

THE VOTE,
Sept. 3rd, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

"Sheltered" Women and the War. C. RICHARDSON.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 3, 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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National Service.

We are sure that Lord Derby, in his address to the Unionist Association at Manchester, did not intentionally insult the women of the nation whom he is doing his best to help organise for the service of the State. The "slight" to which our attention has been called was one of those linguistic inaccuracies that custom has improperly permitted and to which we are all liable occasionally. Lord Derby was drawing the distinction between "conscription" and "national service"; and in so doing remarked: "National Service is taking the whole manhood of the nation . . . and turning them to the service of the State wherever their service could be most valuable." If his attention had been called to it at the time, we feel certain that Lord Derby would have been quick to correct his slip and to acknowledge that "national service is taking the whole manhood and womanhood of the nation"; and that is what he is going to be so good as to help us in doing at our meeting on September 14 at the Kingsway Hall. His lordship's later words have the true ring: "National Service meant the liberty of all from any restriction they might now have which prevented them doing their service to the State." That is a brave and a grand position for a public man to take up.

Economy.

The Women's War Economy League, with which are associated the names of many ladies in titled and affluent circumstances, has for one of its suggestions for practical economy the reduction of all possible expenditure on imported goods and luxuries. If these ladies, who besides having ample leisure, have very many ties and connections with the upper ranks of business and finance, were to set themselves to work to purvey authoritative information on the points raised, they would indeed supply a felt want, which busier people lack the time and opportunity to provide. What is badly, even acutely, needed is a scheduled list of:

1. Luxuries that could be discarded without creating unemployment among workers who could not be usefully absorbed in "war work," or without damaging a genuine British industry.

2. Imported goods—

(a) From enemy sources or providing profit for enemy firms.

(b) From neutral sources.

(c) From our Allies.

(d) From the British Dominions Overseas.

A further list of home manufactures which could be substituted for goods from enemy or neutral sources would complete a valuable and educative piece of real "war work," and communications with Corporations and Chambers of Trade and Commerce, and Trade and Labour Councils, might open up the sources of such information. We should all be grateful for enlightenment on these matters, and the country would be much beholden to any organisation that would make it a definite object.

Tea an "Imported Article."

Tea, although in some degree a foreign import, is now so much a national drink and so much a necessary of the working and middle class households, that the above suggested list would have to consider it in a class apart. The Tea Buyers' Association, in a letter to the Parliamentary War Savings Committee, puts the matter thus:—

"We submit that tea is a food necessity, and those who follow the Prime Minister in grouping it with tobacco, wine, sugar and petrol have not taken into account the change in the habits of the nation and the gradual but sure recognition of the value of tea as a food stimulant with a more than momentary effect. To the worker, especially the woman worker, tea has replaced other articles of food and drink, and the recent abnormal purchases of tea by neutrals on German account demonstrate that the sustaining value of this beverage is thoroughly understood by the military authorities of a country where tea is almost unknown to the public in normal times."

Afternoon tea is the luxury of the well-to-do. Household tea is, beyond any doubt, the sole comfort of many a weary, hard-pressed family, or starved and sweated worker.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.
President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT
Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Women and Work.

The great meeting at Kingsway Hall, Tuesday evening, September 14, organised by our National Service Organisation, will inaugurate the autumn work of the Women's Freedom League. The speakers, the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Derby, Mrs. Parker, Miss Lena Ashwell, and Mr. Ben Tillett, have been invited because of their intimate knowledge of the value of women's work, and it is hoped that every League member in London will come that evening to support our President and the speakers in their demand for the equal opportunity of women with men to take their share in the nation's work and for the equal remuneration with men for equal work that women undertake. Tickets for reserved seats at this meeting can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C., the prices being 5s., 2s., 1s., and 6d. Will readers please help us by taking tickets on sale or return, and canvass among their friends and acquaintances for support? We also want volunteers for bill distributing and poster-parading to make this meeting widely known in London, and shall be grateful to have names of helpers at an early date. No one interested in women's work should fail to be present at Kingsway Hall on the 14th inst., when the Women's Freedom League hopes to give a lead to public opinion on the value of women's work to the nation and the necessity of its just recognition.

The Annual Conference.

The annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League will be held in London, Saturday, Oct. 16. Delegates from all parts of England, Scotland and Wales will attend this Conference, and we shall be glad if those readers who are able to do so will kindly help us by offering hospitality for them. Will any who can do so please communicate with Mrs. Tritton at this office?

Women's Freedom League Fancy Fair.

Now that the summer holidays are practically over, we shall be glad to have promises of gifts for the various stalls of our Fancy Fair, to be held at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27. We know that many of our friends arranged to work for this Fair during the summer months, and it would help us very much to have some idea of the number and kind of articles upon which we may already count.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE,
NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION.

PUBLIC MEETING

KINGWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, W.C.,
September 14th, 1915. 8 p.m.

Chair: Mrs. DESPARD.

Speakers: The Right Hon. the EARL OF DERBY,
Mrs. PARKER (Sister of Lord Kitchener),
Miss LENA ASHWELL,
Mr. BEN TILLET.

ADMISSION: 5/-, 2/-, 1/- and 6d. (all reserved). Tickets to be obtained from
The Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.
Telephone: Museum 1429.

WOMEN AND WAR TIME.

Women Scientists.

It is no mere consequence of the influences of war time, says the *Westminster Gazette*, that the feminine element will be increasingly noticeable at next month's meeting of the British Association, at Manchester. It is definite evidence of the progress which women are making in the world of science. Only two years have passed since the innovation was seen of a woman presiding over the deliberations of one of the sectional meetings of the British Association. What Miss Sargent then stood for in the sphere of botany Mrs. Henry Sidgwick assuredly does in the world of education. It is fitting that for the first time the president of the section concerned with Educational Science should be the clever and cultured lady who was for so many years a leader of the higher education of women in her capacity of Principal of Newnham College. Other notable women who will take part in this year's discussions are Mrs. Courtney and Miss Haldane, who will speak on the education of women in relation to careers; Miss Margaret Murray, who will contribute to the Anthropology section a paper on "Royal Marriage and Matrilineal Descent"; Dr. Sarah M. Baker, Miss Escott, Miss Charlesworth, and Dr. Marie C. Stopes, daughter of Mrs. Carmichael Stopes, the well-known writer, historian, and champion of woman suffrage.

Woman Orchestra Conductor.

Dr. Ethel Smyth conducted the overture to her comic opera, "The Boatswain's Mate" at the Queen's Hall concert. It was received with great applause. The exacting pianoforte part of Haydn-Wood's concerto in D minor was played by Miss Auril Jones with astonishing vigour.

Only One Woman!

The committee which is considering all questions of assessment on appeal from the Pensions Committee in regard to separation allowances are dealing with such cases at the rate of between two and three hundred a week. The cases referred to the committee are those on which the pension authorities question the extent to which the applicant for an allowance was dependent upon the soldier. The chairman of the inquiry is Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., with whom are associated Mr. J. A. Seddon, Mr. E. G. Harman, and Mrs. Granville Streatfeild.

Post Women.

Two hundred women are being trained in Liverpool to take the place of postmen.

Equality—of Penalty.

Mr. Mead, at West London Police Court, sent a woman and a man to prison for being drunk. Later, Mr. O. Hanson appealed for leniency for the woman, who had been sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour. Her husband gave her the character of being a good wife, and there was only one previous conviction, Mr. Hanson pleaded.

Mr. Mead, in refusing to reconsider his decision, said that many complaints were made as to the amount of drunkenness and various suggestions were thrown out. "I consider I am doing a public service in placing a stigma upon these people who get drunk," he said, "by showing them that they are doing wrong."

The sentence on the man, who had not been previously convicted was ten days. The man said he had only just left the Army, being medically unfit, and he had had a lot of trouble since. When sentenced he appealed to the magistrate to make it a fine or he would lose his work, but the magistrate refused and ordered the man's removal. The man's wife also appealed to the magistrate, but without avail.

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No Attempt at Equality.

Alfred Hine, private, and Mrs. Hine, his mother, charged before Sir William Treloar with obtaining Government allowance by fraud, Hine, aged 19, represented his mother as depending on him to the amount of 12/- a week, the facts being that his total earnings were 7/9 a week, on which, apparently, his mother and invalid father existed. His employers were Messrs. Maple & Co. Sir William remarked that this was a very grave offence from the public point of view. The male defendant would be bound over in his own recognisances to come up for conviction if called upon within twelve months. With regard to the elder defendant, the position was different altogether. She would have to pay a fine of £10 (including costs) or go to prison for a month.

A correspondent in the *Sunday Chronicle* points out that you do not find these prosecutions for "false declarations" initiated in the case of young lads joining the colours who obviously and palpably mis-state their age so as to get accepted as recruits. Recently, a mother who objected to a young lad having made such a false declaration, and who brought the case before a magistrate was roundly snubbed and the "false declaration" upheld.

And Yet Another.

When it is a question of privileges for women, not for men, there is always sure to be the usual sneer. Mr. Mead is not the first magistrate who has objected to the soldier's wife sharing some of her husband's immunity from severe treatment during the war. The following is Mr. Mead's view of the Home Office endeavour to soften the effects of the detestable Army Council Circular that placed soldiers' wives under supervision by police:—A soldier's wife, charged at West London with disorderly conduct, was ordered to pay 10s. 6d. Before the order was made a policeman said she had been taken to the station several times and warned.

Mr. Mead: Why was she not brought before a magistrate?

"There is an order that we are not to do so," the constable reminded the magistrate.

Is that order still in force?—Yes, sir.

Do you make much use of it?—"Yes, sir," replied the constable, "too much."

Mr. Mead: You are not singular in your opinion.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

Arrangements are now complete for the removal of the Despard Arms from Cumberland Market to larger premises at:—

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There will be a House Warming, it is expected, on Thursday, September 16 at 7.30 and the opening on Saturday, September 18, at 7.30 p.m. Admission for friends on both evenings will be by a Pound Gift in money or in kind.

In equipping and furnishing the restaurant and house, gifts of useful articles will be most welcome: tables, chairs, single beds and bedding, chests of drawers, crockery, cooking utensils, electric light fittings, etc. Will some friend give a large swinging sign so that no passer by on foot or on trams or buses can fail to locate

"The Despard Arms."

Offers of help will be received with gratitude by Miss A. A. Smith, (hon. sec. pro tem. Despard Arms), 22, Harley Road, Hampstead, N.W.

WAR GARDENING.

Readers wishing to make the most of their gardens in this time of crisis will be interested to hear that six lecture-demonstrations in practical gardening will be given by Miss Helen Colt (Diploma R.B.S., London) in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park (near Baker-street station) on Saturday mornings at 11 o'clock, beginning on September 18. Miss Colt, who is a member of the

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Women's Freedom League, is well known in London and beyond as a trained woman gardener, whose ideas are as practical as her experience is varied. She has given lecture-demonstrations in many parts of the country, and has had much to do with teaching gardening under the London County Council and in private schools. She reaches a wider public by her gardening articles in the *Daily Mail* and other papers. The fee for the course is 12s. 6d.; single lectures 2s. 6d. Tickets may be obtained from Miss Colt, 9, Temple Fortune-lane, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.

OUR INVALIDS

Our readers will hear with pleasure and relief that Miss Marion Reeves, hon. secretary of the Kensington Branch of the Women's Freedom League, who was a victim of the terrible accident to the Irish mail train at Weedon, is making satisfactory progress. It was a disastrous beginning for her holiday, but all who know her will rejoice that, though injured, her life was spared. We wish her a good recovery, and hope soon to welcome her back on active service for the Woman's Cause, for which she has long been an energetic and devoted worker. It is not only Scottish members of the Women's Freedom League, but the many English and Welsh members who know her, who will hear with regret of the illness of Miss A. B. Jack, hon. secretary of our Edinburgh Branch, and well known in Great Britain and abroad as an untiring champion of votes for women. We hope she will make a speedy recovery from the breakdown which followed her efforts on behalf of women doing agricultural work. We look forward to seeing her in October; it is hardly possible to think of a W.F.L. Conference without Miss Jack.

A PENNY A DAY.

Many thanks to our members and friends who are busy putting by their extra penny a day for 100 days, to swell this year's Birthday Fund.

This is a way in which all can help during the holidays, and I should be glad of many more names to add to my list. E. KNIGHT.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, Sept. 3rd, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.
Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

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.

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SCOTLAND AND THE NEW DRINK REGULATIONS.

After many contradictory speeches and many broken promises, the authorities have tackled the drink question. Many times in the last twelve months we have been told that drink was delaying the whole army operations; that the shortage of munitions was accounted for by the excessive drinking habits of the working-men, who, through drink, were incapable of any sustained effort in the workshop. But no sooner had one Cabinet Minister expressed these views than another controverted his statements and disputed his facts. Although all reasonable people must admit that the case was often misstated and exaggerated; that the wholesale charge of drunkenness levied against the working class was as foolish as it was unjust; yet, on the other hand, it must be admitted that drunkenness is far too common in Scotland, and all thoughtful people must rejoice if legislation can improve this failing.

Countless lives are being sacrificed to-day, countries are laid waste and money is being poured forth as though its stores were inexhaustible; all this is being done that militarism with all it implies shall be wiped out, in order that the rights of small nations shall be ensured, and that right shall triumph over might. Dreadful as war is—and there are no words sufficient to express its frightfulness—it is not more hideous in its results than the drink evil. In war, at the worst, men kill men; but the excessive use of alcohol is more far-reaching. It affects women and children, it sows the seeds of insanity and consumption throughout generations of men and women. Money that should be spent in food and clothing is wasted in drink, the child is stunted of the necessities of life because its parents are victims of the drink evil. In Scotland, according to the latest returns of the police courts, we find 62 per cent. of the entire crimes committed under the influence of drink. All cases, practically, of child neglect are due to this cause. The criminal assaults upon young girls and women are due to the same cause. The men who commit these horrible deeds are either drunk at the time, or through excess of drink have enfeebled their will power and lowered and degraded their moral nature to such a degree that they are scarcely accountable for their actions. Every day we read of cases of assaults upon young girls; we allow these things to go on: no great cry goes up to Heaven for the ruined purity of a child's life. These things are horrible, and healthy children cannot be born in homes where drunkenness prevails.

Just now this is a matter of the deepest concern to us all; it is of vital importance to the State, for after the war many children will be needed to fill

the ranks of the slain, and if the children are to be an asset to the nation they must be healthy. Taking these things into consideration, as well as the statement so often made that men's lives—our men's—are being sacrificed every day because we are lamentably short of shells, and that shells are delayed because of this vicious drink, we cannot but be thankful that at last legislation, no matter how drastic, has been introduced to grapple with the evil.

The main object of the new Bill—the Orders of the Central Board of Control, Liquor Traffic—is to impose restrictions on the sale of intoxicants so as to reduce drinking among the working classes in the scheduled areas, with a view to increasing the output of munitions. The Orders have been framed in the terms of the Munitions Act. What the result will be in the immediate future will be watched with eagerness by all interested in the drink problem. Amongst those who have considered the matter, it is generally agreed that the new regulations will perceptibly decrease drunkenness. In Scotland in the last twelve years legislation has been prolific relating to the sale of intoxicating liquor. The Scottish Licensing Act of 1903 consolidated and amended the previous licensing statutes. The outstanding feature of this Act was that it empowered licensing authorities to fix the closing hours not earlier than ten o'clock in the evening nor later than eleven o'clock. The following April most of the Scottish Licensing Courts decided to avail themselves of the powers conferred upon them and to introduce the earlier closing hour. In clause 120 of this Statute all young persons under fourteen years of age were excluded from entering or being served at the bar of the public house. The most important piece of legislation affecting the licensed trade is the Temperance (Scotland) Act of 1913. This measure imposed new restrictions, though the clause referring to the main portion of the Bill—the establishment of local option—does not come into operation until 1920. On May 29, 1914, the introduction of the ten o'clock morning opening in lieu of eight o'clock came into operation. It was feared this would lead to great discontent amongst the black squad who would thus have to give up their custom of having a drink with breakfast. There was some talk of the men changing their breakfast hour to meet the exigencies of the new situation. The agitation, however, quickly died down, and no change was made. Other provisions under the Temperance Act which came into force at the same time include regulations for the certification and management of clubs, the restrictions imposed on the sale of liquor, and the power granted to the police of apprehending a person who attempted to enter a public-house while in a state of intoxication. All these restrictions have tended to reduce drunkenness, though it is still unfortunately our national curse. As former legislation, then, has helped, we welcome such legislation now, even though it be of a drastic character. The Central Board, which has imposed these new restrictions, is a body appointed by the Minister of Munitions. Extensive powers have been given to the Board for dealing with the liquor traffic during the period of the war. They might, if they thought fit, restrict or prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor in any area, or they might assume control of licensed premises and have the business carried on subject to their supervision.

As regards Scotland, two Orders have been created, one relating to Glasgow and the West of Scotland, and the other to Edinburgh and the Eastern counties. The Western area comprises Glasgow and the counties of Lanark, Ayr, Renfrew, Dumbarton, Stirling, and the Firth of Clyde; while the Eastern area includes Edinburgh, the Lothians, Fife, Clackmannan and Kinross, together with the river and the Firth of Forth. The provisions of the Orders, which are identical for both areas,

greatly restrict the hours for the consumption of liquor. The regulation which threatens to cause the most annoyance amongst the men is the abolition of the time-honoured practice of treating. This custom has been thought to be responsible for much drunkenness, and is now a thing of the past. Everywhere these drastic regulations, which permit drink to be sold only during five and a half hours of the day, were quietly ushered in. Up and down the country people have determined to give them a good trial, and even those whose pockets are hardest hit are resigned to the inevitable. As the days pass into weeks, we hope to see a real diminution in drink, improved work amongst the men, happier homes and healthier children, as the result of the new legislation put into operation after a year of war.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

"SHELTERED" WOMEN AND THE WAR.

The mother bird is dull of plumage, not because such was the divine plan. She is less conspicuous than the male, because conditions which she has been powerless to control have forced her to spend most of her vitality in protecting her young. The male is gorgeous, not to attract the female, as we have been hitherto taught, but because all life goes to beauty wherever danger is removed. The wild drake is as dowdy as his mate when his turn comes to brood. From some cause, not in the original plan of things, the male has seen to it that the shelterer has ever been more secure than the "sheltered," and has had, therefore, so much the more vitality to spend in self-adornment.

Such is the teaching of one of the latest "war books," *The Meaning of Life*, by Mr. E. Kay Robinson, a former Darwinian, and the editor under whom Rudyard Kipling did most of his work in India. It seems hardly extravagant to say that if the war should teach Englishmen no other lesson the expense and sorrow would have been justified. There is little crime in the calendar that has not for its root drink, or the low estimate of womanhood, or both.

The war is rapidly teaching Englishmen what Canadians have learned from their snow.

"Oh, our sheltered English girls could never be expected to work like that!" exclaimed a lady much interested in emigration, as I told her some of the things those girls would probably be required to do in Canada, where mistress works as well as maid. Canadians have known since they adopted the Indians' snowshoes and toboggan, that the girls who, merely for fun, could tramp miles in the teeth of a twenty-below-zero gale which forced them to turn and walk backward to get breath, were in no special need of being "sheltered" from any work likely to crop up.

A few months before the war I got light on this "sheltering" idea when I talked with the editor of a great English weekly of the achievements of America's woman foundry owner, Mrs. Harriet Fisher Andrew, whose anvils are in every navy yard in the Union, who worked side by side with her own men till she mastered every detail of the business; who has driven her own motor round the world and published the story illustrated by photographs of her own taking, who runs a model farm and can make butter with the best and who is withal a skilled housekeeper.

"But I cannot lend my paper to the telling women such stories as that," he protested, "they would soon take all the work away from the men." No wonder so many thousands of women decline to be sheltered any longer.

Consider, for a moment, only one branch of work taken from women by men—baking. In the *Daily Chronicle* of August 19 I counted 49 advertisements for bakers; wages offered anywhere from 35s. to

45s. Time was when baking was all in the hands of women. The very name "lady" means "loaf-giver." And what was the Lady of the Castle "among her maidens" but the proprietor and superintendent of a factory with as many departments as there was food and clothing needed for the lord and his retainers and their families. It is surely an unaccountable obsession that has made women content so long in the "shelter" that took from her control so many paying businesses and made her dependent on those who took them.

And now behold! After only a year of war, we have women tram-conductors, postwomen, women ticket-collectors, porters, and car cleaners on the railways; women running lifts, women porters at the doors of the fashionable shops, and even women clerks in the Bank of England. And the newspapers that would not publish what women were doing in other countries are now filled with glowing descriptions of the beauty and grace and charm of the English women, who are learning to do the same.

There is no doubt in Mr. Robinson's mind that the Allies will win. They must, because they are in the line of nature whose law is not mutual destruction, as has so long been held, but the older, divine plan of mutual help. Everything that lives by destruction, he says, makes the environment worse for itself and its descendants, and so sets working forces which in the end accomplish their destruction. Were it in the nature of things that the world should be ruled by force, we should have the lions and mastodons in the ascendant instead of in menageries and museums. The law of Germany is to destroy the weaker for its own advancement. The law of Britain is to protect the weak, because they have as much right to live as the strong.

And who will deny that women have down the ages been more true to this principle than men? They give life and know what it costs. Woman principle must, therefore, in the very nature of things, come to the ascendant, or else the nation must come to destruction.

We have long been told of our wonderful "influence." "Influence" is the inflowing of a river. Any backwoodsman in Canada knows the meaning of that. A creek may mean a garden or a bog, according to where it runs and how it lodges. The great irrigation scheme of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Southern Alberta has turned a desert into "ready-made farms"—merely because the "influence" of the available streams was turned into the right sluices and ditches. How much greater an asset would have been the mental and physical and moral force of womanhood, penned up within the four walls of households not capable of using half of it, whence, as from badly constructed reservoirs with no regulated outlet on to the surrounding and famished plains, it has too often overflowed and carried, not life and beauty, but folly and destruction.

"Those who need much help and can give none," says Mr. Robinson, "we call wicked; those who could give much but give little we call good; those who try to give all they can as they think Christ would have them we call cranks."

And who will deny that this last, too, fits more women than men. Is not all human literature a monument to the sacrifice of women for their loved ones?

And who knows but that with the passing of the war will pass from womanhood the fear of being dubbed "crank." Imagine a locomotive without a crank! A crank is a thing that applies the power to another thing that needs moving. Imagine this poor old doddering engine of a man-run world clattering itself down the ages minus half its needed cranks; and calling those it does use by

every name in the dictionary but the right one for fear we should come to think ourselves balance wheels, or steam chests, or cow-catchers. Cranks need to be tough forged steel to stand the strain; we were told we must be soft and yielding. Rubber and babbit metal are excellent in their place, but their place is not conveying power from the piston to the drivers. And it is no slander to either, but a compliment to both, that some men make better shock-resisters and valve packing and bearings than drivers and cranks.

And, with two-thirds of the millions of women in the British Isles to-day incapable, from lack of training, of any useful work whatever, we have some idea of the work still before us in our human workshops before we are able to turn out all we need of "cranks." CHRISTIAN RICHARDSON.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION

OUR KINGSWAY HALL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 14.

The words "National Service" have been given a new and strictly limited signification by the Northcliffe Press. To the readers of the *Times* and the *Daily Mail* the denotation of these terms is restricted to compulsory military service. Only one sex is apparently capable of serving the nation at all, and then only in one capacity—that of fighting for it. Moreover, such service must be compulsory; it must be the enforced pugnacity of the galley slave, and not the independent choice of the reasonable being. The Latin axiom *Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori* can only apply to the man who dares such a fate of his own free choice, for there is no sort of merit in preferring to face an honourable death to being subjected to some degrading form of punishment.

Let us disabuse ourselves of the specialised denotation of the two words "National Service" as advocated by the Northcliffe Press, and remember the wider significance in which they are used by the Women's National Service Organisation. Here we have a society which realises that not only one-half of the nation can render essential services to the Motherland, but that the work of women, as well as of men, is absolutely necessary for the preservation, the development and the welfare of the community to which they belong. In tragic days such as these the constructive genius of woman is more than ever needed for the building up of a new world in material as well as in spiritual things. The women of this country, as well as their sisters in the British Dominions Overseas, have from the moment the war broke out realised that there was much work for them to do, and at once volunteered in their thousands to give their help. In many cases these offers came from skilled workers and organisers, and in others women set to work to train themselves to give such assistance as was needed in any branch of work. "Business as usual" was the somewhat inappropriate motto of the authorities at the beginning of this world war, and little attention was paid to the claims of the women to be of use. The women, therefore, organised themselves, started work-rooms, and gave training in new kinds of work to their poorer sisters. Many new and useful occupations for women were set on foot, and have continued and prospered ever since.

The meeting which the National Service Organisation is holding at the Kingsway Hall on Tuesday, September 14, at 8 p.m., will be addressed by some of those women who were among the first to evolve order out of chaos in the world of workers after the outbreak of the war. Mrs. Despard will be in the chair; her name, her work, and her eloquence are too well known and too keenly appreciated to need

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

Monday, September 6.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m. CROYDON, Branch Meeting, 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 7 p.m. Business: Conference resolutions. "DESPARD ARMS," Business meeting, 32, Harley-road, Hampstead, 8.15 p.m.

Friday, September 10.—SOCIALS' COMMITTEE MEETING, at 144, High Holborn, 2.30 p.m.

Friday, September 3.—HERNE HILL NORWOOD, Branch Meeting, 68, Danecroft-road, 8.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—Women's Freedom League National Service Organisation. Public Meeting, Kingsway Hall, 8 p.m. Speakers: Right Hon. The Earl of Derby, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. Parker, Mr. Ben Tillet and others. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Admission Free. Reserved Seat Tickets 5/-, 2/-, 1/- and 6d. from 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Thursday, September 16.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead Road, N.W., (opposite the London Temperance Hospital), House Warming, 7.30 p.m. Admission by a "Pound Gift," money or kind.

Saturday, September 18.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead Road. Opening 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard will speak.

Wednesday, October 6.—PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle.

Saturday, October 16.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference.

PROVINCES.

Saturday, September 4.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Garden Whist Drive, "Wynbury," Orchard-road, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Smith), 3.30 p.m. Tickets 1s., including tea, on sale at the Suffrage Centre.

Tuesday, September 7.—PORTSMOUTH, Annual Branch Meeting, 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m.

WALES.

Friday, September 3.—CARDIFF, Branch Meeting, Welsh Industries, Queen-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Stevenson Howell, on "Women and Evolution."

National Service Organisation—contd.

any comment. She was one of those who acted both as an inspiration and as a consolation in those terrible days of storm and stress last August. Miss Lena Ashwell, so familiar to all play-goers, who cherish grateful memories of the pleasure they have derived from her graceful and forceful impersonations, will be another of the speakers. She can, indeed, speak with authority upon the work done by women during this year, as she was one of the energetic and indefatigable founders of the Women's Emergency Corps, a body that has aroused the admiration and astonishment of the world by the thoroughness and efficiency, as well as by the multiplicity of its work. Miss Ashwell has always been a doughty champion of her sister women, and she has shown herself a very practical help to them in this time of trouble. Mrs. Parker, Earl Kitchener's sister, will also address the meeting. She is well known as a most eloquent and persuasive speaker, as well as for her practical help for and sympathy with

women. She has organised clubs for the wives of soldiers and sailors all over the country, and has a delightful scheme for developing such clubs into People's Palaces, or genuine Public Houses for men, women and children, where good food and non-alcoholic drinks can be obtained. This idea may find its realisation in the millenium of peace, which, we all hope, will follow this cruel war.

Two men will also speak—Lord Derby, who has stated he would do all in his power to help women's organisations, and Ben Tillet, who recently paid a visit to the Front, and had an interview with Sir John French. On his return to England, the famous Labour leader addressed many meetings, and urged the Munition workers to put forth their utmost efforts to supply our courageous champions in the trenches with the shells that were essential for victory.

All who have the Woman's Cause at heart should help to make this meeting known. Tickets, 5s., 2s., 1s., and 6d., can be obtained at the office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. Members are urged to take tickets, and to come and help to canvass for the meeting.

August 29, 1915.

MARGARET HODGE.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[Women requiring information about the state of the labour market, the wages obtainable, the conditions prevailing, and the fresh openings that continually present themselves, will be given the benefit of the information at the disposal of the National Service Organisation.]

E.C.—It is exceedingly difficult to find work that will be light and at the same time well paid, and if you are unskilled whatever work you take up is bound to be hard and difficult at first.

HANDY.—Baskets are made for the carriage of shells, and your skill would be useful.

FIRST AID.—The chief officer writes: "Arrangements at our ambulance stations preclude all possibility of having two sexes on duty at the same time."

ENQUIRER.—Come to the meeting and put your question to the chairman.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION.

At the trial of Miss Raleigh on August 21, the Town Clerk of Stratford proudly declared that 7,000 visitors to Stratford had filled in their forms with due decorum in Registration week! What an example to Dublin! We hear of that festive city that 96,000 forms were issued, of which only 13,000 were returned, the majority being incorrectly filled in, so that new forms have been issued. Is this one of the shining examples of national economy in which Government and Parliamentary experts are educating us?

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FRIDAY,
SEPT. 3,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Women's One Day Strike.

Suffragists in the "Campaign States" are putting wit and ingenuity to the work against the drink and other evil forces which oppose them. A novel test is suggested by the following letter, which, on the instigation of Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, has been sent to members of the Women's Trade Union League, to leaders of women's local clubs, to suffragists, to social and settlement workers, and to individual women identified with the Woman's Movement:—

DEAR FRIEND,—Of course you have found that the chief objection urged against Woman Suffrage, on all sides is that "woman's place is in the home." This week a number of politicians of the city have reasserted this belief with such emphasis that I have decided to ask the leading women's organisations of the city for their advice and co-operation in an effort to demonstrate that this phrase has really no meaning to-day.

The plan is to let the women stay "in the home" for one day and show what would happen to New York City in particular and the United States in general. The men of Belgium won the suffrage by a one-day strike. The men and women of Finland also won it by a strike.

My idea is not to strike in order to win our suffrage campaign on November 2, but merely in order to awaken the opponents of woman suffrage who use the phrase "woman's place is in the home" to its meaningless as applied to modern conditions.

All women will be asked to stay at home for one day. Home-women will be asked to refrain from any of those activities outside the home that go with their work as purchasing and distributing agents or as careful mothers. Women employed outside the home will be asked to make the sacrifice and take the risks of staying "in the home."

The practical difficulties to be surmounted in the execution of this plan are neormous. When it is considered that one-third of the women of voting age in New York State work outside the home; that women are employed in all but three trades; that some important trades, such as telephone service, are entirely in the hands of women, it can easily be seen that the carrying out of our plan may mean a tremendous loss to employers and employees alike. In fact, it will mean almost stopping the hands of the clock for any day that may be settled upon for the "Women's One-Day Strike." But the situation seems to require a visible demonstra-

tion of this sort to bring the theorist to a realisation of the change in modern conditions that forces women to go out of the home whether they will or not.

Woman's Place is in the Home—but

The number of women in New York State of voting age is 2,757,521
The number of wage-earning women in New York State is 983,686

This means that over one-third of all the women in New York State have no home except as they work outside of the home to make one.

The number of women in New Jersey of voting age is 736,659
The number of wage-earning women in New Jersey is 239,565

This means that one-third of all the women in New Jersey have to work outside of the home for a living.

The number of women in Massachusetts of voting age is 1,074,485
The number of wage-earning women in Massachusetts is 444,301

This means that forty out of every 100 women in Massachusetts work for a living.

The number of women in Pennsylvania of voting age is 2,114,008
The number of wage-earning women in Pennsylvania is 605,436

This means that nearly 30 per cent. of the women in Pennsylvania work for a living.

The total number of women of voting age in the four States where women are fighting for Suffrage is 6,682,673

The total number of wage-earning women in these four States is 2,272,928
This means that approximately 35 per cent., three-and-a-half in every ten, of all the women in these four States have to work for a home before they can have one.

Which counts most?

In New York there is a liquor dealers' association with 16,000 members and a W.C.T.U. with 35,000 members. The 16,000 can vote, the 35,000 cannot. Where is the justice in that situation?—*White Ribbon Bulletin*, (Canada)

APPRECIATION AND THANKS.

To Miss Boyle my warm appreciation and sincere thanks for making an enjoyable holiday possible by doing my work. A.A.S.

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