

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1915.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1915.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PATRIOTISM

Parliament is to re-assemble next week. Ad-journments end in M.P.'s meeting. Even the weariest member, tired out with the abrogation of his responsibilities and the delegation of his duties, bored to crocodile tears by the vacuity of his vacation, winds somehow safe to Westminster; and as his feet strike the familiar stones, there rises perhaps in his manly breast a dim and struggling memory of how he, too, was once a legislator, a maker of laws, an estab-lisher or disestablisher of churches, a cause of anxiety to the Party Whips and of pride to his own family, a big gun with some function other and better than that of continually going off. In those days the rules and regulations under which his free and independent countrymen and countrywomen had to live were not always being made behind his back or above his head. Then, there were comings and goings, whisperings about the Speaker's chair and objurgations from the benches, alarms in the House and excursions into the lobby. But now there are no more controversial issues at all. The manliest political breast can do nothing but provide a few square feet of the united political front. Now, none is for a party; now, all are for the State. The mildest criticism of the most disastrous folly on the part of the Executive might be suspected of being unpatriotic; nay, it is scarcely patriotic even to suggest that the Executive could do anything foolish. If soldiers' wives are insulted, patriotism requires the politician to assume that that will put heart into the soldiers at the front. If women are excluded from public-houses at certain hours and men are encouraged to drink more beer because beer pays towards the keep-ing up of the war, patriotism requires him to assume that that will encourage temperance. If the right of trial by one's peers is removed in favour of military courts-martial, patriotism re-quires him to console himself with the reflection that at any rate this deprivation of civil rights is no hardship on half the population, because half the population never had civil rights anyway.

Such, we imagine, must be the reflections and state of mind of the stupider and more easily-bewildered member of Parliament. But, bitter as has been our suffragist experience of the faithlessness and frivolity of politicians, we have no wish at the present time, with the whole nation under the shadow of war, to recriminate or contemn; we have no wish to be harsh about the past or pessimistic about the future. We know perfectly well that there are many mem-bers of Parliament with a high sense of respon-sibility, by whom the present cessation of party strife would be gladly turned into an opportu-nity for constructive and non-party legislation. We know, too, that the private member has never been the worst sinner, or anything like the worst sinner, in the pitiable parliamentary history of the refusal of justice to women; too often he has been torn between loyalty to the party which he was returned to support and his own higher convictions. We know that a mem-ber who has been through this experience will

be glad enough of a chance to do what is right now that party pressure is removed. Lastly, we know that even the Government, brutal, foolish, tyrannical, short-sighted, pig-headed, and contemptible though it has been through-out in its handling of this great question, may yet be appealed to, if on no higher ground, at any rate on the ground that unless justice is done now the old trouble will all have to be gone through again. Women's agitation for justice, however much their patriotism may tem-porarily modify its form, is not going to be quieted until justice is done.

What are the special reasons which make the present, from the Government's own point of view, an ideal time for removing for ever from its path the haunting trouble of women's just claims and women's passionate intention of pressing those claims until they are granted? For one thing, members and supporters of the Government have often said that it was impos-sible to give the vote while militancy went on, because that would have the appearance of weakness and yielding to disorder. It would perhaps have been braver and more mag-nanimous to risk such an appearance, but Governments at the best are only human. Well, here is a chance of doing the right thing with-out incurring even the suspicion of weakness, for militancy has stopped. If this opportunity is missed, and if militancy is revived, then let no politician dare to resume the old plea that it is impossible to "yield to disorder." That would indeed be a frenzy and extremity of humbug that could deceive no one, not even the most besotted of partisans. If there was so much as a grain of truth in the contention that mili-tancy was the obstacle to women's enfranchise-ment, as Mr. Lloyd George and others said, let them prove it by enfranchising women now that the obstacle is removed.

In the second place, we are constantly told that this is no time for contentious party legis-lation, just as we used to be told that votes could not be given to women because the people who approved of giving them were not all in one party. That was "democracy for women": because the best of both sides wanted a thing, it could not be done; though two blacks cannot make a white, those two whites of consent suc-ceeded in making the black of denial. Here again the obstacle is removed. The question could be voted on according to its merits, with-out respect of party. It is true there is an answer to this, which we shall not condescend to ignore. It will be said that the present is no time for a Votes for Women Bill, because, though that would be non-party, it would not be non-contentious: there are many members who would object to it. We admit, sickening and incredible as it seems to every decent per-son, that even now, while Englishmen are dying at the front in the name of liberty, there are still in public positions in England some bullies so essentially base as to favour the re-fusal of liberty to the wives and mothers and sisters of those men who are dying; but is this a time for letting the bullies triumph? For, unless the right triumphs, the wrong will; there is no middle course. Women must be either enfranchised or excluded. There is no such thing as merely letting the thing slide: the re-fusal to act justly is the most active and posi-tive injustice.

Which course, then, will the Government take? Will it deliberately let its chance go by and invite the certainty of future disaster? Or will it act reasonably and wisely, choosing the course that is at once easy and right, and justify-ing to all places and to all times the claim of England to be a nation that loves and serves freedom?

SUFFRAGE IN U.S.A. CONGRESS

By F. W. Pethick Lawrence

I went yesterday (Tuesday, January 12) to hear the woman suffrage debate in the House of Representatives at Washington. This is the first time for many years that the question has come into any prominence in that House. All the victories achieved up to the present have been won in the individual States, and though they secure full national suffrage (and not merely local suffrage as some people in England erroneously imagine) for the women in those States, they naturally do not affect the women living elsewhere. There are now, however, a number of women who are working for a change in the Constitution of the United States as a whole. To effect this a Bill will first have to be carried by a two-thirds majority through both Houses (Senate and House of Representa-tives) of the national parliament (called Con-gress), and then subsequently ratified by the legislatures of thirty-six out of the forty-seven States. It will then become binding on all. This was the way the law enfranchising the negroes was carried, and it provides a method of avoiding referenda of male electors and of bringing the backward States into line with the more advanced.

In America the first and second readings of a Bill are formal, and the Committee stage is not conducted in the whole House; the critical issue is the third reading, and even prior to that is the question whether the "Rules Com-mittee" (which controls the time of the House much as our Cabinet does) will consent to the third reading debate taking place at all.

Up till a few weeks ago the situation was that the Suffrage Bill had been discussed in the Senate on third reading, and secured a vote of 35 "for" to 34 "against," thus falling short of a two-thirds majority; while in the House of Representatives the Democratic party, who dominate the Rules Committee, had pre-vented a third reading debate taking place. Last November, however, in the national elec-tions the pressure of the women's vote in the suffrage States compelled the Democrats to withdraw their veto, and six hours were allotted for the debate on January 12.

No Grille for Women

I have attended nearly all the suffrage de-bates in the House of Commons in recent years, and I was therefore particularly interested to go and make comparisons. The first point that struck me related to the galleries for the public; men and women were admitted quite freely and without formality so far as space permitted, and the enormous galleries were crowded to overflowing to listen to the debate. There was no "grille" for the women, and no pledge of good behaviour was required. Applause and noises of disapproval are naturally prohibited, but they do not seem to be regarded as the same heinous, almost blasphemous, crimes that they are with us. Applause did in fact occa-sionally burst out, and one member was roundly hissed from the gallery. The Speaker expostu-lated and threatened to turn the public out, but no vigorous action was actually taken.

I also noticed much less formality on the floor of the House, and the speeches were platform utterances full of vigour and rhetoric such as we are accustomed to associate with outdoor public meetings rather than with the staid, de-corous, but essentially dull House of Commons. Instead of each member speaking as long as he liked, the time was all apportioned out minutely. Certain members had the right to an hour of time each, and they would rise and

alot this hour in small sections to other mem-bers—"five minutes to Mr. A—representative from California," and so on. At the end of the five minutes, or whatever the time was, the Speaker's hammer came down relentlessly and drowned any attempt even to finish a sentence. The result was, on the whole, better, I think, than ours. Everyone was trying to say as much as he could in the time instead of trying to waste time with as little matter, as is often the case with us. On the other hand, most of the allotments of time were so short as to make careful reasoning difficult if not impossible.

But differences of manner and method are after all only skin deep. The really interesting comparison relates to the matter of the speeches and the ideas which underlie them. I went to the House of Representatives anxious to find out whether American men were more pro-gressive than Englishmen in their views about women. I came away satisfied that there were more extremes of opinion. On the one hand, I heard speeches which carried me back to the debates of many years ago in the House of Com-mons. There was the same talk about "fasci-nating ladies," the "queens of the home," the "caressing and guarding angels," the "protect-ing arm of men," the fear that women's purity should be "soiled by the corrupting influence of politics," and even the "hand that rocks the

cradle rules the world." These old stage prop-erties of the nineteenth century Anti-Suffra-gists were trotted out in the most extraordinary solemnity, and even applauded as if they were inspired new truths.

"It is What We Know"

On the other hand there was the unanswer-able logic of the men who came from the suf-frage states and who struck a note of assurance which is always lacking in England. "It is not merely what we think," said one of them, "it is what we know." Piece by piece they showed up the arguments of their opponents as a dis-in-genuous sham. They challenged them to prove that the women in the enfranchised states were less careful of their homes, less loving as mothers, less pure and clean in their outlook, less essentially "women"—in all that is best in the word—in consequence of having secured the power to care for the children of the race in the bigger world which lies outside the home. And the challenge was not taken up, because it could not be.

And it is because of this fact that though the Bill was defeated this year by 204 votes to 174, the time is not far distant in America when it will be carried by the requisite two-thirds ma-jority and subsequently be ratified by the neces-sary majority of the States.

BIG THINGS AND LITTLE THINGS

By T. O'Meara

For the last six months we have had it dinned into our ears by scores of fevered jour-nalists, compelled by the stern hand of the Censor to rake their poor little brains again and again for the same old platitudes in a new dress, that the present European war is a "big" thing—big in the sense of being magnificent and worthy of respect—and that all the mani-fold schemes of progress and humanitarian re-form it has so violently interrupted are, by comparison, "little" things.

Now there was a rather striking piece of sculpture in last year's Academy which perhaps some of my readers may remember. Its actual technical merits I am not competent to judge, and I am deeply ashamed to confess that I never learnt the artist's name; but appearing when it did, it was a curiously prophetic and symbolic thing. For here Destiny was represented not as an awe-inspiring goddess, but as a huge, dull-witted peasant child, stooping in sheer wanton mischief to pluck a passing farmer from his waggon and crush him, like a tiny beetle, be-tween great clumsy fingers. And the present war stands to all good fruitful schemes exactly as this bulky, aimless figure stands to the busy, skilful man whom it can only destroy. It is "big" certainly, but what more can one say of it!

Heaven knows, we have no wish to minimise the heroic qualities of Thomas Atkins, but if we have previously been acquainted with Thomas in his civilian capacity, these qualities are nothing new. So many noisy enthusiasts appear just now to be aware for the first time of Thomas's existence, whilst for years past Thomas has been descending into fiery coal-pits to rescue his maimed or suffocated comrades; leaping into icy, perilous waters to save the worthless life of a stray suicide; enduring anxiety and privation and public opprobrium for months during the long-drawn process of some "sympathetic strike" upon a point of purely abstract justice—a scrap of paper, in fact. Lately Thomas has had the advantage of the limelight and the rather nervous and super-stitious eagerness of the civil population to show him how they love him; but he is essentially the same person he has always been.

Perhaps the most hopeful thing we have had to contemplate for many a long week is the complete absence of jingo illusion on the part of the man in the street; his readiness to turn from tales of blood and carnage to practical problems of immediate or future social service; his dogged desire to get the beastly business over as quickly as possible, and settle down to sen-sible work again. Major Sergius Saranoff has become Captain Bluntschli. And, being natu-rally modest folks, we will not inquire whose subtle influence is at work here, though we may privately give thanks that the man in the street is now at least so far round upon our side that he no longer sees even the most vic-torious campaign as an occasion for undiluted national rejoicing, but rather as an unpardon-able mess and muddle and waste of valuable life and energy. And we need not accord our deepest admiration to a mess solely because it is a "big" mess.

Therefore let us be of good cheer when some elderly buffer, with his nerves on edge at the thought of his foreign investments, explodes upon us with an indignant exhortation to cease our childish clamour for a vote in face of "bigger" affairs. Granted that in a time of national crisis the nation's first instinct is to put its foot down very firmly and solidly upon the party politician and all his works, granted also that both Houses of Parliament have shown (for once) quite admirable common sense in fol-lowing that classical example of the House of Peers, which "throughout the war, did nothing in particular, and did it very well." But if this proves anything, it only proves what we have always suspected, that our man-made legis-lature is in reality nothing but a sort of private gladiatorial show, kept up by John Bull for his own amusement, and forgotten whenever a newer and more interesting combat comes along. It certainly does not prove that the women of this country, who have endured and are endur-ing cruel anxiety, financial distress, and (in many places) real physical danger from the enemy's missiles, and whose patience and courage have given Great Britain every one of her brave defenders, are to be denied the common elementary rights of citizenship when we return to normal conditions again.

THE WAR OFFICE AND US

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Following upon the demonstration held in Trafalgar Square last Sunday (see page 146), a deputation was received at the War Office on Monday afternoon, which demanded, in accordance with the resolutions passed the day before, the withdrawal of the Army Council circular regarding the supervision of soldiers' wives, and also that the commanding officers should be instructed in the various districts not to impose arbitrary restrictions on women, such as that women shall not be served with drink after six in the evening in hotels and public-houses, and that women of a certain class shall be confined to their houses between 7 p.m. and 8 a.m.

Mrs. Despard introduced the deputation which consisted of Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck (United Suffragists), Miss Nina Boyle (Women's Freedom League), Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage), Miss Sylvia Pankhurst (East London Federation of Suffragettes), and Mrs. Hunter, the wife of a soldier. Mr. Cubitt, Assistant Secretary to the War Office, received the deputation.

Mrs. Despard

Mrs. Despard spoke of the poor people's view, their hatred of prying and coercion. She praised the average soldier's wife, saying she was worthy of all respect, and that to treat her with suspicion, or to deny that the money she gets is really her own, is injuring recruiting. The soldiers resented this, she declared, as much as their wives.

Mrs. Hunter

Mrs. Hunter spoke of the soldiers' wives' allowances, and the way they were administered, and how women did not get what was due to them. She dwelt chiefly on the insult of the accusation that soldiers' wives drank, saying that Preston women and men were quite furious about it. She also gave Mr. Cubitt most valuable figures disproving the allegation.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst

Sylvia Pankhurst mentioned the rise of food prices to show how many of the allowances are now in practice inadequate. She produced two interesting budgets of working women's expenditure, with the name of the regiment, and so on, of the husband. Mr. Cubitt was clearly much impressed. She made a clear and conciliatory speech, reviewing women's position and difficulties as a whole from the working-class standpoint.

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett produced strong resolutions against the restriction of women's liberties in Cardiff, and elsewhere, signed by men of Edinburgh, Glasgow Town Councilors, J.P.'s, and other dignitaries. She took a very high stand, showing the spirit behind the whole matter, and the way women resent the insult implied far more than any actual inconvenience they are called upon to suffer, though that is bad enough.

Miss Nina Boyle

Miss Boyle covered pretty well all the ground of restriction of women's liberties. She quoted Cardiff, entering into every detail, also mentioning a General's predicament at one military centre, where women dining at a public restaurant with their husbands could not obtain anything but temperance drinks at dinner because it was after six, though the men could. She reminded him of staff officers actually having to try prostitutes at Cardiff, and talked of the degradation of such a state of affairs and its illegality. She also quoted posters put up at another town, on the same subject, by order of the military, who found afterwards they had no power to act upon them.

Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck

Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, representing the United Suffragists, then said: "The women of England have unfortunately too much cause to mistrust assurances given to them, especially when promises are given with such an assurance as that engagements will be kept 'in the letter

and the spirit,' and this must be my excuse for dwelling on an unpleasant subject in spite of the promises which have lately been made to us. I have but little to say as to the case at Cardiff, which has been so ably stated by Miss Boyle, and I endorse every word she has said on the matter. I would only add that as the daughter, the sister, and the mother of a soldier, I have too great a respect for that profession to believe that soldiers, of all men, would desire a portion of my sex set apart for their gratification any more than that we women would desire that a certain percentage of men should be set apart, and looked upon as pariahs, supposing it ever suited our convenience. Soldiers are, above all, men—men who are as capable of self-control in that direction as in any other. You will recollect that the Commission on Venereal Diseases condemned what are known as the C.D. Acts because they were futile. Male doctors asserted that sexual indulgence was not necessary to men's health any more than it is to women's. For, I take it, the whole question resolves itself into one of health? Not Christianity, not justice, but health, and men's health. Then, sir, let me put this point to you. If sexual indulgence is necessary to men, then the women who gratify it are performing as useful a work as any other section of the community. They are, in fact, as indispensable as cooks, doctors, or nurses, and should be honoured accordingly. The fact that we do not honour them, but consider that this class of women have forfeited all right to our respect, is a proof in itself that we do not in our hearts consider they are a necessity, but rather that they are the outward and visible sign of an evil in our midst, and of some-

thing we should desire to destroy. That being so, if any attempt is made, either directly or indirectly, to revive the C.D. Acts, or any system which even resembles such Acts, however remotely, then the women of England will fight as fiercely and as stubbornly against such an insult to their sex in this country as their brothers and sons are now fighting for England's honour at the front."

THE WAR OFFICE REPLY

We give the War Office reply in the words of the very excellent report in last Tuesday's *Manchester Guardian*:

Mr. Cubitt, while giving no definite reply, spoke sympathetically, and promised inquiry into the statements made. With regard to police supervision, he remarked that, as a matter of fact, the police were not exercising the kind of supervision complained of.

To this the deputation rejoined that this did not satisfy them. The right thing would be for the Army Council—"that elusive body"—to withdraw the order altogether. The present position, in which the authorities in some places were applying the order, while others were not, was unsatisfactory. If restrictions were necessary they should apply equally to men and women.

As to the order preventing women from being served with drink, Mr. Cubitt asked what could be done, to which Miss Boyle replied: "Why not restrict men from drinking after seven also?"

To this Mr. Cubitt replied that if that were done there would be a great outcry.

A NEW CRY OF THE CHILDREN

*But the young, young children, O my brothers,
They are weeping bitterly!
They are weeping in the playtime of the others,
In the country of the free.*

A very serious national crime is on the eve of being perpetrated. Last week we commented on a suggestion made in the *Times* that the school age should be lowered to twelve in order to meet the shortage of farm labour by the substitution of boy labour. The *New Statesman* of last Saturday informs us in a note that this is actually being done in West Sussex, in Worcestershire, in Wiltshire, and elsewhere. The Board of Education has not so far consented to a general lowering of the school age; but what is happening is that the school attendance officers, and even in some cases the Poor-Law relieving officers, are not enforcing the attendance of boys of eleven and twelve whom farmers are employing. The thing is not done openly; but, on a hint from those in power, and occasionally by express order of the local education authority or the Rural District Council, the boys' names are quietly being dropped off the school roll.

Worse still is the attempt, also chronicled in the *New Statesman*, recently made by the Darlaston employers to take boys of school age into the nut and bolt factories. The Home Office and the Board of Education have so far refused permission for this to be done. But in the agricultural districts the scandal is apparently being perpetrated without the consent of the higher authority. What guarantee have we, then, that these children will not be forced into factory labour before their time, as they are known to have been forced into field labour? None—because women are still voteless, because women do not count in this country, because women will therefore continue to be shut out from whole departments of the paid labour market, while children are being poured into it.

Because Women are Women

We say this advisedly, because it is scarcely

necessary to point out to our readers that there are hundreds of able-bodied women of all classes, and especially in the agricultural classes themselves, who are perfectly capable of performing the farm work of the men who have enlisted. If it is urged that there are not enough of these competent women to do the work even if all those available are employed, then we reply that any intelligent, healthy woman could do the work at least as well as a child of eleven or twelve; and, the unprejudiced would say, a great deal better. But as far as we know, not a single effort has been made to enlist the services of any women. In France and Germany no stupid prejudice has intervened to prevent the women from doing the men's work in their absence; in Great Britain, apparently, women are to stand idle, to starve for want of employment, while little boys are to be taken away from school and playtime, and the land, as well as the race, is to suffer in consequence.

Equally is the prejudice against women accountable for the monstrous suggestion that, owing to the congested condition of all armament manufactures, boys of school age, rather than women, should be taken into the factories. In our issue of December 25, we commented on an agreement that had been made between the men and the employers in the engineering industry, that, in view of the threatened shortage of male labour, women should only be employed in the unskilled branches of the trade. If women were incapable of performing the more skilled (and better paid, of course) branches, is it likely that the men would have troubled to make an agreement to exclude them? Therefore, it is on account of this prejudice against women's labour that the "Cry of the Children" is to be heard once more in the land; and the prejudice, supported as it is by fear lest the women, through their political helplessness, should bring down wages, will never be overcome until women are given the vote and their just status in the country.

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Indecent Assault on a Child
The *Devizes and Wiltshire Advertiser* (January 21) reports case of a farm labourer aged 40, charged at the Wilts Winter Assizes before Mr. Justice Scrutton with an offence against a little girl of nine. The jur. found him guilty of indecent assault.
Sentence: *Three months' hard labour.*

Assault on Delicate Woman

The *Derbyshire Times* (October 24) reports case of a man, a lace-hand, charged at the Derbyshire Quarter Sessions before the Bench, with assaulting and wounding a woman with a beer bottle. The Chairman described it as an extremely dangerous form of assault, as the woman was in a delicate state of health.
Sentence: *Three months' hard labour.*

Desertion of Wife and Child

The *Manchester Guardian* (January 20) reports case of an insurance agent charged at Sheffield before Sir William Clegg with deserting his wife and child. He went to live with another woman, and his wife had to go into the workhouse.
Sentence: *One month's hard labour.*

THE SAVAGERY OF THE LAW

It undoubtedly is "a very serious offence" to obtain money from a Relief Committee under false pretences, as Mr. Fordham said last week in passing a sentence of two months' imprisonment in the second division on a woman charged with obtaining two sums of 6s. in this way. (See *Morning Advertiser*, January 23.) But were her representations so very false, after all? She had claimed to be in distress because her husband was an invalid and did no work. As a matter of strict accuracy, he earned about 12s. a week by wood-chopping. But, she pleaded, she was in distress, because even if her husband was at work he spent his money and never gave her to understand he was earning anything. The whole system is wrong, of course, because the position of the wife is wrong; but if the law of the land does not force a man to disclose his income to his wife, does not even force him to maintain her unless she goes to the workhouse and becomes a charge upon the rates, surely she has some justification for acting upon the assumption that he is out of work when she sees none of his wages and is left to starve. The country, it appears, has to support her in either case. But what an instance of the savagery of the law if it can condemn a woman to two months' degradation and punishment because her husband won't or can't support her, and hunger drives her to deceive a Distress Committee into helping her!

A Tragic Choice

Another sad story, arising also out of the inferior status of the wife, was revealed in a case at the West Ham Police Court on January 21. A woman, whose husband, a fishmonger, was charged with assaulting her, was asked why she had returned to him after obtaining a separation order. This was her reply—it needs no comment of ours:—"He earns £4 a week, and I was only allowed 10s. a week to keep myself and three children. I think it was abominable, for the business was as much mine as his. I would sooner go back and be ill-treated than see the children starved."

THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

The *Irish Citizen* is gallantly occupied in doing for Ireland what VOTES FOR WOMEN tries to do in this country by exposing the inadequacy of the sentences passed on men convicted of criminal assaults on little girls. In its issue of January 23 it cites a shocking case in the Dublin Courts, of which, it states, not a single other paper published any report. It relates to an ex-soldier of fifty, who, having assaulted a little girl of nine in the worst possible manner and infected her with a horrible disease, was let off with a light sentence in order to

HEAVY SENTENCES

Stealing Four Bars of Chocolate
The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* reports case of a labourer aged 43, charged at the West Riding Quarter Sessions before Mr. G. B. C. Yarborough, with stealing four bars of chocolate.
Sentence: *Eighteen months' hard labour.*

Stealing a Piece of Mutton

The *Morning Advertiser* (January 22) reports case of a hawker charged at the London Sessions before Mr. Robert Wallace, K.C., with stealing a piece of mutton. There were previous convictions for various offences.
Sentence: *Nine months' imprisonment.*

Robbing the Till

The *Times* (January 11) reports case of a man charged at the Middlesex Sessions before Mr. Nield with robbery from the till. There were previous convictions for theft.
Sentence: *Three years' penal servitude.*

save his pension. Had not the jur. at the instance of the Recorder, changed the charge to one of indecent assault only, he would have been liable, of course, to penal servitude. But let us feel at all self-righteous in the matter, let us glance again at the table of comparisons above, and see how much more highly a handful of chocolate is valued in our own country than the moral and physical well-being of a little English girl also well-bred!

"JUS SUFFRAGII"

The January number of *Jus Suffragii* is exceptionally good. One of the most interesting features in it is the women's "Roll of Honour." The names are given of two French nurses who were killed by shells when tending the wounded, another who was shot down in the same position, another (who received the cross of the Legion of Honour) who was wounded, also when rendering services to the French troops in the firing line, another who died of infectious illness caught when nursing German wounded at Pau, and so on and so on. Other records are of women who by their tact and courage saved villages from outrage and pillage by the German troops, or of nuns who went on dressing wounds under shell fire.

In Germany, too, we are told in *Jus Suffragii* of a nurse killed by an aerial bomb in a field hospital at Sissone. And it is interesting to read of the bacteriological researches for typhoid germs carried on by a large staff of competent German women working with Professor Bonhoff. The *Kölnische Zeitung* is quoted as speaking of "the value of women's presence in maintaining a high moral tone."

WOMEN AND WAR

C.L.W.S. Intercession Service

The second of the "Women and War" Intercession Services arranged by the Church League for Women's Suffrage was held at St. John's, Westminster, by permission of Archdeacon Wilberforce, on Saturday, January 23. Dr. Percy Dearmer conducted the service, and also preached to a large congregation. A social gathering was held immediately afterwards in the Great Hall of the Church House, when Lady Muir Mackenzie (a Vice-President of U.S.) spoke of the work of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart's Hospital, an enterprise particularly interesting to the C.L.W.S., as it includes one of the members of the Executive Committee, Dr. Helen Hanson. The Rev. F. M. Green was in the chair, and Dr. Veley, Miss Rogers, and Dr. Letitia Fairfield also spoke.

INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS

The International Women's Relief Committee, which has done such admirable work in helping distressed women aliens since the beginning of the war, from the headquarters of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance (7, Adam Street, W.C.), has now undertaken the difficult but excellent task of tracing those who have lost their friends through the war. They are in touch with the Committees doing similar work in other countries, and the number of inquiries received show how necessary this very pathetic task is. When the war and all its horrors are past and gone, this evidence of the international sisterhood of Suffragists will perhaps be one of the few bright spots to look back upon. The Committee informs us that a representative from a neutral country is shortly going to Belgium to bring one or two girls to this country. Inquiries concerning this should be addressed to the Secretary of the I.W.R. Committee at the above address.

COMING EVENTS

The Women's Freedom League will hold a meeting at the Suffrage Club, York Street, on Wednesday, February 3, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. M. W. Nevinson on "News of the War from First-Hand Letters," and others. There will also be a meeting at the Suffrage Club on Friday, February 19, at 8 p.m. Mr. W. L. George will speak on "The Break Up of the Home."

A meeting will be held in the West Hamstead Town Hall, Broadhurst Gardens, on Thursday, February 4, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Mrs. Penn Gaskell. Chair: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. Tickets (2s. 6d. 1s., and 6d.) may be obtained from Mrs. Penn Gaskell, 310, High Road, Kilburn, and Miss Batson, 178, Finchley Road.

A public meeting of special importance to the relatives of soldiers and sailors, and also to working women, will be held at the Baths, Old Kent

Road, S.E., on Friday, February 5, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss S. Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mrs. Walker. Admission free.

See page 146 for United Suffragist meetings.

AN ECHO OF 1870

In a little booklet entitled "The Romance of the Jaeger Company," we are taken back to the war of 1870, when Dr. Jaeger was led to believe that the troops had greatly suffered through cotton underclothing and cotton-lined tunics, and brought forward the hygienic value of wool. The large and steady growth of an English company, founded on these ideas in 1883, and starting with one small shop in Fore Street, speaks for the value and excellence of Jaeger goods, which are specially commended to our readers by the fact that Messrs. Jaeger have been constant advertisers in this paper.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MISS MURIEL MATTERS' Lecture, "Ibsen's Social Dramas," the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, St. James', Tuesday, February 2, 8 p.m.; tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., from the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Charing Cross. New address.

PUBLIC MEETING. The Baths, Old Kent Road, S.E., Friday, February 5, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Evelyn Sharp. Chair: Mrs. Walker. Admission free. Tickets: 1s., 6d., reserved, from 39, Radnor Street, Peckham; 42, Keston Road, E. Dulwich; and 499, Old Ford Road, Bow.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds public meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30. Speakers, February 3, Mrs. M. W. Nevinson on "News of the War from First Hand Letters," and others. Admission free.

WOMEN AND WAR.—Meeting, West Hampstead Town Hall, Thursday, February 4, 8 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. Speakers: H. W. Nevinson, "Life and the War"; Sylvia Pankhurst, "War and the Woman's Movement"; Elinor Penn Gaskell, "The Enemy in our Midst"; Evelyn Sharp, "Atrocities of War and Peace." Tickets: 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., from 210, High Road, Kilburn, and 178, Finchley Road, Hampstead. Proceeds will be devoted to work for poor in East End and Willesden.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE Discussion Meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, Friday, February 19, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Mr. W. L. George, "The Break-up of the Home." Tickets: 1s. reserved, 6d. unreserved, from W.F.L., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi.

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