

THE VOTE  
Nov. 6, 1914.  
ONE PENNY

## WOMAN—*The Whipping Boy.*

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 263.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 6, 1914.

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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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### The Model Employer Again.

There are still a few people left in their man-made world who continue to believe the Government to be the model employer. As an employer of labour, especially of female labour, the Government has shown itself not above resorting to all the tricks of the sweater to get its work done cheaply. After unsuccessfully trying to evade its own responsibility to pay their salary to men called out on active service, although the struggling tradesman was urged to pay his as usual, the Department found itself in urgent need of skilled telegraphists and did not hesitate to exploit female labour. In the past a deaf ear has always been turned to any suggestion that women be allowed to retain their posts after marriage; but on the outbreak of war not only the Government offices required more telegraphists, but the railways and the cable companies required them also, and soon the demand was greater than the supply.

### Cheap Women.

The necessity for temporarily recruiting the Central Telegraph Office was quite urgent; communications were sent to a large number of women, who had been obliged to resign upon marriage, asking them to return for temporary service. No one, at such a time, could object to these women going back to help, but every established woman in the telegraph department strongly resents the scandalous payment offered. The pay of women telegraphists ranges from 24s. at 21 years of age to £2 a week maximum. The pay offered to these women is 25s. for a week of 48 hours, £1 for 36 hours, and 12s. 6d. for 24 hours, either in three eight-hour days or six four-hour turns. This, be it observed, is for highly skilled labour, under-

taken in exceptional circumstances, and to replace men called away, many of whom received £3 a week for the same work. No doubt many married women would be prepared to return as skilled workers if a fair rate of pay be offered, but it is to be hoped not many will aid the department by accepting a salary far below the recognised rate of pay with none of the advantages of established service.

### The Old Story.

In the past, equal pay has been refused because women did not do night duty. Married women could not retain their posts, their place being at home. All other European Governments, with the exception of Germany, have proved the fallacy of these arguments, and where women are employed they are allowed to continue their work after marriage. In England the sudden crisis has shown what these arguments are worth. Women have done night duty, sometimes 18 hours at a stretch. Married women have proved themselves capable of doing their work equally well. The department is not doing the one thing expected under such conditions—paying fair wages.

### L.C.C. Fatuity.

The Government as an employer of women's labour is bad enough. The London County Council is almost worse. The penalisation of married women is a favourite pursuit of this arrogant body. Besides advertising for an Inspector for the Schools Department, on whose printed form of application one reads: "No married woman is eligible to apply and any unmarried woman who may be appointed must resign on marriage"; the following gem of inspired intelligence graces an

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agenda paper of a certain association working under the Council's management:—

**"WOMEN HELPERS, &C."**

"A memorandum received from the Council states that it is now decided that women divorced or judicially separated from their husbands, are eligible for employment under the Council's resolution; women deserted by, or voluntarily living apart from their husbands are not eligible."

For pure, inexplicable freakishness, these distinctions cannot be matched. The subtlety of mind which finds it dangerous to employ the deserted wife, but right to employ the divorced, is indeed profound; while the refusal to employ married women in positions of trust is incompatible with the famous declaration of an eminent Cabinet Minister that married women were the "noblest of their sex." The folly of these invidious and odious inquisitions is only equalled by their impertinence; and we must hope the day is not far off when they will be impossible.

**Women's Freedom League.**

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.  
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 Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.  
 Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**AT HEADQUARTERS.**

**Members' Meeting.**

London members of the Women's Freedom League are cordially invited to the meeting to be held at the W.F.L. Office, at 1, Robert-street, on Monday evening, November 9, at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Despard has promised to be present, and we hope members will take this opportunity of discussing the work of the League.

**Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.**

Next Wednesday, November 11, at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, the speakers will be Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., on "Joan of Arc," and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith. The following Wednesday afternoon we hope Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard will speak at the Club.

**Discussion Meeting.**

Friday evening, November 27, we shall have a special meeting at the Suffrage Club, when Mr. A. W. Madsen, B.Sc., will open a discussion on "The War and the Land Question." Discussion is invited; admission is free; reserved seat tickets can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office at 1s. each.

**Ipswich and Middlesborough.**

Mrs. Despard is speaking at meetings arranged by our Ipswich and Middlesbrough Branches, November 19 and November 23 respectively.

**Letchworth, Sheffield, Grantham and Nottingham.**

Miss Nina Boyle is speaking at meetings arranged at these places during the next week.

**Montgomery Boroughs.**

Miss A. M. Clark has arranged a four weeks' campaign in this district, beginning November 11. The speaker will be Miss Anna Munro, and particulars of meetings and debates, indoor and outdoor, will be found in our list of Forthcoming Events.

**Southampton and Bournemouth.**

Miss Underwood will visit these Branches November 13-16.

**Christmas Presents Sale**

We shall be pleased to receive saleable goods for our stall at the Christmas Fair which the United Suffragists are holding at Eustace Miles' Restaurant, Friday, December 4. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

**WOMEN POLICE VOLUNTEERS.**

The Corps of Women Police recently organised are now attending to some of the duties for which they were enrolled; and an officer and a volunteer together made their appearance in Westminster Police-court on Monday. They were able to render some valuable service to the women whose affairs had brought them to the Court, particularly in the case of a witness who fainted in the box; and also made some useful observations as to the relative number of men and women offenders for drunkenness.

The idea is steadily gaining hold of the public mind, and wherever the matter is mooted and explained, it wins favour. In Plymouth, the Rev. Hatty Baker, who jointly with a pastor of the other sex presides over the Plymouth Conference—an earnest congregation composed mainly of citizens for whose intellectual and spiritual development there is little provision in the hard and fast barriers of ordinary convention—gave Miss Boyle an opportunity of laying the whole question before the gathering. Mrs. Fewins, of the Women's Co-operative Guild, introduced Miss Boyle, having postponed her own address to enable Miss Boyle to speak.

The problems presented by the present conditions of Plymouth and other garrison towns are very serious, and the meeting unanimously carried a resolution calling on the local authorities of the Three Towns to endorse the demand for women members of the police forces, and to select, engage and train them on the same terms as men.

The smart uniform worn by the Women Police Volunteers in London is not only an advertisement but a protection. Everywhere they have been received with respect and consideration, and on all sides opportunities for usefulness bristle. Pending the time—not far off, we hope—when police authorities will take the sensible advice tendered them by the Plymouth Conference, such a corps could be usefully formed in all important centres, and should be warmly welcomed by all who desire to see the interests of women made of some consideration and importance.

**A LITTLE THOUGHT FOR PAPER SELLERS.**

To all interested in the evolution of humanity, the bold bringing into the public streets of the various Suffrage papers surely marked a great step in advance; here was no society scandal, no stage tit-bit, but an ideal. It was a refreshing sight to see well-dressed women in busy thoroughfares selling their papers.

Then war's dread cry sounded through the land, and in one short week-end the patient toil of years, the hopes and dreams for the betterment of the race, seemed to be crumbling to dust.

And the whole world wondered. Then a light glimmered through the darkness: Was all this horror but Nature's spring-cleaning, her method of getting rid of all that was foul and false in man's civilisation?

And the Woman's Movement stood the test. With fresh courage and hope, the Suffrage paper sellers still stand in the highways and byways, spreading abroad the gospel that a greater civilisation is waiting to arise. ONE OF THEM.

ANOTHER WOMAN SUFFRAGE SERVICE.—The Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, having made an excellent beginning, as chronicled by us last week, in arranging a Sunday service in support of the Woman's Movement, is continuing this good work. Another service will be held on Sunday evening, November 29, at the West London Mission, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, when the Rev. T. E. Rattenbury will conduct the service and preach. His championship of our Cause is a great asset.

**THE TOLL.**

It was still evening, one of those evenings, serene and beautiful, which have closed anxious days almost since the beginning of the war. Sometimes there have been clouds, dark, massive, eerie-shaped, against a sky the colour of blood, but to-night the sunset had been made up of crimsons, golden yellows, with lilac lines and streaks of palest rose. The colours had faded now; there was just a luminous space where the light had been; in the sky darkness claimed the blue, but the stars were hardly yet to be seen.

She stood by the window, the window in the high-up suburban flat, that showed the sunset and the mass of darkness that was London. She stood, pausing in her work for a breathing space, a little time of rest which she called idleness, of remembrance which she called thinking, of looking ahead which she called hope. Hope! Yes, surely, for she had "the feeling" that he would come back; hope, for his post in the large commercial house was to be kept open for him; hope, for, the dark days over, the old life, glorified by memory, would go on again.

And then the message came. She did no more work that night.

Wounded! It had been pain and dread at first, but the pain drew back slowly and the dread paled, and hope that had been tentative grew certain and bold as she read and re-read the message and pondered over it. For, being wounded, he was safe, unless—no, he was on his way, and a wound that allowed him to travel or be moved—such a wound did not kill. Such a wound did not kill, but—but it must not be too slight, not a wound that would heal so quickly as to make parting and anguish and suspense again inevitable; that must not be—at least—she checked her thought, recalling the demands of patriotism—at least not soon, not very soon; and the war—there were some, many, who thought—and she herself thought, was sure, that it would be quickly over.

She did no more work. She went and looked at the children, and told them, in whispers that did not waken, who was coming home.

He was in hospital, could not come straight home, and she went to see him there. He had to be in hospital because—because . . . It had had to be done hastily, the operation, and the wound was not quite satisfactory; a week or two and he would be all right, as fit as—as he would ever be.

A week or two, and he was out of the hospital; the wound was healed, and he was at home, and there was no fear of his going back to the war. Yet the old days could not be, the days when in the modest household there was no need to pinch, the days when his earnings were enough to cover their needs, and hers went into the savings bank. His place had been kept for him while he was away, but—the firm was very sorry, genuinely sorry and grieved—it was open no longer. It was not their fault, nor his that the place was useless to him and he useless to the place; a maimed man could not do the work that had to be done; a man with but one leg could not fulfil duties that required the full complement of limbs.

She stood by the window in the twilight and looked out. She was glad, thankful and glad that he was safe at home again. But his employment was gone, his pay was gone, or soon would go, and on her shoulders lay a burden heavy with dread, the maintenance of husband, children, home. She was glad, thankful and glad, but—war had taken its toll, and the old days would never come back again. G. COLMORE.

WOMAN'S WIT.—The Canadian soldiers recently arrived on Salisbury Plain have, as part of their equipment, an entrenching spade of bullet-proof steel, to be used also as a shield for the head of the rifleman prone on the firing line. It is the invention of Miss McAdam, private secretary to the Canadian Minister of Militia.



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Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

Amount previously acknowledged	£ s. d.
Special Levy for General Election	2,277 4 0
Mrs. Walter Carey	5 0
Hackney Branch	15 0
Scottish Scattered Branch	2 0 0
	3 0 0

**Special Emergency War Fund.**

Miss Boyle	2 0 0
Miss Underwood	2 0 0
"A Friend"	1 5 0
Miss Eunice Murray	1 0 0
Mrs. Saul Solomon	13 0
Mrs. Sidley	10 0
Miss E. Gore Browne	5 0
Miss Hurry	1 0
Miss Sims	1 0
Brighton and Hove Branch	1 10 0
Hackney Branch	8 0
	9 13 0

**Plymouth Campaign.**

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Mrs. W. H. Harris	10 0
Miss E. G. Harris	5 0
Miss M. S. Harris	5 0

Mrs. Despard	4 3 0
Mrs. Snow	6 6 0
Dr. Knight	1 5 0
Miss H. C. Newcomb	1 1 0
Miss Barrow	1 0 0
Miss M. Hargrave	10 0
Mrs. Wilkinson	5 0
Per Miss Carmichael	2 0
Mrs. E. L. Lowe	1 0
Mrs. Pickering	1 0
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Collections	8 11 3
Office Sales	9
Branches.—	
Chester	6 0 0
Kilmarnock	10 0

£2,323 17 3

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Limited."

To Branch Treasurers.—Branch and District Funds are now added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treasurer.



## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., LTD.,  
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

FRIDAY, November 6th, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.  
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

### 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.

### WOMAN—THE WHIPPING BOY.

Woman, exclaimed the philosopher, is the last thing that will be civilised by man; and man devotes himself with exemplary zeal to the task of showing woman her manifold deficiencies. If a thing is done by woman, it is safe to assume, from the man's and the philosopher's point of view, that it is a wrong thing to do, or is done in the wrong way. And when it becomes patent to the most casual observer that many wrong things are being done in the wrong way by men themselves, there is at once a feverish search for some kind of woman to serve as Whipping Boy, so as to distract public attention from the more serious breaches of social decorum which are the special privileges of the male sex. The Whipping Boy of the moment happens to be the unfortunate female person who, not being able to run an account with a wine merchant, ventures to call at a public-house for her pint or half-pint of beer or half-and-half.

The Army Council, anyone would suppose, has enough work to keep it thoroughly well occupied for some considerable time to come in supplying the needs of the Expeditionary Force, and in equipping and keeping order in the camps for new recruits; not to mention exercising some minor degree of dispatch in paying out allowances for women and children whose sad lot it is to wait on the unbusinesslike proceedings of these loftily placed gentlemen. The special appeals issued by innumerable ladies at the request of the said loftily placed gentlemen would seem to point in this direction. We see Lady This and Lady That beseeching us in the columns of the daily Press for 350,000 or 250,000 of various commodities, which we are assured—and which we well believe—are necessary for the welfare of our troops and the terribly large number of wounded; and we rather naturally conclude from this that the War Office and the Army Council have a little more hay on their fork than they can quite conveniently pitch. To this is added the ever-increasing tale of women kept waiting for their allowances until in measurable distance of starvation; and women who have never yet received the allowances due to them on behalf of their children at all. In the circumstances, therefore, the recent incursion of the Army Council into the domain of civil life would seem to be as ill-timed as it is ill-advised, and can only be intended as a sort of feint to cover their own position.

We allude, to be quite definite, to the statement recently made by an inspector of the Metropolitan Police Force to a Police Court magistrate to the effect that the drinking among wives of men serving with the Forces was so much on the increase that the Army Council was consulting with the Commissioner of Police whether the allowance could not be cut down when the money was spent on drink, and whether women could not be kept out of public-houses altogether. There is a seductive, reforma-

tive sound about this suggestion which will endear it to many of those minds which, as John Stuart Mill put it, look on woman as a creature that cannot behave unless constrained by man. We have little patience with this point of view; and a general survey of the balance of misbehaviour—so marked on the male side—makes it appear more than a trifle unscientific. And we have made it our business to investigate some of the wild charges, made at hazard and without serious foundation, of the influx of the female element into the licensed premises so ardently patronised by—our critics!

The Women Police Volunteer Corps was enrolled to give practical assistance to women. The organisation is now working on the lines laid down for them as a service of public utility; and one of the first pieces of work undertaken was to make observations in connection with public-houses so soon as the outcry against women and drink began. Some of the results are startling:—

Monday morning, at Westminster Police Court. Over 40 "drunks and disorderlies," nine of whom were women. The "usual" figures are fairly even.

Whitehall. One licensed house near the War Office (innumerable women flock in and out of the War Office, Saturday afternoon. 147 men and two women.

Stockwell-road, 8 p.m., Saturday. A number of licensed houses; overflowing with men, a large number of those in uniform being the worse for drink, and not more than a dozen women, mostly served outside the premises.

The "Windsor Castle," Vistoria, Monday night (closing time). From front door, 54 men and four women came out.

Harrow-road, represented as being a favourite resort of women in receipt of allowances from the War Office. During school hours, public-houses crowded with men; a few women served on the door-step.

The investigation is proceeding.

Evidence all tends to show that the woman who drinks her allowance is the woman who always has indulged; and that the stories of the increased drinking are figments of the imagination. The increase—a very definite one—is on the male side; and if proof were needed of this, it would be found in the fact that the publican looks with equanimity on the possible loss of the women's custom, while he protests vigorously against earlier closing and would be up in arms at any suggestion of total exclusion of men—or even men in uniform—from licensed premises. The women's custom is an insignificant item in his profits; and even with earlier closing the other and extra custom will keep him going quite comfortably. This is borne out by an authoritative statement made to us by a military official, who was asked why he could not order licensed premises to be closed at seven; or why, alternatively, he could not order soldier recruits within bounds at that time. The reason was the heavy trade losses that it would entail, but the same authority has restricted the sale of drink to women, and threatens to prohibit it altogether if necessary. *The trade loss is not heavy enough for it to matter.*

Those sentimentalists who protest that woman must be coerced because she is so important to the nation as a mother have their counterpart in the other sentimentalists who will have the fighting man indulged because he is so important to the nation as a soldier or sailor. Is it, we wonder, because the woman's service is often compulsory and the man's voluntary, that different treatment must be meted out to the sexes? A strong remonstrance has been made to the Government, challenging them to the production of definite figures in support of the slander, and reminding them that if soldiers and recruits may spend their money, without let or hindrance, on drink, or on the immoral women who are supposed to be swarming round the camps, the woman at home is also entitled to spend her ring-money the way she likes. And we give our readers the further information, which has been furnished us in relation to at least two crowded districts of London, that normal trade (not

public-house trade) is better and steadier now than for some time past, because the women are getting money regularly and are laying it out in the necessities of life more systematically than at other times they are able to do.

The Women's Freedom League protests against these cowardly attacks on women by men who would be better employed in getting their own affairs into a state of efficiency. There are distinct signs that those responsible for some of the national muddles are not the people to bring order and harmony into the lives of women; and we demand that their clumsy hands shall be kept off our affairs and that the public shall be treated as a whole and not as independent sections or sexes.

C. NINA BOYLE.

### WOMEN'S LABOUR AND WAR.

[We are very glad to give our readers the benefit of Miss C. S. Bremner's excellent suggestions on the situation, though the Editor of the *Times* denied them to his readers some weeks ago.

May I be allowed to point out that in France women are very often the distributors of railway tickets. Why should not the railway companies of Britain employ women in this capacity as well as that of attendant on restaurant car, guard, and even ticket inspector, in order to free a large number of men so that they may volunteer for their country's service? The companies would, of course, guarantee that the berths of employees should be restored to them when the war is ended. In one of the South American republics, either Chile or Peru, women were taken on a few years ago as tramway conductors, and it was publicly stated that their way of doing the work gave every satisfaction. There is also the question of women police. Every force could take on a certain percentage, perhaps a small one at the beginning, and thus free some of the more robust men of the community who are willing to go to the front. It ought to be remembered that there are now some hundreds of trained women doctors in this country. Nearly every medical man's practice contains a majority of women and children, just as the population does. In many cases a woman could easily act as *locum tenens* for a medical man, thus enabling him to volunteer for the Army Medical Corps. There are numbers of cases where two or three medical men of a town are partners. In such cases, it would be even easier to take in a woman *pro tem* of war. Women could frequently take the part of bank clerk—the Bank of England employs sixty. Why should not other banks follow suit, and set men at liberty?

There remains the great question of the dependents of men who thus volunteer and may never return. Such a consideration must deter many a man from offering his services. Might not the *Times* give a lead to Parliament to make due provision for such men's dependents, say 5s. weekly for the widow and 3s. 6d. for each child under 16 of such men. The children are the nation's greatest asset. In this remote part of Scotland, a few miles from John O'Groat's, we notice that sometimes the breadwinner of a poor family goes to the front; at the same time enormously wealthy firms give £1,000 to the National Relief Fund. What is the inference to be drawn from such facts? It looks as if wealth were ready to urge labour to make great sacrifices for the country, but make very few itself.

The *Times* draws attention to the fact that young men are busy with their games when their country demands their services. Sir, does it not seem to you arbitrary and irrational that women are denied citizenship in this Empire because they do not bear arms, whilst men enjoy this and other privileges and yet refuse to obey the call of their country? Even deeper is the insult offered to women by the

naturalisation of Germans and Austrians at the present moment at a cost of £3. Your own columns are full of advertisements of persons bearing the name of Gugenheim, Boehmer, Rosenkrang, Haubitz, Schworm, etc., and who announce themselves for English substitutes. Many of our newly-naturalised fellow subjects will vote ere long, and be the political masters of Lady Balfour, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Besant, and a host of women who have helped to make this Empire what it is. And your columns more than suggest that there are German spies in high places. We try to trace the thread of Right and Reason in all this, but find it not.

C. S. BREMNER.

### IN FRANCE WHEN WAR WAS DECLARED.

It was a vivid and vivacious story which Mrs. Marion Cunningham told at our Discussion Meeting on October 30, at the Suffrage Club, of her experiences in France before and after the declaration of war. Her French home is not very far from the frontier, which is now the scene of most desperate fighting, and her description of life in the little village brought home to her hearers something of the dread significance of the word "frontier." The summer, she said, had been beautiful, all the crops excellent, and the fashionable coast resorts were experiencing a record season in gaiety, crowds, and weather. The French newspaper, "Femina," had instituted a competition among its readers as to which historical character they would like to be if not themselves. "Many," said Mrs. Cunningham, "plumped for Napoleon I., little dreaming that they would soon be face to face with war even more terrible than Napoleon waged." Then sinister rumours disturbed the peaceful village life and the gaiety on the coast and soon came the call to arms, and the countryside depleted of men—except the too old and too young—and horses. Newspapers and letters almost ceased, trains were used only by the military, in every home there were farewells. Women had to gather in the harvest with the aid of a disabled horse, and carry on the work of the men called to defend their country. There were all sorts of difficulties to be met: shortage of supplies, troubles with money matters. Mrs. Cunningham was thankful to get three hundred francs from the bank, even though she had to carry them all in five-franc pieces a long distance home. She told also of the doings of spies and of an attempt to entangle her. After an adventurous journey she and the family reached England safely, glad that the "frontier" was water not land. Mrs. Cunningham's informal and humorous manner of telling her story was much enjoyed by the audience, though they controverted some of her criticisms of French women, but all heartily supported the vote of thanks proposed by Miss A. A. Smith from the chair.

### OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.

On October 28 Mrs. Huntsman, presiding over an excellent meeting at the Suffrage Club, urged Suffragists not to hide their suffrage principles at the present crisis. They were Suffragists because they were patriots, and patriots because they were Suffragists, and should, therefore, render whatever aid they could to the country as *Suffragists*.

Mr. J. Cameron Grant delivered an enlightening address on "Women in the Inventors' World." Taking the official records for the registration of patents, he found that in four days no less than twelve patents, some of them of great importance, had been applied for by British women, and covered a wide area of interest, including patents for diving dress and submarine apparatus, rescue apparatus in case of fire, apparatus for cleaning mud out of tramway rails, pneumatic pedals for pianos, etc. Mr. Cameron Grant declared that there was no sex in inventions, and, as an engineer, paid a high tribute to women's ingenuity. He insisted that women were needed in every department of life, and he looked forward to the time when they would be acknowledged as the equals of men in the practical life and practical work of the nation.

Mrs. Nevinson, in dealing with "Women under Militarism," gave an interesting description of life in Germany. Where militarism was in the ascendant women were held

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to be of little account; they were the beasts of burden in the fields, the ploughs being dragged by a woman on one side and a dog or a cow on the other, while the men smoked. Under militarism the women were subservient, and the men became brutal. Soldiers were exalted, and in University towns they pushed civilians into the road so that they themselves might walk on the path. Mrs. Nevinson expressed the hope that militarism would not become established in England, but already signs of it were to be seen; women's liberties were being curtailed, and, to protect men, women, the "protected" sex, were being penalised by their right of entry to public-houses being questioned, and by the threatened revival of the C.D. Acts.

#### A GRANTHAM VICAR'S SUFFRAGE APPEAL.

On October 29 a successful meeting was held in the Co-operative Hall. The Rev. W. Carr Smith, Vicar of Grantham Parish Church, presided, and in his opening remarks spoke of the benefit to Australia gained by the women's votes, having lived there for many years, both before and after the granting of citizen rights to the women of that country. Miss Anna Munro made a fine speech, explaining the aims and work of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, and pointed out that the Anti-Suffrage argument of Women's place is the home, has been rendered futile by the help women have been asked to give and are giving in this terrible national crisis. At the close of the meeting the Chairman made a strong appeal to the audience to become members of the Women's Freedom League. The collection amounted to 18s. 7d.; the Vote and our literature sold well, and we have the promise of several new members for the Grantham Branch.

#### NOTTINGHAM WELCOMES US.

The first meeting of the Women's Freedom League was held in Nottingham on October 30, and was very well attended. Mrs. Sisson, of Attenborough, presided in a most charming manner. Miss Anna Munro's speech aroused much enthusiasm. She dealt chiefly with the position women occupy with regard to the war, the particular form of relief work the Women's Freedom League is organising, and how we are acting as watch dogs. She told how the League had been instrumental in obtaining the assurance from the Prime Minister that the Contagious Diseases Acts cannot be revived under the Acts of Parliament passed since the War. She also spoke of the terrible position of British women married to aliens, and said that the W.F.L. is doing all in its power to have it redressed. Mrs. Turner, President of the Theosophical Society, made a delightful little speech in affectionate admiration of Mrs. Despard. A good collection was taken and new members were enrolled, making nine in all. We hope soon to have a strong branch in Nottingham.

#### PETERBOROUGH'S INTEREST.

A meeting was held at St. Paul's Church Hall, Peterborough, on October 27, at which the speaker was Miss Anna Munro, of London. Everyone was deeply impressed by her most interesting speech on "Women and the War." The meeting was well attended. Questions were asked and ably answered by Miss Munro. Mr. A. J. Constable, of "Kinloch," Dogsthorpe Road, very kindly took the chair. He will be a great helper of the Cause in Peterborough. The meeting was organised by Miss Goddard. Many of those present expressed the wish for another meeting in the near future.

#### BRANCH NOTES.

##### Croydon—Office: 32a The Arcade.

On October 23 our first "social" for wives of men on "active service" was much enjoyed, and proved a great success. Thanks are due to Miss Becher, who organised the entertainment, and to Miss Foster and Miss Turquand, who provided refreshments. Will members who have not offered help in this part of our National Aid work, please send word to the Secretary what they are prepared to do? Our needlework department was opened on November 2 at the Office, under the direction of Miss Allbright. One needlewoman is engaged to make children's clothes. With the help of members, we hope to increase our activities in this direction, and before long to employ more paid assistance. Will members, who have collecting cards, please send in all contributions to date, and continue their collections?

##### Middlesbrough.

The At Home on October 19 at Hinton's Café was very successful; many garments for children were bought for distribution where needed, but more money and more garments are still urgently required. Our hon. secretary was unavoidably absent, as she was acting as interpreter to a family of Belgian refugees whose father died suddenly soon after their arrival. Will members make special note of the visit of Mr. George Lansbury on November 12, and of our President, Mrs. Despard, on November 23? Bring crowds to these meetings!

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##### Glasgow.

On October 30 a very successful open-air meeting was held at Bridgeton Cross, when Miss Shennan presided over a large and appreciative audience. Miss A. Broughton explained the work of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps in Glasgow and elsewhere. The following afternoon, another large meeting was addressed by Miss Shennan at Peel Street, Partick. THE VOTE and other suffrage literature sold well and collections were taken.

##### Ipswich

We have held two sewing meetings and have to thank Mrs. Tippett for a splendid parcel of things towards our store of garments for those in need. At our meeting on October 29 it was decided to send a contribution of children's garments towards the Christmas presents sale at Headquarters. Mrs. Hossack read part of the life of Josephine Butler. We are working hard to ensure a good meeting to welcome our President, Mrs. Despard, on November 19. We look to all our friends to help to fill the Art Gallery. We thank Mrs. McCrenney for a splendid contribution of knitted goods, and a young girl whose name we do not know, for a patchwork quilt.

##### Kensington.

At our meeting on October 29 it was decided to affiliate the Branch with the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. Children's garments were given to the members to be made for the Christmas Presents Sale, and it was decided to hold a working meeting on Tuesday, November 10. For time and place see "Forthcoming Events." Will all members please do their best to attend. There will be work for all.

##### Paisley.

An excellent outdoor meeting was held at Paisley last Saturday evening, when Miss Broughton addressed a very large and attentive crowd.

##### Women's "Tipperary" Rooms.

To give the women, whose husbands, fathers and brothers are defending their country, a place where they will find brightness, companionship, recreation, war news and refreshments, free from the temptations of the public-house, the first of the "Women's 'Tipperary' Rooms" were opened at the Old Baths, Hammersmith, on October 23, by Lady Jellicoe. The scheme has been successfully carried through by Mrs. Juson Kerr and friends who have rallied to her support; the women—and children—showed their practical appreciation of the scheme by crowding into the rooms as soon as they were opened.

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

**Sunday, November 8.**—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Tippett and Miss Read. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle and Miss W. St. Clair.

**Monday, November 9.**—MEMBERS' MEETING, W.F.L. Office (1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.), 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mrs. Tanner and others. London Branches Council Meeting in Office, 6.30 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 10.**—WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS—Drawing Room Meeting at 1, Mount-street, Berkeley Square, 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Hostess: Mrs. Ronald McAllister. KENSINGTON—6, Argyle Road, Branch Working Meeting, 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 11.**—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, 3.30. Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "Joan of Arc," and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. Admission Free.

**Friday, November 13.**—CROYDON, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. E. M. Moore.

**Sunday, November 15.**—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

**Tuesday, November 17.**—WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS Meeting at St. George's Vestry Hall, Little Russell-street (entrance at back of church), 3.30. Speakers, Mrs. Montefiore and others. Chair: The Rev. C. Baumgarten.

**Wednesday, November 18.**—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W., 3.30. Mr. George Lansbury and others.

**Sunday, November 22.**—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 25.**—Public Meeting, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. John Scurr and others.

**Friday, November 27.**—Discussion Meeting, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W., 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. A. W. Madsen, B.Sc. Subject: "The War and the Land Question." Admission free. Few reserved seats at 1s.

**Sunday, November 29.**—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 2.**—Public Meeting, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W. Speakers: Mr. H. Baillie Weaver and Miss Constance Andrews. Subject: "The Fruits of Male Monopoly."

**Friday, December 4.**—Christmas Presents Sale at Eustace Miles Restaurant; Chandos-street, W.C., 3 p.m. Admission, 1s.; after 5 o'clock, 6d.

#### PROVINCES.

**Thursday, November 5.**—HOVE, "Nürnberg," Palmeira Avenue. "At Home" to members and friends to meet Miss Nina Boyle. Hostess: Mrs. Budd. Tea at 5 p.m.

**Friday, November 6.**—SOUTHWICK, "Rosemary," The Green. Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Miss Pullar) 3 p.m. Chair, Miss Hare. Speaker, Miss C. Nina Boyle. Subject: "Women in War Time." HOVE, Town Hall, Banqueting Room. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Chair, Miss Katharine Trott. Speakers: Miss C. Nina Boyle on "Women's Position in War Time," and "Women Police," and Miss Hare on "Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps." Admission free. Reserved seats 1/-, tickets from 8, San Remo, Hove and W.F.L. Committee members.

**Monday, November 9.**—MIDDLESBROUGH. Business meeting, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 10.**—AINTREE BRANCH MEETING, Wasbreck House, Wasbreck Moor. Speaker: Mrs. Brasington. Chair: Mrs. Robinson.

**Thursday, November 12.**—LETCRORTH CHURCH ROOM. Miss Nina Boyle, "Women in War Time," evening.

**Thursday, November 12.**—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Hinton's Café. Speaker: Mr. George Lansbury, on "Women and War." 8 p.m.

**Friday, November 13.**—SHEFFIELD—Miss Boyle, "Women in War Time." SOUTHAMPTON, Miss F. A. Underwood.

**Thursday, November 19.**—IPSWICH. Public Meeting, Art Gallery. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

**Monday, November 16.**—BOURNEMOUTH, Freedom Hall, Westcliffe Gardens; Meeting, 7.45.

**Thursday, November 26.**—LIVERPOOL. Miss Anna Munro.

**Monday, November 23.**—MIDDLESBROUGH. Mrs. Despard.

**Tuesday, November 24.**—MIDDLESBROUGH. Reception to Mrs. Despard, Hinton's Café, 3.30-6 p.m.

#### SCOTLAND.

**Monday, November 9.**—GLASGOW. The Athenæum. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury "Women and the War," and Councillor Graham (Edinburgh). Chair, Miss Shennan.

#### MONTGOMERY BOROUGH'S CAMPAIGN.

(Hon. Secretary and Organiser, Miss ALIX M. CLARK).

**Wednesday, November 11.**—Caersws, Village Hall, Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Social Evil." Chair: Ed. Jones, Esq., J.P.

**Thursday, November 12.**—NEWTOWN, Wesleyan Church, Band Room. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Social Evil." Chair: Rev. W. R. Roberts, M.A.

**Friday, November 13.**—CARNO, Schoolroom. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Social Evil." Chair: Rev. J. Williams, B.A.

**Saturday, November 14.**—NEWTOWN, The Cross. Open-Air Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

**Monday, November 16.**—MONTGOMERY, Presbyterian Schoolroom. Debate, Mutual Improvement Society. Subject: "Are Women Eligible for Parliament?" Affirmative, Miss Anna Munro.

**Tuesday, November 17.**—LLANFYLLIN, Town Hall, Suffrage Debate, Anti-Suffrage, Miss Alison, B.A.; for Suffrage, Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Dr. Watkins.

**Thursday, November 19.**—LLANDYSSIL, National Schools, Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro.

**Friday, November 20.**—MONTGOMERY, Town Hall. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Social Evil." Chair, Rev. H. Rollason, M.A.

**Tuesday, November 24.**—NEWTOWN, The Cross. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark, 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 24.**—WELSHPOOL, Wesley Guild. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Three Years in London Slumdom." Chair: Rev. R. V. Griffiths, M.A.

**Friday, November 27.**—LLANFYLLIN, Town Hall. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Three Years in London Slumdom." Chair: Rev. Ll. Davies, M.A.R.D.

**Saturday, November 28.**—NEWTOWN, National School. Public Meeting G.F.S. Mothers' Union. Subject: "Three Years in London Slumdom." Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Rev. R. Evan Jones, M.A.R.D.

**Wednesday, December 2.**—CHURCHSTOKE, National Schools. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

**Thursday, December 3.**—NEWTOWN, Baptist Mutual Improvement Society. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Woman's Work in Time of War."

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

**Wednesday, November 11.**—N. ORMESBY. Women's Co-operative Guild. Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Schofield Coates (W.F.L.).

#### Women as Members of Parliament.

Reuter cabled from Wellington on November 2 as follows:—

"During the debate in the House of Representatives on the Legislative Council's Reform Bill, a clause was inserted making women eligible as members of the council. The Legislative Council subsequently rejected the new clause.

At a conference on the point the delegates of the Council offered, on behalf of the Upper House, to agree to admit women as soon as they were eligible for the Lower House.

In order not to endanger the Bill the House managers agreed to this compromise, and the House has now endorsed the managers' action, an amendment moved by Sir J. G. Ward that the original clause be reinstated being negated by 30 votes to 21."

#### WOMAN AND WAR.

Mrs. Mustard was the speaker at a meeting held at New North Road Wesleyan Church, on October 27. Her subject was "Woman and War," and she showed very graphically how women were suffering and working during the present crisis. The audience was very appreciative, and warmly welcomed Mrs. Mustard, on this her second visit.

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### SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers November 11, Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "Joan of Arc," Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free. Collection. Buy THE VOTE, 1d. weekly.

THE MID-LONDON BRANCH of the Women's Freedom League holds open-air Meetings in Regent's Park every Sunday at 12 o'clock. Speaker next Sunday: Mrs. Tippet and Miss Reed.

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Read "THE VOTE" every week! You will then know about the excellent and permanent work which the Women's Freedom League is doing through its Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps for the Nation in the present crisis.