

24-4-15

THE VOTE
April 9, 1915.
ONE PENNY

BENCHES AND TRENCHES. G. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 285.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

SUFFRAGE FIRST!

WOMEN POLICE VOLUNTEERS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

LADY ARNOLD AND THE MARRIED WOMEN'S

PROPERTY ACT. *Margaret J. Scott.*

BENCHES AND TRENCHES. *C. Despard.*

DEMANDS OF THE WOMEN TEACHERS' FEDERATION. *S. A. Mustard.*

WOMEN AND WAR SERVICE: WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

BRANCH NOTES.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

A Quick-Change Artiste.

One could not easily find a more entertaining figure than the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his white sheet and penitential candle. Is it only a few weeks ago, we ask ourselves, that he was pluming himself on the forty-five millions of revenue his beer tax was to bring in, and exhorting beer drinkers to further exertions in the unforgettable phrase "Every man who drinks an extra half-pint is contributing to carrying on the cost of the war"? Is it only the other day that he pilloried the "elusive teetotaller" and bade him "come and face your tax like a man"? Is it only a month or two since he clapped an extra 3d. a pound on tea, so that there should be no temptation to evade the beer tax by partaking of the "cup that cheers, but not inebriates"? And now he is the St. George of Temperance, tilting at the dragon whose growth he has helped to foster, and doing penance for his sins of less regenerate days—so short a time ago! Of all our political quick-change artistes, Mr. George is beyond doubt the most agile. What we have to look out for now is in what direction he will turn his thoughts with a view to supplementing

the deficiency which prohibition, or even partial prohibition, will create in the Treasury. New taxes, or new directions for taxation, will give militant Suffragists fresh opportunities for effective protests, when the war is over, if by then the Government be not in a mood to settle with the women of the nation without further delay or trickery.

Of the rights and wrongs of the prohibition problem we say nothing. We are not aware from our own knowledge whether the wholesale accusations of intemperance hurled by firms against their skilled workers be well founded, or whether they are as baseless and wicked as the accusations made against sailors' and soldiers' wives. Only this we do know, and it is sorrowful to have to place it on record, that in all the great outpouring of national service on the part of our men, in all the unstinted courage, devotion, patriotism and endurance they are displaying so lavishly and nobly, there is no sign of sufficient moral ballast of other kinds to prevent the country being confronted with social problems of a degree and magnitude never before experienced.

CAR & GENERAL

INSURANCE CORPORATION LIMITED,
83, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W. (Est. 1903.)

(Adjoining the Royal Automobile Club.)



INSURE YOUR MOTOR VEHICLE with the Pioneers.

OVER £1,250,000 PAID IN CLAIMS.

KVINDELIG
RESFOREN

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
Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Wear your Badge. Never go out without it!

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

London Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon, April 14, we resume our meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Piccadilly, W., the speakers being Mrs. Marion Holmes and the Rev. W. Piggott. It is so rarely that we can secure Mrs. Holmes, and she is such a favourite with Freedom Leaguers, that we look forward to seeing the Club crowded on this occasion. Her subject will be "Their Amazing Doings," the title of Mr. Piggott's address being "Expert Bureaucracy as Freedom's Foe." The chair will be taken at 3.30. The following Wednesday the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss A. B. Jack, and on April 28 we hope to have the pleasure of listening to Miss Margaret Douglas on "The Real Issue."

Sunday Afternoon, April 18th.

The Rev. Hatty Baker will speak at the Suffrage Club on "The War and After," to be followed by a discussion. There are very few women ministers in England, and we feel sure that our readers who claim that all professions should be opened equally to men and women will welcome this opportunity of supporting Miss Baker. Our further object in arranging this Sunday afternoon meeting is that members and friends will have a better chance of meeting each other than on ordinary week-days. The chair will be taken at 3.30 by Miss A. B. Jack. Admission is free, and tea can be obtained at the Club.

Discussion Meeting.

Readers are reminded that they should purchase tickets early from our office for Mr. W. L. George's lecture on "Woman and the Arts," to be given at the Suffrage Club, Friday evening, April 30. The prices are 1s. (numbered and reserved), and 6d. (unreserved).
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

SUFFRAGE FIRST.

A Special Appeal.

As Suffragists, we all know that our best service to our country is our demand for citizen rights and duties.

Many calls for money meet us on every hand, but the need of the Women's Freedom League is the most urgent of all.

Ground lost can never be regained.

The public expects a great deal from the Women's Freedom League. All our members and friends must, by their liberal contributions, share in the work and make it possible.

We cannot exist without money, and I would particularly ask every Suffragist to send me as generous a donation as possible NOW.

E. KNIGHT

(Hon. Treasurer.)

WOMEN POLICE VOLUNTEERS.

The corps of Women Police Volunteers, inaugurated by the Women's Freedom League in the early part of August, 1914, was enrolled in answer to the refusal of Sir Edward Ward (in charge of the Special Constabulary) to accept the services of women as special constables. It was felt by the founders of the movement that, necessary as we consider it at all times to have women police, it was far more necessary than ever at a time when large numbers of women were deprived of the presence and company of the men of their own families and households, and when a large portion of the policing of the country was being made over into amateur and inexperienced hands. Without doing injustice to the bulk of these amateur special constables it was felt also that among them were most certainly to be found a member of the men from whom women and girls are at all times in danger and for whose presence the streets would be none the safer.

At a later date, the National Executive Committee gave permission to the new corps to run on its own lines, independent of control from the Women's Freedom League. The whole thing was admittedly an experiment, and the lines on which it could most usefully be run had to be searched for and found. No precedents existed, no authority was available; and a thousand claims for police women's work existed on all sides. The appearance of the first volunteers in uniform crystallised public opinion as to the desirability of the innovation; and by this piece of direct action the Women Police Volunteers did more to break down the barrier of prejudice against the police women than all the previous propaganda of the various reform societies which have advocated the measure during recent years.

On the first announcement, last August, that the Women's Freedom League intended to enrol a corps of Women Police Volunteers, representatives of the Press sought out from Scotland Yard what attitude the authorities intended to adopt. They were informed that "under no circumstances" did Scotland Yard contemplate or intend employing or engaging women police. A few weeks later, when the "lady copper" had received a warm welcome from Press and public, and had given a few samples of her powers of usefulness, the Commissioner of Police had altered his tone and admitted that he might have to give the matter his consideration in the near future. Since then, Scotland Yard has actually trained women for work in provincial centres; and an increasing number of important towns are taking the matter up. Of the great need for women in police work, and of the folly of Sir Edward Ward and the Home Office not to seize the opportunity afforded by the enrolment of the Special Constabulary to introduce this reform without having their hand forced, the present situation bears ample witness. The Home Office and the War Office have been obliged, by the exigencies created by their own oversight and mistakes, to give official sanction to the Women Patrols; any kind of assistance that will enable them to grapple with the camp evils and the unnatural conditions existing in war time, is eagerly accepted now by the men who a while ago stood in scornful ridicule of the demand for women police.

During its career of independence, and while it was feeling its way, the Women Police Volunteers undertook some of the camp work usually associated with the Women Patrols. Care was taken in so doing not to clash with the work of this other society, and Grantham, where the Patrols had failed to get a footing, was the scene of action. Two policewomen (both militant Suffragettes, one of

whom had done several terms of imprisonment!) were detailed for duty, by the consent of the officer commanding the district and the chief constable, to work with both the civil and military police. The consensus of opinion was highly flattering to the tact, power and influence of the uniformed women. Unfortunately, however, Grantham was one of the towns in which the illegal order as to women, issued at Cardiff, was copied; and the terrorism (for it was no less) instituted by this order greatly detracted from the value of the experiment, just as the conniving at, or submitting to, improper police measures and methods damaged the position from the Suffrage point of view. Those responsible for the carrying out of the experiment felt that the value of securing this new vantage ground for women fully justified the holding a candle to certain forms of official iniquity. The founders of the Corps, however, thought differently, and felt it was impossible to be associated with any work, no matter how useful, which meant the coercion of women and girls and the depriving them of their liberty, to make things easier for commanding officers, constables and recruits. For that was what it amounted to in the end.

A typical example will serve. A father made use of his two young daughters, under 18, to decoy men to his house for immoral purposes. The police wished to bring a charge—any charge—against the girls, and get them "locked up for a few months." The women police succeeded instead in getting the girls into homes, where they are deprived of their liberty, the father remaining at large, no charge being brought against him or the men who came to his house. On these lines the Corps split, those who hold Suffrage principles sacred keeping the name and the old intention; the others, under Miss Dawson, forming a new Corps, the Women Police Service. It is regrettable that Suffragists, and especially Women's Freedom Leaguers, should be so ready to drop their principles for the sake of a little police favour and temporary official countenance.

From the start, there was a section that coveted "official recognition," and desired to work hand in hand with the police. While acknowledging with much appreciation the kindly fashion in which the Metropolitan police force has received our advent, we hold that to work under official sanction—and restrictions—is to limit the usefulness of the Corps. An honest independence will work out better in the end; and meanwhile towns and boroughs all over the country are discussing, or engaging, women police. So far, there is a prejudice against uniformed women, and town councils appear, like the Women Patrols, to pin their faith on a badge. This will wear out in time, and the value of uniform, for women as well as men, as a medium of authority, a protection, and an influence for good order, will become too plain to be ignored.

The Women Police Volunteers are now once more under the *aegis* of the Women's Freedom League, and have laid down definitely the lines on which they intend to proceed. Following up the valuable work of Mrs. Watson in the Criminal Courts, they aim at training a woman for duty in every Metropolitan Police Court and Assize Court, and trust that the provinces may follow suit. Public gardens and parks are also to receive attention, and a mounted section, when formed and trained, will see to the welfare of animals. The officers of the Corps are Miss Nina Boyle (chief), Mrs. Edith Watson (investigation), and Miss Eva Christy (mounted section), and this branch of the Women's Freedom League work will be under the Criminal Investigation Department that the Head of the Political and

NEW SPRING MILLINERY



SEMI-MUSHROOM HAT, in navy aeroplane, trimmed with marguerites and underlined with silk. In all colours 12/9

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street London W

Famous for over a Century for Taste for Quality for Value.

Militant Department was authorised to form, when opportunity served, at the last annual conference of the League. A strong Branch is working at Brighton under the guidance of Miss Hare, but in that centre has not been able to count on the goodwill of the local police. The Men's League for Women's Suffrage has, with great kindness, placed its office at the disposal of the Corps, and this has been very warmly appreciated by the officials.

In conclusion, it is permissible to say that, while it was perhaps an error to allow the Corps ever to become separated from the Freedom League, which has the gratification of having introduced this new feature in social reform, the League is not responsible for, and in no way implicated in, the situation at Grantham which led to the reorganisation of the Corps.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONGRESS.

Great Britain, the United States, Belgium, Austro-Hungary, Germany, Italy, and Denmark will be represented at the Congress at The Hague, on April 23 to 31. French women will be present unofficially. Miss Jane Addams may be asked to preside. Among others who will attend are Mrs. Despard, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Violet Vanburgh, Mrs. Olive Schreiner, Mrs. Voynich, Miss Lind-af-Hageby, Miss Franklin, Lord Swaythling's niece, representing the Jewish Peace Society, Mrs. Barton, of the Women's Co-operative Society, Councillor Margaret Ashton and Miss Eva Gore-Booth.

The British Committee of the Congress held a meeting on March 31 at the Caxton Hall, at which Miss A. Maude Roydon presided. The committee has arranged another meeting at the Morley Hall, 26, George-st., Hanover-square, W., on April 15, at 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Picton-Turbervill and Miss Maude Roydon. Admission free. For information about the Congress apply to the British Committee, Queen Anne's Chambers (Room 37, sixth floor), 28, Broadway, Westminster, London.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, April 9th, 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.

BENCHES AND TRENCHES.

When eight long months ago the war began certain practical persons raised the cry "Business as usual" and we shall all remember how it was echoed and re-echoed through the country and what admirable sermons were preached on this text.

"No need to disturb yourselves good people: go on as you have been doing. Keep your heads: have nothing to say to panic-mongers; you who are trade unionists or party politicians, bury the hatchet for a season: you who have swollen purses, loosen their strings. But don't be alarmed, everything you spend now will be given to you again. We have just to get through with this unpleasant war-interlude and the world we know—the good little world of buying and selling: the world of being sold if you are not clever enough to sell others: the world of shoddy and adulteration and cant: the world above all where that disturbing element woman is kept in its proper place—will come back."

This no doubt up to a few weeks ago was the tone of many of those in authority. Hence the reluctance to put forward exceptional legislation for men: hence the extreme tenderness for vested interests: hence the apathy of Government over the high food and fuel prices that are lowering the vitality of our people, and decreasing the value of their wages. "Why," we are repeatedly asked, "should not men and women workers make sacrifices as well as the brave men in trenches and on battleships?"

So for some time, the chorus has run: and now, all in a moment as it were, the veil has been lifted. Bench and trench, the worker and the fighter, for the first time, practically in human history, are seen as one.

Why should these men and women not make sacrifices? we are asked. We answer: they have been making them the whole time. During the many months of this awful test to a nation's endurance, they have been toiling to supply our Expeditionary Force, our navy, our soldiers in training at home with equipment, provisions, munitions of war, transport, the multitude of things, in fine, that are necessary for a host of men divorced from their usual occupations.

It is no use now for any one to blink facts. In modern warfare, faced as we are with a highly trained and supremely scientific foe, neither the most splendid leadership nor the most dauntless courage will be of any avail without that which the great industrial army alone can give.

Our men rulers must be curiously wanting in imagination otherwise they would have seen this long ago. Why, after all, should the fighting man

be so constantly extolled while the men and women toilers who supply him with that without which his task would be impossible are left unnoticed, and allowed to be the prey of any one who can make profit out of their industry? This, on the face of it, seems monstrous, and the Government apparently are beginning to recognise that it is so. Looking back over the past two or three weeks from the moment when women were asked to enrol themselves for war service to the formation of khaki battalions of dockers, with special honour and special reward, we see the authorities departing, step by step, from their "Business as usual" principle.

Usual! Could anything be more unusual? It is the men now who make appeal to the women; it is the trenches that cry out to the benches. And the cry is more poignant, more human, than any that has ever been heard. Before its humanity, vested interests, ancient domination, and all the maxims of worldly prudence that have been preached from generation to generation as the last word in political economy are blown to the winds.

It would almost seem as if the occurrences of the last few days—the murder and piracy on the high seas—had come to emphasise the nation's appeal. "We want this terrible thing over" is the universal cry. "There has been enough of hatred and slaughter. Let every man and woman help! Let us, by our combined efforts, create a force that nothing can withstand. Then, and only then, when militarism is crushed, will the Peoples come into their own." None but those who, often with a feeling that approaches despair, have watched the course of our economic history during the last few decades, can completely realise what all this means. It is with wonder, with exultation, that these behold the elaborate defences of the utilitarians falling to pieces one by one, feeble as a child's castle of sand before the rush of an incoming tide. When the tremendous vested interests involved in the manufacture and sale of strong drink (we can imagine the old politico-economists' saying) are attacked by Government itself, what will be respected?

The people's life, we hope, a fuller, happier, better life than vested interests have allowed them to enjoy. As for the men workers, whom these new restrictions would principally affect, we firmly believe that they will be content to have their liberties curtailed for a season, so that the great output, by means of which this war can be brought to a speedy end, shall not be hindered. It may well be meanwhile that what we have hoped for, what we have tried in our own way to illustrate, the public-house for rest, entertainment, and refreshment will presently take the place of the drink-shops which now disgrace our towns. These, however, are comparatively minor issues. That with which we are faced at the present moment is a question which touches us far more deeply.

A discovery has been made. As a truth it has been in the world throughout the ages. Nature, by the mutual interdependence of her living children, proclaims it in no uncertain tones. Man, it is true, does often grossly interfere with her prerogatives, and he is punished as now, when our corrupt civilisation has culminated in a sorrow and pain passing the power of words to express. And yet, practically, it is a discovery, for, up to this, the world has not seen in it anything but the dream of visionaries and mystics.

The truth is of the unity of life, and we begin with our own nation. There are many indications of the fact that the common danger has made us realise that we are one. Gradually the old barriers of sex, class, occupation, special gifts of body and mind are ceasing to divide us. All are wanted for

the common need.

How often, in the days that have been, we have urged the necessity for a properly organised, properly fed and trained army of industry, who will work not to pour wealth into the coffers of an individual or a company but for the country that needs their services, and that, in return, the country will give such reward and rest as will enable them to preserve their bodily health and mental agility!

And the staple necessities of the people's life, have we not dreamed that a People's Parliament at some, perhaps distant, date, would decide that these should be nationalised? We have been told all that is impossible—it is the wild conception of visionaries. Everything will be as it has been—perhaps a little worse. Physical force, which, in its modern interpretation, is the power of the purse, will always prevail.

Now, we, the dreamers, see actually the beginning of what we were told could never be. How has it come about? Through us, we believe, the antithesis of that which inspired the old order. Force, indeed, for without that no movement is possible; but a force that is spiritual. It is welding us together now, so that sacrifices are joyfully made and service is loyally rendered. Is that spark from the eternal to die out when the war has ceased? That is for the nations of Europe to decide; and it is, therefore, well that they should think out their problems now. C. DESPARD.

LADY ARNOLD AND THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT.

Last week Amelia, Lady Arnold died at the age of ninety-three. She was instrumental in getting "The Married Women's Property Act" passed about twenty-five years ago.

The law of England at the time did not allow a married woman to possess any property. If a woman of means married, every farthing she possessed on her marriage went to her husband; also any money she either earned or inherited was not hers, but went to her yoke-fellow.

These laws were evaded in the upper classes. When a girl married, her money was put into the hands of trustees; this was universally done. Among educated people, no girl married without a Settlement.

The hardship was most felt among working people. If a married woman inherited a few hundred pounds from a friend or relation, the money was paid to her husband. If he were a good man, no great wrong was done, but if he were a drunkard or rogue, he spent the money on vice and on drink, and his wife and children had no remedy.

It might have been thought that the bloated aristocrat, ached up to the eyes with lands and capital, would have objected to justice to women, but the most bitter enemies of any change in the law proved to be the Gladstonian Liberals. They fought Lady Arnold with the usual lies, subterfuges, hypocrisy and fraudulent pretences of equity.

It took Lady Arnold and a few friends sixteen years to get the Married Women's Property Bill passed, and cost them £500 a year. Finally the Bill became an Act at the end of a Session, when the House of Commons was practically empty.

A case had happened which aroused much public indignation. A gentlewoman, who had a small property of about £1,500 a year drawn from lands which were her ancestral acres, married; her husband gave no open cause of scandal, but he kept a mistress not far from where his wife lived. He died suddenly, and left his wife's family property to his mistress. The case came into Court, and the judge decided that nothing could be done for the wife, but he recommended the mistress to allow the wife £500 a year of her own money.

This was one case, but others were not uncommon. If a woman was married to a scoundrel she needed protection, but by the laws of England she did not receive it.

Among working women, if a wife, by her own industry and cleverness, made a little "home" for herself and children, a drunkard or vicious husband could seize her earnings, and often acted in this manner.

In getting this righteous law passed Lady Arnold was assisted by her husband, Sir Arthur Arnold, M.P. Amelia, Lady Arnold was an only child, the daughter of a wealthy banker of the name of Hyde. When she was about twelve years old she overheard some friend saying she could never own her own money. She then made a vow that she would have the law reformed; all her life she never faltered in her determination, and she lived to see her fixed resolve accomplished.

MARGARET J. SCOTT.

DEMANDS OF THE WOMEN TEACHERS' FEDERATION.

In her introductory remarks at the Conference of the National Federation of Women Teachers, at Caxton Hall on April 3, Miss Dix, the ex-president, said she came from a city where women worked by the side of men preparing munitions of war, but the women were not paid the same as the men, notwithstanding the remarks of an eminent statesman as to equal pay.

Miss Phipps, B.A., in her presidential address, emphasised the need for close attention to be given to legislation for women workers at the present time, for the Government did not bear a good record in its treatment of women. The order closing public-houses to women until 11.30 a.m., and not to men, was based on the lie that soldiers' wives were responsible for most of the excessive drinking. Putting soldiers' wives under the police supervision was a deadly insult to the women, and also to their husbands. Alluding to the employment of women as drivers of public vehicles, the president said that though some women had passed the necessary tests the Home Secretary declared he could not grant them licences as the public would not have sufficient confidence in woman drivers. "Why not leave the public to decide for itself?" asked Miss Phipps. With regard to the employment of children from school to work in the fields; the harvest must, of course, be got in, but she suggested that the boys from Eton and Harrow should be employed in the fields. They were very much stronger and better fed than the children of agricultural labourers. The president insisted that there had been too much submission on the part of women in the past, and she urged the members of the Federation to assert themselves and not only push forward to gain equal pay for the same work as men, but never to desist in their fight also for equal political rights.

Miss Normanton, B.A., speaking on the "Economic Outlook for Women," said that capital was produced by men and women, but men got most of it. Political power must be gained in order that women might have some say in the arrangement of their own affairs. Their prospects and the interests of children, both at school and in their after-life, were certainly the concern of women.

A resolution was carried unanimously urging the Government, in view of their appeal to women to undertake the labour of men, to insist that women who rendered this service should be paid the same wages as the men whose places they filled. The resolution also protested against the shortening of the period of education for children, and emphasised the need for longer and better training "in order to prepare children for the heavy responsibility they will encounter in later life." S. A. MUSTARD.

WOMEN AND WAR SERVICE.

W.F.L. Correspondence with the Government.

1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C., 31st March, 1915.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of yours of March 24th, in which the Prime Minister regrets that he cannot receive a deputation from the Women's Freedom League because of the contentious nature of the demand for an emergency measure granting votes to women.

I am frankly amazed that the Prime Minister should take up this attitude at a time like the present, when every imaginable body of organised male labour is having constant and free access to the Government or to the special boards appointed by the Government for their convenience.

I must call the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that Parliament has risen without the proposals of the Board of Trade in respect of increased employment of women having been laid before the House of Commons; that no discussion whatsoever has taken place over these proposals; that no safeguards of any sort have been provided in the interests of women who volunteer for employment.

I quote for the information of the Prime Minister the following phrase from *The Daily Telegraph*, Mar. 29: "The Board of Trade has received from a firm near London a glowing tribute to their (women's) work. This firm has engaged a large number of women in the making of surgical bandages and other appliances, and speaks of their 'feverish energy and patriotic spirit' which underlies their efforts, inducing them to agree to work any hours and to submit to any sacrifice in order to comply with the demands of the War Office."

This spirit, obviously so entirely differing from that of the men to whom Lord Kitchener has recently made a vain appeal, should make it more a point of honour on the part of the Prime Minister to devote as much as possible of his time to establish every imaginable safeguard for the interests of these women. This spirit of patriotism in workers for a similar firm in the Midland districts has already resulted in some sweating and over-working scandals, involving little girls of 14 and 15, of the grossest character.

If the Prime Minister considers that the granting of votes to women without delay be a request of so contentious a character that he cannot consent to discuss it, we shall ask that he should make it his business to receive deputations from recognised bodies of women who are concerned in these matters, and to discuss with them the safeguards that he does propose to establish, failing the one that all organised women consider most essential.—Yours faithfully,

C. NINA BOYLE.

Head of Political and Militant Department.
David Davies, Esq., 10, Downing-st.

10, Downing-st., Whitehall, S.W.,

1st April, 1915.

DEAR MADAM,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday. The Prime Minister understands that the President of the Board of Trade is considering the question of receiving a deputation on the subject to which you refer, and I am to suggest that you should address yourself to him.—Yours faithfully,

Miss C. Nina Boyle. DAVID DAVIES.

Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.,

2nd April, 1915.

DEAR MADAM,—With reference to the Special Register of Women for War Service, which is being compiled by the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges, I am desired by Mr. Runciman to say that he proposes to confer with the representatives of certain Women's Societies on this subject at the above address on Monday, April 12, at 3.30 p.m.

I am desired, accordingly, by Mr. Runciman, to state that he will be glad if your Society will send not more than two representatives to attend this Conference.—Yours faithfully,

E. R. EDDISON.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMENS' SUFFRAGE.

Rev. Dr. ORCHARD. Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.
Mrs. SWANWICK, M.A. Mrs. STRICKLAND (Chair).

WILL SPEAK ON

"WOMEN AND PEACE,"
Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Thursday, April 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Apply 13, Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, E.C.
Tickets 2/6, 1/- and 6d. ADMISSION FREE.Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi,
March 23, 1915.To the Secretary for Scotland,
Scottish Office, Whitehall, S.W.

SIR,—In view of the widespread interest aroused by the Government's appeal to women for War Service, I, as a member of the Women's Freedom League, should esteem it a favour if you will receive a deputation of Scottish women at your earliest convenience, as our League is particularly strong in Scotland.

Before our League takes action in this matter, we wish to lay before you some of the disadvantages under which women at present work, and to receive certain guarantees from you with regard to their future work.

In view of the statement made by the Prime Minister with regard to women agricultural labourers in Scotland, and of the probability that many women will offer themselves for this work, we desire to point out to you the disgraceful conditions under which many of them now work, and their inadequate pay, as compared with men.

Above all, we consider that when the Government is directly appealing to women for help in national service, this is the opportunity for it to retrieve its position by following out its own Liberal principles of no taxation without representation by introducing, as soon as possible, a special emergency Woman Suffrage Bill.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant.

(Signed) EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Scottish Office, Whitehall, S.W., Mar. 26, 1915.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by the Secretary for Scotland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 23, enquiring whether he can receive a deputation of Scottish women at an early date, and to inform you that, owing to the pressure of his official work, he regrets that he is unable to arrange for the reception of the deputation suggested in your letter.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) VIVIAN PHILLIPS,

Miss E. Murray. Private Secretary.

DEAR SIR,—I am greatly surprised by your communication of March 26th, in which you inform me that the Secretary for Scotland cannot receive a deputation from my League "owing to the pressure of his official work."

May I point out to you that since the issue of the Board of Trade circular in respect of employment of women the questions which we wish to submit and discuss with you have become part of the "official work" of His Majesty's Government. We are, therefore, entitled to claim on behalf of women workers in Scotland some portion of the time of the Secretary for Scotland.

The Suffrage Societies have been definitely appealed to, owing to the strength of their organisations, to assist the Government in its efforts to regulate the industrial situation.

There is no organised body of men to whom easy access is not afforded, either to members of the Cabinet, the House of Commons, or the special boards appointed by the Government, for no other purpose than to deal with the specific requests and needs of these men. If the Government definitely asks for the services of women, members of the Government must devote some portion of their time to discuss the position of women. I would call your attention to the fact that this is the more definitely necessary because Parliament has risen without His Majesty's Government having deigned to lay this most important question before the representatives of the people. Such safeguards as parliamentary discussion afford having been definitely denied us, it is all the more important that we should secure the personal attention of His Majesty's Government.

I think, therefore, that I am entitled to ask that the Secretary for Scotland should reconsider his decision, and should receive a deputation of Scottish members of the Women's Freedom League.—Yours faithfully,

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Four Days and 4/9

Will make a soiled or crumpled Costume good for smart wear again. Every spot and stain will be removed and the original freshness restored by cleaning and expert pressing in the "Achille Serre Way." You know exactly what you have to pay. Write for address of nearest Branch or Agent.

Achille Serre Ltd.

Hackney Wick, London.

("East 3710" 4 lines).

ca. Branches and Agents everywhere.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, April 9.—WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS Executive Committee Meeting, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, 3 p.m.

Monday, April 12.—CLAPHAM BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING, 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, Clapham, 7.30. Mrs. Tanner will address members at 8.15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 14.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3.30 p.m.; speakers: the Rev. W. Piggott, "Expert Bureaucracy as Freedom's Foe," and Mrs. Marion Holmes, "Their Amazing Doings."

Friday, April 16.—W.S.N.A.C. SMOKING CONCERT, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, 8 p.m.; tickets 1/-

Sunday, April 18.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speaker: The Rev. Hatty Baker, "The War and After." Admission free. Tea 6d. (obtainable at the Club).

Monday, April 19.—LONDON MEMBERS' MEETING, W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., 7 p.m. Light refreshments, 6.30 p.m. W.S.N.A.C. GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21.—PUBLIC MEETING, the Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, 3.30; Mrs. Despard and Miss A. B. Jack. MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 23.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-st., Croydon, 3.30; speaker: Mrs. Gaskell. HACKNEY BATHS, 7.30 p.m.; speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Wednesday, April 28.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30; speaker: Miss Margaret Douglas, "The Real Issue," and others.

Friday, April 30.—DISCUSSION MEETING, The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, 8 p.m. Mr. W. L. George: Subject, "Woman and the Arts." Admission by ticket, 1s. (numbered and reserved). There will also be a few 6d. tickets.

PROVINCES.

Monday, April 12.—MIDDLESBROUGH, 8 p.m., "At Home." Speaker: Rev. T. C. Gobat, on "Mrs. Warren's Profession."

Saturday, April 17.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Bazaar, Suffrage Centre, 3-10 p.m. LIVERPOOL, an American Tea, Clarion Café, 3 p.m.; speaker: Mrs. John Edwards. Musical programme; artistes: Mrs. James Cousins, Bac. Mus., Madame Lillian Walsh and Miss Davey; chair: Dr. Alice Ker. Tea 6d. each.

Monday, April 19.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Mrs. Schofield Coates, on "Child Welfare."

Monday, April 26.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.; speaker: Miss Cook, "Rabindranath Tagore."

WALES.

SOUTH WALES CAMPAIGN. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Alix M. Clark.

Friday, April 9.—CARDIFF, Public Meeting, "The Carlton," 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 11.—CARDIFF, Public Meeting, The Ruskin Institute, I.L.P. Rooms, 7 p.m.

Monday, April 12.—CARDIFF, Drawing-Room Meeting, 33, Stacey-rd., 3 p.m.; chair: Mrs. Whale.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Wednesday, April 14.—NORTH ORMESBY LIBERAL ASSOCIATION MEETING, 3 p.m.; speaker: Mrs. Schofield Coates.

The "Despard Arms."

CAKES.—Will ladies who would be willing to supply cakes, etc., for the "Despard Arms" communicate with Miss Barrow, 202, Brecknock-road, Tufnell Park, N.?

Make the home bright by using
William CLARKE & SON'S
COAL.
SPLENDID VALUE.
Prices on Application.

341, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. Phone. 3656 North.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

The whist drive on March 20, and the competition, tea and sale of home-made cake, etc., on March 25, were both successful. The Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps funds are increased by the profits from these two events. Contributions are needed to carry on the work successfully. Will someone be good enough to send a parcel of material for making children's frocks and underclothes? The office re-opened on April 7, after the Easter holidays. Will members who have not yet paid their annual subscriptions please do so as soon as possible?

Dunfermline

Our social evening, held in the Masonic Hall on Mar. 24, was a great success. Mrs. Beck presided over a company numbering about one hundred. Miss Mason opened the musical programme with a pianoforte solo, and songs were rendered in fine style by Madame Annie Falconer, Miss Morrison, Miss Templeman, and Mr. John Whyte. Mr. George Beveridge was a very efficient accompanist. Two recitations by Mr. Tom Watters were well received. Dancing followed and was continued until the early hours. Miss J. Simpson and Mr. Beveridge were pianists, Miss Stevenson, Mr. W. Cook, and Mr. D. Simpson, violinists; Mr. J. Cook officiated as Master of Ceremonies. The social realised a profit for the funds of the Branch and a good increase in its membership is likely to result.

Edinburgh Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

At the Branch meetings held in March very interesting addresses were given by Miss Christie, of the Edinburgh School of Domestic Economy, and Miss Mary Tweedie, M.A. Miss Christie's subject was "Technical Training for Girls," a subject of particular importance at the present moment. She described the technical classes started by the London County Council, and their very promising results, and urged the need for much more work on similar lines. A good discussion followed the paper. Miss Tweedie's subject was also one of great interest at this time—"German Policy in Schleswig-Holstein in the last Forty Years." An historical sketch of Germany's dealings with Denmark was followed by many personal reminiscences of incidents illustrative of the German manner of dealing with a "conquered" race. The difficult question of future settlement was also touched on. It has been arranged to hold a Jumble Sale on May 15 and a Summer Sale on June 5, both in aid of the Branch funds, which have necessarily suffered through the generous support given to our work-room scheme throughout the winter. Please keep these dates in mind.

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

A business meeting was held on March 29. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. The following resolutions were carried unanimously and sent to the local Press and to the Prime Minister:—

"This meeting views with alarm the great increase in the price of commodities, and demands that representative women sit on any committee appointed to deal with the matter."

"This meeting is opposed to the employment of children of school age as wage-earners, and welcomes the opening of occupations for women, provided they are given the same remuneration as men for such work, and are given political enfranchisement."

"This meeting expresses sympathy with the efforts of the International Congress of Women, and wishes it success."

The hon. secretary was instructed to write a letter of protest to the manager of the North-Eastern Railway on account of the employment of women clerks and typists at a much lower rate of pay than that received by the men whose posts they had filled.

Mid-London.

Will members kindly note that the meeting announced for Wednesday, April 14, has been postponed until Wednesday, April 21, at 7 o'clock?

Ipswich

We held our annual meeting on March 25 at 22, Queen's-street. The report of the year's work and the financial statement were read by the secretary; Miss Bobby gave an account of the Vote sales. We are very anxious that at least three more members should take the Vote, so that we may be sure of a profit on it. It helps to keep us in touch with our fellow members and to know what Suffragists are doing the world over. It was agreed that as long as the dark nights continue we should have our meetings in the afternoon at 3; but once a month, when the moon is favourable, we should have an evening meeting, at which a paper should be read and discussed. At the afternoon meetings we shall still tease tow if it is wanted. The secretary was asked to write to the secretary of the Depot for Hospital Necessaries, asking that our services might be mentioned in the depot list. A subscription of 5s. was voted to the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps.

ONE
PENNY

THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

and a donation of 5s. to Mrs. Tippet for the Guest House, with an expression of the loss the Branch still feels her absence to be. Most of the committee were re-elected. It was urged that donations of cakes, games, books, puzzles, etc., should be given when possible by members for the soldiers, especially those in hospitals and billets. On account of measles and other infectious diseases, men are sometimes shut up in billets for several days without games or amusements. In two cases we have been able to supply books and games, but the secretary's store is almost exhausted, and further gifts would be most acceptable. Packets of notepaper are also welcome.

Paisley.

At our usual Branch meeting in the Classroom, Central Halls, on March 25, Miss Finn presided, and told how well the Women's Freedom League has kept the Suffrage flag flying. Miss Cecilia Allison gave a very interesting address on "Women's Social Position in Egypt."

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Nine Elms Restaurant.

Mrs. Tippet thanks the following friends very warmly for their welcome gifts; Mrs. Presbury for a rug; Miss Crombie for shortbread; Mr. Delbanco for arrowroot.

Nine Elms Guest House.

Mrs. Tippet's most grateful thanks are given to the

Clapham Women's Liberal Association for their splendid and practical help in giving the following extremely useful articles:—Six mattresses for beds, 12 bed spreads; 12 sleeping suits. They have fulfilled a great need and relieved her of much anxiety.

The Finance Committee acknowledges with sincerest thanks the following gifts:—

Already acknowledged	£34 9 9
Dr. and Mrs. Gaster	2 2 0
Mrs. Annie Jacobson	3 0
Miss Woodall	2 6

£500 WANTED FOR THE VOTE.

We thank our friends warmly for the following gifts:—	
Amount already acknowledged	£236 16 0
Mrs. Walter Carey	5 0 0
Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson	1 0 0
Miss Florence Wells	2 0
Miss Constance Harvey	1 0
Per Miss Eunice Murray:—	
Miss Lance	10 0
Miss A. A. Smith (monthly)	5 0
Miss Gore-Brown (monthly)	2 0
Miss Beatrice Kent (monthly)	2 0
Miss E. M. Evans (monthly)	1 0

£243 19 0

JORDAN BROS.,
Ladies' Tailors,
139, NORTH END, CROYDON.
Phone 245 CROYDON.
COAT and SKIRT from £3 3s.

TOYE & CO., 57, Theobald's Road,
London, W.C.
Specialists in
BANNERS, REGALIA, BUTTONS, BADGES,
ROSETTES for every Society.
Designs and Estimates Free.
Phone 3820 Central. Established 1855. Wire Modifying. London.

WOMEN WHO KNOW **MAPLETON'S**
the value of health and the advantage of economy should send for our new complete list, with food tables and other useful information. Post free on request from (Mention this paper).
MAPLETON'S, GARSTON, LIVERPOOL.



Arthur's Stores, 120, Westbourne Grove, W.
FOR GENERAL PROVISIONS AND HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.
All cakes and pastries made of the finest ingredients by our own bakers.
— TRIAL EARNESTLY SOLICITED. —
Our Motors deliver daily in the following neighbourhoods: Hampstead, Golder's Green, Hendon, Mill Hill, Garden City, Hampstead, Cannon's Park, Putney, Barnes, Kew and Bedford Park.

Islington Dental Surgery.
60, UPPER STREET, N.
Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
Mr. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.
Established 35 Years.
Gas Administered Daily by qualified Medical Man, Fee 7/6. Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Postcard for Pamphlet N.B.—No Showcase at door. CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone 3795North

Holland House Laundry,
BURMESTER ROAD, LOWER TOOTING.
Mrs. PIPER, Proprietress. Telephone: Wimbledon 504.
A FAMILY LAUNDRY, under Distinguished Patronage
MY PRICES ARE MODERATE.
— Customers of over 20 years' standing. —

SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.
THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: April 14, Rev. W. Piggot on "Expert Bureaucracy as Freedom's Foe," and Mrs. Marion Holmes on "Their Amazing Doings."

BOARD-RESIDENCE.
Rooms, Holiday Homes, &c.
AT THE STRAND IMPERIAL HOTEL, opposite Gaiety Theatre, Strand, London. — Absolute Privacy, Quietude and Refinement. — Ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters. Sumptuous Bedroom with h. and c. water fitted. Breakfast, Bath, Attendance and Lights, from 5s. 6d. En pension, 9s. For long stays, special terms. Finest English provisions.—MANAGERESS, 4788 Gerrard

HASLUCK'S ACADEMY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.
Elocution, Public Speaking, Acting, Stage and Ball-room Dancing, Singing. Evening Classes, from 7/6 per quarter. Day, £1/1/- Private Lessons, 3 for £1/1/- Call, write or 'phone (2383 Gerrard).—SAM L. HASLUCK, Director.

INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP. Public Meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James', Tuesday, April 13, at 8 p.m. Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, on "The Need for a Baby Saving Crusade." Miss St. John is prevented by illness from lecturing on "Women Under Monasticism." Admission free. Collection.

MISCELLANEOUS.
UNDERCLOTHING (by hand or machine), BLOUSES, etc., properly and strongly MADE at Most Reasonable Prices Ladies' Own Material Made Up, or patterns submitted. All kinds of mending undertaken.—Mrs. S., care of THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., LTD., 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

TEA.—Everyone appreciates a good Cup of Afternoon Tea. We now have a very special brand, fragrant and digestive. Price 1/8 a lb. Send for a trial 1/2-lb., which will be sent post free as an advertisement.—The Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.

BOOKS
64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, free Send for one.—TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Estab 1879.