

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAR. 31, 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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A WOMAN ALONE.

We welcome the following contribution from a sincere friend, and note with great thankfulness the change which is coming over the atmosphere of the Courts, as a result of the persistent agitation of women. We, too, add our tribute of admiration for Miss X.'s public-spirited action.

Clerkenwell Sessions, March 23rd, 1916.

There was brought into the dock a sturdy, well-dressed alien, charged with an indecent assault on Miss X., an orphan, aged 19.

As prosecuting counsel outlined the case against the prisoner, we realised how wide and deep were the operations of those vultures of society, and we wondered how many young girls had been trapped and shipped abroad by such vile methods. The prisoner had put an advertisement in a theatrical paper to trap the simple-minded girl, and had taken a room for a few hours daily at which aspirants to the stage were to apply.

One plucky girl, after being subjected to gross indecencies, had the courage to go to the police, and providentially was assisted by an equally courageous woman.

Miss X., a petite blonde, was the chief witness, and as she stepped into the witness box she looked a mere child. A wave of indignation swept over the court as they contrasted her quiet demeanour with the insolent bearing of the prisoner. I felt an impulse to get up and ask his Lordship that some woman should accompany her, but second thoughts told me I could best safeguard her interests and do justice to the prisoner by keeping quietly alert.

One regrets that a verbatim report of the whole proceedings could not be published broadcast to show what goes on inside the four walls of some theatrical agents' offices and is accepted as not improper or indecent; also what lies behind the many advertisements for girls.

The witness had to pass through a terrible ordeal as incidents of the disgusting story were unfolded.

At first her voice was hardly audible, but as she realised the sincere sympathy of the whole court her voice gathered strength, and she never wavered in her evidence.

In such cases money is no object, and prisoner was ably defended.

As counsel for the defence proceeded in his cross-examination, there came a tensely dramatic moment—someone in the jury box expressed indignation at certain questions put, and counsel for the moment paused as though struck smartly across the eyes. The jury had presumed to stand on their rights and protect a witness, and in doing so had checked a counsel in his course! Is not the jury above counsel? Certainly! For are not the following words in the oath they take: "Whom I shall have in charge, and a true verdict given according to the evidence"? The jury, faithful to this charge, had determined that such a material witness should have their full protection.

"Thank you," said his Lordship, and the girl's long ordeal was over. Before leaving the witness box she turned to the Judge, and, with voice vibrating, exclaimed: "Your Lordship, I have not brought this case forward solely on my own account, but in the interests of other girls."

The prisoner went into the witness box, and by the skilful aid of the prosecuting counsel we learned among other things that whilst prisoner professed ignorance of L.C.C. Registration Laws, he had a wide knowledge of licences, permits, &c., necessary to gain entrance into other countries.

The jury proceeded to discuss their verdict, whilst a tense stillness pervaded the whole court, which was relieved when the verdict of Guilty was pronounced.

"Gentlemen, of the Jury, I entirely agree with your verdict," began the Judge, and sentenced the prisoner to twelve months' hard labour.

"Please call Miss X. into the court." Bending over his desk, the Judge warmly and kindly said:

"We consider you have done a great public-service in bringing this case into court, and I must thank you for doing so."

The heartiest applause I have ever heard rang through the court, which even the officials in their delight forgot to check.

"Bring the prisoner back, I have not completed the sentence. On the expiration of your term I order your expulsion from the country." The protests of prisoner and his counsel were of no avail, and the former was conducted below.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Telegrams—"DESPARD," MUSEUM 1429, LONDON.
Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.
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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

COUNCIL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 8.—JUMBLE SALE, Tolmers-square Institute, Drummond-street, N.W., 2.30. CROYDON WHIST DRIVE, at 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 6.30 p.m., to help 50,000 Shillings Fund.

Sunday, April 9.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, by kind permission of Miss Forbes Robertson, 9, Museum-chambers, Bury-street, W.C. (opposite W.F.L. Offices), 3.30 p.m. Tea 5 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Chapman. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

Monday, April 10.—BOWES PARK BRANCH MEETING, at "Corbally," 59, Truro-road, Wood Green, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11.—L.B.C. SEWING MEETING for Green, White and Gold Fair, 144, High Holborn, 3 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. H. N. Flewker, "The Urgent Need for Reform of the Lunacy Laws and for Remedial Treatment," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Despard.

Friday, April 14.—CROYDON PUBLIC MEETING, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30. Speaker: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3.15.

Saturday, May 6.—DEBATE ON "Should Suffragists Demand Adult Suffrage?" between Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., and Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, W.C., 3 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d. (reserved and numbered), 1s. (reserved unnumbered) and 6d. (unreserved).

PROVINCES.

Monday, April 3.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lucas, of Darlington.

Wednesday, April 5.—LETHWORTH. Working Party, at Miss Woodward's, Woodrow, Norton Way. PORTSMOUTH. Sewing Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 3 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre, Violin Recital by Mr. Walter Hampson ("Casey").

WALES.

Friday, March 31.—SWANSEA. Jumble Sale (proceeds to be sent to Headquarters).

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, April 4.—INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, W. House Dinner. Miss I. O. Ford, "The Ideal Man." Chairman: Rev. Arthur E. M. de Cetto. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5.—Mrs. H. F. Wood, "The Naval and Military War Pensions Act." Chairman: Lt.-Col. Sealey, H.M.'s Indian Army (retired). 4.30 p.m.

We Draw Special Attention to—

1. Mrs. Despard's lecture on "Brotherhood, Theoretical and Practical," at the Bijou Theatre

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

The moral seems obvious that other women would also be doing a public duty by running to earth these bogus theatrical agencies and sifting many of the questionable advertisements that appear from time to time. In doing so they would appreciably reduce the number of cases known and unknown of disappearing girls.

A JURYMEN.

P.S.—One significant question put to many of his victims was: "Have you any parents or friends living in London?"

(Hasluck's Academy), Bedford-street, Strand, next Sunday, April 2, at 4 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.

2. Mrs. Rosa M. French's lecture at the Caxton Hall, on Wednesday next, April 5, on "Women Police in California." Mrs. French initiated the work and carried it on in San Francisco for some years. She has a great reputation as a speaker on the subject and on Woman Suffrage.

FIFTY THOUSAND SHILLINGS.

I still have a number of collecting cards for the Fund, it will be a great help if 100 members and friends will undertake to collect at least 10s. before the end of the Easter Holidays. Who will come forward?

Many thanks to the President for 50 more shillings, and to Mrs. Branch for the same number from the Northampton meeting; to Mr. and Mrs. Schofield Coates for 100; to the Lady Rhondda for 40 and to Miss Green for 21, both per Mrs. Kineton Parkes; to Stamford Hill and Tottenham Branch, to Mrs. Mallalue and Mrs. M. E. Thomas for 10 each; to Miss Ruth Fisher and Mrs. Gomerall, who collected 10 each; and to our Bournemouth Branch for 8; and to Miss Kate Haward for blouse lengths of white silk and linen, and Miss Laura Haward for two handsome cut-glass decanters.

E. KNIGHT.

Easter Holidays.

The Women's Freedom League Offices, 144, High Holborn, London, will be closed from Wednesday, April 19, at 5 p.m., to Tuesday, April 25, at 9.30 a.m.

National Union of Teachers' Conference, Buxton, Easter Week, 1916.

All members of the Women's Freedom League will be pleased to hear that a Suffrage campaign will be held during Easter week at the National Union of Teachers' Conference. Arrangements have been made to hold open-air meetings daily in the market place and a public meeting in the Oddfellows' Hall, Market-street, on Wednesday, April 26, when Mrs. Despard will be with us. Miss Anna Munro will be the principal speaker throughout the campaign, and will be assisted by other speakers of the Women's Freedom League. Will teachers and sympathisers, who will be in Buxton at the time and are willing to assist in speaking, poster parading, in VOTE selling, etc., kindly send their names and addresses to me as soon as possible? A special Teachers' number of the VOTE will be issued. I earnestly appeal for funds to work this campaign. The National Union of Teachers' Conference is one of the greatest fields for propaganda, and I feel sure that teachers and members, knowing the great success of the Women's Freedom League at previous conferences, will willingly bear the expense of the campaign of 1916.

ALIX M. CLARK,

Hon. Organiser.

The Hut, Severn-street, Newtown,
Montgomery Boroughs.

THEY SUPPORT US!

POLITICAL NOTES.

Confusion Worse Confounded.

The official gentleman who took up Mr. Trevelyan's challenge in the House of Commons on March 23 in regard to the English lady whose internment without trial has been exciting so much comment, was hardly happy in his "explanation." In the effort to prove that the attack on the Government was unjustifiable, he proved—if his statement be accepted as fact—a great deal too much, and has created a fresh dilemma for the Government. If the lady, whom Mr. Trevelyan described as of spotless innocence, was in reality the desperate character depicted by the Home Office apologist, one wonders still more why there was no trial, under the increased powers and wider charges provided by the Defence of the Realm regulations? It is quite possible that, as we have pointed out before, Mr. Trevelyan has all unconsciously put his finger on a far graver danger than that of the detention of innocent persons—i.e., that the emergency powers entrusted to officialdom may be used to protect persons who should be tried, as well as to imprison them without trial. The long-dead champions of civil liberty who knew from personal experience the evils of arbitrary power, builded wisely and well when they put public trial and the right to trial in the forefront of their programme. We do ill to renounce the fruits of their work and wisdom in any emergency short of civil war or invasion. The "corpus" in this case is perhaps not of the fleecy whiteness Mr. Trevelyan paints, nor yet as black as the Home Office picture; but the painful fruit of the tree of lies under which party politics flourishes is that no statement from political sources can be received without reserve.

The "Sussex" Disaster.

The *Sussex* disaster carries in its details more of horror than previous submarine outrages; and the accounts supplied by various survivors seem each in turn to accentuate the tragedy. Serious statements have been made both as to organisation and management; and Dr. Rutherford—a colleague of our good friend Dr. Clark—does not hesitate to censure the behaviour of some of the men passengers. No word of blame, however, has been levelled at the women, who, in most cases, appear to have acted with heroic calm and devotion. We do not desire to insult them with silly and indiscriminating praise; we, at all events, can never be surprised by evidences of the courage and strength of women, in spite of the Prime Minister's emotion and the "pride" of Mr. Bottomley. But we wonder whether, when the echoes of the foolish phrase "A year ago we did not know we had such women" have died away with the last volley of artillery fire, we shall have to say of our men, "A year hence they will have forgotten they had such women!"

Insolent Exploitation.

The *Daily Mail* has broken out in a new place. Its readers will not have failed to notice an article, most unfortunately from a woman's pen, dealing sentimentally with the physical disabilities, loss of weight and vitality, of the unweaned babies whose mothers suffer desperate grief and anxiety on behalf of their husbands in the war zone. The account is a description of French conditions; we are warned in the article that this is how English mothers and babies will be affected if the "married men" controversy is not settled to suit the views of the *Daily Mail*. It is shocking to find that even the most intimate sorrows and sufferings of women are not sacred from the intrusion of party politics, and must be exploited for the basest press purposes; but it is also ludicrous that it should only just have been discovered that women and babies suffer these

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"sympathetic" ills; and that they only deserve consideration in respect of wives of married men who have not yet gone to the colours! Anyone would think that the Navy, the Regular Army, and the army recruited by Lord Kitchener without the unfortunate intervention of pledges, were composed of men entirely without wives or babies. It was not until party capital could be made out of the suffering of women and babies that the stout hearts in Carmelite-street began to bleed for them; and it is unpleasantly reminiscent of a certain historic reference to Louvain! Mrs. Despard has dealt with this phase of distress ever since war broke out, without any support from Carmelite House or its noble dictator of policies and sentiments; we fancy on the whole that her advocacy will strike even the undiscerning British public as the more sincere.

Monopoly in Self-Sacrifice.

In the three prairie provinces of Canada the same public sentiment that has closed the drink shops during the war has given the vote to women. One rash man told Mrs. Stapleford, a member of the Regina Branch of the Equal Franchise League, that he would be in favour of the vote for women, but that he feared they would no longer be worthy of being counted among the devoted, self-sacrificing type to which his mother belonged. Mrs. Stapleford replied that "the nurses from New Zealand, ten in number, who had gone to their death on a hospital transport, for when told to get into the life-boats they had insisted on 'fighting men first.' They belonged to a country that had had equal suffrage since before the nurses could remember. It had not lessened their devotion or power of self-sacrifice." Is there not something awry in the "chivalry" that insists on giving our mothers the monopoly of self-sacrifice—and nothing else?

C. NINA BOYLE.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 980.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, March 31st, 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.

FRILLS AND FURBELOWS: "NEVER AGAIN!"

The best way to gauge the rate at which we are travelling is to compare distance with distance. "I was there," says the traveller. "I am here. Between the two points there is a great space of country. I have been moving more quickly than I thought." This is one of the thoughts that come to us when we compare the position and attitude of woman to-day—her readiness to meet the country's call and her skill in every sort of industry into which she is being plunged—with what might have happened had the crisis in her nation's history arisen fifty or sixty years ago.

That woman is, and always has been *woman*—an integral part of the human family with potentialities for human service whose supreme value has never yet been estimated—we freely admit. The twentieth century has not changed her essential qualities. The difference is of opportunity. And here let none of us ever forget what we owe to the woman's movement. It is that and that only—the love, the loyalty, the strength, that comes of combination, the glad spirit of spiritual combat which our movement brings with it—that has prepared women for the part they are playing to-day, that will prepare them, if they remain true to themselves and one another, to be mothers of the nations of to-morrow.

It may quicken our faith in the future and cement our loyalty to the cause we serve to look back upon those past days. There were a few great women—some rebels, who risked the loss of reputation for their ideals, though these were as voices crying out in the wilderness; there was demand in certain quarters for higher education; here and there slumbering resentment could be felt against family and marital slavery. And these were admirably summed up in John Stuart Mill's classic work, "The Subjection of Women."

In the large sense there was no woman's movement. The working-woman, if unmarried, led a life of unrelieved penury; if married and a wage-earner, she had to hand over her earnings to the husband, whose chattel she was. The woman of the well-to-do classes was made to understand early that the only door open to a life at once easy and respectable was that of marriage. Therefore, she had to depend upon her good looks, according to the ideals of the men of her day, her charm, her little drawing-room arts, and the frills and furbelows with

which fashion decreed that she should disguise herself. MAN—written in capital letters—would have it so. Coming in, wearied from the large life of the outer world, where, perhaps, he was not so much appreciated as he deserved to be, he wanted rest and comfort. "What do you suppose I married you for?" was a phrase addressed often in those days to a woman who presumed to think for herself. That the "Frills and Furbelows" era has gone—and it will be woman's own fault if it ever returns—is due to our movement. Therefore should we cherish as a sacred trust the lessons it has taught us.

Independence first; human independence, our God-given right! Not the Puritan catch-word: "God is thy law: thou mine"—that has, alas, befogged so many—do we follow; ours rather is the clear, calm determination of those who know that in them is the sacred shrine of life, and that they are responsible for its safe keeping.

And—Independence in combination: loving, acting, working, striving together! Could women have borne the tests to which they have been subjected had they not found out, unconsciously it may be, but none the less truly, the strength that lies in unity of purpose and aims?

Further, the lesson of watchfulness! Now, in their hour of trial, many of our brothers are discovering how faulty they have been in this respect. For had the male European democracies of Europe kept their eyes open, had they insisted on the practical working out of the principles they profess, it is certain that the present awful cataclysm, which threatens the break-up of civilization and a return to barbarism, might never have come about.

In this week's issue of *The Nation* there is a remarkable warning. The writer has seen that "the democratic atmosphere of peace, which should find expression in alertness and in criticism, is dissipated at the brusque order of the soldier and bureaucrat." The British people, he proceeds, may not only have temporarily lost many of their rights; but may also have lost, under the habitation of despotic control, the very feeling of freedom, the temper and tradition of criticism. This mood of men, however abstract and intangible, is the first essential of a living and a creative community.

That, addressed to men, is the very lesson which women have been learning in their movement towards liberty. It is possible that the extraordinary revelations brought about by the war have quickened our vision. We have been able to see between and within the catch-words of political parties. The recklessness, the extravagance, the lack of practical organization in every department of the State have been indeed more apparent. But we must not forget that alert and constant criticism had begun in the woman's movement long before the war. Our difficulty has been not lack of critical faculty, nor even of expression; but the power which so many men possessed yet failed to use, of criticising where alone criticism can be effective, in the Council House of the nation through chosen representatives.

We are smarting to-day under a sense of helplessness. Encouraged and praised for doing what we could not help doing, for serving our country largely in the hour of her great need, we are obliged to look on idly while the liberties of the people are restricted, while our priceless possession, voluntarism in service is being whittled away, while, above all, economies that leave the rich and strong scathless are being practised upon our children, and upon the fine women and men—chiefly women now—who are responsible for their training in the elementary schools.

Our hope is that what we have seen and suffered in this time of sorrow will have the effect not only of stimulating us to greater activity, but also to a

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Deputy Wesleyan Minister.

Mrs. Bolitho is to take her husband's place as Wesleyan minister during his absence on military duty.

Omnibus Conductors: A Good Send-Off.

The first batch of women conductors who started work on the omnibuses of the London General Omnibus Company will be followed by another 250, and the number in training is added to daily. At the Company's training school at Chelsea the women conductors had a musical send off, at which they provided their own programme.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt to Visit the Trenches.

Madame Sarah Bernhardt is shortly to visit the French and British troops in the trenches in France.

Church Clerk.

Miss Nancy Green is Church Clerk at Great Holland, Essex; her duties include grave digging and bell ringing.

The Woman Pays.

"There can be no doubt," says *The Nation* this week, "that there have been serious street *émeutes* in Germany, in the course of which women have been shot down in considerable numbers."

Railway Cleaners.

Women carriage cleaners and greasers on railways wear "slops" as men, instead of skirts.

Women Gardeners at Windsor.

Women gardeners are employed at Windsor Castle.

The Railwaymen's Union and Women.

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Railwaymen will not admit women in munition factories under railway control to membership of the Railwaymen's Union, but where they are partly employed on railway work and partly on munition production, the Union will receive them as members. It is open to them to join the National Federation of Women Workers.

Rest Homes for War Nurses.

There are 2,050 nurses working for the joint committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Each gets 14 days' leave every six months, in addition to their regular time off duty and half days. Those who have homes usually return to them for furlough. Lady Desborough's house at Taplow and Mr. Moseley's house at Hadley Wood are examples of the hospitality which is constantly available for nurses from overseas. In France the Duchess of Argyll's villa at Hardelot is used as a rest-house for nurses from the hospitals in France, also Mrs. George Warre's villa at Mentone. Nurses in Egypt are well supplied with rest houses and clubs, some supported from British funds, others supplied by local British hospitality. Serious cases—mental breakdowns, nervous, and chest cases—are sent back to England, but, according to *The Times*, there are only about six such cases. Queen Alexandra's War Nurses' Relief Fund has rendered great service to freeing war-worn women from pecuniary anxiety. Queen Mary's Hostel, Bloomsbury, is a homely place of rest and recreation for nurses.

Women's Theatre Camps Entertainments.

During the past twelve months the Women's Theatre Camps Committee has, with the consent of the Army Council, visited eleven military centres and given 193 entertainments, in which 451 artistes have been employed and paid for their services. The attractive entertainments have been of a high standard, and warmly appreciated by the soldiers

truer and deeper unity amongst ourselves. Let the words so frequently heard to-day "never again" ring through our ranks, and may there be settled purpose behind them! Never again dependence, inactivity, and despair. In their place freedom to carry out with our brothers the constructive work the future demands, and the joyful activity that has hope for its inspiration.

C. DESPARD.

WHY IRISHWOMEN NEED THE VOTE.

II.—The Industrial Problem.

Ireland should be a country of small high-grade industries, requiring skill rather than abundant raw material or complex machinery. The Department of Technical Instruction has encouraged lace-making, crochet, "sprigging" on handkerchiefs, etc., thus providing cheap labour for the large firms (a worker was paid 5s. for an embroidered handkerchief which was sold for 15s.). It also caters for a luxury market, which collapsed on the outbreak of war. The real need is for provision of training in industries which can be economically independent, without depending on such methods as sales of work, etc., and can afford to pay the workers a living wage. To meet this need the department has done nothing. It was urged to provide training for girls in such industries as toy-making, for which their natural dexterity renders them especially suitable. A grant was offered for soft toys, which only pay when turned out in large quantities, but refused in the case of dolls—the only really paying branch of the industry. Help was asked for instructresses' fees in a domestic training centre, equipment, supervision, and premises being found; this was given for six months only. Valuable equipment is now lying unused in an empty house, while the Primate in a recent speech urges that "no girl should be married who does not know how to boil a potato." Was it to be expected that Government should pay for teaching a girl to perform this feat?

The department was also asked to assist in training girls to replace the foreign waiters. The reply was given that a three years' course for training lads was under consideration.

The Central Committee on Women's Employment has led the way, in spite of the men's trade unions, in teaching girls knife cutting, hitherto one of the many well-paid trades "not suitable for women." Not one of the first 6,000 shirts cut out by girls in Dublin was rejected by the War Office. All this contract work in Ireland is hampered by the want of a properly-equipped receiving department—a depot where samples of goods required can be seen, where goods on contract can be tested to avoid the burden of transit rates in case of rejection, and where necessary information can be obtained without a journey to Woolwich or Pimlico. The Central Committee have pressed in vain for this during the last fourteen months. In pre-war days a grave feature of the emigration returns was the increasing number of young women emigrants. If no provision is made for the employment of women in skilled trades this serious condition may return. Women must have a share in the administration of the department, and to obtain this we only need the means to "bring pressure to bear"—the vote.

DORA MELLONE.

THE NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE have pointed out that though naturalised Germans are enfranchised in this country British women are denied this privilege. Such an anomaly ought to be swept away. The Federation's petition urging the Government to include women in the forthcoming Register or Service Franchise Bill is being widely signed by voters.

and the authorities. Dover heads the list with 103 performances during 36 weeks; at Colchester there were 38 performances given during six consecutive weeks; at Grantham 15; at Shoeburyness 14; at Aldershot 12. A large number of free concerts have been given in hospitals and for the Church Army; 33 were given in the Hyde Park Hut between February and July, 1915. This excellent work has brought welcome entertainment to soldiers and helped artistes in great need.

Sex Jealousy.

A strike due to jealousy of girls employed in their workshop resulted in 37 boy apprentices aged 15 being fined half a week's wages by Manchester Munitions Tribunal yesterday. They had an imaginary grievance that the girls got an advance at their expense, and presented an ultimatum for an alteration "before dinner time." Then they went on strike.—*Sunday Herald*, March 19, 1916.

DANISH MEN INSTEAD OF BRITISH WOMEN.

The following letter has been sent to the President of the Board of Trade:—

Women's Freedom League,
144, High Holborn, W.C.
March 23, 1916.

SIR,—My League views with the greatest indignation and concern the suggestion that Danish farm labourers should be imported to this country, and I am instructed to impress on you the obnoxious nature of this suggestion.

The Government, in spite of the urgent recommendations of Lord Selborne, has allowed this matter of agriculture to be dangerously neglected, and instead of giving every support, moral and financial, to the various agencies working to train and engage women in agriculture, has allowed the time to slip by until it is once more "too late" to ensure to British women their right to give their work to their own land.

May I point out that to introduce more aliens to this country at a time when every alien is a possible or a probable danger is a monstrous proposition; that to pay money to aliens, who may save it for spending in their own land, is wasteful, and a mockery of all the injunctions to economical expenditure of the nation's resources at the present time; and that the presence of a number of temporarily resident male unmarried foreigners, introduced under present conditions, would be a moral danger and a source of untold irritation and difficulty. The problem of British wives of aliens is already so thorny, and has created such deep-seated ill-feeling and resentment, that it is difficult to imagine that his Majesty's Government will wilfully add to that feeling by inviting more trouble in that respect.

If the excellent conditions which are declared to be essential for the success of the experiment with Danish labourers were offered to British women, there would be no lack of women volunteers, and if his Majesty's Government would devote the same attention to the prejudice of the farmers as in the case of trades unionists, and take the same trouble to train women for farm work as for munitions, the results, as in the munition factories, would surprise the country. It is a pity that after all their splendid service and display of capacity in new fields the Government should still persist in doubting the ability of women, and should be making arrangements to rob them for the benefit of aliens.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
C. NINA BOYLE.

The President, Board of Trade,
Whitehall, S.W.

MARCHING ON!

Infectious!

"Already the victory of the Manitoba women has had effect on women here in Vancouver," says the *British Columbia Federationist*, "and plans are being made for a strenuous campaign. Vancouver women are saying, 'If they can win on the prairies, we can on the coast.' And we will."

For the Younger Generation.

Since the women of California were enfranchised, the number of kindergartens in the State has more than doubled.

New York and Equal Suffrage.

The first step towards the referendum on equal suffrage in New York in 1917 was won by Albany on February 22, when the Assembly Judiciary Committee reported favourably on the Whitney-Breton resolution for a suffrage amendment by a vote of 11 to 1.

"There should be no petty juggling, no legislative tricks and evasions," says the *New York Tribune*, commenting on the result. "The Senate Judiciary Committee ought to report the Bill speedily, so that a prompt test of the views of all the members of both Houses may be taken on the floor. Nothing less than that will seem fair or satisfactory treatment to many thousands of suffragists who are already voters."

The *New York World* observes: "Last November 553,348 men of New York State, nearly 43 per cent. of all recorded upon the subject, favoured Woman Suffrage at the polls. The total number who expressed an opinion was greater by many thousands than those voting upon any other question referred to them, except the new Constitution itself. The sentiment is certainly strong enough to justify another referendum in 1917."

The House Judiciary Committee has voted to postpone consideration of the constitutional amendment for equal suffrage till next December, but, as Mrs. Chapman Catt observes, "Committees have been known to change their minds."

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Miss Eunice Murray delighted the audience on March 22 with a stirring address dealing with the position of women to-day and men's attitude to their entry into "men's spheres." Every liberty in the past, she said, had been won by standing up against tyranny. She protested against women and children always being classed together as if their capabilities and requirements were the same. Opposition to women workers on the Clyde was giving way, she said, to necessity, and women had proved that they could learn quickly and work well. She gave interesting experiences, serious and humorous, of her suffrage work in many parts of the country, and insisted that the vote must be given to women not because they are good or bad, but because it is their right; the whole country is suffering because woman's point of view is overlooked. Miss Boyle protested against the injustice of the Government's attitude to the woman of forty as too old to work, but the National Register included women up to sixty-five. It is necessary for women to keep themselves informed with regard to industrial conditions. The Queen, it was understood, had expressed disappointment with regard to the response of women to the call to work on the land, but the Board of Trade had declared that, owing to the prejudice of the farmers, only a few women would be taken, and the pay would be small. Mrs. Corner, from the chair, expressed keen regret that the room was not crowded.

KEEPING THE FLAG FLYING!

At Golder's Green.

Queen's weather favoured the reception given to Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle by the Golder's Green Branch, by kind permission of Mrs. Cunningham, at 45, Ashbourne-avenue, last Saturday afternoon. Guests arrived in such strong force that, after tea, when the speeches were to be made, admission to the scientifically packed music and ante room could only be gained by the garden door. After a few introductory words by Miss Margaret Hodge, President of the Branch, Mrs. Despard spoke with great effect, and dealt with the false economy of "saving on the children." Miss Nina Boyle followed; her subject was "Women's Wages in War Time." The speakers were heard with close attention, and warmly applauded. One song by Miss Marshall made the audience long for more; the singing of Monsieur de Louré, of La Scala, Milan, was magnificent, and he had to concede an immediate encore. He was ably accompanied by Miss Angela Bryer. To hear him is to understand why Leoncavallo, the famous Italian composer, holds him in high esteem, and Mrs. Despard expressed the appreciation of all present. Mrs. Van Raalte's rendering of a prelude by Chopin was much enjoyed. Brisk business was done by VOTE sellers, and the effect of the gathering in the district will be all to the good. Several Polish celebrities were present, as it is well known that Mrs. Cunningham—to whom heartiest thanks for her hospitality were given—specialises on the Polish, as on the suffrage, question.

At Hackney.

The London Branches Council of the Women's Freedom League is to be warmly congratulated on the successful drawing-room meeting held last Saturday afternoon at 47, Upper Clapton-road, by the kind permission of Dr. Annie Black. There was a very good attendance of members and friends, who listened with keenest interest to the excellent speeches made by Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Corner, and Miss Eunice Murray. From the chair, Mrs. Mustard insisted on the urgent need for Woman Suffrage and the cruelty to which women and young girls are exposed in our Courts of Justice, where judge, jury, and counsel for defence and prosecution are all men, more often than not no woman being in the court. Mrs. Corner ably dealt with "The Work of the Women's Freedom League," and Miss Eunice Murray, whose speech contained a delightful number of anecdotes, gave an amusing account of "Man's changed views" about women and women's powers of work. She warned women suffragists to place no value either on men's praise or blame until women's political enfranchisement was won. At the close of the meeting a good collection was taken, every copy of THE VOTE sold out, and other suffrage literature was in demand. All present warmly appreciated Dr. Black's kind hospitality, and the fine opportunity afforded for such good propaganda.

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At Westcliff-on-Sea.

Scene: Grosvenor Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea. Time: Last week. Business in hand: A tea-party given by a member of the Women's Freedom League.

Enter Messenger: Will Madame, by request of the management, be so kind as to speak on Woman Suffrage this evening?

8 p.m.: Serious but humorous speech to interested audience by Madame, supported by other women as keen as mustard, who left a male "anti" without a leg to stand upon.

Male Anti: "Will Madame come again and speak on Votes for Women? I will provide a roomful of 'antis.'"

Madame: "Certainly!"

Westcliff awaits with eagerness the forthcoming event. Bravo, Westcliff!

The Women's Freedom League says: "Bravo, Madame and friends! We look for a great victory and many converts."

THE DESPARD ARMS.

125, Hampstead Road, N.W.

We are most grateful to our two friends, who desire to remain anonymous, for the gift of a clock for the wall; it will be widely appreciated. Our warmest thanks also to Mrs. Ernest Wilson for £5 16s., as the result of the Whist Drive at Cricklewood. Our cookery demonstrations in the window continue to attract great attention, and we shall welcome any offers of help in this way from friends. Who will volunteer for an hour or two—morning or afternoon? Cakes, sweets, savouries, pastry, stews, rissoles, etc., sell well. We provide all ingredients. We are still in need of helpers—men and women—on several evenings in the week in the recreation room. The room is available for morning and afternoon meetings at a moderate cost, also some evenings by arrangement. Refreshments can be supplied.

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FRIDAY,
MARCH 31,
1916.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon.

During the month three new members and one associate have joined the Branch. Three committee meetings, one Branch meeting, two public meetings, and one whist drive have been held. Our thanks are due to all who gave refreshments and assisted at the drive; also to Mrs. Eagle, who has given a parcel of new garments, which she has made, for sale at our next jumble sale. More goods are wanted before we can hold a sale. We thank members who have already sent parcels.

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

On March 20 a public meeting was held, at which Miss Cooke, of West Hartlepool, gave a lecture on "Rabindranath Tagore's Childhood Poems." She took us all into the mystical Oriental atmosphere of Indian child life, with its conception of spiritual forms behind its childish toys. The theosophical theories of the lecture gave rise to an animated discussion, well sustained by Mrs. Roger, Miss Smithson, and Miss Winifred Jones, who was in the chair. On Thursday, April 13, we shall have the pleasure of hearing "Casey," who is giving a violin recital, entitled "An Evening with the Old Masters." Tickets 1s. each, to be obtained at the Suffrage Centre. Members are asked to bring as many friends as possible.

Southampton.

A most successful meeting was held at the Morris Hall on Wednesday, March 15. Mrs. Despard and Miss Murray both gave real Suffrage speeches, which were very well received. The collection was good, and literature sold well. The local Press (two papers) gave splendid reports, and the members feel very pleased at the result of the meeting.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE VOTE."

CIVIL LIBERTY.

DEAR MADAM,—I would like to emphasize the moral of Miss Normanton's admirable article in your issue of February 18 on the Habeas Corpus writ. This great and historic instrument of personal liberty needs to be defended, and since women are vitally concerned in its preservation, I hope that Miss Normanton's efforts to arouse interest in the matter will meet with all the success they deserve.—
Yours truly,

HOLFORD KNIGHT.

1, Elm-court, Temple, E.C., March 16, 1916.

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GENTLEMAN'S FROCK-COAT AND WAIST-COAT. Waist 38in., inside sleeve 19in. £1. Can be inspected at THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30. April 5, Mrs. R. M. French "Women Police in California" and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

PRIMROSES, DAFFODILS, VIOLETS, for sale; post free. Also CLOTTED CREAM, 2s. per lb.; post free. Orders for Pyrography received.—BAYLISS, Fawley, Southampton.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—TRIMMELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-rd., Cardiff. Est. 1879.

Women's Freedom League Settlement.

Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

The Settlement acknowledges with grateful thanks 1s. and primroses from Miss Riggall; shoes and a doll from Mrs. Clark; scarves and 10s. from Mrs. John Russell; Miss Kearton, oranges and a scourer; Miss M. B. Williamson, 2s.; Mrs. Lewis, 5s. We are still asking for garden produce. Our apples are at an end, and if anyone would send us some rhubarb to take their place in the Saturday tarts we should be most grateful. Bath towels, sheets, blankets (of any age), and any household goods discarded during spring cleaning would be very acceptable for the Guest House.

IN MEMORIAM.

Many of our readers will remember with interest the short play, "The Story of a Sofa," and other contributions to THE VOTE by Anna L. Little. They were excellent propaganda, touched with the saving grace of humour. We have just heard, to our sorrow, of the death of Miss Little, who lived in Glasgow. Her loss deprives us of an earnest and enthusiastic suffragist and an unflinching and interested reader of THE VOTE. To her relatives we send our deep sympathy in their sorrow, which we also share.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

The London Branches Council wishes to remind readers of the sewing meetings held fortnightly, on Tuesdays, from 3 to 7 o'clock, at 144, High Holborn, and to ask all members who can work at home to come or send for work. We urgently appeal for money and materials for this work, and we heartily thank the Misses Gundry for kindly lending us a sewing-machine and the Misses Howard for silk and linen.

LENDING LIBRARY.

The secretary will be glad to have gifts of books for the Library, and to welcome new members. Many thanks to Miss Underwood, Mrs. Carey, and other kind anonymous donors, for recent additions to our bookshelves. Entrance fee, 1s.; one volume per week, 1d.—A. E. JACOB, Hon. Sec.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE CLUB ROOM.

Mrs. Pierotti, who has been one of our staunch supporters from the outset, has given us three trays, which we find a great boon.

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