

THE VOTE
March 12, 1915
ONE PENNY

LASEFORENING.

"YOU'RE WRONG, BURRA SAHIBS!"

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 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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PROMPT ACTION.

The Women's Freedom League has lost no time in approaching the Government on the question of the insult to Florence Nightingale, dealt with by the writer of the strong article in our last issue (an article which has aroused widespread interest and support). His Majesty's Office of Works has been requested to allow a Memorial Celebration to take place near the statue on May 12, the anniversary of her birthday, in honour of this most noble Englishwoman. The answer will be awaited with interest.

The Local Government Board has also been asked to receive a deputation on the very serious subject of the re-introduction of Child Labour and the employment of Women in agriculture.

"GO ON TALKING."

"Never mind; go on talking!" exclaimed the displeasing Ann, in the last sentence of *Man and Superman*. She had secured, by fair means and foul, the man she wanted; and was only concerned that he should feel as contented as she did. If to "go on talking" made him "feel good," what did it matter what he was talking about?

Ann is surely a picturesque presentment of that venerable lady, the "Mother of Parliaments." Entrenched in her ancient rights and privileges (as arbitrary and unreasonable as any ever claimed for the sex now pressing their claims on her!) that time-honoured and now slightly antiquated institution gathers in the chosen representatives of the chosen people, and bids then "Never mind; go on talking." Ann is given us by Mr. Shaw as an embodiment of the eternal Feminine; very many women, however, look upon her rather as the most libellous indictment of their sex ever put forward by the uncomprehending and arrogant male; and the House of Commons, viewed as a model for Parliaments, may be considered just as offensive to feminine judgment as the intriguing Ann. Much

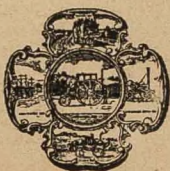
might be said about the demoralising atmosphere of a place where men meet for the purpose of conflict, with the intention of keeping up a continuous wrangle. But we need not deal with that aspect of things. The boast at this moment is that Party squabbles have been relegated to the scrap-heap (although hon. and right hon. members still rake regretfully among the *débris* and turn over with lingering pugnacity the odds and ends which recall the supposed-to-be-vanished feuds!). What we are concerned with is that in their new-found and beautiful unanimity they are still as much as ever at sea about real values. Three debates have taken place lately—on the rise in prices; on labour for the land; and on the liberty of the subject in "liberty-loving Britain."

It is a strange thing that men who know nothing whatsoever about the strain of living should alone be entitled to decide what measure of relief should be granted to the classes who really suffer under the high prices. No woman's organisation was consulted. No housewives' committee was formed to advise the Government. No faintest allusion was made to the

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fact that women are not only the great bulk of consumers, but the caterers for at least three-fifths of the community. They might never have existed at all for all that the debate indicated of their existence. The Prime Minister made a lengthy and exhaustive statement in which every factor contributing to the situation was made clear; and he was overwhelmingly complimented on the ability and completeness of his survey. He pleasantly and very convincingly demonstrated that the price of wholesale meat had risen greatly in excess of retail—a curious and entertaining fact—owing to the absence of meat-eating men. Those who patronised the prime joints and the best cuts, he said, were mainly away, and those who “were contented” with lesser portions—the “scraggs” he believed they were called—remained. But he had no word of comfort for those who find even “scraggs” hard to come by now.

The resolution proposed by a gentleman who begged the Government to do something—but did not seem to know what—was talked out. The Labour Members pleaded valiantly, but produced no definite figures. Other members defended the shipowners and abused the farmers; defended the farmers and abused the shipowners; defended the shipowners, the farmers, the Government, and the railways, and abused the working-men. Sir Arthur Markham and Mr. Denniss made hay of the Prime Minister's figures; and the net result of the debate was that it was no one's fault that prices had gone up, that no one had made profits, that there were no profits to make, that they were all, all honourable men and true patriots, but most unfortunate in every business that profits could or might have been made in; and that, as one really all-round and complete courtier put it, it would be rash to attribute the rise in prices to any particular cause. Not even the war. So the resolution was talked out, and the people must take heart of grace and remember that the Prime Minister said it was worse in 1871, and will be better in July.

That the Prime Minister's figures were shown to be hopelessly inaccurate, and that members contradicted each other on every point of vital importance, did not in any way disturb the Mother of Parliaments. “Never mind; go on talking,” is her fond exhortation to the exponents of representative government clustered on her benches. It matters not what people want outside; an academic discussion on the most approved lines, to show how best it can be denied them, is the answer of Parliament to the sufferers.

In regard to the second debate on the shortage of agricultural labour and the debate on the amending Bill to the Defence of the Realm Act, the most striking feature was the ease and nonchalance with which protective legislation, legislation providing safeguards against cruelty, injustice, intolerance, against exploiting the weak, against putting undue power into the hands of administrators, can be swept away under the influence of unworthy panic. Nothing was so plain in the agricultural labour debate as the fact that it is not the country that is faced with a crisis, but the farmers. If the Prime Minister's speech on the food prices meant anything at all it meant that wheat would be coming in freely before next harvest. But when discussing the need for boy labourers, members in favour of that form of exploitation persistently referred to their usefulness in leading the plough-horses and in harrowing. That means, for producing wheat crops. No allusion was made to the army of women who are trained hop, fruit and potato workers, and who could be collected quite easily for the work that really might matter, the lighter crops, vegetables, and market gardening generally, besides dairy duties. As on the first occasion, no definite figures giving the shortage or

available resources were placed before the House. The only valuable figures put forward were those showing how far inferior in size, weight and physique generally were boys who worked on farms compared with others not employed during early life.

Another interesting sidelight on the ways of the Mother of Parliaments was the utter scorn with which hon. Members look on Government departments. The Board of Agriculture, the Board of Trade and the Board of Education, all in turn, came in for scathing contempt. Sir Harry Verney, on the question of child labour, actually said of the House “We are not the Board of Education or a Women's Suffrage Society”—perhaps had they been the latter, they might have talked more sense. As it was, they went on talking, and the country does not know much more than it did before they began what they can do to lower the price of food and coal, or what is the real truth in regard to the shortage of agricultural labour. Now they have gone for their holidays, and for a brief space will leave off talking. C. NINA BOYLE.

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.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Piccadilly.

Next Wednesday Mrs. E. M. Moore will be the principal speaker at the Suffrage Club, her subject being “The Price.” The following Wednesday we shall have the pleasure of listening to the Rev. C. Baumgarten on “Ideals of Social Government.” Owing to an attack of influenza, Mr. Baumgarten was unable to keep his engagement earlier in the year, but we hope those who were disappointed at not hearing him then will not fail to come on March 24; it will be the last of our present series of weekly meetings; the next series will begin on Wednesday afternoon, April 14.

Sunday Afternoon Meeting.

The Rev. Hatty Baker has kindly promised to speak on “The War and After” at the Suffrage Club, Sunday afternoon, April 18. Teas can be obtained at the Club, and we hope that our London members and friends will avail themselves of this opportunity of meeting each other and exchanging views on the subject of Miss Baker's lecture.

New Activities.

We call the attention of our readers to our latest activities, the “Despard Arms” and the Children's Guest House, particulars of which will be found in another column. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

CAFÉ CHANTANT.

As we go to Press, the final arrangements are being made for our Café Chantant, which Mrs. Despard will open on Thursday, at 3.30, and Miss Lena Ashwell on Friday at the same hour. In addition to our own, stalls have been taken in the big hall by the Actresses' Franchise League, the Catholic Women's League, the Church League for Women's Suffrage, the East London Federation of Suffragettes, the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, the United Suffragists, and the Women Writers' Suffrage League.

We rely on all our readers to make a special effort to bring as many of their friends as possible, knowing that they will be thoroughly well entertained. Madame Carola and Mrs. Corner have arranged a splendid continuous programme in the large hall and the Lounge. First rate, well-known artistes are giving their services. Psychic delineations will be made by La Yenda, Mrs. Thomson Price and Miss Stricker, and the refreshments will be in the capable hands of Mrs. Fisher.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS. Good Wishes to Miss Florence Stephen.

It is with great regret that, owing to a breakdown in her health, the Corps has had to say goodbye to its able general secretary, Miss Florence Stephen, who has rendered such excellent service since its establishment last August. Her presence at Headquarters is sadly missed by all who have been in constant association with her, but she carries into her open-air life their good wishes for speedy recovery of health and a future of happiness and service. The best tribute that can be paid to Miss Stephen will be to support Miss Thomas, who is to carry on the work.

The Children's Guest House.

The Women's Freedom League will open next month in Nine Elms a Guest House for the children of the neighbourhood during the confinement of the mothers. Two great objects will thus be served. First, the mother will get a chance of proper rest at a time when it is most necessary, and her mind will be at ease as to the welfare of the other little ones of her family; and, in the second place, the children will be cared for while their mothers are laid up.

The scheme has the approval of Mrs. Carey, who so generously paid a year's rent and furnished the house at 1, Everett-street for the Vegetarian Restaurant. To begin with, the same house will be used; later, another house in the district will be adapted for the purpose. Will all who are interested communicate with Mrs. Tippett at 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.?

The Finance Committee—Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Presbury and Miss Underwood—acknowledge with warm thanks the following donations for the Guest House:—

D. Delbanco, Esq.	£10 10 0
Miss Ibbotson	3 0 0
Clapham Branch Jumble Sale	3 6 0
Mrs. S. Simon	2 2 0
Miss Kearton	2 0 0
Mrs. Blum	2 0 0
Mrs. Delbanco	1 10 0
Per Miss Milly	1 0 0
By collection at Clapham Branch meeting	10 0

Nine Elms Vegetarian Restaurant.

Mrs. Tippett's thanks are gratefully given to Miss Reeves for a case of apples; to Mr. L. Wimple for a bag of rice; to Mr. Delbanco for spice, and for most welcome help with Mr. Tester in extensive carpentering; to Mr. H. Kallenbach for window repairs; to Miss Underwood for bread graters; to Miss Crombie for a cake; to Miss Johnson for grease paper; and to Miss Bennett for unbleached calico.

Clothes for Babies.

A large parcel of warm and pretty clothes for babies and little children has been received at the office from the Bowes Park Branch of the Corps. Will the members who contributed towards this gift please accept our sincere thanks?

“THE DESPARD ARMS.”

To all members of the Women's Freedom League, friends, enemies and sympathisers!

Come to the House-Warming

at 50, Cumberland Market, Albany Street (near Portland Road Station, Metropolitan Railway; Motor 'Bus No. 3), on THURSDAY, March 25, 7 to 10 p.m.

Bring your own Supper. Tables, chairs and good company provided!

Bring also a “Pound” contribution of any kind. You will then see what “The Despard Arms” will do when open to the public—men and women—on March 27, at 7.30 p.m.

£500 WANTED FOR THE VOTE.

Our sincerest thanks to the following friends for their welcome help. We appeal urgently for further gifts to complete £500:—

Amount already acknowledged	£230 3 6
Miss Gange	2 0
Miss M. I. Saunders	2 6
Mrs. Tritton (monthly donation)	5 0
Mrs. McCracken	10 0
Miss Tennant (two months' donation)	1 0 0
Miss E. M. Brett	5 0
Per Miss Eunice Murray:—	
Miss E. Scrymgeour (monthly)	5 0
Miss M. Steven (monthly)	4 0
Miss L. Stuart (monthly)	1 0
Miss B. Kent (monthly)	2 0
Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (monthly)	10 0
Mrs. Budd	1 0 0
	£234 10 0

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. KINETON PARKES on the recognition—in the form of a cheque—by the Women's Tax Resistance League of her devoted service as its Secretary.



TEA & REST FROCKS

We have made a special study of Rest, Boudoir and Tea Frocks, and have now in stock a wonderful variety of these dainty and useful garments. All these frocks are our own exclusive designs. They are adapted from Paris Models, and are made by our workers from materials that we can recommend with the utmost confidence. The value is quite exceptional.

Rest or Tea Gown (as sketch) in rich Crepe de Chine Brocade, with new draped skirt, bodice finished with fine cream Alençon Lace and Chiffon sleeves. A particularly charming and useful garment.

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In rich plain Crepe de Chine or Charmeuse **98/6**

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We have purchased by Tender Lots 1 and 2, amounting to £1,182 10s. 2d., at a Discount of 78½ off Cost Prices (which means giving 4/3 for what cost Maude Taylor 20/-).

The Stock consists of Patriotic Cushions, Cosies, Cushion Covers, Table Centres, Night Dress Cases, Glove and Handkerchief Sachets, Silk and Bunting Flags, Gentlemen's Ties and Handkerchiefs, Stationery and Books, Painted C binets, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, Silk Lamp Shades, Hand-Painted Candle Shades, &c. No Catalogues issued.

The whole Stock will be on Sale in Art Needlework, Lace Dept., and Stationery Dept., on **Monday, March 8th**, at 9.30 a.m.

Some of the Goods representing the Stock will be shown in our front windows during the three days prior to Sale.

WILLIAM OWEN
Westbourne Grove, W.

THE VOTE.

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

FRIDAY, March 12th, 1915.

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.

"YOU'RE WRONG, BURRA SAHIBS!"

The truth is often best told in parable. Thinking over and regretting the attitude of the Government towards the people of the country, and especially towards women, believing at the same time in their desire to understand the present situation and to control it in the best interests of the nation, we will relate on the word of a great story-teller what happened one night in an Indian bungalow to a little English boy and his friends. He was, at that time, the only child in the station. His father, though the Colonel in command, did not command Tod. His mother was the only one that small person even pretended to obey. Otherwise every man and every woman in the station was at his feet.

Tod was coaxed early to bed one night. He knew what that meant. The Commissioner, his particular friend, was in the district, and everyone in the station of any distinction had been invited to meet him at dinner. In the bungalow and in the compound there was great excitement. Since all the guests were Tod's friends, he felt indignant that he was not allowed to see them, and he contrived a little plan.

His bearer was excited too. He wanted to be somewhere in a corner and see the great people and their servants arrive. Tod pretended to be asleep. Then, naturally, the bearer went off, and the child, left to himself, crept into the great dining-room, lifted a fold of the tablecloth and seated himself under the table. The guests came trooping in, and conversation became general. Tod understood some of it. A new law had been passed by the Council; Tod knew what it was; the Commissioner, who honestly loved the people and desired to satisfy them, had proposed it and almost forced it through. Now, to his deep disappointment, he found it was unpopular. The people were grumbling. He was told that many of them were sullen and angry. Suddenly, a shock! Tod, in his eagerness to listen, had touched, inadvertently, the foot of the speaker, no less a person than the Commissioner himself. In fear of snakes a hasty search was made, and Tod was discovered. There followed much laughter, and in spite of protests from Tod's mother, he was set in a chair of honour beside the great man. The conversation resumed its course. All at once the child struck with his little spoon upon the table. "Burra Sahib!" he cried, "you're wrong." The effect was magnetic. Laughter first and then, as the little shrill voice continued to hold its own, a deep silence. In his curious language, a mixture of broken English and fluent Hindustanee, Tod was retailing what he had heard in the bazaars. He stopped, and the great man, in his turn, smote upon the table. "By jove!" he cried, "Tod is

right. That is it. That is what is wanted; and," he added under his breath, "it shall be done." So it came about that what was known as Tod's amendment, which gave joy to multitudes of humble people, was passed. The great man desired to help the people, but he lacked knowledge of their need. The little child was close to the heart of the people, and he knew.

We wish we could present this parable to the Government, and persuade them to read its lesson. No one will question the reality of their desire to guide the nation safely through the present terrible crisis, which would never have arisen but for the fatal blundering of successive Governments all over Europe. The great mass of the people—the workers, men and women—have suffered piteously, and will suffer more before this war is done. It is not too much to say that, during the whole of this seven months of tension, the people of these islands have behaved with dignity and discretion. They have given freely of their substance, of their lives, of the lives of their children. They have borne uncomplainingly the restrictions laid upon them, asking only that these restrictions shall be imposed equally upon the whole of the community. When it was necessary for the House of Lords to call public attention to the crying dangers of the Defence of the Realm Act, passed, we presume, in a House of Commons alarmed by panic-mongers, there was no public protest. Even now, when, through high prices and low wages, the health of the nation's children is being endangered, there is no open revolt. It is true there are low murmurings, as in the threatened labour troubles. It is true that men and women everywhere are beginning to ask questions as to the import and end of the things that are happening. In a low tone these questions are asked now. Presently they will be asked aloud. How have the food prices risen? We had a big debate in our House of Commons on this subject a short time since, and some eloquent speeches were delivered, but no one gave anything like a direct answer. "War time, good people. Everyone must make sacrifices." That was the tone of it all.

We, who, as women, feel the pulses of the nation's heart, have heard other questions asked, indefinitely, in rough language often; but with a meaning that we can fathom. There is such a thing as justice. Would it not be just to spread the sacrifice, raising the people's wages to meet the terrible increase in the demand made upon them? Why not take this in hand, Burra Sahibs of Exchequer and Home Office? It is a big business, we grant. But you are put where you are to do big things.

Again. What is to be done, exactly, with our disabled men? Thousands of the wounded are in hospital now. Many are aware that the moment of their discharge is imminent. Women, who by their patience and care have brought them back to the limited life which is all they will ever be able to enjoy, know how they are fretting about their homes, and the wife and "kiddies" losing the allowance. One poor fellow, who will never do hard work again, said to his nurse: "It would be better for the wife and kiddies if I died. I am going home to eat their food."

It was not so bad as he feared, but the nurse could not enlighten him; she only felt that the anxiety of her patient was retarding his recovery, and it required a visit to the War Office and a series of explanations to make the situation clear, even as it stands at present.

There are other questions. Women, here and there, and sometimes at reduced rates of pay, are doing men's work. What is to be done with them when our big army is disbanded, and the men who return whole claim their berths? And if, for some time, the masters have been paying low wages, will

they of their own free will return to the former scale? And meanwhile are not these and others building up fortunes for themselves out of the calamity that has fallen upon the nation?

We know what the answer of the professional politician will be: "This is not the moment to discuss such matters as these. Let us get through with the war, and then we shall see." Precisely, the answer that has been given time and again to us women. By your patriotism, we beseech you to keep quiet for the moment. Your turn will come when the more urgent business is settled. And our time, alas! for the nation, never comes.

We wish to put it on record that in their bureaucratic methods, in their objection to take the people into their confidence; above all, in their persistent refusal in the past to recognise the claims of women to citizenship, the Government have deprived themselves of a support on the one hand and a source of information on the other hand that might have extraordinarily helped them in steering the nation through these disastrous times. They have listened to panic-mongers: witness the shrill outcry about the iniquities of soldiers' wives; it has died down now in the light of larger knowledge; but the Government made the mistake of legislating on these one-sided reports. It is not the people who sit in the seats of the mighty; it is not their friends and relatives who obligingly visit the poor and who ignorantly report on their condition, to whom the Government should turn for trustworthy information. It is to the worker herself—the patient woman, who cuts and contrives and plans, who, not being a saint, is sometimes irritable, even with the little scapegraces whom she loves so well, the woman who lives out her heroic life in what these fine ladies and gentlemen would call ugliness and grime; it is to her and to those other women—the nurses, the women health inspectors, the doctors, the teachers in our big elementary schools—it is to these that Governments should turn; it is from these they should obtain the information they need, if, indeed, their souls are set upon "curing the hurt of our people." And we, knowing them, are perfectly certain, that they would work loyally with any Government that set itself simply and selflessly to this great task. For, like the child in Rudyard Kipling's story, they know; they have means of acquiring knowledge which no Prime Minister, or Home Secretary, or Chancellor of the Exchequer, can possess. They are close to the heart of the people, and they feel its pulse beating.

C. DESPARD.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.

"What is the Spirit of Militarism? It is not the outcome of female-ness, but of exaggerated male-ness. Its antidote is the spirit of the Women's Movement. The Germans champion militarism, women champion humanitarianism, and we can rely on the success of the human principle." So said Mrs. St. Clair Stobart last Wednesday afternoon in prefacing her fascinating address on "The British Women's Hospital Unit for Serbia."

The British Government has previously said that there was no work fitted for women in the Balkans, but the Serbian Government asked that a hospital fitted out and staffed by women should be sent there, and it would shortly go out under the protection of the British Admiralty as far as Salonika. The quietly told tale of the work of the British women—doctors and nurses—who went with Mrs. Stobart to Brussels and Antwerp, their skill, their success, their never-failing courage, and their complete want of fussiness was listened to with rapt attention by all present, and Mrs. Stobart's story

of the Unit on the point of starting for Serbia, where it is so desperately needed, aroused keen interest and enthusiasm.

Miss Munro followed with an excellent speech on the need of keeping the Women's Movement before the public at the present time.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

*** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

To the Editor.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you allow me space for "a pair of words" in response to the article by C. S. Bremner expressing righteous indignation about what she rightly calls an *insult* to the memory of Florence Nightingale. I endorse every word she says, and "my heart is hot within me" when I think of the work of this genius and great reformer, whom the whole civilised world honours, and yet whose country grudges her the simple tribute of a ceremonious unveiling of her statue. It is inconceivable! I do not know whether there were any women on the committee of the Nightingale Memorial, but if there were, and they allowed such a decision to pass without a protest, I am ashamed of them.

This is bad enough, but it is not the only, or the worst, insult to the memory of our great compatriot. The profession of nursing was founded—as everyone knows—by Florence Nightingale, but owing to the lack of organisation and standardisation it is being exploited by everyone who likes to masquerade in a bonnet and cloak. Since the war broke out, the scandal has much increased; and it is not too much to say that at the present moment it has been degraded into the position of a subsidiary force to the great army of untrained women who are nursing the sick and wounded, for whom we—as patriotic women—claim the right to the services of highly-trained, skillful and experienced nurses. Owing to this scandalous muddle, many lives have been seriously endangered, if not lost. We are unable to rouse public opinion because the "free" (1) Press will not take up the matter—with a few notable exceptions. Let me assure the readers of THE VOTE that this is a matter vitally affecting the whole nation and the future race. It is about sixty years since Florence Nightingale founded the profession of nursing, and to-day when we erect a statue to her honour chaos reigns! I call this the greater insult.

BEATRICE KENT.

Member of the Society for State Registration of Nurses.

TO DISCUSS THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO WAR & PEACE.

THREE GREAT MEETINGS for MEN and WOMEN will be held at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, on MONDAY, MARCH 22nd, at 11.0 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Chairman: The Rev. W. TEMPLE.

Speakers:

H. W. NEVINSON, Esq.	Miss ZOE FAIRFIELD
The Rev. RICHARD ROBERTS	The Rt. Rev. THE LORD BISHOP
Miss EGLANTYNE JEBB	OF LINCOLN
Miss CATHERINE E. MARSHALL	The Rev. E. S. WOODS
The Rev. Dr. ORCHARD	Miss MAUDE ROYDEN
The Rev. A. H. GRAY	The Rev. Dr. DEARMER
Mrs. BARBARA MCKENZIE	Mr. BRUCE GLASIER
Dr. HENRY T. HODGKIN	

Prices of Seats for one Meeting: 7/6, 5/-, 2/6, 1/-
" " for the 3 Meetings: 18/0, 12/6, 6/-, 2/6

FOR ADMISSION PLEASE APPLY FOR TICKETS.

Programmes and Tickets may be had from Miss LUCY GARDNER, The Collegium, 92, St. George's Square, London, S.W. Stamped, addressed Envelopes should be sent when applying for Tickets.

N.B.—Please send for Programmes for Distribution, and speak of this Conference to your friends.

"JUS SUFFRAGII,"

The Monthly Organ of

The International Women's Suffrage Alliance.

4/- PER ANNUM, POST FREE.

At the present time, when the international relations are interrupted, "JUS SUFFRAGII" forms a unique link between the women of all nations. It contains articles, reports and letters from all countries, belligerent and neutral, and constitutes a valuable record of women's activities in War time. It publishes monthly a series of articles from women in different countries on the basis of a permanent peace.

Order from 7, Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

BRANCH NOTES.

Dundee.

A very enjoyable whist drive was held in Mather's Hotel on March 5. There was a large turn out of members and friends. The proceeds are to be handed over to the Women Suffrage National Aid Corps. Songs and music varied the programme.

East London.

A very successful Branch meeting was held at Bow on March 2. Important business was transacted; members present set a good example by paying their subscriptions for 1915 and arrears of special Emergency levy. It was decided to hold Branch meetings on the third Monday in each month until need for a change of policy arises, and to include discussions on subjects of interest to women at the present juncture. The next Branch meeting will, therefore, be held at Miss Adams' flat, 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, on Monday, March 22, at 6 p.m. Every member is earnestly asked to attend, and to be provided with some facts or ideas bearing upon the subject of the Exploitation of Child Labour in connection with the war.

Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian Road.

Two Branch meetings held in February were of exceptional interest. At the first Madame Mees, a Belgian lady who escaped with five children from Malines, gave a touching account of her experiences and of her flight from the city after its bombardment. Miss Wood, hon. treas. of the Branch, presided over a crowded audience, and explained that Madame Mees is making a plucky attempt to support herself and her children by lecturing, giving cookery demonstrations, etc. A good collection was taken. At the second meeting Councillor Graham spoke on War and Women in Industry, dealing mainly with the problems of relief work; in the discussion Miss A. B. Jack, who presided, raised the question of the employment of women to replace men engaged in the Army, etc., and regretted that men are still raising objections to the employment of women in certain spheres rather than to their employment at lower rates than men. She referred particularly to the proposal to employ women as tramcar conductors in Edinburgh—a proposal that has been abandoned in deference to the views of the men. Councillor Graham declared that the men feared undercutting, if not now as soon as the practice was established, but the reasons made public were certainly of the old-established type—women should not be given the work as long as men were available, unsuitability, especially as to weather conditions—this at a time when agricultural labour is being increasingly recommended for women! The Committee regrets that the attendance at this most interesting lecture was not larger, and urges members to attend regularly these fortnightly meetings.

Herne Hill and Norwood.

A whist drive in aid of the funds of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps was held at 69, Dancroft-road, Herne Hill, on Feb. 27. A very pleasant evening was spent, and as all the refreshments, etc., were supplied by the members of the Branch the effort resulted in a contribution of £1 8s. 6d. to the funds of the Corps.

Ipswich. Suffrage Shop.—22, Queen Street

On March 4 the Church League for Woman Suffrage joined with the Women's Freedom League in a special service of intercession at St. Nicholas Church. Mr. Green not only gave the use of the church but also a most practical and sympathetic address in which he pointed out that we were now having a terrible lesson in the result of making the love of power and competition the object of life instead of the true ideal—service—as shown by the greatest of all earthly lives. Women to-day were able to do good service in ways not dreamed of by their grandmothers, but the old-fashioned virtues must not be forgotten in the enjoyment of liberty. The special service for war time, by Canon Scott Holland, was used.

Liverpool.

On March 4 Miss Ada Broughton was invited to address the Pioneer Lodge of the International Order of Good Templars on the "Temperance Movement and Woman's Influence." She gave an able survey of the influence of woman in favour of temperance from Babylonian and Roman times, and pointed out that to-day in countries where women possess the vote temperance legislation makes great progress. A good discussion followed, and Miss Broughton, in her reply, showed how the woman's vote would protect the home. THE VOTE was sold at the meeting. On Saturday afternoon a very successful open-air meeting was held; Miss Broughton addressed a large and attentive crowd; Mrs. McNall superintended the selling of THE VOTE.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE WORKING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE PAPER, 3D. WEEKLY. May be had from us at 321, Roman Road, Bow, or from the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke Street, Adelphi, W.C.; London and Suburban Publishing Co., St. Bride's Churchard, E.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C.; at the bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Sons and Messrs. Willing. Tell your newsagent to order it.

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

Thursday and Friday, March 11 & 12. Caxton Hall. Cafe Chantant. 3.30 till 10.30 p.m. To be Opened on Friday, March 12. by Miss Lena Ashwell. Sale of Work, Songs, Dancing, Recitations, Refreshments Musical and Dramatic Entertainment. Admission, before 6 p.m., 1/- (including Tea), afterwards, 6d. Men in Uniform, Half price.

Monday, March 15. — MEMBERS' MEETING; W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C., 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Anna Munro; chairman: Miss Barrow.

Wednesday, March 17.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m.; Mrs. E. M. Moore, "The Price," and others. HACKNEY BRANCH MEETING, at 23, Terrace-rd, S. Hackney, 7 p.m. Mrs. Despard, "A Recent Visit to France." Chair: Miss Rowlings.

Thursday, March 18.—"DESPARD ARMS" Business Meeting, 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., 8 p.m.

Friday, March 19.—PUBLIC MEETING; Croydon W.F.L., 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 3.30 p.m., speaker, Miss Goddard.

Wednesday, March 24.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., speaker, the Rev. C. Baumgarten, "Ideals of Social Government," and Miss Nina Boyle.

Thursday, March 25.—"DESPARD ARMS" House Warming, 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., 7.30 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, March 27.—"DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st. Opening by Mrs. Despard, 7.30.

Wednesday, April 14.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3.30 p.m.

Sunday, April 18.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speaker: The Rev. Hatty Baker, "The War and After." Admission free. Tea 6d. (obtainable at the Club).

Friday, March 12.—LIVERPOOL, Open-air Meeting, Clayton-sq., 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, March 13.—PORTSMOUTH, Jumble Sale, Buckland-st. Mission Room, 2.30 p.m.

Monday, March 15.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Crow.

Thursday, March 18.—READING, Public Meeting, Palmer's Hall, West-st., 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard; chair: Miss Anna Munro.

Monday, March 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m., speaker, Miss Veitch.

Monday, March 29.—ABERDOVEY, Public Meeting, Aberdovey Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Inaugural meeting of new W.F.L. Branch.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

Hon. Organiser: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Sunday, March 21.—NEWTOWN, Public Meeting, Central Hall. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro, on "Peace and War"; 3 p.m.

Monday, March 22.—LLANSAINTEFFRAID, Drawing Room Meeting, Bôd Gwylim. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 25.—TREFEGLWYN, Public Meeting, National School. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro; chair: Miss Alix M. Clark. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30.—LLANFYLLIN, "At Home," Town Hall. President: Mrs. Busch Mitchell. Subject, "Peace and War." Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. 3.30 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31.—WELSHPOOL, Public Meeting, Town Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Munro; chair: Miss Alix M. Clark. 8 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, March 16.—BOOTLE Co-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD, Labour Club, Stanley-rd., 7.45 p.m. Speaker: Miss Ada Broughton.

Thursday, March 18.—SOCIAL PROBLEMS DEBATING SOCY., East London College, Mile End-rd., 4.30, Miss N. Boyle, "The Fool in his Folly."

Friday, March 19.—WOMEN'S Co-OPERATIVE GUILD, Bowes Park; speaker, Miss Anna Munro, 7.45 p.m.

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THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Manchester

Our Branch has recently made an effort to raise funds by organising a social evening once a month at the office. We have a special speaker, music, refreshments, the latter given by a member, thereby leaving the collection intact for current expenses. The last of these meetings was held on March 3, when a good audience had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Beanland, secretary of the Men's League for Woman Suffrage in Manchester. His subject was "The Future in the Distance," and he dealt with various phases of the sex problem in a dignified and impressive manner. In the discussion it was pointed out that the principles of the address should be brought forward at men's meetings, and an invitation was given to Mr. Beanland to address one such organisation. The Branch hopes to hear Mr. Beanland expound his views still further. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him. The refreshments were given by Miss McCulloch, who was unfortunately prevented by illness from taking the chair. Miss Janet Heyes presided in her place. Miss Janet Heyes addressed a meeting at the house of Miss McMurray, and opened up important new ground.

Middlesbrough. Suffrage Centre—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

A business meeting was held on March 1; Mrs. Schofield Coates presided; the usual monthly reports were given by the Treasurer, the Secretaries of the different sub-committees, and by Mrs. Walker on the work of the Women's District Council. On March 7 Miss Hayton and Misses A. and L. Mahony sold THE VOTE in Darlington, on their

return from a snowdrop expedition in the woods at Piercebridge; in the evening they held an informal soirée in the Suffrage Centre for the "shop assistants" (who now number twenty) and their friends. The impromptu musical programme which was contributed to by the Misses Bowen, Colpitts, Cooper, A. and C. Fleming, Nelson, Nicholson, Nurse Lee, Madame Lefèvre, Mrs. and Miss Cattermole, Mrs. Rees and Mrs. Walker was very much enjoyed. Miss Hayton, who arrived late, having remained in Darlington till she had disposed of 100 Votes, received quite an ovation. The rooms were decorated with snowdrops, and 10s. were taken for snowdrops sold in the shop "to help the funds." We are very grateful to Miss Hawkins for so kindly looking after the serving of the refreshments, and hope that all who came will come again and help to make our Saturday nights both pleasant and attractive. All members and friends will be welcome.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Two successful meetings were held on March 4, when Miss Murray and Miss Trott paid their promised visit to Portsmouth. In spite of a short dinner-hour, because of overwork on account of the war, the men listened very attentively to Miss Murray's excellent speech at the Dockyard gates. There was a good audience at the Suffrage Rooms in the afternoon, when Miss Murray delighted all present with a humorous and racy speech. Mrs. White made a neat little speech from the chair in introducing Miss Murray. The Buckland-street Mission Room has been kindly lent to us for the Jumble Sale on Sat., March 13. Will helpers please be at the room not later than 1.30 p.m.?

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