharp.

We Draw Special Attention to—

1. Mr. Lansbury at Caxton Hall, Wednesday, March 29, 3.30 p.m.
2. Mrs. Despard at the Bijou Theatre, Sunday, April 2, 4.0 p.m. ("Brotherhood, Theoretical and Practical"). Chair: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 972.

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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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SACRIFICING THE CHILDREN.

If universal economy is to be recommended, without regard to the character of the commodities and services in which saving is proposed, neglecting also the result of such economy, we may at least congratulate ourselves that but little brain wear has been expended upon the consideration of a large proportion of the national savings already effected or upon many of the suggestions for further thrift which are daily foisted upon a bewildered public.

Apparently the Government have written in letters of gold the proverb "*Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves.*" which, though often taken as a self-evident truth, is not of universal application. It is well known that some spend-thrifts are as prodigal of pounds as they are parsimonious of pence. A nation which blows away five millions a day in the task of destroying life and material wealth need not necessarily regard itself with satisfaction because it has ensured the continuance of the war for fifteen minutes by shutting up its national museums. Expenditure and saving, whether in public or private life, must bear a constant relation to the standard of values of the individual, the household, or the community. One individual may consider that the level of his life is raised higher by the consumption of cigarettes and cinemas rather than by attendance at continuation schools. A subscription to a library would be considered a superfluous extravagance by one family. But the household next door may regard it as a necessity, and find their physical efficiency increased by the more abundant life—mental, moral, and emotional—resulting from the expenditure which their neighbours regard as an unwarrantable extravagance. It is possible that a nation may prefer to effect economies in sugar and in the transport of fruit rather than to diminish the supply of those materials necessary in the manufacture of alcoholic drinks. (It is true that sugar and fruit have been regarded as necessities by a large proportion of the mothers of the nation, on account of their food and health-giving properties, and that a shortage in supply would be likely to affect injuriously the children of the poor.) Loyalty and patriotism are to be commended, but it cannot be expected that the example of those in high places will be followed if their actions are too foolishly quixotic. If economies are to be effected in human lives, a Government may find it preferable to risk those of schoolmasters and doctors rather than to interfere with the valuable services rendered by the whips and kennel-keepers of foxhounds, though it must be confessed that the argument that fox-hunting encourages horse breed-

ing (horses being necessary for the Army), strikes one as somewhat "thin." After all, a shortage in men can be made up by enlisting the paralytics, the tuberculous, the chronic rheumatics, the one-handed, and the sand-blind.

In the last resort, economies can be effected from those members of the community least able to protect themselves. Voteless women can be employed to make hand-grenades at 2½d. per hour, though even in the sweated industry of box-making, a minimum wage of 3½d. an hour has been established. (*Vide* Press reports of address given by Miss Margaret Bondfield at a meeting at Lady Hambleton's last week.) It is even safer to economise on the children, and to take small boys from school at twelve, or even at eleven years old, and set them to work on farms at 3d. a day—*indispensables* at 3d. a day! Unfortunately, that 1s. 6d. a week cannot be repaid, like the War Loan, in terms of £ s. d. It is a mortgage only to be redeemed in terms of life values having no monetary equivalents.

It is for the women of the country to consider very carefully the wisdom or unwisdom of these economies. Perhaps the saddest feature of the war is the amount of agony and suffering which falls on the young. We lay the responsibility of the country's defence and the country's honour to a great extent upon boys and youths under 21, who, like ourselves, are voteless, and have no part in the counsels of the nation. We condemn them to suffering, and perhaps to death. On their young wives, sweet-hearts, and sisters, is laid the burden of parting, perhaps for ever. Would it not have been possible to spare the children? Indeed, would it not have been sound economy to increase our expenditure on education, so that the next generation may be better equipped for the task which lies before them—a task infinitely greater than has fallen to the lot of former generations, since they will have to bear the burdens we are piling upon them. From the blood-stained fields to-day a bridge has to be built on which the nation may pass over in the future to a happier motherland. It were surely the height of folly to build that bridge with ungeared machinery or untempered human material. So far from lowering the school age, we need to raise it to the level adopted in the more developed countries of Northern Europe. It is not too soon to demand that immediately peace is declared the school age should be raised to sixteen, and that the last two years of school life should be spent partly, but not wholly, in vocational training. This proposition would have the support of the majority of trade unionists, since it would not only ensure the greater efficiency of the next generation, but would relieve the labour market of a great mass of immature labour at the moment when the men are discharged from the Army and about to resume their civil occupations. The evening schools should be restricted to those over sixteen.

Another proposed economy is that of refusing the use of the school to children under six years old—raising the school age at the other end of the school life. Educationalists will differ as to whether this would be a wise measure to apply to the children of Cabinet Ministers or County Councillors. It would probably be advisable in the case of a very small minority of children among all sections of the community. But the comments of the mother of four normal children under six in a working-class home might form an illuminating exposition of the proposal. Never was there a greater need for nurseries, nursery and infant schools than at the present time, when the puzzled mother and her neighbours are being reminded that it is unpatriotic to remain at home and rock the cradle, but that their duties lie in fields and factories. Even if not impelled by

Requiescat in Pace.

It is with a sorrow no words can express that we record the passing away of our dear comrade, colleague and friend, Mrs. Snow. Her illness was long and her patience and courage never failed. To the very last, her interest in the League and its doings, especially in THE VOTE, to which she had given such gallant service, was extraordinarily deep. When the National Executive Committee, of which she was a valued member, was in session, she never failed to send messages of goodwill, and whenever, for a pain, she would enquire about the woman's cause, members of the Women's Free- Knowing the value of our weekly of the difficulties involved in with characteristic energy into was the original head of THE overcome financial difficulties in of our paper, she organised the rendered such valuable help to the enthusiasm of Mrs. Snow, or love our organ, seeing in it the know that its continuance in its measure due to her courage and



Mrs. J. E. SNOW.

From our counsels we shall miss her more than words can tell. She leaves a blank that no one can fill, but we feel and know that her spirit is with us. In working with unflinching energy to forward the ideals which animated her whole life, we can best prove our gratitude.

To her husband, always our generous friend, to her daughter and her sons, we offer our deepest sympathy. The hon. secretary of the Croydon Branch, to which Mrs. Snow belonged for so many years, pays the following tribute:—"Members of the Branch will be deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mrs. Snow, who was an active and honoured member, and for some time hon. treasurer to the Branch. Everyone will remember how ready and willing she was at all times to assist and further the activities of the Branch. Our sympathy will be extended to the bereaved family in the sad loss they have sustained."

C. DESPARD.

WHY IRISHWOMEN NEED THE VOTE.

I.—Position of the Unmarried Mother in Ireland.

The chronicles tell of a time when the powers of darkness ruled in Erin. From the seas of the unknown North they came every year and demanded two-thirds of the children as tribute, until at last the children of Dana, goddess of wisdom, defeated them and saved the children. This story may be taken as a parable. In these articles I propose to deal with the question of child welfare in Ireland, and consider how far we have reduced the tribute of child-life to the powers of ignorance and wrong.

First, let us note the position of the unmarried mother. The entire responsibility of the child is hers. Any action against the father must be taken, not by the girl herself, but by her father, mother, or employer, otherwise she has no redress. If she goes into a workhouse with the child the guardians may choose to sue the father, but this right ceases if the child be taken out of the workhouse, as the order is granted for the relief of the rates. Further, the action can only be brought in the quarter sessions, giving the man "plenty of time to skip before he has to pay," said the master of one of the largest Irish Unions to me the other day; "and if he does not want to skip nothing can be done till the next sessions, when they may give him a fortnight in prison, or very likely only a week." Thus the law in Ireland takes no account of injury done to the woman, or responsibility to the child, except on her part, only injury to the employer or parent from loss of her services. A Bill was drafted some years ago to amend this law. Three M.P.s were approached on the matter; two promised support, but did nothing. The third did not even reply. The promoters of the Bill were women.

In Norway the contribution of the father to the support of the child is enforced and collected by law. The father is also bound to contribute to the maintenance of the mother during her confinement. But in Norway women have the vote. DORA MELLONE.

E. M. N. C.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE RALLY.

50,000 Shillings Fund. First Instalment.

The dominant note of the big Rally of members and friends at the Caxton Hall on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, was practical enthusiasm, and the announcement by Mrs. Julia Wood that the first 5,000 shillings had been reached was received with great applause. To the memory of the first contributor, Mrs. Snow, affectionate tribute was paid. Mrs. Despard, from the chair, told how, the day before the Rally, Mrs. Snow, "dear friend, devoted helper, untiring enthusiast in the cause of votes for women," had passed away. Throughout her serious illness, and in the last days whenever she was able to speak, Mrs. Snow always asked for news of the League and THE VOTE; whenever the National Executive Committee was in session she sent messages of affection and interest. As soon as she heard of the 50,000 Shillings Fund she expressed the desire to contribute 500 shillings. Also, when she knew that a friend had offered £50 to THE VOTE, on condition that nine others gave an equal amount, Mrs. Snow immediately promised £50. When it was suggested that the Rally should be postponed, Mr. Snow replied at once that nothing would be further from her wishes. "We are happy, indeed," said Mrs. Despard, "in having such friends!" On her invitation the whole company rose to their feet as a tribute to a beloved comrade.

The special purpose of the Rally was to present to Mrs. Despard the first instalment of the 50,000 Shillings Fund, and a long stream of contributors filed on to the platform to hand the gifts to her. Mrs. Julia Wood, who is devoting herself to the scheme, and will not be satisfied with anything short of full success, declared that those who stood by the Suffrage Cause now have the root of the matter in them. War, mercifully, is ephemeral, but the Suffrage question will be always with us until women have full political freedom. The result of Mrs. Wood's moving appeal was that more money—the very life-blood of an organisation—flowed into the coffers of the League. "We want more for succeeding Rallies!" was Mrs. Wood's final admonition.

The speeches were brief, but emphasized the support which Woman Suffrage receives in all parts of the United Kingdom and the need for continued and continual pressing of the demand. From the chair Mrs. Despard, with a happy reference to St. Patrick's Day, described herself as three-quarters Irish, welcomed the large gathering, and thanked the contributors. Miss Anna Munro brought tidings of enthusiasm from Scotland, and asked why, if "women are magnificent," as now acclaimed, they are not given the vote?

Miss Boyle insisted that it was the duty of every right-minded woman, who had the welfare of the nation at heart, to join the Suffrage movement now. Miss Eunice Murray, giving greetings and good wishes from many Branches, suggested that every member of the League should send a copy of THE VOTE to one member of Parliament each week, and asked volunteers to send their names to the office, 144, High Holborn. All the speakers, including Mrs. Wood, received a most hearty welcome.

A short but excellent musical programme was much enjoyed. Miss Angela Bryer, a brilliant pianiste, who has often helped us, very kindly played, and the old Irish airs sung by Madame Anna Carola and Miss Anne Squire were keenly enjoyed and encored. We had the unexpected pleasure of the company of our good friend, Mr. Harrison Hill, who has just returned from France and Flanders, where he has had the unique dis-

inction of giving concerts, with three brother artistes, close behind the trenches. He had many amusing and touching stories to tell of his experiences. To these unfailing friends our warmest thanks are given, also to our Irish friends who sent shamrock for sale: Mrs. Priestly McCracken, Mrs. Coade, Miss H. E. Traeger (for whom schoolchildren had gathered the shamrock), and the Belfast Suffrage Society, through Miss Montgomery, also Miss Heron; and to Mrs. Fox Bourne and other friends for plants and flowers. Another friend most kindly sent books for sale. We specially thank all our hostesses; Miss Ibbotson for her artistic decoration of the Hall; Mrs. Corner and the stewards who did such good service under her management; Mrs. Fisher, Miss White, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Hanscombe, and their able helpers in the refreshment department; and finally the Montgomery Boroughs Branch, whose well-filled cake and candy stall brought in a welcome addition to the funds of £6.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"APPEAL TO WOMEN."

The Press is full of "appeals to women" whose services are required, it would appear, in every imaginable sphere, from dockyards to desks. It would seem, however, that the appeal should be addressed, not to women, but to the men who will not let them do the work they are wanted for. The farmers, according to Lord Selborne, are peculiarly contumacious, and maintain an intransigent attitude in regard to women farm labourers. They will not abandon their long-cherished prejudice—the prejudice which has driven woman from the dairy, the milking yard, the poultry run, the kitchen garden—against decent wages and decent work for women. She must be kept to her sphere—the unskilled one. The Liverpool dockers also have just been demonstrating their patriotism, chivalry, and good sense by refusing to work with women in the yards, engaging themselves only to shipping firms which have not taken on any women. "We have not gone on strike," is the genial explanation supplied; "we have simply given the women the cold shoulder." Giving the cold shoulder to women who have come in response to repeated appeals "towards the solution of one of our most pressing problems" (to quote the Prime Minister), hardly seems to be a very "manly" job—unless we have to alter the meaning of the word "manly." And with the difficulties of freighting owing to congestion at the docks, and the consequent high prices of food and other commodities, the action of these chivalrous gentlemen assumes an even nobler aspect!

"BAD FORM."

A walk through the poorer parts of London provides food for thought. Every street corner is liberally placarded with posters imploring the inhabitants to reduce their staff of servants, to save their petrol, not to use their motor-cars for pleasure, and, above all, to be economical in dress, remembering that every article not bought now sets free the workers for national service; no one need be ashamed to wear shabby clothes. Not only is it "bad form" to placard these districts with such advice, but it is both futile and impertinent. It would be instructive to visit the homes in Mayfair and note how, individually, the framers of this extraordinary document are carrying out their own advice. This is on a par with the official gentlemen who printed wordy advice on ten different points, each on a separate and roomy sheet of paper, and distributed these sheets in millions—a method wasteful in the extreme, in paper, printing, and

postage. If practical housewives and business people were on these committees our money would not be so hopelessly and needlessly frittered away.

ECONOMY?

Pall Mall Gazette, March 18: "A big crowd on a platform at Euston yesterday watched the departure of a train containing over 100 actors and actresses, two pantechnicon vans full of furniture and stage properties, three truck-loads of scenery, sundry other impedimenta, Mr. Raymond Hitchcock, and Mr. Edward Laurillard. Not a word was breathed as to the destination of the expedition, but it is understood to be a seaside resort somewhere in Lancashire, where the Grossmith and Laurillard company, which will present 'Mr. Manhattan' at the Prince of Wales' Theatre on March 30, is going to appear for *one week*, prior to the London opening."

HEARD AT BELFAST: Coils upon coils of Admiralty barbed wire lay on the landing-place at Larne, rusting and deteriorating. A farmer in the neighbourhood, in need of wire, tendered for it as damaged goods. He was sternly rebuked and told that it was Government property, and not for sale. He had the supreme satisfaction, some weeks later, of seeing it loaded on to a vessel, taken out to sea, and sunk, because it was useless and was in the way!

TOO OLD AT FORTY.

The insolence of the Government's attitude towards women of over forty is unparalleled. When the Cabinet itself contains many gentlemen who, to put it mildly, are no longer in the flower of youth, but who do not consider themselves too old at seventy or eighty to tackle new problems, it is a matter for amazement that it should be possible for women of over forty to be debarred from other emergency work of far less strenuousness. Labour Exchanges have been notified not to accept applications from women over forty years of age, and this, together with the bar against married women, is another of those artificial limits of usefulness that are so hampering and hindering to the nation's work. There is no limit to the age of Cabinet ministers, judges, generals, magistrates, chairmen of the tribunals, and other persons in power—it is only the worker who must be limited to a definite age.

MARRIED MEN.

The "married men's grievance" becomes more and more obscure. At first it was because the maintenance of their families was too heavy a burden to be inflicted on the country (*vide Daily Mail* illustrations); now it is because the country will not assume enough of the burden (*vide* the same authority). The single men being non-existent, or badged, or exempted, we now have the attack turning towards the unattested married men. From "single slackers" we are led on to married slackers, and by degrees we shall be leading our Allies and our enemies to regard us as a nation of slackers! The Hyde Park demonstration, in spite of vigorous advertising, was a fiasco, which would show that

the married men had better take a leaf out of the Suffragist book in the way of organising. We trust that the excitement about broken pledges will teach the electorate something of the bitterness engendered by the broken pledges to Suffragists.

Spring Sales of "The Vote."

With the spring weather coming it will be easy to make VOTE selling a delightful occupation; enthusiasm and determination are all that is needed. It is more important than ever that THE VOTE should be more widely circulated, and if every member of the Women's Freedom League will realize that now is the time to concentrate all her energies on increasing the sales the directors will be relieved of much anxiety.

The street sales in February more than doubled those of January, but that is not sufficient. More sellers are wanted; those who are only able to give one hour a week will be welcomed. So please send in your names now. I shall be in Manchester on Saturday next, and shall visit other Branches in the near future.

ALIX. M. CLARK.

Mrs. Despard and Miss Murray at Portsmouth.

Wretched weather for our public meeting on March 16, but a most enthusiastic audience. Mrs. Whetton opened the meeting and proposed the resolution, and, as the local paper put it, the burden of all the speeches was, "We want the vote, and we want it now." Miss Murray seconded the resolution in a speech which delighted the audience, and the applause was long and loud when she sat down. In fact, she received an encore. Mrs. Despard was given a fine reception. She made an eloquent and inspiring speech, and concluded with an ardent appeal for new members. Quite a number of questions were asked, a good collection taken (which was sent to the 50,000 Shilling Fund), and all copies of THE VOTE were sold. The resolution was carried with only one dissident. It has been sent to the Prime Minister and the two local M.P.s.

At Bournemouth.

The promised visit of Miss Eunice Murray to Freedom Hall (kindly placed at the disposal of the Women's Freedom League by Mrs. Hume) was greatly appreciated on March 15. Miss Ballard Dawson, from the chair, emphasized the need for loyalty to the principles in which Suffragists believe. Miss Murray spoke of the conditions under which thousands of women workers lived in our large towns, of their difficulties in securing well-paid labour, and insisted that in fairness to the men whose places were being taken by women

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FRIDAY,
MARCH 24,
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THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

equal pay for equal work should be demanded. Miss Murray suggested that men in high places should set an example by practising the economy they so loudly advocate, and pointed out the necessity of keeping the Woman Suffrage Movement well before the public.

BRANCH NOTES.

Bowes Park.

Our hon. treasurer, Mrs. Evans, is at present away in hospital with diphtheria; the hon. secretary is doing her work *pro tem*.

Dundee.

A meeting of this Branch was held in Lamb's Hotel on March 16. In spite of the inclement weather there was a good attendance. Miss Husband presided. Members gave their earnest consideration to communications from Headquarters and pledged themselves to do what they could to help. Mrs. Mitchell, hon. secretary, gave a full account of the meeting of the Scottish Council. It was agreed to co-operate with the Council in holding open-air meetings in Dundee and district in July or August. Future meetings of the Branch are to be held in Lamb's Hotel, and not as formerly in the Art Society's Rooms.

Liverpool.

The Anfield Branch of the Women's Freedom League held a meeting on March 17, at which Miss Blackburn gave a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Women in Industry." She followed up the development of women's industries from the home to the world outside, and showed the need of Votes for Women for the protection of the workers. There was a very fair attendance. Miss Scott presided. The hon. secretary, Miss Davey, made an urgent appeal for contributions to the 50,000 Shilling Fund, to which it is hoped there will be a good response.

Middlesbrough. The Suffrage Centre, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

A Branch meeting was held on March 13, at which Mrs. Cattermole presided. The hon. secretary and hon. treasurer gave their reports, and Mrs. Walker, delegate to the Middlesbrough and District Women's Council, reported on the work of the Council in the starting of Municipal Health Centres for Mothers. This is due to the persistent pressure brought to bear on the municipal authorities and on public opinion by the M.D.W.C., who realised that something must be done to reduce the appalling infantile death-rate in the town. An interesting discussion also took place on the alleged increase in drunkenness among women. Members expressed indignation at the charges, also at any suggestion to reduce the allowances of soldiers' and sailors' wives.

Portsmouth.

The report of our enthusiastic meeting on March 16 appears in another column. Parcels for the Jumble Sale may still be left at 17, Duncan-road, Southsea. The next members' meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 28, at 7.30, at 17, Lombard-street. Sewing meeting, same place, Wednesday, April 5, 3 to 7 p.m.

KEEPING THE FLAG FLYING!

Suffrage now and always till the Vote is won! To emphasize this determination is the object of the Golder's Green (W.F.L.) meeting on March 25, at Mrs. Cunningham's, 45, Ashbourne-avenue (opposite Willifield Way). The house will be decorated in the colours of the Women's Freedom League, and with Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle as speakers the success of the meeting is not in doubt. In addition, Mrs. Cunningham has arranged an excellent musical programme, in which Monsieu. de Louré, for seven years principal at the Opera House, Milan, and Miss M. Marshall, an English opera singer, will take part.

London Branches Council.

Will London members please remember:—(1) The sewing party at the office on Tuesday, March 28, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. We hope that every Branch will be represented, and that members who cannot stay to sew will call and take work home. There is plenty to be done. Gifts of material or money to buy it will be welcomed by Mrs. Holmes, of Hackney Branch, who has kindly taken charge of the work. Perhaps those members who have no time for sewing will give material for others to make into garments for the Green, White, and Gold Fair. (2) Goods are wanted for the jumble sale at Tolmers-square Institute on April 8. Parcels may now be sent to Mrs. Fisher at the office.

The Despard Arms.

We thank most cordially our friend, Mrs. Ricketts, for her great kindness in sending us six pounds of her far-famed home-made marmalade. Our cookery demonstrations continue to attract great attention. Will any friend volunteer to help in this way? Kindly send names to the hon. secretary. Miss Barrow is in need of an understudy to work with her on Tuesday evenings, 6 to 9.30, and alternate Sunday evenings. Who will volunteer? Will some man in sympathy with the work take duty in the recreation room on alternate Sunday evenings? We have no wall clock yet; we need it *very badly!* Who will come to lunch next Saturday at 1 o'clock sharp with Mrs. Despard at the Despard Arms?

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30. March 29: Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

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