

THE VOTE.
May 1, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

A PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE ON MILITANCY.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW
OUR PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS.
AT HEADQUARTERS.

THE WETHERALL CASE: AN APOLOGY TO MRS. PARROTT.
THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CIVIL SERVICE.—I.
E. M. N. C.

A PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE ON MILITANCY. M. HOLMES.
IN DEFENCE OF (MALE) MILITANCY.

THE GOVERNMENT POT AND THE ULSTER KETTLE. C. NINA
BOYLE.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

RECEPTION TO W.F.L. PRISONERS.

"GHOSTS."

POEM: THE VOTE.

THE GOVERNMENT POT AND THE ULSTER KETTLE.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Wetherall Case: An Apology to Mrs. Parrott.

We are glad to be able to publish, in another column, an ample apology to Mrs. Amelia Parrott from those who so cruelly aspersed her character, after the death of her husband last winter. Various efforts have been made to detract from the efficacy of our campaign in the Wetherall case by personal attacks on Mrs. Parrott; and these attacks she has now entirely and satisfactorily disposed of, and we offer her our heartiest congratulations. It was not the least part of the sorrow so heavily and undeservedly inflicted on her and her daughter that they should have to protect themselves from such groundless insinuations.

Public Honour.

The *Daily News* of April 24 contained a number of choice samples of the public, political, professional, and personal standards of honesty which, imported into administrative affairs, conduce so much to the lowering of the dignity of official and Parliamentary life. In one column was set forth the lavish pensions drawn by two noble gentlemen on the understanding which Mr. Asquith described as their honour—and left to their honour—that such pensions were necessary to the upkeep of their respective stations and positions in life; despite the fact that they occupied a varied and lucrative assortment of seats on Boards of Directors of many companies, some of which are of world-wide renown. The reproach may be levelled equally at both sides of the House; so that either Leader would be bound to defend the gentlemen named.

Professional Honour.

In another column we find a picturesque account of the slaughtering of a dog by two callous individuals who, after putting the wretched animal through horrible misery, buried it when slaughtered in consecrated ground. The cruelty, and the disregard of common decency involved in this matter were not the only illuminating incidents revealed in the enquiry at the Western Police-court. One of the offenders was the public mortuary-keeper. He seems to have boasted that he did the doctor's "rough work" for him, *i.e.*, opened the bodies brought for *post-mortem* examination, and that he had opened some 300 bodies. Mr. Lister Drummond, the magistrate, seems to have expressed his "surprise," and to have described this statement as "a revelation"; but we do not read that he censured the mortuary-keeper for assuming duties for which he was palpably unfit, or to have asked for an enquiry into the conduct of the professional gentleman whose scandalous laxity had produced such a state of affairs. The doctor and the mortuary-keeper are public servants, paid to perform certain duties with a certain measure of decency. We wonder whether they are to retain their positions, and whether the process of screening delinquents in public life is to be employed on their behalf by those other public servants, the magistrate who heard the tale, and the Borough Council which employs them?

Private Honour.

Another most serious item was in connection with the charge of which Mr. Churchill's chauffeur was found guilty—for the second time—of exceeding the speed limit in St. James's Park. Mr. Churchill was in the car, and so was Detective-Sergeant Ashley, the watchdog whose business it is to defend Mr. Churchill from the warlike lasses of the W.S.P.U. There was a sharp interchange between this gentle guardian of the public welfare and the Chief Park Inspector, Ashley saying the limit had not been exceeded, and Scragg retorting "Then why did you come to me afterwards and ask me to condone the offence—if no offence was committed?"

Ashley: "At the request of Mr. Churchill. He asked me to see the Park authorities to try to get the case quashed. . . . It is quite natural (the italics are ours) that Cabinet Ministers do not want to come

before the Court." The gentleman in high position here showed himself to be infinitely less honourable than the Park Inspector, who did his duty in spite of official discouragement, and with the knowledge that he may be made to suffer for it in some way later on. No prosecution will be lodged against Mr. Churchill, however, for tampering with the police; this paid public servant can drag down the honour of public life with impunity. A humbler person would have found himself in serious trouble. "First Lord 'Trapped,'" is the cheery heading in the daily paper which records the incident.

National Honour.

Lastly, there is an account of the meeting of some society for the protection of aborigines, to protest against the Putumayo and kindred scandals. "We must," said Mr. Dickinson, "re-constitute our ideas of slavery, and this country must take the lead. There is a prevalent idea that some kind of servitude is necessary for black races." Thus the friend of the black man; we wonder what measure of freedom these reformers will insist on their black man giving to his woman? Freedom to exploit and enslave and traffic in her! "There is a prevalent idea that some kind of servitude is necessary" for women; and we do not know how a country that continues to hold and act on such a view is in a very good position for "taking the lead" in reconstituting ideas of slavery! We recommend Mr. Dickinson and his benevolent colleagues to set an example, and to re-constitute their own ideas first, and to re-adjust to actual fact their interpretations of our common language and their point of view about freedom.

THE VOTE.

The vote in itself is just nothing,
'Tis only a means to an end;
Look round you—look under the surface,
And see what we're seeking to mend.
Don't blame us if sometimes it happens
We do things that you wouldn't do;
But make up your mind for an effort,
To see things from our point of view.

The homeless—the hopeless—the outcast;
Ye critics who sit at your ease;
Say what are our militant tactics
When weighed in the balance with these?

The evil that's common you swallow,
With oceans of clap-trap and froth;
But our mildly militant methods
Are swamped in your vials of wrath.
Yet is not the one like the camel,
The other the wee little gnat;
The first you can gulp without effort,
The second—you can't swallow that.

Yet ours is the cause of the woman,
"In poverty, hunger, and dirt;
Who sews with a second invisible thread,
At a shroud as well as a shirt."

And ours is the cause of the children,
Whose right is the freedom from care;
Let all have a place in the sunlight,
Where now they are lacking a share.

And ours is the cause of the toiler,
Who dies on the Altar of Greed;
We seek to go armed to his battle,
Regardless of nation or creed.

And ours is the cause of the fallen,
The woman who traffics in shame;
Dare you tell me you think that it's just
To give her the whole of the blame?

Environment made her and shaped her;
Its forces are constant and true;
If you'd only been placed in her cradle,
You might have been she, and she—*you*.

'Tis this that compels us to struggle,
'Tis owned that our motives are pure;
'Tis justice that beckons us onward,
And gives us the strength to endure.

And though—like the vote—we are nothing,
Our cause is so lofty and just;
We cannot shrink out of the battle,
And dare not abandon our Trust.

W. A. N.

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OUR PRESIDENT'S PROGRESS.

We rejoice to be able to inform our readers that during the past week Mrs. Despard has made good, if slow, progress towards recovery. Patience, continued care, and complete rest will be necessary for some time in spite of her eagerness to be in harness again. Our gladness and thankfulness will show itself in strenuous work to make the Birthday Party on July 7 a record success in the history of the League.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Caxton Hall Meetings.—Next Wednesday afternoon our speakers will be Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard. We hope to see a good rally of members and friends who would greatly assist us by coming early. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Johnson promptly at 3.30. Mr. Lansbury's subject is "The Religious Duty of Revolt." The following Wednesday afternoon Mr. Laurence Housman will give an address on the subject: "In this Sign Conquer," the chair to be taken by Mrs. Huntsman.

Discussion Meetings.—Will readers kindly note that Miss Ashdown's lecture on Madame Curie has been postponed, but Mrs. Tanner will give an address at 1, Robert-street, next Monday evening, May 4, on "Women in English Fiction." This is a particularly interesting subject, which will easily lend itself to discussion. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock.

Monday, May 25.—Mr. W. L. George (author of "Woman and To-morrow," "The Making of an Englishman," &c.) will give a lecture at Caxton Hall on "Feminism and Passion," to be followed by a discussion. The chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith at 8 p.m. Admission will be by ticket only, which can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office at 2s. 6d. (numbered and reserved), 1s. and 6d.

Caravan Pound Day.—Next Tuesday evening members and friends are urged to come to High Barnet at 7.30, where the first meeting will be held from the caravan by Miss Anna Munro. Pound presents for the caravan in money or in kind can be sent to this office before May 5 or to the caravan on that date.

Flower Day.—The Women's Freedom League's Flower Day was such a success last year that we have decided to hold another Saturday, July 4. Will readers kindly bear this in mind, and send us presents of flowers, or volunteer to help us sell flowers in the streets of London that day?

Speakers' Class.—Miss Leahy, who is in charge of our Street Sales' Department, is arranging a speakers' class, beginning May 7, at 6.30 p.m. Experienced speakers of the Women's Freedom League have promised their help at this class, and it is hoped that many of our members will join it. All communications in regard to this matter should be addressed to Miss Leahy, W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Important.—Owing to the illness of Mrs. Despard the "At Home" on May 25, by kind invitation of Lady Barclay, 60, Nevcrn-square, has been postponed.

THE WETHERALL CASE: AN APOLOGY TO MRS. PARROTT.

PARROTT v. PARROTT.

To Mrs. Amelia Parrott. We, Debra Parrott and Charles Ernest Parrott, hereby express our regret that the words uttered by both or either of us on or about the 4th day of February last at Terrace-road, Well-street, Hackney, and also that the letters referred to may have given an impression to the persons who heard or received them reflecting upon the character of the said Amelia Parrott and further withdraw all charges and imputations in any way made against her.

Re MR. HENRY THOMAS PARROTT.

Mrs. Amelia Parrott, widow of the above deceased, who died on 25th day of December, 1913, at 29, Church-road, Homerton, desires to notify that her husband on his death-bed expressed to her and in the presence of others, his kindest wish and regard for her and his son's welfare.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE CIVIL SERVICE.*

The warrant constituting the Royal Commission on the Civil Service is dated March 18, 1912, and after two years' deliberations it has issued its fourth Report, containing the findings on the most important of the subjects which were relegated to its consideration. The preceding three volumes were devoted to the Minutes of Evidence and various Representations and Memoranda presented to it. Among the Commissioners we find the names of the Bishop of Southwark, Sir Kenneth Muir Mackenzie, Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, Mr. Graham Wallas, a writer of distinction and well known as an educational expert, Mr. Philip Snowden and Mr. Clynes, Labour Members of Parliament, Miss Haldane and Mrs. Streatfield. No important Royal Commission is now considered complete without some women members, though the proportion of two women to seventeen men is considered by the Government to be an adequate representation of the larger half of the community. Soon after the appointment of the Royal Commission, a Select Committee of the House of Commons was set up to report upon the conditions of employment of Post Office employes. After consultation with the members of the Select Committee, the Commissioners decided to restrict their inquiries to the limited number of Post Office employes (3,000 out of 240,000) who are engaged in the work of other departments as well as of the Post Office. But even with this restriction, and excluding departments not maintained directly by the Exchequer, the present Report is concerned with about 60,000 persons, of whom 25,000 are serving on a temporary or unestablished basis, while the remainder are members of the permanent Civil Service. These 60,000 persons

* Fourth Report of the Commissioners. 1914. Cd. 7338. Price 1s. 4d.

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are divided among eighty departments, or sub-departments, of State.

To estimate the extent of the labours of the Commissioners, the terms of whose reference included the investigation of the present organisation of the service, the methods of making appointments and promotions, especially as to the efficiency of the system of competitive examinations, it has to be remembered that the Civil Service is not a homogenous army of permanent officials recruited for similar work under similar conditions. Indeed, to frame a system which should include the permanent heads of the Government departments, who are sometimes said to be the real rulers of this country, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, together with the boy clerks and the workers in Woolwich Arsenal, would, indeed, be a task of surpassing difficulty. No such comprehensive system has, however, been created. The Civil Service has been of crystalline, and not of organic, growth. It has grown, and is growing, by accretions. With the increasing complexity of modern life, Parliamentary Government has, on all sides, closely touched the life of the people, and has brought legislation to bear on the conditions of their every-day existence. The laws have brought their administrators, and we now hear complaints of the "army of officials" who batten on the tax-payers, and interfere with the liberty of the subject.

But it is a question whether we should complain of their number. Every mother knows that, as the children grow up, their wants grow also. As with the individual family, so it is with the family of the nation. With increasing civilisation and added opportunities, the community demands more service. With the raising of the standard of life, we demand the continual adjustment of the machine of central and local Government to the wants of the people. Rather than complain that the labourers are too many we should insist that the best and most highly-trained men and women should be recruited for the public service. We should regard them as the servants of the people, and should insist upon their efficiency and on their devotion to their public duties, whether these tend towards the building up of a nobler and fuller national life, or whether they consist in the necessary routine work of a public office. The old joke to the effect that Civil servants, like the fountains of Trafalgar-square, "play from ten to four," is a reminiscence of the old days, when, as Sir Charles Trevelyan wrote in 1849, there was "a general tendency to look to the public establishment as a means of securing a maintenance for young men who have no chance of success in the open competition of the legal, medical, and mercantile professions." The Commissioners appointed by Mr. Gladstone in 1853 reported that "Admission into the Civil Service was, indeed, eagerly sought after, but it was for the incompetent and the indolent or incapable that it was chiefly desired." There is no doubt that, through the system of competitive examinations, tentatively introduced in 1855, when the first Civil Service Commission was appointed, and which was still further developed by the Order in Council of 1870, we get an infinitely better type of man than under the old evil days of patronage. It seems difficult to believe that persons can be found to deny this. As the present Lord Chancellor says: "If the Ptolemaic system were

taught at Cambridge, instead of the Newtonian, the Senior Wrangler would, nevertheless, be in general a superior man to the wooden spoon."

There is, however, a widespread feeling, of which the Commission may be said to be a recognition, that the Government business is carried on in a slipshod and inefficient manner, which would not be tolerated in a public business concern. Suffragists have often had to complain of the general condition of muddle-headedness manifested by officials, whose conflicting statements and irresponsibility would have procured them "the sack" from a private employer. As far as the efficiency of the public service is concerned, a large section of the community is in full accord with the opinions of the Women's Freedom League. Indeed, the Report clearly betrays the weak points of an establishment. It is pointed out that it is more difficult to get rid of an inefficient official than of a private employé, a suggestion which raises the question as to how many "slackers" are sitting in what they deem the safe seats of the mighty engaged in "ca'ing canny." Discontent, too, is always rife. Owing to the accidental growth of the various services, the grading of the work to be done and of the workers does not necessarily correspond. Promotion is slow, and transfer from one branch to another is difficult, and generally impossible. Routine work, especially in the clerical departments, tends to stultify the individual, and to turn the worker into a machine. It is easy for an official to fall into a groove and lose initiative. These difficulties are of the nature of the angels, neither male nor female, and no doubt exist in connection with both men and women in the public service.

Next week we hope to treat of the position of women in the Civil Service, and of the recommendations of the Royal Commission in regard to their status and employment.

E. M. N. C.

(To be concluded.)

A PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE ON MILITANCY.

Members of the W.F.L. who were present at the opening of the International Fair in 1912 will not easily forget the charming personality and interesting speech of Mrs. Ada A. Holman, wife of the Prime Minister of New South Wales, who performed the opening ceremony. That speech was only one of many that were given during Mrs. Holman's so-called "holiday" in Europe, for she threw herself wholeheartedly into the movement which commanded her utmost sympathy. Since her return to Australia Mrs. Holman has published the impressions of her "Wander-Year" in a delightful and interesting book. She evidently saw far more in that year than less observant people do in a lifetime, and her criticisms on our customs, idiosyncrasies and social problems are pointed with the kindest and breeziest wit imaginable. Her range embraces such widely divergent subjects as Undergrounds and the State opening of Parliament, Miss Marie Corelli and the Lord Chancellor, London slang and the British Museum. The following is a typical example of her fresh and vivid style:—

The taximen, like the policemen, must spend all their off time learning London's bewildering topography by heart. No one else knows anything. Each Londoner lives in a watertight compartment. The world of Peckham Rye has no knowledge of the whereabouts of Park-lane. Most of the notices are very politely worded, though "Beware of pickpockets," displayed prominently in every lift is not calculated to increase the amity of nations. In Westminster Abbey one can easily picture a Mrs. Humphry Ward Bishop delicately penning the mild list of prohibitions ending with, "The Dean and Chapter would be exceedingly pained by any infringement of these regulations," and I particularly like the suave warning in the halls glittering with glass cases at the British Museum: "Ladies with hammers not admitted." The trail of the Suffragette is over all!

Mrs. Holman was conducted over the House of

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Commons by Mr. John Burns, and she discusses the right hon. gentleman with Suffragette-like frankness:—

He is an enthusiast in every branch of his work, but the sparks really fly off him when he gets on to the decreasing mortality statistics. Pointing to the steady downward curves in this mortality diagram, he exclaims with justifiable pride, "That's me—that's my work." . . . But there is one subject, and I should imagine one only under the sun, that John Burns refuses to discuss, and that is Woman Suffrage. Asked for the real reason for his Government's refusal to enfranchise women, he got very angry. "I refuse absolutely to go into the matter," he replied. "I have always voted for Woman Suffrage, but their tactics have been too foolish; I will say no more."

Evidently in the right hon. gentleman's mind—as in that of most others, apparently—the only "Suffragists" in the country are those who employ "tactics," which must be an uncomfortable reflection for those who pin their faith to "methods."

On the Terrace, where one gets too close a peep at Thames mud, Mr. Burns said that every Englishwoman having tea there felt she was a duchess, every American a princess. After his touchiness on the Suffrage question, I lacked courage to rejoin that every Australian woman could feel higher than either, knowing herself an enfranchised citizen of no mean country.

One cannot help regretting Mrs. Holman's faint-heartedness!

Mr. Lloyd George is spoken of as "the best-hated and best-loved man in Great Britain"; Mrs. Pankhurst as "the most adored woman in the three kingdoms, the most detested, the most dreaded, the most reviled"; and Mrs. Holman leaves her readers in no uncertainty as to the nature of her own feelings regarding the leader of the extreme Militant wing of the Suffrage army. She is one of her most fervent admirers.

The chapter describing a visit to Miss Marie Corelli at Stratford-on-Avon deals some severe, but well-deserved, blows:—

Miss Corelli is nothing if not strong in her likes and dislikes. The contempt she has for the people of England, and for those of Stratford in particular, can hardly be expressed in mere language. . . . but the Woman Suffragist came first. My visit happened on the day after the defeat of George Lansbury, who has reigned his seat to stand again as a Suffragist candidate. Miss Corelli was in high glee over the result, and expressed equal horror at the thought of women having a vote and of paupers being taken out of slum conditions. She quoted the case of a titled friend who had given her tenants model dwellings only to find on her return from a trip abroad that pigs were being housed in the parlour and coals being stored in the bath-room! This was confirmation sure that all reform legislation is absurd! "It is the best of all possible worlds," quoted Miss Corelli more than once, and implied that slum-dwellers lacking warmth and food rather enjoy their degradation than otherwise. The great trouble she told me with Rome and other glorious cities of the past is that meddling people were making them too clean. They are no longer historic.

Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mrs. Sidney Webb, the Countess of Warwick, and a number of other well-known people are the subjects of delightful little monographs. One could quote interesting extracts indefinitely. Not only the fighters in the Suffrage movement, but workers in other causes have reason to be grateful for the uncompromising and outspoken support given to them by the keen and capable author of "My Wander-Year," and readers in general owe her thanks for so interesting and fresh an account of what proves so often to be a hackneyed subject.

MARION HOLMES.

IN DEFENCE OF (MALE) MILITANCY.

"The Case Altered" describes the attitude of the Unionist Press—so lavish in its abuse of militant women demanding justice—when dealing with militant men in Ulster. Here are a few choice specimens:—

"The Times."

Can it be wondered that the Ulstermen continue to arm? They contemplate no aggression; their orderly restraint compels the admiration even of their opponents; they are arming openly in defence of their liberty and their religion, and will put no trust in a Government who move by stealth against them. We believe that up till now their disciplined force has been the truest preservative of peace in Ireland. . . . In the eyes of the law, so far as we can see, the latest exploit of the Covenanters

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is simply a continuation of what they have been doing for more than two years. The only new point is that they have been roused to fresh efforts by the revelations of the last few weeks.—April 27.

The events of the week-end in Ulster do not, it is true, mark any essential change in the policy which the Covenanters have consistently and openly practised for the last two years. But they were on a very much larger scale than heretofore; they form a definite stage in the long chapter of attempted coercion and counter-preparation; above all, they have arrested the public imagination as all the speeches and petitions in the world were powerless to arrest it. . . . Mr. Asquith may talk about a "grave and unprecedented outrage," but we confess that we should be rather puzzled to decide upon the precise steps to take against men who "peacefully picketed" a police station bearing no weapon more formidable than the white wands of a Lord Chamberlain.—April 28.

"Daily Mail."

The deed of the Ulstermen on Friday night and Saturday morning in landing 25,000 rifles and 40 tons of ammunition under cover of a general mobilisation, brushing aside the police and the coastguard, has all the qualities of a great historical act in a moment of intense popular emotion. . . . Unquestionably it is illegal. But it is not more so than the whole Ulster movement since the signing of the Covenant in September, 1912. . . . But what is the sense of talking about illegality in a matter of this kind?—April 27.

"The Standard."

If steps are taken by the Government against Ulster, the Standard declares that "in a few hours every telegraph and telephone wire will be cut, every post office, probably every police station, will be in the hands of insurgents, every road patrolled by signallers and dispatch riders. . . . Ministers must recognise that Ulster has beaten them. . . . will not submit, and cannot be coerced.—April 28.

"The Morning Post."

The Morning Post has strange ideas of the reasons why the Army should not be employed against Ulster. It is the woman again! It says: "There is a traditional friendship between the Army and Ulster; the Ulster girl is proud to be the soldier's wife. The Army dislikes the Nationalists because they have cheered its defeats. . . . We hope to get the working men on our side; they cannot like to see a Government trying to coerce the civil population."—April 28.

"Daily Express."

The Ulster volunteers are of the same fibre as the Ironsides.—April 28.

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RECEPTION TO W.F.L. PRISONERS.

A tightly-wedged audience, infectious enthusiasm, excellent speeches excellently given—these were the distinctive features of last Friday evening's "Prisoners' Reception" at the Caxton Hall. Cheers greeted the announcement, made by Miss Boyle from the chair, of encouraging news of our President's recovery, and her message of appreciation of the services the prisoners had rendered to the Cause. It was only the breakdown in her health which prevented Mrs. Despard from fulfilling her intention to preside at the meeting. Miss Boyle explained the purpose of the protest and, with a few words of appreciation to each, presented the Prison Badge brooches to the protestors. There were only two absentees, Miss Strange and Miss Cummin; both sent letters regretting that it was impossible for them to be present, but full of eagerness for further service. Just as an explanation had been made that Mrs. Hull lived too far away (Bournemouth) to be present, she walked in and was most warmly welcomed. Each prisoner had similar experiences to relate, yet each speech was so different and so interesting that the meeting proved to be one of the best held by the League, and the audience showed how fully they appreciated the excellent way in which the unpractised speakers—most of whom were speaking for the first time in public—acquitted themselves; there was earnestness, high purpose, and heart in all they said.

Mrs. CUBLEY began. She gave a dramatic and humorous account of her vigorous resistance to the insult of taking her finger-prints. Miss Isaacs, in a droll speech, declared that her finger-prints were wanted, but she gave her heel-prints instead, smashing every pane of glass with the heel of her shoe as a protest. Miss Rushbrooke said there was a conspiracy of "niceness" in Holloway; the doctor, who was responsible for the torture of other Suffragists, did all he could to persuade them to be "happy and comfortable"—to be "nice women," in fact—and inquired carefully at the same time what they would like to eat. But amid this superfluity of niceness the authorities found many opportunities to attempt the indignity of taking finger-prints by force. Mrs. Hull spoke of the education it was to go to Holloway, and urged everyone to qualify for the experience; they would never regret it. Miss K. Smith told of her encounter with the doctor and her resistance, until she fainted, to the forcible taking of her finger-prints. Going to Holloway, she said, is one of the best things women can do; they come out determined to bring more air into the Law Courts and the prisons of our land. Miss Balham urged those who were hungering for new experiences to try Holloway; they would then see the need for the abolition of the whole system of prisons: the buildings might remain as historic monuments to show how revenge was taken on disease. Mrs. Ball, who has now been three times in Holloway, gave facts proving how privileges won by Suffragists are taken away. After a severe struggle over finger-prints, during which it took five wardresses to hold her, she was asked to sign her name to the record. "I will die first!" she retorted, and was left untroubled. Miss K. Trott said that to be a gaol-bird was now an honour, not a shame; the word dishonour should be applied to men who caused the imprisonment of women struggling for justice; prison reform, she felt, was her rightful work as her great-grandmother visited Plymouth Gaol with Elizabeth Fry. Miss Trott was kept in a punishment cell—against prison regulations—for seven days, during which she went on hunger-strike. Miss Vincent successfully resisted the attempt to take her finger-prints, and declared that everyone in Holloway seemed afflicted with mental blindness; the continuous punishment turned the women out more hardened than ever. Miss Andrews also successfully resisted the finger-print indignity, and caused much amusement by describing how the wardresses, imitating the Suffragists, held a Suffrage meeting one night as an exhilarating form of relaxation. Promises of financial help were given at the close of this most successful meeting, one gentleman declaring he was proud to be an associate of the Women's Freedom League.

"VOTE" BRIGADE.

THE VOTE sales are improving, but more sellers are needed. It should not be difficult for those with a little spare time to sell now the weather is so favourable.

A VOTE Rally will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 7.30 p.m. Everybody who is interested in the paper is invited to attend. Ideas for advertising the paper, and for increasing the sales, will be warmly welcomed.

Mayday and "The Vote."

THE VOTE must be well in evidence on Friday, May 1. Will everybody who has the welfare of our League at heart meet at Headquarters at 1 p.m. ? A Parade in our colours is being organised. The loan of decorations in green, white and gold for this purpose will be gratefully received. Will as many paraders as possible help by wearing a white dress ?

P. LEAHY.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION.—The photographs of the W.F.L. campaigners at Lowestoft, which appeared last week, were published by the kind courtesy of Mr. H. Jenkins, the well-known photographer of Lowestoft.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Killed.

Ada Stone, Woolwich, in the Brighton train, killed by man who sprang out of the compartment with a large sheath-knife in his hand. Had cut the woman's throat and stabbed her through and through the body. The couple were travelling together. The communication cord was pulled at a little distance from Three Bridges Station, but the guard decided to run into the station before pulling up.

Mrs. Johnson, Harlesden, a few weeks ago killed, with her three children—four and three years and six months of age—by her husband. Strangled with bootlaces. Johnson then hanged himself.

Nellie Standen and her two small brothers killed by their father at Tonbridge. Brains blown out when in bed. Standen then killed himself. Had been depressed owing to the loss of his wife through an accident.

Unborn baby of Mabel Mitchell, Camborne, who was committed for trial at the Assizes for concealment of birth. One Williams, of Troon, was the father of the child, and being in disgrace through him at her own home, she went to the house where he lived with his mother, when she was close upon her confinement, and sought shelter there. It was night-time, and the house was several miles away from help. At about 10 p.m. Williams came in, when she had been waiting outside for a long time. She went into the house, when the man and his mother treated her with great brutality. They were heard by passers-by abusing and swearing at the girl, and flung her out with great violence, the man using filthy language and striking her. They locked her out and went to bed, leaving her out in the night. The baby—the second child this unnatural brute has had by the girl—was prematurely born in the road; it never moved, and she dropped it into a pond. She cried out to Williams when he struck her. "Oh, I'm dying!" and he responded, "Get away from here; I'm not worried about your dying. You have — got to go, or I'll pull your arms out."

Instead of putting this ruffian on his trial for the murder of his unborn baby, it is the girl who is being punished. The sole rebuke which the Bench saw fit to administer to the really guilty party was that "he should not like to tell him all he really felt about it"—as if such an opinion would be likely to affect such a creature! He "had never felt so indignant"; "you are a disgrace to the town," His Worship added. As for his equally inhuman mother, the Bench was "sorry she had shown such unmotherly conduct."—*West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser*, March 19.

Frances Quayle, widow, of Douglas, found in her garden with her head battered in by some blunt instrument, robbery being supposed to be the motive.—*Globe*, April 27.

Murderous Assault.

Mrs. Potter, Liverpool, ran out of her house last Saturday pursued by her husband, who fired at her. Shot through the body and fell unconscious. The screams of her children brought the neighbours. Taken to hospital in serious condition. She had had to get a separation order from the man, and in the early morning one of the children warned her that their father was climbing over the back wall. She escaped by the front door, but too late.—*Evening News*, April 25.

At Glasgow, a woman was found bound and trussed up with her own clothes-line and locked in a press. Had been attacked by two men, who thrust something up her nostrils which rendered her unconscious. Money and a watch had been stolen.

Cruelty.

Annie Christopher Jones, girl of fifteen, found wandering, indescribably filthy, bruised and wretched. Hardly any clothes, and had to be washed four times. Had been with a Mr. and Mrs. Harris (or Armstead), bakers and confectioners, at Islington, and was, she says, shamefully ill-used, beaten, and overworked and not paid. The woman made improper allegations about the way the girl "had spent the night" since she ran away, and denied all knowledge of the dirt and bruises, although the girl had been with her for three years. The girl, an orphan, says she was never allowed clean clothes or a bath. Her stockings had no feet to them.

No charge is, apparently, to be preferred against these improper guardians of an orphan girl, who allowed her to get into such an awful condition while in their service, and who met the police with insolence when they came to make inquiries. On the contrary, the charge was laid against the girl, of being "found wandering," and instead of being discharged she was bound over, and placed under probation, although several homes have been offered her by kindly disposed people. We protest indignantly against a sentence, however mild, which makes it appear as if this poor forlorn child were in any way at fault.

Eliza Heath, fifteen, married woman, and her brother, at Hanley Juvenile Court, charged with sleeping out. A truly awful story was told. The stepfather had married the child to a man of fifty-six, who had deserted her. The stepfather offered to take the children back, but they refused to go to him. The girl agreed to go to a home, and was discharged; and the chief constable made the amazing statement that she would be taken temporarily to the rescue shelter at Bagnall, and that if her husband came back he could claim her! The



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girl declared she would not go to him either. The court missionary promised to find a home for the boy.

(What these two wretched children appear to have suffered at the hands of these two vile men probably could not be told. The miserable thing is that the girl is tied to the elderly ruffian who deserted her, and if she hears no more of him and forms another union, she will have endless trouble and unpleasantness.)

Criminal Assault.

At the Petty Sessions Court, Worthing, W. H. Cramer was charged before Mr. Hargood (chairman), the Mayor, Aldermen Sinfield, Smith, Sims, Lieut. Col. Maltby, and Dr. Molson, with assaulting a little girl who was playing with a little boy in the street. A man asked her to post a letter for him, and then took her up a passage. A hue and cry was raised later when it was discovered she was missing, and she was found by a man in a field on the north side of the railway line, sobbing bitterly and crawling along in a state of collapse. After assaulting her, the man had thrown her over a wall into a field of nettles, and she was badly stung in addition to her other injuries. Man committed for trial at the Horsham Quarter Sessions and granted bail on one surety.

Muriel Stewart Deval, aged six, of Worthing, assaulted in Homefield Park (public gardens of the corporation, where children play). She pointed out one Ernest Hawkes, gardener in Homefield Park, as the guilty man; and he was subsequently identified by another little girl, her companion, who picked him out at the police-station from among nine other men. The children stood on chairs in the court in giving evidence. The accused was discharged, the Bench holding they could not commit a man for trial on the evidence of such young children.

The local paper gives a very confused account of this case. Women in the town are full of indignation and state that five other little girls have complained of the same man.

The cases are reported in *The Worthing Gazette*, April 15 and 23.

OUR LOWESTOFT CAMPAIGN.

There is still a certain deficit to be wiped out on this splendid campaign. To complete the success of the work which was carried out at the Conference, we appeal to all teachers who have not yet contributed to send a donation at once to 1, Robert-street. Many thanks to Miss M. A. Sims for an additional sum of 5s.

E. KNIGHT,
ALIX M. CLARK.

PLEASE MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, May 1, 1914.

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

EDITORIAL.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

THE GOVERNMENT POT AND THE ULSTER KETTLE.

With a cool effrontery that almost looks like silliness, so indefensible it is, the Ulster rebels carried out what Unionist journals describe as "a great coup" the very week-end that they were casting up and calculating on their arraignment of the Government for what they are childishly pleased to describe as the "plot against Ulster." Ordinary folk will say, indeed, that it is time the Government did something more than plot. For what in the world is a Government for, if it does not govern? Deeply engrossed as the civil forces of the Crown may be in harrying women and protecting the precious persons in the two Houses whose joint salaries total such an imposing figure, it would almost appear as if they might, and should, have found time for some other of the elementary duties of a police and detective force. Lofty though Mr. Asquith's and his colleagues' rôles no doubt are, and precious though their persons, we can yet imagine some other use for a Cabinet Minister than to be protected. And when there was so much wild talk flying round about plots, surely a really shrewd Premier might have known that there would very likely be one somewhere—if not in the Cabinet, then elsewhere!

If the Government plot failed, the Ulster plot succeeded beyond the wildest expectations. "Troops" were mobilised, telephones, telegraphs, railways, roads, and other public services held up; peaceful citizens (who were themselves all more or less in the plot, thus ensuring that success "without a hitch," on which the plotters plume themselves), were made to carry permits; coastguards and Customs Officers were imprisoned; and "martial law reigned throughout Ulster," as one exultant Unionist, anti-militant (women) paper announced. *The Daily Mail* says:—

Twenty-five thousand Mauser rifles and 1,200,000 cartridges were landed in Ulster on Friday night. For one night the Ulster Volunteers seized and held the greater part of the province. All telephone and telegraph messages were stopped. Police and coastguard stations in some districts were surrounded by Volunteers. Their occupants were kept prisoners till the work of gun-running was done.

Even if a telegram or a telephone message had slipped through to acquaint the Belfast guardians of law and order with what was going on, no police or troops could have been sent to Larne, at least not without a struggle. For the Northern Counties station, from which the line to Larne runs, was occupied all night by a detachment of 600 Volunteers, and near at hand there were six battalions more.

The Times has headlines. An amazing tone characterises them. "The Arming of Ulster," "Wires Short-circuited," "Distributing the Arms," "Police Outwitted at Derry," "Hoax on Customs Officers." One can hardly believe one's eyes, for warm approval glows through every line of the Penny Dreadful's columns. The same issue, with sweet simplicity, devotes nearly two pages to the Government "Plot against Ulster." We wonder if that same plot was the brilliant idea of some hoaxer; the same, perchance, who devised the hoax of pretending to land contraband at Belfast, to distract attention from the real landing

at Bangor and Larne; and who, knowing of the Ulster plot, invented another to keep people busy and to put them off the scent!

Mr. Asquith has got himself into a pretty position by allowing illegal proceedings, which should have been sternly checked two years ago, to assume the proportions of an organised rebellion. Women have been harried and persecuted, imprisoned and tortured for acts not one quarter so criminal and threatening to the good order of the community as these of Sir Edward Carson's armed following. There has been an unholy alliance between the two sets of law-breakers—those who committed acts of treason-felony, and those who connived at, and condoned these acts—while both made common cause against unenfranchised women goaded to desperation by a real, deep-seated injustice the like of which Sir Edward has never endured and never will be called upon to endure. The chief organ of encouragement of the rebels, *The Daily Mail*, is notorious for its intolerant abuse of law-breaking women; yet extracts from the leading article of April 27 express the principles of our militancy as well as we could express them ourselves. We venture to quote.

"It (the mobilisation or militancy of Ulster) is the assertion in action of the resolute will of Ulstermen to defend their sacred rights of citizenship." The italics are ours. "Unquestionably it is illegal. But it is not more so than the whole Ulster movement since the signing of the Covenant in September, 1912. . . . But what is the sense of talking about illegality in a matter of this kind? . . . So, if anyone wishes to discuss the illegality of the Ulster gun-running, the Ulstermen are entitled to set against it the immorality of the Government's action in endeavouring to place British citizens under a Government they detest. . . . We could not put it more concisely as Suffragists. And the question now is, will the same action be taken against *The Daily Mail* as was taken against *The Suffragette*?

The Daily Mail also quotes with seeming approval the "fundamental principle of the Liberal Party"; according to Sir William Harcourt "You can never have social order in any country except where the people who are governed are in sympathy and in harmony with the Government under which they live." We also repeat—Never. And we feel that that is where Ulster should sympathise with us! The grievous wrong of forcing "hundreds of thousands of loyal [we particularly like the free use of that word 'loyal'] citizens under a Government which they do not like and they cannot trust" is ten times more iniquitous in the case of the voteless than of those who have both votes and representatives. Yet Ulster gives us neither help nor sympathy; the Unionist Press, drunk with its infatuation for the methods of militant men, frowns darkly on militant women and recommends the whip, death by starvation, deportation and loss of citizen rights, for rebels of another sex and standard.

And while the Ulster Kettle raves at the Government Pot, and shrieks aloud of its blackness; and while the Government Pot, responding with a full measure and fine flavour of abuse, seems to have, for the time, forgotten that it is expected among other things to perform those simple duties for which Government Pots exist; there is a steady attack going on, unnoticed by the prejudice-blinded public, on the liberties which one day the public will wake up and find it has lost. On the same day that Ulster's attack on public order is recorded, a Government attack on public freedom is also recorded. A sister society, demonstrating in a perfectly peaceful fashion, had arranged a water-carnival on the Serpentine; and "the authorities" decided that this should not take place. The boats had been chartered for the afternoon; but the boatmen were told that they would be deprived of their licenses if they carried out the contract. When the persons with whom the contract was made arrived and endeavoured to obtain possession of the boats they had chartered, they were assaulted,

both in and out of the water, and taken to the police-station—where, of course, there was no charge that could be laid against them, and they were discharged!

We take leave to say that of all the unjustifiable outrages committed in the history of the Suffrage Movement, this is the gravest. To interfere with a contract of that nature, in that way, strikes at the root of the people's liberty. The threat to the boatmen is shameful. And the excuse given, that it was a Royal Park, and they had the right, is the most shameful of all. Long ago, in the sixties, it was proved that the Home Secretary and the police, while charged with the duty of maintaining order in the Royal Parks, had no jurisdiction to avert disorder by depriving the people of their rights in these parks; and on that point a Home Secretary had to resign. It is strongly borne in upon us that men have indeed shown themselves feeble and inept guardians of the rights and liberties of the people when a Liberal Home Secretary, in a so-called "democratic" administration can, unrebuked, drive a coach-and-four through every canon of freedom, decency, justice and law. Freedom to hold up the whole province with armed men is granted to Unionists; freedom to hold a harmless advertisement carnival is denied to women. It seems, in good sooth, as if nothing but law-breaking is left us of all our boasted liberties!

C. NINA BOYLE.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

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

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN RUSSIA.

In its special Russian Supplement on April 27 *The Times* devotes a page to an article by Madame A. Tyrkova on the position of women in Russia, from which we take the following extracts:—

Peasant Women Do Men's Work.

The lot of women in Russia is both better and worse than that of their sisters in the civilised countries of Western Europe. It is worse because in Russia poverty and ignorance are widespread, and it is the women of the lower classes who feel most keenly the effects of the social and economic backwardness of the country. Coarseness and brutality find in them their easiest victims, and of education they receive only the crumbs. Among the children in primary schools the percentage of girls is only about thirty. Among the peasantry women not only do men's work, but they carry out men's public duties. In many parts of Russia the men go away for the whole summer to earn money in other districts. Then their wives plough, harrow, and sow for them, and in fact do all the agricultural work. At the *skhody*, or village mates, the women, in the absence of the householders, do all the debating and pass the necessary resolutions. Sometimes women enjoy a position of great authority among their fellow-villagers. In Gostinopol, a large fishing village in the north of Russia, for instance, the peasants, not heeding the Governor's warning that no women could be permitted to occupy administrative posts, for several years in succession unanimously elected a woman as their elder. Women even now perform minor police duties.

The Need for Education.

Immediately after the emancipation of the serfs, when the general reaction against the old régime found expression in an ardent advocacy of liberty, equality, and respect for man as man, women were carried away by the new humanitarian ideas and enthusiastically proclaimed them and applied them to their own position. Gently-nurtured landowners' daughters threw aside the amenities and conventions of fashionable life and set themselves to secure independence, the right to work, and the right to win knowledge. The woman's question became one of the burning questions of the day. It was debated in fashionable salons and in gatherings of students in the capitals and in remote country houses. But the women soon realised that mere talk amounted to very little, and that without education the words independence and equality would have no meaning for them. They took advantage of every opportunity for study that presented itself. For two years women attended the universities and listened to lectures on the same terms as the men students. When this was forbidden separate courses of lectures for women were arranged in private houses. Then a group of remarkable and energetic women, the chief of whom were Mme. M. V. Trubnikova and Mme. A. P. Filosofova, established a higher college for women, which at first was very imperfectly organised, but ultimately, after years of unremitting effort, became a real women's university.

How the Women Doctors Won.

In addition to the University College a special medical school for women was established. At first the women who studied

here, although their course of study was equal to that of the men, were not given the title of physician, but were simply called trained midwives. However, when the Russo-Turkish War began (1876-77) it was found that there were far from sufficient surgeons to meet the demand. It happened that the first batch of students in the Women's Medical School had just passed their final examinations, and the War Office gave permission for them to go to the seat of war. Here their devotion, their self-sacrifice, and their courage and capacity for working under the most difficult conditions broke down all prejudice. The women won their battle, and when the war was over they were accorded the right to be physicians.

Public Opinion on the Side of the Women.

After much information of special interest dealing with the efforts of women to enter the legal, the teaching profession, the Civil Service and other clerkships, the article deals with the question of Women's Rights. It says—"Public opinion generally is on the side of the women. In the first two Dumas, which were elected on a more democratic franchise than the third and fourth, there was a majority in favour of women's rights. This circumstance was of no immediate practical importance, as neither Parliament lived long, nor did they pass a simple law. But it is an incontestable fact that the most influential section of the *intelligentsia* entirely sympathises with the idea that women should take an active part in local government and in general politics. When in 1905 a Constitution began to seem possible and imminent, Russian women of very varied groups and views realised that the moment had come to speak of their own claims. At that time hardly any women's organisations existed, with the exception of the Russian Women's Mutual Benefit Society, which was little more than a club for pleasant intercourse, with a tinge of philanthropy. But the prevailing political excitement affected this society and it established a franchise section, which is still working. In addition, with a rapidity possible only in a revolutionary period, a Women's Franchise League was established; women made speeches on behalf of their cause at political meetings, lectured in the provinces, published literature—in a word, carried on a most active agitation. . . . Very significant is the growth of interest in the women's question. Meetings and lectures devoted to this question attract in all the towns crowded audiences, which include men as well as women. The remarkable fact about this movement is its spontaneity, for the women's societies are still very feeble and badly organised. . . . Public opinion is still young in Russia, and the hard-and-fast prejudices and traditions with which women in other countries have such difficulty in coping are not so strong here. There is reason, therefore, to hope that if Russian men and women continue to work side by side in a comradely spirit, as they have done, we Russian women may not be compelled to pass through this most painful, and in some respects humiliating, phase of emancipation. We are not absolutely sure of this."

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Minimum Wage in Co-operative Factories.

The extension of the Trades Boards Act, which covers nine "sweated" industries, has drawn public attention to the need for a minimum wage for women workers. It is interesting, therefore, to notice that the Co-operative Wholesale Society has now enforced a minimum wage scale throughout its factories. The scale begins with 5s. a week for a girl of 14, and goes up by yearly increases of 2s. to 17s. a week at 20. Under the Trade Board system the piece-work rates must be such that 75 per cent. of the piece-workers employed earn the equivalent of the Minimum Time Rate, but the C.W.S. has improved upon this and makes its scale apply to at least 85 per cent. of its women and girl piece-workers.

The factories in which this scale is now paid cover many industries. The list of C.W.S. productions include boots and shoes, hosiery, soap, tobacco, cotton and woollen goods, &c. It also includes ready-made tailoring, shirt-making, hollow-ware, jam and confectionery, which are amongst the scheduled "sweated" trades, together with biscuit making, which is notoriously a low wage industry. In all of these alike the scale is now enforced. Those who buy C.W.S. goods are, therefore, certain that they are made under decent conditions.

First Woman Police Inspector.

The Liverpool Watch Committee on March 30 appointed Mrs. Hughes, Matron of the main Bridewell, to be an inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department of that city. Her duties, it is expected, will deal mainly with charges concerning women and children.

Rector Dismisses Woman Sexton.

Miss Hill, the sextoness of Crowland Abbey, near Spalding, has been ordered to resign by the new rector, who says it is not woman's work. Her family have held the appointment for 200 years.

Woman Ticket Collector.

According to the *Railway Clerk*, the world's only woman ticket collector is employed on the Great Northern Railway of Ireland. She is the daughter of a rural stationmaster, who is expected to have the assistance of members of his family in carrying out his many duties.

STYLISH BLOUSES

We have now in stock a wonderful variety of charming blouses. One of the leading numbers we illustrate.

CLARICE—Dainty white voile blouse with long shoulder effect, low collar, trimmed coloured embroidery, finished with satin bow, front well tucked, long sleeve with turn-back cuff of embroidery.

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**OUR TREASURY.
NATIONAL FUND.**

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

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	19,320	5	5
Organisers Fund—			
Mrs. Budd	2	0	0
Bye-Election Fund—			
Mrs. Schofield Coates	2	10	0
Special Levy for General Election—			
Mrs. E. D. Fox Bourne	10	0	
Miss E. T. Fox Bourne	5	0	
Miss Keen, per Hackney Branch	4	0	
Portsmouth and Gosport Branch	4	11	
Mrs. A. B. Jones	1	3	11
Mrs. E. M. N. Clark	5	0	0
Miss E. Gore Browne	4	4	0
The Misses McLaren, per Edinburgh Branch	3	0	0
Mrs. Shaw	1	0	0
Mrs. Tippett	15	0	
Monsieur Paul Eiwecko	14	0	
Norman Blanchard, Esq.	13	6	
Mrs. H. M. Nidd	10	0	
Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0	
Mrs. Huntsman	7	6	
Mrs. Graves	5	0	
C. Heim, Esq.	5	0	
Miss M. Sims (Lowestoft Campaign, Teachers' Fund)	5	0	
The Misses Sprentall	5	0	
Miss A. King	2	0	
Miss G. M. Telling	1	6	
Miss Margaret M. Radford	1	4	
"E. P."	1	0	
Miss Edith Simpson	1	0	
Profit on THE VOTE, per Miss Road	3	0	
Tickets	4	0	
Collections	5	15	3
Office Sales	1	1	1
Branches—			
West Hampstead	2	2	0
Capitation Fees—			
Brynawr	3	6	
Cowdenbeath	6	0	
Branch Funds—			
Hackney (January to March)	1	12	9
Kensington (March)	12	6	
Glasgow (February and March)—			
Subscriptions, &c.	39	11	6
Public Meeting	28	10	3
Dancing Class	9	13	6
Merchandise, &c.	4	13	9
Tea Room	2	2	7
Tickets	1	4	3
Collections	3	18	7
	89	14	5

£1,342 12 5

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."
To Branch Treasurers.—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the hon. treasurer.

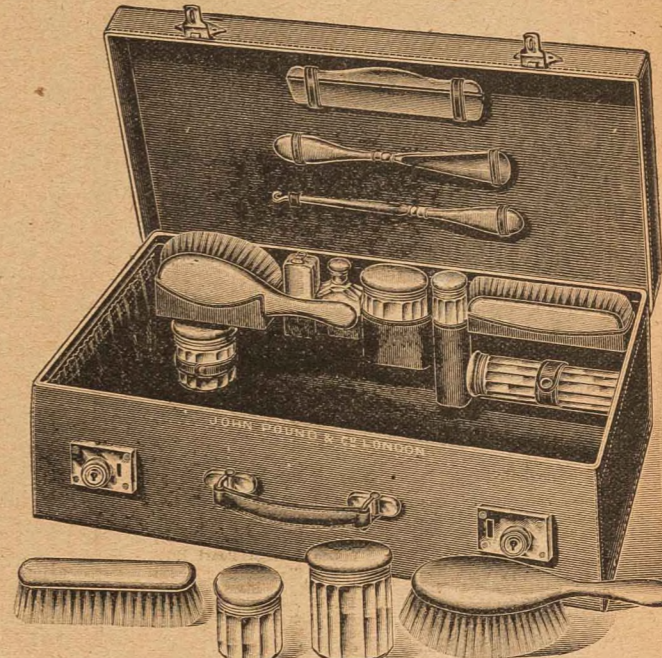
Special Correction.—The very kind Anonymous donation of £50 in our last list should have been acknowledged with many thanks to "A Friend who wishes to remain unknown."
E. KNIGHT.

HOW SUFFRAGISTS ARE BEING MADE IN DUBLIN

The Irish women and girls fighting for human, and against degrading, conditions of life and labour in Dublin, are becoming Suffragists in the course of the struggle. They are discovering that the most-effective way to improve the horrible conditions—the revelations of which have caused a shudder throughout the land—is by standing together and demanding the vote. Their spirit is magnificent, unquenchable. Witness a poor girl, seriously ill, who walked three miles to the hospital rather than go by tram worked by "blacklegs," and never dreamed she had done anything heroic. In the fight the girls have done splendid picketing and have deemed it an honour to go to prison for their cause. Miss Delia Larkin has organised them into a strong trades union, and is now endeavouring to start co-operative shops, workers' restaurants, and other industries to help the girls still locked out and of whom she says: "They will know how to use the vote when they get it!" She has also organised some of the girls into an "Irish Workers' Dramatic Society" to give Irish plays in aid of the co-operative scheme. They have made their own costumes and stage properties and are ready to face London audiences. A performance will be given at King's Hall, Covent-garden, on Friday, May 8. The programme includes *The Building Fund*, by William Boyle; *The Workhouse Ward*, by Lady Gregory; also Irish songs and dances. The King's Hall being unlicensed, tickets (numbered and reserved, 5s. 6d. and 3s. 6d., unnumbered 2s. 6d. and 1s.) can only be obtained by members of the society; no money will be taken at the doors. For further details apply to Miss S. Seruya (sec.), 21, Tudor-street, E.C., or Miss V. Tizzard (treas.), c.o. International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton-st., W.

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CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, in dealing with the subject "Chivalry and Wage-Earning Women—Fact and Fiction," briefly related the history of chivalry from the time when it was practised by a knight who fought on horseback, whose ideal of conduct was to be courteous, generous, valorous and dexterous in arms. This knight had to take a pledge of abstinence from using force against those who could not hit back—namely, women and girls. As a boy he was sent to a castle to receive his education at the hands of a great lady and her maidens, the education being in good manners, good French, and true religion, and for five or six years he would act as a page in the suite of a great lady. Mr. Mitchell contended that this vaunted chivalry was based on the theory that women were inferior to men; it was mere class politeness, and that real chivalry was not a national possession in this country. In olden time women perhaps wanted protection from force, now they certainly needed the political protection of the vote. Without it, their interests were exposed to real danger in the labour market; 95 per cent. of the sweated work was done by women. Very few highly paid posts were open to women, and women invariably had to face much greater difficulties than men in earning their living. Mr. Mitchell gave a clear analysis of the Civil Service Commission Report, and thought that it was incredible that business men should seek to put obstacles in the way of clever, highly trained women getting posts they were competent to fill simply because they were women, or because they decided to get married.

Miss Boyle passed some scathing comments on Mr. McKenna's new effort—the Criminal Justice Administration Bill. It was another attempt to deal with people's lives and liberties without consulting women, and the result was again confusion. It was no doubt a fine object to keep criminals out of prisons and to make them pay for their misdemeanours in hard cash, but she pointed out that in the case of poor people this money could only come out of what was usually spent on the food of their children.

Mrs. Tanner, who presided, did not think that the present political outlook from the Suffragist point of view was very hopeful, but reminded her audience that members of the Women's Freedom League were veritable Mark Tapleys, and that afternoon they had genuine reason to rejoice, for the latest news was that their beloved President, Mrs. Despard, was on her way to the recovery of health and strength. The Women's Freedom League had decided to give her a splendid welcome at her birthday reception party, July 7. This announcement was received with loud and prolonged applause.

"GHOSTS."

A finer production from all points of view of Ibsen's famous play, "Ghosts," would be hard to find than that given on Sunday night at the Court Theatre. The utmost credit is due to its organiser, Mr. J. T. Grein; to its producer, Mr. Leon M. Lion; and to the New Constitutional Society for Woman Suffrage, under whose auspices the revival was given. The acting was of the highest quality—a real treat from the artistic point of view. Miss Bessie Hatton received and deserved the enthusiastic applause of a full house. Mr. Leon Quartermaine was as perfect an Oswald as could be found; Mr. J. Fisher White, as Pastor Manders, was a fine bit of acting. The lesson the play teaches is self-evident. The ghastly horror of the literal fulfilment of that curse "the sins of the fathers shall be visited upon the children," has never been more forcibly brought home than in Ibsen's "Ghosts." The appalling tragedy of the wife, urged and forced by the conventional conception of duty to her marriage vows to "cleave only to her husband, forsaking all others," even though he be the most dissolute of evil-livers; the culminating point of despair in her forlorn fight between the hideous past and the hopeless future, and the fierce struggle to save and protect her only son, seized on the imagination, forcing the naked truth home that if these abominations of uncontrolled vice, breeding the most ghastly diseases in our children, are to be stamped out, the women must summon all their courage, face the odium of outraged conventionality, and set a new and higher standard of duty. In forsaking the old ideal of patience and suffering and self-sacrifice to a marriage vow (binding on them and ignored by the man), she will bravely face her higher responsibilities, not to an individual, but to the race.
I. C. T.

An Omission.—By inadvertence the name of Miss John was omitted last week from the list of speakers at Lowestoft; we now record with pleasure and appreciation that Miss John made a fine speech at a big open-air meeting during the W.F.L. campaign at the Conference of the National Union of Teachers.

Congratulations.—To Miss Sylvia Murray on her election to the Cardross School Board—she is the first woman elected for that district. Miss Eunice Murray took a leading part in the contest—which naturally resulted in victory. Miss Boyle asks to be congratulated on the return of Miss Sidley to the work of the office. The attractions of matrimony have not robbed the League of the advantage of her valuable services.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

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

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

Owing to the unavoidable absence from home of Mrs. Ackroyd, the first meeting after the Easter holidays was addressed by Miss Boyle, who took as her subject—"Corruption in Modern Politics—with apologies to Mr. Cecil Chesterton." All who know the speaker understand how well Miss Boyle would handle such a subject. Touching upon the Marconi and other scandals, she pointed out, how much sweeping away of dirt might be done in Parliament by better legislation. An animated discussion followed. Will members and friends please send parcels of clothing, etc., for the Jumble Sale, before May 16? Tickets for the "Competition" Tea on May 14 can be obtained from the hon. secretary. The hon. treasurer will be glad to receive any subscriptions not yet paid. Notices of meetings will be found on page 30 in the list of "Forthcoming Events."

Clapham.

Mrs. Tanner had a big crowd of men and women at St. Luke's-road last Monday evening, and for more than an hour kept them keenly interested in the subject of Woman Suffrage. The chair was taken by Miss Winifred St. Clair. An open-air meeting will be held in the same place next Monday at 8 p.m. Will members kindly note that the Branch meeting at 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, has been postponed until May 12, because all who can be asked to be at the Caravan rally at High Barnet, Tuesday evening, May 5. On May 12 we are to elect officers and committee for the Clapham Branch.

Kensington.

We are starting a series of meetings in Hyde Park on Sunday evenings. The first meeting will be held on May 3, at 6 p.m., near the Marble Arch. Speakers, Mrs. Jason Kerr and Mrs. Merivale Mayer. Help from members will be valued.

PROVINCES.—Aintree.

At our Branch meeting held in Aintree Institute on April 21, Miss Appleton presided, and Mrs. Evans gave us a most interesting account of her experiences at the annual conference. Branch meetings will be held in future on the first Tuesday in every month. Schemes for raising money for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund were discussed. We hope to double last year's contribution.
Miss Davey and Miss Maxwell are doing good work in the Anfield

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district, and are hoping to form a group there. Mrs. Maxwell has kindly promised the use of her drawing-room for a meeting on Monday, May 4, when Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Shaw will speak.

Bournemouth.

A meeting was held in Mrs. Hull's drawing-room on April 23. Mrs. Hull gave an interesting account of the Conference and also of her recent experience of arrest and imprisonment in Holloway. Will members kindly watch THE VOTE for notices of future meetings?

Chester.

A very successful whist drive—the last of the season—took place on April 21. The thanks of the Branch are due to Mrs. Hedgecock and the Entertainments Committee generally for the excellent way in which these pleasant functions have been arranged. On Saturday, April 25, the Annual Jumble Sale was held at the People's Hall. My efforts were spared by the hon. treasurer (Miss F. Taylor) to exceed the results of last year's sale, and there is every reason to believe that her endeavours have met with substantial success.

Ipswich.

At our meeting on April 23 Miss Harrison kindly spoke on "Prison Reform," a subject to which she has devoted much attention. She touched on the prison rules and regulations, mentioning improvements and pointing out how many more are still required. "Prison Reform" with many other subjects—has been brought much to public notice through the Suffrage movement. Miss Harrison's address was therefore of great interest to all our members, who accorded her a hearty vote of thanks. We were delighted to have Mrs. Tippett at the meeting. We are now working hard to make our Jumble Sale a great success.

Middlesbrough.

At our last Branch meeting, held in Hinton's Café, Mrs. Schofield Coates presided and Miss Amy Mahony gave an address on "Why Women Teachers demand the Franchise." She gave reasons to prove that the question of votes for women is legitimate business of the N.U.T. In spite of what had been termed the "crushing defeat" of the women at the Easter Conference, there had been an increase of 5,000 votes in the resolution asking for sympathy for women teachers who desired the Parliamentary franchise. On Saturday Miss Read and several members of the Branch, including Miss Hayton, Miss Hotham and the Misses Mahony took part in a street sale of THE VOTE. Members and friends are asked to remember the "President's Birthday Party" on May 4, in Hinton's Café, for which a special programme is being arranged.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A very successful meeting was held for members and friends at the Castle Tea Rooms, on April 21. Mrs. Colley-priest spoke on "The Feeding of Necessitous School-Children," as she is Head of one of the feeding centres, and therefore an authority on the subject. Her address was very enlightening and interesting. A good discussion followed. Arrangements were made for fortnightly work parties to commence on Wednesday, April 29, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Speak kindly offering to entertain the workers. The date and place of the next work party will be advertised in THE VOTE. Miss Trotter is making

Portsmouth her headquarters for the Southern District in the new organising scheme. Members are urged to rally round her and make her work here a distinct success.

Reading.

A members' meeting was held on April 21 at "Newtonhurst," Hamilton-road. After the business was concluded, Miss Ruth Hinder gave an interesting paper on "The Raising of the School Age," dealing with the subject from a teacher's point of view. Mrs. Spir presided. A "Faith Tea" and social gathering will be held on Monday, May 18, at 5 p.m., in the Lodge Room, Palmer Hall. Will all members kindly bring contributions for the tea? There will be a collection.

Southampton.

Mrs. Leigh Rothwell held a most successful meeting in Eastleigh on April 24. Her audience, numbering about 400, expressed a keen desire to hear her again. Mr. Price (secretary of the local L.L.P.) took the chair in a most able manner; the audience listened so attentively to his remarks that Mrs. Rothwell asked him to speak at her next meeting, to be held the following evening in Southampton, and he kindly consented to do so. Mrs. Costa, of our Winchester Branch, gave able assistance in selling THE VOTE, and was very successful. Just before the meeting a gentleman informed us that he had obtained permission to hold a religious meeting on the same pitch; he expressed sympathy and great interest in our Cause. The result was that instead of holding his own meeting, he spoke for over half an hour for the women's movement, proving to the men present that what freedom they possessed to-day was due to their political enfranchisement, and that it was their duty to assist the women to obtain equal freedom.

Winchester.

A sale of work of old and new clothes and articles of all kinds was held at The Lodge, Bereweke-road, on April 23. Through the help given by members of the League and friends, the sale proved a great success, and £13 4s. was realised for the Branch funds.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

The Scottish Council is conducting a fortnight's vigorous open-air campaign in Dundee and district. It was opened on April 20, when an evening meeting was held in Panmure-street, at which a large and attentive crowd listened to Miss Broughton's exposition of the Women's Freedom League's policy and objects. On Wednesday and Saturday evenings similar meetings were held in the same place, and Miss Broughton had a splendid reception from the increasingly large and appreciative crowds. THE VOTE and other suffrage literature sold well. On Thursday a successful meeting was held at Hilltown. Miss Barrs presided and Miss Broughton spoke on the value of the vote to working women. At a meeting on Friday evening at Broughty Ferry Miss Broughton spoke for over an hour to an interested audience, the police having quieted some cheering children. Regular dinner-hour meetings have also been held at the different mills and factories, including Lindsay and Low's chocolate factory, Cox's Mills in Lockee, and Valentine's factory. Men from a neighbouring works have been also present and in every case the girls, of whom large numbers are employed, evinced a great interest and stayed to listen until the last moment. The organiser has been greatly assisted by Miss Barrs, who has superintended the selling of THE VOTE. But to bring a campaign to a successful close more workers are needed, especially at the evening meetings. The organisers would be greatly encouraged if members would make an effort to attend some of the meetings. More "VOTE" sellers are urgently needed.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

DR. JESSIE MURRAY'S PROTEST.

On April 22 there was a most interesting open air meeting in Upper-street, Islington, when Dr. Jessie Murray, of Endsleigh-street, Tavistock-square, protested against the seizure and public sale of her carriage clock, owing to her refusal to pay Imperial taxes. Mrs. Kineton Parkes and Mrs. Tyson also spoke, and gained the attention of a large crowd by whom the usual resolution was unanimously passed.

TAX RESISTANCE IN JOHN BURNS' BOROUGH.

On Friday evening, April 24, Mrs. Beaumont Thomas and Mrs. Sutcliffe had goods sold by public auction, because of their refusal to pay King's taxes. The sale took place at Warren's Auction Room, Battersea Rise, and afterwards a procession with banners flying wended its way to Mosbury-road, where a protest meeting was held and a big crowd assembled. Miss Beaumont took the chair, and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Kineton Parkes, of the Tax Resistance League, explained the reasons of tax resistance and answered the questions asked. At the conclusion of the speeches cheers were given for the speakers, and a resolution was carried:

"That this meeting is of opinion that women taxpayers are justified in refusing to pay all Imperial taxes till they have the same control over national expenditure as male taxpayers possess."

IN THE COUNTRY.

On April 22, goods belonging to Miss Rose were sold at Frinton-on-Sea, owing to her refusal to pay Imperial taxes.

IN REGENT'S PARK.

Mrs. Tippett and Mr. J. Y. Kennedy addressed a large meeting in Regent's Park on Sunday, organised by the Mid-London Branch. How man-directed circumstances have forced certain classes of women into their present useless life, to escape from which they have won their right of entry to higher education, was explained by the first speaker; Mr. Kennedy dealt with various Women's Franchise Bills and the political situation. The interruptions of a Liberal heckler increased the interest and sympathy of the rest of the audience, while the speakers proved how false to his promises the Prime Minister has been, and exemplified the hypocrisy of male anti-Militants.

The policy of the League was explained by Miss Trotter, who was in the chair; she also gave details of recent arrests in Whitehall, with subsequent imprisonments, which have been the means of bringing to light urgent cases for reform.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Sun., May 3.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Tanner. HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Mrs. Merivale Mayer. *Chair:* Mrs. Juson Kerr.

Mon., May 4.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner on "Women in English Fiction." Admission Free. Discussion invited. CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, 7 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke.

Tues., May 5.—HIGH BARNET, Caravan "Send-off" Meeting, 7.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Anna Munro and others.

Wed., May 6.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. *Speakers:* Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. Johnson. Admission Free. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London Branches Council Meeting, 6.30 p.m.

Thurs., May 7.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m. HIGHBURY CORNER, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.

Fri., May 8.—CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. E. M. Moore. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, VOTE Rally, 7.30 p.m.

Sun., May 10.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard.

Mon., May 11.—CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss St. Clair. KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, 7 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Tues., May 12.—CLAPHAM, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, Branch Annual Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Wed., May 13.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. Mr. Laurence Housman "In this Sign Conquer," and others. Admission free.

Thurs., May 14.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, "Competition Test," 3.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Sun., May 17.—REGENT'S PARK, noon.

Mon., May 18.—LOWER HALL, High-street, Clapham, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Tanner. *Chairman:* Mrs. Hull. KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, 7 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke.

Wed., May 20.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30. Mrs. Bailie Weaver, "Militancy in the Home." *Chair:* Dr. Helen Bourchier.

Thurs., May 21.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m.

Fri., May 22.—CROYDON, Poster Parade, 11.30 a.m. Lecture Room, Public Hall, Wellesley-road. Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Nevinston. *Chair:* Mrs. Bailie, B.Sc.

Sun., May 24.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Anna Munro.

Mon., May 25.—CAXTON HALL, 8 p.m. Lecture by W. L. George, Esq., on "Feminism and Passion." Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from W.F.L. Office. KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Blenheim-crescent, 7 p.m. Miss Beatrice Kent.

Thurs., May 28.—HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Sun., May 31.—REGENT'S PARK, noon.

PROVINCES.

Fri., May 1.—St. Helens, The Club Room, Pottery-street, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.

Mon., May 4.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Presiden's Birthday Party, 7.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Schofield Coates. *Chair:* Miss Winifred Jones. *Sketch:* "A Domestic Duel." Madama Richardson and Miss Edith Davies. *Songs:* by Miss Edith Calvert and Miss Harrison. *Violin Solos:* Miss Frances Richardson. Anfield, 10, Alroy-road, Meeting, *Hostess:* Mrs. Maxwell. *Speakers:* Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Shaw. Barnage, 22, South-avenue, Branch Meeting, Tues., May 5.—Aintree Institute, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

Mon., May 11.—Middlesbrough. *Speaker:* Miss L. Mahony. *Subject:* "George Eliot's Women."

Mon., May 18.—Middlesbrough.—Open Night.

SCOTLAND.

Fri., May 1.—Broughty Ferry, corner Gray's-street and Brook-street, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.

Sat., May 2.—Perth, Open-air Meeting, 3 p.m. Glasgow, Jumble Sale, 2.30 p.m. Dundee, Pamure-street, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.

Mon., May 4.—Glasgow, Charing Cross Halls, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss C. Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Dundee, Old Grammar School, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.

Tues., May 5.—Foot of Hilltown, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.

Wed., May 6.—Dundee, Pamure-street, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, "At Home," 7.30 p.m.

Thurs., May 7.—Glasgow, Suffrage Shop, Council Meeting, 6.30 p.m., Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

Sat., May 9.—Glasgow, 184, Woodlands-road, Sale of Work, 3 p.m. (by kind permission of Miss Findlay).

Tues., May 12.—Cardross, Geilston Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Eunice Murray. *Chair:* Rev. W. Maxwell, M.A.

Thurs., May 14.—Helensburgh, Victoria (Pillar) Hall, Public Meeting. *Speakers:* Miss Nina Boyle. *Chair:* Miss Eunice Murray.

Fri., May 15.—Rothesay, Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Eunice Murray.

Sat., May 16.—Rothesay, Open-air Meeting. Miss Boyle and Miss Murray. Edinburgh, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.

Sat., May 30.—Edinburgh, Summer Sale, 2.30 p.m.

CONSIDERABLE interest attaches to the appearance of Miss Gertrude Kingston in next Sunday's production of *The Patience of the Sea*, by Conal O'Riordan, which the Pioneer Players are giving at the Ambassadors Theatre, to be followed by a public performance on May 4 at 3 p.m. The main motive of the play turns on the imbecility of "the unwritten law."

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, London, by the First Post on Tuesday Morning.

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