

THE VOTE
May 28, 1915
ONE PENNY

NATIONAL SERVICE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAY 28, 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.

THE NATIONAL CABINET: OUR LOSSES AND GAINS.
AT HEADQUARTERS.
HAPPINESS AND THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT.
OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

NATIONAL SERVICE. *C. Nina Boyle.*
OUR OPEN COLUMN: LIBERTY v. LICENCE.
Helena Normanton, B.A.
W.F.L. EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

THE NATIONAL CABINET.

The personnel of the New Cabinet was announced late last Tuesday night as follows:—

| | Coalition Cabinet. | Late Liberal Cabinet. |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Prime Minister | Mr. Asquith | Mr. Asquith. |
| Minister without portfolio | Lord Lansdowne | |
| Lord Chancellor | Sir S. Buckmaster | Lord Haldane. |
| President of Council | Lord Crewe | Lord Beauchamp. |
| Lord Privy Seal | Lord Curzon | Lord Crewe. |
| Chancellor of the Exchequer | Mr. McKenna | Mr. Lloyd George. |
| Home Secretary | Sir J. Simon | Mr. McKenna. |
| Foreign Minister | Sir E. Grey | Sir E. Grey. |
| Colonial Minister | Mr. Bonar Law | Mr. Harcourt. |
| India Office | Mr. Chamberlain | Lord Crewe. |
| War Office | Lord Kitchener | Lord Kitchener. |
| Minister of Munitions (new) | Mr. Lloyd George | |
| Admiralty | Mr. Balfour | Mr. Churchill. |
| Board of Trade | Mr. Runciman | Mr. Runciman. |
| Local Government Board | Mr. Long | Mr. H. Samuel. |
| Duchy of Lancaster | Mr. Churchill | Hon. E. Montagu. |
| Irish Secretary | Mr. Birrell | Mr. Birrell. |
| Scottish Office | Mr. McKinnon Wood | Mr. McKinnon Wood. |
| Agriculture | Lord Selborne | Lord Lucas. |
| Works Office | Mr. Harcourt | Lord Emmott. |
| Education Board | Mr. A. Henderson | Mr. J. A. Pease. |
| Attorney General | Sir E. Carson | Sir John Simon. |

Mr. McKinnon Wood, Mr. Runciman, Mr. A. Henderson, Lord Selborne, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Bonar Law.—12.

ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS:—Mr. Asquith, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Curzon, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Harcourt, and Sir E. Carson.—9.

UNDECLARED:—Lord Kitchener.

In the late Liberal Cabinet there was a Suffrage majority of four. In the Coalition Cabinet the majority is one less. The loss of Lord Haldane is serious, but there is compensation in the entry of Lord Selborne. Lord Curzon, as President of the Society for opposing Woman Suffrage, will strengthen the Antis in the Cabinet. It will be noted that the Home Office has now a Suffragist at its head, and the women will look to him to bring understanding and sympathy to the duty which will devolve upon him of dealing with their interests and status. Mr. Arthur Henderson, leader of the Labour Party, which has definitely declared for Woman Suffrage, should prove a strong addition to the Suffrage forces in the Cabinet.

One point stands out with regard to the re-constructed Cabinet: the insistent demand of the various political parties for representation. Never has its importance been more clearly demonstrated. But no Cabinet can be truly national which leaves unrepresented the larger half of the nation. No woman has been appointed to a new or an existing position at a time when women as well as men are required to do national service. The Government has lost a remarkable opportunity for strengthening its appeal to women by giving one of them a position of national responsibility.

As Suffragists, we sum up our gains and losses. Of the retiring eight Liberals, Lord Haldane, Earl Beauchamp, Lord Emmott, and Mr. E. S. Montagu were Suffragists. Of the eight Unionists who take their places, Mr. Balfour, Mr. Bonar Law, and Lord Selborne are Suffragists.

The result in the New Cabinet is as follows:—
SUFFRAGISTS:—Sir Edward Grey, Sir John Simon, Sir S. Buckmaster, Lord Crewe, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Birrell,

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.
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Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Change of Premises.

The lease of our office at 1, Robert-street, expires next month, and the Committee has decided that we shall remove to 144, High Holborn, a more public thoroughfare, where the Women's Freedom League can be more prominently advertised and become more widely known. As soon as we get settled in our new quarters we shall have a "house warming," to which our members will be cordially invited, and they will thus have an early opportunity of inspecting the League's new home.

Change of Meeting Place.

Will readers kindly note that our Wednesday afternoon meetings will in future be held at the FABIAN HALL, 25, TOTHILL STREET, WESTMINSTER (close to St. James's Park Station District Railway) and that next Wednesday Mrs. Fenwick Miller will speak there on "Women and Economising"? Mrs. Mustard will be the other speaker, the chair being taken by Miss F. A. Underwood at 3.30. We hope our readers will rally to our support and will see to it that the Fabian Hall is full next Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Fenwick Miller is one of the oldest members of the Women's Freedom League, was a member of the London School Board, and editor of the *Woman's Signal*, which was such a splendid advocate of the Woman's Cause more than twenty years ago. The following Wednesday the speaker will be Mrs. Zangwill, on "Arms and the Woman."

Women's Freedom League Flower Day.

We want many more volunteers for flower selling in London, Saturday, June 19, and we appeal for promises of flowers. Will those who are willing to help us in either of these ways kindly send particulars of what they are prepared to do to the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.?

Miss Boyle's Scottish Tour.

This week Miss Boyle is in Scotland visiting our Branches in Edinburgh, Dundee, Dunfermline and Glasgow, and we wish our Scottish members every success in the work they have planned for her.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN LIBERALS IN CONFERENCE.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation at the Caxton Hall last week, Lady Aberconway proposed from the chair a declaratory resolution expressing the unalterable adherence of the Federation to the principles of Woman Suffrage, but no discussion upon it was permitted. Other subjects dealt with were the organisation of women's work during the war, the need for the co-operation of women in securing efficient arrangements in feeding the soldiers in camps and barracks at home, the provision of better meeting places than the public-house [the "Despard Arms" scheme, in fact], maternity centres and infant welfare, child labour, women police, British Nationality and the Status of Aliens Act.

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Wear your Badge. Never go out without it!

HAPPINESS AND THE WOMAN MOVEMENT.*

Mons. Finot has written a useful book, a necessary book, a book which every woman in the movement can read with pleasure and profit. It is not written from the feminist standpoint, although Mons. Finot has in other works rendered the cause great service; it deals with a simple and sane philosophy of life, the reasons why we can and why we cannot be happy, the duty of happiness, the need for high aims. I cannot imagine a woman working in the greatest of all movements for the uplift of humanity reading this volume carefully without rising confirmed in her faith, resolute to proceed, as ready to dare and to suffer as she has been during the last nine years. A few superficial commentators, mostly cheap journalists, have remarked that since the war they hear nothing of woman suffrage. They have not grasped the true inwardness of the woman movement, the grit, courage, conscience and determination which distinguish it. Suffragists claim to be patriots; "Who dies if England lives?" Certainly not the Suffragist. England needs her, and the best, the truest and most patriotic part of England realises the fact.

Mons. Finot holds that we were born to be happy, that pessimism is a malady of the youthful mind, that the longer we live and the more we reflect, we are driven to the conclusion that happiness is a right, misery and pessimism a bad mental habit that needs to be sloughed off, another and wiser one acquired. Henceforward it must be taught to our young people that they may wander as short a time as possible in the jungle pessimistic. Of all school subjects or University faculties, it is most important; ere long we shall see it raised to the proud place that all will concede it. Our author examines the ancients and condemns them for their almost universal chorus of misery, whether in morals or religion. Buddhism expresses a limitless pessimism; the hell of the Christian religion has probably laid hold of the popular imagination far more than the joy it undoubtedly inculcates. Plutarch, Pliny, Homer, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius, and Lucretius are all quoted to prove their sombre views of life and living. Amongst moderns whose works show them disgusted with life we find Bossuet, Racine, Corneille, Musset, de Vigny, Taine, Flaubert, Maupassant, Goncourt, Zola, and a host of others. R. L. Stevenson, Shelley, and Carlyle frankly declared that we are never intended to be happy.

But optimists have existed from all time, and Mons. Finot holds that they are right and pessimists and its upholders wrong. Plato, to some extent Aristotle, were optimists, deeply imbued with the joy of living; Giordano Bruno, Spinoza, Leibnitz, and Sully Prudhomme must be ranked with them. Moreover men who were pessimists in their callow youth, like Goethe and Schopenhauer, lived through the stage and confessed that in their old age they were happy. It remains true for all time that happiness is within us; we are the authors of our happiness and our grief:

"Whoever succeeds in subordinating his happiness to the state of his mind, creates for himself an inviolable refuge, an impregnable fortress, a just, kind and trustworthy master."

Yes, but what is happiness? It is evident that many greedy contractors have found it in squeezing and defrauding the present Government; we all know perfectly well that the happiness of some people is incompatible with the wellbeing of the

"THE SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS," by JEAN FINOT. Crowned by French Academy. Translated by Mary Safford. Putnams. 7s. 6d. net.

community. Trite as it sounds, happiness must be for all, and the failure to recognise this is the taproot of human misery. Finot examines the family, the rôle of love, the autocracy of the father, patriotism, the beneficent effect of activity on our personal happiness. According to him, the society of the future will chiefly "benefit the numerous wealthy persons who are the unfortunate victims of their indolence."

For a right ideal of happiness we need an acquaintance with what the best human beings have thought on the subject. It is not sacrifice or abnegation which has created human civilisation, and women would do well to take note of this. Happiness *must* be based on the happiness of the community; it may be truthfully said that women as a sex are just becoming alive to this truth. They have drunk pretty deeply of the chalice of sacrifice. To change the metaphor, they realise that on this altar the race itself may be sacrificed.

"This discovery shows us and explains the supreme duty of our life; no one has a right to enjoy the benefits, which he owes to the labour of others, without contributing his share, in proportion to his means, to their happiness and their safety. Thus we have duties to the family, the community, to the fatherland and to the human race."

In the past, woman has stopped pretty early in this enumeration of duties. It is not too much to say that her position in civilised society, that civilisation itself depends on her enlarged conception of duty, on her realisation of the wider ideal. Just here the right conception of virtue and happiness comes in. *Whoever does evil is a person who who does not know good. The unhappy man is he who is ignorant how to obtain happiness.*"

Finot examines our chances of progress, the possibility of our attaining individual happiness based on collective happiness. Undoubtedly, evolution will lead us one day to such a height that moral conduct will be instinctive. New currents are at work; they will transform us, much as geological aeons have transformed the face of the globe. "Man's purified conscience is opposed to unjust spoliations committed to the detriment of his brothers. . . . Sociology only raises our hopes. . . . Our dignity is ascending step by step as well as our sentiments of justice and of truth. There is more joy and sympathy on our planet. . . . Meanwhile half the human race, namely the women, are profiting by more equity. From the rank of slaves of man, or of inferior beings, we behold them elevated to the levels of his equals. The State is multiplying its duties and performing them in a more satisfactory manner. It is becoming reconciled to the principle of equality. It is more attentive to the voice of Justice. It is urging, in any case, a more and more equitable distribution of burdens and of duties."

It has often been said that Suffragists are the happiest people in the world. The reason is obvious: they are urging and impelling the State along a path it is none too willing to tread. All honour to the men and women whose mental powers place them among the seers, and to those whose deeds and sufferings are the seal of their deepest conviction. They have the best right to that heraldic device of an ancient Norman family: *Je maintiendrai.*

C. S. BREMNER.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Last Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Tanner, presiding over a well-attended meeting of the Women's Freedom League, said that women must hold together now more than ever before; they must keep aloft the banner of womanhood and humanity, for women were the givers of life and the guardians of civilisation. Women detested war in the abstract for all the waste of life and the brutality which it involved, but they realised that we were now fighting an evil spirit which had taken possession of Germany, the



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spirit of lust of power and domination. It was a war against the ethics which women held; she hoped that women's would be heard in the settlement, and after the settlement, and she knew it would be on the side of a lasting peace.

Mr. Lansbury, who followed, said that when we had to resort to reprisals we were apparently on a slippery slope which might land us anywhere; we were letting loose everything to which we seemed to be anchored, and he urged women to make their voices heard at the earliest possible moment to secure peace on lasting terms. The duty of non-combatants was not to accentuate bitterness but to keep it down as far as possible, and so pave the way for the future when we should once more be at peace with each other. Mr. Lansbury deplored the recent outrages in the East End, and wished to remind the Press of this country that it was a very dangerous experiment to encourage mob rule. We could not overcome evil by fostering hatred and doing wrong, but by putting good in its place. In the present terrible tragedy women were bearing their full share of the burden, and whether they were British, German, Belgian, French or Polish, their sorrow and suffering could not be calculated. In England, the problem of women in the industrial world was a difficult one before the war; it had increased in difficulty ever since. Women were filling men's places at cheaper rates than men, and after the war, when things became more normal, employers would not be likely to sack women to take on men at higher wages. Mr. Lansbury urged every Suffragist to get records of the wages paid wherever women were employed, and to do their best to keep up an agitation of equal pay for equal work for men and women alike. Women should exert every possible effort to get included by the Government in its new franchise laws now under consideration. Every problem which was with us before the outbreak of the war was with us now. Evil had not been expelled from our country and assaults were still committed by men on little children. There must be more indignation about these matters if we were to keep our faith in the sanctity of human life.

Miss Boyle declared that the present political situation had crumpled up. We had a Party Press which was disgracing itself, and the tyranny exercised by the Press was becoming intolerable. She ridiculed the advice it continually poured forth to women that they were to do "their shopping as usual," their "visiting as usual," that they were "not to talk about the war," and proposed extraordinary methods by which they could economise.

Will readers please note that next Wednesday afternoon our meeting will be held at the Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-street, Westminster, at 3.30?

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, May 28th, 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.

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NATIONAL SERVICE.

The political millenium which our Parliament and Press promised us at the beginning of the war has not run its prophesied course. Women, who have become inured to the sneers and jibes that from time immemorial have hailed their supposed inability to work together without quarrelling, must be surveying the object-lesson in patriotic harmony now being given us by our leading public servants, with some amusement, tempered by dismay. It would seem, after all, that there is a tendency to quarrel even among men; and at the most serious moments, when such quarrels appear not only unseemly but dangerous. Highly placed gentlemen, we are told, "won't play" with other highly placed gentlemen; certain gentlemen who professed to have no desire but to see the Government through the present crisis find they cannot give effect to that desire unless they share the privileges of office; party leaders are being seriously harassed in the matter of sharing out the billets; the question of shrapnel *versus* high explosive shell has sunk into the background before the greater problem of picking partners for the new game. It is not an inspiring sight, nor one of the episodes in our history to which Britons of the future will look back with pride. The triumph of personalities over patriotism has been rather too marked; party politics, far from being laid on the shelf, appear to have merely broken out in a fresh place. We do not envy Mr. Asquith the task of guiding his new team. If he could not keep harmony in an all Liberal Cabinet, we do not know how he will manage in one that is mixed!

Putting aside, with contempt, the elements of personal rancour and party Press intrigue which have led to the present situation, it may be useful to see how far it is possible to probe the other factors with which, when more official information is vouchsafed us, we may find ourselves called upon to deal. We hardly regard it as probable that an old party campaigner of the experience and ingenuity of Mr. Asquith would have allowed himself to be stamped by one or two quarrelsome retainers, or by the fulminations of a hostile Press. The Prime Minister has never hesitated to administer snubs, and even flat contradiction in the most public manner, to his colleagues in the Cabinet when they waxed bumptious; nor, to do him justice has he ever quailed before the most vehement opposition and abuse. It is, therefore, open to us to infer that some deeper and stronger reason than any we know of yet has induced him to divest his party of the sole responsibility for the conduct of the war, to

distribute the burden so that part of it rest on the shoulders of the Opposition, and to go back with such startling suddenness on the position he took up in regard to a Coalition Government only a few short days before the announcement of his present intention was made. In guessing at this deeper and stronger reason, we are led to the suggestion that what the people of this country are going to be asked to accept is some comprehensive scheme of national service.

Mr. Asquith, in his answer to Mr. Snowdon, in the House of Commons, definitely repudiated the "imputation" that the only war service which the Government would recognise was military service. Work in armaments factories, in army clothing factories, in hospitals, in coal mines, railways, or other necessary public services, is evidently, where men are concerned, to be included in war service; and it must be remembered that the Board of Trade's appeal to women volunteers, for work was uncompromisingly registered as "war service." Thus, then, we are faced with the great fact that to co-ordinate and organise the national forces into any form of national service, voluntary or compulsory, the work of women must be reckoned with. What it behoves women to discover is in what relation they will henceforward stand to the State which cannot dispense with their services; and where does the State intend to draw the line, between services that are "national" and indispensable, and those that are not.

Hitherto, the male representatives of a male electorate have contented themselves with laying down the law in regard to where and how women were *not* to work. If the great scheme of compulsory and co-ordinated national service foreshadowed by certain recent public utterances and portents come to fruition, the position will be that the power of these gentlemen will have been increased to the extent of enabling them to order unrepresented women where and whether they *shall* work. We do not think it possible to exaggerate the supreme importance of this change, if it should come to pass; it will give deeper and more serious effect to the claim for women's enfranchisement, and will more completely justify, if justification were needed, the policy of the Women's Freedom League, that war time was no time for abandoning Suffrage propaganda.

The fact that the deflexion of the robust male population to the battlefield leaves the industrial world in confusion, should shed a little light on the dim chaos in which the anti-Suffragist wanders. If fighting be indeed man's work he plainly cannot do it without supplies. He cannot both fight and produce those supplies; he cannot fight and at the same time maintain the fabric of civilised existence. War on the present gigantic scale, so far from reducing woman to ignominious insignificance, shows her to be the great reserve force of life, energy, labour, and order, without whom there would be little for man to fight for. The call upon her service which it would appear the State may be forced to make will make this fundamental truth very plain. Whether her yoke-fellow will acknowledge it, whether her position will be improved, or the reverse, as the result, is not so evident.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WELCOME TO MADAME AINO MALMBERG.—Madame Malmberg has rendered the Women's Freedom League such good service in many ways that all members will rejoice to hear of her safe arrival in London after her lecturing tour in the United States. It was feared she might have decided to travel by the *Lusitania*, but fortunately her departure was delayed; it goes without saying that she has been warmly welcomed by her many friends.

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.

LIBERTY v. LICENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—The interesting leading article in last week's VOTE touches upon principles so fundamental that they deserve further consideration.

Self-government, it was argued, is better than government, however good, which is external. Few of us will dispute the truth of that. A soul is given to each of us and a lifetime wherein to develop it. Without some power of choice between good and evil, no self-development is possible, and the soul would atrophy from lack of exercise. That is a truism.

The main illustration of last week's argument was the recent Government proposals for dealing with the drink traffic. They were bad politically because they did not proceed from the expressed will of the people; bad spiritually because they would have taken from them their power of choice—to drink or not to drink would no longer be the question. It was further argued that they would be bad practically, some facts relevant to Prohibition States in the U.S.A. being given. (Might one ask Miss Boyle to write a full article on this interesting subject, citing authorities?)

But the main point of the argument seems to me to be the political badness. "It has not been asked for, or desired by the nation. It seems to me that there is as much evidence to the contrary as for this statement. The nation certainly does ask that the Allies shall win this war, although, truly enough, that issue did not present itself when votes were dropped in ballot boxes nearly five years ago. If the Government can do anything to end the war, it presumably has the national mandate to do it. The more passionately we yearn for peace the more passionately must we long for a speedy decision; as British women, we cannot be expected to hope that victory may fall to the other side, be we never so pacifist. Therefore, the quick prosecution and termination of the war is the business of all of us. Granting that there may have been exaggeration about the amount of drinking, no one living, as I do, in the Clyde district could fail to be perturbed at the number of intoxicated men to be seen, both in pre-war times and now. Drunkenness is a dreadful evil in our midst.

Liberty of choice *plus* an educational propaganda was Miss Boyle's remedy. Facing the facts, one realises that these things, however excellent in peace time, are very slow in giving results. Liberty has always been dear to the human race. But it has always been recognised that there is a point when it clashes with the liberty of others and must therefore, in the widest interests of liberty, be restricted. Philosophers at this point interpose their codes of ethics and legislators their codes of laws in order that the liberty of one may not hurt the liberty of all. It is obvious that the liberty of the shell maker to get drunk as and when he chooses endangers the liberty of the soldier in time of war. In time of peace it would be different. The times being so abnormal, it seems to me that it would promote the greater liberty of the many if drink were removed from the few who cannot be trusted with it. I should no more call this Prohibition than I should call taking a box of matches from a child playing near a paraffin barrel an enforcement of darkness. The priceless possession of liberty to drunken ammunition workers seems uncommonly like the priceless chance of a few British defeats in Belgium.

Miss Boyle would probably reply that one cannot prohibit drink to the few without prohibiting it to all. Moreover, she would probably not care to associate the Cause of Woman Suffrage with that of Prohibition. One can understand that. But why, then, associate the Cause of Woman Suffrage with that of the unlimited liberty of getting drunk? Is that not as bad? We began our war policy by taking up the cause of the Woman Prostitute at Cardiff and elsewhere. Miss Boyle would be the first, I know, to attack prostitution as an institution. At Cardiff we could at least claim that we wanted to help such women on the grounds that they were women, and therefore objects of our solicitude. But I frankly say we cannot be too careful about the light in which we present our policy to the public and to appear to encourage heavy drinking (among men too!) just now for the sake of liberty or anything else, will make people wonder what our policy really is.

With our criticism of the Government, let us ask for something definite. There were, and are, the catering army scandals. We propose that women domestic science teachers should control cooking and catering. The Government has

at least partially adopted our idea by asking for women to instruct soldiers in field cookery. In this question of drink would it not be better to ask the Government to replace the drunken man by a sober woman and transfer his vote to her? [In the case of skilled men workers, no doubt, women novices could not at first do their work; the men would have to be promoted and women come in at the bottom.] Such a policy would at least keep votes for women to the forefront and not put us in the difficulty of supporting either prohibition or uncontrolled drinking.

Why, too, should we not arouse the country on the special claim to a vote of the woman widowed by the war? The Government's legislation for enfranchising soldiers and sailors will soon be along. "Votes for Soldiers' and Sailors' Widows" would be a really popular cry; one, I think, more worthy of our efforts than serving the drink interests by pressing the sacred name of liberty into their Cause. I am not a teetotaler myself, so perhaps I can say without temperance fanaticism that I think it is "Profits as usual, and more so" that the brewers desire—not liberty.—I am, madam, yours very faithfully,

HELENA NORMANTON.

**A sub-committee of the National Executive Committee has already met and has under consideration the whole question of the alteration of the franchise laws foreshadowed by Mr. Asquith.—Ed.

"THE IMPERIAL MOTHER."

A conference on "The Place of the Imperial Mother in Peace and War" will be held, under the auspices of the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, on June 17, at 3 p.m., at the Medical Society's Rooms, 10, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square, W. Opening address by the President, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick.

TOO GOOD TO MISS.

Miss Alix M. Clark has begun again to make her famous Mayonnaise Sauce in aid of the Birthday Fund, and solicits orders until the end of July. Miss Clark will be glad to have weekly orders, which will be despatched promptly. All letters will receive immediate attention. Price 9d. per pot, post free 1s. Address:—11, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs, North Wales.



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BRANCH NOTES.

Anfield (Liverpool).

The annual business meeting was held on May 21. The reports of the hon. sec. and hon. treasurer were read and adopted. The former stated that during the year the membership had exactly doubled. The latter, in spite of the difficulties experienced in working a new Branch at such a period showed a balance of 7s. 7½d. on the right side. The following officers and committee were elected:—Hon. Secretary, Miss Davey; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Maxwell; Committee: Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Davey, Mrs. Dadd, Mrs. Leather, Mrs. McNall and Mrs. Ridgway. It was decided that the June meeting should take the form of a Social, every member being asked to do something—either sing, say, read, pay, or bring a friend. Members and friends were urged to give as generously as possible towards Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. A resolution, proposed by Mrs. Gibson, seconded by Mrs. Ridgway, and unanimously carried, was sent to the City Council urging the members to re-consider their decision in connection with the employment of women as car conductors in Liverpool.

Cardiff.

Owing to the heavy rain on May 17 the attendance suffered at the afternoon meeting at Howard Gardens schoolroom, but those present spent a pleasant afternoon with Mrs. Clark, who gave an address on the position of women at the present time. Mrs. James Robinson was excellent in the chair, and an interesting discussion followed on the work that was being done by women during this present crisis. We are organising another whist drive in order to keep up the funds of the Cardiff Branch of the W.F.L. It will be held on Wednesday, June 2, at the Ruskin Institute, 7.30 prompt. Will members and friends please give as much help as they possibly can towards making it as great a success as the last? Tickets to be obtained from Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road, at 1s. 3d. each. Will members please remember the Branch Meeting at the Welsh Industries on Friday, June 4? We have finance and other business to settle after the public meeting and whist drives and future work to arrange.

Clapham

On May 18 we held a meeting at 15, Clapham Mansions and were delighted to listen to Miss Boyle's address on "Men and Manners." Mrs. Corner took the chair, and Miss Eunice Murray paid us a surprise visit. All present declared that they had a delightful time, and we are looking forward to a very successful Social on Friday evening, June 11, at 15, Clapham Mansions, when Mrs. Despard has promised to attend. Tickets for the Social, which will include music cards and refreshments, can be obtained from the Branch officials, or from the W.F.L. Office, at 1s. each, the entire proceeds to go towards Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Next Sunday afternoon the speaker on Clapham Common will be Mrs. Nevinson, and the chair will be taken by Miss Underwood at 3.15.

East London.

Members are reminded to bring needlework to the next Branch meeting on Monday, May 31, at 6 p.m., at 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow. Come also prepared with suggestions for the Branch banner.

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

The cake and candy sale announced last week has been postponed, and will be held at the shop on June 5, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that Miss Boyle will be present and perform the opening ceremony.

Kensington.

Miss Boyle on one of her free evenings entertained the members, in her own inimitable way, at her flat. We had an enjoyable time, and were loth to leave. A very successful Social was given by Miss Reeves on May 19. The response to the rally being so unanimous, our hostess had the gratification of being compelled to engage a larger hall than was at first contemplated. It was our good fortune to have both Miss Murray and Miss Boyle with us, and their short speeches were much appreciated. Many friends contributed to the excellent musical and dramatic entertainment, and helped in other directions. Miss Reeves has since been requested to "do it again," and hopes to hold another July. Don't forget your hundred pennies.

Middlesbrough.

At a meeting held on May 17, a very fine lecture was given by Mr. Ewart Richardson on the subject of "Hewlett and Masefield: Some Contrasts in Modern Poetry." Miss Winifred M. Jones presided, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the speaker for his excellent literary contribution. On May 18 a number of members met Miss Goddard at the W.F.L. rooms, where Mrs. Walker made a charming hostess, and a discussion on the work of the League took place over an enjoyable cup of tea. Miss Goddard will give an address at the Branch meeting on May 31, when it is hoped every member will make an effort to be present.

Continued on page 627.

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DARE TO BE FREE

Westminster (near St. James's Park District Railway Station), 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Fenwick Miller, on "Women and Economising," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

Thursday, June 3.—CROYDON, Open-air Meeting, Katharine-st., near Town Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. MID-LONDON BRANCH, Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-st., 7 p.m.

Friday, June 4.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL, Whist Drive, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C., 7 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 6.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tippett.

Monday, June 7.—LONDON BRANCHES, Council Meeting, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, 7 p.m.

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

Wednesday, June 9.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, on "Arms and the Woman," and others.

Friday, June 11.—CLAPHAM BRANCH, Conversazione, in aid of Birthday Fund, 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 8 p.m. Short address by Mrs. Despard. Music; Cards; Refreshments. Tickets, 1s. each. HACKNEY, Public Meeting.

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

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

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

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

Saturday, June 19.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Flower Day.

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

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

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

Thursday, July 8.—MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY, Caxton Hall.

"DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., N.W., open every day, 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 29.—INTERNATIONAL DANCES, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 6d. and 3d.

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PROVINCES.

Monday, May 31.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Branch Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Goddard.

Tuesday, June 1.—SALE. Meeting at Mrs. Mills'. Speaker: Miss Broughton.

Monday, June 7.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: The Rev. J. H. Smith, on "Peace and War." LIVERPOOL. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Friday, June 11.—CLUBMOOR, Drawing-room Meeting, at Mrs. Gibson's, Maida-lane, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, June 13.—MANCHESTER, Open-air Demonstration, 3 p.m.

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

Monday, June 14.—BRACKLEY, Co-operative Women's Guild, 7.30 p.m.

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

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

SCOTLAND.

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

MISS BOYLE'S TOUR IN SCOTLAND:—Friday, May 28, DUNDEE. Saturday, May 29, DUNFERMLINE. Wednesday, June 2, GLASGOW.

WALES.

Monday, May 31.—BARRY, Open-air Meeting, King's-sq., 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Barrs and Mrs. Keating-Hill. Chair: Mrs. Taylor.

Wednesday, June 2.—CARDIFF, Whist Drive, Ruskin Institute, St. Mary-st., 7.30 p.m. prompt. Tickets, 1s. 3d. each.

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

OTHER SOCIETIES.

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

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

BRANCH NOTES.

Continued from page 626.

Sale

A Branch meeting was held on May 3 in the Y.W.C.A. rooms. Mrs. Farrow, of the Civic Guild, thanked the members of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps for a large supply of new clothing made during the winter, and distributed by her to poor women and children. The hon. secretary reported a depleted clothing chest, and asked for more garments to fill it. Miss Broughton gave an interesting address on "the League's Work in War Time." As a result of this meeting another was arranged, and took place on May 18 at the house of Mrs. Vaughan, who took the chair. Keen interest and a good attendance encouraged Miss Broughton in her very able address. Five new members and two sympathisers were enrolled at the end of the meeting. Mrs. Mills has kindly placed her house at our disposal on June 1, when it is hoped that Miss Broughton will again be with us.

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MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

The Hampstead Branch tenders its grateful thanks to Mr. Henry Holiday for his repeated courtesy and hospitality in offering his house, Oak Tree House, Branch Hill, Hampstead Heath, on Saturday afternoon, June 19, for their party in honour of their President's birthday, and to raise funds for their contribution to the League's birthday gift. All who have enjoyed the delights of the artist's home and garden will welcome the opportunity to repeat the experience, and others are invited to share the pleasure. There will be an interesting programme—particulars later. Tickets 1s. A Branch meeting to arrange the party and deal with other business will be held at 22, Harley-road (near Swiss Cottage), on Monday, May 31, at 8.15 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Employment Bureau.

The above Bureau is being inaugurated by a member of the W.F.L. in the hope of benefiting gentlewomen by bringing employer and suitable employees into direct communication under methods differing from those used in the ordinary registry offices.

With the exception of a nominal fee of 6d. to cover postage, no FEES will be charged until both parties are

suitably. The exorbitant fees asked in advance of employees, in so many existing bureaux, with their subsequent methods of conducting business, has been a great handicap and deterrent to many poor gentlewomen seeking employment; so that the W.F.L. Employment Bureau anticipates satisfying an urgent and long left want. Its aims are to help lady typists, teachers, lady helps, lady caretakers, etc., to pupils or posts; in fact, to aid all gentlewomen in finding the work they need. There will be a Branch for paying guests, and also for rooms to be let in gentlewomen's houses, so that all privacy can be maintained.

To these ends, an appeal is made to all readers of THE VOTE to co-operate, for unless employers, as well as employees do so, it will be useless to attempt to carry on this work. Therefore, if all those wishing to enter their names on the books will kindly forward all particulars of their wants, enclosing 6d., to the W.F.L. Employment Bureau, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, every endeavour will be made to suit them.

THE FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE protests earnestly against the further brutalisation of war by the use of asphyxiating gases, and trusts that the British Army will not sully its best traditions by the adoption of such an inhuman expedient.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at The Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill-st., Westminster (near St. James's Park Station). Wednesday afternoon, June 2, speakers: Mrs. Fenwick Miller, on "Women and Economic," and Mrs. Mustard.

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