

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

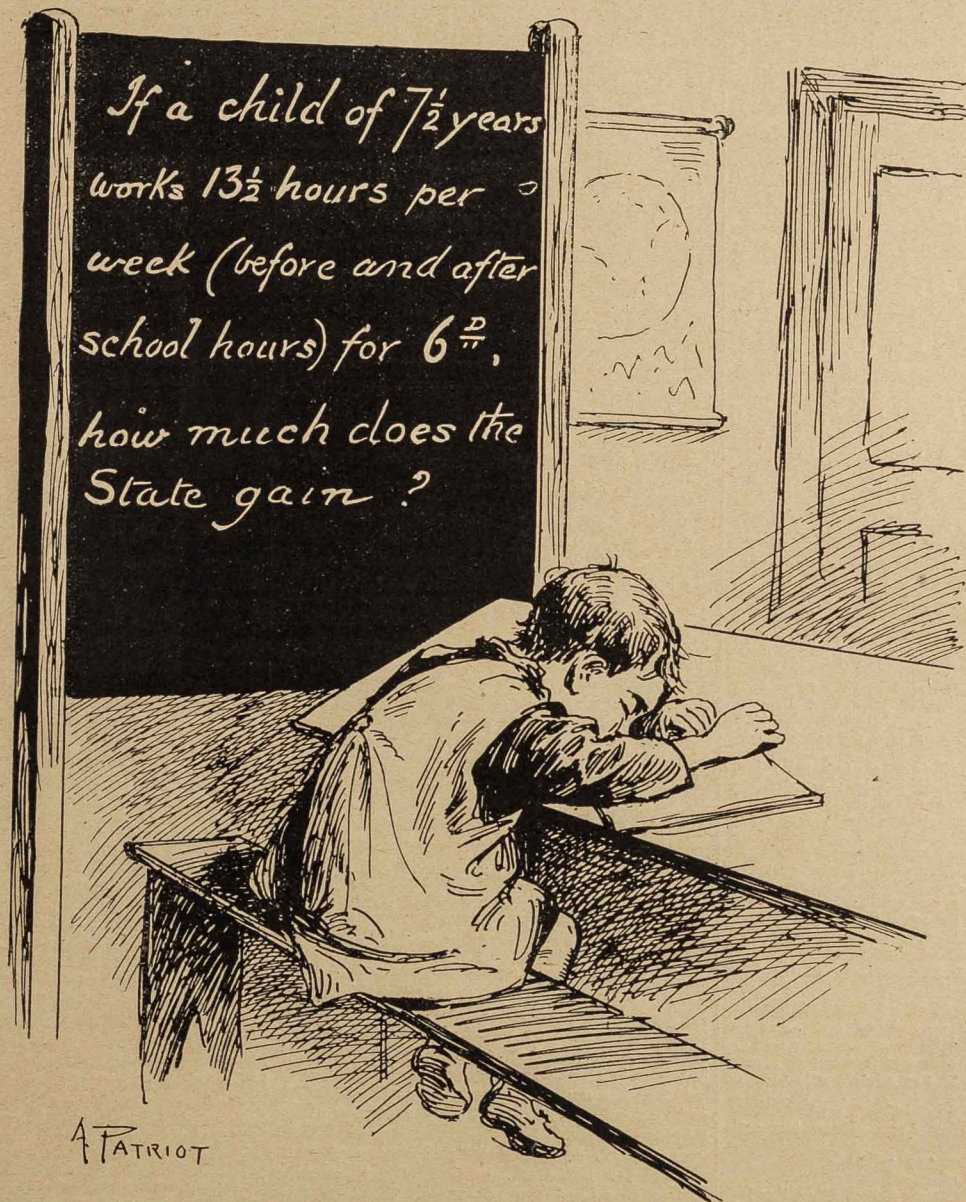
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1915.

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A SUM—AND THE ANSWER



It was stated recently, at a meeting of the Kingston Education Committee, that in one school 87 children worked before and after school hours (including one child of $7\frac{1}{2}$ years, who worked from 6 to 8 a.m. on six days, and from 9.30 till 11 a.m. on Sunday—for 6d.) and arrived at school too sleepy to be taught. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Herbert Lewis) stated, in answer to a question by Mr. Jowett, on July 22, that a Bill safeguarding the conditions of employment of school-children was not at present contemplated. (For his reasons see Outlook.)

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

Secretary, Miss M. R. Cochrane, 92, Borough Road, S.E. Telephone: Hop 4172.

We have had a busy week, culminating in the "outing" on Saturday. On Tuesday Miss Fraser Smith came to address the suffrage meeting, and on Thursday the Misses Fox gave us a concert, which was followed by an impromptu sale of blouses, by which we realised 14s. We should like to thank the following for parcels:—Miss Fox, Miss Benson, and Mrs. Sharpe. Miss Hood has sent us a large trunk full of treasures—jam, vases, curtains, glass cloths, tooth-brushes, &c., which will be of the utmost use to the club. Mrs. Fox has given us a picture, and the following have sent us cakes: Mrs. McCall, Mrs. Fox, and Miss Somers. On Friday evening Mrs. Ford Smyth came to talk to the girls about some of their difficulties. They turned up in force to hear her, and are most anxious for her to come again. The Club will be closed on Saturday, July 31, and on Monday. Throughout August it will be open from 3 to 6 p.m.

Thanks to the kindness of friends, our outing was a great success. We wish to thank the following very much for their help:—

Miss Joachin, 10s.; Mrs. Ayrton Gould, 10s.; Mrs. Ibbotson Hutt, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. McCall, £1 1s.; Mrs. Powell, £1; Mr. Powell, 10s.; Anonymous, 10s.; Anonymous, 10s.; Miss Marshall, 3s.; Anonymous, 2s.; Anonymous, 2s.; Miss Dalgleish, 1s.; Miss L. Dawson, 5s.; Mrs. McLeod, 5s.; Anonymous, 10s.; Mr. R. Pinge, 10s.; Mrs. Barry, 2s. 3d.; Mrs. Harben, £5; Miss Somers, 5s.; Mrs. Fox Strangways, 2s. 6d.; Miss L. Capel Davies 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Davanwetten, 5s.; Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, 10s.; Miss Walford, 10s.; Per Miss Somers, 3s. 6d.; Dr. Mary Wilson, 2s.; Mrs. Mager, 1s.; Mrs. Gow, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Hartley Withers, 5s.; Mrs. Fox, £1; Miss Wilson, 2s.; Miss V. Louis, 5s.; Lady Sybil Smith, 5s.; Miss D. Orton, 2s.; Mrs. Parkyn, 5s.; Club Money-box, 1s. 4d.

HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

There are still many U.S. members who are going away for holidays and have not sent in their names for the holiday campaign. Will they do so at once, even if they are not going to take their holidays till September, so that we may know exactly when and where the paper will be sold during the holidays?

Many people say that they cannot take holidays in the country and at the seaside this year when their friends are fighting in the trenches. Surely, then, the best sort of holiday they can have is a change of work which will distract their thoughts and at the same time make them feel they are helping on the cause of Freedom which their men at the front are fighting for. An opportunity for this is given by our London Holiday Campaign, which will go on all through August and September. Send in your names to the H.C. organiser, with the date of your holiday, and she will suggest to you how you can help in the holiday campaign at home.

Bank Holiday Paper-Selling Competition

People are specially wanted to sell on Bank Holiday. Nothing could be more amusing and interesting than selling VOTES FOR WOMEN at Hampstead Heath, or Kew, or any of the parks, or on the river.

Have a happy day and help the Cause! Join the Bank Holiday Paper-selling Competition.

How many papers can you sell? Send in your names at once! Every paper sold may mean a new subscriber! Every new subscriber means a step nearer the Vote!

LONDON CAMPAIGN

Most of our speakers are taking holidays, which they sadly need, during August. We have therefore decided to suspend the open-air campaign during that month, so that we may all come back fresh and vigorous to start a larger and even more effective campaign in September.

BIRMINGHAM U.S.

19, New Street

Birmingham members will have learned with great regret that Miss Haly has resigned from her position as secretary. It is impossible to say how much the branch owes her, and her withdrawal will be very keenly felt by all who have ever worked with her. The flourishing condition of the Birmingham U.S. is very largely due to her personal efforts, and her successor will have every reason to be grateful for the work that Miss Haly has done.

Meeting

Wednesday, September 15; 8 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—Queen's College (Room 12).

BOLTON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Mrs. Jessie Crompton, Brookdale, Ridingate, near Bolton

By kind invitation of Miss Gordon, the members and friends had a very enjoyable outing to Fulton. Members of the Manchester Men's League attended, also a few of the U.S. Tea was served, games played, and a substantial profit handed over to the treasurer. Owing to very wet weather, our open-air meeting last Monday was abandoned, but the Rev. Jabez Bell promised to come again. We were all glad to see Mrs. Almond back again at our members' meeting. This means more work. Will all members devote energies to working up Mrs. Lawrence's meeting on October 6? Announcements later.

KENSINGTON U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Postlethwaite, 47a, Earl's Court Road, W. Telephone: Western 926

The shop will be closed for the month of August, and reopened on September 1. Correspondence will be dealt with as usual; also arrangements (which will be announced later) are being made for paper-sellers who have volunteered to keep their pitches filled during the holidays. Among the contributors this week to the Jumble Sale we have to thank Mrs. Hartley Withers for a beautiful gift

CORRESPONDENCE

INDIAN WOMEN

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—With reference to your paragraph in this week's VOTES FOR WOMEN, may I say that the memorial regarding the education of Indian girls has not yet been presented to the Secretary of State for India. We are at present getting signatures of sympathisers, and hope to present the memorial when Parliament meets after the recess. At the meeting at Lady Muir Mackenzie's the memorial was proposed by Mr. Yusuf Ali; Sir Krishna Gupta was in the chair. May I add that a similar memorial was presented, and courteously received by the then Secretary of State in 1892, but had no result?

Apologising for troubling you, and thanking you for alluding to our meeting.—Yours, &c.,

S. A. BONNERJEE, Joint Hon. Sec. of Committee for the Memorial on Indian Education.

43, Hamilton Road, Ealing, W.

WOMEN'S PETITION TO THE QUEEN OF HOLLAND

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—Your readers will be interested to hear of the Englishwomen's petition to the Queen of Holland, on behalf of which Miss Helena Normanton is touring and speaking in various industrial centres. Its terms are as follows:—

"We, the undersigned women of Great Britain and Ireland, very respectfully ask Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Wilhelmina of Holland personally to place before the Congress of Plenipotentiaries which will meet at the termination of this War the following demand, which we make in right of our common womanhood: That each State represented at that Congress should enter into a solemn international engagement to settle all future disputes by peaceful methods, and that every State not represented at the Congress be invited to enter into the same engagement."

As will be seen, the petition does not commit signatories to any controversial points of view concerning the War; but it gives every woman a chance to express her preference for Peace, without expense, and therefore comes within the reach

of books, Dr. Corthorn for some very nice baby's clothes, Miss Hopley for a number of useful articles, and Mrs. and Miss Morrison for various gifts. Thanks are due to Miss Hickey for her subscription to the shop for July of 2s. 6d.

LIVERPOOL U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Isobel Buxton, 111, Queen's Road

Miss Grice, our press secretary, who has been such a good friend to our branch since its formation, is unfortunately leaving Liverpool to return south. We shall miss her help very much indeed, and tender her our good wishes and gratitude for her help. Will members keep a sharp look-out upon the local press, and see to it that the work which she has started is carried on?

MANCHESTER U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Hope Hampson, Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate

Miss Annie Rose took the chair at the open-air meeting on July 21, and soon attracted an attentive gathering, which did not disperse till the close of the meeting. Will members please note that the Sidney Street meeting, arranged for Wednesday, August 4, will take place on the following evening (Thursday, 5th, at 8 p.m.), when Miss Rose will again take the chair. Thanks are due to Mrs. Duncan for kindly refunding her travelling expenses of July 16. A good attendance is expected at the At Home on the day of issue (see list below), for United Suffragists will not forget that as well as championing the oppressed in his poems, Mr. Redwood Anderson has also sold VOTES FOR WOMEN in the streets of Manchester.

Meetings

Friday, July 30; 7.30 p.m.—At Home.—Onward Buildings, 207, Deansgate, Manchester. Speaker: Mr. J. Redwood Anderson.

Thursday, August 5; 8 p.m.—Open-air Meeting.—Corner of Sydney Street. Speaker: Miss Annie Rose.

Friday, August 6; 7.30 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—207, Deansgate.

of working-women who cannot afford to attend Hague Congresses. The Queen of Holland is the most suitable person to present the petition, because she is the only reigning Queen in Europe, and has therefore more direct political power than any other woman. Her character alike as woman and ruler commands respect, as does her descent from a family called to rule because of its services to the cause of liberty. Finally, Holland is (so far) a neutral country, and is intimately connected with the movement for arbitration.

The petition is being extensively signed; Miss Normanton is peculiarly well fitted to be in charge of it, since she possesses the extremely rare combination of a profound knowledge of history with the gift of open-air speaking, and large attentive crowds attend her meetings everywhere. At Dundee, for example, her hearers would not let her off till she had spoken and answered questions for two and a half hours, and then they begged her to return the following day. Copies of the petition will gladly be sent on receipt of a stamped envelope, by applying to Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., 14, Wilton Mansions, North Kelvinside, Glasgow. Each sheet holds twenty names.—Yours, &c., WINIFRED HOLIDAY.

SUFFRAGE IN GLASGOW

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors.—When I read the letter from M. Corregan about Suffrage in Glasgow I was overjoyed by the account of her sorrow at the seeming disappearance of Glasgow from the "Suffrage World." M. Corregan is quite right in thinking that there must be others who, equally with her, lament this suspension of work and who want to "get busy" once again. Mrs. Helen Crawford, 22, Alexandra Street, Glasgow, is forming a branch of United Suffragists at Glasgow, and would be very glad to hear from M. Corregan and those who feel as she does. It is an open secret that Mrs. Crawford hopes to arrange a public meeting in the autumn and to ask Mrs. Lawrence to speak for the branch.—Yours, &c.,

CHARLES GRAY (Branches Organiser).

[We have also received a letter from Miss Eunice Murray pointing out that the Women's Freedom League have been active in Glasgow throughout the year, and can promise Suffrage work to anyone calling at their shop at 70, Guy's Road.—Ed. VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper

THE OUTLOOK

Mr. Long's Bill for the postponement of municipal elections spikes one more Anti-Suffrage gun. It used to be a favourite argument of our opponents that women had all the power they needed in the sphere of local government, to which we used to reply that women's municipal rights were never secure as long as they had not won their political rights. The new Bill, whereby Parliament is empowered to prevent women from exercising the municipal vote for another year, is a case in point.

Registration and Woman Suffrage

The same Bill, which passed its third reading last Monday, ensures the continuance of the present register "until Parliament provides for special registers being made." In the outcry raised over the resulting hardship to revising barristers we think the real significance of this provision of Mr. Long's Bill has been overlooked. The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, who is generally well informed in such matters, states that the Government measure for the postponement of the General Election will be introduced in the autumn, and adds:

Provision will then, I believe, be made for the shortening of the period of qualification for the franchise—a provision rendered necessary by the absence of men engaged in the war.

We should rather like to know if the Emergency Act passed last August on purpose to meet this very case of absentee soldiers and sailors has become a dead letter, or whether, as we strongly suspect, Mr. Long's Bill has merely been brought in to clear this Act out of the way and pave the road for the more sweeping Government measure to come.

Our Demand

But our concern, as always, is first of all with the bearing of the matter on votes for women. Supposing the forecast in the *Manchester Guardian* to be correct, something akin to manhood suffrage will be established before another register is formed. This is a radical change in the basis of the franchise, and if it is possible to effect such a change in the middle of the war, it is also possible to effect other franchise reforms. Our demand, and, we believe, the demand of all Suffragists in such a case, will be, therefore, that if the franchise law is to be altered in order to safeguard the citizenship of men who are serving their country, it shall also be altered in order to grant citizenship to women, of whose services for their country there is not the slightest doubt in the mind of any sane person.

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality has received a salutary blow in the passage of the Bill (so nobly fought for by Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky) making the Notification of Births Act universal in its application; and the new joint circular of the Local Government Board and the Board of Education, placing on a definite basis the Government grant to maternity centres, will probably, as the *New Statesman* points out, enable us to "save within

the next few years more lives than we have so far lost in the war." But, as the same paper emphasises in another note, the refusal of the House of Commons to grant a paltry sum of £25,000 for the establishment of local pathological laboratories will lead, amongst other things, to "unnecessary mortality among infants." And this short-sighted economy is shown at a moment when we are spending three millions a day on war which involves enormous destruction of life!

Should Babies be Saved?

But, really, when we contemplate the cruelty so vividly depicted by our cartoonist this week, we cannot help wondering if it would not be more humane to let our babies die than to allow them to reach the age at which they can be sweated! The recent revelations, made by the Kingston Education Committee, of children as young as 7 and 9 who are worked before and after school hours for wretched sums varying from 6d. to 2s., of boys who are said to be "suffering from overstrain" through struggling to work their poor little brains when their poor little bodies are worn out with delivering milk and newspapers—these are not revelations to our readers. Again and again in these columns have we drawn attention to similar instances of child labour in time of peace. But the danger is increased in war time, owing to the deficiency of male labour; and we greatly deplore Mr. Herbert Lewis's unsatisfactory answer in the House of Commons to Mr. Jowett, who asked if a short Bill could not be passed to safeguard the conditions of employment of children of school age. The Department appears to be relying on a circular sent round to the education authorities; but as this does not seem to have explained the powers under existing Acts of controlling child labour—which, if enforced, might possibly render a new Act unnecessary—the case of Kingston may not continue to be an isolated one.

Wages of Munition Workers

While dramatic eagerness to register for war service is being shown by some women, others are pegging away at the old, old task of securing decent conditions for those who, war or no war, are always being underpaid and overworked because they are voteless women. Both Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., and Miss Llewelyn Davies have written admirable letters to the Press, pointing out, as the former puts it, that the wages actually paid now to women munition workers "vary between what is sufficient to ensure decent comfort and what can only be called sweated." Miss Davies, in a letter to the *Daily News*, exposes some of these wages—15s. for a 7½ hours week; 6s. for a 53 hours week to a worker of 14 years of age, rising by 1s. a year to 12s. at 21; and so on. At the monthly meeting of the Manchester and Salford Trades and Labour Council it was stated that women are working on munitions at a maximum of 15s. and a minimum of 8s. 6d. Only a voteless class could possibly be sweated in this way, and so forced to undercut the men who are in the trenches. The nation is paying in time of war for its sins towards women in time of peace.

Another Shameful Case

A parallel case to that of Mrs. Grace Mary Jungk, on which we commented last week, is that of Mrs. Jessie Klose, reported in last Saturday's *Daily News*. She was charged before Mr. Denman at Marylebone with breaking a window at the Albany Street Police Station, and her defence was that she had done this to call attention to the hardship of her case. She was English by birth, had married a German whom she had not seen for ten years, and she could not speak a word of German. But thanks to our

abominable Aliens Act, against which we protested a year ago as emphatically as voteless women may, she is by law a German, and, being therefore compelled to register as an alien enemy, has lost all her work as a dressmaker, and is now ruined in health. In the usual unimaginative magisterial way, she was sentenced to 21 days' imprisonment. A certificate for deportation was, however, withdrawn on reflection.

The Way to Help

A large number of letters have reached us, protesting against the injustice done both to Mrs. Jungk and Mrs. Klose, and offering in some instances to take up their cases. This, we learn, has already been done by the Society of Friends (St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.), who are following up the case of Mrs. Jungk—her fine was paid last week, and she is now at liberty—and are looking into that of Mrs. Klose. Those who wish to be of immediate help to these and other victims of our alien laws cannot do better than put themselves into communication with this Society, which will welcome any kind of practical assistance in the matter. But, ultimately, the only way to help all victims of injustice is to become a Suffrage worker and win the weapon with which to strike at the root of the evil.

The Discovery of Woman

Among the many Anti-Suffragists to whom the war has revealed woman as she really is, and not as they always insisted on painting her, is the *Spectator*, that worthy organ of which Mr. Zangwill once said that its only fault was that it did not spectate. "We can hardly find words," says the *Spectator*, "in which to express our admiration for this noble bearing, this limitless capacity for sacrifice." It does find words, however, a thousand and more, in which to talk of woman as if she had been created, as a sudden inspiration of the *Spectator*, on the outbreak of war. This is a little disconcerting to those of us who knew she was there before, and always with the same capacity for sacrifice, just as limitless—and just as unrewarded. For we do not find in the whole of that *Spectator* article one word about recognising this newly-discovered and perfect being as a citizen. It is in the *Nation* that we read, also this week, in the course of a discussion on women's part in the reconstruction after the war, these words:—

The work of emancipation is already done, and awaits only its inevitable completion, the concession of full citizenship. This, we are convinced, will be one of the first acts of peace.

But why wait for peace? It will be such an obvious thing to do then! Now, it would be an inspired act of justice.

Items of Interest

The news has reached us that the King of Denmark, on June 19, formally sanctioned the Iceland Constitution Bill, which was passed by the Parliament of that country last year and which gives full suffrage to the women of Iceland.

The Council of the Royal Astronomical Society have now added to their charter the clause recommended by a large majority of its Fellows last February, enabling women to become Fellows of the Society.

United Suffragists will share with the Misses Brown, our untiring paper-selling organisers, their pride and pleasure in the distinction just won by their brother, Captain Harold Brown, on whom the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in the field has been conferred.

A demonstration to demand votes for women, and proper safeguards in the matter of wages and labour conditions for women who are now doing men's jobs, will be held on "Registration Sunday," August 15, in Trafalgar Square, at 5 p.m., under the auspices of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes. Mr. Lloyd George has meanwhile consented to receive a deputation headed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in **VOTES FOR WOMEN** should be sent to The Editors, **VOTES FOR WOMEN**, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1915.

A YEAR'S GAINS AND LOSSES

Before our next issue is on sale, the anniversary of the declaration of war will have come and gone. To many thousands, looking back over these twelve months, the accumulation of loss and misery will seem the overwhelming fact; to many thousands the sense of loss—vast and dreadful as it must be in the eyes of all—will yet seem not wholly uncompensated by the hopes and promises it contains. There will necessarily be, over and above the personal tragedies, the individual partings and bereavements, a sort of general and national and spiritual revision, a reconsideration, an estimation of where we stand as a people. One feeling shared by all will be pride in the heroism and self-sacrifice displayed uncomplainingly in the face of emergency by men and women of all classes and all kinds. Another universal feeling will be sympathetic sorrow at the record of suffering and death. What we Suffragists, who know that to our hands is entrusted the ideal of the future, that only by the spread of that belief in human dignity and equality which makes us Suffragists can come permanent peace or certain honour—what we have in particular to do is to gauge the strength, the progress or regression, of the faith by which we live. Is it or is it not the case that the hideous ruin of war has been accompanied by spiritual exaltations and a spiritual unity?

As regards the great mass of the people, of both sexes, we believe it is the case. Reality always abolishes sentimentality; and in place of the easy vapid talk about women's spheres and women's fears and women's tears which used to prevail in club and street and household, we have a steady unsentimental facing of crude harsh fact. People who never bothered themselves about the casualties of peace—about the thousands of lives lost annually in industrial accidents, the hundreds of thousands, nay, the millions, maimed and crippled and thwarted and embittered by remediable hardship—have been stung into realisation by the casualties of war. Many, to whom the mother or the widow of a dead hero has in the past appeared as a picturesque figure of vague woe, now realise, when every street has its mourning mothers and widows of dead heroes, that sorrow is terrible, not picturesque, that loss is a grim reality which may break the heart but does not save the heart-broken from fresh anxieties, from heavier responsibilities, from the pressure of daily needs and duties. In the midst of death we are in life, and those who with death all around them have to carry on the burden of their lives have found this a heavier truth than its more obvious converse. Again, people who used to prattle amiable nonsense about "the home" have got accustomed to the public work of women, to the open avowal by the State that women are needed to come out of their homes into public work in order to save the State. Never again will that particular difficulty, we may hope, be placed across the path of women's progress: there are surely now few men so foolish or so wicked as to maintain that women who can "conduct" trams

cannot go round the corner once in five years to register a vote—yes, and find time meanwhile to gauge and discuss their rights and duties, to ask themselves whether their work is done under fit conditions and for fit wages, and to vote according to the answer. In a word, danger and sorrow have drawn together the great mass of sensible and honest ordinary common people—the people who are not only the backbone but the brains and limbs of the community. Equality is far more widely recognised and admitted than it was twelve months ago. The cause of votes for women, which was never very actively opposed except amongst those who had a financial or political interest in the subjection of women—which always found its main obstacle in the ignorance of the well-intentioned and kind-hearted—is now finding that main obstacle removed.

But when we turn from people to Government we find less assurance and less promise. From the first, from the very outbreak of war, it has been difficult to convince our rulers of the necessity of real equality. There has been suspicion too often in place of hearty co-operation; grudging and withholding have prevailed in place of generous recognition. The plain truth—plain enough in time of peace but twice as plain now—that unity means being at one, that you cannot have equality while people's positions are unequal, that to admit, to treat, or to coerce into equality of service while excluding from equality of status is a wrong and a folly—this plain truth, welcomed now at innumerable firesides and street corners as an old friend or a startling revelation, has not yet found recognition at Westminster. Appeals to women to spare their men-folk for the front, to labour, themselves, at munition work, to economise, to pay and pray—appeals of all sorts based on all the various estimates of their powers and functions—have been issued in profusion; but how have women been treated? It needed a vigorous fight to get the separation allowances of soldiers' wives and dependants raised to anything like a decent scale, and the whole question of pensions and allowances is not yet out of the wood of inadequacy and injustice. It needed a vigorous fight to prevent the carrying out of an abominable scheme of enquiry into the private affairs of soldiers' wives, and the principle underlying that scheme has never been fully and frankly abandoned. Women, without any ground for the charge in fair enquiry or proper evidence—in opposition, indeed, to much of the best testimony available—women, notoriously the sober sex, were suddenly accused of "excessive drinking," and special regulations were enforced against them in that connection. There was the notorious Cardiff case, which we took up thoroughly at the time, and in which our interference was successful in getting much injustice remedied, but for the details of which we have no space here. And now the whole question of the sweating of women is to the fore, and in spite of the disaster threatened, not to women only but to men as well—to the Government and the whole nation—by the mishandling of the question, the dangers of "undercutting" are not being fairly and squarely met, the harm to the nation's economic balance and physical health is not being diverted or remedied. As we have so often pointed out, the Government's promises on this point are unsatisfactory; they do not cover the facts—and the hideous facts remain facts. Lastly, there is compulsory registration of women, a new registration and a new appeal, without guarantees, without safeguards—in short, without the vote.

So long as the Government tries to govern a nation of two sexes by means of one, these anomalies will continue. They are not excesses, they are inherent in a state of inequality. And while inequality, while the control of the unrepresented, while the denial to women of self-government continues at home, who shall measure the weakness that that continuance imparts to our international position, to our claim that we are fighting for the principle of self-government?

In the common interest, let the Government follow the common sense of the common people, and do justice to women.

A SUMMER REVEL

By One of the Revellers

A good many people are telling us just now that we must show our sense of the European crisis by dropping all our pleasures. I daresay this works out all right for those who have a great many superfluous ones to drop; but the women who have most reason to remember the war—the overworked girls in the factories and all those others whose men are in the trenches—have also the best right to say whether they think it their duty to spend the few moments of leisure they have in dwelling on a tragedy which they are never allowed to forget in their working hours. We, at all events, of the United Suffragists' Women's Club, are of opinion that an afternoon in the country helps us in our job of keeping up a brave heart at the present time, and although a good many of our members who are engaged in war work could not get away even for one half-holiday, it was a goodly party on the whole that met outside the Club last Saturday and proceeded to board the motor omnibuses, decorated with purple white and orange flags, that stood waiting to take us to Epping Forest.

You might have thought that the grandmothers among us—we had at least two, of 70 and 80 or thereabouts—would prefer to ride inside, leaving the outside seats for those gay young people who would afterwards, no doubt, disport themselves on roundabouts and swings. But that would only show your miscalculation of the spirit of our Club, which is enough to keep any grandmother young; so the old ladies mounted to the top of the steps with the youngest of us, and our artist's special pictures of what occurred in Epping Forest later on should con-

to enjoy the beauties of Stratford. But were we downhearted? Not a bit of it! It was, indeed, just the touch of adversity we needed to



restore our spirits, which had flagged a little during the long drive through the East End. The babies, it is true, complained bitterly, but surely not without justification, for one does not go for a country outing in order to be stuffed under a hot mackintosh apron and held there in

spite of lusty protestations. However, the storm passed as we steamed through the Forest, and the sun came out in the most obliging manner, and stayed out for the rest of the afternoon as if we had all been Queens. And when we nearly lost our hats in the overhanging branches of the trees under which we drove, then indeed we knew that we had left town behind, and all its cares and dinginess.

For the whole of that afternoon we were young and irresponsible. Fortified by a tea of the right sort at the Theydon Bois Retreat, we visited all the shows in turn, from Somebody's Unsurpassable Steam Horses to a Joy Ride on a doormat, on which you sped spirally from the top of a high tower down to your waiting baby at the bottom. We rode donkeys, we knocked down cocoanuts, we ran races on the grass, we strolled about the village, and bought peppermint bull's-eyes at the shop where bacon and boots hung in friendly alliance from the beams overhead. Now and then we remembered that Epping Forest was a forest, and we left the other rural joys I have mentioned to stroll into its depths and pick young shoots of bracken and shudder over the dangers of toadstools. And finally, at sunset time, we foregathered once more where our motor-cars stood waiting, and the babies were sorted and handed back to their rightful owners, and we started on our homeward journey by moonlight.

As we turned into Mile End Road somebody shouted "Votes for Women!" and to that familiar war-cry, taken up by many in the crowds that thronged the pavements and stared amazed as we went past with flags flying, we drove the rest of the way home.

WOMEN PIONEERS

Mrs. Fawcett, in her preface,* says that this book was read and cherished by only a few when it first appeared, now nearly twenty years ago. Certainly it should find many readers now, especially among women of kindred spirit and aims. Elizabeth Blackwell's life is fine in its calmly resolute determination, its fulfilment of a purpose which she herself considered inspired. Born in Bristol, 1821, she belongs to England, though her family settled in the United States when she was still a child, and a great portion of her life was spent there. The wider education of women was coming to the front; Elizabeth and her sisters were in touch with advanced New England thinkers. But the idea of a woman doctor was new, and seemed impossible of realisation. Philadelphia refused her, but the students of Geneva, a small University town in New York State, decided to admit her, and treated her throughout with respectful friendliness. (Their behaviour puts the Edinburgh students of a later date to shame.) Practical experience was gained in the Hospital of the Almshouse, Philadelphia, then in La Maternité, Paris. Not only by a successful medical career, but by writings and lectures, she influenced her generation, and in twenty years from her graduation medical schools for women were established in Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. In England gifted women followed in her footsteps. Kindred spirits in England were Miss Florence

Nightingale and Mrs. Josephine Butler. To the first she says—

I owed the awakening to the fact that sanitation is the supreme goal of medicine, and with the latter she worked for the reform of such measures as the C.D. Acts. Her autobiography, in its simple, earnest style, with flashes of humour, reveals a fascinating and stimulating personality. This is essentially a book for women fighters and pioneers.

TREASURER'S NOTE

There are some good people living in the world. This morning comes a letter enclosing 10s., "To lighten Hon. Treasurer's depression." This is sound business. When the Treasurer walks in with a smiling face the Hon. Secretary cheers up, the staff bends to its work with renewed animation, and the Editor finds inspiration pouring from her pen. But if the Treasurer be not smiling, then do the Hon. Secretary, the staff, and the Editor regard him as a great nuisance who interferes with their work. The above letter removed one-hundredth part of the Treasurer's gloomy outlook on life. He will be restored to good humour and will smile completely when ninety-nine others follow the example of the "lightener" mentioned above.

As everybody has to do two or more people's work during this period, any of the ninety-nine can reckon themselves as two or more people, provided that the cash value is kept strictly to the front.

Let us have the ninety-nine persons this week. Remember that they are not the first people on this occasion. We have only had the one that repenteth.

John Scurr (Hon. Treas., pro tem.).

vince the sceptical that when it came to donkeys and wooden horses, old age counted for nothing beside a young heart and a merry spirit.

The rain prevented our drive out to the Forest from being monotonous. It descended upon us in a blinding thunderstorm as we were preparing

* "Pioneer Work for Women." By Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. (London: J. M. Dent and Son. Price 1s. net.)

WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

PRUSSIANISED BABIES

The German socialist paper, *Vorwärts*, is strongly protesting against the movement which is to all appearances gaining ground in Germany for the "conscriptio" of women—involving "compulsory training in household and other duties." The *Manchester Guardian* sarcastically comments: "The German mother is to be taught to prepare the dinner, or fondle her child, 'by numbers' and on the barracks square. . . ." We like to elaborate the idea. We can hear the Prussian Drill Sergeant shouting: "At the word one, take hold of the baby firmly, the left ear between the thumb and third finger of the right hand; at the word two, cut the baby away smartly to the right side." It is easy to laugh at the Prussianism of Prussia; but—*quo Britannia tendis?* Let us be careful lest, beginning with the compulsory registration of the voteless, we end in "conscriptio" of women ourselves.

SWEATED HAYMAKERS

A correspondent sends us a cutting from a Pinner paper of June 11 of an advertisement which runs as follows:—"Women wanted for haymaking on fine days: hours 8 to 12 and 2 to 6; pay 3d. an hour." We know, of course, nothing of the special circumstances of the advertiser, nor whether he received any answers to his advertisement. But we presume it was inserted in the expectation that it would be answered. That is, a farmer counted on getting female labour for an arduous occupation at 2s. a day. We are well aware that this is not far short of what many male agricultural labourers earned before the war, and that it is greatly in excess of what many women engaged in urban industries are earning now. Calculated on the ordinary basis of "what can be got for the money," 2s. a day may be a reasonable wage for hay-making; but calculated on the basis of health and humanity, it is a miserably inadequate wage, especially with food prices at their present height. If it is earned by women who need the money for themselves and their dependant to live on, it means bitter poverty; if it is earned by leisured women who do not need the money, but want to do "war-work," it is depreciating the value of their sisters' labour and spreading bitter poverty.

WAR AND WOMEN

Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage
There was a very large attendance in the East Meadows, Edinburgh, last Sunday week, of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, the occasion being the second anniversary of the Deputation of Scotsmen who went to London to interview the Premier on the subject of Women's Suffrage, but were denied an interview. The organisation of voters formed out of the deputation has since grown to considerable dimensions.
Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Berwick-on-Tweed were represented by their various branches. There were three platforms, each flying the banner of the branch. The object of the meeting was to demonstrate the direct relation between international politics and the lives of women and children, and, taking the great war of to-day as an example of the havoc war makes upon women, to claim for women a share in the Councils of Nations in matters affecting their lives so intimately. The motto of the afternoon was "Unity," and a spirit of unity prevailed throughout the meeting, which was addressed by Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, who came from London specially, and by Baillie Alston, J.P., Councillors Charlton and Hamilton Brown, J.P., ex-Provost Perry, and Mr. J. Ilingworth (Glasgow), also Councillors Graham, M.A., and Barrie, Parish-Councillor Millar, ex-Councillor Colbron, Mr. J. McMichael, J.P., Mr. Wilson McLaren, Mr. Henry

Drummond, Mr. Andrew Young, Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, Mr. J. Brunton, Mr. T. Shaw, and Mr. Robert Gaul (hon. sec. for Berwick-on-Tweed).

The Speeches

We regret we have not space to report the interesting speeches that were made at the meeting, not the least stirring being that of Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, who made it clear that the N.M.F. had no intention of hampering the Government in any way. From the outbreak of the war those members who had not rallied to the colours had been doing voluntary war work of some kind at home. But in the unity of men and women alone lay the hope of the future, when we might learn to govern by the power of the brain, and not by bombs, biplanes, and bayonets. It was no good for Britons to say that Britannia ruled the waves and in the next breath to tell her that she wasn't fit to have a vote!

An Important Result

The important outcome of the meeting was that fourteen new members were secured, including Judge Stevenson. We congratulate the Northern Men's Federation on thus keeping the flag flying in Scotland.

WOMEN AND PEACE

At a meeting of the Committee of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage the following resolution was passed last week:—

"The Executive of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage appeals to the Government, on behalf of womanhood, to do its utmost to encourage any indication, from whatever quarter it may emanate, of a desire for the restoration of peace. It earnestly suggests that the possibility of a permanent peace can only be established by other and more moral means than that of sheer physical violence."

Woman's Voice in Peace Settlements

At the annual garden meeting held by the Lewisham branch of the same League, the Rev. C. Fleming Williams made an eloquent speech on "The Woman's Right to a Voice in Peace Settlements." In the course of it he said that the spiritual perceptions of women were purified and strengthened by their anxieties and by the humaner tasks which fell to their lot in war time.

FOR RED CROSS WORK

Several United Suffragists were present at an American tea given at The Beeches, Chesham Bois, last Saturday, when Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B.—a Vice-President of the U.S.—came down to inaugurate the proceedings and speak on Red Cross work, in aid of which the entertainment was given. He announced that two cheques had been received towards the fund for buying material to be used in the local branch of the work: one of these had been subscribed by local United Suffragists and one by Mrs. F. Colenso, Hon. Treasurer of the Amersham and Chesham Bois U.S.

WAR PENSIONS

In New Zealand

The Pensions Bill, in its final form as passed by the Wellington House of Representatives, shows a considerable increase in the amount of the pensions as originally recommended to be paid to the relatives of deceased soldiers. The Defence Committee, to which the House referred back the Bill, has now recommended that the maximum allowance to the family of a dead private should be increased from £3 weekly to £3 12s. 6d., and that widows' allowances should be increased from 25s. to 35s.

Separation Allowances in Germany

In answer to Mr. C. T. Needham, Mr. Forster stated, in the House of Commons on July 23, that the rate of separation allowance to a soldier's wife in Germany is 9 marks monthly from May to October and at least 12 marks monthly for the rest of the year. The rate for each child or dependant is at least 6 marks monthly. A supply of flour, potatoes and fuel, he added, may be partly issued in lieu of the money allowance.

WOMEN'S TRUE STATUS ACKNOWLEDGED

At the recent summer school meeting of the Fellowship of Reconciliation—a body concerned with the Christian attitude towards war—part of a morning session was devoted to the position of women in the State. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence spoke of the need for calling in women to help men to deal with the pressing questions of the day, and in particular to prevent a repetition of the catastrophe of war. Dr. Hodgkin, from the chair, said he was quite sure that there was unanimous agreement in the meeting that women's equal status ought to receive full recognition in the country.

WOUNDED AT HILL 60

A Drummer's Striking Letter

The cheeriness of the British soldier is proverbial; they say the Prussians fear the laughter of our British Tommies more than the wrath of God. Sir John French in his last report says: "The men meet every demand with the utmost cheerfulness, and this splendid spirit is particularly manifested by the men in hospital—even by those who are mortally wounded." And when Tommy writes his letters, the same geniality and optimism override everything; the reproduction of these letters in the newspapers has been one of the most touchingly human of all the news features.

This letter speaks for itself. It comes from a wounded drummer in the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, now back at Halifax Barracks:—

"I feel it is my duty to express my true opinion of that magnificent strength and nerve restorer, Hall's Wine. During our hard struggle for Hill 60 I received three wounds, but worst of all was the entire shattering of my nerves. I was given all sorts of different medicines, but felt very weak on my discharge from hospital, and with hearing and reading such good accounts of Hall's Wine, I bought a bottle, which put such energy and strength into me that I would not be without a bottle in my possession. I am now feeling quite fit."

When you think how much these brave fellows are doing, and for how little, and how grateful they are for even the smallest kindness, when you think that a bottle or two of Hall's Wine means so much to them in winning back health and strength, and when you think of the sick or wounded Tommies you know, *don't you feel it's your job to send them a supply of this wonderful Restorative without an hour's delay!*—
[ADVT.]

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A NIGHT MARCH

It was fine to step off the pavement into Sylvia Pankhurst's East End procession, last Tuesday week, as it came through the city in the half-light, with the stars shining overhead. As usual, there was no attempt at order or display—the East End does not walk its five or six miles, at the end of a long day's work to make a Roman holiday for journalists—and it was an irregular, unmarshalled throng of men, women, and children, who came marching from the East to the West in search of justice. One felt as one saw that here was the real thing, a spontaneous utterance of misery too great to be borne, a cry for better wages, better conditions, a better chance in the rough and tumble of life. The Marseillaise took on its former meaning, the one that women have given to it many times in the last eight years, as the band sent the inspiring rebellious old tune echoing through the dusty corners of Fleet Street; and it did not matter that darkened lamps made it impossible to read the mottoes on the banners—for everybody who heard that band and saw the great straggling crowd of pilgrims who followed it knew perfectly well what defiant messages were being carried on those strips of linen stretched between two poles. And the queer dusk in which we Londoners now live, night after night, in our once brilliantly lighted city, only served to remind us that no possible danger from Zeppelins can be so great a menace to any country as that procession—demonstrating how little half a century of peace and prosperity have done for our poorest workers—that marched from the East End to the West End last Tuesday week.

In the Hall

In the Central Hall, Westminster, we sat crowded together, many of us footsore, many of us thinking of the long, weary walk back to Bow which lay before those of us who had no money to pay for tram fares. And it was already nearing midnight, and for many who had to be little sleep that night. But nobody cared for that. Every speech from the platform breathed sincerity and the right sort of rebellion against the powers of evil that make it possible for babies to die for want of milk, and for thousands to

go to bed hungry every night in dwellings that a farmer would consider unfit for his cart horses.

Are the Babies to Die?

Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky knew what she was talking about when she told of the 50 per cent. rise in the rate of mortality since war broke out. "Are we going to let our babies die?" she asked passionately. And in the tense silence that followed there rang out a defiant answer from one of the many babies present which anybody might have translated—"Not much, I don't think!" That fine old veteran, Mrs. Despard, had a great reception; so did Miss Pankhurst herself when she came in with the deputation that had been to the House of Commons. She told of her interview with Mr. Gulland, of his promise to try to arrange a meeting with Mr. Lloyd George in a few days' time; spoke of the objects of the deputation, of its determination to secure fair wages for women if women are to be registered compulsorily and pressed into Government service. There ran a strong note of rebellion through her speech against the Prussianism of our present legislators, and every point was taken up and applauded by her audience.

Low Wages and High Prices

Then Mrs. Drake, rousing instant response by her characteristic opening—"Every time I go to the House of Commons I feel more sick with the people there than I did before!"—talked also of low wages and high prices, not by way of making a speech, but as dealing with a vital need that demanded instant consideration. And Mr. Lambert, one of the few members of Parliament who have made a stand against Prussianism in the House of Commons lately (there were three on the platform at the beginning of the meeting, but two—whether alarmed by the speeches or fearing to lose their trains I do not know—left earlier) ended the proceedings by a repetition of his House of Commons' criticism of the Registration Act.

Suffragists have lived through many demonstrations in the last decade. I doubt if any have been more impressive than this midnight rally of East End workers held in a darkened London at one of the darkest moments of a terrible war.

E. S.

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Assaults on Girls

The *Derbyshire Times* (July 17) reports case of a miner, a married man, charged before the Bench at Chesterfield (Messrs. W. Jacques and W. H. Edmunds) with "a systematic practice of reprehensible behaviour in Queen's Park," in connection especially with a twelve-year-old girl. The Bench said they meant to deal "severely" with those persons who prowled about the park for certain purposes.
Sentence: Six months' hard labour.

Cruelty to a Horse

The *Swansea Herald* (July 17) reports case of a man charged before the St. Clears Bench (Rev. T. Lewis, Messrs. J. D. Morse, R. H. Harries, and E. Howell) with cruelly ill-treating a horse by using it to cart stones a fortnight after he had been warned. It had ringbone and side bone, was described as "quite a cripple," and had large lumps on the pastern joints. The Bench said it was an exceptional year, because farmers could not get horses.
Sentence: Fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

HEAVY SENTENCES

Housebreaking

The *Morning Advertiser* (July 5) reports case of a carpenter charged at the Middlesex Sessions with breaking and entering a house. He came out of the house when the owner was at the gate, who with another man held the prisoner and gave him over to a special constable. He denied having been previously convicted.
Sentence: Three years' penal servitude.

Arson

The *West Sussex Gazette* (July 8) reports case of a man charged before Mr. Justice Darling at the Sussex Assizes with setting fire to a haystack. He pleaded guilty. There were previous convictions for arson, and he had served sentences of eight, three, and five years' penal servitude. It was said he would not work.
Sentence: Seven years' penal servitude.

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(Join in when and where you can.)

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POPLAR.—Form up at East India Dock Gates, 2.30 p.m. March 3 sharp.

Bow and Poplar Processions unite at Gardiner's Corner, and March via Leadenhall Street, Cornhill, Queen Victoria Street, Cannon Street, Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street, Strand, to TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

South-East London Procession form up at 3 p.m., Asylum Road, Old Kent Road, March 3.30 sharp, via Old Kent Road, New Kent Road, London Road, New Bridge Street, Ludgate Circus, Fleet Street, Strand, to TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

For particulars write to EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES, 400, Old Ford Road, Bow; or, for the South East London Procession, to the SUFFRAGETTE CRUSADERS, 794, Old Kent Road, Peckham, S.E.

Many Other Societies will be joining in, and other Processions will be formed.

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