

THE VOTE
June 4, 1915.
ONE PENNY

PATRIOTISM AND PARTY.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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IN DEFENCE OF OUR LIBERTIES.

MAGNA CARTA CELEBRATION.

It was the intention of the Women's Freedom League, as announced in *THE VOTE* last June, to celebrate this month the 700th anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, the foundation of English liberties. Owing to the war, however, our elaborate programme, which included a pageant, a procession, and a public meeting, in addition to a pilgrimage to Runnymede, has had to be cancelled. Much as we regret the necessity for a curtailment of our plans, we have not entirely abandoned our celebration, but shall hold a public meeting at the Caxton Hall on Friday, June 18, at 7.45 p.m.

In spite of its horrors, the war has brought us the gratification of the presence in London of the distinguished Belgian Minister of State, M. Emile Vandervelde, who was present at our Belgian party last January and expressed himself so strongly in favour of votes for women. He has accepted our invitation to speak with Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., at the Caxton Hall meeting, the keynote of which will be that the cause of liberty is worthy of the greatest sacrifice and effort, and is equally dear to the heart of the Belgian as of the British nation.

Miss Normanton will speak on "Magna Carta—Peerage, Church, and the Free State," and M. Vandervelde will deal with the right of Belgium to independence and liberty. Our President, Mrs. Despard, will be in the chair. All readers will welcome the opportunity of taking part in a demonstration which links a great historic victory for freedom with the victory which, we are confident, the future will bring to a gallant little nation whose indomitable courage is only equalled by its self-sacrifice in the great cause of liberty.

Tickets for the meeting can be obtained from Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.; prices, 5s.; 2s. 6d. (numbered and reserved); and 1s. (unreserved). The profits will be equally shared by the Society for British gifts of clothing and comforts for Belgian soldiers, of which M. Vandervelde is the President, and the Women's Freedom League.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6148 City.
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT

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

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Our "Wednesdays" at Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster (near St. James's Park Station).

Next Wednesday we shall have the great pleasure of listening to Mrs. Zangwill, whose subject is "Arms and the Woman." The other speaker will be Mrs. Tanner, and the chair will be taken at 3.30 by Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. The following Wednesday afternoon, June 16, the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle, and the chairman Mrs. Huntsman.

"In Defence of our Liberties" Meeting.

Friday evening, June 18, Caxton Hall. See front page.

Flower Day.

Instead of selling flowers in the streets of London, Saturday, June 19, we have decided to sell them inside Caxton Hall at our meeting on the 18th inst. Volunteers for selling should apply to Mrs. Fisher at this office, and friends who have gardens are asked kindly to send their flowers here early in the day of June 18. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

PATRIOTISM AND PARTY.

The Prime Minister's message to his party will not lessen public curiosity about the reasons which prompted the sudden change of front in regard to the Coalition Cabinet. Good Liberals are adjured to ask no questions but to trust their astute leader, who assuredly has not broken up the solidarity of the Liberal position without weighty reason. Whether this reason is to be found in the all too pushful assertiveness of the leaders of the Radical wing, or the necessity, as foreshadowed in last week's VOTE, of adopting some scheme of national compulsory service which might subsequently be adroitly used by the Opposition for party purposes at a general election, is not yet clear. But we see nothing as yet to make us believe that the new moves on the political chess board have no connection with party politics.

Let us make ourselves quite clear. We believe that honourable and right honourable gentlemen are quite genuinely convinced that their party politics are not only permissible but patriotic. The man who thinks Tariff Reform or Free Trade essential to the welfare of the nation would be in grave error if he allowed his grip on that conviction to slip from him during the present emergency. For, if his conviction were a right one, the abandonment of his principles now would mean, from his point of view, grave trouble in the future. This holds good from every party standpoint: and we have only to survey the different positions occupied by the political sections to be convinced that this is the belief held by all the prominent politicians. It is expressly allowed for both in the Prime Minister's Parliamentary pronouncement when he deprecated the "surrender or compromise" of any of the ideals and principles of either set of politicians; and in the letter to the Liberal whip, Mr. Gulland, in which he accepts and appreciates the attitude of the Irish party. What we find difficult to understand,

in face of plain facts and symptoms, is that it should be worth while for these gentlemen (and for the Press they apparently no longer even pretend to be able to control!) to put up the elaborate pretence that party politics have been laid aside and that pure patriotism reigns in its stead.

Each party has always laid claim to a monopoly of patriotism—its only real excuse for existence! The Coalition is, in sober fact, and in spite of the Prime Minister's rejection of the idea of "compromise," merely an attempt at compromise under another name, an effort at mutual toleration conceded to the necessity and the gravity of the times. This is perfectly proper and perfectly patriotic. What we resent, and what we are entitled to resent, is that it should be foisted on the public as a definite abandonment of party politics. And still further and more sternly do we resent the constant attempts to make it appear that our own resolute adherence to suffrage propagandist methods and our determination to keep the suffrage flag flying at the present time is in some mysterious way more unpatriotic and more unbecoming than the adherence to their own principles of the men who claim to be leading the Empire and setting an example of disinterested devotion to duty.

It must be borne in mind that some of the most contentious items of party propaganda are included in the urgent problems with which the war has so liberally supplied us. The question of capturing German trade for British enterprise, for instance, has been hotly taken up by the Tariff Reformers, and the Tariff Reform Press, over the intricate matter of the supply of aniline dyes, does not hesitate to accuse the Government of sacrificing the interests of the country to its Free Trade policy. These party matters cannot possibly be divorced from war policy, and seeing how deep are the convictions, and how bitter has been the controversy, on either side, in this matter of trade policy, the best we can hope for from the Coalition is compromise.

Working men, and leaders of the Labour party, whose enrolment in the ranks of the army, whose efforts in recruiting, whose strenuous toil in the workshops, have testified to their patriotism, have drawn the line of toleration at questions of wages, or the introduction of women's labour into hitherto protected preserves. Strikes have been freely threatened, or actually carried out, on these matters; and the nationalisation of several important industries—a strong plank in the Labour platform—is being pressed forward. And all these party matters—the free employment of women in all industries, the minimum wage and the overtime question, and the nationalisation of public services—are intimately interwoven with the war policy and the emergency.

But it is the Irish party that has given us the best illustration of how little indeed party politics have been laid aside even while all have been doing their utmost to secure the most efficient utilisation of the public resources. The Irish party manifesto has laid it down in the clearest and most emphatic fashion, that its time-honoured policy is isolation, and that it does not intend to depart from that policy. Not only will it refuse to be associated with the Liberal, Labour and Unionist parties in carrying on the government of the country and in prosecuting the war to a successful termination, but it declares the present moment to be one in which the Nationalist party must strengthen and increase its local organisation, found new centres of activity and consolidate those that already exist. And the Prime Minister accepts and "appreciates" this decision. He accepts it as coming from men to whose aims he has given consistent support and to whose hands he is prepared to trust the highest

functions of State and the destinies of an important section of His Majesty's dominions. He appreciates it as a well thought out and justifiable policy. And he does not, on account of it, level charges of unpatriotic behaviour at his Irish supporters, nor withdraw his countenance from their programme. If, therefore, the policy of the Nationalist party be one which the head of the Coalition "National," Non-Party Government can accept and appreciate; and if in that attitude Mr. Asquith is to receive the nation's confidence and support, no one has the right to object to the line of action from which the Women's Freedom League has never swerved.

The principles of freedom and self-government are just as dear to the Women's Freedom League as to the Nationalist party. Its members have fought and suffered imprisonment for those principles without any of the constitutional aids to agitation—votes, representatives and a strong party in Parliament—that have strengthened the hands of the Irish rebels. The policy of the League, as of Nationalism, has been to oppose all party Governments except such an one as will bring in a Government measure in accordance with the principle enshrined in the League's constitution. The Irish manifesto might almost be our own. We trust that the Prime Minister will accept our statement, and will give it the same measure of appreciation as that extorted from him by his own friends—who stand in this fortunate position, that his mind holds no preconceived prejudice against their claim, and that they are armed with votes to enforce his humble acceptance of their ultimatum.

We would ask all who support the Prime Minister in his present position to clear their minds of prejudice when considering the case of Suffragists, who continue their political work at the same time as they give national service. And in view of the facts—not fancies—which dominate the situation, we would ask other Suffrage societies whether it was worth while, and whether it really was so very patriotic, to set aside the political work from which we hope the nation will reap such wide-spread benefit, when the most patriotic and public spirited men, and the most influential statesmen and politicians, evidently find such a course incompatible with their convictions concerning the welfare of their country? C. NINA BOYLE.

THE COALITION CABINET.

We place on record, as of historic importance, the following extracts giving the basis on which the Coalition Cabinet has been formed, namely, that all parties joining in it retain their several political purposes and ideals without prejudice.

Mr. BONAR LAW, speaking at the meeting of the Unionist party on May 26, quoted as follows from the Prime Minister's letter to him as leader of the party:—

"My colleagues have placed their resignations in my hands, and I am therefore in a position to invite you and those who are associated with you to join forces with us in a combined administration in which I should also ask the leaders of the Irish and Labour parties to participate, whose common action, without prejudice to the future prosecution of our various and divergent political purposes, should be exclusively directed to the issues of the war."

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON, addressing his constituents at Bishop Auckland on May 29, on the necessary re-election following his acceptance of Cabinet rank and its emoluments, observed that:—

"Ten days ago the Prime Minister came to him and made a statement of paramount importance. The Prime Minister said he had come to the conclusion that the conduct of the war to a definite and decisive issue could only be effectively carried on by a Cabinet representing all parties, that he had invited the Unionist leaders, who had accepted, and that he also hoped that the Nationalist party would be represented. The Prime Minister asked him to convey to the Labour party a very pressing invitation, and emphasised his opinion that the National Government would not be complete unless Labour were represented. The Prime Minister wished it to be clearly understood that the re-constitution indicated nothing in the

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nature of surrender or compromise on the part of any person or body of persons of their several political purposes and ideals. In other words, it was a combination for war purposes, and war purposes only, absolutely without prejudice to the position of the Unionist party, the Nationalist party, if they came in, or the Labour party. They were asked to join in order to maintain the fullest standard of unity until the war was completed, and completed with the allies on top, when they would be free to revert to the original position without having compromised it in the slightest degree."

The PRIME MINISTER addressed the following letter to Mr. John W. Gulland, Chief Liberal whip:—

"My dear Gulland,—The Government, of which I have been the head for more than seven years, has been re-constructed on a new basis. It has hitherto been recruited entirely from among members of our own party. In its altered form, it contains representatives of the regular Opposition and of the Labour party. It was my wish, which for reasons I fully understand has not been realised, that our Irish Nationalist friends also should have participated in it.

"The transformation implies a temporary abandonment of the system of party government, which has even since 1832 dominated our political arrangements, and which I hold to be, under normal conditions, the best adapted to our national requirements.

"It is natural that such a sudden and fundamental upheaval of our traditional practice should create astonishment, and even arouse misgiving, among a large number of those upon whom loyal devotion and strenuous efforts I, like my predecessors in the leadership of the Liberal party for generations past, have always relied.

"There is one reason, and one only, which could justify or explain such a new departure; a clear and urgent case of national necessity. It was only because the conviction was forced upon me that a non-party Government would prove the most efficient instrument for the successful prosecution of the war that I have taken a step which has caused me infinite personal pain.

"I cannot in the public interest enter at present into any detail, and I must ask my friends to rely for the moment on my judgment.

"Meanwhile the pursuit of our special aims in the sphere of domestic politics is not abandoned, but suspended; and when the national cause has been vindicated against the enemy we shall take up again the unfinished tasks to which the Liberal party has set its hand.—Yours very faithfully,
H. H. ASQUITH."

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.,
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

FRIDAY, June 4th, 1915.

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 Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

RECRUIT THE WOMEN!

A cry is in the air. It is ringing out from thousands upon thousands in the land. "Our country needs us. We feel and know it. Give us the opportunity to serve."

Let us observe! Opportunity is that which is demanded. And here it seems necessary to point out that there is not one form of service alone. We are profoundly conscious—all of us—of the gallantry shown by the men who flock to the colours. Their business is to fight in foreign battlefields those who threaten the liberties of Europe. With all our hearts we appreciate their willing self-surrender. But they who have to be equipped, fed, transported from place to place, provided with munitions of war and cared for when they can fight no longer, would be the first to tell us that to make an army in the field effective an industrial army—itsself strong and well-equipped—is essential.

Two armies, then, of equal importance we must have if success is to crown our efforts. Unfortunately, while the one is splendidly organised, who has given care and thought to the task of organising the other? During the last few days, when everything has seemed to be in the melting-pot, we have had abundant evidence of the fact that no such care has been taken. Meanwhile, as is usual in moments of panic, everything but the real thing is being blamed—drink, trade unionism, the apathy of the people, the ignorance in which they have been kept, the want of insight in certain public men; these may indeed be contributory causes, but the root evil, the crying menace is to be found in the hap-hazard lack of system, which runs through our industrial arrangements. Individual units, here and there, may work to the utmost limits of their powers; but until and unless the resources of the nation in intellect, experience and labour are registered and utilised we shall have cruel wastage on the one hand and no less cruel shortage on the other.

It is highly probable that, so far as the men of the country are concerned, an effort is to be made in this direction. Not conscription; for that, as many feel, would be a step down for the army and for the nation; but national service, which must, if it is to be worth the name, include all, giving to each the task for which he is fitted, is to be the coming word.

That will be right and fair, if indeed all, men and women of every standing and class, are to be linked together as fellow-workers, as soldiers in a great army that fights for national and international righteousness.

"Recruit the women," we say, but not as a separate class. Recruit them as an integral and indispensable part of the nation. We are not unaware of the fact that, some time ago, the Board of Trade issued a circular on "War service for women." But how futile; how profoundly lacking in every element of true organisation the whole effort was! The secret of good business management is to give to each worker appropriate work. All the organisation attempted by the Board of Trade was to send women, educated or uneducated, trained or untrained, to the same Labour Exchange. The results were so poor that the women grew tired of applying. "This is not for people like you," was the answer given to a highly trained woman—a clever writer and a good linguist. To another, who had obtained special training for service as a masseuse: "Don't call or write again. We have registered you."

In a letter in the *Times* last Monday, entitled "Untouched Resources," the following words occur:—

"I think, too, we have to remind ourselves of the untouched resources we have in the educated young women of our country—the middle class girl, who could be mobilised for very effective work in many of our national undertakings."

It is a hopeful sign of the times that the ability of women to serve is at last being recognised. There is a still more remarkable utterance in the *Daily Mail* of May 31, headed: "Women in our New World. A Place in the Sun."

After paying a remarkable tribute to the aptitude for varied work, the general capacity and trustworthiness of women, the writer goes on to say:—

"Certain it is that, whatever the result of the war, we will never go back to our old world. Women, for at least one generation to come, will be the majority of the population. And one of the surest prophecies is that woman will claim her place in the sun. At the end of the war all those thousands of women who have awakened to their usefulness, their intelligence and their directing powers, will insist on the enfranchisement of those powers; they will insist on a partnership with us men in the shaping of the new and better world we must mould out of this awful crucible." And again: "The new world must take woman into full partnership."

It is what we in our women's organ have said again and again; and we cannot but derive hope and satisfaction from the fact that men journalists, writing for papers controlled, financed and largely supported by men, should so frankly acknowledge the justice of our demands and the national need for their consideration.

It may be said that general organisation of the nation's industries, in regard to the present necessity, would be an impossible task.

We think not. Each municipality, each village, if put into correspondence with some central body, could, in a short space of time, by such visitation from house to house as is carried on during a census, send in forms signed by the heads of households with detailed information about adult men and women and their trade, industry and profession. Other lists could be compiled of the Government's requirements, and the reserves could be drawn upon, as in the military army, when they were required. It is notorious, for instance, that women are better linguists than men. As corresponding clerks in the Foreign Office and elsewhere and as interpreters, they would be of inestimable service especially, and this often happens when they have been trained to secretarial work.

There is a positive outcry for more women-doctors: we wonder whether it is generally known that in the whole of London there is only one medical school for women—that connected with the Royal Free Hospital.

A suggestion was made and circulated through the papers lately that strong and capable women should be employed as stretcher bearers at the front. Their peril would probably be less than that of men and the men now employed in that capacity would be freed for other service. Many and promising letters were sent in answer to this suggestion, but the authorities have not moved. One written, in answer to advice that she should apply to the War Office, answered: "It is of no use. I will go to the French Red Cross."

Of one thing the Government may rest assured. There is no lack of patriotism on the part of the women. Let them set on foot a scheme of organisation, intelligent, practical, well thought out, and the women's societies to whom a vague sort of appeal has been made will not hesitate to come together.

"Recruit the women." Call them to national service; let it be on the same terms as men; let them have the same status, the same reward, the same conditions, and the result will be such as to astonish those who have not yet realised their qualifications for service.

C. DESPARD.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

*** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

DEAR EDITOR,—Miss Normanton's letter is very interesting and raises a number of points which I will only deal with briefly, as I should like other readers of our paper to give us the benefit of their views on the articles published. Such correspondence could not but add interest to our work and keep us more in touch with each other.

Miss Normanton, I know, will not mind my saying that I do not accept unreservedly the statement that drunkenness among working men is prolonging the war. I think, rather, it is defective organisation and lack of co-ordination, as well as excessive overtime, which is militating against efficiency. I am no more prepared to accept these wholesale charges against working men than I was when they were made against sailors' and soldiers' wives.

It is not my work, in expressing political opinions in THE VOTE, to say how the war may best be brought to an end. My business is to maintain freedom and proper methods of government. No good can ever come out of injustice or tyranny. That is a cardinal point, in my belief, and no questions of expediency will ever weigh with me against principles of whose value I am convinced. It is to those fatal appeals to expediency that we owe half our social and political troubles.

I will never refrain from setting forth what I believe to be right and true in politics, because of the possibility of being misunderstood or misrepresented. Had the Suffrage Movement allowed itself to be deterred from action and propaganda because of the constant misinterpretation of its aims it would not be in its present strong position.

Miss Normanton is mistaken when she says that our first political action during the war was the protection of the Cardiff women. Our first action was to protest against the inadequate allowances to wives of fighting men, and to ask for weekly allowances and post-office payments; the second to protest against the charges of drunkenness against women; the third to fight the re-introduction of the C.D. Acts at Plymouth; the fourth to fight the Army Council circular and the Cardiff enactment; besides the organisation of women police volunteers, begun on August 12, as a counterblast to the determination of the Home Office to enrol men special constables only.—Very faithfully yours,
C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. GLASGOW BRANCH.

Subscriptions from Jan. 1st to May 15th, 1915.

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In addition to the above subscriptions the committee beg to thank Miss Temple and Mrs. Sinclair for the dinners which were so generously given to our workers. Such generosity cannot be valued in money. Should we try to do so it would amount to more than £30. There is a further sum of £22, which has not yet come to hand, due to us by the Scottish Patriotic Society for the making of garments. To the members of that society we tender our thanks for cloth so kindly supplied by them.

MINA STEVEN.

Nine Elms Restaurant.

Mrs. Tippett gives grateful thanks to the following friends for their welcome gifts:—Mrs. Delbanco, cake; Mrs. and Miss Kearton, one dozen spoons and knives, and a cake; the village children of Wetherden, rhubarb; headmaster of St. John's School, Alvanley, flowers; Miss Tippett, a cake; Miss Brown, casino; Mrs. Savill, rhubarb. Mrs. Tippett will be grateful to any friend who can supply some of the following urgent needs: A mail cart, cups and saucers, plates, floor cloth, tea, cakes, eggs, and flowers.

UNDER WHAT ORDINANCE?

A case is reported in the *Glasgow Herald*, and therefore presumably in other responsible organs, in which Evelyn Mabel Ollerenshaw was found guilty of "falsifying her marriage certificate and obtaining money under false pretences." She appears to have drawn separation allowance on behalf of two men, claiming in the one case that her marriage certificate was destroyed, and in the other having falsified the date of year of her marriage. The two men were obviously accomplices.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

A LANTERN LECTURE on "St. Catherine of Siena," Will be given by the REV. T. J. WALSH.

in the KENSINGTON TOWN HALL, High Street, Kensington, ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9th, AT 8 P.M. MISS ABADAM in the Chair.

Tickets, 2/-, 1/- and 6d., May be obtained from the Secretary, 55, Berners Street, W.

IN DEFENCE OF OUR LIBERTIES.

Magna Carta Celebration. Public Meeting.

CAXTON HALL, FRIDAY, JUNE 18, at 7.45 p.m.

Speakers: { MISS HELENA NORMANTON, B.A., on "Magna Carta—Peerage, Church and Free State."
M. EMILE VANDERVELDE, Belgian Minister of State, on "In Defence of Belgian Independence."

CHAIR MRS. DESPARD.

Tickets; 5/-, 2/6, Reserved; 1/- Unreserved. From the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

in all her proceedings, and the magistrate, Sir John Dickenson, Bow-street, recognised this. But he appears to have added to his remarks on that score that prisoner's offence "was a serious one, and she might have rendered herself liable to imprisonment for life." The italics are ours.

We do not know under what law or under what form of administration a woman could be "imprisoned for life" (a penalty rarely inflicted on any but relieved murderers) for the paltry, if artful, crime of which this woman is guilty. If there be such a law, it ought to be repealed at once; if it do not exist, magistrates have no right to talk as if it did. What the woman actually got was six months in the second division—a rather curious decree if she really had earned penal servitude for life! She said she spent nearly all her ill-gotten gains on sending parcels to the two men.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1914, £23,135 5s. 7d.

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Office Sales	2 7 8
Branches.—	
Cardiff	10 0
	£579 16 0

In Brockwell Park

A very successful meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning last, when Mrs. Tanner gave a forceful address on the Yellow Press and the supposed problem of war babies, child labour in the agricultural districts, and other matters of urgent importance at the present time, viewed from the Woman Suffrage standpoint. There was a large and interested audience, many questions were asked, and a good collection was taken.

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA.—A lecture on the life of St. Catherine of Siena, an outstanding woman of her own age, and after, will be given by the Rev. T. J. Walshe, under the auspices of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, in the Kensington Town Hall, on June 9, at 8 p.m. Many readers will welcome the opportunity of hearing her story from so competent a lecturer. Miss Abadam will preside. Admission 2s. 6d.

Mrs. PETHICK LAWRENCE, Miss EVELYN SHARP and Rev. F. LEWIS DONALDSON.
WILL SPEAK ON
"Human Problems arising out of the War,"
AT THE
KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, W.C.
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, AT 8 P.M.
Chair Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY.

Tickets (Numbered and Reserved, 2/6 and 1/-; Unreserved, 6d., from Ticket Secretary, United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., and at the Secretary's Office, Kingsway Hall.

MINERVA PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Shareholders' Meeting.

A meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, on May 18, to discuss the last balance sheet of the company and to put forward suggestions for the welfare of THE VOTE, the organ of the Women's Freedom League. The directors present were Mrs. Despard, who presided, Mrs. Snow, Dr. Knight, Miss Boyle, and Miss Clark. The company's solicitor, Mr. Gush, was also present. There was a very poor attendance of shareholders.

The chairman presented the balance sheet for 1913, and explained the reasons for the various delays that had occurred in bringing the company's business up to date. The most serious of these was the lack of staff and the prolonged illness of two members of the staff. The retiring directors were Mrs. Fisher and Miss Andrews. Mrs. Fisher offered herself for re-election, and was duly appointed, and Miss Eunice Murray was elected to take Miss Andrews' place on the Board.

It was decided to call up 1,000 of the shares still to be allocated, so as to place THE VOTE on a more secure foundation, and it was the opinion of the meeting that if this course were well supported by the League THE VOTE would be practically self-supporting. It is hardly possible to conduct an enterprise such as the Minerva Publishing Company, and to keep an organ like THE VOTE before the public, on such scanty capital as has hitherto been subscribed, and to this must be attributed much of the anxiety which has hitherto beset the directors of this enterprise. With proper capitalisation, the company would find itself in a secure position, and shareholders might hope to see it a self-supporting proposition. The apathy of the general body of shareholders came in for some criticism from the directors and the shareholders who were present.

Another meeting of shareholders was fixed for August, when the balance sheet for 1914 and other special matters will be considered. All matters of business will by that time have been made good, and should the shares be actively taken up the work of the directors will be considerably lightened.

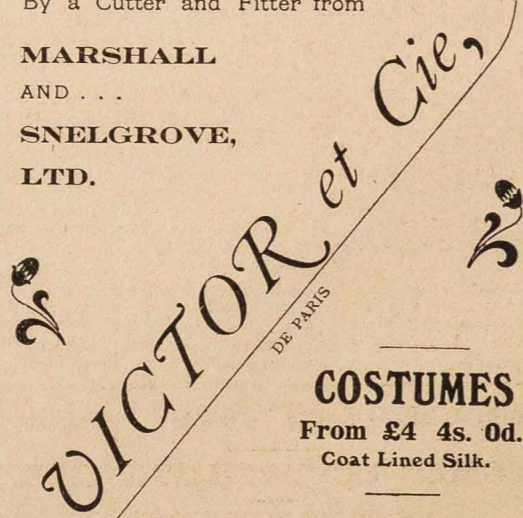
WHIST DRIVE.—Will readers kindly note that the whist drive previously arranged for this (Friday) evening at our office has been postponed, and will take place in conjunction with the "house warming" which the Social Committee are arranging at our new premises at 144, High Holborn? Further particulars will be given later in THE VOTE.

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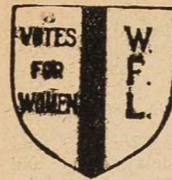
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Saturday, June 5.—TUENELL PARK AND HORNSEY BRANCHES, Social, Spencer Hall, 19, Dartmouth Park Hill, 8 p.m. Address by Mrs. Despard. Music. Tickets 6d.

Sunday, June 6.—HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), noon. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tippett. Chair: Miss E. J. Read.

DARE TO BE FREE

Monday, June 7.—LONDON BRANCHES, Council Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7 p.m. "DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, N.W., Helpers' Meeting, 7.45.

Tuesday, June 8.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 9, Titchfield-terrace, North Gate, Regent's Park, 8 p.m. (by kind permission of Mrs. Carey). Speaker: Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Wednesday, June 9.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, on "Arms and the Woman," and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. Admission free.

Friday, June 11.—CROYDON, Public Meeting, 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 3.30 p.m. CLAPHAM BRANCH, Conversation, in aid of Birthday Fund, 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 8 p.m. Short address by Mrs. Despard. Music; Cards; Refreshments. Tickets 1s. each. HACKNEY, Public Meeting, at the Baths. Mrs. Mustard.

Sunday, June 13.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Tuesday, June 15.—HORNSEY BRANCH, Monthly Meeting, 59, Coleridge-rd., Crouch End, N., 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 16.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Huntsman.

Thursday, June 17.—CROYDON, Open-air Meeting, Katharine-st., 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Friday, June 18.—Magna Carta Commemoration Meeting, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 7.45 p.m. Speakers: Monsieur Emile Vandervelde: "In Defence of our Liberties," and Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., "Magna Carta, Peasage, Church and the Free State" Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Tickets from the W.F.L. Office: Reserved and Numbered, 5/- and 2/6; Unreserved, 1/- Doors open at 7.15 p.m.

Saturday, June 19.—HAMPSTEAD BRANCH, Garden Party, in aid of the President's Birthday Fund, at Oak Tree House, Branch Hill, Hampstead Heath, by kind permission of Henry Holiday, Esq., 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. Tickets 1s.

Sunday, June 20.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m.

Tuesday, June 22.—W.S.N.A.C., General Council Meeting, 1, Robert-st., 3 p.m.

Wednesday, June 23.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster. Speakers: The Rev. C. Warlow and others.

Sunday, June 27.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Eggett.

Wednesday, June 30.—PUBLIC MEETING, Fabian Hall, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and others.

Thursday, July 8.—MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 1s each, including refreshments and music.

"DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., N.W., open every day, 4 to 10 p.m.

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PROVINCES.

Monday, June 7.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: The Rev. J. H. Smith, on "Peace and War." TARVIN (near Chester), 6.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. SAIGHTON, 8.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

"WOMEN & CHURCH COUNCILS." MEETING,

CHURCH HOUSE (Great Hall), Great Smith Street, Westminster.
— THURSDAY, JUNE 8 10th, 15 p.m. —
Chair: The Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Lincoln.
Speakers: The Rev. T. A. LACEY, Mrs. KNIGHT BRUCE, Mrs. HENDERSON.

Tickets (Reserved and Numbered), 1/-, can be obtained from the C.L.W.S. Offices, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.
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Tuesday, June 8.—CHESTER, at Mrs. du Plergny's, 6, Dee Hills Park, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. PUBLIC MEETING, People's Hall, Delamere-st., 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Crosland Taylor. PORTSMOUTH, Members' Meeting, 17, Lombard-st., 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Hatrill.

Wednesday, June 9.—WEST HARTLEPOOL, Branch Meeting, Hussey's Café, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Goddard. LIVERPOOL, Drawing-room Meeting. Particulars later.

Thursday, June 10.—LIVERPOOL, Public Meeting. Clarion Café, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others.

Friday, June 11.—LIVERPOOL, Drawing-room Meeting, at Mrs. Gibson's, Brookside, Maiden-lane, Clubmoor. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Evans.

Saturday, June 12.—MANCHESTER, Open-air Demonstration, Plattfields, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others.

Sunday, June 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Mr. Crow, on "Involvement and Evolution." 6.45 p.m. MANCHESTER, Open-air Meeting, Boygart Hole Clough, Blackley, 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Boyle and others.

Monday, June 14.—BLACKLEY, Co-operative Women's Guild, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, "Women's Work in War Time."

Thursday, June 17.—READING, Members' Meeting Committee-room, Palmer's Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mlle. Elise de Kestrel, on "Belgian Democracy." Chair: Mrs. H. Sacret.

Wednesday, July 7.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Surprise Party in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, June 4.—DUNFERMLINE, Members' Meeting, I.L.P. Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Open-air Meeting, Top of New Row, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Saturday, June 5.—GLASGOW, Cake and Candy Sale, Suffrage Centre, 70, St. George's-rd., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Tuesday, June 8.—PAISLEY, Branch Meeting, Class-room, Central Halls. Speaker: Dr. Winifred Ross. Chair: Miss Cecilia Allison.

Saturday, June 12.—EDINBURGH, Jumble Sale.

WALES.

Friday, June 4.—BRANCH MEETING, Welsh Industries, Queen-st., 8 p.m.

Monday, June 7.—BARRY, Open-air Meeting, King's-sq., 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Barrs and Mrs. Keating Hill. Chair: Miss Green.

Wednesday, June 9.—CARDIFF, Whist Drive, Ruskin Institute, St. Mary-st., 7.30 p.m. prompt. Tickets 1s. 3d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, June 7.—THE UXBRIDGE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. Meeting at Brookfield House, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.

Tuesday, June 15.—HORNSEY, Co-operative Guild. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff.
The whist drive that was to have been held on June 2 at the Ruskin Institute, has had to be postponed until the following Wednesday, June 9, owing to other attractions in the town. Tickets to be obtained from Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road, 1s. 3d. each.

Chester.
Two splendid meetings were held last week: in Saughton school on Wednesday and in the Holborn Restaurant the following night. We were fortunate in having Mrs. Cousins, Mus. Bac., of Liverpool, to speak; we give her our hearty thanks, and hope that this her first visit to the Branch is but the forerunner of many. She made a great impression on the country audience, and a unanimous vote in favour of Woman Suffrage was taken at the close of the meeting, also an excellent collection. At the Branch meeting Mrs. Cousins showed how the feminine influence of St. Werburga has never ceased to be felt as the keynote of inspiration in our ancient city. Mrs. Crosland Taylor explained the inner meaning of the Women's Congress at The Hague, and announced that Mrs. Pethick Lawrence is soon to speak in Chester on the proceedings at the International Congress. Miss Winifred Davies presided.

Clapham
We had a very successful meeting on Clapham Common last Sunday afternoon, the speaker being Mrs. Nevinson,

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ONE
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THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

and her subject "Women's Position in War Time." From start to finish we had a big crowd, many members of which expressed warm appreciation of Mrs. Nevinson's address. We want, however, more helpers at these meetings to sell THE VOTE, get new members, and to take a collection. Please come to our assistance next Sunday afternoon, when the speaker will be Mrs. Tippett and the chair will be taken by Miss E. J. Read at 3.15. Do not forget the Conversazione at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, Friday evening, June 11. There will be music, cards and refreshments, and Mrs. Despard has very kindly promised to attend. Tickets can be obtained from Branch officials, or from those on the cart at our Common meetings, at 1s. each.

Dundee.

The annual business meeting was held on May 24. Reports given by the secretary and treasurer were satisfactory considering that most of the members are, and have been, wholly engaged on some form of war work since August last. The officials and committee members were re-elected for the ensuing year, and correspondence from the head office was dealt with. At our Florence Nightingale Celebration, a good audience assembled to hear Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., on the heroine of the Crimean war. Miss Husband presided. Other speakers were Miss Clunas and Miss May Grant, W.S.P.U. A good collection was taken, and all the copies of THE VOTE sold.

Edinburgh Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

The open-air meeting held in honour of Florence Nightingale attracted a large crowd, which listened with much appreciation to the excellent speeches of Miss A. B. Jack (chair), Mrs. Finlayson Gauld, and Mr. McMichael (N.M.F.). The lessons of Florence Nightingale's life were forcibly driven home by all the speakers, with special reference to the needs of the present crisis. A good collection was taken for the Red Cross Fund. Miss Boyle's visit has been a source of much pleasure and encouragement to the Branch. Besides meeting members and discussing with

them suggestions for future work, Miss Boyle spoke at an open-air meeting and at a meeting in the shop. At both meetings she dealt with war service for women, and insisted upon the necessity for guarantees against sweating. The Branch is greatly indebted to Miss Boyle for her visit. The jumble sale has now been fixed for June 12, and goods of any kind will be collected on receipt of a postcard. It is hoped to hold a flower sale in the shop on June 19, and members are asked to try to get donations of flowers for this effort on behalf of the Birthday Fund.

Liverpool.

An excellent open-air meeting was held last Thursday evening, opposite to the Hippodrome, when Miss Ada Broughton addressed a large crowd for over an hour. A public meeting will be held in the Clarion Café on June 10, at 8 p.m., when Miss Nina Boyle will be the speaker. Members are requested to make this known to their friends and bring them to hear Miss Boyle. A social and Cake and Candy Sale is being arranged for Saturday, June 26, to raise money for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Fuller particulars will be given next week.

Swansea.

On May 18 a very interesting dramatic entertainment was held in St. Gabriel's Hall, arranged by Miss Hutton, who coached the actors and took part in two of the plays. Three Suffrage societies—the Church League, the Free Church League and the Freedom League—co-operated in the organisation of the entertainment. The events of the evening were:—A scene from "The Little Minister"; an amusing little comedy, "The Playgoers"; and Mr. J. O. Francis's play, "The Bakehouse," which has among many merits the advantage of requiring women players only. The Welsh atmosphere of the "Bakehouse" and the accent of some of the performers were much appreciated. The performance, which was in aid of the Serbian Hospital Funds, was well supported by Swansea sympathisers. Members of the three Leagues sold literature. It was a most successful effort.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster (near St. James's Park Station). Wednesday afternoon, June 9. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, on "Arms and the Woman," and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark

MISCELLANEOUS.

ATHEENIC UNDERWEAR is made from the best materials, guaranteed unshrinkable, and gives lasting wear.—Write for Free Book, and buy direct at first cost, Dept. 30, Atheenic Mills, Hawick, Scotland.

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