

THE VOTE,  
JUNE 16, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

# Militancy Triumphant.

G. NINA BOYLE.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 1916.

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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### THE EXCELLENCE OF WOMEN'S WORK.

Some interesting facts have come to light during the war about women's labour, its thoroughness and excellence. Last September there was a conference of tramway managers held in London. Such a body of men does not usually play the rôle of buttering or bolstering up women, or troubling in any way about their economic position. But the exigencies of war had compelled the Glasgow Tramways manager to employ women as conductors, and Mr. Dalrymple stated that the tramways were then employing 870 women, that they had never earned so much money or carried so many people, and that in every way the services of the women were entirely satisfactory; if anything, they surpassed the men whom they had displaced by the tactful way in which they dealt with disorderly passengers.

#### The Wonder Workers.

In the report of the presidential address of the Iron and Steel Institute delivered by Sir William Beardmore, of the Parkhead Works of Glasgow, there comes confirmation of the capacity of women for work, of the conscientious way in which they earn their weekly wage. The address deals with scientific research and experiment in steel and iron manufactures, with efficiency and economy of production, with the refusal of the workers to utilise to the best advantage improved methods of manufacture, with the determination of trade unions to restrict the output, a policy sometimes styled "Ca' canny." The Government demand for munitions compelled this Glasgow firm to employ girls owing to the scarcity of skilled workers. The words of the report are worth quoting:—

These girls produced more than double the amount produced by skilled mechanics—members of the trade unions—working the same machines, under the same conditions. Three representative cases may be quoted, thus: In the turning of the shell-body the actual output by girls, with

the same machines and working under exactly the same conditions and for equal number of hours, was quite double that by trained mechanics. In the boring of shells the output was also quite double, and in the curving, waving, and finishing of shell-bases quite 120 per cent. more than that of experienced mechanics. These conditions applied to war-time, when the peril of the nation demanded unselfish, patriotic exertion by everyone, and the men who thus limited the output can only be regarded as unworthy of the privileges of citizenship.

Exactly. But such are our extraordinary methods of government that it is the women who are presumed to be unworthy of the privileges of citizenship, and it is these very men who are responsible for many of the disgraceful laws which defile the Statute Book, and which deprive women and children of their heritage in this wealthy land. Sir William Beardmore has now proved that his machines can be run properly, advantageously, and profitably. But the Directors of Industry need to take a great step forward at this juncture. It is well for us women to realise why labour at Parkhill has played such a mean part when the country was in danger.

#### Labour and Capital.

A form of co-operation between labour and capital requires to be adopted which shall prevent capital reaping all the profit and making labour the bottom dog of our civilisation. It will neither profit men nor women should women displace men at the Parkhill works, perhaps at a lower wage than the men earned. Every man or woman who works there, persons of proved character and capacity, should automatically become a partner and shareholder in the business. There would then be an end of the limitation of output. There would gradually come a change in the respective positions of labour and capital. To-day, capital hires labour; when things are better adjusted, when they are more solidly and rationally based on justice, labour will hire capital.

Grammatically, the difference is one of position of words. Sociologically, it will be the great revolution, or evolution, of the twentieth century. At the moment nothing is more important to women than their immediate enfranchisement and their understanding of the rôle their sex should play in the problems of labour and capital. I am deeply mistaken in my sex if employers of labour do not find women more ready to understand the problems of efficiency and economy in production than men have shown themselves. But they require two conditions: their immediate enfranchisement and equal pay for equal work. Without them, labour will be worse off than ever.

#### Statue to Women Workers.

Wherever people are visiting munition factories, even Members of Parliament, men who are not usually quick to recognise women's claims and merits (*vide* the proposed new scheme for the registration of voters), they are struck by the thoroughness and excellence of women's work. Sir R. W. Essex, M.P., in *The Daily Chronicle*, declares that "dilution" was perhaps the most wonderful and novel of all he saw on a pilgrimage of surprises, and he opines that when statues are being raised to those who helped to bind the brigand Empires, there may be found one to "our fair young Englishwomen in mob cap and smock, carrying a shrapnel-shell in their clever hands." An engineers' manager remarked to Sir R. W. Essex: "Our women are simply wonderful. Their added contribution will win this war." "There are no girl slackers," declares an employer of labour. Mr. Lloyd George calculates that 200,000 women are working at munitions. A French visitor comments on the way the women handle the file or direct the lathe with all the quiet efficiency which might have spoken of years instead of months of training.

#### Women's Demands.

What will be the effect of the discovery of women's skill and efficiency on unenfranchised women when the State itself is largely in the hands of capitalists and employers of labour? Who can doubt for a moment that it will become worse? When the war is over, the enthusiasm of engineers' managers will become stale; they will settle down to the steady grinding of woman's face by man's power to legislate for the advantage of his own, the represented sex. THE VOTE holds with John Stuart Mill that the power to legislate has more to do with human happiness than anything else whatever. During the history of the women's movement there never has been a greater necessity for women's enfranchisement than to-day; the war has reinforced it. Women have responded to their country's call. They demand the recognition of their citizenship to help to shape the conditions of society that will result from the war. They demand that honourable labour shall receive its due reward, that every Government department be open to them as of right; that they shall have seats on Boards of Trade, Agriculture, Education, Arbitration. Their slogan must be *La carrière ouverte aux talents*. They must refuse to be the helots of civilisation, its hewers of wood and drawers of water for a wage fixed by those who profit by their work.

#### Progress in Glasgow.

Since the first part of this article was written, a long letter has been received from the manager of the Glasgow Tramways, Mr. James Dalrymple, showing the great progress that women have made in his department; 1,200 are now employed as conductors, and more are being trained; in addition, 100 trained women are now tramdrivers; their coolness and confidence strike admiration into the old hands. He reports that they stick to the rules, try

no dodges of their own, run no risks, and *have fewer accidents than men-drivers*. Mr. Dalrymple has the great gift of organisation; he handles his women-workers well. The shifts are not too long, proper accommodation is provided, the uniform is neat, the pay good. Women take a day off for rest more frequently than men, a practice that few will blame. It is not surprising that they are now being taken on as car-cleaners, as chauffeurs at the Glasgow Corporation garage, as workers at the electrical engineer's power-station. Four have full charge of a sub-station, other four are at the switch-board, and some have begun to work at the electrical street pillars. The pay in nearly all cases is pretty good, but might be better. In electricity, 20s. to 25s. per week; in the tramways, 27s. to 30s. THE VOTE congratulates Mr. Dalrymple on his success in fitting women for employment, and in using their services to the utmost; it also congratulates the Corporation of Glasgow on the high organising capacity of its servant. In his office he resembles Lord Kitchener at the War Office. The State has profited by their services.

C. S. BREMNER.

#### NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A public meeting of the Northern Men's Federation was held in the Synod Hall, Edinburgh, on June 7, at which the principal speakers were Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, and Mr. Ben Tillett. Councillor Bruce Lindsay, who presided, paid a touching tribute to the memory of Lord Kitchener. Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting calls upon Mr. Asquith and the Coalition Government to grasp the present opportunity of recognising the right of women to full citizenship in the country which women do so much to maintain, and include them in the new Parliamentary Service Franchise Register, and thus secure for the defence of our liberties the incalculable strength of a genuinely united people."

Was it not time, she said, that they left off thinking that the nation consisted alone of men? There were over five million women wage-earners; it was only common justice to ask men who had the vote to place that weapon in the hands of women. Mr. Ben Tillett said he believed the greatest burden of the war would eventually fall upon the women. He paid a tribute to what they were doing at the front under shell fire, carrying the wounded and doing honour to the dead, and also in munition works. Women's economic power would grow, and not the most plausible of politicians would be able to evade the direct issue in the very near future. As representing the industrial class he said that if women were made the economic enemies of men a sex war would be the result, and that would mean a greater fight than fighting the Germans. The resolution was supported by Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, President and Founder of the Federation, who said that a disgraceful trick was about to be played in Parliament. She understood that the new measure conferring the franchise upon soldiers and sailors was to go through as an Order in Council, and nobody was to know anything about it until it became law. In a brilliant, moving, and convincing speech, she traced the history of the Women's Movement from its inception to the present day, and also the history of the C.D. Acts, touching on the noble work of Josephine Butler, and of Mr. W. T. Stead, in this connection.

The resolution was carried unanimously and with great enthusiasm. Every elector in the hall signed the petition which is being sent to Government by the Northern Men's Federation, calling upon them to include women in the New Parliamentary Register. Other speakers were Councillor Drummond, Loanhead; Councillor Stevenson, Edinburgh; Mr. J. Wilson McLaren, and Mr. Joseph Dobbie.

"J.P., ONE OF THE NORTHERN MEN," writes a warm appreciation of Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett's untiring efforts and dauntless work in face of difficulties. He bears tribute also to her helpers—the Misses Brown, and to the tradition for freedom and justice which they have inherited, Mrs. Wilson McLaren, and to the friends who gave Mrs. Sennett a cheering "send-off" after her strenuous work in Edinburgh last week.

#### THE MINERVA CAFÉ.

Best thanks to our always generous friend, Mrs. Carey, for the gift of three comfortable chairs. Further gifts will be gratefully received.

## Women's Freedom League.

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



#### DARE TO BE FREE.

Normanton, B.A. Opposer: Miss Margaret Hodge. Chair: Miss Reeves, 7.30 p.m. 144, High Holborn, W.C. Admission 6d. Speech of welcome by Mrs. Despard at 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 24.—GOLDERS GREEN BRANCH DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 13, Temple Fortune-court, 4 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman. Chair: Miss Hodge.

Sunday, June 25.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 12 noon. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner and Miss Hodge.

Wednesday, June 28.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Thursday, June 29.—NINE ELMS SETTLEMENT, "At Home," 1, Everett-street, 4.30—7.30 p.m. Tea, Music and Short Speeches.

Sunday, July 2.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 12 noon. Mrs. Despard.

Monday, July 3.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Thursday, July 6.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 8.—DESPARD ARMS SPORTS, 22, Harley-road, Hampstead. Friends ls., including tea. 4—7 p.m.

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#### PROVINCES.

Monday, June 19.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, June 22.—READING. Garden Meeting, 40, Redlands-road, 6 p.m. Addresses on "Compulsion for Women." Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Underwood.

Wednesday, July 5.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Garden Party at Wilstrop House, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates). Tickets 1s.

#### WALES.

Thursday, June 22.—SWANSEA. Branch Meeting, 105, Walter-road, 7 p.m.

#### SCOTLAND.

Thursday, June 22.—GLASGOW. Emergency Branch Meeting, 212, Bath-street. "Registration Proposals." Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Discussion to follow.

Saturday, July 1.—EDINBURGH. Summer Sale, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 3 p.m. Please note change of date.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

Thursday, June 22.—S.W.S.P.U. PUBLIC MEETING, Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, W.C., 7.30 p.m. Miss Lind-af-Hageby, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Amy Houghton, B.A. Chair: Mrs. Lamartine Yates. Admission free.

#### TO OUR READERS.

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### British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union. Second Biennial Conference July 5th to 7th, 1916.

The first question to be discussed at the Conference will be "Woman's Loss of Nationality through Marriage with an Alien." The subject has a special interest at this time for since the outbreak of the war there have been many grievous cases of injustice resulting from the operation of the law. To the women of Australasia the decision of the Imperial legislature upon this subject is of great practical importance as it overrides the far wiser decisions of their own Parliaments. It was definitely decided in Australia that the woman who married a foreigner retained her nationality and her citizen rights, and the New Zealand Parliament passed an Act that was intended to safeguard the woman's nationality, although the somewhat ambiguous wording of the law would have made evasion possible. The Australian Government, however, in its desire to bring the law of the Commonwealth into conformity with Imperial law, issued as an instruction to electors for the election of May, 1913, the order that no woman, who had married a foreigner, should record her vote for the election of that year. Since that date Australian and New Zealand women who have married foreigners have lost their nationality and have forfeited their political rights. This constitutes a very serious grievance for them, for, as active participants in political life, they have to submit to the laws of the Commonwealth and the Dominion, which they have co-operated in initiating, being set at naught by a Parliament representing male constituencies and therefore male interests only. The speakers on the subject will be:—Mrs. Ford Smith (Friends' War Relief Committee), Miss Chrystal Macmillan, LL.B., Miss Nettlefold (Law Tripos, Cambridge), and Mr. Laurence Housman.

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## THE VOTE.

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 FRIDAY, June 16th, 1916.

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### 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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At Home and Abroad ... post free. 6/6 per annum.  
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## MILITANCY TRIUMPHANT.

The echoes of Suffragist militancy, once so clamorous, have been drowned by the world-wide storm of martial violence which holds civilisation in thrall. It will not be amiss if we strain our ears to catch those bygone echoes, and ask ourselves how they harmonise with the voices calling to us with such insistence from one and another of the scenes of violent action, where issue is joined in the titanic struggle of to-day. The moral is a depressing one, but not without its value.

Let us recall for a moment the foolish plea urged against women that it was wrong under any circumstances to resort to violence in a fight against injustice. How much more foolish does it look to-day, when it is the rallying cry of the whole of Europe? We, however, did not need to wait for the war to find confirmation for the militant point of view. The very men most bitterly condemnatory of the women's militancy gave their position away completely in their behaviour in regard to Ireland, and are sinking deeper in the mire of inconsistency with every day that passes.

Sir Edward Carson threatened militancy on a formidable scale, not because constitutional rights were withheld, but because he feared they would be extended. He had no doubts, apparently, about whether violence was justifiable. In their dread of that militant resentment, the Government of Great Britain actually suspended the action of a measure of self-government passed and sanctioned under every rule of constitutional procedure—majority vote, the Parliament Act, and the Royal assent. This measure, described by the party in power as a great and long-delayed measure of justice and Liberal reform, the main plank in the Liberal platform, was held back from operation, for alteration, at the threat of armed militancy—militancy that would endanger life as well as property; held back by the Government and the House of Representatives that shrieked themselves hysterical about violence committed by women, and spent the nation's money on expensive State prosecutions of those women.

No State prosecution was inaugurated against Sir Edward Carson, although his offences were of an infinitely graver type than those of the women. But the measure that was held back because of his threatened militancy is now to be put in operation on account of an actual outbreak of militant violence, involving frightful destruction of life and property, on the part of other militants—male also. The ruins of Sackville-street, on the crumbling

stones of which self-government for Ireland is to be reared, show us the hysterical and savage outcry against militant women which disgraced the Press and the public and Parliament less than three short years ago, as the hypocritical and unreal thing that it was. No such destruction as has been wrought in Dublin lies at the door of the militant women; but Mr. Asquith has not given them self-government. Mr. Asquith never visited the prison to see if the militant women rebelling against oppression and injustice had enough food and recreation supplied them to make their incarceration bearable. Mr. Asquith did not personally investigate their complaints.

We read with amazement that bacon and eggs and coffee for breakfast, and plenty of exercise and recreation are supplied to the militants now awaiting trial. When we awaited trial, our fare was the fare of the common criminal; for recreation, even the harmless skipping-rope was confiscated. Mr. Asquith did not make personal investigation of our conditions; no powerful political party, sniffing round for Home Rule votes, clamoured that we should be treated as prisoners of war! Our modest claim to be treated apart as political offenders was scouted and derided. The utmost we could win, without votes and *not having shed the blood of our fellow-creatures*, was a contemptuous acquittal of having acted with "moral turpitude." Rule 243a, which gave a qualified relaxation of severity, and was sorely grudged us and whittled away at every opportunity, substituted tepid tea for skilly and white for brown bread; and the whole country taunted us with our privileges, and told us to take our punishment like men. We know now how militant men take it—whining and favour-mongering.

These comparisons lead indubitably to bitterness. If they do not rouse women to a sense of the value of the Vote, and to a knowledge that even in wartime men do not cease to struggle and manoeuvre for their own advantage (while severely reminding us of the need for patriotic restraint in advancing our own claim), nothing will ever teach them. The contempt of posterity will be their meed.

Mr. Asquith was not spared a reminder of the situation in which he has landed himself and the country. One prisoner rammed it home to him in response to kind inquiries about his health and habits, that their insurrection had been "a great success." On Mr. Asquith questioning the statement, he met the retort, "Else why are you here?" We will leave Mr. Asquith to digest the pill, without much hope that it will have any very salubrious effect on his damaged constitution; our concern is, what effect will it have on thinking people, on the more earnest and less dishonest politicians, on minds still free from the disease of party prejudice; and, most of all, on women themselves? Will it rouse our fellow-countrywomen to that just indignation which, if our claim be ignored again, will urge them to take such a stand as will make these corrupt and time-serving men afraid, in good earnest, to palter with our great question any longer? Will they, in the truest interest not only of their sex but of their country and the world, insist on a righteous settlement, and seize on the means to hand to secure it? A deputation is to wait on the Prime Minister—if he will consent to see it. Will women—loyal British women—submit to be treated with less consideration than the Irish rebels who called the Germans "our honourable allies"? If so, they will deserve the contempt they will incur, and their epitaph will be: "Weighed in the balance and found wanting."

C. NINA BOYLE.

## MRS. HANNA RION AND HER WORK FOR MOTHERS.

It is significant of our day and generation that what has been called one of the most remarkable books of the century has been written by a woman. In *Painless Childbirth in Twilight Sleep* Mrs. Hanna Rion has not only rendered her sex, but the race, a unique and lasting service; and it is in the hope of bringing a message of relief to thousands of mothers that she has spent months of patient toil in compiling and translating facts which are seldom recorded outside medical journals. Wishing to discover for herself what success could be claimed for the Twilight Sleep method of childbirth, she spent three months in close contact with a large continental maternity hospital, where 5,000 mothers have been painlessly delivered. Not content with translating 220,000 words of foreign medical reports, she interviewed many famous doctors, and visited most of the large continental maternities abroad.

"And what is this new method of childbirth?" many mothers may ask. It is simply the combination of two well-known drugs, scopolamin and morphine, administered in such quantities that while they obliterate all memory of pain, no harm results to either mother or child. It will be a surprise to many to hear that the method has been in use for many years in foreign countries, and it is a matter for justifiable pride that the British doctors' success is the most pronounced of all. Having become convinced that the administration of scopolamin-morphine is an ideal anæsthetic for childbirth pain, Mrs. Rion sought a way of bringing home the fact to those chiefly concerned. This could only be done, she felt, by writing a book on the subject, the book\* now issued at the popular price of 1s. This remarkably cheap edition brings it within the reach of all mothers, and it is interesting to note that many doctors have been converted to the method by Mrs. Rion's book. In fact, it is largely due to her work and minute investigations that the first "Twilight Sleep" maternity hospital has been founded in our own country.

There are men—even medical men—who have affirmed that they "see no need" for the relief of women's suffering in childbirth; but those who are the first to tell women their "duty" in this matter would be the last to undertake that duty under similar conditions. When has the governing sex cared to ensure decent housing, sufficient food, and a reasonable amount of rest to the woman who risks her very life for the State? A woman in the North (the mother of six children) stated some time ago that she had worked in a factory for twenty years, and that the only periods of rest she could look back on were during her confinements. That any woman should give birth to six children under these conditions is a disgrace to any civilised country. And the State wants more babies! When men are wanted (to destroy what women build up at such infinite cost) the Government has to clothe and feed them; and similarly the army of mothers must demand and insist that they, too, shall be properly fed and housed. Again and again women have been told that their place is in the home, careless of the fact that an unemployed or unemployable husband means no bread unless the mother goes out to earn it. It is for women to refuse to bring forth children until motherhood means something more than agony and semi-starvation, as it too often did in pre-war days. One way out of the morass of misery is to be found in Mrs. Rion's remarkable book, *Painless Childbirth in Twilight Sleep*.

CICELY FORD.

\* "Painless Childbirth in Twilight Sleep." (Werner Laurie, 1s. net.)

## RALLY ROUND THE FLAG!

Are you working hard for the success of the Birthday Fund?  
 We must have 20,000 shillings by July 6th to add to our 50,000 Shilling Fund which is to win The Vote.

## THE FULNESS OF TIME.

Rather wearily Irish suffragists regard the reopening of the Home Rule controversy and the discussions and resolutions as to "exclusion," which are occupying a considerable space in the Irish Press just now. At its meeting in Belfast last week the Ulster Unionist Council considered this question of total or partial exclusion, and various Nationalist organisations have dealt with the same topic. Suffragists as such are not concerned with the right or wrong of the matter. They only note rather bitterly how the old arguments are all coming up again. The Unionist case for exclusion is based on the right of Ulster to choose under what form of government she shall remain, and this claim is backed by a reminder of the gallant services rendered by the Ulster Division. The Nationalist case for Home Rule is based on the right of small nations to self-government, and is backed equally by the story of the brave deeds of Irish regiments all over the world. The Prime Minister speaks eloquently of these services, rendered by Irishmen of all parties. The need for mutual concession is emphasised.

Now note. Ever since the outbreak of war, we have had floods of eloquence about the services rendered by women: Mr. Asquith has discovered what women there are in the British Empire, *The Daily Mail*—what more can we desire?—has paused in its efforts for the salvation of the Empire to urge the need for the inclusion of women in Parliament, nay, in the Cabinet. Sir Edward Carson proclaims his desire to serve Ulsterwomen as well as Ulstermen. Here is the opportunity. We assume, of course, that the Ministry and the Press are sincere in their commendation of women, and realise the gravity of the oft-repeated statement that "women's claims cannot be overlooked when the time for a general settlement of all vexed questions shall arrive." According to the Prime Minister, that time has arrived in Ireland. Yet strange to say, no pronouncement has been made so far on the absolute necessity for the inclusion of woman suffrage in any measure affecting the government of Ireland. The "exclusion," partial or complete, of Ulster is discussed freely in the Press. Women form the majority of the population in four of the nine Ulster counties, and in the remaining five form forty-nine per cent. of it. Yet so far no recognition of the right of Ulsterwomen to a voice in this matter of exclusion has yet been made by any political leader. Surely it is only a question of time. Surely it is to the self-evident nature of the claim of Irishwomen to enfranchisement, a claim backed by services recognised on all sides and by both parties, that the silence is due. "They are all honourable men," and would never dream of running away from their own words, when the time for fulfilment is come. Surely we have only to "wait and see," and the reward for our services will come, and the recognition of our rights to citizenship will be ready and prompt. It is the fulness of time, indeed.

DORA MELLONE.

THE FORWARD CYMRIC SUFFRAGE UNION.—The new hon. secretary is Mrs. Jones, 259, Gladstone-road, Barry, South Wales, to whom all communications should be addressed.

### "RUSSIA IN ENGLAND."

The aim of our "Russia in England Day" was to help in mutual knowledge, and therefore in better understanding between the two peoples. In preparation for the Day the aim was realised; Britons and Russians worked together to ensure an attractive and illuminating programme. At the Caxton Hall on June 8 Britons and Russians met in friendliness and co-operation. Our President, in a brief speech of welcome, said that it was a time when the two peoples must hold firmly together, and the consolation to be found in the midst of the horror was that the link between them was being drawn more closely and growing stronger in union. Mrs. Despard also spoke with deep feeling of the Russian prisoners of war, and said that to help them was one of the objects of the festival. Mr. Berchin, speaking on the Anglo-Russian Entente in the place of Professor Arabajine, who at the last moment had been prevented from attending, referred to a Russian proverb which says that only in disaster does true friendship distinguish itself, and expressed the hope that out of the sorrow of the present world-wide catastrophe the Entente would develop into a perfect union. He concluded with a most sympathetic reference to the tragic death of Lord Kitchener, and to the fact that he was on his way to Russia when death met him.

The musical part of the programme, which had been arranged with great care and untiring energy by two clever musicians, Madame Slava Krassavina and Mrs. A. E. Corner, was admirable. Madame Levinskaja has already helped us, and it was as an old friend that she delighted us again with her pianoforte solos; Russia may well be proud of Madame Slava Krassavina as an interpreter of Russian songs. With Miss Lena Kontorovitch, a brilliant violinist, and Mr. George McDonald, an able vocalist, Russian music and musicians were well represented. Other artists who gave excellent help were Mr. Wladimir Yelin, at the piano, and Miss Joyce Tarring, who sang Armenian songs, and little Miriam Prelooker, one of the youngest members of the Women's Freedom League, delighted everyone with her Russian songs. Madame Seraphina Astafieva danced very cleverly. Miss Zabelle Boyajian's Armenian recitation, with its poetical translation into English, was much enjoyed. An amusing play, "The Bear," by Anton Chekhov, was given with great spirit by Miss Lilian Mowbrey, Miss Ray Litvin, and Mr. Patrick Kirwan. Miss Zinaida Vengerova's able and enlightening address on "Why There is no Woman Question in Russia" will appear in THE VOTE next week. In the evening Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker spoke on "Russian Women in Literature and History." At the end of his interesting address he showed excellent lantern slides of Russian life and character; Miss Boyajian's lantern slides of Armenian architecture were much appreciated.

The Russian costumes worn by Mrs. Corner and by the stewards added to the charm of the scene, and the samovar in the tea-room was another realistic touch. The Armenian stall, under Miss Boyajian's care, with its treasures, curiosities, and pictures, was a further attraction, and the flower stall, for which many friends sent welcome contributions, was well patronised. To all who helped in the preparation for the Day, and in the realisation of the Day, our heartiest thanks are given, including Mrs. Fisher and her able band of assistants, who had charge of the refreshments. Friends will be interested to hear that Madame Krassavina is to give a Russian song recital at the house of Mrs. K. L. Dalliba, 9, Langford-place, St. John's Wood, N.W., on Sunday, July 2, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker will speak on Russian music.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

### Women Teachers, Please Note!

Miss Lavinia Stewart, well-known as a valued and energetic member of our Glasgow Branch, writes to the Editor thus:—

"The following facts will be of interest, I am sure, to many of your readers. Some little time ago the Scotch Education Department issued a circular to School Board clerks regarding the filling of vacancies in the school staffs caused by men teachers being called to the Colours. In its circular the Department authorises:—

1. The retention of teachers (men or women) who have reached the retired age, physical and mental abilities permitting.
2. The return of retired teachers.
3. The return of married women teachers.

"Further, the Department asks School Boards to make these two last points clear in the advertisements; and it offers its services as a bureau for those who have left the profession and are now willing to return to it. School Boards have not made the Department's desires known in their advertisements. Will readers of THE VOTE kindly pass on the above information?"

### 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.

### Women and the Honours Lists.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—Is it possible that the Women's Freedom League is, as a Society, responsible for the letters sent to the King and the Prime Minister, which appear in your issue of June 9? From a period prior to the present war the Freedom League has demanded the inclusion of women in the Honours Lists, and I have always understood that we claimed women's honours for whatever qualified men for inclusion—services in social life, literature, art, drama, science, education, politics, and so on. To me, at least, it comes as a shock that our Political Department has taken upon itself to narrow the claim for Honours this year to "women who have served their country so well and faithfully during the trying times since August 4, 1914."

A vast number of women have been serving their country since long before August, 1914, and even had there been no war, their long overdue claims would equally have merited presentment to His Majesty. Mrs. Sidney Webb, Miss Margaret Macmillan, Mrs. C. C. Stopes, Miss Ellen Terry, Mrs. Despard, Miss May Macarthur, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mrs. Ayrton, Lady Henry Somerset, are a few of the instances of such women. If it be urged that the letters in question were not intended to exclude women who have given other than war service, the obvious reply is that the Prime Minister's letter shows by its use of the phrase "who have rendered great services to the country in the course of the war," that only honours for war service were understood to be claimed. To me, at least, it seems a painfully inadequate impression to leave upon the Prime Minister's mind of the Freedom League's position in the matter.

Nor can I understand the statement at the end of the correspondence that "the Honours List came out without any change from its usual male complexion." In THE TIMES for June 3 there was a list of some hundreds of women honoured for their nursing services; whilst there was a supplementary list a day or two later containing amongst other names that of Mrs. Stobart. Surely this, although hardly a new departure, is a great numerical increase on what we have had in the past?

As far as political honours—peerages, titles, and privy councillorships are concerned—the list is of its usual male complexion. Seeing that alien-born men have been called to his Majesty's Privy Council, it was a golden opportunity to ask the King to revive the old constitutional practice of having women in it. This, however, was not done.

As the letter from the League to his Majesty made no formal claim to political honours for women, but narrowed the field of service to that rendered since the outbreak of the war, it would be illogical to complain if only war service receives recognition. But the inaccuracy of passing over even that recognition leaves me puzzled indeed. In both substance and tone of our League's communications I am deeply disappointed.—I am, Madam, yours very truly,

HELENA NORMANTON.

THEY SUPPORT US!

### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

#### The German Government Dissolves Suffrage Societies.

The German military authorities have dissolved the German Women's Suffrage League and have placed its leading members under police supervision, on the ground that they have been conducting or encouraging dangerous peace propaganda and spreading seditious sentiment among the German people.

#### The Queen of the Belgians Decorated by the French President.

President Poincaré travelled to the Belgian front and personally presented the War Cross to Queen Elizabeth. Her Majesty said she was glad to wear the same decoration as the French war veterans.

#### Alien Men versus British Women.

Attention is called to the fact that young foreigners (men) are being employed to fill the place of British clerks who are leaving their work to join the Army. In many cases Danes, Swiss, and Dutch, not to speak of Belgians, have been engaged in various business houses throughout the country. If British men are being compelled to serve in our Army, their work should be offered to British women. Employers are not only unfair but unpatriotic if they give such work to foreign men in preference to British women.

#### Woman Conservative Agent.

Women may not vote, but the South Bucks Conservative Association is graciously allowing Miss Bowler to act as agent and secretary while her brother (the agent) is on military service. It is to be hoped the Association will bear up under this shock.

#### Women on the Land: Girl Champion of 15.

On May 27, between 3,000 and 4,000 people witnessed a successful ploughing and agricultural demonstration by women at Budlake Farm, Kellerton, Exeter. There were about 100 competitors, and the events included ploughing, rolling, harrowing, milking, sheep-shearing, harnessing, etc. The judges said the sheep-shearing was remarkably well done, many farm men being unable to do it so well. The champion prize for the day was won by a fifteen-year-old girl named Smith, of Woodbury, Salterton. The competition was organised by the Devon Women's Agricultural War Committee, and the prizes were distributed by Mr. F. D. Acland, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, who, on behalf of the Board, thanked those responsible for organising the demonstrator and the competitors. He said that good work such as they had seen that day should command a proper and liberal rate of pay.

#### Cleaners.

The motor cab and omnibus companies, we are told, could not carry on without the help of women, who are employed as washers and cleaners. They wear oilskins and clogs.

#### A Great Banner Bearer.

Suffragists in all countries are the poorer by reason of the death of Gina Krog, who has been a foremost figure in the Woman Suffrage Movement in Norway. We are glad that she lived to see the fulfilment of her desires for the equality of the sexes in Norway. She also edited "Nylænde." Our sympathy goes out to our Norwegian sisters.

#### The Way of Governments.

"It is always the habit of governments to lapse into inaction as soon as proved necessities have ceased to be troublesome."

Times, June 13, 1916.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1076.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### Chester. Suffrage Shop, 45, St. Werburgh-street.

On Monday last we held a small meeting at our shop to appoint a secretary, treasurer, and committee for our W.F.L. part in the War Saving Scheme—our Society having been asked by the Mayor to form an association. Mrs. H. Brown accepted the secretaryship, Miss Landcastle becoming treasurer, whilst a committee of four included Mrs. Crawford, Miss Farnell, Miss Hughes, and Miss Williamson. Many members and their friends sent in their names to join, and we hope to make it a great success. Will all those who were unable to be at the meeting communicate with Mrs. H. Brown, who will explain the scheme more fully? Will members kindly answer Miss Taylor's letter as soon as possible, and do their utmost to secure a secretary?

#### Edinburgh Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

Notwithstanding the many demands made upon our members of late, our jumble sale was the best we have had, and realised over £16. Mrs. Crabb, Mrs. Russell, and Mrs. Martin, who formed the sub-committee, wish to thank all contributors and assistants for this result. As a procession in support of the Women's Petition for Prohibition during the war has been arranged for June 24, our summer sale will be held on July 1. Donations of all kinds, soft goods, cakes, sweets, flowers, and "white elephants," will be gratefully received. One hundred copies of last week's THE VOTE were sold by members who helped to steward the meeting of the Northern Men's Federation.

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

A very interesting address was given on June 5 by Miss Agnes Cook, entitled "Poets on the Future Life." Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. Articles for the jumble sale can still be sent to the Suffrage Centre, and it is hoped that all members will buy tickets for the garden party on July 5, as their contribution to the Birthday Fund.

#### Paisley.

We held a branch meeting in the class-room, Central Halls, on May 31, at which Miss Eunice Murray addressed the members, and an open-air meeting in Abbey Close on June 10, at which Miss Mary Shennan addressed a large and sympathetic crowd. A good collection was taken, and THE VOTE sold well.

#### Portsmouth.

The whist drive on June 7 in aid of the Birthday Fund was a great success, both socially and financially. Our thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Speck for their kind hospitality, and to Mrs. Jago, Mrs. Owen, and Miss Chipp for the prizes. In the interval Mrs. Prior, Mrs. Owen, Mr. C. Prior, and Mr. Short added greatly to the enjoyment of the afternoon by their musical programme.

#### Reading.

By kind permission of Miss Cobb, a garden meeting will be held at "Calthorpe," 40, Redlands-road, on Thursday, June 22, at 6 p.m. Addresses on "Compulsion for Women." Speakers, Miss Anna Munro (Branch President) and Mrs. Mustard. Discussion. There will be a cake and flower stall. All members are asked both to contribute and to buy. Collection for the Birthday Fund. Will members kindly make this meeting widely known?

### The Despard Arms.

We hope friends interested in the Despard Arms will come to our sports afternoon at 22, Harley-road, Hampstead (near Swiss Cottage), on Saturday, July 8, 4-7 p.m. Tickets for friends, including tea, 1s.

### HELPING "THE VOTE" TO KEEP THE FLAG FLYING.

BRAVO MRS. GILES, of Blackpool and her helpers, who have succeeded in giving convalescent wounded soldiers some interesting reading—THE VOTE. And in spreading the circulation of the paper and suffrage literature.

BRAVO EDINBURGH BRANCH for selling one hundred copies of THE VOTE at the important meeting of the Northern Men's Federation on June 7.

BRAVO MISS IVY BONN for success in selling THE VOTE at the Russia in England Day, Caxton Hall, London, June 8.

### MANCHESTER MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Dr. H. Thiselton has been elected president of the League, and Mr. D. M. Humphreys has been reappointed chairman of the committee. Sir William Milligan addressed the League recently on the findings of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases.

Manchester prides itself on its wisdom in refusing to economise by leaving the streets unwatered and endangering public health by the penny-wise and pound-foolish policy of London.

FRIDAY,  
JUNE 16,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

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