

THE VOTE,
Sept. 24th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

The Scotswoman and the Magistrate.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 24, 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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THE BRITISH BORN WOMAN.

"Not they who demand rights, but they who abjure them, are anarchists."—

RICHARD COBDEN.

No one in war time is more to be pitied than the British woman who is married to an alien, more especially if he be an alien enemy. A husband at marriage gives his wife at least three things: his name, his nationality, and his domicile. That is to say, if a foreign woman marry a British man, living in Britain, she at once becomes a British subject, and is protected by our law. All rights in her property would be governed by English or Scottish law according to the country in which she was domiciled. The reverse holds good the moment a British woman marries an alien; she loses her nationality and has to take that of her husband, in spite of the Scriptural injunction that a man shall leave his mother and his father and cleave to his wife, which means that he should identify himself with his wife's people and not she with his. Under any circumstances, to be deprived of your nationality is a hardship, but in time of war to be married to an alien enemy intensifies a hundredfold the hardship.

Even in normal times the woman who contemplates marrying a foreigner should consider carefully what she is doing. She may find herself married by English law and yet discover that the marriage is not binding in her husband's country. An excellent example of the matrimonial tangle which a mixed marriage can produce is illustrated in the Ogden case. There an Englishwoman had married, in England, a Frenchman. According to French law, he was not of age, and therefore could not marry without his parent's consent, and as this had not been obtained the marriage was declared void by the French Court, though upheld by the English Court. Later on, the husband remarried in France a countrywoman of his own. Founding her case on her husband's desertion, adultery and bigamy, the wife presented a petition for divorce in the High Court in London,

which Sir Francis Jeunne dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, since the husband was not domiciled in England, which was necessary, to give the English Courts jurisdiction. Some remarks, however, of the judge were erroneously interpreted by the lady's advisers to imply that she was free to marry again as her marriage had been annulled in France. And marry again she did, an Englishman to whom she represented herself to be widowed. In course of time, the second husband learned the truth about her earlier career, and he in turn raised an action in the English Courts for nullity of his own marriage on the ground that at the time of entering it the woman was validly married according to English law. He obtained his decree, and the judgment was affirmed by the Court of Appeal. The French invalidity due to lack of parental consent was strongly urged as invalidating the English marriage, but the Court, through Lord Gorell, held on the authorities that according to English law consent of parents belonged to the forms, not the essentials, of a marriage, and therefore the Court was governed by the law of the country in which marriage was celebrated. Since English law did not require the French consents, the first marriage was unimpeachable and the second was invalid. The plight of this poor woman might have moved a Nero to compassion; hung like Mahomet's coffin between Heaven and Earth, she could not obtain a divorce from the first husband in England because he was domiciled in France, nor could she obtain a remedy in France because there her marriage was not recognised. Towards the end of his judgment, Lord Gorell threw out the suggestion that without infringing any legal principle the Divorce Court might have granted her a remedy by holding her still subject to the English jurisdiction, inasmuch as the marriage had not had the normal result of

changing her domicile to that of her husband. This remedy, however, was not available to her, as the period for appealing against the decision of Sir Francis Jeune had long expired.

Attempts have been made, some with success, to induce the English Divorce Courts to act on Lord Gorell's suggestion towards mis-married Englishwomen. In the first, the case of Ranôs, the attempt failed. An Englishwoman in England had married, validly according to English law, a domiciled Mexican, who treated her with abominable cruelty and finally deserted her. By Mexican law, a marriage, wherever contracted, is not valid in Mexico unless it is registered by one or other of the parties to it, and the marriage in question had not been so registered. Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane, although strongly pressed with Lord Gorell's dictum in the Ogden case, dismissed the petition for divorce on the ground of no jurisdiction. A more successful case was that of Stathatos. A domiciled Englishwoman was married in London to a Greek subject resident there but domiciled in Greece. Some years later they went to Greece, but after a time the wife was sent home and soon the husband ceased to send her money. Afterwards he obtained from the Courts in Athens a decree of nullity of his marriage, on the ground that it had not been celebrated in accordance with the rights of the Greek Church, no priest of that Church having been present at the ceremony, as the Greek law required. In the following year he married in Athens a Greek lady. On the grounds of the respondent's desertion and adultery, the wife filed a petition for divorce in the English Courts, which was also heard by Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane, and as the wife had no rights whatever as against the husband in the foreign country, he sustained his own jurisdiction on the strength of Lord Gorell's dictum and granted divorce. The other successful appeal was that of De Montague, the circumstances of which resemble those of the Ogden case.

From these examples it will be seen that for British women to marry foreigners unless they have mastered the laws of their husband's country is always fraught with danger, and may lead to sad complications. But, apart from these cases, the lot of the ordinary British woman who is to-day married to an Austrian or a German, and is domiciled in this country, is no enviable one. Rejected by her own country and unprotected by her husband's, she is an outcast in the land of her birth; she must live within a prescribed area and report herself regularly to the police. She has lost her birth-right, and has had her husband's forced upon her, no matter how distasteful it may be to her. In many cases she loses her means of livelihood,

for though she may never have been outside the country in which she was born, she is now a German or an Austrian subject, an undesirable alien whom none will employ. We have all come in contact with cases of this kind, and we should not rest until we have had the law altered and the right established that no one be deprived of his or her nationality. Scotland, where the marriage laws are fairer to women than in England—at any rate the laws of divorce and separation, where the conditions for relief are precisely the same for both sexes—might lead in this respect, and see what could be done to uphold the rights of the British-born woman. For example, last July, Mr. Goldstone asked the Home Secretary, in the House of Commons, whether his attention had been drawn to the case of Jessie Klose, the English wife of a German subject, who had been committed to 21 days in the second division for breaking a window to draw attention to the injustice of her case, she being an Englishwoman and a dressmaker, who could get no work because, as the wife of a German, who deserted her ten years before, she was obliged to register as an alien. Sir John Simon exercised his prerogative and obtained her release after she had served fourteen out of the twenty-one days. But though released from prison, she is still unemployed, and likely to be.

In Parliament questions are constantly asked about the hardships entailed upon alien women, but few women are as able to look after themselves as the Fife woman who was brought up and made to register herself as the wife of an alien enemy. Her husband was a German, who had been deserted at the age of twelve in this country by a German band. He was adopted, cared for, and educated by the minister. In course of time he grew up, became the minister's man, and married a Scottish woman. His native tongue and his nationality were both forgotten until last August when the war broke out. He and his wife were made to register themselves under the Aliens' Act. His wife was most indignant at being called a German. "Me, a German," she exclaimed, "I ken naething about Germans." "Ah; but you became one when you married a German," said the complacent magistrate; "What have you to say to that?" "Jist this," she retorted, "it nae mair maks me a German than it made Victoria yin when she married Albert." The magistrate collapsed. This point of view should be established, that marriage does not change your birth, and it ought not to deprive you of your nationality. A country can no more disown its citizens than a parent can repudiate children when they forsake the parental home.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Women's Freedom League.

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

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Mrs. Tanner's Scottish Tour.

Our Scottish Branches have arranged a suffrage campaign, for which Mrs. Tanner will be the principal speaker. Open-air meetings will be held in Glasgow, Rothesay, Paisley, Saltcoats and Edinburgh during this and next week. We wish every success to this campaign.

London Meetings.

The first of our series of afternoon meetings this autumn will take place at The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., Wednesday, October 6, when the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle, the chair being taken by Miss Eunice Murray at 3.30. Tea will be served in our club room at this Office, which is within two minutes' walk of St. George's Vestry Hall, immediately after these meetings.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Congratulations to Cardiff.

Paget-street Congregational Church, Grangetown, Cardiff, is proving itself very progressive under its new pastor, who is a strong champion of Woman Suffrage. It has appointed Madame Ben Davies as choir conductor. Congratulations to the pastor and the church on their wisdom, and to Madame Ben Davies, who is hon. treasurer of the Cardiff Branch of the Women's Freedom League, on the appointment. She is said to be the only lady conductor of a Congregational choir in South Wales.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE National Service Organisation.

The meeting at Kingsway Hall on September 14 was valuable in making known the aims of our Organization and we are kept very busy. There are some good posts going for women: this week we have placed one at a salary of £5 per week and another at £3 3s.

Women must realise the necessity of adapting themselves to new conditions and of showing readiness to advance beyond old grooves.

The school of experience, if somewhat merciless in its teaching, ought to be effective. We who live through these tragic months realise more and more that many changes are needed in our social and political condition, but there are three which are pre-eminently necessary:—

(1) The destruction of the invidious distinction which exists between the training of the sexes for the different trades, handicrafts and professions. Women must have equal training with men so that they can, if necessary, take up men's work, without causing any dislocation in the labour market.

(2) The placing of men and women on a complete equality as workers. Of the two sexes, give the work in every case to the more skilled worker, taking into consideration the benefit to the community, and not the prerogative of the male.

(3) The political emancipation of the woman, which will secure and preserve to her the equality that is so desirable in training and the labour market.

Men, alone, have shown themselves blind and incapable in political and especially in international affairs. They have brought us to the brink of an abyss, which bids fair to engulf the whole human race. When we read that side by side with our losses on the battlefield there has been a terrible increase in the rate of infant mortality, that the babies dying before the age of one year are three times the number of the soldiers, who have been sacrificed in the most sanguinary war that the world has ever seen, we realise that it is high time for the women to co-operate in the political life of the nation for the salvation of civilisation and the protection of the race.

MARGARET HODGE.

Glasgow.

The hon. secretary writes:—The work of the Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation steadily increases, and as it increases so does the need for helpers who can give two or three hours regularly every week. We know that if the far reaching effect of this work were more widely realised, our friends and members, who are anxious to do their "bit" to help their country, and to help women, would come forward and rally round us at this time. Last Thursday evening a Helpers' Meeting was held, at which Miss Eunice Murray explained more fully the true aim of the Organisation, and the various ways in which those willing to help could be of the greatest service. A number gave in their names as "Helpers," but more are needed to make the work efficacious. Volunteers for all branches of our work are asked to give or send their names to the hon. secretary of the Organisation 70, St George's Road, Glasgow, and to indicate in which of the following ways they are willing to help:—

1. Canvassing, 2. Newspaper or Journal searching, 3. Poster Parading, 4. Making Window Posters, 5. Writing articles on the work of the Organisation for the VOTE, 6. Subscribing and raising subscriptions. The following paragraph from the *Glasgow Herald* is of interest:—

"An addition of an interesting character has been made to the Glasgow Police establishment by the appointment of Miss Emily Miller for special work, particularly in connection with cases of assault upon girls and women. The Glasgow Vigilance Association has from time to time urged upon the police authorities the desirability of such an appointment, and recently it has been under the consideration of the Magistrates. The matter was laid before the Secretary for Scotland, who approved of the proposal. This is the first official appointment of the kind in Scotland. Miss Miller has

The Fashion for Petticoats.

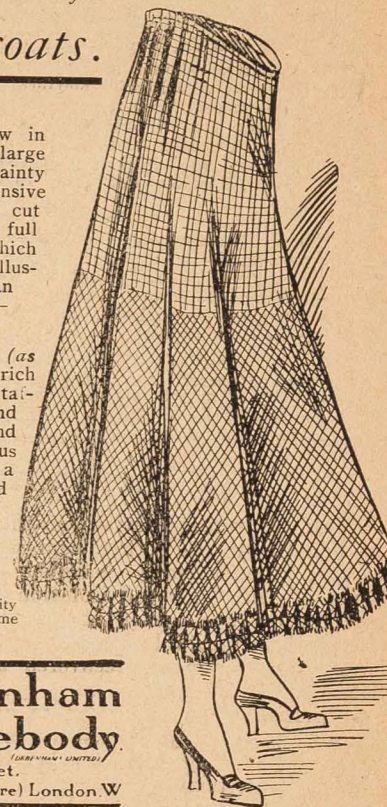
We have now in stock a very large variety of dainty and inexpensive Petticoats, all cut in the new full shape, of which the garment illustrated is an example:—

Petticoat, (as sketch), in rich quality chiffon taffeta in black and white checks and stripes, in various sizes. Also a few navy and white.

Price 15/9

Also in plain quality taffeta at the same price.

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street,
(Cavendish Square) London W.



been an active worker in connection with the Vigilance Association, and has an extensive experience of duties such as those in which she will now be especially engaged."

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS Work at Nine Elms.

Next month will see the varied activities resumed at Nine Elms under the direction of Mrs. Tippett, who has been devoting much of her well-earned holiday to raising funds and help of various kinds for the work of the coming winter. The Vegetarian Restaurant, the Guest House, the Children's Play Club, and a Milk Depot for nursing mothers and their babies will soon be at work, and there will be plenty of scope for generous givers and enthusiastic workers. Jumble sales and public meetings have raised £12 towards the rent of the house (£23) at 1, Everett-street, and £6 for the milk depot, but further help of every kind in this needed service will be warmly appreciated.

GOOD WISHES TO MISS TROTT.

Miss Katherine Trott's many friends in the Women's Freedom League will be interested to hear that she has been appointed to St. George's Hospital, Malta, under the St. John Ambulance Voluntary Aid Detachment. She has arrived at her destination, and writes enthusiastically of her new work and surroundings. She wishes to be kept in touch with suffrage work by having THE VOTE sent to her each week, and in expressing our good wishes for her success in this new work we know she will keep the suffrage flag flying wherever she is.

A PENNY A DAY.

Many thanks to our members and friends who are busy putting by their extra penny a day for 100 days, to swell this year's Birthday Fund.

This is a way in which all can help during the holidays, and I should be glad of many more names to add to my list. E. KNIGHT.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, Sept. 24th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
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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.

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"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents
and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

IN JEOPARDY.

Of all the representatives of the electorate and the hereditary and other representatives of the peerage, the recently enobled Lord Parmoor stands out, in "splendid isolation," as a man who cares for the abstraction of Liberty. His protest against the illimitable tyranny of the Defence of the Realm enactments recovered and secured for British subjects—and for those pariahs of legislation, British women married to aliens—the right to claim trial by jury instead of court martial. He is now turning his attention to another grave encroachment, trials *in camera*—a procedure which the House of Lords itself declared, only a short time ago, to be illegal, unconstitutional, and in entire opposition to British ideas of justice and decency. Public trial, and trial by jury, are, therefore, two of the elemental foundations of our liberties which have suffered attack and injury in the rush of panic legislation considered necessary to protect the country from a foe who in thirteen months of war has not contrived to deal so much as one smashing blow at the integrity of the British Dominions. Other attacks have followed in the wake of these, and the National Registration, and the Aliens Restriction Amendment Acts of 1915 should give Lords Parmoor and Courtney, and other champions of the people's constitutional rights, much food for thought and for deep misgiving.

We should like, before touching on these, to allude to Lord Buckmaster's curt and craven retort to Lord Parmoor when the matter was brought up by the latter in the House of Lords on the re-assembling of Parliament. Lord Parmoor was discourteously informed that even greater attacks on the public liberties would be made, in view of the grave danger the country ran—presumably in the matter of spies. If Lord Buckmaster really meant what he said, the retort is so obvious that one wonders how an astute lawyer could lay himself open to it, and another not seize the opportunity offered. If the danger is so great that British people must be stripped of their liberties, why did the Government dally so long with the alien question and leave so much liberty to persons not British? Either the Lord Chancellor is "talking through his hat," or he has taken a seat in a Government of incompetent persons, who have placed the country in danger. We suspect him more probably to be seeking excuses for betraying the trust placed in him as a representative of the people. This is being done so widely that apparently the people concerned do not care enough about liberty to resent it, or are too much

the prey of panic or hysterical sensationalism to heed, and will awake to their loss too late to save their liberty. It is an ominous sign that many publicists who are set on securing compulsory service—a perfectly laudable and proper object if they are convinced it is necessary—are striving to confuse issues, and to belittle liberty itself as a thing of small account, although it is the thing that the nation is making such desperate sacrifices to secure and safeguard. It is a curious position to take up, that to support a principle one must forswear it, to save a possession one must cast it away and renounce all chance of enjoying it oneself! The argument that the nation has no real freedom and that the "voluntary system" is a myth because we have compulsory education and compulsory taxation, is very quaint. We should have imagined that any mind could have grasped the idea that the less compulsion—not the more—the better and the freer.

A feature of the new legislation is the extraordinary powers which have been granted to persons who in normal times had only the most limited authority. Under the National Registration Act in operation, every manner of casual volunteer worker (whose character and antecedents no one attempted to enquire into) was entitled to access to the private affairs of the nation, and was even allowed to open and become acquainted with closed envelopes addressed to the registration officials. This was pretty drastic, and will probably give rise to a crop of scandals as time goes on; but it is not all. Town clerks and others can, by a clause in the Act, order the attendance of any person at any time or place, for such cause as may seem good to them, and may inflict penalties for non-compliance. When it is considered that "persons" in this Act means children of 15, boys and girls, who may be thus summoned by all sorts of strange new authorities without the knowledge or consent of their parents, it will be patent what a power for evil has been established—all, or nearly all, of these officials being, moreover, of the male sex. The power is nearly as dangerous from the point of view of employees, who may be arbitrarily ordered to absent themselves from work to attend these unconstitutional tribunals.

The Act also requires persons when registered to report all changes of address to these new custodians of the public rights. Furthermore, under the Aliens Restriction Amendment Act, which enjoins on all keepers of hotels, boarding-houses, lodgings, etc., the duty of keeping a register of aliens, the police have so interpreted—or misinterpreted—the Act that, as it is now enforced, a register of British subjects is also kept, for which the Act gives no authority. British persons as well as aliens have to "fill in forms," and are threatened with penalties if they refuse, whenever they leave their homes for a temporary abode. It is time indeed that Lord Parmoor raised his protest against these encroachments, which will leave a serious stain on our otherwise high-minded conduct of the war.

Women should be the first to protest, the last to submit, to these violations of rights and liberties. It is no patriotic service, at this or any other time—rather the reverse, to let slip that which has been gained with so much pain and struggle. Women have not the excuse that they are so deeply engaged in warfare that they have not time to attend to other matters. It is their clear and bounden duty to hold fast to what has been won, or to protest vehemently against its withdrawal, while their fellow-countrymen, engaged in a life and death struggle, are being robbed of their birthright by disingenuous and intriguing politicians.

C. NINA BOYLE.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Woman Suffrage at the International Congress of Nurses, San Francisco.

Miss Beatrice Kent, a well-known member of the Women's Freedom League, who went to America last May to represent the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland at the Triennial Meeting of the International Council at San Francisco, is contributing to the *British Journal of Nursing*, which she also represents, a series of most interesting articles on her experiences. The International gathering synchronised with the great exhibition commemorating the opening of the Panama Canal, and it was anticipated that there would be a record gathering of trained nurses from all parts of the world; the war has sadly diminished numbers—seeing that so many are required on active service—but not enthusiasm, and the key-note of the conference has been a demand for efficiency in the education of nurses and a high standard of efficiency in work.

Miss Kent tells, in one of her articles from San Francisco, that during a session of the National League of Nursing Education "the president readily granted permission to Miss Charlotte Anita Whitney, of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, to address the meeting on that very important subject. The women of California enjoy State Suffrage, but the speaker, in a few words, urged the necessity for the fuller and wider political freedom for women, namely, federal suffrage. Here was another pleasing and interesting example of the American women not being satisfied with half measures, they must have full measures of opportunities when the well-being of their country is concerned. Miss Whitney proposed the amendment to the National Constitution, known as the 'Susan B. Anthony Amendment.' This was carried unanimously by the members present."

After the congress Miss Kent left San Francisco on a round of visits to relatives and friends, and she may be sure of a warm welcome on her return to England from her many friends and fellow-workers. Miss Kent has Miss A. E. Hulme as her travelling companion, also an ardent suffragist and worker for the recognition of trained nurses by State Registration; Miss Hulme was the bearer of a message of greeting from the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland to the International gathering. Among those who anticipate with eagerness the return of Miss Kent and Miss Hulme are all the workers at the "Despard Arms."

Serbian Gratitude to British Women.

An interesting account appears in *Wings*, the organ of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, of the work of Mrs. Hankin Hardy, who, after arduous months in Serbia amid scenes of indelible suffering and difficulty, has now returned to England with a warrant from the Serbian Headquarters Staff, to make known here the conditions of Serbia. She has been appointed president of the National League of Serbian Women in Kragujevatz, and the Serbian Minister of the Interior has written to thank her personally "for your noble efforts to help us in our distress. There is reason," he adds, "for the deep gratitude and indebtedness we feel toward the British nation. . . . Tell the women of Britain that our admiration and gratitude will last for ever." The Serbian Government has not only decorated Mrs. Hardy, but also her husband, for allowing her to go to their aid. She says the Serbians are as the English soldiers a hundred years ago, before a Florence Nightingale came to their aid. She hopes to return to Serbia with help of every description.

Russian Women at Work.

The *Freeman's Journal*, Dublin, calls attention to the striking adaptability of Russian women in spheres of work formerly regarded as close preserves by men. It says:—"It was in the great shipbuilding yards of Nikolaev that female labour was first employed in producing the munitions of war. There came the woman sailor. A large number of shipowners on the Volga have, owing to the scarcity of men, been compelled to employ women, who are said to have proved themselves capable of all ordinary deck and even engine-room work. They are paid exactly the same wages as the men, so that one of the objections to the employment of women, that it would tend to reduce the scale of wages, has been removed."

Women and Men's Jobs.

Women in Germany are now being employed as ironworkers. Satisfactory experiments in that direction have been carried out in the great works of the Deutsch-Luxemburgische Mining and Furnace Co., Ltd., at Differdingen, Luxemburg, one of the largest concerns in the German iron trade. The company is so swamped with war orders and so short-handed in consequence of loss of men called up for military service that women were set to work at the hardest jobs hitherto filled by men. They are now rendering efficient service in the slag mills and blast furnaces which ordinarily require men of great endurance. The women work on the same shifts as men and receive the same pay, ranging from 4s. 6d. to 5s. a day. Only in respect of not being equal to overtime is the women's wage-earning capacity different from that of male artisans. Other ironworks, encouraged by results at Differdingen, are also installing women in mills and foundries.

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. As the following Article deals with a question of peculiar importance, the Editor specially invites discussion.

ON JOINING PEACE SOCIETIES.

Thousands of women who a year ago had never given the subject of peace or war more than a passing thought have been forced by events to reconsider their attitude. To those of them who feel that it is desirable to join a Peace Society, the following considerations are addressed. Suffragists who wish to enrol themselves as being openly on the side of peace have certainly the right to do so as individuals; and judging from the propagandist literature that fills the air (and the waste-paper basket) like autumn leaves, very strenuous efforts are being made to obtain suffragists as members. Naturally, for everyone knows their intense sincerity and great driving power.

But no suffragist should join any Peace Society without applying to it certain tests—unless, of course, she joins with the definite intention of working from within for the alteration of what she thinks to be wrong.

It appears to the writer that no suffragist should join a society which—

- Proposes the nationalisation of armaments.
- Is composed both of men and of women.
- Has a programme drawn up on a national rather than an international basis.

This article will deal with only the first point, the nationalisation of armaments. The societies which propose to nationalise armaments do so because they desire to take the chance of making profits from armaments out of private hands, and thus remove a temptation towards the fomenting of war. The evil is so readily comprehensible that one is tempted to acquiesce far too readily in the suggested remedy—nationalisation. But if we truly desire peace, we shall scrutinise remedies at least as carefully as we can the evils. Let us imagine the remedy in action, i.e., every nation providing its armaments as a nation. Obviously, some nations cannot as yet manufacture armaments easily for reasons of climate, mineral productions and labour. If every nation has to make its own armaments, we shall see Haiti, Denmark and Siam introducing a new and deadly industry, where it never existed before. Can it be seriously contended that such a step is one towards universal peace? And how, if it be impossible for such countries to manufacture ships and cannon? They must buy them. From whom? And here a problem bristling with intricacies arises. If some must buy, others must sell. It will be a highly complicated question to decide which nations may and which may not undertake the nationalised "traffic in arms," of which the Hague Congress resolution so glibly speaks. The old difficulty of the forcible detention of ordered armaments in time of war will still be with us as much as ever it was.

But worse, far worse, than these very real practical difficulties of nationalising armaments, a great moral question arises. If the sale of armaments is to be made by the nation as a whole, then the nation as a whole—which means every man and woman in it—is engaged in selling weapons of war. Any woman who would refuse on moral grounds to step into Baroness Krupp von Bohlen's shoes should much more refuse to step into the position of being a shareholder in a national armaments concern. For

Your fraction of the sin

Of the office that you're in

Is the sin that's going to damn you, after all.

Baroness Krupp has presumably some power over her vast concern—some voice as to rates of profit, conditions of sale and treatment of the workers. *Unenfranchised women would have none.*

But, it may be argued (and quite sincerely, too), no one proposes to nationalise armaments for the sake of having such an industry going in the country. People propose nationalisation for the sake of getting rid of the industry gradually. Let us drag the ghastly monster of this industry into the open that we may destroy it. Plausible enough. But how will those suffragists who have defended—nay, asked—the Government to set up the evil trade of making steel weapons to destroy men's bodies object to the same Government making all arrangements for the traffic in those deadly instruments of the flesh which destroy the race? We know that private profit is made out of armaments. Nationalise them. We know that private profit is made out of the traffic in women. Shall we nationalise that? Shall we acquiesce in that state of things coming here which Tolstoi in his "Kreutzer Sonata" describes for Russia with such vitriolic pen? "My friends seemed really to think that there was gallantry and daring in such conduct. As for danger of illness, all this is seen to beforehand by the Government."

Nothing can alter the moral aspect of the case. It can never be right to nationalise a thing evil in itself—infanticide, brigandage or the traffic in women may all give private profit. That does not say that the taking of the profit by the State makes these actions in themselves legitimate. Acquiescence in nationalisation for the sake of abolition is doing evil that good may come. Moreover, the good coming is a highly uncertain ending. When a large number of voters are entrenched in the secure snugness of a nationalised industry, it will be a difficult thing to entice men to vote for their own industrial abolition. It will be all the harder to do so because after the war there will be a great depression in industry, and the nation will be glad of any chance to make money nationally, and so lower the taxes. But the extra money thus left in our pockets would be the price of our brothers' blood.

What, then, should be the armaments policy of the society that a thinking woman should join—or, alternatively, should strive to obtain in her own society, and if she fail, leave it?

It should be the only logical policy—the entire abolition of armaments throughout the world. Nothing short of that can be any permanent good. Too visionary? Not practical politics?

Let such questioners take as a warning the marriage policy laid down by Mahomet, the practical politician, and compare it with that of Christ, the Great Visionary. Mahomet made the advance from polygamy to four wives. Christ laid down the ideal from polygamy to perfect monogamy. We have not attained to His ideal, although Mahomet's was attained in a few years, but we have been infinitely blessed in the attempt and are now far above Mahometan nations in sex questions. Practical politics is merely the mercury in the barometer, rising and falling with the political temperature, and arriving nowhere ultimately. The perfect ideal is as the river which, though slow and winding, eventually attains to the bosom of the deep.

HELENA NORMANTON.

WHERE TO GO FOR GOOD IDEAS.

Small wonder that the window display of autumn goods at Messrs. T. W. Thompson's, Tottenham Court Road, is attracting special attention. Good ideas abound. Each window shows a complete autumn outfit and accessories in charming and artistic colours. The effect is realised at a glance and the only difficulty is which colour to choose. Those who are wise will lose no time in reaching a decision; they may be sure of good value for money.

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THE WAR BUDGET.

The Woman pays! The War Budget emphasises this fact. Upon her will fall the burden of making the family income, or her own earnings, meet the new heavy taxes direct and indirect. She is the Chancellor of the Home Exchequer and will have to feed the family in spite of high prices of food and she will be the first to suffer from the serious advance on tea. Upon woman is devolving more and more the work of keeping the industry of the country going—to meet the cost of the war. With millions of men engaged in the fighting services abroad and the industrial war services at home, woman must now be the earning as well as the spending sex. She must work and she must pay. Yet in the management of the nation, which is the larger home, she has no voice. She is regarded as irresponsible except in paying and shouldering national responsibilities. She is classed with criminals and idiots when it comes to choosing the "nation's" representatives in Parliament. The War and the War Budget drive home the imperative need of votes for women.

Important.

Mrs. Ayres Purdie, expert in money matters, investments, etc., will write for next week's issue an article on Mr. McKenna's Budget, with special reference to the way women will be affected.

Brockwell Park and Clapham Common.

A very good meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning when Miss Eunice Murray was the speaker. She dealt with the present "crisis" in the Cabinet, and showed how untrustworthy such Ministers are, and how necessary it is that women should have the vote, for their own protection and in order that they may be able to call such men to account. Miss Murray also had an excellent meeting on Clapham Common last Sunday evening. She and Miss Spriggs (chairwoman) explained why the Women's Freedom League felt it was so necessary, especially at the present time, to press for Woman Suffrage.

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



Saturday, September 25.—"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road (near London Temperance Hospital), House-Warming, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Mrs. Despard will speak. Admission by "Pound Gift."

Sunday, September 26.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 28.—"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road (near London Temperance Hospital), Public Opening by Mrs. Despard, 8 p.m.

DARE TO BE FREE

Wednesday, September 29.—EAST LONDON, Branch Meeting, 56, Gore-road, South Hackney, 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 30.—LONDON BRANCHES, Council Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Monday, October 4.—CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 6.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

Friday, October 8.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Wednesday, October 13.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "My Experiences as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded"; Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

Thursday, October 14.—MID-LONDON BRANCH, Meeting. Business: Instructions to Conference Delegate. 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, October 16.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart Street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 10 a.m.

Sunday, October 17.—Reception to Conference Delegates at Headquarters, 3.30 p.m.

Monday, October 18.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 17, The Crescent, New Southgate, 7.30 p.m. Report of Conference.

IN SYMPATHY.

The members of the Clapham Branch and her other friends in the Women's Freedom League desire to express their sincere sympathy with Miss Winifred St. Clair on the loss of her elder sister. It has come as a heavy blow, following so soon on the death of her mother last winter.

A REMINDER.

Mrs. Ayres Purdie, of the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway, W.C., writes to the Editor of THE VOTE as follows regarding "earned incomes":

MADAM,—At present the normal rate of income tax is 2s. 6d. in the £, or the one-eighth part of one's income. Where the income is "earned," this rate may be reduced to 1s. 6d. in the £, which means a saving of 40 per cent. In order, however, to secure this valuable relief, a formal claim must be lodged before September 30, as on this day the right to such relief automatically lapses. From long

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experience, I have found that many women earners ignore or even destroy the income tax forms which they receive, instead of giving them careful attention. When they subsequently find they are charged with income tax at the full rate, as the inevitable consequence of their neglect to fill up and return these papers, they are inclined to feel aggrieved.

May I, therefore, offer this reminder in the interests of busy professional or business women, who may have put their income tax forms on one side and forgotten them? As I have, within the last few days, found a medical woman under the impression that the tax on earned incomes was still 9d. in the £, it is probable that similar misapprehension regarding the present state of the income tax exists among other women.

BRANCH NOTES.

Anfield.

Members of the Branch have fully entered upon the work of the coming season. Miss Scott presided over our monthly meeting which was held on September 17. Resolutions to be placed before the annual Conference were read and discussed. We then had the pleasure of hearing Miss Davey speak on "The Child and the State." A most instructive discussion followed. Three new members were enrolled.

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

We begin our afternoon meetings on Friday, October 8, when Miss Boyle has kindly promised to speak on "Panic Legislation." Will members and friends please note this announcement? Time of meeting, as usual, 3.30 p.m. At our next committee meeting we expect to fix the date for re-starting the socials for wives of sailors and soldiers. Members who live at a distance, and cannot therefore give personal service in this and other National Aid Corps activities, would greatly help by sending special donations, or regular monthly contributions.

Kensington.

A Branch meeting will be held in the members' room at Headquarters on Monday, September 27, at 7.30 p.m. The Birthday Fund is now £14 6s.

Liverpool.

Members of the Women's Freedom League, the Women's Social and Political Union, and the United Suffragists, met at the Clarion Café on Tuesday, September 14. The meeting took the form of a musical evening in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Cousins, who sail for India on September 25. Short speeches conveying the good wishes of those present to the guests were made by Mrs. Shaw (W.F.L.), Dr. Alice Ker (W.S.P.U.), and Mr. Bernard (U.S.). A gold watch wristlet was presented to Mrs. Cousins as a token of the love and esteem in which she is held by all Liverpool suffragists. In her reply Mrs. Cousins said she knew she would find work in India, and that work would lie among the Indian women. Musical selections given by Mrs. Cousins, and a reading by Mr. Cousins of some of his later poems, changed the entertainers into the entertained. Auld Lang Syne brought a most enjoyable evening to a close, and we can only wish our friends "God speed" in their new home and work.

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Amount previously acknowledged	1,109	7	11
<i>Special Emergency War Fund.</i> —			
“A Friend”	£1	5	0
Mrs. Clanchy		2	0
Miss Hurry		1	0
Bowes Park Branch		6	0
Clapham Branch		7	0
East London Branch		1	2 8
Middlesbrough Branch		1	10 0
	4	13	8
Mrs. Tudor		10	0
Miss A. E. Tennant (for Removing)		3	6
Mrs. Hyde		2	0
Profit on THE VOTE, per Miss Barrs		4	0
Office Sales	4	4	11
<i>Branches. Capitation Fees.</i> —			
Brighton and Hove		6	0
Chester	1	2	0
Dundee	1	0	0
Dunfermline		11	0
Manchester		12	0
Middlesbrough		15	0
Regent's Park			6
Stamford Hill and Tottenham		13	0
Swansea	2	0	0
<i>Branch Funds. January to June.</i> —			
Anfield	£4	11	3
Cardiff	20	16	5
Clapham	10	15	9
Dundee	11	16	1
Hampstead	5	8	0
Highbury			1 0
Waterloo	3	16	3
	57	4	9

£1,183 10 3

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

British Women's Hospital.

The Actresses' Franchise League is organising British Women's Hospitals in France and at home. Lady Forbes Robertson is president of the scheme, and she has a strong advisory committee working with her. An important meeting, dealing with the subject will be held at His Majesty's Theatre (kindly lent by Sir Herbert Tree) on October 1st. A poster parade, to advertise the meeting, will take place on Saturday, October 25th, starting from Scotland House, Embankment, S.W., at 3 p.m.

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Our unfailing friend, Mr. Harrison Hill, who has recently returned from a tour of the base camps and hospitals in France as a member of one of Miss Lena Ashwell's concert parties, expects to reach London from Scotland in time to sing at the House Warming on Saturday, September 25, 7.30 to 10 p.m., and Miss Julie Huntsman will once again lend her welcome aid by reciting during the evening. Mrs. Despard and others interested in the scheme will be present, and all friends are invited to come and inspect the new premises and their possibilities of usefulness. No tickets are necessary; admission will be by a “Pound Gift”—in money or in kind, say, sugar, tea, cake, cheese, etc.

The public opening will be on Tuesday, September 28, 7.30 to 10 p.m., when Mrs. Despard will speak on the objects of the enterprise. “Pound Gifts” will again be welcome. There will be a musical programme. The “Despard Arms” will be open every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Hot dinners (6d. and upwards) will be served from 12 to 2 o'clock: tea, coffee, light refreshments, soup, etc., in the afternoon and evening. Gifts of furniture and other necessaries, such as carpets, rugs, cooking utensils, knives, forks, etc., for the restaurant, club rooms, bed rooms, will be greatly appreciated, and may be sent to 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. The “Despard Arms” is five minutes' walk from Maple's, Tottenham Court-road, and nearly opposite the London Temperance Hospital. Motor buses 24, 27, 29, and L.C.C. trams pass the door. Nearest stations: Warren-street, Euston, Mornington-crescent, on the Hampstead Tube, and Euston-square on the Underground Railway.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION.

Silver spoons and other goods distrained from Miss Raleigh, of Park-road, Uxbridge, for non-payment of a fine imposed at Stratford-on-Avon because she refused to fill up information on a registration form, were sold on September 16 at Mr. Ruse's auction mart, St. Andrew's, Uxbridge. By permission of the auctioneer, Miss Raleigh made a short protest against the compelling of women, who had no control over Parliament, to reveal particulars of their private affairs, such as whether they were married or not, how old they were—which, if correctly stated, often meant that a working girl or woman would lose her post. Miss Raleigh reminded those present that the older suffragists were working for the liberties of women younger than themselves and especially those who were dependent upon their own earnings.

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