

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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

No. 42.

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

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

WOMEN! JOIN THE
 East London Federation
 of the Suffragettes —
WE NEED YOU!

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

Name

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I enclose 1/4d. to cover membership and postage.

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Name

Address

The
Woman's Dreadnought.

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No. 42.—Saturday, Jan. 2nd, 1915.

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

OUR FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

This First Annual Report of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes covers a period of two years, for though the East London Federation of the Suffragettes will not have its birthday until January 27th; its beginnings were in October, 1912.

During the summer of 1912, Lady Sybil Smith, Mrs. Drummond, a number of local organisations of W.S.P.U., and I had co-operated in organising a series of popular Votes for Women demonstrations on the western side of London, and after these we agreed that the popular campaign must be carried into East London, not merely with the object of holding a series of fugitive demonstrations, but in order that a permanent Suffrage movement might be built up.

There were many reasons for this step.—On the one hand, the women of East London suffer, perhaps, more from evil social conditions than the people of any other part of the civilised world, and, therefore, these women, perhaps more than any others, most urgently need the Vote. On the other hand, the comparative nearness to the House of Commons of this vast industrial area makes it possible for the women who live there to bring the pressure of a popular protest to bear on Parliament in a more effective way than that which is possible to their fellows who live further afield.

Kensington, Chelsea and Paddington W.S.P.U.'s agreed to help in opening up the East London propaganda, and centres were at once started by them in Bethnal Green, Stepney, Limehouse and Poplar. The W.S.P.U. headquarters at Lincoln's Inn House rented a shop in Bow Road, and I collected a body of voluntary workers for that district. After six weeks'

work a big procession and demonstration was held in Victoria Park, on November 10th, 1912. Immediately after the demonstration came the Bow and Bromley by-election, in which Mr. George Lansbury, a Labour Member of Parliament for the constituency, resigned his seat, in order to be free to fight on the Votes for Women issue. All the Suffrage societies helped in the by-election, but Mr. Lansbury was not returned.

Soon after the by-election, and originally at my suggestion, preparations began to be made for the Working Women's Deputation to Mr. Lloyd George. Though volunteers for the Deputation were invited from all over the country, by far the largest number came from East London, and the various East London districts were the most systematically worked.

The Speaker allowed a gathering of 50 of the women in the Grand Committee Room of Westminster Hall, but of the thousands who had volunteered for the Deputation only twelve were finally chosen to go to Downing Street. These included: a Poplar laundress, a home-worker who made pinafores at sweated rates in Bow, a waste rubber worker from Poplar, and the wife of a labourer earning 2s. a week, who had

Plenty of friends at once rallied round us. Women who had joined the Union in the last few weeks came in and scrubbed the floors and cleaned the windows. Mrs. Wise, who kept the sweet shop next door, lent us a trestle table for a counter, and helped us to put up purple, white and green flags. Her little boy took down the shutters for us every morning, and put them up each night, and her little girls often came in to sweep. A week after the shop was opened Miss Emerson and I were arrested. We went to prison on Friday night, February 14th, 1913, and our fines were paid on Saturday at noon. We had been hunger-striking, and as soon as we had broken our fast we went back to Bow. We found Mrs. Lake scrubbing the table, and as many other members as the shop would hold talking about the situation, and wondering how we were getting on.

First East London Imprisonments

On the following Monday, February 17th, we held a meeting at the Obelisk, and after it was over Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Moor, Miss Annie Lansbury, and I broke an undertaker's window. Mr. Will Lansbury broke a window in the Bromley Public Hall, and Miss

hooligans and police together might have given the speakers a bad time but for the help of the East London dockers, who fought to protect the women Sunday after Sunday.

On Sunday, May 25th, 1913, was held "Woman's May Day" in East London. The Members in Bow, Bromley, Poplar, and neighbouring districts had prepared for it for many weeks past, and had made hundreds of almond branches, which were carried in a great procession with purple, white and green flags, and caps of Liberty, from the East India Dock Gates, by winding ways, to Victoria Park. A vast crowd of people—then said to be the biggest ever seen in East London—assembled in the Hyde Park of East London to hear the speakers from 20 platforms.

Formation of Federation.

A few days later the organisation, which was then called the East London Federation of the W.S.P.U., was formally set up, to unite for greater strength the local Unions that had been formed in Bow, Bromley, Poplar, Limehouse and Hackney. Canning Town has since been added to the number. It was decided that the Federation Council should consist of the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Financial and Hon. Meetings Secretaries, the Hon. Advertisement Manager, the District Secretaries and Organisers, and two elected representatives of the Members in each district.

Our First Trafalgar Square Meeting.

On Sunday, June 29th, 1913, the East London Federation organised a big procession to Trafalgar Square, in which Suffrage Societies and Trades' Unions and Labour Organisations joined. There was an immense crowd in the Square. But of what use was one more big Meeting where so many had been held? The "Cat and Mouse" Act had just been passed, and under it Mrs. Pankhurst and a number of other hunger-strikers were being ruthlessly dragged back and back to prison. Their lives were at stake. Emily Wilding Davison, impressed by their peril, had given her own life to make the nation think. On June 4th she had flung herself into the midst of the Derby racehorses, and had been killed. In face of such happenings what was the use of talking? The need was for an emphatic public protest. I asked the people to go and hoot the Cabinet Ministers, and, if they were able, to do more than hoot—to imprison the Cabinet Ministers in their official residences, as they had imprisoned more than 2,000 women Suffragists, until the Ministers would agree to give women the Vote.

I had hardly finished speaking when the people were streaming off down Whitehall, and soon they were hooting and shouting "Votes for Women" outside Mr. Asquith's house. Police reinforcements were immediately hurried across from Scotland Yard to force the people away, and a sharp struggle took place, in which five men were arrested.

The following Thursday, July 3rd, I, too, was summonsed under the antique Statute of Edward III to appear at Bow Street, on July 5th. I did not consider it my duty to obey, and instead I went away for the week-end, and then made my way to the Bromley Public Hall in Bow Road, where I had promised to speak. After the meeting the people rallied unanimously, and fought to protect me from the detectives, who had come with a warrant for my arrest. Eventually I was taken prisoner with five others, one of whom was Miss Mary Richardson.

After remaining the night at Bow Street, I was sentenced next morning to three months' imprisonment, because I would not promise not to make militant speeches. On reaching prison I started the hunger-and-thirst strike.



CANNING TOWN BABIES WHO THRIVE ON OUR MILK.

eight children and lived in a wretched two-roomed tenement in Bethnal Green, for which she paid 5s. a week in rent.

Mr. Lloyd George assured the Deputation that the Votes for Women Amendments to the Reform Bill would be carried, but the same night the Speaker announced that if this were done the whole Reform Bill would be out of order.

After the Working Women's Deputation was over most of the West London workers left the East End, and all financial aid from the W.S.P.U. headquarters was finally withdrawn.

Opening of Roman Road Shop.

I was determined that the East End work must go on. A few pounds still remained in the Popular Campaign fund, and Lady Sybil Smith, who was treasurer, agreed that this should be devoted to East End work. We, therefore, decided to take the risk of opening a permanent East End headquarters in Bow, and took a shop and house at 321 Roman Road, at a rental of 14s. 6d. a week. It was the only shop to let in the road. The shop window was broken right across, and was only held together by putty. The landlord would not put in new glass, nor would he repair the many holes in the shop and passage flooring, because he thought we should only stay a short time. But all such things have since been done.

Emerson broke a Liberal Club window. We were all six arrested, and sent to prison without the option of a fine.

That was the beginning of Militancy in East London. Miss Emerson, Mrs. Watkins and I decided to do the hunger-strike, and hoped that we should soon be out to work again. But though Mrs. Watkins was released after 10 days, Miss Emerson and I were forcibly fed for upwards of five weeks.

Meanwhile, a tremendous flame of enthusiasm had burst forth in the East End. Great meetings were held, and during our imprisonment long processions marched eight times the six miles to the gates of Holloway to cheer us.

Early in April the anti-Suffragist Government entered on a strenuous campaign of Suffragette persecution.

Mrs. Pankhurst, Annie Kenney and others were sentenced for conspiracy. A musty old Statute of Edward III, which was directed by that Monarch and his Government against pillers and robbers from beyond the seas, was raked up, and under it Mr. George Lansbury and others were summonsed for their Suffrage speeches. Attempts were made to prohibit the publication of the newspaper, *The Suffragette*, and militant Suffrage meetings were prohibited in Hyde Park.

The police kept the Suffragette platforms out of the Park, but they could not prevent the women speaking. Nevertheless, anti-Suffragist

Members must be sure to attend the—

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AT
BOW BATHS,
Monday, Jan. 4th, 1915,
8 p.m.

All members should by now be in possession of copies of the resolutions and nomination forms. The nomination forms are NOT voting papers. The vote will be taken at the Conference. In addition to the resolutions on the agenda, a resolution will be brought forward to the effect that men shall be admitted to the Federation as Associates.

It is essential that every member should be present to vote for the officers of the Federation in 1915, and to decide other business.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Hon. Sec.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW.

The first members meeting of the year will be held on Friday, January 1st, at 8 p.m. Members are urged to make a special effort to attend as there is important business to be discussed. The Committee and Auditors of the Savings Club for 1915 will be elected, and the final arrangements for the Children's Party on Saturday, January 2nd, will be made. Those who have not yet bought their tickets for the Annual New Year Party can obtain them then. A suggestion for starting a Coal Club will be discussed. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst hopes to be present.

BROMLEY.

The first members meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, January 5th. The election of a Committee and Auditors for the Savings Club, and the starting of a Coal Club is included in the business of the evening. It is hoped that members will begin the year well by turning up in large numbers.

POPLAR.

THE WOMEN'S HALL, 20 RAILWAY ST.
The first members meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, January 5th. The business to be brought forward includes the election of a Committee and Auditors for 1915, the arrangements to be made for the Poplar Children's Party on January 11th, and the starting of a Coal Club. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst hopes to be present. Members are urged to make a special effort to attend.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—14 Butchers' Road.
The first members meeting of the year will be held on Thursday, January 7th, when Miss Sylvia Pankhurst hopes to be present. All members are urged to come, as there is important business to be discussed. The Committee and Auditors of the Savings Club for 1915 will be elected, and the starting of a Coal Club will be discussed. Arrangements for the Children's Party on January 23rd, will also be made. Do not forget to keep this evening free.

The announcements for HACKNEY and LIMEHOUSE are held over until next week.

CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

Bow Baths,

Saturday, January 2nd, 1915,
3 p.m.

Poplar Town Hall,

Monday, January 11th, 1915,
6 p.m.

Canning Town Public Hall,

January 23rd, 1915.

Admission by Invitation.

Members of the E.L.F.S. are entitled to tickets for their children, or, if unmarried, for small brothers and sisters, but no other relations are eligible.

Applications for tickets should be made in:

BOW, on Thursday, December 31st, or Friday, January 1st, at 400 Old Ford Road.

POPLAR, on or after Tuesday, January 5th, at 20 Railway Street.

CANNING TOWN, on or after January 5th, at 14 Butcher's Road, in the afternoon.

to the babies of necessitous mothers. This work has extended so rapidly that in the Bow centre milk is supplied daily to upwards of 190 milk cases, and the number in Poplar is little smaller. Milk depots were also opened simultaneously with the distress bureaux at Bromley and Canning Town.

We soon realized the advisability of combining the milk distribution with regular weekly baby weighing, regular visits to the doctor who attends weekly at the centre and regular home visitation by a qualified nurse. As rapidly as possible these features have been added, together with the provision of maternity outfits, Glaxo, Virol, eggs, barley and other things ordered by our doctors. The progress made by the mothers and babies under our care has been most marked and many lives have been saved.

Restaurants.

To provide milk only for the nursing and expectant mothers and the babies, whilst the entire family was in need of food was well enough in its way, but exceedingly incomplete. The mothers moreover could not live on milk alone. We therefore determined to open "cost price" restaurants at which two-course meals might be bought at 1d. for children and 2d. for adults and free meals, especially in the case of nursing and expectant mothers might be given where necessary. This has been done in Bow, Poplar and Bromley. The Bow restaurant was started on August 31st.

Work for the Unemployed.

The best solution for distress arising through unemployment is, of course, the provision of properly paid work, and though this is a costly enterprise, the E.L.F.S. has been able to do something also in this direction. In the DREADNOUGHT dated August 15th we were able to announce that we had already opened an employment bureau and were ourselves employing a limited number of women at a wage of 5d. an hour. This work has steadily increased and the E.L.F.S. now employs, quite apart from the political organisers and secretaries, 59 regular indoor workers on relief work of one kind or another, all but five of whom are on full time, and also a varying number of outworkers. None of the adult workers receive less than 5d. an hour or £1 a week, some get more.

Our Factory.

We have opened a factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, where we are making dolls, toys and garments. Dolls' wax heads are made specially for us in London, and China heads in the potteries from a model kindly given to us by Miss Dowling. Dolls' wigs are specially made for us in Dewsbury. Boots and shoes are made for the Federation under Mr. Payne, at 400 Old Ford Road.

Our manufactures will be put on a co-operative basis as soon as they are able to cover the cost of production and pay a fair wage for labour. Until that time we must subsidise them and hope for generous subscriptions from our friends to enable us to do so adequately.

Our Nursery.

We have opened a day nursery at 45 Norman Road, Bow, in connection with our factory, where women may leave their children at a cost of 3d. a day, including food. There are at present a dozen children in the nursery, and we are daily obliged to turn applicants away for lack of room, as subscriptions do not yet warrant an extension of our premises.

The E.L.F.S. is specially indebted for help in its relief work to Mrs. Payne, Miss Mackay and Miss Edith Jones for work at the Distress Bureau and Maternity centre in Bow; to Mrs. Drake and Miss Hicks for similar work in Poplar; to Mrs. McCheyne and Mrs. Mantle in Bromley, and to Mrs. Parsons at Canning Town. Also to doctors Simpson and Royle, and to our devoted nurses. We also have to thank very cordially Mrs. Richmond and Miss Morgan Brown for taking charge of the Bow and Poplar Restaurants, and for providing private work for a number of women; also the other kind helpers who have given their services in the restaurants, and to Lady Sybil Smith who so ably organised the nursery and has been assisting in serving there herself and in finding others who have given valuable help. We must also thank Miss Stewart who has conducted the regular sales of our toys at 400 Old Ford Road, and the many friends who have arranged sales elsewhere. There are many others to whom the Federation has reason to be grateful, both for personal service and for subscriptions.

Children's Parties.

The E.L.F.S. is organising three large Children's Parties in Bow Baths, Poplar Town Hall and Canning Town Public Hall. Mrs. Ancilffe Sennett is kindly giving us two Christmas trees, and Miss Murray Clark who teaches our choir and provides music for our Sunday meetings is organising the entertainments.

Clothing.

We have been enabled by the kindness of many friends to hold regular sales of clothing, at very low prices, at each of our centres, and also to give numbers of garments away.

Prince of Wales's Fund, Poplar.

Whilst developing our own schemes of relief, which would have been but temporary had the National arrangements been adequate, the E.L.F.S. felt it necessary to claim representation on the local Mayor's Committees. We wrote offering our services in the Boroughs of Poplar, Hackney, Stepney and Canning Town. In Poplar I was placed on the Mayor's Committee to represent the E.L.F.S., and Miss Smyth, Mrs. Cheyne and Mrs. Winters obtained seats on the local Mayor's committees.

As the E.L.F.S. representative on the Poplar Mayor's Committee, I have to report that the administration of the Prince of Wales's fund in the Borough is unsatisfactory in the extreme. The delays in granting relief have been wholly unwarrantable, and the Mayor, ignoring the decisions of the main committee, has relied on a grossly inadequate scale. The Cabinet Committee has arbitrarily ordered the reduction of the relief for the Borough and the Mayor, again ignoring his Committee has complied.

In this connection the E.L.F.S. organised a deputation to the Cabinet Committee which was received by Mr. Herbert Samuel and Mr. John Burns. By this means the reduction of relief was partially checked. Exposures in the "WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT" have also served to this end, but further vigilance is most necessary, and a meeting to discuss this question is being held by the E.L.F.S. in Bow Baths, on January 15th.

Future Work.

In concluding this brief statement of the work of our Federation, I wish most earnestly to impress on every member the need for further extending our membership for increasing the sales of our paper, and for the active and hearty co-operation of every individual member of the E.L.F.S.

Votes were never so much needed by women as they are to-day. It was never before so necessary to the community that women should have the vote.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes is essentially a working woman's organisation. Let us together make it a powerful force in winning votes for working women and in fighting for the interests of working women in every department of life.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST,
Hon. Secretary, E.L.F.S.

TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE MORE TOYS THAN THEY WANT.

Will you not send some of your toys for the children of the E.L.F.S.? They will treasure one toy more than you treasure all you have. Address your parcels to Miss N. Smyth, 400, Old Ford Road, and send it as soon as you can. We want a toy for every child at our parties on January 2nd, January 11th and January 23rd.

On Tuesday, January 5th, an entertainment will be given at the Suffrage Club, 3 York Street, St. James', at 8 p.m., in aid of the International Suffrage Shop (which has helped the E.L.F.S. in its Milk Collections and in other ways) the performers include the Misses Eva Boydell, Gwendoline Cook, Constance Fairbairn, Lettice Fox, Etheldreda Gore Brown, Lilian Lenton and Gladys Seymour. Tickets 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d., may be obtained from the I.S.S., 5 Duke Street, Villiers Street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED at once. Oddments of knitting wool to make into coloured balls for children. All colours acceptable, especially black (which throws up the brighter colours). No remnants too small to be used. Please address to Miss Sharp, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

E.L.F.S. . . .

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S PARTY,

Bow Baths, Roman Rd.,

ON
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2nd,
AT EIGHT P.M.

SPLENDID CONCERT.

Miss Land
Miss Marguerite Beauvais
Miss Beatrice Beauvais
Miss Spong Miss Ruth Hill
Miss Irene Bouvier
Miss Darling-Jacobs
Miss Murray Clark
Miss Inez Bensusan
Miss Janette Steer
Me. Levinskaya
And others.

HERALD LEAGUE BAND.

DANCING,

Fancy Dress optional.
(Prize for the best dress.)

ADMISSION 3d.

Tickets may be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow; 321 Roman Road, Bow; 20 Railway Street, Poplar; and at 14 Butcher's Road, Canning Town, (in the afternoon).

Friends outside the district will be able to buy tickets at the door of the Baths.

Take a No. 8 Bus from the Bank or Liverpool Street almost to the door

BE SURE TO COME!

CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Monday at 6 p.m., and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed. The stall will be closed till January 8th.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

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

FOR BABY.

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

FOR MOTHER.

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

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

EGGS.

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

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

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

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

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Held over on account of the holidays.

WE URGENTLY NEED MORE MONEY!

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.