

THE VOTE,  
FEBRUARY 4, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

## Rally to the Flag!

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIII. No. 328.

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FRIDAY, FEB. 4, 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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### SUFFRAGE VICTORY IN MANITOBA!

#### How the British Women of the Far West Succeeded.

"The three Prairie States of the Dominion of Canada (Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan), seem to be tumbling over each other in their efforts to do justice to their women," says Mrs. Edith Lang in the *Woman's Century*. Three brief sentences in the English press, on January 28, announce that Manitoba has already won in this generous competition.

"The Woman's Suffrage Bill has been passed *unanimously* by the Manitoba legislature. The measure fully enfranchises women, *who may become Members of Parliament.*"

Eighteen months ago I was in Winnipeg and I was then told that the complete enfranchisement of the women of the Province of Manitoba was only a matter of a few months; for the wise leaders of the movement there had completely won over the men to their cause by a clever little play upon the political situation in the year 2,000. In the play the position of the sexes is represented as completely reversed; women only can sit in Parliament and alone enjoy all the political and administrative power in the State. Deputations of men come to plead for elementary political rights to this august female assembly, and the Prime Minister, a graceful and cultured woman, assures them that "she would make the Vote for Men a Government measure, if only all men were like the speaker and his deputation, but—" and then follows the familiar depreciation of the sex as a sex, only it is, in this case, a woman who voices depreciation of

men. When the very beautiful and eloquent Attorney General discoursed at length over the disabilities under which fathers labour in having no control whatever over the education or destinies of their children, the audience was startled to discover from the perusal of the leaflets distributed among them that this impotence attributed in the play to the father was actually the case with the mother under the present law.

In an address which I delivered to the citizens of Winnipeg on a lovely May evening in 1914, I pointed out to an approving and applauding audience of both sexes the immense advantage of the Woman's Vote in Australia and New Zealand for the status of women, for the welfare of children, and for the *morale* of the men. The Rev. Ralph Connor (author of "The Choir Invisible") lent us his hall for that occasion, and spoke with no uncertain voice on the immense importance of the co-operation of men and women in legislating for the community. At that meeting I felt a lively presentiment of coming triumph—a presentiment which has found its realisation in the unanimous decision of the Manitoba Legislature. The emancipation of the women of Manitoba will have far-reaching consequences, for it carries with it a right to the Dominion Franchise. The women of this Province will now vote for the Canadian Legislature, and it is unlikely that the sister provinces will allow themselves to be left behind in this contest for political freedom.

MARGARET HODGE.

## WOMEN WILL WIN THE WAR!

There is no further pretence that the war can be won without women. All the talk of "dilution of labour" means women. The workers know it, the Government knows it, the press, at last, is confessing it. The fighting men are powerless without munitions; munitions cannot be made unless women make them. The women's output is in excess of the men's; their work is steadier, their attendance more reliable. Women will win the war! Thus, at their own game, at the solution of international difficulties which they themselves have devised, at the work which they have always declared gave them the right to order our lives and control our destinies, men cannot pull through without women. Without the women's work, Germany could not have driven back the Russians or fortified the Dardanelles. Without women's work, we cannot clear Belgium and liberate Serbia. Without women's work, the greatest war in the world would end in stalemate. What a triumph for women!

### Another triumph.

Not only special tribunals to try cases of women workers, with women on the tribunals and a woman assessor in court; but women on the tribunals to decide the claims to exemption from military service for men under the Compulsion Act! Women on juries next? It would not surprise us. Better late than never; though why so late, goodness only can explain.

### The Queen's Hall Meeting for Women.

Mr. Bottomley, like Mr. Asquith, has made a discovery. Mr. Asquith said, sobbingly, as he discoursed of Miss Cavell's noble death: "A year ago we did not know we had such women!" Mr. Bottomley, in dealing with the noble lives of other women, says: "There is no Englishman who is not prouder of his women folk to-day than he was 18 months ago"—an unconscious tribute to the shallowness of his sex. It takes far less grit to do acts for which the whole world shouts approval than to stand up, as did the Suffragists, before the storm of abuse which Mr. Bottomley and his kind helped to swell in the past before the golden days of his "discovery."

We do not know what axe this astute gentleman has to grind, that he sees fit now to pour his unctuous patronage over us; but we should, and do, acknowledge the directness and courtesy with which he answered Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett's courageous interpellation. Asked if he would stand after the war for giving women equal voting as well as equal working power, Mr. Bottomley answered, unequivocally, "I will." So did Mr. Arthur Stanley, M.P., who represented the British Red Cross Society.

### A Message to Mrs. Snow.

Remembering Mrs. Snow's devoted service to the VOTE through the Merchandise Department, and in so many other ways, we are glad to let her know that special efforts are being made to increase the sale of the paper. Our champion seller, Miss Alix M. Clark, disposed of many copies at Miss Czaplicka's lecture, and more than one hundred at Reading. Miss K. Smith and Dr. Knight seized the opportunity of Mr. Bottomley's meeting for further sales and spreading the Suffrage gospel.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Middlesbrough member, Miss Mahoney, on the honour she has received of being elected by the members—men and women, the former in the majority—Vice President of the Tees-side Teachers' Association this year. The honour leads to the still greater distinction of the Presidency.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.  
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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.  
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

*The primary object of the Women's Freedom League is to secure the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as men have it now, or may have it in the future. Since the outbreak of the war it has been more clearly shown than ever before that women's interests can only be safeguarded by women's direct political power, and that without this power their liberties are in constant danger of being curtailed or lost.*

### RALLY TO THE SUFFRAGE FLAG!

Our present issue, initiated by the Treasury, records the various Headquarters activities of the Women's Freedom League, and sets forth many ways in which members and friends can come to the aid of the Hon. Treasurer in carrying on the Suffrage work of the League. We know that they will respond to the urgent call. Most of our usual features are consequently held over till next week.

### HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

The work of the Women's Freedom League is now in full swing, and it rejoices us to know that so many of our branches up and down the country have arranged public meetings at which, during the next few weeks, the cause of Votes for Women will be eloquently advocated by some of our best speakers. The country must be made to realise that although the Press concedes little space to our agitation, women are in deadly earnest on the question of their political enfranchisement, and are determined to win it at the earliest possible moment. We therefore wish every success to our members in Glasgow, Rothesay, Edinburgh, and Dundee, as well as to our members in Middlesbrough, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, and Southampton, for their enterprise in keeping Votes for Women before the public.

Readers will be glad to learn that this year we are resuming our suffrage campaigns. Our indefatigable campaigner, Miss Alix Clark, has most kindly consented to run a suffrage campaign in Easter week, during the Conference of the National Union of Teachers, to be held at Buxton. Miss Munro and Miss Normanton have been secured as speakers, and it is hoped that our President, Mrs. Despard, will be able to speak at any rate at one meeting. In the summer Miss Clark will again organise a Welsh Coast campaign, with Miss Anna Munro as the principal speaker, and other campaigns in industrial centres are under consideration. We shall, therefore, need all the help our members and friends can give, and we shall be grateful to receive at this office names of volunteers as speakers, VOTE sellers, and helpers during the summer months.

In London, we have returned to Caxton Hall for our Wednesday afternoon meetings, and we make a special appeal to our Suffragist friends in Town to help us by coming regularly to these meetings. The Women's Freedom League is the only society which is holding regular weekly Suffrage meetings in London at the present time, so we feel that we have a special claim to the support of our members and friends. The chair is taken each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30, and next week we shall have the pleasure of listening to Miss Beatrice Kent who has quite recently returned from America, and will speak on "My Journeys Across the American Con-

continent and What I Learnt of Suffrage and Suffragists." Miss Boyle will take the chair, and our other speaker will be Mrs. Mustard.

"Votes for Women" is a cry on the part of women for political power, and the Women's Freedom League has never ceased to work politically, even during the war, for the enfranchisement of women. From time to time we have definite political meetings dealing specially with the political situation and its connection with our cause. The next of these political meetings will be held at Caxton Hall, Friday evening, February 18, the speakers being: Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mrs. Mustard. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner promptly at 7.30. Admission is free, but tickets for reserved seats can be obtained from the Freedom League Office at 1s. each. On Friday evening, March 17, we shall have a Freedom League "Rally." This will be a social evening for members and friends to meet Mrs. Despard and present her with fifty thousand shillings for the funds of our League.

### Sunday Afternoons at the Bijou Theatre.

We urge our readers to take their tickets as early as possible for Miss Clara Reed's dramatic recital of Ibsen's "Pretenders," to be given Sunday, February 13, at four o'clock. Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett has kindly promised to take the chair, and we can assure all who are present that they will spend a delightful afternoon. A fortnight later, February 27, at 4 p.m., Mlle. Zabelle Boyajian, who is a well-known lecturer on the Continent, being a remarkably expert linguist, as well as a very clever artist, will speak on "Armenian Art and Literature." Tickets for these lectures can be obtained from the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C., at 2s., 1s., and 6d., and tea will be supplied to those who wish to have it from 3.15 to 3.50 on each of these Sundays in the theatre at 6d. per head.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### The Women's Freedom League Nine Elms Settlement.

No one who does not know the staying power of Freedom League workers would have anticipated the present development of the Nine Elms Settlement from its simple and unpretentious beginning. A place where vegetarian cheap dinners could be served to working women was sought and started by Mrs. Carey early in the war; and Mrs. Tippett later on took it over as cook, manager, and general "bottle-washer." Miss Ibbetson joined her subsequently, and, by their united efforts and the support of other stalwart workers, the enterprise thrived and prospered. Between 250 and 300 dinners are dealt out daily to women and children; for two Christmases Yule puddings and pies have been distributed from the same centre; and, further, premises have been furnished and fitted for the housing of children whose mothers are temporarily incapacitated through illness. The details of all these activities have been recorded from time to time in the VOTE, and are well known to our readers. Mrs. Tippett and Miss Ibbetson have now been reinforced by Miss Holmes, an indefatigable worker and member of the Mid-London Branch; and other forms of social work, such as children's clubs, girl scouts and boy scouts, and so on, are to be encouraged and, if possible, organised. As all this excellent effort is being carried on in close proximity to and in touch with Mrs. Despard's clinic for children and gatherings for mothers, and the Nine Elms Branch of the W.F.L., it follows that its influence in spreading the Suffrage spirit is very great; and Mrs. Tippett is now hoping that a Suffrage organiser may be

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available to take up work in the district, to get into touch more especially with the large number of factory girls employed in various occupations, and so to utilise the opportunities provided that our workers at Nine Elms will be able to congratulate themselves on the fact that not only have they helped and encouraged struggling humanity, but that they have struck a sturdy blow for the cause we all have at heart. Dr. Knight calls for special contributions, so that an organiser may start work at once.

### The Women's Freedom League Club.

One of the first improvements which followed on the change of quarters from Adelphi to Holborn was the inauguration of a lunch and tea club on the new premises. Mrs. Fisher was the moving spirit, and the Social Committee warmly seconded her efforts. Miss White, of the Kensington Branch, performed herculean tasks of painting and decorating; and the result is a cosy, well-furnished room above Headquarters Office, where all comers can rest, read, and can be served with good and cheap lunches and teas. The difference in comfort for members who come to the Office to help with work in their spare time is incalculable; and the club also provides a pleasant *rendez-vous* for friends to meet and for appointments to be kept. Mrs. Fisher and her coadjutors are contemplating action on a larger scale. All who have enjoyed the restfulness and comfort of the club-room know how great is the debt they owe to Mrs. Fisher, Miss White, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Pierotti, Mrs. Harbord, and others, who supply and serve the excellent lunches, and give their constant service to the clubs' patrons and customers. Well supported, this venture should blossom into a successful business concern.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

THEY SUPPORT US!

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 916.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, February 4th, 1916.

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

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
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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.

### 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.

## RALLY TO THE FLAG!

### A Call to Suffragists.

Yet, Freedom! yet thy banner, torn, but flying,  
 Streams like the thunder-storm against the wind.

Never, perhaps, during the whole history of the fight for Woman's Suffrage has there been a greater need or a sterner call for women to "Stand to the Colours" than to-day. The cry for "Freedom" is being flung abroad by the fighting nations of Europe. England, France, Russia, Belgium, Italy, Serbia, Poland, Montenegro—and, yes, even Germany and Austria are voicing the word—a watchword for which, under various meanings, every war, "the bloody stratagem of busy heads," has ostensibly been fought from time immemorial.

Freedom! The pity of it is that the meaning of the word is so often obscured—not only by the clash of arms, the thunder of cannon, the shrill shriek of shrapnel or the roar of devastating fires, but, alas, too frequently by the eloquence of parliamentarians, the subtlety of diplomatists and the clever manœuvring of statesmen to whom "Freedom" is frequently only another name for individual power and the right to take liberties with the liberties of others.

### What We Have Done.

The Women's Freedom League has always stood aside from questions—political, social, or national—which have no bearing upon woman's enfranchisement. When, however, the horrors of a world's calamity engulfed our own nation, we recognised that inasmuch as Freedom, in its very widest aspect, stood at stake, our members must under the banner of our League, turn some of their energies to the work of sustenance, support and relief and a truce in militancy was declared.

Members of the League do not need to be reminded of the many activities for aiding sufferers from the war which have been initiated or encouraged, and which have also been helped, through our organ, THE VOTE, during these desperate times. Among the various organisations which have been carried on by the loyal and active support of individual members of the League, all over the country, we need only mention The Women's Freedom League Settlement at Nine Elms, where penny and half-penny dinners are supplied every day to working women, and where, also, is situated a guest house for children whose mothers are ill or in hospital, and a Milk Depot for nursing mothers; the "Despard Arms," a house of refreshment, rest and recreation for workers, open on week-days

and Sundays; the Brackenhill Hospital for women and children opened at Bromley by Mrs. Harvey, one of our most generous supporters; the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, which at the beginning of the war was quickly formed to aid distress and to supply clothing and other comforts to many who were out of work and stranded; and the "Women Police Volunteers," which, started under the auspices of the League and organised by Miss Nina Boyle, is now well known and thoroughly appreciated by the public.

Do not let it be forgotten, however, that at the very beginning of the war, the Women's Freedom League, while recognising the urgent call of the nation, decided, at all costs, to be true to the principles for which so many women in the past made noble sacrifices and devoted the best years of their lives. Through rain or shine, through good report or ill, the Suffrage Flag must be kept flying. Ignoble, indeed, should we have been had we turned traitors to that brave band of pioneers who so indefatigably worked for what sometimes seemed like a forlorn hope in the days that are past.

The money subscribed for suffrage propaganda has been religiously devoted to that object by the treasurer of the League, and side by side with the work our members have been doing in various forms of national aid, we have maintained our propagandist activities in every direction. One has only to read the columns of THE VOTE to see how splendidly our branches have worked, while at headquarters we have organised weekly public meetings, addressed by some of our finest suffrage speakers, lectures and discussions at the League offices, and, by the kind permission of individual members, drawing-room meetings in various localities. We are now arranging a series of open-air meetings for the spring season, and our experience is proving that the public are not only ready and willing to listen to our speakers, but greet them with approval and applause.

### What is Still to be Done.

In another part of the paper appears the announcement of the great Suffrage Rally which the Women's Freedom League is organising for *St. Patrick's Day* (March 17th) at the Caxton Hall. We want this to be a great occasion, not only for rallying our forces, but for replenishing our exchequer so that we shall have no cause for anxiety, on financial grounds, for the rest of the year. To stand still at this juncture is, practically, to go back. *There is urgent need for combined effort at the present moment* if our brave Flag of Freedom is to be kept flying until our great cause is won. We ask you to come in full force, and that no one should come with empty hands. Between now and then we want to raise

### Fifty Thousand Shillings.

It can be done. It must and will be done if every member of our League determines to do her "bit" towards this end.

We shall welcome any and every practical suggestion for getting together this sum of money by "The Day." We know, from experience, that Freedom Leaguers are possessed of ingenuity, enterprise and initiative, and we confidently expect all these to be employed in order to obtain the sum required. In the meantime, we enumerate a few ways which can, at once, be put in practice:—

Our *Week of Self Denial* will commence on February 14 and end on February 21. Someone (an Irishwoman by the way!) suggests that on this occasion "the week should be a fortnight!" This is a good idea; many original ways of saving will no doubt be recommended by our readers and

we ask every one who can make a suggestion to put it, herself, into practice and beat the record. Dispensing with sugar or butter, or meat, giving up a week-end holiday, dyeing or cleaning a last-year garment instead of buying a new one, giving the price of two theatre tickets and remaining at home, that evening, to make an article for the W.F.L. stall for the Caxton Hall Rally; getting up early and walking to one's place of business every morning for a week or a fortnight and sending the fare to the 50,000 shilling fund—these are a few of the methods, in which one can self-deniy for Freedom's sake.

### Making It Certain.

Other ideas for making it certain that by March 17 we are not one shilling short of the 50,000 we confidently ask for, and expect to get, will, no doubt, travel rapidly through the clever brains of our readers, and these conceptions will begin to be carried into execution almost as soon as they are born. Nothing is too hard or too disageable or impossible for an enthusiastic member of the Freedom League if it will aid the cause dear to her heart. Branch secretaries will, doubtless, at once invest in collecting books and send out their "house-to-house" battalions of "Shilling-Collectors," giving to each one a special "beat" and forwarding the proceeds to Dr. Knight at the end of each week, or conserving the coin for presentation to Mrs. Despard on the night of the Rally. No restriction is to be placed on the number of shillings which each individual is to be allowed the privilege of contributing. A hundred shillings, or even a thousand shillings—"if the spirit moves her"—will be as gratefully accepted from a wealthy member as will be a single shilling from a slender purse. Those who do not like to give "only one shilling" need not, we assure them, hesitate on the score of modesty from giving five—or ten—or twenty.

And those who send us a shilling, or scores of shillings, need not necessarily confine their gifts merely to money. While we, naturally, cannot do without this "sordid means of suffrage salvation," as one member aptly terms it, we do not disdain

gifts of jewellery, household goods, books, antiques, needlework (plain or fancy), or any personal possessions, cherished or otherwise, which members or their friends may feel called upon to sacrifice. We hold the power of transmuting any possessions which may be transmitted to us into shillings to swell our fund. Those who are burning to send us gifts in goods are, however, *requested to do so at once*. It naturally takes a certain amount of time to convert goods into money, and as 50,000 shillings must, at all hazards, be placed in Mrs. Despard's hands on the evening of March 17, every one who is generously inspired to present to us her most expensive or most treasured article of "bijouterie or vertu" is requested to do so by the next post or parcels delivery. Delays may be fatal. Do not give yourselves time to repent of outbursts of munificence or prodigality. Ideas of economy in this direction must, we suggest, be at once banished as perniciously unthinkable.

Lest it be imagined, however, that our thoughts and intents are only on money and goods, let us hasten to assure our readers that we are ready to accept their talents in any form. Offers of assistance from musicians, reciters, dancers and other artistes are earnestly desired so that our entertainment on March 17 will be worthy of our traditions.

### Our Flag and its Flag Staff "The Vote."

Lastly, we are anxious for immediate offers from readers to undertake street-selling of THE VOTE. THE VOTE is the flag-staff of the Women's Freedom League banner, and we want to double its circulation during the weeks between February 5 and March 17. *Will every VOTE seller who has been devoting herself to other work during the war give up one week of her valuable time to return to her old post of selling THE VOTE in order to keep our banner flying?*

In conclusion, we ask every reader to bear in mind the motto we have chosen for the 50,000 shilling campaign:—

"He—or she—who gives quickly, gives twice!"

## OUR TRADING SCHEME.

Those of our readers who ever witnessed Miss Cicely Hamilton's clever play "How the Vote was Won," will remember that at the end men were clamouring for the enfranchisement of women because women went on a general strike. No cook cooked, no housewife managed, no milliner trimmed, no teacher taught. In a word, the idea of the play was that women who work have an immense economic weapon in their hands. So have the women who *spend*.

One need hardly labour the point that the vast majority of women, whether workers or not, are spenders. The question then arises, can we use our spending power to help the Woman's Movement? We can if we will. Spending co-operatively is no new idea. We all know that before Victoria was on the throne a handful of men in Rochdale, with an infinitesimal capital, began the great co-operative movement whose turnover to-day exceeds a hundred million pounds annually; and we can thence infer what the members of such societies save by their organised shopping. If members of suffrage societies shopped co-operatively, they could save money and have more wherewith to help the Movement. THE VOTE directors now deprived of Mrs. Snow's invaluable help in the Merchandise Department, are faced with the situation that either

they must have more financial help or —. But there is no need to dwell upon gloomy alternatives when there is a cheerful and legitimate solution to the question of money-raising.

Briefly, we propose to inaugurate a Trading Scheme, of which the following is to be taken as a rough outline of which the details are to be filled in if the general scheme be adopted by enough of our members to make it a success. We propose that each Branch should elect a Trading Scheme secretary and a small committee to help her. Their business would be to canvass suitable local tradesmen and get them to promise reductions in their prices—5 per cent, 10 per cent., whatever trade conditions would allow—to members of the scheme. For the sake of an increase in the number of desirable customers tradespeople are usually fairly ready to make some such concessions. The Business Manager of THE VOTE has already a promising list for London. When a list of suitable tradesmen has been obtained, the next thing is to get members to join. An entrance fee of half-a-crown to members and five shillings to non-members is charged for the entrance ticket and the use of the privilege list. Members then deal with those tradespeople as far as they conveniently can and *save all their receipts. This obtaining and saving the receipts for all their*

purchases is the very cornerstone of the whole scheme. On a date near the end of each quarter, fixed by the trading committee, the secretary collects all the receipts. She sorts each member's bundle into as many sets as there are tradesmen—Robinson's, Brown's, and so on. She calculates the totals and notes them down. She reckons out the total discounts due to that member and credits her with half of it. The other half she credits to THE VOTE. When each member's bundles are sorted, then all the bundles of various members' Robinson's are made into one Robinson bundle, and so on. The total discount due is ascertained, and a courteous little letter, claiming the discount, and accompanied by the receipts, is sent to Mr. Robinson, etc. When the secretary receives the discount she sends half to the Business Manager for THE VOTE, the other half to the local members to be shared amongst them according to their spendings, as shown by their previous record. The entrance fees pay for stationery, stamps and any paid labour which may be necessary. If not fully used, they help the local Branch Funds, if the members of the Trading Scheme are agreeable. Individual members could greatly help by making their own calculations which the secretary would then merely have to check. Individual members could also help by getting tried and proved tradespeople of their own to join the scheme, or if they are themselves business people by coming into the scheme on the selling side. After all, few Suffragists are likely to incur Bad Debts!

Of course, it must be clearly understood that only those Freedom Leaguers (or other Suffragists) who enter the scheme by paying for the list are eligible to obtain the benefits of the scheme. It is usual to keep trading lists in such schemes *strictly confidential*. It is also highly necessary.

We would clearly emphasize the fact that such spending schemes are no mere untried novelties. They are exceedingly common in various professional groups. The London Teachers' Association Scheme is a widely known and powerful example. In time, a Suffrage Trading Scheme may become just as strong. It will benefit the members, who will have the pleasure of receiving back a comfortable little sum every quarter; THE VOTE, which will obligingly take an equal amount; and the cause at large because the world of commerce will begin to feel our power.

We have confidential information at Headquarters which we shall be pleased to place at the disposal of Branch Secretaries or of the Trading Secretaries as soon as they are appointed.

Remember the old watchword of Karl Marx: "Workers of the world, unite. You have nothing to lose but your chains." We would paraphrase that by: "Spenders in the Suffrage movement, unite. You have nothing to lose but half the dividend that you don't now get at all. And THE VOTE wants that half—wants it desperately!"

H. N.

**WOMEN POLICE VOLUNTEERS.**

Those who rallied round the Head of the Political and Militant Department of the Women's Freedom League in August, 1914, to form the Women Police Volunteer Corps, have now the satisfaction of knowing that the appearance of Mrs. Watson at the Old Bailey in uniform—in the performance of those duties she carried out so admirably in connection with criminal cases—has indeed lighted a fire from which sparks have flown all over the United Kingdom. The policewoman now excites no comment other than approval, and her official appointment "on the same terms as men" will not be long delayed. At present the object of the Corps is to secure posts as police-station gaolers for the trained women who have mastered the duties necessary for such positions, so that the scandal of women prisoners visited and watched at night by men officers only, and even washing and dressing under the supervision of men, shall be abolished in this so-called civilised country. Members of Parliament and Local Government officials will be approached and interviewed; and an energetic campaign will be put in progress to bring about this long-delayed reform. High commendation has been earned by the services of Mrs. Hawtin, Miss Collison, and Mrs. Peter Waters, whose watchful activity has been of constant benefit to the Corps. Miss Frances Dickeson has shown special aptitude in work for the prevention of cruelty to animals, under the tuition of Miss Eva Christy.

**"HEART AND SOUL WITH YOU."**

Mr. Robert Smillie, president of the Miners' Federation, was unable to be present at the Woman Suffrage Meeting at Bristol after the Labour Conference last week, but made the following declaration in support of Woman Suffrage:—

"I am heart and soul with you in your desire to confer upon women the right to vote. This right of citizenship had been too long denied to them, and I sincerely hope that on the first occasion when it is possible to deal with the question of electoral reform advantage will be taken of the opportunity to secure to women the right to vote. The Government have called upon women to assist the nation in the present crisis and right nobly have they responded to the call. Thousands of them are finding their way into the factory or the workshops and there cannot be any doubt that many employments previously confined to men will be permanently held by women. These women will require to organise if they are to secure and maintain fair conditions, and this carries with it the imperative necessity that they should not only have their trade organisation for their protection, but also the Parliamentary vote so that they may have a voice in securing the legislation necessary for them."

Mr. George Lansbury presided at the meeting, which was arranged by the United Suffragists, and the following resolution was carried:—

"That this meeting notes with grave alarm the increasing powers assumed by Government over the lives of women and over the lives of those that women bring into the world; and, in view of recent Ministerial assurances that the Parliamentary register is going to be revised, calls upon the Prime Minister to make the proposed measure a Franchise Bill that shall include the enfranchisement of women, and to introduce it without further indecision or delay, in order that women may be eligible to vote at the next general election."

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



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

*Saturday, February 5.*—DESPARD ARMS, Whist Drive in aid of Despard Arms, 22, Harley-road, Hampstead, 4.30 to 7.30. Tickets 2s. Psychic Character Delineations by Mrs. Thomson Price.  
*Wednesday, February 9.*—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Miss Beatrice Kent, "My Journeys Across the American Continent and What I Learnt of Suffrage and Suffragists," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss Boyle.  
*Thursday, February 10.*—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.  
*Friday, February 11.*—CROYDON "AT HOME," 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Nina Boyle.  
*Saturday, February 12.*—DESPARD ARMS. Tea, 3.30 to 6 p.m.  
*Sunday, February 13.*—DRAMATIC RECITAL at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C. Miss Clara Reed, Ibsen's masterpiece, "The Pretenders." Chairman: Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett. Tea, 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Recital, 4 p.m. Tickets, 2s. and 1s., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.  
*Monday, February 14.*—BOWES PARK BRANCH BUSINESS MEETING, 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, 7.30 p.m.  
*Wednesday, February 16.*—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m.  
*Friday, February 18.*—POLITICAL MEETING, Caxton Hall, 7.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.  
*Wednesday, February 23.*—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. M. Cunningham, on "Wanted an Effective Survival Rate, not a High Birth Rate."  
*Friday, February 25.*—CROYDON "AT HOME," 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m.  
*Sunday, February 27.*—Lecture on "Armenian Art and Literature," by Miss Zabelle Boyajian, at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C. Tea, 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Lecture, 4 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., from W.F.L. Office.

**PROVINCES.**

*Saturday, February 5.*—LIVERPOOL. Discussion Meeting. Theosophical Society's Club Rooms, 16, Colquitt-street. Mrs. Sidney Style will open discussion on "Women's Part in the Peace Settlement."  
*Tuesday, February 8.*—SHEFFIELD. Whist Drive in aid of "Prisoners of War in Germany"; 25, Rossington-road, Brocco Bank, 7.30. Tickets 1s. each. PORTSMOUTH. Members' Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m.  
*Monday, February 14.*—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 7.30. Speaker: C. Coates, Esq.  
*Wednesday, February 16.*—PORTSMOUTH. Sewing Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 3 to 7 p.m.  
*Thursday, February 17.*—READING. Members' Business Meeting, at the Mixed Club, Oxford-road (Thorn-street corner), 8 p.m., for the election of officers, &c.  
*Thursday, February 24.*—BOURNEMOUTH. Public Meeting, Freedom Hall. Tea (optional), 3.45. Speeches, 4.15. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck.  
*Monday, February 28.*—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 7.30. Speaker: Rev. T. C. Gobat. Subject: Ibsen's "Brand."

**SCOTLAND.**

*Wednesday, February 9.*—EDINBURGH.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Mr. E. T. Russell: "The Murder of Miss Cavell."  
*Monday, February 14.*—GLASGOW. Public Meeting, Athenæum, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: Miss Eunice Murray.  
*Thursday, February 17.*—DUNDEE. Miss Anna Munro.  
*Saturday, February 19.*—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 3 p.m. "At Home." Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

*Monday, February 7.*—Uxbridge Women's Franchise Society, Brookfield House, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.  
*Wednesday, February 23.*—Harrow Baptist Chapel. Speaker: Miss Boyle, "Women's Wartime Work."

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Croydon ...	21 15 0
Hackney ...	25 8 6
Kensington ...	12 14 9
Richmond ...	13 0
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Letchworth ...	2 11 9
Portsmouth ...	2 13 4
Edinburgh ...	67 11 3
Glasgow:—	£ s. d.
Miss Bunten ...	20 0 0
The Misses and Mr. White ...	2 5 0
Miss Pirrett ...	10 6
Miss White ...	10 0
Miss Murray ...	10 0
Mrs. Wilson ...	10 0
Miss McHaffie ...	5 0
Mrs. Hutton ...	5 0
Miss Dorothea Mohr ...	5 0
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Miss White ...	2 6
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Special Levy (Miss M. Morrison) ...	4 0
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FRIDAY,  
FEB. 4,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## Suffrage to the Fore at Highbury.

The Drawing-room meeting, held at 31, Highbury Place, N., by kind permission of Dr. Patch, last Saturday, under the auspices of the London Branches Council of the Women's Freedom League, must be recorded as a great success. The large room was quite full and Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle spoke to a very interested audience, who keenly appreciated the excellent speeches. Mrs. Mustard, the Hon. Organiser to the Council, was in the chair and spoke of the necessity for women to stand together now and to keep working for the suffrage cause. Indeed, this was the point emphasised by all the speakers. Mrs. Despard reminded us that reform had never been given as a reward and that we need not expect the vote as a reward for the sacrifice and unstinted efforts of women during this time of war. While helping our country in every possible way we must be loyal to our cause and remember that by working for the best interests and liberties of women, we are also serving our country. Miss Boyle spoke on "Women's War-time Work and Wages" and delighted her hearers with her clear, concise, pointed statements and her scathing remarks about Mr. Horatio Bottomley's "Discovery of Women." She urged that the vote was as necessary to women to protect their wages as to men. Service is for all those who can render it and no one has any right to monopolise any sphere of action. The sex monopoly of political power is the most dangerous wrong that existed and is responsible for much of the mismanagement and evils of to-day.

A collection of £1 12s. 10d. was taken. We owe Dr. Patch, our hostess, sincere gratitude and warm thanks for allowing us the use of her drawing-room and for providing an excellent tea, which everyone enjoyed. The work in the Highbury district should receive a great impetus as a result. Open-air meetings are being arranged to start as soon as possible on Mondays at Highbury Corner.  
E. C.

## A Heartening Sermon.

Our readers will appreciate Mrs. Nevinson's kind thought in passing on a heartening experience of last Sunday. Writing to the Editor on Monday, she says:—

"In these days when one often finds oneself in church with a clerical recruiting sergeant exhorting a body of worshippers (largely composed of bereaved and anxious women) to join the ranks, I feel my experience of yesterday deserves recording, so greatly did it hearten me.

"Quite unexpectedly I happened upon a sympathetic sermon from the Rev. G. Hudson Shaw, Vicar of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate (the well-known lecturer on Italian art, etc.), upon the position of women. He spoke of the loyalty and courage of the women as recorded in the Gospels, contrasting their devotion and steadfastness with the caution and treachery of some of the male disciples. He alluded sarcastically to the masculine conceit of the average Englishman, a conceit which has changed little since old Jewish times when the wife was counted a chattel—a second-rate chattel, too—of less value than the house. The sermon concluded with an eloquent prophecy of a better time coming when woman will be set free, and the fetters which bind her shall be unloosed."

## The Despard Arms.

Mrs. Despard will be present at the whist drive at the house of Miss A. A. Smith, 22, Harley Road, Hampstead (near Swiss Cottage, Metropolitan Railway; motor-buses 2, 13, 31, 68), on Saturday, February 5, 4.15 to 7.30 p.m. Tickets 2s., including tea, to be obtained from Miss Smith or Miss Gundry, 138, Adelaide Road. All friends who can help the effort on behalf of the Despard Arms will be heartily welcome. Mrs. Thomson Price has most kindly offered to give psychic character delineations.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m., February 9.—Speakers: Miss Beatrice Kent on "My Journey Across America, and What I Learned of Suffrage," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss Boyle.

RALLY TO THE FLAG, March 17. Caxton Hall, to present 50,000 Shillings to Mrs. Despard.

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