

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.
 Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 45.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 1915.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S.:

Miss N. L. Smyth,
 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Jan. 23rd, 3 p.m.—Poster Parade starting from 1 Robert Street, Adelphi.
 Sunday, Jan. 24th, at 8 p.m.—Joint Demonstration, Trafalgar Square—(see displayed announcements).
 Monday, Jan. 25th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall.—Mrs. Walker.
 8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freeman's Road.—Mrs. Walker.
 8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates.—Mr. Bark.
 8.30 p.m.—Lesbia Rd.—Mrs. Bouvier.
 Tuesday, Jan. 26th, 8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd.—Mr. Mewitt.
 8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Mrs. Walshe.
 Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Miss Holmes.
 8 p.m.—Bow, Ford Road.—Mrs. Walker.
 Thursday, Jan. 28th, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Member's Debate.
 8 p.m.—Bow Obelisk.—Mrs. Walker.
 8 p.m.—24 Barking Rd.—Miss S. Pankhurst, Mr. S. Franklin.
 8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow Choir Practice.
 Friday, Jan. 29th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall.—Miss Barry.
 8 p.m.—Canning Town—Beckton Rd.—Miss Barry.
 8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Davies.
 Sunday, Jan. 31st, 3 p.m.—Hyde Park (Marble Arch)—Mrs. Drake, Miss M. Wright.
 8 p.m.—Women's Hall—Miss S. Pankhurst, Mr. E. Duval, Mrs. Schlette.

FUTURE FIXTURES.

Thursday, Feb. 4th—West Hampstead Town Hall—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck (in the Chair) and others.
 Friday, Feb. 5th—Old Kent Road Baths—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

POPULAR SUFFRAGE CLUB.

A club is to be opened at 20 Railway St., Poplar, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7—10 p.m., for the use of members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes and their friends. Members of the E.L.F.S. admitted free. Subscription for non-members of E.L.F.S., 1d. per month. Newspapers, games, music. Refreshments at moderate prices. Suffrage meeting every Tuesday at 8. Opening night, Friday, Jan. 29th, when Miss Sylvia Pankhurst will speak.

OUR COST-PRICE RESTAURANTS

The Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, and 20 Railway Street, Poplar, and the soup centre at 53 St. Leonard Street, Bromley, are proving a great success, and are much appreciated in the districts which they serve. The 2d. charged for a two-course meal (children 1d.) covers the cost of the food, but not that of fuel and service. Financial support is, therefore, needed for this branch of our work, which assists without "pauperising" those who have been hard hit by the War. Gifts of vegetables are also much appreciated.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

FOR BABY.

Four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

FOR MOTHER.

Two nightgowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

Our milk bill increases weekly. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of—

EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT, COD LIVER OIL AND MALT.

Dr. Jukes will attend at 400 Old Ford Rd. at 2.30 p.m. on Mondays beginning January 4th, and at 53 St. Leonard St., Thursdays at 2.30 beginning January 7th.

Dr. Royle attends 20 Railway St., Poplar, Monday, 3 to 5 p.m.

Will you send us some money for the babies' milk.

GREAT JOINT DEMONSTRATION

IN
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,
 SUNDAY, JANUARY 24th, 1914.

Speakers:

SYLVIA PANKHURST, GEORGE LANSBURY,
 Mrs. HUNTER, (a Soldier's wife.)
 BEN TILLET, H. W. NEVINSON, Mrs. DRAKE,
 Mrs. WALKER Miss NINA BOYLE
 Mrs. AYRTON GOULD.



OUR WAX-HEADED DOLL.

SUPPORT HOME INDUSTRIES.

There is much talk nowadays of "stealing the German trade," of developing our home industries, and of the refusal evermore to accept goods marked with the legend: "Made in Germany." It is improbable that the hatred of the one people towards the other will be sustained so as to bar out German goods for a lengthened period. Even to-day one may buy dolls marked "English made," and turning up the hair may see them marked at the back of the neck in plain letters: "Made in Germany."

But it would be greatly to the advantage of our own people to make more of the things we use. The practice of a skilled craft or trade plays an important part in the development of character, and the higher wages paid to those who do skilled work help to raise our national standard of living. It is most important that we should not allow any substantial proportion of our people to be engaged merely in transporting and selling, or adding minor accessories to other countries' manufactures.

In considering the introduction of any industry which is new to this country, such as doll and toy making, or any other, it must be remembered that it is impossible for the newcomers, at least for a time, to turn goods out as cheaply as those are able, who for generations have been experienced in the work. Even more vital to success it is that we should not expect our own people to produce precisely the same kind of wares as those to which we have been accustomed from Germany. English dolls, English toys, or any other English goods, should bear their national characteristics clearly impressed upon them, and surely English people should learn to appreciate them specially for these. To expect

a slavish imitation of German goods is to make impossible anything but an industry inferior to the German industry, just as a copy never equals the original. To expect English manufactures to be like German is to crush out the enthusiasm and spontaneity of the English workers. Would that we might have more of these precious qualities in ordinary work-a-day life!

Miss Edith Downing, an English sculptor, has modelled a charming set of doll's head and limbs, which is being made of china and wax, with stuffed body by the workers in the toy factory started by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes. This doll is entirely English in manufacture, and its appearance is essentially so. It is more childish than the foreign dolls to which we have been accustomed. It costs 5s. with china head and limbs, 4s. with wax head and limbs, and painted eyes. Wholesale prices may be obtained on application to the E.L.F.S., at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. This is but one of the interesting dolls and toys now being produced by East London workers, under the auspices of the E.L.F.S. The effort which is being made to establish the industry in East London is an important one, for the district has been hitherto too largely given up as a hopeless region of the sweated and unskilled. For some time to come the industry cannot be self-supporting. New ideas are being developed, new processes introduced. The workers have to be taught the rudiments of their trade. But the Federation is determined to pay fair wages, in order to give the workers a chance to give of their best in developing the industry, which will be run, as soon as it pays its way, as a co-operative concern.

Generous financial help is urgently needed, in order that the industry

may not be unduly fettered, and that proper attention may be given to the careful preparation of samples for use in the spring trade.

Please buy a doll, or toy, or garment from us, and send a subscription to help us to pay the heavy initial expenses, which every new business is bound to incur. We have started with no other capital than the helpful enthusiastic generosity of our friends. On these things we rely.

WOMEN AND THE WAR.

A MEETING IN

WEST HAMPSTEAD TOWN HALL,
 BROADHURST GARDENS.
 (Close to W. Hampstead and West End Lane Stations).
 By kind permission of Mr. Randall.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, AT 8 P.M.

Speakers.

H. W. NEVINSON, Esq.: Life and the War.
 Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST:
 War and the Women's Movement.
 Miss PENN GASKELL: The Enemy in our Midst.
 Miss EVELYN SHARP:
 Atrocities of War and Peace.

CHAIR - Mrs. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK.

TICKETS: 2/6, 1/-, and 6d., from Mrs. Penn Gaskell, 310 High-rd., Kilburn, & Miss Batson, 178 Finchley-rd., N.W. The proceeds will be devoted to work for the poor in the East End and in N.-W. London.

MORE BLOOD MONEY.

WEST HAM GUARDIANS CASES THIS WAY.

There were three bored old gentlemen on the high Bench at the Beacontree Petty Sessions: a bored young clerk sitting in the centre of the court beneath them; and a number of policemen and other officials standing about.

A sharp, sly-faced man, with a sardonic smile and a sheaf of papers in his hands—Mr. Chamberlain, who was prosecuting on behalf of the West Ham Guardians—stood in the witness box. An ill-clad workman, with the marks of his toil upon him, was in the box for the debtors, opposite.

"He says he can pay 30s. this morning," Mr. Chamberlain announced, giving no details of the workman's income and expenditure.

"More blood money," said the workman, as he handed the 30s. over. "Don't say that," one of the old gentlemen protested, nervously, "you ought to think it an honour to support your father."

"I've seven to keep, sir," said the workman and turning to Mr. Chamberlain, "30s. and no more; that leaves 10s. between us to get through the week."

The other cases were taken in quick succession, and for the most part Mr. Chamberlain managed everything, whilst the bored old gentlemen on the Bench boredly assented to what he wished, and the young clerk occasionally jogged them on.

"I am asking for a committal in this case," said Mr. Chamberlain, briefly reciting the essentials against an absent defendant.

"He's paid some of it off," said one of the old gentlemen.

"We've had a lot of trouble with this case," said the clerk.

"Sixteen shillings still owing," said Mr. Chamberlain.

"Only 16s.; then he's paid a good bit of it off," said another old gentleman.

"It's three months since it began," said Mr. Chamberlain, "it's been going on too long."

"Anything up to six weeks, sir," said the young clerk, growing impatient.

"Twenty-one days," said the old gentleman in the centre, who was chairman, and the most bored of the three.

A young man, whose mother had been in the lunatic asylum for ten years, and who helped to keep his

(Continued on page 184, col. 2.)

FLORENCE CANNING MEMORIAL.

The friends who knew and appreciated her work for the Cause are raising a memorial to perpetuate the name of Florence Canning, which is to take the form of the endowment of a cot, or provision of some necessary apparatus, in the Women's Hospital for Children, Harrow Road.

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

Name.....
Address.....
I enclose 1s. 4d. for a year's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

The Woman's Dreadnought. Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, 321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Agents:—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adm. St. Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Mark's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

HOW TO KEEP THE PRICES DOWN.

The rise in food and fuel prices and especially in the price of bread is causing consternation in millions of homes. Here in East London we live, most of us, always at a lower level than we ought to do to maintain men, women and children in vigorous health.

Only a few of us die of actual starvation, but we become enfeebled. We cannot resist the cold. We have not the power to surmount our grief and our anxiety—and how many of us have no cause for grief and anxiety in these War days?

The separation allowances were inadequate when they were decided, but the perpetual rise in food prices has reduced the value considerably. Consider the following family budgets—

Table with columns: DECEMBER, NOW. Rows: Rent, Bread, Tea, Sugar, Margarine, Milk, Glaxo, Coals, Coke, Wood, Insurance, Meat, Gas, Draper, Soap, Vegetables.

Total £1 13 8 1 16 4. In December, therefore, Mrs. B. had an average weekly deficit of 3s. 9d.

Another woman, Mrs. O., who has five children, and is expecting another this month, gets 27s. 6d.

Table with columns: DECEMBER, NOW. Rows: Rent, Bread, Firing, Gas, Meat, Drapery, Vegetables, Margarine, Insurance, Tea, Milk, Soap.

Total £1 9 3 1 11 3. The weekly deficit in December was 2s. 7d.

What is to happen to the women widowed through this War, if the Government's proposed scale of pensions is enforced?

Table with columns: s, d. Rows: 8 lbs. of Sugar, 1 lb. Tea, 2 1/2 lbs. of Margarine, 2 tins Condensed Milk, Soap.

Table with columns: s, d. Rows: 8 lbs. of Sugar, 1 lb. Tea, 2 1/2 lbs. Margarine, 2 tins Condensed Milk, Soap.

Table with columns: BEFORE THE WAR, NOW, s, d. Rows: Best Rst. Beef, Butter, Fresh Caviar, Eggs, One Good Turkey, One Good Hen.

These figures tell their own tale, they show that the rise in prices do

not mean that the working woman merely forgoes a new hat or trims and presses her well-worn skirt to make it last another year. She does these things, but in addition she is reluctantly compelled to make her family go short of necessities which are vital to their health.

When War first broke out and the prices of food and other necessities rose to panic height, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes called upon the Government to take control of the food supplies and to take into consultation the working women of the country.

In Liverpool, dockers were paid 5s. a day, 8s. a night, before the War, when they were agitating for a rise in wages, they still get the same.

There is no shortage in our supplies. On the contrary, a Times special correspondent states that "there has never been such a stream of imports to the Thames."

The same paper makes clear the sinister fact that consumers are not merely forced to pay the increased price that was paid for carrying the wheat they are buying.

All the other commodities are rising likewise, though we learn that there is an actual shortage nowhere. The papers make great play with the statement that in Berlin the cost of living had risen in November by 20 1/2 per cent.

But if in England and Germany prices have gone up since the War they have gone down in Russia. Here is a list of prices given by the Manchester Guardian—

BEFORE THE WAR. NOW. s. d. s. d. Best Rst. Beef, per lb. 0 8 0 5 1/2 Butter, per lb. 0 10 0 7 Fresh Caviar, per lb. 16 0 6 0 Eggs, per ten 0 9 0 5 One Good Turkey 7 0 4 0 One Good Hen 2 0 1 6

work that our warships cannot be spared to protect the East Coast towns. The result of the Fleet's vigilance is that the maximum marine insurance for war risks on British vessels is only £1 1s. per cent.

It is not, therefore, the increased cost of insurance that has sent the freight charges up to the 400 per cent. which the Manchester Guardian says they have reached on some routes.

Prices fell sharply after the first panic, but they have been rising steadily ever since.

What is the reason of it? Not that the dockers get higher wages. They are paid the same 8d. an hour and 1s. overtime that they got before the War.

The Manchester Guardian declares that there is "no moral justification" at all for the "monopoly profit" which is being "wring" by the shipowner from the consumer.

People are sent to prison for taking bread when they are hungry, but those who cause very large numbers of people to need bread are never short of champions eager to protect their interests.

But many are calling upon the Government to take drastic action, and for our part we consider it to be the Nation's duty to assume entire control of the shipping industry at this time of national crisis.

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At least, it is not by any means altogether dependent on freight charges. Our Government cannot prevent the gambling that is taking place in the Chicago wheat pit, or in any foreign market, and we as everyone knows, are largely dependent upon America, both for meat and grain.

A LETTER FROM A WELSH SOLDIER TO HIS WIFE.

My Dear Wife—I am now taking the pleasure of answering your most kind and welcome letter, and I was very thankful for the tobacco, for we can't get it up here—this out of the way place.

Dear, I hope this War won't last long, for I am quite sick of it. They don't do right towards wives at all. It is the same with everyone just up here. Everybody is saying the same, but we shall soon see what is wrong my love.

What a business it would be to nationalize every shop! "people say. True, but there are other ways of arranging matters. The Government could fix the retail prices of all the main necessities to be sold in the shops—and these prices should be not higher than normal—also the price that the shopkeeper must pay to the wholesaler, leaving him a fixed profit to pay the rent of his shop and other expenses and to enable him to live.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST? The 25 per cent rise in the cost of living since last July has been so far recognised by the Government, that they have increased the "willing allowance" for soldiers.

ROBBING THE DESTITUTE! A large consignment of flour, cheese, tinned salmon and potatoes has been sent as a gift to the Mother Country by Canada, British Columbia, and other British Dominions.

HELP US TO RAISE MORE FUNDS! Rising prices make our Relief Work more urgent. We are therefore organising, in addition to our East End collecting days, a city and West End collecting day on February 17th from early morning until late at night.

By mistake last week the gift from the B. D. W. S. U. was put down as £5 instead of £10 10s.

RACE INTERESTS.

"Life and Law," a recently-published book, by Dr. Maude Glasgow, an American woman doctor, gives both an interesting survey on sex relations throughout plant and animal life, and a strong indictment of human sex relations as at present tolerated in the civilised world.

The remarks on the determination of sex have special interest at this time. The author's argument is that nature, in consideration of the "supreme biological importance" of the female, secures for that sex the most favourable conditions of birth.

After surveying the laws which regulate sex relations throughout the animal world, the author turns to the topsy-turvy attitude of men and women. Nature's objects of race preservation and improvement have been overlooked and thwarted.

Why not indeed? It is a question which we have long been asking, and when will the widowed mother cease to be treated as though her poverty were a crime, and the welfare of her children of no importance to the State?

Women's failure to "enforce consideration," she argues, is responsible for the rise of that double standard of morality for men and women, which has entailed such an incalculable amount of evil in every civilised community.

Dr. Glasgow answers that question herself indirectly, as well as many harder ones, when she says—"A glance backwards at the history of the world shows us that the happiness and well-being of any class has, in large part, been measured by the power of that class to enforce consideration."

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Dr. Glasgow, in common with every other doctor who has given the matter unbiased study, makes short work of the "physiological necessity" argument, which is brought forward to excuse man's lack of continence.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST?

The 25 per cent rise in the cost of living since last July has been so far recognised by the Government, that they have increased the "willing allowance" for soldiers, but the allowance for the wives and children remains the same.

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HELP US TO RAISE MORE FUNDS! Rising prices make our Relief Work more urgent. We are therefore organising, in addition to our East End collecting days, a city and West End collecting day on February 17th from early morning until late at night.

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MORE MILK.

The heavy cost of keeping up our Milk for Mothers and Babies, our Restaurants and all our other relief work, is causing us great anxiety. We are therefore arranging for two EAST LONDON RELIEF DAYS in the East End, on the first Saturday and first Sunday in February, i.e. February the 6th and 7th.

is simply brute force, and the power to enforce compliance with outrages against nature." Everyone knows that for these outrages nature avenges herself by inflicting the most ravaging diseases on those who violate her laws.

The diseases of the scarlet woman are the diseases of those from whom she receives her living, and her patrons are more dangerous than she to the general public: in the first place, because they are far more numerous than the prostitutes, and just as diseased; and, secondly, for the reason that the public woman lives apart from decent society, and must be sought in her haunts, while the environment of the scarlet man is our own, and as he refuses to wear his flaming badge externally, he cannot always be avoided.

The later chapters of Dr. Glasgow's book treat of commercialised vice in some of its peculiarly American aspects, but her general conclusions are valid for this country. The lines on which the "social evil" can best be combated are the same everywhere, and the education of public opinion takes the first place.

Before a man can obtain a marriage permit in the State of California (where by the way, women have won the vote) "he must present a health certificate showing that he is free from venereal disease." In another Votes for Women State—Washington—"applicants for the right to marry must first be passed upon by three reputable physicians, appointed in each county by a probate judge, and must . . . prove their freedom from disease that would injuriously affect the marriage relation."

This shows that men and women are forced to live up to the same moral standards when women make the laws, and for the future of the race it is essential that they should do so. E. D. S.

Dr. Glasgow, in common with every other doctor who has given the matter unbiased study, makes short work of the "physiological necessity" argument, which is brought forward to excuse man's lack of continence. "The basis of the physiological necessity," she says,

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

Organiser: MISS MANTON, 321 Roman Rd. The members' meeting will again be held on Monday instead of Friday, owing to the Public Meeting at the Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road, taking place on January 22.

Every member should come and bring numbers of friends to the Trafalgar Square Demonstration on Sunday, January 24. Miss Fankhurst is also speaking at the Bow Baths Hall on Sunday evening next.

Names are coming in for collecting on Milk Days, but many more are needed. Volunteers are still wanted to help with the stall in Roman Road, Fridays and Saturdays.

Many thanks to members who sold papers in Hyde Park last Sunday; other sellers will be needed in Hyde Park every alternate Sunday. Thanks also to those who took part in very successful Poster Parade at Southgate Road last Saturday. Members wishing to join the Poster Parade this Saturday (Jan. 23), either to parade or sell papers, will meet at 3 p.m. at the Women's Freedom League Offices, 1 Robert Street, Adelphi (near Charing Cross).

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Jan. 16th. Bow 218.

Distributed—Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Harnsworth, 50; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100. Mrs. Knudson, 175.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.

Organiser: MRS. DRAKE.

Our usual Tuesday evening meeting did not take place owing to our Poplar Town Hall meeting. We held two fine dinner-hour meetings outside Dock Gates and Morton's, Millwall, and a good meeting in Chrisp Street, on Wednesday evening. The people are beginning to realise that there is a war at home as well as abroad—a war of high prices on food. At the Friday afternoon meeting, three new members were made. The monthly subscriptions are now due. The minimum fee is 1d. a month. Should members care to pay more, we shall be pleased to receive it. Twenty-four Poplar members have already paid their subscriptions. Members who are very busy please realise that we are also very busy and try to come along with your subs to prove that "actions speak louder than words." We are making a new register of members and if you have changed your address please notify us.

Mrs. Burgess is going to canvass with the paper, Arcadia Street and Sabbarton Street regularly. More volunteers please, for this work and also for Milk Collection, which takes place on 6th and 7th February. This collection is more important—for our "East End Babies"—than the Prince of Wales's fund. Many thanks to the friends who gave money, toys, garments and cakes, who provided the entertainment and who acted as stewards at our Poplar Children's Party.

Dreadnoughts distributed by Mrs. Schlette and helpers 1,000. Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Burgess and others.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—14 Butchers' Road.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY PARSONS, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

Good meeting held at "Peacock," Mr. Mewett and Miss Figgis gave interesting speeches. Members felt greatly interested in Mrs. Schlette's speech on Thursday and hope she will soon come again. All local members who are helping with Children's Party as stewards, policemen, etc., are asked to get to the Public Hall on Saturday, as soon after 2 p.m. as possible, as their tea must be got over first. Members are asked not to send children until 4 o'clock, as the doors will not be opened and they must not stand about.

All are thanked who have visited members and distributed Party tickets and who have otherwise helped with local work. Remember the collecting days, February 6th & 7th.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

NORTH LONDON M.F.U.

Hon. Sec.—MR. H. G. EVERETT, 19 St. Thomas Road, Finsbury Park.

Will all members please note that we are changing our official address. All correspondence should (pro. tem.) be sent to the above address.

Our New Year's Social was a big success. We hope to hold a big public meeting in North London shortly, and also another Social. Particulars announced later.

The Secretary specially urges all members to rally in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, at the great Demonstration.

OUR POPLAR CLUB

FOR SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES AND OTHER FRIENDS.

For this club we want a piano, some easy chairs, games, books, papers, and other things to make the place bright and comfortable. A piano is needed very much for our Poplar centre in any case, because of the choir, which has to meet at a friend's house at present and this is not always convenient.

Sir Norman Hill has stated that Liverpool dockers can now make £4 to £5 weekly, but Mr. James Sexton, General Secretary of the National Union of Dock Labourers, points out that the rates actually paid are 8s. a day, and 8s. a night, and that a man would have to work every day and night in the week—a physical impossibility—to earn £3 18s. No, it is not the dockers' wives who are making money out of the rise in prices!

"We simply did not dare disregard the woman's wishes. It would have meant the political graveyard if we had."—A member of the Oregon State Legislature, for whose members women now vote.

(Continued from front page.)

father and other relatives, was made to pay 2s. 6d. a week towards his mother's keep, and told that his duty was to support his parents before he thought of getting married. When he explained that for five months out of the year he earned 27s., instead of 30s., as Mr. Chamberlain had alleged, he was brow-beaten and told that his objection was not a question. Little or no attention was paid to his statement of expenditure.

Two dejected brothers were called up in respect of their mother's maintenance. Mr. Chamberlain said: "They agree to pay 1s. 6d. a week each—can't ask for more because we're only giving her 3s."

The old gentlemen boredly accepted that. They did not ask a single detail as to the two men's income and expenditure. They did not ask whether their mother had anything but the 3s. a week from the West Ham Guardians to exist on, or whether the brothers could afford to pay a sum large enough to keep their mother in reasonable comfort. Whether even this paltry 1s. 6d. a week each might be beyond the brothers' means, the old gentlemen on the Bench knew not—nor cared; they left it all to Mr. Chamberlain!

The last case was that of a woman who was left a widow, with four dependent children, and has had a hard struggle to maintain them. She is at present employed in one of the West Ham Corporation lavatories, and is paid £1 1s. a week. One boy is now working, and gives his mother 11s. a week. The second boy gives his mother 6s. 6d., of which she gives him back 3s. 6d. for his lunch, and the rest of his money goes mostly in boots and clothes. The youngest boy is 13 and still at school. The eldest of the children is a girl aged 21, who is subject to fits, not able to do anything to maintain herself, and not mentally stable enough to be left, either to go out or to remain in the house alone. Thus it is impossible for the mother, who has to earn her living, to have her daughter at home, and for some years the girl has been in the care of the West Ham Guardians. The Guardians recently ordered the woman to pay 1s. a week towards her daughter's keep. The woman protested that she could not afford this, whereupon the Guardians replied by demanding 3s. a week.

The woman is very delicate. Her heart has been seriously strained by years of over-work. She looked very ill that morning at the Petty Sessions. Her face was ashen white and her lips blue. She belongs to the Salvation Army, and two of the officers—a man and a woman—had come to the court with her. As they had been waiting in the entrance hall for the West Ham Guardians' cases to come on, Mr. Chamberlain had come bustling out to them, and had said: "As the Salvation Army is trying to make arrangements to take the girl, the case can be adjourned for a month, but if she stays with us you'll have to pay."

"It is too early to assume that. The case has not yet been decided by the court," an outsider had intervened, Mr. Chamberlain had smiled contemptuously, saying: "There is no doubt she will have to pay." When one had been present at the hearing of the cases one realised that his presumption had been well founded.

When the feeble-minded girl's mother stood in the debtor's box, Mr. Chamberlain took his usual high-handed way: "The woman is trying to make arrangements to get her taken out so we are prepared to adjourn the case for a month."

One of the bored, old gentlemen tried to throw off a shade of his boredom.

"If we adjourn it now, you'll do your best to get this child into a home?" he said.

"She's not a child, sir, she's 21 years of age!" the woman answered. He grunted, as though to say: "Spare me these details, please," but she went on: "I can't afford to pay anything whichever way it goes."

"Well, if you can't afford to pay,

it's all the more reason you should get her taken out," he interrupted pettishly, waving her aside.

But why should the maintenance of a feeble-minded girl be made a charge on the funds of a private charity, rather than on those of the public institutions set up by the State, for which we all pay? The guinea a week which the West Ham Council pays this woman is all too small to maintain her and the dependent schoolboy, and to supplement the earnings of the second boy. The elder youth's earnings are not more than enough to keep himself. Either the Council should raise her wages, or the Guardians should agree to forego their "blood money." If both authorities refuse to be reasonable, and the Salvation Army is unable to come to the rescue, it is probable that the delicate mother, who has heroically struggled for years to bring up her children, will soon be, herself, a charge upon the rates, for the extra strain of paying that 3s. a week will be more than she can stand. The thirteen years' old schoolboy will then also have to be kept by the Guardians. Should the mother somehow manage to keep the home together, she and the three boys, who inherit poor constitutions from both sides, and from their father's people a tendency to insanity, must go without a portion of the food that they actually need. They have less nourishment than they should have now.

But the old gentlemen on the Bench at the Petty Sessions do not think of these things. They leave all the thinking to sardonic Mr. Chamberlain, who is much too eagerly desirous of winning his cases to consider anything beside. In each of these West Ham Guardians' cases the defendants were made to pay what was demanded by Mr. Chamberlain, and in addition 10s. or so was charged against them in costs. Much of the "blood money" thus raked in from those who cannot afford to spare it is spent on the salaries of those who take part in the odiously unproductive work of getting it.

What a horribly wasteful system!

When are we going to get it changed? And cannot we make those sleepy old gentlemen on the Bench at Great Eastern Road, Stratford, realise that they have important duties to perform?

TO SWEATED WOMEN.

The Trade Boards Act, which gives the Local Government Board power to set up Boards for fixing minimum wages, applies to the following trades:

- 1—Ready-made and wholesale bespoke tailoring.
 - 2—Box making in paper, cardboard, chip or similar material.
 - 3—Machine-made lace and net.
 - 4—Hammered and drolled or tumbled chain making.
 - 5—Sugar (confectionery and food preserving).
 - 6—Shirt making.
 - 7—Hollow-ware making (including the making of tin vases and canisters).
 - 8—Linen and cotton embroidery.
- Women who work in any of these trades or on any Government contract work should communicate with us if they are paid at sweated rates!

Speaking at Blackburn last week Sir Edwin Hamer, the leader of the Liberal party in the town, said that he believed the War would help women's suffrage more than anything which had taken place since the movement was started. If the women of the country continued to sacrifice themselves in the interests of the Empire as they were doing to-day, he believed the country without much more ado would give them the Vote.

This is very interesting. We wish we knew what "without much more ado" really means and whether it means that we shall get the Vote this session.

We have always been told that Votes for Women could not be settled because it was not a Party question. Now that all the questions dealt with by Parliament are supposed to be non-party, this should be an ideal moment for giving us the Vote.

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Engines (wooden). From 2d. each.	
Wooden Horses. From 2d. each.	
Horse and Cart	1s.
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Wheelbarrows. From 1s. 6d. each.	

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

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Miss Sharp wishes to thank friends who sent Wool for Children's Balls. Many Balls have been made.

Now that high prices are increasing distress around us, we need subscriptions most urgently in order that we may continue to supply milk to the necessitous babies whose mothers are looking to us for help, and soup and meals, either free or at a low price.

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