

THE VOTE,  
FEBRUARY 11, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

**FRENCH WAR MINISTER ORDERS  
EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.**

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE**

VOL. XIII. No. 329.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 11, 1916.

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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## POLITICAL NOTES.

### How Government Saves.

"If we can induce the working class to save thirty millions, who can say we have failed?" cries the politician. Can we not persuade the Government to lead the way in saving? It would be more to the point. Here is an example of their methods. A few weeks after the war a factory was taken over by them; the firm was instructed to erect plant for belting; when ready, Government would supply the workers. The plant was installed. Government was notified that all was ready for the workers. Nothing happened. Five months later some officials from the War Office visited the factory, expressed themselves highly delighted with all they saw, but ordered the plant to be removed and other machinery to be put in, as munitions, not belting, had become the pressing need. A few days later a letter arrived from London. It began in the usual way: "Referring to your letter of—, etc., etc., and went on to say, "We now have the men, so work can commence." The firm replied that they had just received orders to remove the plant, and asked what was to be done. "Put it all back again; belting is more important than munitions," so ran the order. It was put back, and eleven months after completion the factory was in use. How much money was wasted over this job? How long did the factory lie idle and unproductive? Who pays? How many chops and lumps of sugar will women have to deny themselves to balance this foolish waste?

### Another Government "Economy."

The Government have decided to shut all public museums and galleries, and it is announced that in accordance with this decision the British

Museum and the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, will shortly be closed to the public. It has been estimated that this saving will pay for three and a-half hours of war. The British Museum was opened in 1759, when we were at war in India, in Europe, and in Canada, and were daily threatened with a French invasion. The authorities of those days considered that the education of the masses was a wiser policy and a better expenditure of money than to deprive them of knowledge and wholesome recreation. "The men who govern us" are less wise to-day. Their decision to save £2,000 a year granted to the Kitchen Department of the House of Commons is a better move, but a tacit admission of bad management in the past.

### And yet Again!—Red Tape This Time.

A short time ago an empty boat belonging to the Admiralty was lying in a perilous condition on the east coast of Scotland. Some soldiers encamped in the vicinity proceeded to the spot prepared to rescue the boat. This, however, could not be done until permission had been obtained from the Admiralty. When permission arrived the boat was a total wreck. It is a good thing that two women, also on the east coast of Scotland, did not have to wait for permission from the authorities before they rescued a drowning child.

### Still Considering.

Owing to the increased cost of living the Government has been asked to increase the old age pension from 5s. per week to 7s. 6d. per week. We are not surprised to hear that, as with the Cabinet salaries, "no decision has yet been reached." The question however, is still "being carefully considered."

**Nurses, Doctors and Chaplains in Military Hospitals.**

In Glasgow, and presumably it is the same in other towns, when a doctor visits a military hospital he receives a substantial sum of money for his services. When a chaplain "puts up a prayer" at a sick soldier's bedside he receives £1 1s. a day. Yet very few doctors or chaplains require to give up their practices to serve their country. They do both, and are paid for both jobs. A nurse, on the contrary, has to give her whole time to her work; if she be fully trained she receives £30 per annum, no matter what her pay was before, or what position she sacrificed to nurse our wounded men. If she be a V.A.D. she receives £20 per annum and 2s. a week for washing. Out of this princely salary she has to expend from £12 to £14 in uniform. For instance, she has to buy 14 aprons at a cost of 5s. each. Why, we ask, are not the doctor and chaplain paid on the same scale as the nurse; or why is the nurse not paid at their scale?

**Women before Munition Tribunals. At Manchester.**

The first woman worker to appeal to the Munitions Tribunal at Manchester, described by her employer as "a strong woman whom we cannot spare," was being paid at the rate of 10s. per week. Her discharge was granted on the ground of illness, "due to her employment." The chairman of the Munitions Court expressed the hope that the applicant would take up other work which would be useful to the country. In the *Manchester Guardian*, Mrs. Julia E. Tomlinson, chairman of the local Women's War Interests Committee, says:—"For women to work at a wage of 10s. per week is of no use to this country; it has merely the disastrous effect of keeping down the standard of living and enabling employers to make illegitimate profits." We agree.

**At Glasgow.**

At the local Munitions Tribunal, held on February 1, at the County Buildings, Glasgow, Maria Deary sought for a clearance certificate from the Victoria Motor and Cycle Company, Ltd., Dennistoun. She said that before the war her wages were at least 18s. per week, but since the firm had started munitions work she had been put upon night work, and her wages were now only 12s. 7d. The firm explained that they did not oppose the application, and stated that the average wages paid were 14s. 6d. The court granted the certificate. Comment is superfluous. Mr. Runciman refused to ensure that women doing Government work should be paid the same wage as men. Mr. Lloyd George was profuse in promises to see that the women workers should have fair play; but his promises are of no greater value than those he has already so liberally showered upon voteless women, and which he never sees his way to fulfil. Unless we have political liberty we can never win economic independence.

**Deputy Medical Officer.**

Dr. Cowen, Poor Law Medical Officer for New Malden, has asked the Kingston-on-Thames Guardians to appoint his sister-in-law, Dr. Lucy Beatrice Harvey, as his deputy during his partner's absence in the R.A.M.C.—at the same salary, we trust.

**Women's Freedom League.**

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*The primary object of the Women's Freedom League is to secure the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as men have it now, or may have it in the future.*

*Since the outbreak of the war it has been more clearly shown than ever before that women's interests can only be safeguarded by women's direct political power, and that without this power their liberties are in constant danger of being curtailed or lost.*

**FIFTY THOUSAND SHILLINGS.**

Immediately on receiving last week's VOTE our kind and generous colleague, Mrs. Snow, started the Fifty Thousand Shilling Fund by sending 500 shillings and very best wishes for our success.

This week's donations also include 200 shillings from Mrs. Murray and 100 from Captain and Mrs. Walter Carey.

Jewels have been given by Mrs. Julia Wood (turquoise necklace) and 100 shillings promised.

Self-Denial Week has already been started by Mrs. Thomson Price, who has sent us the ten shillings that she has arranged to save. This is a very auspicious beginning to the fund, and a strong, united effort will made its rapid increase certain.

E. KNIGHT.

**HEADQUARTERS NOTES.****Wednesday Afternoons at Caxton Hall.**

Next Wednesday afternoon we shall have the pleasure of listening to Miss Margaret Hodge, the Honorary Head of our Literature Department, who will speak on "Canadian Women and the Suffrage." Miss Hodge, with Miss Newcomb, has done an immense amount of work in connection with the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, and has travelled extensively in countries where women have political power, so we can promise all who are present that they will spend a very interesting and instructive afternoon. The other speaker will be Mrs. Tanner, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Corner at 3.30.

The following Wednesday, February 23, Mrs. Marion Cunningham will speak on "Wanted—An Effective Survival Rate, not a High Birth Rate." Miss Nina Boyle will also speak, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Mustard.

**Sunday Lectures.**

Next Sunday afternoon, at four o'clock, Miss Clara Reed will give a dramatic recital of Ibsen's masterpiece, "The Pretenders." This is a unique opportunity for admirers of Ibsen to see his work portrayed at its best. Those who heard Miss Reed's lecture on Stephen Phillips' "Herod" will remember her wonderful dramatic powers, and as "The Pretenders" has some close analogy to the present war, the Bijou Theatre should be crowded next Sunday afternoon. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett. Tickets can be obtained beforehand at our office, or at the doors of the Bijou Theatre on Sunday afternoon, at 2s. (reserved and

numbered) and 1s. (unnumbered), and tea will be served in the theatre from 3.15 to 3.50 at 6d. each.

Sunday afternoon, February 27th, at four o'clock, Mlle. Zabelle Boyajian will give a lecture on "Armenian Art and Literature." The chair will on this occasion be taken by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes. Tickets can now be obtained at the office at 1s. and 6d. each.

**Political Meeting.**

We are holding a special meeting, Friday evening, February 18, to discuss woman suffrage and its connection with the present political situation. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mrs. Mustard, the chair being taken by Mrs. Tanner at 7.30. As this meeting takes place shortly after Parliament will have re-assembled, it should be of special interest to suffragists. Admission is free, but tickets for reserved seats can be obtained from this office at 1s. each. We hope our members and friends will come in crowds that evening.

**Scottish Activities.**

We congratulate our Scottish branches on securing Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro for several meetings this coming week, and we urge all our readers who can do so to attend the following:—

GLASGOW, February 14, Athenæum, 8 p.m.

Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

DUNDEE, February 17, Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Husband.

EDINBURGH, February 19, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian Road, 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

ROTHESAY, February 25, Good Templars' Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Chair: The Rev. J. M. Dickie, B.D., supported by ex-Baillies G. G. Hill and E. R. MacMillan.

To Bournemouth members also we send hearty greetings, and we urge all our friends in the South to attend the meeting at Freedom Hall (which has been so kindly placed at our disposal by our old friend, Mrs. Hume), Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens, Thursday afternoon, February 24, at 3.45 so that our President, Mrs. Despard, and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck will have an audience worthy of them.

**Self-Denial Week.**  
Next Monday, February 14, Freedom Leaguers begin their self-denial week, the proceeds of which are to go to our funds for carrying on direct suffrage work. Will every one of our readers make some sacrifice during that week, and at the end of it send a donation to our Honorary Treasurer? No sum is too small to be acknowledged by her, and no amount is too large to be used to forward the cause of Votes for Women.

The same week we begin our VOTE-selling campaign, and Miss Alix M. Clark asks for *one hundred volunteers* who will undertake to sell ten VOTES weekly. Will volunteers begin to sell next Monday, and send in their names to Miss Clark at this office?

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**Literature Department.**

We have for sale in our Literature Department some charming photographs of Miss Nina Boyle, both in police uniform and in evening dress, at fourpence each. We have also a stock of "Votes for Women" cigarettes, which are exceedingly popular, and can be most heartily recommended.

WARMEST GOOD WISHES to our valued colleague, Mrs. Marion Holmes, for complete restoration to health after the serious operation of last week. All her friends rejoice in the good news of her progress.

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**WOMEN IN WAR TIME.****French War Minister Orders Employment of Women.**

The French Minister of War has issued to the Under-Secretaries of State, to the Directors of the Central Administration, and to the Generals in command of Districts, the following instructions on the subject of replacing in all Departments of Administration connected with the War, male by female labour.

In my circular of November 10, 1915, I called your attention to the possibility of replacing the military stenographers and typists by women, who are usually more suited for this sort of work than are men. I would now further suggest that women should take the places of men in all military administrative work where that is possible. Already, as the result of wise initiative, this replacement of workers has been carried out to some extent, and my desire is to see this arrangement extended; on the understanding, of course, that wherever women are employed a corresponding number of men will be set free to take up other military duties.

I beg, therefore, that you will make inquiries as to which positions can be filled by women, so as to give this new departure its widest and best chance of success, and to let me receive your reports before February 16.

**Railway Director and Chairman.**

Miss Elaine Jenkins, daughter of the late Lord Glantawe, who has for some years been director of a railway company, has now, says *The South Wales Daily News*, become chairman of the Swansea and Mumbles Railway Company.

**Praise for Soldiers' Wives.**

The Chief Constable of Merthyr Tydvil reports that there is great improvement in a large majority of the homes of soldiers' wives who have separation allowances. At last a good word—quite a change from charges of drunkenness! Here are some significant figures on that score: in Carmarthen 33 persons were prosecuted for drunkenness in 1915 of whom 4 were women.

**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.****ST. PATRICK'S DAY RALLY,**

Caxton Hall, March 17, 7 p.m.

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## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, February 11th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—

To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.

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

## HOW LONG?

No apology is needed in THE VOTE for recurring to the matter of the administration of justice in the courts of this country. It is the proud boast of Britons that in this line they have set the pace for the world, just as they have done in questions of representative government. And, while that is to a great extent true, its real application is limited to persons of the male sex. In courts of justice, as in matters of government, women are the sport either of that sentimental foolishness which is evoked by the spectacle of an attractive woman in difficulties; or of that vile prejudice and favouritism that holds vice to be a pardonable pastime in a man, but unforgivable in a woman. The "justice" extended to women by the Bench of this country is, with a few honourable exceptions, as indefensible as the limitation of the franchise—it is justice for men only.

Recently the writer narrated the conditions undergone while awaiting "escort" at Gray's Inn Police Station. Another woman—whose resolute stand for her right to claim British nationality commands the deepest respect—was arrested under the same Order in Council, the Restriction of Aliens, and detained in a provincial police station. In the cells, all night, she was kept under supervision by the male officers of the station, who looked in every two hours. On one occasion two of them entered her cell, and she protested against their presence. In the morning she was asked if she would like to wash, and a police-constable conducted her to where she might wash, and remained with her while she did it.

One does not need to go out of one's way to find evidence of injustice and maladministration. The Press teems with it. The courts reek of it. One can go any day to hear a certain magistrate, at Bow Street or elsewhere, with a list of cases of drunkenness, including some six or seven women and over a dozen men. The women are addressed with insult. "Are you another of these drunken women?" is a favourite form of rebuke. On Monday morning, not for the first time, this estimable gentleman roughly broke into a woman's defence, saying, with biting sneer, "You ask us to believe you are a perfectly respectable woman, brought here for no reason at all!"—a thing that happens so frequently that no one but Mr. Hopkins would dream of being surprised at it. The witness for the defence was bullied by the Bench in the same way. The prisoner exclaimed, "It is

not safe these days to be out a minute after dark, the way they treat you"; and this was seized on by the magistrate in dealing with the next case—a case of that sad offence for which women alone are punished, soliciting. "The last prisoner said it was dangerous to be out after dark," roared this just judge. "It is dangerous; and it is women like you who make it dangerous." Hardly a word of rebuke was heard for the numerous men brought before the same dispenser of "justice."

In a provincial court, recently, a woman gardener was charged with gathering three-penny-worth of brussels sprouts in a disused garden, where things were going to seed. It was the waste of good food, when everyone is being urged to conserve the nation's resources, that prompted her to use the material. The owner of the disused and wasted cottages and gardens was a magistrate. He had paid the outgoing tenants for the produce in the gardens they had left, so it was his, to waste if he chose. He brought up the frugal and careful lady, before his own Bench, as a thief. He had not even the decency to refrain from taking his seat on the Bench that day, but left the Bench to give evidence in support of his charge. The chairman had the insolence to say that the woman had rendered herself liable to *six months' imprisonment*, or a fine of £20. She eventually paid 4s. A grosser scandal has seldom been perpetrated. In the *Sunday Chronicle* a case was reported, at Northampton, of parents summoned for neglecting their children. The police "forced an entrance," and the children were found "crouching behind chairs"—possibly because of their fear of the police! The man only came home for week-ends, and complained of the drunken habits of his wife, but apparently made no effort to see that his children were placed in proper custody. Yet he is the "legal guardian" and "parent," and he had £40 in the bank. He was fined £3, while the woman got three months.

If women cannot, or will not, work and fight to rid men of the power of so humiliating and tyrannising over other women, our sex will deserve the position to which it is relegated. The serious nature of the national emergency at the present moment absorbs the energies of many capable women and staunch suffragists; we believe that when the emergency is over, those who have been admitted to peep behind the veil of official decorum, fortified and stiffened in their purpose by the flood of light let in on masculine ineptitude and incapacity for detailed organisation, and shocked at the new evidences of the corruption that has grown into our public life, will come back to the colours with blazing zeal for the cause of women, which is the cause of justice and humanity.

C. NINA BOYLE.

### Self-Denial Week: Feb. 14—21.

We call upon all our members and friends to keep a box by them during Self-Denial Week and to fill it with all the shillings and pennies they can save and earn and to give every one of their friends the opportunity of swelling the Fifty Thousand Shilling Fund.

### Green, White and Gold Fair.

Mrs. Snow sends a message that she is already at work for our next Fair, to be held in November, which she says must be at least twice as good as the last. We hope that all our members who have not yet started will follow her example, and begin at once.

ADA MITCHELL  
(Hon. Sec., Fair Committee).

## THE WOMEN OF CANADA.

We have heard much in these tragic times of the Canadian men and their heroic deeds with our Expeditionary Force; we have seen these gallant young soldiers, some of them, alas! wounded and maimed, in the Mother-City of the Empire for which they have fought so well; we occasionally meet with the Canadian nurses—all of them fully trained in their profession—with their bright young faces, and clad in official garb; but we hear little of the mothers who reared these young lads and lasses, or of the social conditions for womanhood and childhood in these great western provinces. Our daughter countries, I am afraid, have not learnt all that they might have done from the mistakes of the Motherland. We, who to-day are endeavouring to remove the so-called slum areas from our large cities, see with horror the very conditions that we reprobate reproduced in the chief towns of the new lands of the West. In Montreal and in Toronto the overcrowding in insanitary dwellings is the terrible result of the imitation of the old world in its unscrupulous race for wealth. The effect on adults of such housing is harmful, but on infant and child life it is appalling. Thus, while we are deploring an infant mortality of 112 per 1,000, the normal death-rate of babies under one year in Toronto is 175, and in Montreal is 200 per 1,000. Canada has yet to learn, as Australasia has done, through her women voters, that the child is the chief asset of the State, and that child labour, although it may be productive of temporary prosperity, is fatal to the permanent welfare of a people.

On my tour through Canada I met with many women who knew but little of the true social conditions of their own land, and were, therefore, quite unable to see any need for the woman's vote. These women imagined that the social evils rampant in the old world were absent from the new; but directly they were awakened to the true state of affairs they were as ardent Suffragists as any on this side of the water. Visits to the Women's Courts and to the Industrial School for Children procured a number of converts.

The Women's Court is of recent creation in Canada, and is supposed to be a benevolent concession to our sex. In reality, it is no such thing, for women are tried by men magistrates, defended or prosecuted by men lawyers, brought into court by policemen, for, though policewomen exist, their functions are entirely subordinate. Women are admitted to witness the trials before this tribunal, but they are expected to make none but appreciative comments upon them to the officials or in the Press. Moral offences are punished, but only one sex suffers, and the worst criminal escapes merely with a fine. A woman, summoned for keeping a house of ill-fame, whose impudent conduct might well have led to a conviction for contempt of court, escaped with a fine of ten dollars, while the unhappy girls in her "employment," how procured we had no evidence, were each sent to three months' imprisonment. The male witnesses and partners in the offences left the court without even a reprimand. One poor old Russian Jewess, who had only been in the country for six months, and could neither speak the language nor understand the laws, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, or one hundred dollars' fine, for selling one bottle of vodka at a dollar and a-half to oblige a neighbour. The daughter implored to be allowed to serve the sentence for her old mother, but this was refused. It was obviously impossible for the woman to pay the fine, so she had to go to prison

for an offence which she did not realise she had committed.

In commenting to the prosecuting counsel upon the cases, I could not help comparing the offences and their punishments. He waxed very wroth, for, when he invited criticism, he had evidently expected nothing but appreciation. I urged that immorality was so deadly a menace to the community that it should be dealt with even more severely than selling drink without a licence; but he assured me that in Canada immorality did not affect the health of the coming generations anything like so much as drunkenness. "To the third and fourth generations" might be true of Palestine, but it was not true of the Dominion. Women who had accompanied me to that court as meek as any sucking doves came out as raging as the most turbulent of Suffragettes.

What the visits to the Courts had begun for the Suffrage Cause a visit to the Industrial School completed. Here we found numbers of little girls, of seven years old and upwards, who had been through the most awful experiences. Sometimes—in consequence of the cruel and heartless phraseology of the past—they are called fallen children. They were quite pathetically infantile in appearance; on their neat little cot beds, with their pretty counterpanes, lay their toys, Teddy bears, and dolls, that they loved to cuddle at night, but the tragic past hovered over them like a dark cloud—they had eaten of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of evil. Some of them could not be allowed to talk freely to their little companions, for, quite unconsciously, they would, by the revelations of their experiences, have polluted the more innocent of these. I gave a lesson on Australia to these little ones, and they laughed in a happy, childish way over the stories of the kangaroos and the emus. They seemed forgetful of the past, and, with the blissful ignorance of childhood, were unconscious of the possible horrors of their future. "Of such is the kingdom of Heaven." So Christ preached, and what has man made of them?

MARGARET HODGE.

### Deputation to Wandsworth Borough Council.

A joint deputation consisting of members of the Clapham Branch of the Women's Freedom League and the Fabian Society was received by the Wandsworth Borough Council recently, the object being to ask the Council to rescind its resolution to close the fiction department to the public in each of the five public libraries in its district, on the ground of economy. Mr. Kettle, who introduced the deputation, spoke on behalf of the Fabian Society, and pointed out that the closing of this department was a serious matter to working people in their leisure hours in a district like Clapham, and argued that it was harmful to young people to be deprived of the best means of obtaining good literature. Mrs. Corner, representing the Women's Freedom League, said it was generally admitted that women were the greatest readers of fiction, and if young girls after they left school or business could not get fiction from libraries they naturally resorted to buying cheap novelettes. It was the duty of the Council to try and prevent the development of a taste for bad literature. There were also the women who had their husbands and sons at the war; they required something to divert their minds. A novel was as much a solace to the woman as a pipe was to the man, and probably many gentlemen on the Council would practice economy in some other direction before giving up their pipes. She therefore hoped that the Council would withdraw the resolution with regard to their libraries.

## ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

"MATILDA AND MARCUS," by Mary Richardson.  
(Publishers, Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. Price 6s.)

Pain and suffering are great teachers, and no one should know this better than the writer of this book, for she went through imprisonment and even torture in the cause of woman's emancipation. Such hard schooling is often helpful in forming character and in widening ideals.

Matilda, after cruel disillusionments, her hero proving a faithless husband and a worthless drunkard, attains the higher selfhood, born of sorrow, and learns to realise the world's grief in her own troubles and to feel the yearning of all motherhood after the loss of her little child. When all her hopes are shattered and her sacrifices seem to have been vain, she finds her true vocation and her real consolation in working for others and helping the cause of "those women, who go in their thin legions, holding out their starving fingers to receive but a stone for their little children." She meets at last with a disciple and a partner, in a noble-minded man, who shares her faith in a golden age of mutual helpfulness which is to transform the world and to elevate all human souls.

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

The interest aroused by our "Wednesdays" at the Caxton Hall proves the wisdom of the Women's Freedom League in determining to continue these weekly Suffrage meetings. As we are the only Suffrage Society holding regular Suffrage meetings, we look for wide support from all who recognise the vital importance of keeping the Suffrage flag flying and the urgent need for women's voice to be heard in industrial and national concerns. Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle were the speakers at the first of the present series of "Wednesdays," and gave a warm welcome, on behalf of the League, to strangers and friends. Their able and inspiring speeches aroused hearty enthusiasm as also Mrs. Tanner's declaration from the chair that vigorous Suffrage work was the order of the day.

On February 2, Mrs. Aldridge held the audience spellbound by her story of experiences in Serbia with Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's Hospital Unit and of the seven weeks' trek from the heart of the country to the Adriatic coast. Whatever help to the gallant little country may or may not have been possible on the part of the Allies, the heroic service of British women will long be remembered with gratitude by the Serbians, both civil and military. Mrs. Aldridge's special work for some time was to be housekeeper and general helper at one of the civil dispensaries which, with happy inspiration, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart was able to establish in country districts within about 40 miles from her military hospital at the important town of Kragujevatz, in the interval between the fierce fighting when the Serbs drove back the Austrians

## MATILDA &amp; MARCUS

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and the fighting which ended in the Serbian retreat. The vivid picture she gave, with power, pathos, insight, and humour, of the peaceful encampment, the crowds of suffering, unhurried people—some suspicious at first, never having seen a doctor before; the complete understanding between animals and humans—a bullock frightened by his first sight of a motor car ran to a woman for protection; the social call, with a slender Serbian vocabulary, on the priest and his family; the interest and helpfulness in purchasing stores, supplying fuel, etc., of the magistrate, was in striking contrast with the revelation of the horrors of war when fighting recommenced and the booming guns came nearer. The sorely wounded soldiers then needed all the attention; it was ceaseless work night and day to the accompaniment of the perpetual rumble of ox-waggons transporting all of the nation that was not on foot. One evening the British women had to obey the order to leave; the next afternoon the enemy were in possession and soon after in pursuit. The dangers and hardships of the long trek across plains, over mountains, through mud, rain, snow, blizzard, the route lined with dying and dead animals seemed to her hearers unbearable, but, said Mrs. Aldridge, "we arrived at Giovanni di Medua in the best of health, though in patchwork clothes; we were often very hungry; we had an intense longing for sugar, but after living, sleeping, yes, and bathing out in the open, we felt beds were too soft and life too easy when we reached railways and hotels again." Mrs. Aldridge is impressed by the heroism of the Serbian people; all unconsciously she impressed her audience with the heroism shown by the British women in Serbia. Miss Boyle spoke on the general situation as it affects women and Miss A. A. Smith, from the chair, welcomed the latest woman Suffrage victory—Manitoba.

Speaking at the Journalists' monthly tea, at the Lyceum Club, on February 6, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart said that 20,000 people were treated in the civil dispensaries in Serbia. She described her experiences as commandant of a column of the Serbian Army, which she was able to bring intact through the long and hazardous retreat. On surrendering command at Scutari she was thanked by the Crown Prince and congratulated as the only officer—and the only woman to be appointed to such a command—who had accomplished this task. Women had proved that they could take positions of responsibility and difficulty.

## British Nurses in the Caucasus.

Mrs. Wynne, whose Red Cross work in Flanders won for her the Croix de Guerre and the Order of Leopold, is now in the Caucasus, and has recently been employed by the Grand Duke Nicholas in organising dressing stations and field hospitals for the Russian army at the Turkish front near Batoum. Miss Wynne has now left for Persia, accompanied by Miss Macnaughton, their ambulance cars, and their English and Russian personnel. She is officially attached to the Russian army, and will accompany it during the Persian campaign. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart was asked to organise a hospital unit for the Caucasus but found it necessary to take a rest after her strenuous work in Serbia.

## Ploughwomen.

Women are now driving motor ploughs; there are two women to each plough, one is in charge of the motor, the other guides the ploughshare. Women recently won a ploughing competition after only a very short training.

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

## DARE TO BE FREE.

High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, February 14.—BOWES PARK BRANCH BUSINESS MEETING, 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, 7.30 p.m. OPEN AIR MEETING, Highbury-corner, N., 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Tuesday, February 15.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 16.—WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 11.30. PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Hodge, "Canadian Women and the Suffrage," and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. Corner. Admission free.

Thursday, February 17.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, W.F.L. Club Room, 144, High Holborn, 6 p.m. Business, 7 p.m. Miss Normanton, B.A., on the Co-operative Scheme.

Friday, February 18.—POLITICAL MEETING, Caxton Hall, 7.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Admission free. Reserved seats, 1s. each. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Tuesday, February 22.—CROYDON. Social at the Lecture Room, Public Hall, 6.30 to 9.30. Admission 6d.

Wednesday, February 23.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. M. Cunningham, on "Wanted an Effective Survival Rate, not a High Birth Rate," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Admission free.

Friday, February 25.—CROYDON "AT HOME," 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, February 27.—Lecture on "Armenian Art and Literature," by Miss Zabelle Boyajian, at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C. Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Forbes. Tea, 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Lecture, 4 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., from W.F.L. Office.

Friday, March 3.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 9, Titchfield-terrace, North Gate, Regent's Park, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Tea.

## PROVINCES.

Monday, February 14.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 7.30. Speaker: C. Coates, Esq.

Wednesday, February 16.—PORTSMOUTH. Whist Drive, Unitarian School Room, 3 p.m. Tickets, 1s. each.

Thursday, February 17.—READING. Members' Business Meeting, at the Mixed Club, Oxford-road (Thorn-street corner), 8 p.m., for the election of officers, &c.

Thursday, February 24.—BOURNEMOUTH. Public Meeting, Freedom Hall. Tea (optional), 3.45. Speeches, 4.15. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

Monday, February 28.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 7.30. Speaker: Rev. T. C. Gobat. Subject: Ibsen's "Brand."

## SCOTLAND.

Monday, February 14.—GLASGOW. Public Meeting, Athenaeum, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

Thursday, February 17.—DUNDEE. Art Rooms, 43, Nether-gate, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: Miss Husband.

Saturday, February 19.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 3 p.m. "At Home." Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

Friday, February 25.—ROTHESAY. Public Meeting, Good Templar's Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: The Rev. J. M. Dickie, B.D. Supported by Ex-Baillies G. G. Hill and E. R. MacMillan.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, February 15.—INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. House Dinner, 7.30 p.m. "The Theatre as Such," Miss Christopher St. John. Chairman: Mr. Frederick Whelen.

Wednesday, February 16.—INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W., 4.30 p.m. "The Women Police Service," Miss Damer Dawson. Chairman: Lady Clare Annesley.

Wednesday, February 23.—Harrow Baptist Chapel. Speaker: Miss Boyle, "Women's Wartime Work."

Tuesday, March 7.—ALTIORA GIRLS' CLUB, Spencer Hall, Dartmouth Park Hill, 8 p.m. Miss Boyle.

## BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

Will members please note that their committee is expecting help from each member of the Branch towards ensuring the success of the Social on February 22? Articles are now being collected for the Jumble Sale to be held during March.

## East London.

The meeting on January 19 was disappointing, and in order to ensure a better attendance next time members are invited to communicate with Miss Adams, 20, High-street, West Norwood, S.E., and let her know what dates in February will suit them best. It is hoped that members will write soon to allow time for making arrangements. Subscriptions for 1916 are now due.

Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

At our last two meetings we have had opportunities of acquiring some of that knowledge without which it is impossible to form accurate judgments on such situations as the present. Miss Tennant's able and exhaustive paper on "Russia" dealt from various points of view with a subject which has admittedly been greatly neglected in former years, and was of a nature to stimulate the desire for yet fuller knowledge. Miss Wood, who occupied the chair, gave some interesting reminiscences of a visit to Russia. That a corrupt tree cannot be expected to bring forth good fruit was the conclusion irresistibly forced on one by Miss Mary Williamson's lecture on the Hohenzollerns, whose history from very early times was a record of force and fraud. From the time when Frederick of Hohenzollern persuaded Sigismund to break his safe conduct to John Huss in 1415, their conduct was in keeping with their present-day disregard of treaty obligations. This persistent policy renders necessary the co-operation of all who care for justice and progress, that its final defeat be made certain. Miss Tennant presided, and a very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss Williamson, who has the faculty of so using her great knowledge of historical detail as to render her lectures of exceptional interest. An "At Home" is being arranged for Saturday afternoon, February 19, when we shall have the great pleasure of welcoming Miss Anna Munro after her long absence from Scotland. The committee hopes that all members will make a point of being present and bringing friends.

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

On January 17 the Rev. T. C. Gobat gave an inspiring address on Björnson's play, "A Gauntlet," at the Suffrage Centre, Linthorpe-road. The play deals with the double standard of morality for men and women, and depicts the horror of a pure-minded girl on finding that the man to whom she is betrothed, and also her own father, whom she had thought the soul of honour, have lived immoral lives and yet expect both her mother and herself to overlook their infidelity. This she refuses to do, as, in the words of the dramatist, she feels that "marriage was not meant to be a moral washhouse for men." Miss W. Jones made an excellent chairman, and there was an interesting discussion after the lecture.

A branch meeting was held on January 24, when Mrs. Schofield Coates was elected president, Miss Winifred Jones vice-president, and a strong representative committee of twelve members was formed. Miss Ward is hon. treasurer and Miss Goddard hon. secretary. Plans for inviting speakers for the spring session were discussed, and also for making the Suffrage Club successful. The rooms are being entirely renovated, and a number of interesting educational and other books are being added, as well as the weekly Suffrage and other papers. We hope that all members will make full use of the club, and any Suffragists or others interested in the Women's Movement will be warmly welcomed, also visitors from other towns. Donations towards

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 924.

FRIDAY,  
FEB. 11,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

the upkeep of the club can be paid to the secretary, and it is hoped that all members and friends will make regular purchases of merchandise in order that the scheme may be self-supporting.

## Portsmouth and Gosport.

There was a good attendance at the branch meeting on January 25, when Mrs. Whetton's address on "Famous Women of the Nineteenth Century" was much appreciated. A vote of congratulation to the Town Council was passed on the municipality taking over the School for Mothers and Maternity Centre. A public meeting will be held on Thursday, March 16, in the Lower Hall at the Portsea Parish Institute, when the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss Murray. To raise the money to pay the expenses of this public meeting an afternoon whist drive will be held on Wednesday, February 16, at 3 p.m., at the Unitarian Schoolroom, High-street. Tickets 1s. each. Members are reminded to save anything and everything for the forthcoming jumble sale.

## Reading.

On January 29 we had a welcome visit from Miss Eunice Murray, the first she had paid since the formation of the Branch. The meeting, which was well attended by members and friends, was held in the parlour of the Men and Women's Club. Miss Murray's vigorous address was most inspiring. The Reading members greatly appreciated Miss Murray's visit, and hope to see her again soon. Mrs. Lines very kindly took the chair in the absence of Miss Anna Munro, the Branch president. Miss Eunice Murray also addressed the West Reading Adult School on Wednesday afternoon, speaking on "Women in War Time," and the Workers' Educational Association on Wednesday evening on "Women's Work in the War," specially dealing with the subject of man's monopoly of labour. The evening address was followed by a very animated discussion, in which many men took part.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement.

1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

Mrs. Tippet gratefully acknowledges 1s. and dishcloths from Miss Riggall; brush and comb from Mrs. Delbanco; also a gift of 5s., per Miss Lewis; Messrs. Gordon McDonald and Co., soups. An extra helper is urgently wanted every day, but particularly on Wednesdays and Thursdays, for the new upstairs dining-room. The large zinc bath, which we need so much, has not arrived; will not somebody give us one? We still are hoping for the second-hand chest of drawers, as orange-boxes are an inconvenient substitute, not being proof against showers of blacks from the gasworks and elsewhere. Who will give us ½wt. of margarine? High chairs and a perambulator are urgently needed to complete the comfort of Guest House babies and those who have charge of them. Home-made jam, cakes, swedes, carrots, turnips, onions, greens, celery, etc., are always wanted. If members have not these gifts ready to hand, why not ask their friends ("anti" for preference) to give them?

## The Despard Arms.

We invite strangers and friends to have tea with Mrs. Despard, at the Despard Arms, next Saturday, 4 to 6 p.m. (tea 6d.), and to see the public-house and its national work. The nearest stations are Warren-street (Tube) and Euston-square (Metropolitan). Motor omnibuses 24, 27, and 29 pass the door; 1, 14, 30, and others pass within three minutes.

The whist drive and social gathering on February 5 proved enjoyable and successful, and thanks to the great kindness of Mrs. Thomson Price, who gave psychic delineations, Mrs. Cunningham, who gave two cat's-eyes set in gold for the first prize, and Mr. Whitten, who won them, gave them back for auction and bought them, we were able to give £4 to the funds of the Despard Arms.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. February 16.—Speakers: Miss Hodge on "Canadian Women and the Suffrage," and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. Corner.

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