

THE VOTE,  
DEC. 24th, 1915.  
ONE PENNY.

## WOMEN AND THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, DEC. 24, 1915.

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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### "BORN OF A WOMAN."

I

Sheep lay still in the sheepfold;  
Day was done.  
Babes lay warm in their cradles—  
Where lay One?  
Earth lay hushed from her warfare,  
So they say,  
When Christ was born of a woman  
On Christmas Day.  
"Glory be in the highest,  
Peace on earth!"  
Fled, at the word, from the war-plains,  
Death and dearth.  
Strife and sorrow and sighing  
Fled away:  
Hope came forth from the Woman  
On Christmas Day!

II.

Earth is red with the battle,  
Black with grief;  
Trees have hardly, to cheer them,  
One last leaf.  
"War must be as it has been"—  
So men say.  
Peace they mock, and the Woman,  
This Christmas Day.  
Mother of Love! for thy Christ child  
Wait we now:  
Who can bring Him and bear Him—  
Who but Thou?  
Save, O save thou the People  
Men would slay!  
Christ comes still by the Woman  
This Christmas Day!

S. GERTRUDE FORD.

## WOMEN AND THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

The recent decision of the King's Bench, whereby Sir Edgar Speyer and Sir Ernest Cassel, both of them naturalised Germans, legally remain members of the King's Privy Council, naturally arouses much interest among British born women. The Privy Council itself is one of our most ancient institutions, being, indeed, much older than Parliament; and the law has always been that no alien born could sit upon it, even though naturalised by Parliament. "Any natural-born subject of England is capable of being a member of the Privy Council" says Blackstone. An Act of 1870 extended all privileges of British birth to naturalised aliens, and on this ground, judgment has legally, but, in our opinion, quite unconstitutionally, gone in favour of the two naturalised aliens in question.

Although the Act of Settlement expressly forbade the inclusion of aliens, and *although no statute prohibits the inclusion of women*, naturalised aliens have been placed within the ranks of the Privy Council, and this new and highly undesirable practice is now legalised; whilst for centuries no women have been included. In days gone by, women have sat upon it, such as Lady Alice Perrers, in Edward the Third's reign.

"The King's will is the sole constituent of a Privy Councillor." (Blackstone's Commentaries on Laws of England). Why does not our present King revive the old practice of summoning women to his Privy Council? It would not be difficult to find worthy and distinguished British women quite as capable of giving the King advice as are Sir Edward Speyer and Sir Ernest Cassel. The

Women's Freedom League has for a long time demanded the inclusion of women in the Birthday and New Year Honours list. We suggest to our Sovereign that he could most gratefully acknowledge the part played by women at this national crisis by showing them that the advice of some representative women is of more value in his eyes than that of male naturalised aliens, by including in the New Year Honours list the names of some British women as Privy Councillors.

HELENA NORMANTON.

### HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

#### Christmas Holidays.

Will readers kindly not that our offices will be closed from 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 23, until 10 a.m., Wednesday, December 29. Should any of our members or friends be spending their Christmas holidays in London, we shall be delighted to see them at this office any time after we re-open. Lunch and tea can be obtained in our Club Room at very moderate prices. This would make an excellent opportunity to view our activities at the Women's Freedom League Settlement at Nine Elms and at the Despard Arms, where there will be a Christmas Party on Dec. 31, 7-10 p.m.

#### Lecture on Poland.

This lantern lecture to be given by Mademoiselle Marie A. Czaplicka on Monday, January 24, will be of very special interest. We have arranged to hold it at the Ashburton Club, 28 Red Lion Square, W.C. (within three minutes of Holborn, Southampton Row corner) and the chair will be taken by our President, Mrs. Despard, at 7 p.m. Madlle. Czaplicka has very high qualifications both as a scientist and lecturer, and we can promise all who come to hear her that they will spend a very interesting and profitable evening. Tickets for the lecture can be obtained from our office at 144, High Holborn, at 1/- (numbered and reserved) and 6d. each.

#### Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

We shall begin our new series of Wednesday afternoon meetings at Caxton Hall, Wednesday afternoon, January 26, at 3.30 p.m. Further particulars of these meetings will be given in later issues of *The Vote*, but we hope our friends will make an effort to support us at these weekly suffrage meetings.

#### Political and Militant Department.

The Political and Militant Department now includes Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Mustard and Miss Anna Munro in an honorary capacity, in addition to Miss Nina Boyle, the Head of the Department. The Department will meet every Friday fortnight succeeding the meetings of the National Executive Committee.

Miss Marguerite Sidley, secretary to the Department, is taking a two months' rest from her duties, owing to ill-health. Miss Hunt, assistant secretary to the Women's Freedom League, is kindly acting in her place during her absence.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### The Burglary at the Office.

A daring though somewhat clumsy burglary was committed at Headquarters during Friday night, and although very little money was taken, desks were forced and seriously damaged, and papers overhauled and left in a state of great confusion. The letter box was broken open and cleared of its contents. We shall be glad if correspondents who have failed to receive acknowledgments of their letters or contributions to our funds or our paper,

*The Vote*, will communicate with us without delay. The matter is in the hands of the police.

In answer to the question by a Press representative: "Was it a police raid?" Miss Boyle replied "No, for in that case the petty cash boxes would not have been opened, though cigarettes might have disappeared." The Inspector of police made merry that burglars had attacked the headquarters of the Women Police Volunteers, but the Women Police Volunteers are of opinion that no mere man would have been so venturesome; they wonder whether the burglars who are supposed to be at the Front have deputised their work to "unskilled women's labour!"

### PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY FUND.

#### FOURTH YEAR.

#### Third List of Contributions

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### WASTE NOT. WANT NOT!

There are people who save by instinct, and others who cannot save at all, but all must learn to save in order that the war may be terminated. Unless we save we cannot finance our Government or the Governments of our Allies, who all are dependent upon us. We must stop spending as usual, and keep our money to lend to the State. Endless injunctions are showered upon the people to save, but as they are never told how to begin they are merely puzzled and perplexed by all the talk and long for some scheme to be started that will definitely, once and for all, inaugurate the thrift campaign.

That enormous savings will have to be effected all recognise, the question is, how are they to be brought about? The Government, to whom the public look for a lead, is worse than useless. It neither saves itself, nor encourages others to do so, except through the medium of words. It is content to warn us of the danger that lies ahead if we are imprudent, but it does not show by example how we may alter existing conditions. The Women's Freedom League has in consideration a scheme which is practical and good and which will be welcomed by people at large, as it will help them not only to save, but what is of equal importance, shew them how to spend their money beneficially and judiciously.

In the meantime, everyone talks, and blames others for not doing what they themselves are reluctant to practise. The utmost confusion reigns. We hear a great deal of the prosperity of the working classes and of their thriftlessness. A few days ago I was in a shop in Glasgow which sold Singer's Sewing machines. A working man came in and asked for "yin o' the best machines in the shop, the same as the yin I got twa days back." The salesman said he supposed his wife sewed a great deal, to which the man replied, "Na, na, no her, but she awfu' taken up wi' it as a piece of furniture, and as our kitchen has twa windows, it makes the room queer to have yin blocked up and the other empty." To gratify this whim cost the couple £30, but the man was content: "I'm gettin' good wages," he said, "and I never was yin that grudged spending money." Lately I was in Dumbarton and a woman informed me she was fair put to it to spend her week's money, "For mind you, Miss Murray," she added, "it's a queer difference spending £7 to the £2 I used to get. Wages are good just now." I suggested the savings bank as a suitable place for the surplus wealth, but she spiritedly retorted "Na, na, that's no my style, I didna hold wi' savin up. I jist awa tae Glesca wi' the weans an I got it all spent; you should see the lovely pink silk petticoat I bought myself and cheap at 29s. 6d. Its a treat!"

"Very shocking," say the rich, "this reckless expenditure by the working classes, they ought to save but they are hopeless." Of course they ought to save and all foolish waste is deplorable, but what about the rich? Have they no duty to perform? Do they expend their money so wisely that no improvement could take place? Some do well; others do not; the same rule applies to all classes. It is not long ago since I met a man, rich and prosperous. "I have just been making a war economy," he said, as he stepped forth from the finest jeweller's in Edinburgh; "I have bought twelve silver napkin rings as my wife and I feel we should save in the washing and so as long as the war lasts we are not going to have clean napkins each meal." To effect this saving, he purchased twelve solid silver rings, nor could he understand why I laughed. It is for these muddle-headed people that some scheme must be devised to save them from their own folly. In the train lately were two ladies and I could not help hearing them talk. They expounded at length how hard they were at work economizing. No butter on the table, nothing but margarine, great reductions at the butchers',

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and so on. Suddenly one of them said, "How do you like my new fur coat? Such a bargain, dear, this lovely fur cost only £150; it was too good an opportunity to lose and then you know I suffer so from cold." I longed to remind her that warm stockings and a Shetland vest would have been as efficacious as the £150 fur coat. Everyone has endless stories they could recount to emphasise the existing follies both of poor and rich, the people who are careless of everything, the others who are frugal with pennies and lavish with pounds. If our stock of stories runs low, we can always fall back upon the extravagances and mistakes of the Government: the exorbitant salaries paid to men in high positions; the waste in contracts for army and navy; the factories built at top speed and the plant installed, only, when ready, to stand idle for months; hospitals equipped and staffed and no patients sent to them for months. All right for chaplains and the doctors who are often over-paid for services rendered at home, in no way detrimental to their private practice, but hard on the V.A.D. nurses, who receive starvation wages and none at all until they have tended the wounded men at least a month, and hardest on the taxpayer who is paying for incompetency, nothing else.

What we need is a National rousing on the subject of thrift. We must have money to pay for the war, and money laid by against the lean days we are told lie ahead of us. To do this we must have a scheme that will help us to do—as most people are anxious to do—our duty to our country. Let us stop talking and get to work.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

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## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, December 24th, 1915.

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 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, 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.

## RING OUT WILD BELLS!

"The year is dying in the night; ring out wild bells and let it die!"

Often have we heard and read the words. Year after year, as we reach the imaginary border-line and cross it, there has darted through us some faint perception of what crossing that line might mean. Then, the thrill over, we have returned to the ordinary course of things—some awake and restless; the great multitude asleep; all dimly aware that, if there is progress, it is slow and fitful; and that, while the structure of society remains what it is, the most ardent of patriots and world-lovers can do little more than point out abuses and make efforts, often vain, to shame the apathetic into action.

This year, the bells ring out with a difference. There is the usual clamour of voices—one acclaiming one point of view, another the opposite; but running through them is a note we have never heard before. We would call it the note of reality. Instinctively it is felt that the air is heavy, not with tumult only, but with change. "Ring out the old, ring in the new" is to-day no poet's dream of adventure, thrilling us once a year with its vision of possibilities; it is a fact being accomplished under our eyes.

Already the European world has changed. Great forces, stronger for good or evil and more far-reaching in their possible effects than gigantic armies in the field have been set in motion. We do not know yet in what direction they will drive us; but on one point we are clear. The world will never be as it has been. We dare not say that all these forces are towards righteousness.

The Battle of the Ages will not cease when the nations have discovered the futility of war. But we venture to assert that there has come into our fighting a new element. "We war not against flesh and blood," said one of the great fighters of antiquity, "but against principalities and powers, against spiritual darkness in high places."

That warfare, as we women know, with all its means of courage, of fortitude, of surrender of everything that seems most ourselves, will go on. And we are prepared for it. The world has been so much accustomed in the past to associate heroism with material warfare that we may not at once realize how heroic is the spirit of the warriors of Peace and how splendid the adventure upon which they are engaged. That will appear as events thicken.

For we shall see that it is nothing less than

a change of the most momentous character between human relations that is in progress—relations between men and women; between the peoples and their own countries; between nations in their intercourse one with the other. And for these our present social structure, based on crumbling illusions and conventions affords no scope.

Relations between man and woman. This is continually being commented upon as a matter for serious consideration. In a leader in the *Westminster Gazette* (15 December), it is boldly stated: "When the women of the country have shown the zeal and ability to which every camp and hospital bears witness, it cannot be tolerable that we shall return to the old struggle about granting them the franchise." An admirable article by A.G.G. in Saturday's *Daily News* entitled "Sword and Ploughshare," has for the heading of one of its paragraphs, "The Woman's Victory."

Relations between the people and the land. There, too, momentous changes are foreshadowed. The anxiety felt by many about how the dislocation in industry is to be met, found expression last week in a debate in the House of Lords. Lord Parker opened with an emphatic warning against unpreparedness for Peace, which might come at any moment. Lord Crewe stated that the Government would not be caught napping; and Lord Haldane, one of our clearest thinkers, proposed the formation of a special commission for enquiry into the facts of the situation and suggestions as to the methods that might be adopted to deal with it—the preparation, in fact, of a Peace Book. Running through the whole of which can be felt the necessity of dealing drastically with the land.

"It is," says A.G.G., "in the field more than in the factory that we are imperilled." Co-operative Settlement on the land is one of the solutions. The monopoly of landlordism must be broken down, if this is to be affected.

With the question of the establishment of such relations between the nations as will prevent the recurrence of retrogressive and brutalizing war, many minds are busy at the present moment. Without even touching upon the principles put forward by such associations as the Women's International League, which, we hope, has come to stay, we would say emphatically that to women, no question can be of more appalling importance. Earnestly do we hope that, before this Parliament has run its course, women will be able not only to assert their principles, but to give them weight in the councils of the nations.

As then we cross the border-line that divides year from year, as we listen to the joy-bells with their pathos and their promise in the vision of the future that rises before us, we see ample scope for vigorous action.

Edward Carpenter, the prophet of Democracy, in an address given lately at Caxton Hall, said very finely, "What we want is not a fat, foolish peace with sentimentality all round." Better death in the trenches, with our brave men and boys than that. Our aspiration is for "A great heroic Peace." Individuals and nations, he goes on to say, are struggling for self-expression for "a place in the sun." Up to this, he shows, the instinct has been ruthlessly to destroy everything that stands in the way. But, and here comes in heroism, a spirit of glorious adventure, the ringing out of old sordidness, "Humanity is gradually reaching a stage where self-expression does not mean the destruction of others; but where the welfare of one is recognised as the welfare of others. When a man or a nation reaches that stage, he or it becomes a Saviour of the world."

Freedom for self-expression—not as taking from but as making for the gladness of the world! For

what else have we been asking? Is not that the very basis of the woman's movement? Self-expression for ourselves and for others, which when rightly understood, means fulness of life for all.

'Tis life of which our souls are scant;  
 Oh! life, not death for which we pant,  
 More life and fuller that we want."

It is said sometimes that the war has given us our opportunity. In a sense that is true. The emotions engendered by this colossal tragedy have acted as a stimulus, setting free imprisoned energies and opening doors of service to unused faculties. But let us remember, especially now, when this year of misery is drawing to a close, that energizing love, trained intellect and practical cleverness are for peace-time no less than for war-time. Nay, much more. For the grim tempest passes and the Earth and her children remain.

Unflinching, unfeared, in the spirit of devotion that has been thrown into this year of sorrow and danger, let us listen to the familiar Christmas chimes; let us master their new meaning, let us go forward into the unknown!

C. DESPARD.

## POLITICAL NOTES.

### Press Raid.

The daily press, with its usual inaccuracy, has alluded to the recent raid on some printing premises as "suppression of a suffragette paper." We cannot state too emphatically that *Britannia* never was and never has been a suffrage organ, and has no connection with the movement to obtain votes for women. It merely represented the views on the political situation of the group of ladies responsible for its production.

### Kissing Goes by Favour.

If kissing goes by favour, so does kicking. We wonder why Sir Francis Lloyd and the military authorities put themselves to so much pains to suppress these comparatively unimportant and un-influential papers, while the widely circulated and powerful organs behind which big interests are ranged, rage against the Government, the conduct of the war, and the Foreign Office policy, unrebuked and unpunished. This fussy searching out of obscure Irish journals, the suppression of the *Labour Leader*, the *Globe*, and the four-sheet leaflet *Britannia*, seems quite labour lost, while the *Times*, the *Sporting Times*, the Carmelite House productions, the weeklies and monthlies, and even the *Sunday Chronicle*, say what they like with impunity. This is, apparently, a case of money, and money enough.

### Pledges and Performances.

The touching confidence displayed by Lord Haldane in the sacred nature of Mr. Asquith's pledges is very beautiful. The pledge in question is that no "controversial" matter shall be introduced in a Government franchise bill, and as this pledge was given to men, it presumably has more value than others from the same source. We are quite in the dark as to when the pledge was made and why and to whom; but no one can deny that it is a convenient one to have made. The word "controversial" now rivals "that blessed word Mesopotamia" in meaning and intensity.

There is yet another noble lord whose soul is bent on proving the Prime Minister's truthfulness. Poor Lord Derby, in an impassioned outburst, has vowed that "if there is one man who is determined that his pledge shall be kept," it is the Prime Minister. That pledge, he asseverated, "would be kept by the Prime Minister in the spirit and in the letter." Methinks this noble lord doth protest

too much and that all this fervour betrays the inward doubt that must arm itself against its own fears. Why else should all this assurance and re-assurance be necessary, unless there is something not quite sure? On the cover page of a certain merry little organ, we remember reading the words "I cannot imagine how anything I may or may not have said could have caused anybody to think or not to think anything at all;" and we have a sort of conviction that the phrase covers the whole ground.

### "A Pledge is a Pledge."

There is an ominous ring in the words used by Lord Derby "in the spirit and in the letter." Such was the assurance given us by the other great recruiter, now finding a sphere of influence in another place. Mr. Asquith had announced that his pledge to the suffragists would be carried out "in the spirit and in the letter," and Mr. Lloyd George said to a vast meeting that it was not only a personal pledge, but one on behalf of the whole Cabinet; and that to question it was "an implication of deep dishonour." Where is that pledge now? Gone; with the honour that held plighted vow of so small account. "In this country," says Lord Derby, "we do not treat pledges as scraps of paper. A pledge is a pledge." Poor Lord Derby! We wish him better luck than we had.

### Who Began It?

The sordid wrangle about single men first seems to occupy a very disproportionate space in the scheme of things. Seldom has anything more creditable disgraced our public life. One wonders who began it; and so far as one can trace beginnings, it appears to have begun, not with the married men, who have shewn no backwardness in joining the colours, but with certain press organs, one of whom has an editor, unmarried, fairly young, able-bodied, and with private means, whose "services to the country" could well be dispensed with. We hope as the result of his own agitation, that Lord Derby has by this time roped him in.

C. NINA BOYLE.

## A PERTINENT QUESTION.

Mr. William Thomson, writing from 23, Montgomerie Street, Glasgow, a well-known and scholarly member of the Northern Men's Federation for Women Suffrage, sent the following letter to Sir Robert Balfour, M.P., who represents Partick, as a Liberal, and we trust that the answer to this pertinent question will be satisfactory. Other voters would do well to follow Mr. Thomson's excellent example in seeking definite declarations from their representatives.

DEAR SIR.—I have been unfortunate on both occasions of my attempts to see you at the House. On the latter occasion I meant to emphasize the subject-matter of the enclosed cuttings and, if it might be, get some assurance that you at least regarded with disfavour the reported intention of the Government again to betray the women in regard to the suffrage. Surely it is getting late in the day to argue this question. I have seen scores of arguments in favour of the claims and contentions of the woman's movement, never one against them of higher cogency than plausible. To me, most of the arguments on both sides are gratuitous and beside the point compared with the plain fact that I as a man, would resent women-made legislation for men, and that I can quite understand, therefore, why women are up in arms against the man-made article for women. To me, men and women are human beings, with interests at bottom not antagonistic. Surely the time is ripe for them to work together, and see if they cannot knock out a

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better world than the pitiful mess men have made of it, working in isolation.

I suppose no member of Parliament would call in question the noble conduct of women at large in this time of distress, or deny that suffragettes in particular had even surpassed their sisters in so far as they have sacrificed for the time a cause which was and is sacred to them. Under the circumstances, do members of Parliament differ from ordinary people like myself, to whom it would appear a monstrous thing on the part of the Government, by a deliberate act, to bring back the old incitements to crime with its sequel of imprisonments, secret tortures behind prison walls, and the rest of the hideous brood of evils that give the lie to the Christianity we profess in empty words? Could not the enormous energy, ability and devotion of the women concerned be turned into channels of usefulness to the country? Is it statesmanlike not merely to lose these assets but deliberately to ensure their employment even temporarily for the hurt of a country that will presently be calling aloud for every regenerative force and influence it can commend? Will it be creditable for a nation, that boasts itself great, to come tailing in ingloriously with a measure for suffrage in the wake of nations of smaller pretension? Should not Britain be leading in the most significant procession history has had to show? Such questions as these will men in increasing numbers ask themselves, and answer with an emphasis not to be denied. As a member of the Northern Men's Federation, I shall be amongst the number, though I confess I would rather feel at liberty for other claims were this not for me the imperative one. May I count on your influence in support of the right cause?

Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) WILLIAM THOMSON.

Dec. 17, 1915.

### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

#### Austrian Women Mobilised.

According to an Exchange message from Zurich, the Vienna papers semi-officially announce that the Government has decided upon the mobilisation of women for military purposes behind the lines. They will be used largely in reopening industries closed down through lack of male help.

#### Facts.

The Lord Mayor, presiding a few days ago at the annual gathering of the Federation of Working Girls' Clubs at the Mansion House, declared that, in spite of all the anxieties which had arisen in consequence of the war, the good behaviour of the girls of the country had been a matter for encouragement and congratulation.

#### Medical Officer.

The Kent Asylums Committee have chosen a lady doctor, Miss Jane M. Fulton, M.B., Ch.B., for the post of assistant-medical officer at Barming Heath Lunatic Asylum, Maidstone.

#### Motor Bus Conductors Commended.

Women motor omnibus conductors were praised by Mr. W. Tyler, the Chairman of the Stratford Bench. There were three summonses against drivers for exceeding the speed limit. One of them, Henry Judge, pleaded that as his woman conductor did not ring up smartly after a stop he had to "make up time." Mr. Tyler: We cannot consider that a satisfactory excuse. From what we know of them, the women conductors are performing their duties with remarkable smartness. Judge was fined 10s.

#### Business Training.

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to take the place of men who have enlisted. At one centre forty-one students have obtained proficiency certificates, and thirty-three have secured employment

#### Higher Education for Working Women.

The Joint Committee, composed of equal representation of the University of London and Labour organisations, is prepared to arrange University classes in history, literature, science, etc., for working women at times convenient to them, and at a nominal fee. All interested are requested to communicate with Mr. A. Ramage, University of London, South Kensington.

#### What is Needed

The Manchester Men's League for Women's Suffrage, ever alert, has reproduced in a handy leaflet an extract from an address given in Manchester on October 20 last by Mr. J. L. Paton, headmaster of the Manchester Grammar School, on "Problems after the War." Mr. Paton is a champion of the Woman's Cause, whose influence carries great weight. He declares that "We need to bring into our political and international life a new factor—the help of woman. We need a counterpoise: we need woman—the moral side of man—in the State. . . . We need the help of woman in solving the international problems which lie before us as soon as we have brought this war to a conclusion. . . ." We welcome these strong words from a strong man, and wish them power to pierce the prejudice which delays the service the nation needs.

#### Will Britain Heed.

The Women's Franchise Act, by which all adult women in Norway are entitled to the Parliamentary vote, came into force on October 11, and 170,000 new women electors voted on that day. In 1907 the Act which removed the sex disqualification in Norway added some 300,000 women to the elect-

Concluded on page 867.

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

**Friday, December 31.**—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. Christmas Party, 7-10 p.m. Admission by "Pound" gift for restaurant. Music, games. Mrs. Despard will welcome guests and Miss Bolye will speak on "All Sorts of Things."

**Monday, January 24.**—LANTERN LECTURE, on "Poland: Past and Present," by Mademoiselle Marie A. Czaplicka, at the Ashburton Club, 28, Red Lion-square, W.C. (within 3 minutes of Holborn, Southampton-row corner). Chairman, Mrs. Despard. Tickets, 1s. (numbered and reserved), and 6d., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

**Wednesday, January 26.**—PUBLIC MEETING at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30

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

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinners and suppers from 6d.), and recreation. Week-days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m. Closed on December 25, 26 and 27.

#### PROVINCES.

**Saturday, January 1.**—PORTSMOUTH. Whist Drive, at 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 prompt. Tickets, 1s. each

**January 11.**—PORTSMOUTH. Members' Meeting at 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Speck.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

**Middlesbrough—W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-rnad.**

There was a good attendance of members and friends at the W.F.L. rooms on December 13, to welcome Miss Underwood on the occasion of her first visit to Middlesbrough. In her address she reviewed the work that had been done at headquarters and spoke of the need there is for energetic work on the part of the branches. Songs were contributed by Mrs. Jones and violin solos by Miss Paterson, to whom the thanks of the meeting were accorded.


The previous week, the annual meeting of the branch was held; Miss L. Mahoney presided. Reports of the year's work were given by the secretary, treasurer and literature secretary, who were thanked for their services. The officers and committee for the ensuing year were elected.

#### Nine Elms.

During the past month, the Nine Elms branch of the Women's Freedom League—teachers, mothers and children—have sent 46 boxes of provisions etc. to prisoners in Germany. In every parcel there was bread, margarine, fruit, cigarettes collected by the children from their fathers and, in many boxes clothing and other articles. The organizers of this fine work have been Mrs. James, head-mistress of Sleaford St. L.C.C. School and Mrs. Munday, one of the teachers.

#### Portsmouth and Gosport.

The annual Whist Drive will be held on January 1, at 17, Lombard Street, by kind invitation of Miss Mottershall. Tickets, 1/- each. Time, 7.30 prompt. The next members' meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, at 17, Lombard Street. A paper will be read by Mrs. Speck on "Poor Law Reforms at Portsmouth." Discussion. It is proposed to have a Jumble Sale early in the New Year, so will members please save anything saleable?



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WOMEN IN WAR TIME—concluded from page 866. orate, of those who possessed a certain income of their own, or were married to husbands paying taxes on the same amount. The extension of this right to all women is the best evidence of the good use made of the vote by those enfranchised in the first instance.

#### A Unique Opportunity.

"Principle and opportunity do not often go hand-in-hand. They go hand-in-hand to-day in this matter of women suffrage. Our rulers have a unique opportunity to heal a running sore in the body politic, to prevent the recurrence of internal strife; above all, to prove the sincerity of their own constant speech in praise of liberty and self-government."—*Daily Herald*.

#### Less Drinking among Women.

The annual report of the Prison Commissioners, issued recently, shows that there has been less crime in war time. The total receptions on conviction for the last year numbered 281.4 per 100,000 of the population, the lowest point within statistical record. The ratio in 1905-6 was 571.1 per 100,000. The Prison Commissioners ascribe the falling off throughout the country of the male prison population to:

The enlistment of many habitual petty offenders;

Restricted hours for the sale of intoxicating liquors; and

The great demand for labour rendering employment easy and well-paid.

The number of women received on conviction for the offence of drunkenness has fallen from 15,149 in 1913 to 14,045 in the year under report, or by 7 per cent. At some of the larger prisons, e.g., Birmingham, Durham, Liverpool, and Manchester, the decrease has been greater, the reduction being as high as 16 per cent. at Liverpool.

#### THE DESPARD ARMS.

Mrs. Despard will be present at our Christmas party on Friday, December 31, 7-10 p.m., and we invite all who are interested to come and make merry with us. Mrs. Despard will welcome the guests and Miss Boyle will speak on "All sorts of Things." There will be music, recitations, games, etc., and it will be a good opportunity for friends to see the Public House! No tickets are necessary; admission is by a pound gift of anything useful in the restaurant or house. We are grateful to Miss Sell who gives us Thursday evenings and frequently Sunday evenings. Her recitations are warmly appreciated. We shall be very glad to receive further offers of help in personal service and gifts, including chests of drawers, table cloths, plants and flowers for decoration and supplies of every kind for the restaurant. Our good beds are appreciated by those who use them; there are two or three available for longer or shorter periods at 4s. per week.

#### War Time Intercession.

The following prayer has been issued by the C.L.W.S. in view of the Three Days' Intercession recommended by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and it is suggested that, where desired, it might be included in the forms of Intercession which will then be used:—"Heavenly Father, we heartily thank Thee for the response of women to the manifold demands for service to the nation at this time. Prosper them, we beseech Thee, in all that they undertake, and grant that whatsoever of fuller life, of greater honour, of worthier treatment should be their portion may be vouchsafed in answer to the faith and prayers of Thy people. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

FRIDAY,  
DEC. 24,  
1915

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## Women in War Time and After.

Mrs. Despard's recent visit to Brighton aroused great interest and afforded an excellent opportunity for reviewing the work of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, since its formation in Brighton last year. Miss Hare, the President of the Brighton branch said that the first relief workroom opened in the town to cope with the distress caused by the outbreak of the war was that of the Corps. Distress had now considerably abated, owing to the many spheres of employment open to women, and only one workroom was now necessary at 8, North Street Quadrant. She spoke also of the work of the Women Police Volunteers, which was purely voluntary service, and did not interfere with anyone's earnings; there were not as yet any paid policewomen in Brighton, but Miss Hare said they looked forward to the day when there would be!

Miss Hare made an eloquent appeal to the large audience present to support the work of the Brighton Corps by sending orders for garments or mending to the workroom, and by making the employment agency at 8, North Street Quadrant more widely known; the agency had found posts for many applicants, including one as Matron in a Mohammedan School in Alexandria.

Mrs. Despard's inspiring and suggestive speech on "Women in War Time and After" was warmly appreciated. She hoped the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps would become the *International Aid Corps*, and eventually the *Human Aid Corps*, for in service for others true happiness is found.

She outlined the promising national work of The Despard Arms and the much needed service of Brackenhill Hospital.

## Women's Freedom League Settlement

Mrs. Tippet gratefully acknowledges gifts of apples and potatoes from Mr. Curtis; Miss Riggall, 2/-; Miss Alix M. Clark, apples; Miss Kearton, butter and cheese; Miss Colthurst, original water colour sketches for Guest House and pictures for Restaurant; Mrs. Thomas, butter; Miss Dyer, toys; C. B. Simon, Esq., a cwt. of rice; Miss Newcomb, £1; Mrs. Walpole, Tasmania, £3 16s.; also the following gifts for the Christmas treat: per Mrs. Thomas, 2/6; Mrs. Giles, 5/-; Mrs. England Smith, 2/6; plum puddings from Mrs. Williams, Miss Kearton, Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Roberts; mince-meat from Miss Dunn, Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Williams, Miss Kearton, Mrs. Baillie Weaver; toys from Miss Rogers, Miss Riggall, Mrs. E. M. N. Clarke, Miss Kearton; holly and ivy from Mrs. Delbanco.

Who will be so generous as to present the Guest House with a clock? It is awkward guessing the time the children have to be at school, and keeps us in constant fear of the Attendance Inspector!

### A USEFUL LEAFLET.

"The Appeal to Women," distributed by the Croydon Branch in their district, will doubtless appeal to women in other districts, who have not joined a suffrage society. It points out the urgent need for women to take their share with men "in laying the foundation of a better time in the future for our children" and shows that for this reason the Women's Freedom League strives for "the vote, without which nothing definite can be accomplished." Copies may be obtained at 100 for 2/- or in smaller quantities down to 4 for a penny. Apply to the secretary of the Croydon Branch, 32a, The Arcade, High-street. Any profits will go towards paying off the debt on *The Vote*.

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**ESOTERIC LECTURES,** by Sufi Inayat Khan, every Tuesday, at 5, and Sundays at 6 p.m. Admission free. All are welcome, at 86, Lad-broke-road (close to Holland-park Tube station). Further particulars, Miss MARY WILLIAMS, as above.

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