

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 295

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FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 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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## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION.

We have for the moment one plain and paramount duty to perform—to bring to the service of the State the willing and organised help of every class in the community. There is a fit place, there is fit work for every man and every woman in the land . . . . .

The Prime Minister, House of Commons, June 15, 1915.

### LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT.

DEAR READERS,

As was foreshadowed last week in the leading article, the Women's Freedom League has opened a new department under the title of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation; it is our hope that it will not only meet the needs of women in this time of emergency, but continue to be of service to them after the war.

We have been fortunate enough to secure the services, as hon. organiser, of Miss Frances M. Parker, who has had long experience in the Woman Suffrage Movement, and we feel confident that with her energy and enthusiasm, and the capable assistance of Miss Ethel Moorhead, this new department will be an immediate success.

We appeal to our readers to make known the new organisation and its purpose—which is to find the right work for the right woman—and we advise all women, desirous to serve in the national crisis, to enrol as members. Letters of enquiry regarding the details of the working of the scheme can now be addressed to Miss Frances M. Parker, at our new premises, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

We have much pleasure in publishing the following article by Miss Parker and Miss Moorhead, which makes clear the spirit underlying the new work undertaken by the Women's Freedom League.

—Yours faithfully,

C. DESPARD.

### LET US ORGANISE OURSELVES!

One great reason for demanding the vote—a reason which holds good in peace and war—is to improve the position of women. The great handicap to the advancement of women is their financial dependence. Man in possessing himself of all the good things of the earth has set up a standard of value. This standard is *his* pay, *his* income, *his* possessions. The services of men are rewarded in coin of the realm; but no such *value* has been placed upon the services of women, who have had to put up some stiff fights during the last century in order to secure the recognition of their services according to men's valuation. The economic independence of women is an important factor in the equality of the sexes, and it can only be fully worked out through political enfranchisement.

At the present moment, we certainly have an opportunity of improving the economic position of women. Men are wanted to fight for their country, and in most cases their places can be ably filled by women wishing to take their share in the work of the nation. It is "up to" women to show their efficiency and establish a claim to economic independence. There is no lack of women volunteers, but there is a demand for organisation. At present there is not only chaos but also danger. There is the danger of the voluntary worker who disregards the claims of the woman dependent upon her work, and the danger of the worker who, by taking the



lowest wage, brings down the whole standard of living.

There are many women now seeking employment, who recognise these dangers, and the imperative need is that their energies and usefulness should be properly directed. There are great opportunities, and there are circumstances peculiar to the moment. Numbers of educated but untrained women, desiring "to do their bit" have undertaken all kinds of unsuitable work resulting in the usual misdirection and misunderstanding. For instance, Mr. Asquith, soon after the war broke out, kindly permitted women to become agricultural labourers; some towns are permitting women scavengers; others are objecting to women tramway conductors. There is indeed much need for the organisation of women's work.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON."

Telephone—6146 CITY.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

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

Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.

Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.

Hon. Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.

Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### HEADQUARTER NOTES.

#### Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon the speakers at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-street, Westminster, will be the Rev. C. Ord Warlow and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken at 3.30. The following Wednesday we shall have the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Cobden Sanderson to our platform. Readers will greatly help us if they will kindly make these meetings widely known, and bring their friends to them regularly.

#### House Warming.

Thursday, June 24, we are moving into our new offices at 144, High Holborn, and on Saturday, June 26, we shall be pleased to show our members and friends over the new premises. On this occasion an entrance fee of 6d. each will be charged from 6 o'clock, and the amount taken will be handed to our Hon. Treasurer to help towards the cost of our removal. The Social Committee will provide refreshments and entertainment.

#### South London Work.

This week Mrs. Tanner is visiting members and sympathisers in Richmond, Putney, and East Sheen; and it is hoped that the result of her work will be a new Branch of the Women's Freedom League in that district.

#### Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party.

Tickets can now be obtained from our office for the party we are holding at Caxton Hall, Thursday evening, July 8. They are one shilling each, including refreshments. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### Our President's Birthday.

Last Tuesday, June 15, being our President's real birthday, the office staff sent her flowers in the colours of the League as an expression of their affectionate greetings.

#### LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

IMPORTANT.—In view of the special interest of the 700th anniversary of Magna Carta, the part women played in securing its signature, and their position under its provisions, readers will be glad to know that they can obtain from the Women's Freedom League Literature Department Miss Helena Normanton's excellent and enlightening pamphlet on "Magna Carta and Women" for the modest outlay of one penny. Everyone, man and woman, should possess a copy.

Let us organise ourselves in order that we may be enabled to take our proper share in carrying on the work of the nation.

Let us organise ourselves in order that we may watch more closely developments that affect women's work.

Let us organise ourselves in order that we may be united in asking for a fair wage.

Let all women who desire to work enrol as members of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation, the office of which has been opened at 144, High Holborn (near the British Museum). Its purpose is to bring women workers into touch with employers and find the right work for the right woman.

FRANCES PARKER.

ETHEL WOODHEAD.

### DENMARK'S VICTORY:

#### REPLY TO OUR MESSAGE.

A very hearty message of thanks for our congratulations to the women of Denmark has been received. Writing from Copenhagen to our President, Mrs. F. Dempsey says:—

"I gave the congratulations from you and the members of the Women's Freedom League to the large meeting held at Gruntvig's Hus, and all were delighted to receive heartfelt greetings and good wishes from you. I am writing an article on our victory for THE VOTE, and hope it will interest readers. I will send it in a few days; this is a forerunner!"

### WILFUL WASTE.

Wilful waste brings woeful want, warns the old proverb, and waste in wartime, with prices up and production down, will bring want quicker than in normal times. Women have been crying out for weeks and months with deep concern and indignation against certain items of national waste visible to the naked eye; but now that the call for economy has inevitably come, the male persons responsible for our destinies (and incidentally for the above-mentioned waste) and the press responsible for the male persons' opinions, have conceived the time to be appropriate for an all-round lecturing of women and admonishing them in their duties, abilities, and sphere of action, and, above all, of how to be really economical and to conserve the resources of the nation, which they themselves squander with such reckless hands. The Board of Trade begs us not to eat or cook too much meat (though the women who draw Government allowances, or who work in the sweated trades at making clothing for the Army and Navy under Government contracts, will hardly require this appeal). The young gentlemen on the staff of the *Daily Mail*, temporarily disguised as lady letter writers, advise us in the management of gas stoves and teach us not to let the children leave the soap in the water when bathing. The potent, grave, and reverend signiors who direct the stream of wisdom that flows from Printing House Square bend feverishly over copy with unwonted head lines such as "Economy in the Home," and "How Mother made the Jam last out." The sapient scribes of the week-end organs know "Where Women could Help," and "What Women can Do," and "How Women can Save" (we are still waiting for that article on "How Men can Save," which would supply a felt want). In fact, there is the usual male scamper to cover up its own shortcomings and to admonish women faithfully in the conduct of their own business and the management of their

own affairs (in which there has not yet been any conspicuous failure); and a general anxious desire to engage in the time-honoured avocation of "Teaching your Grandmother." Even the *Morning Post* has "joined the gay throng," and has allowed its sluggish wits to stray to the extent of contemplating woman as an "element with eventualities." But we are sadly in need, it would appear, of man's strong guiding hand in the cooking pot and the market basket. He has made such a successful job of catering for the "new Army" that now we are to have the benefit of his light and leading in our domestic affairs and our most intimate housekeeping operations.

While we women are hearing from such high authority how not to waste the dripping and the soap and the crusts of bread, we take a furtive look round to see how the rest of the world is getting along behind its male teamsters. We are much surprised, after the admonishments to be economical, to find that the male enterprise of the nation does not seem to be united on this matter. The big drapers, for instance, evidently expect "shopping as usual," and there is a distinct endeavour to exploit the needs of the "poor" Nottingham lace workers—whose sweated conditions have never received so much consideration—to persuade us to return to the lace petticoats and fripperies, the wide skirts and draperies, out of which men make such huge profits. We notice, still furtively, that there is much talk of the cooking and catering in the camps; of acres of food trodden into the ground in some directions, and of such scarcity in others that youngsters drop fainting after route marches, and that poor women have to spend their allowances on sending the food which Government should supply to their men. We hear of such things as half a pound of cheese per man for each meal and of pounds of meat in the pig-wash tub because of bad cooking; we hear of senseless prices for billeting, and of equally senseless meanness and stinting. We see that while the War Office is clamouring for men for the colours on the one hand, on the other it is asking the L.C.C. to train men-cooks for the camps and convalescent homes. Competent women have offered over and over again to take over this specially feminine job; but the War Office "does not think it desirable to alter the present arrangements." So, in war time, men may waste, but women must economise, and men will teach them how.

There is more waste than that of mere loaves of bread, or cheese, or lumps of meat. The infantile death rate has gone up already. Women are not allowed to economise here, in their own most cherished possessions. No pure milk supply; no emergency Acts to give food and air and purity to the little folk whom we shall want so badly by-and-by, but who must die now in increased numbers because women may not work and save in the directions they understand best. It is worse to waste babies than to waste beef, whatever Mr. Runciman may think; but he has promised no safeguards for the wages and work of women in war service—the girls and women who will mother and love the frail little babies that are the fruits of sweated and underfed labour.

Worst of all, what of those other lives, at the front? Women will ask accusingly, is it true that the lives and limbs of their men are being wasted by the thousand, because the War Office will not do what the French, Belgian and Russian Governments do so gladly—allow the trained nurses to be near the fighting lines, and not only at a distance from them? Is it true that no cases of serious abdominal wounds can be saved, because of the absence of trained nurses to supplement the surgeons' skill, near the fighting lines? Is it true that women are forbidden to take the risks that would save so much

### The FASHION for PETTICOATS.



Owing to the remarkable change of fashion that has recently taken place, Underskirts have again become an absolute necessity. We have now in stock a very large variety of dainty and inexpensive Petticoats all cut in the new full shape.

Dainty Lingerie Petticoat, especially designed for wear under light Summer frocks, with deep flounce of very fine Swiss embroidery, and finished with beaded and slotted ribbon. Stocked in 34, 36 and 38 inches long.

10/6

**Debenham & Freebody**

Wigmore Street,  
(Covendish Square) London, W.

for the country? Is it true that no limb that has a compound fracture can be saved, for this same reason? If so, is it not a more serious matter than loaves of bread or pounds of beef, and shall we women not lift our voices against such waste, bred of prejudice and sex arrogance!

When Parliament let the Finance Bill slip through its second reading without a discussion, it did not seem that the men who govern and lecture us were thinking economically. When Mr. Charrington snatched the Mace from the table, some ten gentlemen out of over 600 were languidly discussing pensions and allowances for women. Where were the others? Do we economise their pay when they are not at work? Do we dock their salaries during the present crisis—the crisis during which the paid Parliamentarian works half time, while the rest of the nation works overtime—while girls and women work 12-hour shifts seven days a week at a wage of 11s., and make buttonholes in Army greatcoats at 4d. per 100?

If we are going to economise, let us begin at the top. If Members of Parliament have not enough work to occupy their five days a week, either let them refund half the money they draw, or devote the other half of their time, economically, to the passing of a Reform Act for women. There is a non-party (or both-parties) Government in power now; no party warfare is acknowledged. Now is the time for a non-party measure, a measure to help those who are being asked to help everybody else. Then women would be in a position really to economise—not only in their Saturday night's shopping, with their few shillings' allowance; but in those greater national matters of expenditure which call so loudly for their attention. For, as things stand at present, the "national organisation" that is on all men's lips and in all men's papers is likely to be a poor enough job!

C. NINA BOYLE.



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., LTD.,  
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.  
FRIDAY, June 18th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE  
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.

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.

### VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

In one of our issues, dated a few weeks back, we had a leading article of great significance. The title was "Our Priceless Possession." It was written at the time when lovers of temperance all over the country were full of hope that the Government, by prompt and wise action, might help those upon whom, as it now appears, the destiny of the nation rests, to live squarely and manfully, resisting the temptations to excess with which they are constantly surrounded. There are short cuts, as well as long well-trodden paths, to every object we seek to attain in this world, and hasty persons, of dominating and choleric temperament, are always keen about these. Short cuts may be dangerous—not to themselves, of course, but to others—what does it matter? They are short. They will take you there, just where you wish to be, rapidly. Splendid visions of perpetually closed public houses floated before the minds of earnest temperance reformers. Others, less extreme, were ready for the longer road. Let the Government take over the drink traffic; let them at least regulate it. Men and women workers, as these saw clearly, need refreshment, recreation and opportunities to meet outside of their work. With these and having constantly before them the great need of their country and their own responsibility, they would presently, of their own free will, cease from excess. This, the writer of "Our Priceless Possession," urged would be better for the country; more productive of strength and steadiness amongst the workers; more formative of character than any kind of compulsion could possibly be.

We all know what happened. The beer and spirit interest in the House of Commons triumphed. The worker, who should make sacrifices might properly be coerced, but when his coercion touched the financial prosperity of great brewers and spirit distillers it could not be allowed to go on.

This bit of economic history is interesting at the present moment, because, once more, the cry of compulsion is in the air. Not conscription, as is frequently impressed upon us. The magnificent response made by our men of every class and age to the call of arms will never, we hope, be forgotten. As regards our army and our navy, voluntarism has won a triumph that was never expected by the panic-mongers. For the moment the conscription cry is dead. But the spirit that lay behind it is alive still. Our priceless possession, the free will, voluntary service of a free people, is again threatened, and, as we believe, in a more insidious form.

The threat followed hard on a remarkable discovery. Men there are—for the moment at least—as many as are needed at the front, but a sufficiency

of munitions is lacking. The cavernous throats that emit destruction are craving to be fed. For want of high explosives the British army have suffered grievous loss. More must be manufactured at once. For this service, and for the maintenance of the workers thus employed, as well as of the hosts of fighters at home and in the field, the services of men and women, constituting between them a prodigious industrial army, are required.

Thousands upon thousands are already at work. While young men are being recruited for army and navy; while silly girls are presenting white feathers to men in civilian dress, this other army, unobserved, unpraised, working often under conditions which sap their vitality dangerously, are fulfilling the herculean tasks that make work at the front possible.

Two or three days ago there was an article in the *Daily News* on Krupp's shell factories at Essen, which made one feel that life in the trenches would be preferable to life in such a hell. These men are working at the highest pressure possible. Many of them are mere shadows. Some can scarcely retain food. On Sunday—the only day of rest—they are limp and lifeless. Such are the sacrifices that are being made by the workers in Germany.

In Great Britain, too, there has been suffering through over-work and strain and conditions which will be felt more cruelly as the summer advances. Now further exertions are required and the question is who is to make them? How are they to be obtained?

An abundance of advice has been given to the Government. Persons who know nothing whatever of what life in gun and shell factories means are loudest in their demands. Let the Government organise labour, and where they deem it necessary make labour compulsory. There may be a little kicking against the pricks, some resistance, a few prosecutions, imprisonment perhaps of "slackers" to teach others wisdom, and the difficulties will soon be solved.

It seems easy enough, but, unfortunately, some important factors have been left out. The high cost of provisions, the laxity of the Government in dealing with the consequent uneasiness, the greed of certain employers who have made capital out of the nation's needs, the pitiful way in which the freely offered service of women has been treated—thousands registering and only a very few being allowed to serve—these things have aroused suspicion which nothing but plain and righteous dealing will allay.

That men and women in the vast majority are ready and eager for service, we firmly believe; but if the game of compulsion is to be begun, they have a few questions to ask. Whom are they to obey—the State or the private employer? Is the end of their labour to be the enrichment of certain groups of individuals, or are they to work for the nation? When the war is over will they re-assume their own individuality or will this forced labour initiate a life of subjection?

Let the Government, before it ventures to introduce a new principle, make these points clear. We are losing much in this war. If we are to lose that for which we have been told we are fighting—individual liberty, the power of choice for ourselves and for the nation that has been so unjustly subjugated—then, whatever our armies may or may not do will matter little, Prussia will have conquered.

We earnestly trust that the Coalition Government which, as it would appear, has scarcely got to work yet, will see the wisdom of organising labour and not compelling it. We will gladly do what we can.

A prophetic writer in the *Morning Post* the other day headed his article "The Women's Legion," and foretold the time when stern necessity would not only push women into posts from which they

## 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.

### WOMEN AND THE NATIONAL CABINET.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—Referring to the letter in last week's VOTE rejoicing in the fact that no woman is included in the Cabinet, we cannot agree with this point of view. To shirk from office because it entails responsibility, to our mind, gives away the whole case of Woman Suffrage. Following the precedent by which the Foreign Office is now shared by Sir Edward Grey and Lord Lansdowne, we should have preferred to see a woman appointed to share any office which in any way affected woman's interests, and not have limited it to the "one woman" suggested by the W.F.L. The letter goes on to say "consistent and united action is the only safeguard, and to hold aloof from what might be a stumbling block to many—the only way." At this rate, we might hold aloof until the crack of doom, for we cannot think of one subject upon which all women are united, nor one subject upon which men would not think women's needs might be held over until a more suitable opportunity.—We are, dear madam, yours faithfully,  
EUNICE G. MURRAY.  
HELENA NORMANTON.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Clothing from Overseas: Touching Messages.

Warmest thanks are given to the overseas friends who continue to send most welcome clothing for distribution to those in need. We assure them that they are most deeply appreciated, especially the touching messages sewn to the garments. In the last consignment we found the following from overseas helpers:—

"May the dear little mite who wears this never know the anxiety its mother has felt in these days. Wishing both many happy years, with love from AN ENGLISH GIRL IN TASMANIA."

From the same, with other garments:—  
"To dear needy ones in London. My heart goes out to you in distress. May God soon lift the load of the war from us and comfort the suffering ones as only He can. I feel proud that so many have risen up to help. Assuring you all of true and heartfelt sympathy, from AN ENGLISH GIRL."

"With all good wishes, from A. CLARKE, Tasmania." (who also puts in a threepenny piece.)

A picture postcard of a settler's home in the making was attached to another garment with this message, from Stowport, via Burnie, Tasmania:—

"Dear little friend. I am sending you this little card. I hope you will like it. We are always thinking about you and praying for you all, and for your dear mothers, too. We want to help you, so my mother has made a little petticoat, my grandma a little dress, my auntie a warm shirt, and my sister and I are sending you a card with our fond love.—Lovingly yours, WILLIE MCCARTHY."

### The Guest House at Nine Elms.

If anyone wants to spend a happy hour in these days of anxiety, let them visit the Restaurant and Guest House at 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, any day at tea time. The sight of the small people seated at small tables enjoying tea, bread and butter, with jam or cake as extras, and paying for it, too, a halfpenny or a penny according to their wealth, moves the heart to rejoicing. Outside the Restaurant door are many more, eager for their turn to come to be admitted when the others regretfully depart. But two of the happy throng are specially favoured—in the eyes of the rest. They are the first occupants of the Guest House. Their mother is ill in hospital, but knows that they are being cared for with love and wisdom in her absence. They do not go out when tea is over. Oh no! There are games and stories, laughter and fun, then soap and water and bed. Such comfy beds, such airy rooms, such space, such cleanness; afterwards comes the dark and often happy dreams, till the new day wakes the sleeper, and it is getting up time. Then more soap and water, and clean, serviceable clothes; how delightful it is to run along the corridor singing, and downstairs to breakfast. There is "Mummy" and "Long Short Hair" and breakfast. Oh

### READ

### "THE FRUIT OF THE TREE," By FLORA ANNIE STEEL.

A new pamphlet on a subject of great interest to Suffragists. Published by the Women Writers' Suffrage League, 12, Henrietta Street, London, W.C. Price 4d. Post Free 5d.  
SPECIAL TERMS TO SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

## OUR TREASURY.

### NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to  
December, 1914, £25,155 5s. 7d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged				579	16	0
Special Emergency War Fund.—						
"A Friend" ... ..	1	5	0			
W. R. Snow, Esq. ... ..	1	0	0			
Mrs. Saul Solomon ... ..		10	0			
Miss Fuller ... ..		5	0			
Miss E. Gore Browne ... ..		5	0			
Mrs. Sholl ... ..		2	6			
Mrs. Mallaloe ... ..		2	0			
Mrs. Penn ... ..		1	6			
Miss M. Morrison, per Glasgow Branch		1	0			
Bowes Park Branch ... ..		3	0			
Clapham Branch ... ..		2	0			
Hornsey Branch ... ..		4	0			
Kensington Branch ... ..		2	0			
Mid-London Branch ... ..		10	0			
Tufnell Park Branch ... ..		6	0			
				4	19	0
Mrs. Despard ... ..		15	0	0		
Mrs. H. F. Brown ... ..		1	0	0		
Miss M. I. Saunders ... ..			10	0		
Miss F. A. Underwood ... ..			5	0		
Miss Ethel Moorhead ... ..			2	0		
Miss Frances M. Parker ... ..			2	0		
Tickets ... ..			2	7	6	
Collections ... ..			2	16	4	
Office Sales ... ..			3	9		
Branches.—						
Grantham (for the removal) ... ..			5	0		
Wellingborough ... ..			2	1	4	
Capitation Fees.						
Wellingborough ... ..			4	0		
				£609	11	11

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Limited."

To Branch Treasurers.—In future Branch and District funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treas.

### THINGS TO BE REMEMBERED.

Anglo-Belgian Meeting at Caxton Hall, to-night (Friday) 7.45.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, at Caxton Hall, Thursday, July 8th, 7.30 p.m.

Fancy Fair, Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th.

WE rely on YOUR help to make these events a SUCCESS!



yes! The small people have to learn to sit still, to eat what is on their plates, to make no spills or messes, but to do as Mummy does. Soon it is time to start for school, and away they go, running and singing. Dinner-time sees them back again, and a good dinner ready; school again; then the joyous tea-time. How they grow, how they learn—manners as well as a, b, c., good habits as well as the multiplication table. This is the way to make good citizens. Mummy and her helpers are "doing their bit" of national service. Who will help so that the Guest House may grow?

Mummy, otherwise Mrs. Tippett, acknowledges with grateful thanks, the following gifts:—From Miss Read and Miss Tippett, pinafores; Mrs. Kearton, sheets and a filter; Mrs. Harrison and Pattie, flowers; per Miss Newcomb, from a girls' school in New Zealand, £1 10s.

**Jumble Sale.**

The committee is organising a Jumble Sale and will be grateful to all friends who will give garments and useful articles for sale. They may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, at Headquarters (new address), 144, High Holborn, W.C.

**OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE FABIAN HALL.**

In introducing Mrs. Zangwill last Wednesday afternoon Mrs. E. M. N. Clark made a graceful reference to the literary work of Mr. and Mrs. Zangwill as well as to their unflinching support of the Woman Suffrage Movement. She also pointed out that in spite of Mr. Asquith's recent discovery that women had brains, and were capable of doing work that the nation needed, the Government still refused direct responsibility to women.

Taking as her subject "Arms and Women," Mrs. Zangwill said that women were the force behind the guns. Not only were they now engaged in the making of munitions, but their work was needed, and called for in many other departments of life not usually open to them. This was one of the few rays of light at present visible on the storm clouded sky. Mrs. Zangwill maintained that the State ought to have taken more advantage of women's special work and knowledge in the present crisis. There had been muddles and mismanagement in many of the camps which any capable woman would have avoided. Even at the present time milk, butter and vegetables were lacking in some camps; hundreds of loaves were constantly wasted; the men could not eat them, but why were they not made into bread puddings? The War Office was guilty of bad housekeeping, and to exclude the experienced housekeepers of the community from taking their part in the food supply of the camps was as foolish as insisting on all men receiving a military training and then making a rule that only women should be sent to the front. With regard to men's uniforms, too, women had not been consulted. A woman would soon have noticed that in the sun a flat crown khaki hat was an easy target for a German sniper. It was said that women were slaves to fashion, but when had they literally run a fashion to death in this manner? We had at present a so-called Coalition Government, but the real Coalition Government which the nation needed was a coalition between men and women, the advice and experience of both men and women in the counsels of the State.

There were two armies in the field—one of men terrible in their might, the other of women terrible in their helplessness. Mrs. Zangwill said that all wars were made on women and children; the women and children did not strike, they were the stricken; they did not carry arms, they were pierced by them. This war was a Massacre of the Innocents. In every war the Prince of Peace was slain, and the present conflict was an international humiliation, a denial of religion, the bankruptcy of civilisation. How could a victory for Peace be won and maintained? Religion, science, education, socialism—all had failed. One plan had not been tried—to make the women of each nation a part of that nation, equally responsible with men in its counsels. That way, Mrs. Zangwill believed, would be the way of Peace. It was impossible that the sex which produced the race could be so prodigal of life as men were at the present time. Women must fight against arms, or for arms of a new kind—the full citizenship for women. They must have the sword of the vote in their right hand, then will they win Peace for the world.

Mrs. Tanner followed with a bright speech on "Current Events." She criticised the unseemly wrangles of Cabinet Ministers about their salaries, and declared that if Rip van Winkle had returned to earth a year ago he would not have noticed so many changes as we had seen during the last twelve months. Twelve months ago it would have been impossible to believe that Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Bonar Law would all have been in the same Cabinet, trying to get along comfortably together. The result of their efforts was not always happy, and after reading the reports of their doings in the House of Commons, Mrs. Tanner could not easily believe that women would lower the dignity of public life more than men had done.

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**DARE TO BE FREE**

**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, Peerage, Church & the Free State." Chairman: Mrs. Despard. M. Ysaye and other distinguished Belgian artistes have promised their services. Tickets from the W.F.L. Office: Reserved and Numbered, 5/- & 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. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Nevinson and Mr. Holiday.

**Sunday, June 20.**—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Speaker: Mrs. Leigh Rothwell. HYDE PARK, noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. 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. Ord Warlow, "The Spiritual Significance of the War," and Miss Nina Boyle.

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

**Saturday, June 26.**—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, "House Warming," 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.; admission 6d.

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

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

**Wednesday, June 30.**—PUBLIC MEETING, Fabian Hall, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, on "Feminism and the War Baby," and Miss Nina Boyle.

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

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**PROVINCES.**

**Friday, June 18.**—LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, Clayton-square, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Bernard and Miss Broughton.

**Saturday, June 19.**—AINTREE, a Cake and Candy Sale, 15, Chatsworth-avenue, 3 to 6 p.m. Tea 6d. each. MIDDLESBROUGH, Picnic to Great Ayton. Open-air meeting, 6.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Goddard.

**Sunday, June 20.**—MIDDLESBROUGH, W.F.L. Rooms, 6.45 p.m. Lecture by Mr. Crow, on "Human Evolution."

**Monday, June 21.**—MIDDLESBROUGH, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates, on "Child Welfare."

**Wednesday, June 23.**—WEST HARTLEPOOL, Branch Meeting, Hussey's Café, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

**Monday, June 28.**—MIDDLESBROUGH, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Cook, on "Rabindranath Tagore."

**WALES.**

**Monday, June 21.**—CARDIFF, Open-air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Rhubina Garden City. Speakers: Mrs. Keating Hill and Miss Barrs.

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**BRANCH NOTES.**

**Cardiff.**

On June 7 Mrs. Keating Hill and Miss Barrs held a very successful open-air meeting at Barry Docks. A considerable crowd listened most attentively to the speakers, who showed the need for keeping the Suffrage flag flying at the present time, when new positions are being opened to women, and to women's position in the labour market, and the necessity of equal pay for equal work. THE VOTE was sold by members who came up from Cardiff, and who helped to make the meeting a great success. On June 9 the whist drive at the Ruskin Institute in aid of the Women's Freedom League was also a splendid success, mainly due to the help given by Mr. Ferrier, whom we thank warmly on behalf of the League for the splendid way in which he carried out the duties of M.C. Our thanks are also given to Miss Edwards and Mr. Collins, who, with Mr. Ferrier, rendered substantial help by selling tickets. We cleared about £2 10s.; £2 will be handed over to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. We hope to hold an open-air meeting on Monday, June 21, at Rhubina Garden City; we should like to see all members and friends who can attend. We now have Miss Alix M. Clark's famous Mayonnaise Sauce on sale in aid of the Birthday Fund; price 1s. per pot; to be obtained from Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road.

**Clapham**

Last Friday we spent a delightful evening at 15, Clapham Mansions, and thoroughly enjoyed the Conversation arranged by Mrs. Corner. We had the great pleasure of having Mrs. Despard with us; she was just as willing as the rest of us to "frivol" and give a rest to serious matters. Our President's kind and encouraging remarks on the work done by Clapham members were warmly appreciated. The artistes who so ably contributed to the success of the evening cannot be too highly praised, and the vote of thanks accorded to our hostess at the end of the evening was more than well deserved.

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

At our afternoon meeting on June 11 the speaker was Mrs. Nevinson, who dealt with her subject, "Women in War Time," in her usual interesting way, approaching their present position from various points of view. It has been decided to hold a whist drive on the first Saturday in July—profits to go to the Birthday Fund. Goods for the Jumble Sale should be sent not later than June 18 to the Secretary, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon.

**Glasgow Suffrage Shop: 70, St George's Road.**

The Glasgow Branch brought the season's activities to a close on June 5, when it held a very successful Cake and Candy Sale. Very special thanks are due to Mrs. Sinclair and Miss Gentles, under whose auspices the sale was held, and to whose efforts it owed its success. The proceeds of the sale amounted to £9 10s. Two excellent outdoor meetings were held last week, the speaker in both cases being Miss Eunice Murray, assisted by Miss McKennon. Literature and THE VOTE sold well, good collections were taken, and everyone seemed keenly interested in the demand for votes for women, and all the extra work undertaken by the Women's Freedom League.

**Hampstead**

Branch members and friends are asked to rally in force to make a record success of the Garden Party on June 19 at Oak Tree House, by kind permission of Mr. Henry Holiday, 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., to raise funds for our contribution to the Birthday Fund. An excellent programme has been arranged: Madame Ratmirona, the celebrated Russian vocalist will sing; also Prof. Inayat Khan, the Indian musician and philosopher; Miss Julie Huntsman

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[WEEKLY

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will recite; there will be Morris Dancing, and a French play by children. Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Nevinson and Mr. Holiday will make short speeches.

## Hartlepool.

At a meeting on June 9 at Hussey's Café, over which Miss McKenzie presided, Miss Goddard spoke on the present activities of the Freedom League, and urging members to keep Suffrage principles well to the fore, emphasised particularly equal pay for equal work. Three new members were added to the League. An exceedingly interesting afternoon was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the speaker and chairmadam.

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

At a meeting held in the W.F.L. rooms on June 7, the Rev. J. H. Smith, of the Unitarian Church, gave an inspiring address on the subject of "Peace and War," which he dealt with from the point of view of one who was a firm believer in peace and in freedom, and who regarded militarism as a danger to the liberty, both of men and women. Miss Goddard, who presided, said that it was especially needful for women at this time to guard against any undue restrictions. The first of our open-air meetings was held on June 11 at Borough-road corner, and was very successful. The speakers were Miss Goddard, who dealt with the work of the Women's organisations since the outbreak of war, and Mrs. Schofield Coates, who pointed out the urgent need of women's service in these times of national crisis, and that women should be accorded the recognition of political enfranchisement. A large crowd gathered and gave the speakers a very attentive hearing. *THE VOTE* was sold and a good collection was taken. Members and friends are invited to a picnic on Saturday, June 19, train 2.13 p.m., Middlesbrough to Hutton Gate, and then walk to Great Ayton where an open-air meeting will be held in the evening.

## Scottish Scattered.

A Branch meeting was held on June 9 to discuss the best means of raising money for the Birthday Fund; the "penny a day for a hundred days" was considered an

excellent idea, and many members there and then promised to subscribe to it. It was decided to send at least £20 to the fund through this means and others. An outdoor meeting was also held this week at which Miss Eunice Murray spoke, assisted by the Misses Watson, Reid and McLean. The speaker was invited to come again and all literature was sold out.

## Swansea

A number of our members have become Women Patrols, and are being initiated by the organiser into methods of attending to the various "beats." It is hoped that others will take one turn at least at Vote selling. Next Saturday, June 19, should be the first venture

## IN THE PARKS.

### Hyde Park.

A large and sympathetic crowd, chiefly of men, gathered round our platform last Sunday in spite of several recruiting meetings being in progress. Mrs. Mustard spoke on "Women's War Service," drawing special attention to the inability of the Government Labour Exchanges to "organise women," and pointing out the steps now being taken by the Freedom League to deal with the situation. At the conclusion of her eloquent speech, a gentleman in the audience thanked Mrs. Mustard "for showing us all how to use the good old English tongue," and also for the sentiments she had expressed. The chair was taken by Miss Le Croisette, who explained the policy of the League since the war, and emphasised the fact that all the activities of the Freedom League are carried on under the Suffrage flag. We made several new members, and the Vote sold well.

### Clapham Common.

Last Sunday afternoon we had a good meeting on Clapham Common, the speaker being Mrs. Tanner. In spite of big recruiting meetings, Mrs. Tanner held her crowd from start to finish, and thoroughly interested those present in her criticism of politicians and their sayings. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

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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 23. Speakers: Rev. C. Ord Warlow and Miss Boyle.

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