

THE VOTE,  
DECEMBER 1, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

**"THE WOMEN WERE MAGNIFICENT."**

# THE VOTE

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

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FRIDAY, DEC. 1, 1916.

Edited by **C. DESPARD.**

**OBJECT:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men.

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## OUR MESSAGE TO THE ELECTORAL REFORM CONFERENCE.

If this Parliament has power to deal with controversial matters such as bringing in Compulsory Military Service ;

If this Parliament can alter the basis of the franchise by giving votes to soldiers, sailors, and munition workers because they are fighting and working for the country ;

### THEN

It has power to give votes to women, whose faithful performance of their national duties is confidently counted on to bring the war to a successful conclusion.

## THE GATHERING STORM.

We have always maintained that the torrent of unmeaning praise which has streamed over women since the war began was all they were likely to get as the result of their national service. The campaign of flattery was, if anything, more revolting than the campaign of calumny which preceded it. It is in our opinion even more offensive to suggest that the patriotism, capacity, and devotion of women were new discoveries, than that women were a dangerous and incalculable element in national life. The last had at least the merit of frankness.

The Press, which apparently does all his thinking for the ordinary male person, and which most certainly conveys a fairly clear reflection of the mind of the ordinary politician, dallied gently with the demand for Women's Suffrage at the time that it was believed that no such questions could come to the front during the war. Now that the artificial agitation for votes for soldiers and sailors, the appointment of the Electoral Reform Conference, and the

struggle round the Government's registration proposals have brought the matter of franchise prominently to the fore, some Press organs which professed to have had their hearts softened towards the claims of women are reconsidering their position, and taking up an attitude of determined opposition, giving their support in preference to manhood suffrage.

The exploitation of the women's suffrage agitation and organisation for the purposes of adult suffrage appeared from the first, to some of the less optimistic of suffragists, to be fraught with this danger. Now it has taken definite shape for the second time, and stands as a real and immediate menace to the women who for long years have waited for their enfranchisement, worked for it, organised for it, and roused the country in their agitation for it. If they are to be tricked and cheated again the Government need not be surprised at the results that will follow. The seamen and soldiers who may accidentally be disfranchised at the next election will

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suffer no permanent disability, and will soon regain their place on the roll. The small number of adult males outside the voters' roll—not more than three and a half millions—have small grievance either, seeing that there is nothing to prevent them, by some change in their circumstances, securing the necessary qualifications to obtain a place on the register. Neither can it be argued that the votes of a certain number of seamen and soldiers and male artisans will make any great difference to the welfare of the country, or to the result on the House of Commons. Whatever and however many men vote, the results will be much the same as in the past. The same kind of cry will be used to beguile them, the same kind of man will be returned by them to Parliament, the same kind of legislation will be passed. The matter is quite otherwise with women.

#### Woman's Demand.

The woman voter will bring with her vote a new demand. That demand will be that matters concerning the welfare of her sex, the welfare of her children, the conditions of her home and theirs, and housing, food and morals, shall be considered of as least as great import to the State and those who govern it as such matters as the disestablishment of churches or separate parliaments for this or that territory. That is to say, the enfranchisement of women is of far greater importance than the regularising of the present temporary difficulty for men. Far greater issues hang on it; it is of infinite urgency. The nation needs it, desperately, in its present straits. No one with the least knowledge of public affairs will be tempted to deny the serious nature of the international situation. The cause of the Allies to-day hangs on the ability of Great Britain to hold out, to find men, money and material for the continuance of the world war. Great Britain cannot do this without her women, and there is to-day no woman, or man either, in the United Kingdom, who does not realise that our resources and energy have been criminally wasted and abused.

#### Fresh Strength to the Empire.

The enfranchisement of women, the freeing them from the clumsy yoke of male control, the grasping by them of their share of the reins of powers, would mean greater efficiency, greater economy, better administration, better distribution of energy and resource. And we should strongly advise the Conference on Electoral Reform, over which the Speaker presides, and on which Mr. Walter Long, President of the Local Government Board, sits, to show once for all that they have in them some, at any rate, of the elements of statesmanship, by abandoning their paltry concentration on smaller details and giving their full attention to the one thing that really matters, and that would give fresh strength and steadiness to the Empire.

#### Beware!

We warn the Government that they have greatly misunderstood the temper of women suffragists if they imagine them to be disposed to sit meekly by and see the voting strength of men increased without consideration for the claims of women. The great suffrage organisations have taken their share of the nation's duties, and held their own claims so as to give no cause for strife or rebuke; but they will not tolerate fresh insults and affronts. We can pass by such mean-spirited, illiterate affronts as that of *The Spectator*, which with a total lack of understanding, calls for manhood suffrage to "render democracy complete." We do not know where the perpetrator of this perversion of language was educated, nor what he means by "democracy" and "complete." There can be no democracy, complete or otherwise, until women are enfranchised with men; for, whether the editor of *The Spectator* likes it or not, women are the "people." But we shall not allow the Govern-

ment for which we pay to assume this offensive position while making its enormous claims on the patriotism of women, and any attempt to bestow manhood suffrage without the enfranchisement of women will provoke results which may startle even the most confirmed anti-suffragist out of his complacency. There will be no truce with a Government capable of such treachery and such short-sighted folly.

C. NINA BOYLE.

#### Suffragists and the Conference.

For several weeks members of the Electoral Reform Conference, entering the House of Commons for their deliberations, have been greeted by suffragists carrying posters, emphasising the need of votes for women, and flags in the colours of the societies represented (the Women's Freedom League, the suffragettes of the W.S.P.U., and the Independent W.S.P.U.). This picketing will take place every Wednesday and Thursday morning from 10.15 to 1 p.m. while the Conference is sitting. Picketers meet at 144, High Holborn at 9.50 a.m. Volunteers are urgently needed and readers are requested to take part in this very important work. Please send names to Miss Marguerite Sidley, W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn.

#### Parliament's Moral Right to Enfranchise Women Now.

Another reply to the anti-suffrage manifesto has been published; it is signed by well-known women in the suffrage movement. Emphasis is laid on the fact that "in the careful consideration of the industrial position of women which will be necessary after the war, not only in the country, but also in Parliament, it is essential that women themselves should be heard. Mr. Asquith has emphasised the urgency of this point, and it is obvious that this can only be done by including women in any franchise measure which is passed by the present Parliament." It is also pointed out that "if the present Parliament has the moral right to alter the basis of the franchise and to bring in a new class of voters, it has the moral right to include women as well as men." The following are the signatories:—

M. Willoughby de Broke, Rose Macaulay, Julia Chance, Sybil de V. Brassey, K. Jex-Blake, M. Garrett Fawcett, N. Adler, Beatrice Rochdale, Flora Murray, M.D., L. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Philippa G. Fawcett, Louise Creighton, Laura E. Ridding, Jane Ellen Harrison, Elizabeth Robins, Laura Aberconway, Lily Montagu, Jane Walker, M.D., Beatrice Harraden, Maud Selborne, Henrietta Jex-Blake, Kate Courtney of Penwith, J. Spring Rice, Dorothea Irving, Katharine T. Wallas, Mary Scharlieb, M.D., M.S. Lond., M. S. Reeves, Florence E. Barrett, Frances Balfour, Marie Belloc Lowndes, Annie Leigh Browne, Clementina Black, Eva McLaren, Beatrice Webb, Mary Cholmondeley, Betty Balfour, M. Tuke, E. Penrose, Eleanor Rathbone, Margaret Ashton, B. A. Clough, A. Cowdray, J. M. Strachey, Helen Bosanquet, Edith Lyttelton, Eleanor Mildred Sidgwick, Isabella Macdonald, M.B., Mary Sinclair, Margaret McMillan, Eleanor Acland.

#### SUPPORT YOUR LEAGUE AND WIN THE VOTE!

Some months ago the Women's Freedom League decided to raise a sum of 50,000 shillings.

We already have 14,965. Franchise reform is in the air. It is the work of the League, as the Suffrage Society which has continued active Suffrage work from the first day of the war, to insist that women, the majority of the nation and the mothers of the race,

shall be enfranchised at once.

Please enable us to do this. A great deal of money is necessary, and we must complete our 50,000 shillings to carry us to victory.

There are 35,035 shillings still needed, and needed at once, and the help of all our members and friends will be most gratefully received and acknowledged.

E. KNIGHT.

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## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.  
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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3-9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6.—PICKETERS for House of Commons 144, High Holborn, 9.50 a.m. "AT HOME," Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Esther Roper, "Women's Liberty in the Economic World," and Mrs. Mustard, "Every Fit Woman Needed." CLAPHAM BRANCH PUBLIC MEETING, Clapham Public Hall (Lower Hall), 7 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman on "Combined and Uncombined Womanhood," and Mrs. Despard. Chairman: Mrs. Samuel. London Branches Council Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 5.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 7.—PICKETERS for House of Commons meet 144, High Holborn, 9.50 a.m.

Friday, December 8.—Lecture by Mrs. Despard on "East and West," to be followed by Questions and Discussion. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Chair: Mrs. Corner, 7 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d. CROYDON BRANCH PUBLIC MEETING, 32A, The Arcade, High-street. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson.

Tuesday, December 12.—STAMFORD HILL BRANCH "AT HOME," 7, East Bank, N. (by kind permission of Mrs. Thomson), 7.30. Rev. J. Fleming Williams on "Land and Freedom," and Mrs. Mustard.

Thursday, December 14.—Clapham Branch Meeting at 15, Clapham-mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray.

Friday, December 15.—W.F.L. "At Home," Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m. Political speeches at 7 p.m. by Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray. Refreshments can be obtained.

RECITAL OF FAIRY TALES AND FOLK SONGS, by Miss Raleigh and Miss Anne Squire at 1, Mount-street, Berkeley-square, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister). Tea, 4 p.m. Recital, 4.30. Arranged by Mrs. Corner for the Clapham Branch, W.F.L., in aid of the Nine Elms Settlement. A short speech by Mrs. Tippett on the work of the Settlement. Tickets 2s. 6d. each, from office.

THE MINERVA CAFÉ, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Open every day except Sunday to men and women. Vegetarian lunches from 12 to 2 p.m.; teas from 3 to 6 p.m. Smoking-room. The large room is available for meetings. Apply to Mrs. Fisher.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 4d. meals, weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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#### PROVINCES.

Wednesday, December 6.—LETHCORTH W.F.L. MEETING, The Skittles Inn, 3 p.m.

#### SCOTLAND.

Saturday, December 16.—EDINBURGH. Christmas Sale.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, December 31.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Underwood. Subject: "The Importance of Women Minding their own Business."

#### Urgent.

Will the lady who took, in error, a mackintosh from the banister of the steps up to the platform at the Caxton Hall on Saturday evening at the close of the Fair kindly return it to the Secretary, W.F.L., 144, High Holborn?

## Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

# MASS MEETING

To protest against the Government's excluding Women from the new Franchise Service Bill.

## ODDFELLOWS' HALL,

EDINBURGH,

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, 6.30 p.m.

Messages to the Government from:—

COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINDSAY, J.P. (Edinburgh Town Council, N.M.F.).

COUNCILLOR JOHN McMICHAEL, J.P. (Edinburgh Town Council, N.M.F.).

BAILIE HAMILTON BROWN, J.P. (Glasgow Town Council and N.M.F.).

COUNCILLOR CHARLTON (Glasgow Town Council, late President Glasgow Trades Council and N.M.F.).

MR. ROBERT FERGUSON (Hon. Sec. Glasgow N.M.F.).

MR. J. WILSON McLAREN (N.M.F.).

MR. JAMES BRUNTON (Trustee Edinburgh Trades Council and N.M.F.).

MR. ANDREW YOUNG, M.A. (N.M.F.), and others.

Chair: Mrs. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT (President N.M.F.).  
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## THE NORTHERN MEN'S "MANIFESTO"

ON

Veneral Disease in its Relation to the Political Disability of Women.

Being an answer to the Home Secretary's Mansion House Speech. Signed by Sixteen (16) Magistrates of the City of Glasgow and the Executive Committee of Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage. A record of Parliamentary facts and dates for Suffrage Speakers and Social Reformers.

Price 1d. Order from your Suffrage Society.

### London Branches Council.

Hearty thanks to all who sent goods to the jumble sale and to all who turned up on a wretchedly wet afternoon to help. Some of the parcels gave no indication of the names of senders; will these please accept the grateful thanks of the Council, as we are unable to write to them? The sale resulted in a good sum being added to the funds.

Will all London members please note that Mrs. Despard is very kindly giving a new lecture, entitled "East and West," on Friday, December 8 (moonlight), at 7 p.m., at the Minerva Café. Tickets are 1s. and 6d. (no collection), and can be obtained from 144, High Holborn. The lecture will be followed by questions and discussion, and we hope to see the café crowded out.

### WAR WEDDING.

On November 18, at Willesden, Claude Tizard, Lieutenant 1st Royal Berks, to Freda, daughter of the late H. Dance, Esq., of Harlow House, Essex. Congratulations and good wishes from the Women's Freedom League.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 32.



## THE VOTE.

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Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.  
FRIDAY, December 1st, 1916.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

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### AGENTS.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross, W.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall and Co., Temple-avenue, E.C.; City and Suburban Publishing Company, St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; E. Marlborough, Old Bailey, E.C.; A. Ritchie, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Orange-street, Haymarket; John Heywood, Manchester. Can be obtained at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son and all newsagents.

## STORM SIGNALS.

Two or three months ago, after the heroic defence of Verdun and the beginning of the Great Push, there was a spirit of elation everywhere. This has happened several times in the course of the great war; and it has always been followed by reaction. To-day a wave of depression is passing over the country. We are not competent to decide whether or no it is justified, we believe that presently it will spend itself. We know that whatever may be said of sections of the population, of politicians, notoriety-hunters, and war-profiteers, our men and women—the great multitude of them—will bear themselves bravely. So it has been in the past, and so it will be in the future, for, while emotions are transient, will-power is enduring.

But we know also that if this world-tragedy, the darkness of which seems to deepen as the months roll on, is to be brought to a speedy end, the men in power, shaking off tradition and convention, must use much more wisely than they have hitherto done, the opportunities that power gives. Marvels have been accomplished. The way in which women have leapt into the breach, and, after brief training, have proved themselves capable of performing the most difficult and dangerous tasks ought to be better known to the country at large.

Meanwhile there lies ahead of us a danger, which, if not recognised and dealt with, may go far to wreck the hopes of the nation. In the House of Commons lurk symptoms of it. Mr. Duke is reported to have said "there is a cabal every afternoon and a crisis every other day." And a few words from T. P. O'Connor, in last Sunday's *Reynolds*, are worth quoting: "I have rarely seen political life in such a topsy-turvy and uncertain position; and no prophet is worth his salt who ventures to look more than a week ahead."

Outside the House, storm signals are being sighted. The elaborate debate in the House of Commons and the appointment of a "Lord of the Larder" have not satisfied the nation that anything big or lasting is to be done about the food crisis. The price of milk, we hear, is not to be further raised, and the new war bread is to include nourishing ingredients of which it has hitherto been deprived. Both these are good if they can be carried through successfully. But no hope is held out of the lowering of food prices generally, or of an increase in wages and allowances to meet the larger demand.

We cannot but feel that great uneasiness is being created in the country by the Government's vacillating policy with regard to electoral reform. Votes are being clamoured for, not by the military themselves, but by those who praise them, for soldiers and sailors. We think that the result of a military election would surprise those who are asking for it. Women, as it is now generally admitted, deserve as much of the country as soldiers and sailors, yet the House of Lords, in the recent debate, did not so much as mention them.

Men workers have submitted to conscription. It is being openly talked of in the Press as a question to be discussed that women should also be conscripted. We hope women will resist to the death such an infringement of their liberties unless and until they are enfranchised. Unrepresented as they are, it would simply mean enslavement.

The rough and ready way of dealing with venereal disease, known as compulsory notification, if it were made law—and against this we are striving with all our force—would still further seal the subjection of women. Nothing but an equal moral standard for men and women, and for women economic freedom, will ever do away with the plague-virus that is poisoning our race.

Yet another storm signal is being flashed from South Wales, where the vast mining industry, in the hands of a few wealthy mine owners, is again becoming restive. The men, guided by experience, refuse to trust their employers, and demand a Government audit of the companies' profits. If the employers refuse, there will be trouble, and such dissipation of our national strength as we can ill afford to bear.

Threatening, however, as all these may seem, they are but indications of the one great danger that looms ahead; a danger the end of which may be disaster if no one is wise enough to recognise it and to deal with it. The deep and wide-spread uneasiness which we feel everywhere has its root in moral disturbance. Those who have lived before us, men and women, could sit down calmly under injustice. We cannot. "There is being born a strange and wonderful thing, a new social conscience. The physical misery of the world's disinherited is becoming the spiritual misery of the world's heritors. The individual is finding himself enslaved in the slavery of his fellows."

With this there is arising a spiritual demand. Not from those who are themselves suffering—the disabled warriors over whose pensions the country's representatives are haggling, the children, generation after generation, robbed of life and health, the dishonoured mother and the exploited worker—is that cry going forth; for these are dumb. They have no voice but the voice of pain. It is from the others, from those who, through the terrible revelations of the war, have sensed, as never before, the age-long sorrow of the world: "We cannot bear it," they cry. "Give us the opportunity and we will do our share. But you, you who are strong, you who profess to rule, in heaven's name do something!"

Vague and inarticulate the cry may be; but it is here; we meet it in every direction. Before the war and throughout the whole of the women's demand for citizenship; at the back of the labour unrest; looking at us from the eyes of hurt soldiers, and tired nurses and exhausted munition workers; giving passion to the world-movement towards unity, it runs—an undercurrent, which, if not dealt with wisely, will show itself in strange and awful ways, when the energies devoted to war are released.

This is the danger. It faces other nations as it faces us. It will be to our peril if we neglect it. For the People's, like "the child's sob, in its anguish curseth deeper than the strong man in his wrath."

C. DESPARD.

## NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

### Death of Inez Milholland; Suffragist and Barrister.

All suffragists will hear with keen regret of the death of Mrs. Inez Boissevain, better known under her maiden name of Inez Milholland, the well-known women's suffrage advocate, which the *Los Angeles Call* (California) announced last week. Mrs. Boissevain, who was only thirty years of age, received part of her education at the Kensington High School, London. She came into special prominence in New York some years ago, at the time of the strikes among the blouse hands and laundry workers, and her work in the investigation into the condition of Sing Sing Prison was universally praised.

Mrs. Boissevain was known as "the most beautiful suffragist." Her marriage, which took place in London three years ago, occasioned great surprise in the United States. She belonged by birth to the most exclusive New York society, and had built up a fine practice for herself at the Bar, but gave up everything for the cause of women's suffrage. She had a rare gift of eloquence, and it is stated that one of her peculiarities when addressing an audience was to wear unbecoming clothes, though at other times she prided herself on being well dressed. "I don't want the people to look at me: I want them to listen to what I have to say," was her explanation. Mr. Boissevain is a newspaper proprietor in Holland.

### Woman Member of Congress.

It now appears to be true that Miss Jeanette Rankin has been elected to a seat in the Congress of Montana, U.S.A. According to a Press statement her success is due to women voting in her favour. The women of Montana were enfranchised this year. "Miss Rankin is a very well-known American suffragist, and one of the earliest workers for the Cause, and the fact that she has conducted a most energetic campaign, riding great distances on horseback to address meetings of miners and lumbermen, is another proof of the endurance of which women are capable."

### Voters or Non-Voters: A Test Case.

An interesting constitutional problem has arisen in connection with women's suffrage in America. During the "registration" of voters precedent to the recent elections three women claimed the right to be enrolled in the list of Massachusetts voters. They formerly resided in Western States—one of them in Colorado and the other two in California—where women enjoy full citizenship, and they maintain that if the State of Massachusetts denies them the suffrage it will be infringing the article of the Federal Constitution which runs:—"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." They argue that in refusing them the right to vote the State is abridging their privileges. The question is likely to be settled by a test case in the courts.

### The Victory in British Columbia.

Our good friend and keen suffragist, Miss Beatrice Kent, kindly gives us for publication the following extract from a letter from Mrs. Ralph Smith, a well-known worker in public service, and a leader of the Woman Suffrage Movement in Canada. When her husband was a member of the Federal Parliament Mrs. Smith addressed a meeting of members on the subject of votes for women, and found them very sympathetic. The Liberals of British Columbia, as her letter shows, kept their promises to women suffragists. Miss Kent read

the extract at "Our Wednesday," on November 8:—

I have the best of news for you, and I know how delighted you will be. . . . When you left Vancouver, suffrage was an unknown quantity, but matters took definite shape about six months ago, when the question of prohibition became very acute. The Liberals (who were then in Opposition, but were elected on September 14 by an overwhelming majority, and had made woman suffrage a plank in their platform) told the Temperance people that, if elected, they would submit a measure to the House and then refer it to the people. They told us they would also submit woman suffrage to the electorate in the same manner. Many of us resented this, as the women had no voice in the matter, but we abandoned all other work and took every available platform right up to the night before the election. Woman suffrage has been carried by a majority of nearly 21,000; prohibition also by a splendid majority. When the soldiers' vote comes in we are hoping the suffrage majority will pile up still higher. Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are all enfranchised. We have made wonderful strides, but in season and out, in fair weather and foul, we kept it before the public, and it only needs ratification when the Liberals take the reins of office. This is grand! I know how delighted you will be. . . . Last spring one of the leading statesmen told me the women of Canada would all be enfranchised within five years, federally as well as provincially. It gladdened my heart, but five years more seems a long time in view of recent events. We feel very happy about our victory; our real work is now to begin. We know our women will be equal to it. I trust the day will soon dawn when the women of the Motherland will be free.

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

### The Advantage to Men of the Women's Vote.

Speaking on "The Fleshpots of Egypt," at Caxton Hall last Wednesday afternoon, Mr. J. Cameron Grant urged women not to forget the reason for which the Women's Freedom League was founded—to secure for women equal political power with men. He maintained that one of the best ways to get the vote was to convince men it was to *their* advantage to see that women had political power. The working classes (and to the working classes Mr. Grant considered everyone belonged who worked either by hand or brain) should be made to realise that if women do not get the vote there will be, after the war is over, a great army of highly skilled slave labour, and God help the men if women are not in the position to bargain collectively! In the lean years to come, women will be exploited against men. He declared that women, if trained, can do any work done by men, except perhaps continuous heavy navy work, and when employers experience this it will probably be to their interest to employ women in place of men, more especially if the former have no organisation with political power behind it. As a large employer of women's labour, Mr. Grant said it was stale news to him to hear that women were fine creatures. Before the war he had stated there was no reason why women should not build entire battleships. Other employers were also recognising women's capabilities, so that it would be a poor look-out for the men if women could not sell their labour on equal terms with them.

Mrs. Mustard referred to the fine work done by women outside their homes throughout the war, but wanted to know how all the homes were being looked after, and whether everything possible was being done for the rearing and training of children. She urged that women should visit the schools in their neighbourhood and make sure that they were warm enough for the children. Women must take a greater share in the government of our country, and they would not much longer submit quietly to this continued injustice of denying them the parliamentary vote.

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, speaking from the chair, pointed out that anti-suffragists no longer maintained that the only place for women was the home. Women were everywhere, but she would like to see women demanding equal wages with men, and not accepting wages as a charity.



### GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

"The sinews of war are vital to our victory!" Mrs. Despard's words at the opening of our Green, White, and Gold Fair at the Caxton Hall, on November 24-25, summed up the main purpose of the effort. To strengthen those sinews, to enable the Women's Freedom League to keep the Woman Suffrage flag flying, was the motive behind all work for the Fair, and we hope for a good result when the accounts are made up.

There was an initial disappointment owing to the absence, through a breakdown in health, of Miss Ellen Terry, for many years a champion of Woman Suffrage, who was to have opened the Fair on November 24; but we look forward to welcoming her on some future occasion. Mrs. Despard's rousing words in declaring the Fair open evoked hearty response. Major-General Sir Alfred Turner declared on November 25, in taking the place of Lady Muir-Mackenzie, who has recently suffered bereavement through the death of her husband, that the trend of public opinion is strongly in favour of votes for women, and that the opponents are old and crusty fanatics who can never see the need for change or progress. He was warmly cheered when he said that twenty years ago he presided at a meeting to advocate woman suffrage. Women need the vote more than ever to-day, he added; everyone pays tribute to the wonderful adaptability they have shown in new employment, thus enabling the country to carry on the war to victory. In a graceful tribute to Mrs. Despard and her self-sacrificing work for so many years, Sir Alfred said that her name would go down to history with those of Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell.

The large hall was effectively decorated by Miss Hunt with Branch banners and the colours of the League. The "Violet Clark" quartette rendered invaluable service throughout the Fair by their delightful music, and the ovation they received when the last note had died away was evidence of the keen appreciation which their playing had evoked. Mrs. Davidson, who was established in the gallery of the hall, was besieged with those who wished to have their characters read. The entertainments in the Council Chamber, under the able direction of Mrs. Corner, were of that high standard of ability and artistic training which we have learned to look for in whatever Mrs. Corner undertakes. At the Grand Allies' Concerts Miss Bozajian's recitations in English of Armenian poems, and Miss Joyce Tarring's rendering of Armenian folk-songs, were keenly enjoyed, also the violin solos of Mr. Edouard Sormus, whose exquisite playing always arouses admiration; Miss Angela Bryer, as pianist, and Miss Pearl E. Bryer, as cellist, gave valuable help, and were warmly welcomed; Miss Edith Elischer's fine voice was heard to advantage, and Madame Lydia Zaco's Russian recitations and dances were a delightful feature of the programme; little Margery Gush sang and danced her way into everyone's heart; the songs of Miss Madge Searle and Mr. W. R. Jacob were much appreciated; the Poetic Players, under the competent guidance of Miss Clara Reed, gave splendid dramatic recitals from "The Pretenders," "Ulysses," "Herod," "Becket," and "Mary, Queen of Scots," and the plays, "Treasures in Heaven" and "The Willy Widow," by Miss Edith Carter, given by her and other friends, under the auspices of the Actresses' Franchise League, were keenly enjoyed by the soldiers and other visitors. To Mrs. Corner and these talented artistes we offer our sincere thanks, recognising the splendid service they have rendered to the cause of votes for women.

We desire to express our warmest thanks to all the stall-holders for their devoted service during the two days, and to the Branches, members, and friends who sent gifts. Miss Brouneau's kindness in bringing wounded soldiers each day from the West London, Charing Cross, and Westminster Hospitals, and of the London Regiment of the National Motor Volunteers, who brought and took back the men on November 24, was heartily appreciated. The soldiers evidently enjoyed their experience of the ways and doings of women suffragists. Through the generosity of Lieutenant Tizard and other friends the men were able to enjoy the entertainments. Our sincerest thanks are also given to Mrs. Fisher and her helpers in the refreshment department, to Mrs. Castwood and the stewards, to Miss Ada Mitchell, the Fair secretary, and to the Social Committee for successfully organising this important undertaking.

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### "The Vote" Stall in Memory of Mrs. Snow.

THE VOTE desires to express its most grateful thanks to Miss Snow for organising and taking charge of the stall, and to Mr. Snow for his very generous help and service.

### One Law for Men, Another for Women.

At Leeds Assizes, on November 27, Richard Cunningham, a lance-corporal in the West Riding Regiment, was sentenced to *twelve months' imprisonment in the second division* for strangling his wife, who had been unfaithful to him, the jury returning a verdict of "Guilty of manslaughter under great provocation." Mr. Justice Darling, before whom the case was heard, declared that a soldier with such an excellent character and record, even if guilty of manslaughter, ought not to be placed among common criminals. It is curious to note that "unfaithfulness in a husband," according to high-placed witnesses before the Royal Commission on Divorce, "is no insult to a wife," but she should "take a lenient view of such lapses" on the part of her husband; yet that same offence committed by a wife is regarded by a judge and jury as "great provocation" to the husband and a man who kills his wife for this reason must not be submitted, declares the judge, to the indignity of being placed with common criminals.

Had the case been reversed, and the wife had killed her husband for unfaithfulness, would any judge and jury have declared that she killed him under great provocation? Rather can we imagine the many shocked comments and the strictures on the duty of a wife to forgive and forget!

If a woman were brought before this judge and jury charged with a too persistent demand for votes for women, is it likely they would have dealt with her in a similarly easy manner? Experience shows that no degradation is too great to impose on women struggling for civil rights. High character in suffragists, perhaps because it is the rule rather than the exception, has never been made a reason for lenient treatment.

### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

#### Women's Skill at Munitions: Glasgow Exhibition.

An extremely interesting exhibition has been held in Glasgow, under the auspices of the Ministry of Munitions, to impress upon the engineering trade employers, managers, foremen, and workers, the adaptability and efficiency of women's work in the munition factories. The principal exhibits demonstrated the variety of the work in which women are engaged, specimens of their handicraft were shown. Nearly all the work had been produced on the West of Scotland area. All round the hall were hung a fine series of photographs, showing women doing many kinds of work in the leading munition factories in the country. As you looked around you were lost in amazement. Mr. Weir, Director of Munitions of Glasgow, said "the experience of the last few months is that there are very few operations which women cannot carry out, given proper training and assistance. The debt of our country towards its women workers is very great." Yet, as I was looking at the photographs I overheard some young men, also looking at them. "See you women," said one, pointing to a picture, "doin' our work, and thinkin' they are competent to do it." "Aye," said number two, "they may have learnt in three weeks, but when the war is by they'll waltz out in three hours." "They should never have been in," growled the first, and mighty angry they were when I turned to them and said "Women will never be turned out because they have proved themselves as good, if

THEY SUPPORT US!

not better, workers as men." They spluttered with indignation. Yes, in spite of honied words from employers and officials we must be vigilant and watchful, or men will do their best, as soon as the war is over, to oust us from our hard-earned positions.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

### Courage on the Sinking Hospital Ship "Britannic."

"I know that women can be brave," said one of the Royal Army Medical Corps officers, "but I never dreamed they could rise to such heights of cool, unflinching courage as those nurses did when under Miss Dowse, the matron, they lined up on deck like so many soldiers, and unconcernedly and calmly waited their turn to enter the boats. We men are proud of them, and we can only hope England will hear of their courage. They were magnificent."

### French Women Munitioners' Visit.

After their visit to Scotland the French munition workers are spending some days sightseeing in London. They were received by Mr. E. S. Montagu, Minister of Munitions, at the Hotel Metropole on November 27; after paying warm tribute to their work, he said that "When peace is restored it will be a great thing to remember that the German menace has been for ever removed, not merely by the men suffering on the field of battle, but by women working and suffering in the munition factories and elsewhere."

### To Drive Royal Mail Vans.

Women are to drive motor Royal Mail vans, and, if successful, their services are to be extended to horse vans. The Post Office is to satisfy itself as to contractors' rates of pay to the women and conditions of their employment.

### More Opposition from Trade Unions.

The London and Provincial Union of the Licensed Vehicle Workers (Owners' and Drivers' branch) passed a resolution on November 22 informing the authorities that they would not employ women drivers, believing that it was not a fit occupation for women and a quite unnecessary innovation.

The North-Eastern Railway guards resolved to request the Board of Trade not to allow the employment of women as guards on the ground that it would be dangerous to the women, to other employees, and to the public, and it was declared that women could not perform the duties.

### No Rivals to Men in Political Turpitude.

"Sardonyx," writing in *The New Statesman* (November 25) on the Presidential Election in the United States and its mazes of party manoeuvres, says that "women Republican politicians have been charged with complete lack of scruple and of that sense of responsibility which, it is alleged, men possess and will exercise. Also in obedience to the traditional superstition that political power for women must involve the most dreadful disasters, it has been beautifully proved that woman suffrage in the Southern States means negro domination, negro control of State governments and of militia, and the furtherance of the anti-white crusade south of the Mason and Dixie line. . . . I doubt whether female politicians in America or elsewhere have been or could be more unscrupulous than male politicians. The devices of the unscrupulous male politician have created strange confusions—and nowhere to a greater extent than in New England, which is fervently pro-English as well as pro-British. . . . Even in Boston it is shouted, and indeed is now largely believed, that New England was never an English colony and owes naught to this iniquitous isle; whereas a fourth of the original colonists—and the cream of them—were German. Naturally! They would be. No; women will need

a little practice before they can seriously hope to rival men in the domain of political turpitude."

### In Parliament.

The National Insurance (Temporary Employment in Agriculture) Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons on November 23. It "enables persons of the normally non-insurable class, who take up agricultural work as a war occupation, to remain outside the scope of compulsory health insurance if they wish." It was blessed as a benefit to employer and employed, and opposed as destroying the good effects of the Insurance Act. It was defended as an emergency measure; it relieves the farmer of paying 3d. a week for each of the changing units in a gang of women of uniform number working continuously for him.

On November 27, in the House of Commons, the Pension Bill was surrendered to the attack of those who opposed it as, to quote Sir Henry Dalziel, "a fraud on the public." Mr. J. Hogge's amendment was accepted in principle by Mr. Arthur Henderson, the first Minister of Pensions. It proposed that the new Pensions Department should have unified administrative powers embracing both Army and Navy. The Bill is to be recast, with Government amendments.

### PRESS COMMENTS.

The war has stimulated democratic sentiment on the part of all classes, and we shall expect the Speaker's Committee to recommend a wide democratic reform. The property and freehold franchise will be abolished; the qualification period be reduced to six months; the principle involved in "successive occupation," which at present (except in London) is confined to boroughs and single constituencies, be made operative through every county. In fact, something like manhood suffrage on a purely residential qualification will be reached. Every class will find champions in the House of Commons, and the greatest class of all, which will find most advocates, because of their national service, will be women. We consider that any discussion on the Carson resolution will be waste of time. The Speaker's Committee is studying the whole franchise problem. It is working slowly, but we hope thoroughly.—*Daily Chronicle*, Nov. 27.

The country is beginning to realise that both the skilled woman worker and the woman who finds her real place and responsibilities in the home are essential to the national life, and that when women receive full enfranchisement, political and economic, each class will be able to make its special contribution to the general welfare.—*Evening Standard*, Nov. 25.

### Women's Freedom League Settlement.

Our stall at the Green, Gold, and White Fair was quite a success, and we thank all those who helped to make it so. We ask everyone interested in the work of the Settlement to come and hear all about it from Mrs. Despard and other speakers on next Saturday, December 2, 3.30 to 5.30, in Mrs. Despard's Club-room at No. 2, Currie-street, Nine Elms, and to bring, if they will, a small contribution of toys, sweets, crackers, fruit, materials for plum puddings and mince pies for the Christmas treat, which we shall hold before breaking up for the holidays. Last year we gave the children a right good time, and we hope to do the same again. Please let all the toys be cheap ones, to prevent jealousy; quantity, not quality, is what is needed.

### IN SYMPATHY.

To Miss Ballard Dawson and the members of the family we express our sympathy in the loss they have sustained by the passing on of their father, the Rev. T. Dawson, on November 21, at Swanage.

## Mr. W. L. GEORGE

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 32.



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