

THE VOTE,  
APRIL 21, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

## Special Teachers' Conference Number.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 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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### EASTER, 1916.

Easter! And earth, once more, the flowers emboss—  
Earth, which one prison seemed, with Death for warden;  
And she who stood and wept before the Cross  
Finds, now, the Garden.

She lay, she too, in grave-clothes centuries old,  
Swathings of hoary custom, grey disguises.  
She stirs; she shakes them from her, fold on fold;  
She wakes, she rises!

Re-born from death she comes, with calm for strife:  
Crown her, O Man, with all men's proud thanksgiving,  
Nor bind, again, the hands that hold the life  
Of all the living!

Young vines about her climb and cling; young flowers  
Seek in her smile the new sun's first forewarning.  
Her face is to the east; through midnight hours  
She moulds the morning.

Surely she guides the young world to its goal,  
Shapes stars for heaven—the task that heaven has set  
her—  
And yet upon her hands, upon her soul,  
We fix the fetter!

No law of man, no less, shall check her growth;  
Enactments of a loftier legislature  
Are hers to heed; queen and high-priestess both  
By right of Nature.

High-priestess, for she ministers away,  
As mother or maid, at Love's far-flaming altar;  
Queen, for all thrones usurping hers decay,  
And fail, and falter.

Poor world gone mad, by her thy strife shall cease!  
Thy prisoner waits to break thy own red prison.  
Say but of her, and thou shalt say of Peace,  
"She is free, she is risen!"

S. GERTRUDE FORD.



## Women's Freedom League.

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Hon. Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.  
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

#### LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Tuesday, May 2.—L.B.C. SEWING MEETING for Green, White and Gold Fair at Headquarters, 144, High Holborn, 3 to 7 p.m. Helpers urgently needed.

Friday, May 5.—REGENT'S PARK DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 1, Albany-terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. (by kind permission of Dr. Damoglou), 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Saturday, May 6.—DEBATE ON "Should Suffragists Demand Adult Suffrage?" between Mrs. Swanwick, M.A., and Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, W.C., 3 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 6d. (reserved and numbered), 1s. (reserved unnumbered) and 6d. (unreserved), from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Sunday, May 7.—OPEN-AIR MEETING, Hyde Park, 12 noon. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Eggett.

Sunday, May 14.—LECTURE RECITAL of Stephen Phillips' *Paolo and Francesca*, Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., 4 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Tea, 6d. (if desired), from 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Tickets, 2s. (reserved and numbered) and 1s., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Sunday, May 28.—LECTURE on Shelley by Mrs. Despard at 129, East Dulwich-grove, S.E., 4 p.m. Tickets, 1s each.

#### PROVINCES.

Wednesday, May 3.—LETCHEWORTH. Working Party at Miss Napier's, "Deanrow."

#### Teachers' Conference Campaign, Buxton.

April 22.—Open-air Meeting, Market-place, 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and others. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

April 24.—Open-air Meetings, Market-place, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Dorothy Evans.

April 25.—Poster Parade, 12 noon. Open-air Meetings, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

April 26.—Poster Parade, 12 noon. Public Meeting, Odd-fellows' Hall, Market-street, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Neal and others. Chair: Miss Phipps, B.A.

April 27.—Open-air Meeting, Market-place, 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro, Miss Alix M. Clark and others.

April 28.—Open-air Meeting, Market-place, 7 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and others.

#### Letchworth Campaign.

April 30.—Garden City Adult School, Howard Hall. "War and Waste," Miss Anna Munro, 9 a.m. Evening Meeting, Howard Hall. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro, on "Five Years in London Slumdom."

May 1.—Public Meeting, Howard Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Reserved seats 1s., second seats 6d., back seats free.

#### Reading Campaign.

May 4.—Open-air Meeting, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

May 5.—Open-air Meeting, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

May 6.—Poster Parade, 12 noon. Open-air Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 8.—Poster Parade, 12 noon. Public Meeting, Palmer Hall, West-street. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Anna Munro. Reserved seats 1s., second seats 6d., back seats free.

#### The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W.

The Despard Arms will be closed on Good Friday and Saturday (April 21 and 22), but will be open on Easter Sunday from 4 p.m. and on Easter Monday from 2 p.m.

#### Women's Freedom League Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

The restaurant will be closed from Thursday, April 20, to Monday, May 1, but the Guest House remains open.

## THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

By FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD,  
Secretary of the Women's Freedom League.

For the last nine years the Women's Freedom League has been working primarily to secure the parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. We concentrate our efforts on getting political power for women because we are convinced that it is only through political power that women can obtain equality with men under the law of the land and equality of opportunity in our social and industrial life. The fight for political freedom is never out of date. In this country every class of men has won it, but no class of men, as a class, seems to be anxious to share this freedom with women, in spite of the fact that an organised body of women has been definitely demanding it since 1867. When the history of the present century comes to be written the outstanding feature of national interest will be the record of women's determined struggle to gain for their sex equal rights and responsibilities of citizenship with men.

The Women's Freedom League is a democratic organisation. We have self-government in our own society, which is an excellent training for the part we hope soon to take in the affairs of the State. We have branches in England, Scotland, and Wales, in all of which members manage their own affairs locally, keep the suffrage flag flying in their district, and through the resolutions and delegates sent to our annual conference control the policy of the League. At this conference the President, Honorary Treasurer, and members of the National Executive Committee are elected to carry out this policy, Mrs. Despard having been elected President of the League for eight successive years. Our work is carried on by indoor and outdoor meetings wherever we have a centre of Freedom League activity, by strenuous open-air campaigns at seaside or pleasure resorts, industrial centres, or at important conferences by debates, by circulation of suffrage literature, and last, but by no means least, by the circulation of our weekly paper, *THE VOTE*.

Since the declaration of war we think it has been more clearly shown than ever before that women's interests can only be safeguarded by women's direct political power, and that suffragists should work harder now to secure the enfranchisement of their sex than they have done previously. Realising this, the President and members of the National Executive Committee met together within a few days of the beginning of the war, and decided that first of all we should keep the suffrage flag flying and watch women's interests closely, that we should cease all active militancy, and that we should organise a Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, through which we should work for the women and children of the country. By means of this Aid Corps we have distributed, chiefly through the generosity of members of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, large quantities of clothes to necessitous women and children; we have given temporary help to many women; we have established work-rooms for unemployed women in London, in Glasgow, and Edinburgh. We have run cheap restaurants in London and the provinces, supplying meals at ½d., 1d., and 2d. per head; and we have given support to the Brackenhill hospital for women and children who were unable to gain access to general hospitals, so many beds in which are now occupied by wounded soldiers.

More recently we have established a Women's Freedom League Settlement at Nine Elms, where we have a Vegetarian Restaurant, from which we

supply 250 dinners daily at ½d., 1d., and 1½d. each; a Milk Depôt, from which pure milk is supplied to nursing mothers for 1d. a pint, and milk puddings daily for young children; and a Children's Guest House, where children are received as guests during the entire period of their mother's illness consequent on confinement, also in cases where operations are necessary and the mother has to be removed to hospital and the children left without responsible care.

We have opened The Despard Arms at 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. This is a model public-house, where cheap and good meals and non-alcoholic drinks of all descriptions can be obtained any time between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. It is the practical outcome of a desire long cherished by our President. Recreation, as well as refreshment, is part of the scheme, and a room is set aside for social intercourse. Games are arranged, concerts organised, and everything is done to enable both men and women to pass a thoroughly pleasant time at the Despard Arms. There are bedrooms for women at work. The young men have formed a sports club known as the Despard United.

We have organised, also, the sending of numerous parcels to British prisoners of war in Germany, have given considerable help to Belgian refugees, and have assisted the Society for British Gifts for Belgian Soldiers.

With all this additional activity, Votes for Women still remains the chief objective of the Women's Freedom League. We believe in the justice of our cause, and are convinced that the entry of women on equal terms with men into the political life of our nation will be of the greatest possible benefit to our country, whose welfare is as dear to the hearts of women as it is to the hearts of men.

### EDUCATION, DURING AND AFTER THE WAR.

By EMILY PHIPPS, B.A.,

Ex-President of the National Federation of Women Teachers

The great need of immense sums of money to carry on the War has led various public bodies to outline certain schemes of economy, from the operation of which Education has not escaped.

At first, children under five were to be excluded from school attendance; next boys and girls in certain districts are to be allowed to leave school at eleven and twelve, to work on the land; the places of the 12,000 men teachers who have left school to join the Army are to be in great measure unfilled; in other cases, women teachers are to take the places of the men, and the women's posts, when filled at all, are to be taken by unqualified persons. In London, these persons—women over eighteen years of age—are to pay a guinea, receive a training of three months only, and then are to be sent into the Infants' Schools to teach the younger children.

Nearly everywhere, expenditure on school materials is to be reduced.

Now, we admit that some disorganisation of the teaching service is necessary, but we maintain that such expedients as the adoption of the "guinea-girl" should not be resorted to until every means has been taken to secure properly qualified teachers. In London alone, at the very moment when the first hundred women were paying their guinea, there were more than twice as many qualified women teachers—mostly married women—ready and willing to come back into the service at the market rate of remuneration, but they were not wanted by the Authority, possibly because they would cost too much.



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Again, it is criminal to remove children from school at the age of 11 or 12 to work on the land while there remain any women able and willing to do the work.

What boys of 12 can do women can do, and more also; but here again it is a question of money. Farmers are not going to pay a woman a living wage, when they can get boys at a few shillings a week. One cannot expect much more from the average farmer, but what the public has a right to expect is that Education Authorities should have a little more foresight than farmers, and refuse to release the children from school earlier than the usual age.

Education Authorities, however, will not go in advance of public opinion, and we have to admit that public opinion in this country does not place a proper value on education. Witness the constant attempts of the Farmers' Union to get boys from school; the shutting down of evening continuation schools; the support of the "half-time" system by the cotton operatives; the placing of unqualified and untrained "teachers" in the schools of the people; the lack of opportunities for scientific research; the complacency of the average Britisher with regard to his ignorance of foreign languages; the low value set on the all-important work of the teacher.

This is emphatically not the time to curtail educational facilities. We are up against the greatest crisis this country has ever had to face. It will be small use our winning this War if the next generation is uneducated, or only partly educated, and so unable to help the country to make the best of its resources, and to prevent the possibility of any such war occurring again.

Instead of lowering the school leaving age during the war, it should remain at 14,

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and immediately afterwards be raised to 16. The course of studies should be correspondingly enlarged. Suppose the democracy had known what some of the ruling class had known—how Prussia had broken a solemn treaty and stolen Silesia from Maria Theresa; how the same country had callously arranged and carried out a wholesale theft of Polish territory, not once, but three times; how she then schemed and lied in order to take Schleswig-Holstein from Denmark, deceiving Austria, her partner in crime, and then fighting her in turn; how Bismarck plotted and forged in order to induce France to go to war in 1870; suppose the man in the street had known the German policy, as revealed by Treitschke and Bernhardt, that war is a good thing in itself, and war against England a religious duty. Is it credible that we should have continued living in a fools' paradise, asserting that nothing was further from Germany's thoughts than making war on us, and consequently making very inadequate provision for meeting our foe? This history should be taught to every boy and girl in the land; then they will be responsible for the preparedness of Britain for the next emergency. They will not be able to turn round and say: "You knew, and you did not act! You knew, and you did not tell us, so that we might have the chance of defending ourselves."

Many years before the War, this country was practically being conquered by Germany through "peaceful penetration." German firms were running our business houses. German clerks were doing our business correspondence. Our country would have been practically in German occupation in the next generation if the War had not come. If this state of things is not to be resumed after the War, we must find out which of our boys and girls have an aptitude for languages, and train them in French, in Italian, in Russian, and German also; for, depend upon it, Germany will not banish our language from her schools, and if we are to know what Germany is thinking, if we are to compete with her on equal terms in the commercial world, we must know her language.

A few weeks ago Professor Bottomley announced his marvellous discovery of a substance he has named "Humogen," which, when applied to peat soil produces a substance which acts as a wonderful fertiliser. There must be in our schools many pupils who, given opportunities of scientific research, could make equally wonderful discoveries. We must have the opportunity of finding out these special aptitudes, and instead of sending our embryo scientists into the labour world at 12, let us send them to institutes of scientific research. Let them study how to make the wilderness blossom as the rose; how to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before; and, as long as it is still necessary, how to make instruments of war, not to use aggressively as Germany has done, but to defend our land when next the need arises.

It will not have escaped the notice of Suffragists that not one of the countries taking a principal part in this War is a country whose women are enfranchised. Australia, New Zealand, and—since the War began—part of Canada count women as citizens, but these countries, though they have come bravely to our aid, are in no way responsible for the War. It is true that even if British women had been enfranchised we should still have gone to war, but it is unthinkable that if the women of all the belligerent nations, and particularly of Germany, had had the vote for a long enough time to have had an influence in the councils of the various Governments, these Governments would

have resorted to such a costly, wasteful, barbarous method of settling a dispute. Here, then, is still another way in which our education may be improved, and let us begin with the sex which, in a great crisis, when there is need for stringent economy, and for conservation of our food supplies, holds a great public meeting in London to initiate a campaign for economy, and, twenty miles away, court-martials a soldier for "stealing" half a leg of mutton—from a butcher's shop? No! from a dustbin!

### A WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE MISSION IN THE BRITISH SCHOOLS OVERSEAS.

BY MARGARET HODGE.

"Would you come and tell my girls something of the Suffrage movement in Great Britain?" was the frequently expressed request of heads of schools and colleges in those parts of the British Dominions where women are already enfranchised, when I made my tour through the Empire on which the sun never sets.

Some of the addresses I enjoyed most in the giving were those to New Zealand and Australian girls and boys of school age, or to college students, who listened with close attention to the story of the gradual evolution of women's independence in the Home Lands. This right of citizenship, which had come to them so easily, was costing so much in the winning to their less fortunate sisters in these islands. Some of the girls resolved to help in the movement for the enfranchisement of women in this country by collecting records in letters and diaries showing what their grandmothers and their mothers had done in helping to build up this much-vaunted Empire of ours. All were full of sympathy for social conditions which are, to a large extent, the result of women's political impotence. Their sympathy has found a very practical expression during this war in liberal gifts of clothing and money to help the sick and poor children in our great cities.

The task of interesting the boys and girls of Australasia in the Suffrage movement here was a comparatively easy one, and the authorities in the Government schools and training colleges did not hesitate for a moment to give permission and opportunity for the work. I spoke to a large meeting of male and female students at the Sydney Government Training College, and I had on the platform with me professors and their wives. Again and again I addressed meetings at Government schools and colleges all over the Commonwealth and the Dominion. This was not a matter of surprise to me, as in these lands the enfranchisement of women is an accomplished fact.

In South Africa, however, where the women are as yet voteless, I was frequently asked to speak in private schools; and in Canada, where none of the provinces had enfranchised their women in 1914, I was often invited to speak on the Suffrage movement here to school and college students. The directors of the schools in the more westerly provinces were particularly eager to secure me as a lecturer, giving me carte blanche as to subject. In two cases, at least, these directors were very strong anti-suffragists, and I was warned by those who knew them personally that if I ventured to treat of woman suffrage I must be prepared for a hostile demonstration on the part of the male portion of my audience (the school was for both sexes), who had been infected by the views of their headmaster. I therefore determined to be cautious, and enveloped my suffrage propaganda pill in the confection of historical facts and theories dear to the pedagogic soul.

"The Origin of the Nursery Rhymes" furnished an excellent peg upon which to hang a number of arguments for woman's enfranchisement. All of these doggerel lines committed to infant memories in the nursery seem to inculcate the manifest inferiority of women in every department of life. Considered, however, in relation to their origin, they have no such tendency. The queen, who is greedily devouring bread and honey, while her intelligent and industrious royal spouse is diligently totting up accounts, becomes the unselfish and economical hostess, who is content to take a hurriedly snatched apology for a meal, in order that at the great feast over which she presides she may give her whole time and attention to her guests' needs and to her social duties. The greediness of little Jack Horner has a graver and deeper significance when the real culprit of historic notoriety is considered, the emissary from the monks, who accepted monastic lands, and was full of self-gratulation at rooting out a great moral evil in dispossessing his former patrons. The timidity of Miss Muffit, so often quoted as typical of the whole female sex, assumes another complexion when we read Dr. Samuel Johnson on "The Uneasiness and Disgust of Female Cowardice." He asserts his objection to the exhibition of this quality in women to be due to the fact that it is not at all a natural characteristic of the sex, but a weakness that is assumed in obedience to convention, and is, therefore, one of the worst forms of affectation. Violantry's greediness in gnawing the mutton bone in the pantry becomes explicable and excusable when it is realised that the cruel insistence on tiny appetites for growing girls and women in public made it necessary and natural for them to seek some nourishment in private. Marjory Daw's offence is made much of in an age when gin houses were wont to flaunt advertisements that "Men could get drunk for Id., dead drunk for 2d., and have straw for nothing," and when statesmen thought it a disgrace to go to bed sober. We have an almost parallel case now, when the soldiers' wives are made to be solely responsible for the increased consumption of alcohol.

After my disquisition upon the nursery rhymes I was, I confess, a little surprised that the anti-suffrage Head of the School should express the greatest approval of my address, and that his enthusiastic disciples, the boys in the class, should applaud it to the echo. I was "bright as a dollar," and "must come again soon." A young curate who was present said he thought he scented something of the suffragette in my views; but the director congratulated me heartily, as he was delighted to learn so many new facts in an hour's speech.

Where the strong meat of the suffrage would not prove digestible I gave lessons on the position of women in different countries and at different periods of the world's history, and, if I succeeded only in arousing intellectual curiosity I was more than satisfied. "Why have not women had more chances in the past? Is that the reason that their powers are held so cheap to-day?" Such questions start trains of thought that may have fruitful results. I sometimes doubt whether an ardent advocacy of the suffrage is as effective in securing conversions to the cause as the presentation of old and familiar stories in a new guise. The transformation of mental pictures called up by familiar words has a startling effect. "Bless me, Bottom, thou art translated," and a translation of this kind is vividly pictured and long retained.

Enthusiastic championship may even become boring and tiresome to the unregenerate, while a chance revelation may produce a conversion.

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## WHAT'S WRONG WITH EDUCATION?

By HELENA NORMANTON, B.A.

That the Mental Arithmetic of the Lower Babies was once found to be shamefully deficient by a zealous male inspector is one of the most venerable jokes in the teaching profession. He did not realise that the real trouble in our educational system is the Mental Outlook of the Older Fogey.

What is education's dominating influence? Old men. How do women come in? Hardly at all, because of their state of political subjection. Just as Huxley once showed that England's agriculture depended in the last resort upon the Old Maid (who kept the cat that killed the field-mouse that destroyed the wild bee that fertilised the flowers), so I hope to demonstrate that woman's political outlawry lies at the very root of our educational failures.

Let us begin at the national aspect of education. Men voters elect a male Parliament. That Parliament's Premier chooses one of its number to be the political head of our educational system—the President of the Board of Education. He makes his annual report, *only to men*. "I have endeavoured this year to improve the teaching of needlework in girls' schools," once observed Mr. McKenna on such an occasion. Oh, Mr. McKenna! How one would like to see you doing a little plain hemming! Perhaps it was your tacking that caused your transfer to the Admiralty?

Coming down the scale, one finds that all the good (*i.e.*, well-paid and powerful) administrative posts are reserved for men. The immense majority of the inspectorate is masculine. The late Chief Inspector used to lavish praise upon a village schoolmistress, who seemed to be his Egeria; a comparison of their two salaries would have been interesting; of their executive and initiative powers far more so. These male inspectors go their rounds dehumanising education and devitalising women teachers in as far as they drag over what should be human and general towards masculinity. Further, they have some use as the channel through which trickle the desires of all those Up Above, who like things to remain as they are. "Don't teach these boys too much constitutional history, teach them more about wars, the other is apt to unsettle their minds," was a gem of thought once communicated to a teacher. Some inspectors are of some educational usefulness. That is about all one can honestly say. Women inspectors, responsible to men and dominated by their views, are little, if at all, better.

Now let us approach the question from another point of view—the Local Government one. Begin again with the fact that women have not the Parliamentary Franchise. That immensely lessens their labour chances and crowds them into a few professions and occupations—speaking relatively to men. Women may not be Judges, Barristers, Higher Civil Servants, Police Officials, Clergymen, Admirals, and so on. That means that fewer will be independent householders, and therefore the number of Local Government women voters in any district tends to be much lower than that of men. Women of leisure and capital are harder to find as candidates, because fewer. A minority of voters, a minority of candidates, is woman's lot in Local Government. The result? The average municipal body—a collection of elderly men, most of whose ideas on education ideally should be negligible, but in practice are not so, for they are the dead hand gripping tight all educational development. The

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two main ideas they contribute for our national advancement are, first, that the rates must be kept down, and secondly that this chief end of man is best attained at the expense of the children and the women teachers. A general inaccessibility towards all new ideas and improvements is not so much an ideal as an inseparable attribute.

This may seem a shockingly overdrawn picture to the rosy-minded enthusiast. It is as plain and true a fact as Quarter Day. How much encouragement has Margaret Macmillan had from the Board of Education? What did the average Committee Member say about Montessori principles in early days? What is the London County Council doing to tiny children now that more mothers are at work than ever before? Turning them out into the streets! What are the Rural Education Committees (*i.e.*, the local farmers) doing to boys and girls of eleven? Snatching them ravenously from their schools to the land, regardless of the fact that there can be nothing more pro-German, more un-English, than to stunt, starve, and cramp the rising generation! *How much of this would be consented to by women?*

Another cherished ideal of the Old Fogey (who would do just as well filling a trench as proposing to control the filling of children's minds) is that the mother should be debarred from the function of teaching. "Ninety-three Authorities (out of 200 answering the questionnaire) refuse to appoint married women at all to permanent posts, and fourteen will not have them even as supply teachers. In pre-war times 55 Authorities would appoint married women to the Permanent Staff and 149 to Supply Staff. Forty-two other Authorities have relaxed rules owing to the war, and now appoint married women to Permanent Staff and 27 ditto to Supply Staff. But the 93 non-appointing Authorities show the strength of that reaction and recalcitrance which, in the prospect of our gigantic future commercial war, offers the child what is only too often an unqualified single woman rather than a qualified married one. Even in those cases where the rule has been modified, action has not always followed. 'In practice we do not appoint married women,' or 'We have appointed one in seven years,' or 'We seldom appoint married women' are typical remarks." (*Englishwoman*, February, 1916.)

Why do women have to put up with this impudent bar upon marriage, with prejudicial sex differentiation in salary, with lack of promotion to headship of mixed schools, with masculine distortion of their ideas as to what is proper for lower babies and ex-babies, with the constant heavily respectable pressure of local and imperial Old Fogeyism?

They must.

Why?

They are excluded from the Parliamentary Franchise.

### France and Education.

At a meeting under the Workers' Educational Association at Rugby, Dr. David, who was in the chair, read the following extract from a speech by the French Minister for Education:—

But, whatever the difficulties, not only the permanence, but also the vitality, of higher education must be ensured during this year. This is necessary for our country's sake, for other nations, and for the future. For the sake of the students not of military age, or whose physical condition debars them from the field of battle, for the sake of those who return wounded and wish to continue their studies, for the sake of the young women who wish to be initiated into the methods of higher learning, in order that, later, they may carry the devotion of womanly co-operation to the highest national tasks, the intellectual fires of our country must not be allowed to go out.

THEY SUPPORT US!

## WHY HELP THE ENEMY?

By S. A. MUSTARD.

In spite of the warnings of many of our leading educationists that the so-called "War-savings" in our schools and the exploitation of young children in industry are measures that will surely lead to the ultimate defeat of England in the world's competition for trade after the war, attempts are being made on all sides by interested persons to overthrow the efforts of educational reformers of the past fifty years.

Whilst this country finds little difficulty in raising £5,000,000 a day to carry on the war, it has always had to fight strenuously to get adequate grants from the Government to carry on the schools, and when war broke out and money was needed, cheese-paring at once began on our children's education.

Whilst we admit that the country—until a rightful peace can be won—must concentrate its body, mind, and spirit upon the task of war, yet all this time it ought to be watching that no permanent harm is being done to the spiritual forces of the nation. Amongst these spiritual forces the training of the child is of supreme importance.

We were not at all satisfied with existing educational facilities before the war, but we were making progress. Now what we are up against is that, because of a shortage of labour, and excuses supplied by war conditions, our children are being deprived of our slowly built-up educational system by being thrust out at an early age into industry. From this point of view we must watch jealously the greatly increased use of child labour.

The Educational Department is allowing the suspension in many counties of the by-laws, and in many places very young children—even of seven and eight years of age—are working out of school hours as milk and bread and newspaper distributors. Among working men we have heard much about an eight-hour working day, but what of "these, our little ones," who begin about 6 a.m. and work again after school till 7 or 8 p.m.?

As soon as war broke out insistent claims were made in many quarters for the use of children in agriculture. This is an old demand of the farmer, and has often been made in spite of the law. Children of eleven years have been allowed to work six months on the land. If the farmers base their need of the children's work on patriotic grounds, then they must set their own children to work on the land too. Boys in secondary and public schools are stronger than those in the village schools, and so should be of more use on the farms.

Before the war, in 1912, we had 9,372 children under thirteen years of age employed in agricultural districts in this country, and in the same year nearly 5,000 children aged between thirteen and fourteen years were employed under the Mines Act.

This year in Cardiff alone 263 boys and 59 girls between the ages of eleven years and fourteen years are exempted from school attendance. Last week the Essex Educational Committee agreed to release boys of thirteen years for farm work, and the War Agricultural Committee decided to ask for the release of the girls to see after the children whilst their mothers are working on the land.

In the last White Paper published by the Government we find 1,538 boys and girls between eleven and fourteen years of age are already at work. Not only are children having their education cut short at eleven and twelve years of age, but further economies are being made by refusing admission to the schools of children under five years, and in some schools to those under six, seven, and even eight years. Working-class mothers are entering industry in increasing and unprecedented numbers. Their labour is essential if our depleted factories

and workshops are to continue to produce their output. In fact, the mothers of young children are continually being appealed to to release fit men for the Front. Why their difficulties should be threatened with increase it is not easy to comprehend, to say nothing about the starving of their children of their birthright of education.

Besides curtailing the years at school, the authorities are restricting the work in our schools by increasing the size of the classes and also by the employment of under-qualified people as teachers.

Not a less trained and educated people, but a more highly-skilled people, will be required if we are to hold our own in the markets of the world. Nothing could please our enemies more than to find that the war has prevented our coming generation being adequately prepared to hold their own.

To be penny wise and pound foolish in educational matters is to do the enemies' work and prove oneself unpatriotic. It is to the National Union of Teachers that we look to guard not only the interests of the 46 per cent. of the men teachers who have joined or are ready to join the Colours, and of its women members, but also of the children in their care.

Let women teachers realise that education is a matter largely in the hands of the Government, and that the only pressure that can be brought to bear with Governments is the power of votes. When women teachers have the Parliamentary vote they will be able to exert direct power in the settlement of these questions, and until they, too, have a voice in the spending of the Parliamentary Fund of their Association, they are merely supplying the money for the political representation of the men teachers.

As Miss Nina Boyle has pointed out, suffragists are patriots because they are suffragists, and suffragists because they are patriots.

We know our country needs our work in many ways, and in none more than in helping to get a fair education and a fair start in life for every one of her children.

## OUR TREASURY.

### NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1915, £25,531 19s. 2d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged ...	...	...	...	142	11	1
<i>Special Emergency War Fund—</i>						
Mrs. Knight ...	1	0	0			
Miss Eunice Murray ...	1	0	0			
"A Friend" ...	1	5	0			
Miss F. M. Stephen ...	5	0				
Miss Hurry ...	1	0				
Mid-London Branch ...	7	0				
Tufnell Park Branch ...	4	0				
				4	2	0
Mrs. Schofield Coates ...	5	0	0			
Miss B. Kent ...	1	0	0			
Miss A. C. Bell ...	10	0				
Miss M. I. Saunders ...	5	0				
Miss M. H. Saunders ...	2	6				
Miss L. D. Knight ...	2	0				
Collections ...	2	0	0			
Office Sales ...	5	11				
<i>Branches—Capitation Fees—</i>						
Chester ...	2	2	6			
Mid-London ...	7	0				
Montgomery Boroughs ...	17	0				
Reading ...	10	0				
Regent's Park ...	6					
				£159	15	6

## Look Out For Next Week's "Vote"!

Among the contents will be: "Language Teaching in Schools," by Miss A. S. Byett, L.L.A.; "Tragic Economy: Give the Women a Voice!" by Miss A. Dawson; "Prophetic Press Cuttings," by Miss Helena Normanton, B.A.; "The Loom of the State," "Women in War Time," etc.

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### EDITORIAL.

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## OUR INFANTS:

### The Importance of Beginning Well.

By C. DESPARD.

It might well be argued that schools are not the right places for infants. Education, of the true sort, the child should receive from the very first; but during the tender and impressionable time of infancy, from birth to the age of seven years, the right and fitting person to conduct that education is the mother, and the place in which it should be carried on is the home. And, indeed, if our mothers were all provided with suitable homes; if they had space, if they had leisure, if they could turn out their little ones into safe and pleasant gardens, that argument would hold good. Though even then many women, ungifted with the peculiar faculty which goes to the making of born educators, might be glad of advice and help in their great work.

It is a great work. On that point let no one make any mistake. There is no wise mother, there is no teacher in the boys' and girls' departments of our elementary schools, who would not tell us that much of a child's future depends upon the way in which it has been trained, more particularly on the impressions that have been given to it, in these early years. Hence the peculiar importance of our infant schools.

It is good to know that, of late years, there has been a great improvement in this department of elementary education. The babies—for the lowest standard are nothing more—do not learn lessons, or stand at attention, or thread needles. In many schools the old obnoxious galleries have been removed from the babies' room and their place taken by little tables and chairs. To train the little fingers trays of sand and toys of various kinds are used. At frequent intervals the children have games in the great hall, carried on to the accompaniment of music; and in this way they learn the joy of rhythmical movement and the pleasure of acting together. The day is long, especially in hot weather, for the tinies, so a clever teacher devised the idea of turning the tables upside down and slinging hammocks on them. There, at midday, the little ones rest peacefully.

For the elder children we have maypoles and training in some of the pretty old English games, which, having survived as a sort of dim traditional memory, have been brought to light; and entertainments, to which the parents of the children are invited, are given by the teachers.

Let me here combat the foolish conception that any sort of a teacher will do for infants. Unhappily, since the war began, the London County Council, from false economy, have been acting on this idea. The smaller children, who in crowded working neighbourhoods have derived so much good from the school, are, we hear, to be shut out. I should like some of the gentlemen of the London County Council, who, if they visit any of the schools, expect to see the children clean and neat, to be in their small homes on washing days. They might realise then what an immense boon it is to mothers to know that for certain hours of the day mischievous little persons of three-and-a-half and four years of age are out of harm's way.

Still worse is the economy which consists in reducing the staff of teachers, or in giving infant classes into the hands of inexperienced girls. I have had to do with this work for many years, and I have no hesitation in saying that highly-trained women who have the gift of inspiring confidence in the little ones and the power of drawing out the best that is in them are essential for the fit carrying out of this important work.

It has been my privilege to meet several teachers of this description, and certain incidents have stamped themselves on my mind. I give two as illustrative of what I mean. The head teacher of one of our schools—superannuated, alas! now—is a woman with true genius for education. She had taught infants all her life because she preferred it. She liked to have to do with the very young. She was always full of ideas, and sometimes she and I would spend a little time talking them over in the hall. On one of these occasions the door of a classroom opened suddenly, and there came out a little blubbing person, perhaps about four years of age. Seeing "Governess," he made a rush, not away from her, but to her, and hid his face in her dress.

"Oh! dear," she said, gravely, putting her hand upon his head, "what am I to do with Tommy?" I think (gravely still, but with a humorous twinkle in her eye) "he is the worst boy in the school." Tommy sobbed still, not so violently, however. "Have you been naughty again?" from Governess. Vigorous nods from Tommy. "Do you think you can be good?" Still more vigorous nods. "If Governess asks teacher to take you back, will you promise to try?" The promise was given, and Tommy, forgiven, was led back to his place. I was reminded of the beautiful French proverb, "As-tu peur de moi; cache-toi dans mes bras."

Another incident: I found my friend one day perturbed. She confided her trouble to me. "I have a new young teacher—come in and listen to her lesson."

I followed to one of the class-rooms, and found a delicate-looking young woman trying to impart information to a half-wooden, half-fidgetty class. Governess listened for a few moments, and then, touching the girl gently on the arm: "My dear, you are working very hard yourself, but you are not making your children work. Stand aside for a minute." She took the class, and a more admirable lesson in class teaching no young woman can ever have had. In a very few moments the children were alive and eager. Governess told them nothing, asked them to remember nothing. By clever, yet simple, questions she drew the knowledge out of them. It was the Socratic method applied to small children. When a successful answer crowned her efforts she shared the triumph and delight of the child who had given the right answer.

These are the teachers we require for our infant schools, and many of those lately retired would gladly take up work again during the war.

But—it saves money to reduce the numbers by refusing to give places to children under six, to crowd the classes, and to employ girls as teachers after a three months' training.

I wonder when we shall learn that to save money on our children—those who represent, if fairly treated, the world-wealth of the future—is the poorest and most fatal of economics? I wish earnestly that the great body of teachers, with the children's parents to back them, would proclaim and maintain the rights of the little ones whom they love and serve; and at the same time denounce those who restrict their privileges as robbers, not only of the children and their families, but of the nation's wealth.

## WHY IRISHWOMEN NEED THE VOTE

By DORA MELLONE.

### V.—Education.

The great hope for Ireland from the industrial point of view is the development of skilled industries. For this purpose it is necessary to have a thoroughly well organised system of primary education and to secure the highest possible average of school attendance. From the agricultural point of view this is of equal importance. Denmark has shown us what can be done by a highly educated rural population to develop agriculture in a country far less favoured by Nature than Ireland.

To what extent is this need for a well organised and well equipped system of primary education met under present conditions in Ireland? As regards school accommodation, managers continue to appeal for new buildings urgently needed. The Commissioners of National Education continue to apply to the Treasury for power to make grants in aid in these cases, but so far nothing has been done. We need only quote the glaring instance of Belfast, where the number of children on the school rolls is 7,650 in excess of the school accommodation.

As regards curriculum, we may note that of the 8,255 national schools in Ireland, cookery is taught in 2,700 only, laundry in 727 only. Be it remembered the low wages in Ireland render it necessary for married women to go out to work, and the significance of the fact that only one girl in nine attending school is taught cooking is easily understood. It is easier to scold women for ignorance of cookery than to make provision for teaching this necessary subject. The Mental Deficiency Act does not apply to Ireland, and there is no Government provision for dealing with these children, who therefore remain in the ordinary school, learning nothing themselves, and delaying the progress of others. Germany and America have shown how these children can be transformed into valuable members of the community, but apparently in Ireland we can afford to ignore this problem.

As regards school attendance, it may be a shock to English readers to learn that, to quote Mr. R. M. Gwynn, "compulsory education does not exist in a large part of Ireland." Of the 130 urban districts 92 have adopted compulsory education; of the 252 rural districts only 141 have done so. The adoption of the Act is permissive, and the central authority can only bring "peaceful persuasion" to bear on any local body. In England the central authority can put the Education Act into force if the local body refuses to do so; but we are a free people in Ireland. The average daily attendance for all Ireland in 1912 was 71.3 per cent. of the number on the rolls, ranging from 59 per cent. in a little Connaught town to 86.8 per cent. in Carlow; 75.5 per cent. in Belfast is not creditable, especially when we remember that only in one town in Ulster does the average rise above 80 per cent. When it

is added that even where compulsory attendance is in force only 75 attendances in each half-year are required, the gravity of these figures will be realised. To quote Mr. Gwynn again, the result is that one-eighth of the Irish people are illiterate; that in one town—Belfast—nearly one child in every five leaves school without completing the fifth standard, 54 per cent. leave under 13, and only 46 per cent. remain at school to the age of 14. These facts are borne out by the official tables, showing that only 25 per cent. of the children in the schools are between 11 and 14 years of age, and only 5 per cent. of all the children attending school register more than 200 attendances in the year. Children can leave school at the age of 11 if they have completed the fifth standard; therefore the more clever children are taken away early to help out the family income, and the more stupid remain.

The reasons for this state of things have been pointed out again and again. The provisions of the Act are extraordinarily feeble; the fine for neglect to send a child to school is only 5s., and if the parent persists he cannot be prosecuted again until an interval of two months has elapsed. Small wonder the parent sends the boy or girl to earn 3s. or 5s. a week when the highest penalty to which he is liable is only 5s. once in two months. It is needless to add that the long delay in tenement house towns such as Dublin, where the tenants change domicile constantly, often renders it impossible to trace the offender, who thus escapes scot free. In England I believe the fine is £1, and prosecution can be repeated after an interval of two weeks. A Bill was introduced remedying these defects in 1911, but was crowded out owing to pressure of "more urgent matters."

Lastly, there is the evil half-time system, only in force in Ulster (except one school in Cork). The average daily attendance of these children is 33 per cent.; they attend school one day and work in the "wet spinning" room of the mill the next. The atmosphere in these rooms is saturated with moisture; the floor is half an inch deep in warm water. The death-rate from tuberculosis in Belfast from the age of 15 upwards is twice that in Manchester. Few of the half-timers live over the age of 30. As regards education, of 133 half-timers aged 11 there were 88 on the three lowest standards. The system is especially hard on the boys, who are seldom taken on in the mills, but are discharged at 16 handicapped for life.

These things are not irremediable; they are not part of the constitution of the world. They can be remedied, would be remedied, were there sufficient electoral pressure, but will not be remedied until women form part of the electorate.

I will give a few figures from the latest report to show how the tale of unequal payment for equal work holds in Ireland as in England. There are 860 women and 175 men principals earning less than £70 a year; 2,050 women and 344 men assistant teachers earning under this figure; 11 women and 217 men head teachers are earning above £180 a year; and there are 273 men and 59 women assistants earning above £100 a year. The average income of head teachers if men is £113, if women £91. For assistant teachers the averages are: men £81, women £68. Meanwhile, against the 328,000 boys in the schools there are 340,000 girls. More work, less pay. How long is this state of affairs to continue?

"THE BIBLE SAYS the Lord took one of man's ribs and made woman, but sometimes I think that He used up man's whole backbone in the process," says a New York doctor (a man).



## AMELIA IS INSTRUCTED.

By G. COLMORE.

Amelia had been given a ticket for a meeting of a select character to which admission was by ticket only. She was an extraordinarily ignorant girl—so her mistress said—and required to be instructed. In the matter of instruction Mrs. Blinfod did her part by putting the apex on a pyramid of pronouncements in the form of the ticket: Amelia did her part by going to the meeting.

It was one of those meetings at which, before the war, women came together in order to tell each other that they ought to stay at home. Mrs. Blinfod was in the chair, and many ladies of distinguished position were on the platform. Amelia was in one of the back rows, the rows where, the weather being cold, the skins of rabbits were conspicuous; rows divided by a rope from those whose occupants were clad in the skins of seals, of foxes, and of bears.

The speakers spoke of the influence of women, and of how much good women could do by doing nothing at all. One, who spoke on the religious aspect of woman's position, referred to the utterances of St. Paul, and anon to those of St. Peter. "Wives submit yourselves unto your husbands," she quoted, and went on to say that if you hadn't a husband, there was always *some* man to whom you could submit. Another, speaking on the relations of the sexes, said that you were born either a boy or a girl; if a boy you grew up into a man, if a girl, you grew up into a woman, and that the laws of nature could not be altered by legislation. The last speaker, whose subject was the duties of the home, excused herself for cutting short her remarks on the plea that she was due at a bridge party. But Amelia did not hear the last speaker.

"I hope you took the speeches to heart," said Mrs. Blinfod when, on her return home, Amelia brought in the tea.

"I did, m'm," replied Amelia.

"You got home very quickly," Mrs. Blinfod went on, suddenly realising that Amelia's legs had apparently outstripped her motor.

"Oh, yes, m'm," said Amelia. "I come out in the middle."

"In the middle? But why? What induced . . . half the ticket . . . ?"

"They kept on 'ammering and 'arping so that what we had to do was to be at 'ome that I *come* 'ome."

"You really *are* . . . !" exclaimed Mrs. Blinfod. She added with cold bitterness: "Your cap's crooked."

"Please m'm," said Amelia, "that was the milkman."

"The milkman?"

"Yes, m'm. He wanted to kiss me, and I remembered the words of the lady who said we was to submit. I submitted."

### II.

In the second year of the war Mrs. Blinfod presented Amelia with another ticket.

"Amelia," she said, "the meeting is open, but this is a reserved seat."

The seats, certain of them, were the only reserved things there. At the other meeting Amelia had attended there had been an elegant languor in the atmosphere, a discreetness in the applause: at this meeting there was neither elegance, nor languor, nor discretion. At the former meeting there had been men amongst the audience; now there were no men, save on the platform amongst the speakers. At the former meeting the speakers had circled round well-established argument; but now argu-

ment was absent. The speeches, both of men and women, were a call to the audience, an appeal.

Amelia stayed till the end.

"Well, Amelia?" said Mrs. Blinfod, when both she and Amelia had regained the shelter of the home. There was a sparkle in Mrs. Blinfod's eye unlike the gleam of pre-war complacency.

"Well, m'm," answered Amelia.

"I mean," said Mrs. Blinfod, with impatience, "how did you like the meeting?"

"I couldn't foller it," replied Amelia.

"Not follow it? not follow it? Why, it was as plain as . . . Pray Amelia, *what* couldn't you follow?"

"You, m'm," said Amelia.

"Me!"

"Yes, m'm, and all them other ladies. At that there other meeting it was all we was to stay at 'ome or the country'd come to ruin, and this time it was all we was to leave the 'ome or the country couldn't go on. Taking one saying with another I couldn't fit them in."

"Oh, Amelia, Amelia!" cried Mrs. Blinfod, "can't you see that in war time, the nation as a whole is more important than any particular family or home?"

"And not in peace time, m'm?" inquired Amelia wrinkling her brows.

"Oh, of course, of course," said Mrs. Blinfod, hurriedly. "And then, you see," she went on, with explanatory condescension, "all women are not needed to attend to the home; there are numbers and numbers who can give all their time to working for the country. And even those who *have* to take care of the home can give part time. Do you see, Amelia? do you see?"

Amelia reflected, then her brows relaxed. "Now you're talking," she replied. She went slowly to the door, then turned. "The milkman," she said, "has gone for a soldier. I met 'im coming 'ome."

Mrs. Blinfod raised a warning finger. "Now Amelia! now, now, now!"

"It's all right, m'm, I didn't let 'im. 'No cuddlin' says I. 'Your dooty is to kill and mine to cure. Afternoons out, I says, *and* evenin's goes to doin' my bit."

Mrs. Blinfod got up from beside the tea table. "Oh, Amelia!" she said.

"Oh, ma'am!"

"You're really going to . . . ?"

"Why ever not?"

"Women really are . . ." Mrs. Blinfod stopped short, but Amelia "follered" her.

"You bet," she said.

They shook hands.

**SUFFRAGE BUSINESS AS USUAL!**

By EUNICE G. MURRAY.

A word much heard to-day is "Rally!" Rally to the colours, rally to the defence of country, rally to protect the rights of labour. We continue to urge women to rally round the Suffrage colours. Do not let our energies or our movement be diverted in any other direction. Let us keep our object steadfastly before us, for only by so doing shall we be in the sure position effectually to protect the rights of women. "Votes for Women" is our rallying cry; let us hold to it.

In increasing numbers women are entering the business world. "Business as usual!" was the cry of men after the outbreak of war; but the problem was how to ensure "Business as usual" when factory and counting-house were being rapidly depleted of men. As soon as they recovered from the first stunned surprise men recollected that there were capable women, women trained in professions

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## FEEDING THE ARMY.

By A. S. BYETT, L.L.A.

Vice-President National Federation of Women Teachers.

Before the War, I suppose few women knew much more about the Army than could be gathered from the books of Mr. Kipling and a few other writers. How troops were fed, what quantities of food were supplied, how it was distributed, cooked, and served, were matters of which we were completely ignorant.

Now, however, that everyone has someone in the Army, someone, also, whose welfare is generally very dear to us, we have become interested learners in these subjects. We are all more or less familiar with what goes on in military camps. Amid all the horror and misery of the War, running as it does the whole gamut of feeling, from mere discomfort to intolerable anguish, I am inclined to think few things have *weaned* the women of this country more than the waste of food which is continually going on in connection with the Army. While prices are mounting, scarcity threatening, and economy shouted at us from every platform and hoarding, it is exasperating to hear of good food thrown away, burned, or buried, because of the ignorance or carelessness or incompetence of the people responsible for it. We all know of individual instances—many of them. We have all read the occasional "exposures" in the Press.

To take a few typical cases.

(1) Tons of beef buried weekly because more is supplied than is required.

(2) Men unable to eat stew because of the liquid oil floating on it. Or, in other cases, because the same thing is supplied day after day until the men are sick of it.

(3) Bread, left over in large quantities, burned to get rid of it.

(4) A person summoned for taking a leg of mutton from an ashbin. Query: What was a leg of mutton doing in an ashbin?

We hear of soldiers who spend all their money on food in canteen, because the Army fare is uneatable. We hear of constant appeals to relatives to send food. We hear of men sent on long route marches, long journeys from one camp to another without a meal, of men arriving after a long journey to find huts wet and dirty, no food or fire, no warm drink obtainable; and this in winter. It may be that some waste and discomfort are unavoidable. It is certain, however, that much more is due to muddle, mismanagement, and the conservatism of the War Office. If not at the Front, yet while in England our troops could be well fed at far less cost than at present.

To this end we need a

### COOKING SERVICE

organised somewhat on the lines of the Nursing Service; and staffed by competent and experienced WOMEN. In each camp there should be Women Superintendent officers experienced in the management of large concerns. Under them chefs, drawn from the ranks of trained, certificated, cookery teachers, *i.e.*, women versed in knowledge of dietetics, able to plan wholesome meals, utilise all

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and trades, who could keep the nation's work going while men armed to fight the foe. Men now congratulate each other that they have "discovered" these capable women, who prevent the nation's work falling into confusion. For the time being they have laid aside the old reproach that "women encroach upon their province." Quite so. They are at last recognising what we knew long ago: Woman's Ability.

We must not, however, lose sight of the fact that men do not want us in the industrial world; they tolerate us at present knowing that without our co-operation the work of the nation would be at a standstill. Necessity knows no law. They have admitted us now, but as soon as they can they mean to eject us from the positions we occupy. I have heard these views expressed time after time, both in private and in public by men of all classes. There are trusting women who are counting on men's gratitude, who believe that because of what women have done to-day, men, when the war is over, will turn a sympathetic ear towards their claims. I would bid such women beware; gratitude is short-lived; men's memories are treacherous. No picture presents itself to my memory of men ever paying their debts to women in the past; the war has not changed their natures. Women have helped men in many a fight for liberty. What fight have men ever waged to redress women's wrongs? Women have toiled for men; what rewards have been showered upon them?

It is always being forced down our throats that Florence Nightingale refused the honours a grateful country would have bestowed upon her. Inconceivable as it may seem to men, honours had no value for her. She did ask, however, that the dishonour of being classed with paupers, lunatics, and criminals, as unfit for citizen rights, might be removed. To this simple request men turned a deaf ear; nor have we any reason to suppose that a cure to this disease is now at work. Florence Nightingale knew that political power was of more permanent value to her sex than effervescent gratitude poured out towards the individual.

If women hope to improve their position and secure a sure foothold in the better-paid professions and fields of industry they must unite and consolidate; they must rally round the Suffrage flag. Every woman who joins the Women's Freedom League now adds weight and dignity to the demands of Suffragists, strengthens our Movement, and makes it easier for us to continue the fight in the interests of women. Since the outbreak of war many women assure us that they now understand what the Suffrage Movement stands for. Let them, then, rally round, join in, and help us to wring from the Government this belated act of justice, which will do more to protect woman against men's tyrannies than all the sentimental gratitude so freely offered to her to-day.

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food products, and to *teach* others. These again would have under them paid helpers, assisted by V.A.D. workers.

A properly graded, responsible, efficient service could, I believe, be organised in every district in a few weeks, on the lines which have made the nursing service so efficient. The material is ready to hand. There are cookery teachers wasting their time doing clerical work who would gladly undertake this service. Hundreds of women who would not volunteer for farm or factory labour would feel in their element providing appetising meals for Tommy.

This is not to advocate a step in the dark. In one district the experiment has been tried, and has proved a great success. The men were never so well fed before, and thousands of pounds were saved in an incredibly short time. The results would certainly be:

*Elimination of waste.* No woman manager would tolerate the shameful extravagance of disposing of good food as "refuse." The surplus bread and meat would be used up, as in any good household.

*Varied diet,* with due proportions of flesh-forming and heat-giving properties, would be provided, for the menus would be in the hands of trained hygienists.

*Cleanly, and therefore more wholesome, methods* would be employed. Tea, for instance, would not be made in greasy soup pails!

(In that fine book, "A Surgeon in Khaki," Dr. Martin advises the employment of women nurses as near the firing line as possible; and speaks of the joy with which a clean, capable British nurse is welcomed by everyone—except the orderlies—because the nurse will not tolerate dirty habits, and insists on cleanliness in the wards.)

*Men cooks could be trained* to take over the work in the field. The benefit resulting from the lessons given by the London Cookery Teachers last summer to some Army cooks was acknowledged on all hands.

One example of the kind of discomfort endured by some of the troops has come to my knowledge, since the victim is a personal friend. He was a civil engineer, a man from a good home, accustomed to the regular appearance of meals, of whose production and preparation he knew as little as the man in the moon. On enlistment he was sent to a coast town, and billeted with seventeen other men in an empty house, and he was *made cook for the party*. Imagine the ménage! Imagine the health and temper of eighteen hungry men, undergoing severe manual training in the open air at the seaside for ten or more hours a day, and dependent for meals on the well-meant but perfectly ignorant, efforts of my unfortunate friend. Well, they lived through it. Some of them afterwards lived through the hell of Gallipoli last summer, which, after all, was worse. But the point is that in England, at any rate, they need not have suffered. There must have been many women in that town who would have been glad and grateful to be allowed to cook for those poor lads, but their services were not permitted.

Many old prejudices have been broken down during the progress of this great world earthquake. Can we not remove this survival from the days of the "red little, dead little Army," and admit women to do the task they could so efficiently perform, thereby effecting an enormous saving for the nation, benefiting the Army and increasing its efficiency, and replacing by an organised and rational system the present chaos of waste and muddle.

**POLITICAL NOTES.**

**Women's Freedom League Protest.**

Following on the deputations to the Board of Trade and the Local Government Board, the Political and Militant Department of the Women's Freedom League took in hand the question of the disgraceful treatment of women at open-air meetings. On Trafalgar-square and at Clapham-common scenes were enacted which are a disgrace to the country; and, while the Women's Freedom League had no interest or concern in the meetings at which the disorder occurred, it was felt that a protest must be made against the conduct of the organised rioters.

Members of the Political and Militant Department therefore announced their intention of waiting on the Commissioner of Police, and after some slight demur were received at Scotland Yard on Wednesday evening by a representative of Sir Edward Henry. This gentleman received the statements laid before him by Miss Boyle, Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. Corner with great courtesy, and promised to convey the information to his Chief. The complaint was that the crowd on the Sunday in question was not a large one, and the interrupters were comparatively few, and could easily have been controlled, and that the police did not take the action that should have been taken to prevent disorder.

**Caxton Hall Resolution.**

At Caxton Hall a resolution was passed calling the attention of the Government to the occurrence, and this was forwarded to the Prime Minister. On Thursday the deputation waited on Mr. Asquith at the House of Commons, and was courteously interviewed by Sir John Barran, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier. He stated that the matter had been referred to the Home Office, and asked that the Home Secretary should be requested to deal with the matter. The Home Secretary has, therefore, been approached and asked to receive the deputation.

**Incitements to Violence.**

It will be pointed out to Mr. Samuel that suffragists were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for inciting to violence, and that the editors of papers who allow such incitements to appear in their columns at the present time—when it is so essential that the harmony and unity of which we hear so much should be preserved—should, with their printers and publishers, be made liable to the same penalties as were inflicted on women in times far less critical and grave.

**"Officer and Gentleman"**

A further visit was paid to Sir Francis Lloyd, who is responsible for keeping order among the military element in the London District. His manner of so doing has already been made the matter of strong comment in the House of Commons, and has caused

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**"OUR MARTHA" AGAIN.**

BY MARIAN OLIVER.

Our Martha's bin over to see me agen. A fortnight come yesterday it was, and 'er only stopped but two nights. It wa' i' this way. 'Er's got 'er 'cart i' the right place, 'as Martha, for all 'er fads and 'er fancies, and it seems there's a pore woman 'er knows, a neighbour like—though, o' course, 'er don't live in such a genteel part as Martha does—who's 'usband 's gone an' left 'er; left 'er an' the childer an' all.

There's six on 'em, Martha ses, 'an the eldest, a girl o' fourteen, who was, as yer might say, 'er mother's right 'and in 'elpin' with the 'ouse an' the little 'uns, was took ill sudden-like at a treat as Martha was 'elpin' at. When 'er come to, an' they'd 'ad the doctor to 'er, and 'e said as 'ow there was nothin' wrong—only want o' good food, fresh air, an' everythin' else as a child ought to 'ave to make it strong an' 'earty—as I was sayin', when they knows that, Martha, an' a tidy few besides, ups an' ses as they'll make a collection an' send 'er into the country for a while; an' Martha ses: "The very thing," 'er ses; "she shall go to my ole Mother, who, I'll be bound, 'ull 'ave 'er, an' I'll take 'er down mysel'."

So there 'er is, yer see, a'sittin' in the sun on the bench agen the lilac tree. 'Ow 'er do like bein' 'ere, to be sure! 'Er come in this mornin', quite breathless-like, an' 'er ses: "Oh! Mrs. Jones," 'er ses, "it's like 'eaven! I never did think as the birds *could* sing so!"

'Er ain't much to look at, is 'er? A little bit of a thing as would pass for ten easy, if it warn't for 'er face, an' that's older nor it should be. 'Er's growed all crooked-like on one side, too; "A'carryin' o' the baby about too constant," the doctor ses. But 'er don't make no matter o' that. 'Er's a good little soul, ef ever there was one, an' 'er thoughts is all for them at 'ome; a-wonderin' whether Eliza Jane can walk yet, an' 'ow Tommy

poor Mr. Tennant much embarrassment. Sir Francis conducted the interview in the manner of a court-martial, and "warned" Miss Boyle that she "had better be careful" what she said—raising in the minds of the deputation the hope that they might be summarily consigned to the Tower, as a new experience! He declined to recognise the deputation as representing the Freedom League, saying he did not know anything of "your society," and when offered a copy of THE VOTE tore it in pieces and threw it into the waste-paper basket. The judicial quality of his mind is illustrated by the fact that he refused to accept the statement of an eye-witness because it was "violent" and heated; and refused to accept any other statement because it was "hearsay." The first step towards the maintenance of public order and public harmony should be the removal of Sir Francis Lloyd from a position he does not grace, and this is a request that will be strongly urged.

**An M.P.'s Manners.**

Sir Henry Craik, M.P., who represents Glasgow University, in which there are women as well as men students, was the recipient, with other local members of Parliament, of a resolution passed at a public meeting of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League. He returned the resolution and the covering letter with the following communication:—"Sir Henry Craik returns the communication which you sent. It will be unnecessary to send him any further communications from the same source." Comment is needless.

**Profits on Coal and Iron.**

The Scottish Iron and Steel Company report that the profit for 1915, after providing for depreciation, excess profits tax, and contingencies, amounts to £86,560, as compared with a profit of £24,902 in 1914. Notwithstanding the tax on excess profits, the shareholders thus get almost four times as much in dividend as they received a year ago. The profit on the United Collieries, Ltd., amounts to £216,065 10s. 9d., as compared with a profit of £57,600 for 1914. The higher profits were gained on a considerably reduced output. It is well to bear these figures in mind when one hears people speak of the extraordinary wages the working-man is making. We would point out that people in many classes are now experiencing a general increase in wealth.

**Overheard in a Glasgow Tramway Car.**

"I have saved 2s. 6d. every week in our house by substituting margarine for butter, but it is very difficult to save now-a-days with the cost of living steadily mounting up. Did you know we were shutting our town house and have taken a beautiful place in the country for nine months? The only drawback is, it is rather far from the station, so we have had to get a motor car."

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an' Willie's a-gettin' 'on wi' their schoolin'; whether they goes reg'lar, an' a-washes their 'ands an' their faces fust.

The day as Martha left, 'er wrote a letter for Martha to take 'ome to 'er little brothers, an' you'd a-laughed if you'd a-read it. 'Er brought it to Martha to see if 'er'd got the spellin' right; an' sure eno' it wouldn't a-passed wi' the teacher. Me an' Martha couldn't 'elp but smile, though o' course we done it unbeknowns't to 'er. 'Er talks to 'em like the parson, tells 'em to be good boys an' do as their mother bids 'em, "for," ses she, "remember, 'er's a 'ard struggle to fill yer little bellows."

"Little bellows," indeed! I reckon they're empty eno' sometimes, accordin' to all as 'er tells me, an' it's 'ard to think as there's childer a'eryin' out for good food-stuff an' all, an' canna get it. It's like plantin' a young rosebush in a dust-bin an' expectin' of it to grow up there; an' don't it seem strange-like as things should be i' that way, not only wi' them, but wi' many an' many a famly besides.

There's a deal o' talk goes on now about the childer; a-savin' the babbies, an' a-bringin' of 'em all up 'ealthy, an' makin' the boys big an' strong to go a'fightin'. "They've got to take the place o' them as is gone, an' be ready for another war when it comes," ses a many. As though we ain't 'ad war eno' an' to spare!

It ain't the women as talks the most now; they've done it long eno', an' no notice took; but it ain't them as makes the laws, an' what do t'others know about the bringin' up o' childer? Ain't it the woman's work, an' ain't it only fair as sheshould 'ave a finger i' the pie?

There's a deal i' the world wants mendin', an' the way to do it ain't allus easy to find. It's a 'ard nut to crack, no doubt, but the women's teeth is as good as the men's. Besides, don't the sayin' go: "Two 'eads is better nor one," an' why not two kind o' 'eads? The woman should speak for 'ersel' an' the man for 'issel. Not one for both.

That's what our Martha an' others like 'er feels when they ses they wants the Vote, an' when I talks like this Martha laughs, an' 'er ses: "Well done, Mother; you're gettin' on. We'll 'ave you a Suffragette yet."

But ain't it in reason to suppose as one was meant to be as good as another? There's a woman our Martha knows, a Mrs. Poyser by name—but wait a bit, don't let me tell yer wrong, was it someone 'er'd read about in a book? Very like, for Martha's a deal more book-learn'd nor ever I wa'. 'Er was up at the 'All as lady's maid for a matter o' five year or more afore 'er married, an' that's 'ow 'er got 'er notions.

But that's neither 'ere nor there. As I was sayin', this Mrs. Poyser—let e'r be who 'er will—she sed as "God Almighty made the women to match the men," an' that, I'll be bound, was as true a word as ever 'er spoke.

Only a week or two back, at a big meetin' where there was a lot o' women, a gen'l'man got up an' talked to 'em about savin'. Said they maun do wi'out this an' maun do wi'out that, 'an told 'em 'ow 'is wife allus give 'is childer margarine i'stead o' butter; as though there warn't many a pore child as 'ad to put up wi' the likes o' margarine—an' not even that—long afore 'e wa' born; an' as for 'is childer, I reckon there wa' plenty more besides margarine went inside o' their "little bellows."

But there! What's the use o' talkin'? There's a deal wants doin', an' it 'ull take the best an' the wisest—be they men or be they women—to find a way out o' the muddle. What I ses is: "Let the women try what they can do; leastways give 'em a chance to do summat."

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## TOO OLD AT FORTY.

By C. S. BREMNER.

When the war began, in 1914, and it was thought possible to fight to a finish by means of voluntary enlistment, the Government fixed the age of recruits between 19 and 38. Men of 40 were too old for the campaign. But the scale has been lowered at the youthful end to 18; at the mature age it has been raised to 41; conscription has placed every man between these ages in the Army, with certain exemptions. Men are not too old at 40 when the State demands their service and pays its own price.

"Too old at forty" is a saw of the capitalist and employer of labour which should be thoroughly examined. So far as a skilled trade or a profession is concerned it is most untrue, for a man or woman is then at the zenith of power and capacity. The saw is, in fact, one of the fruits of misgovernment, of over-population combined with under-education, of the subjection of women all along the line. Where children do not form so immense a part of the population as they do in Britain, but a much smaller proportion of it, as in France, neither men nor women are too old at forty. They expect to put in twenty or thirty more years of work. The young do not oust the old so easily: the supply is limited, the pressure from below, from youth, is not so overwhelming. It is this pressure in our country which prevents the school-leaving age being raised to 15. Where young people are numerous in the home; where women's labour is underpaid; wherever there is much casual labour and inadequate preparation for work, there we find the menace of youth to middle age, the replacement of the adult by the young person, the too-old-at-forty argument of the employer of labour.

The whole labour world, and therefore Britain herself, would be immensely benefited by a better preparation of youth for work, especially a better preparation of the girls, a division of the money ear-marked for technical education in such a way as to give the girls something like a chance to prepare. In so far as women are not sufficiently prepared for work, the "too old at forty" saw affects them more deeply than it affects men. It is a grave injustice to them as a sex that probably a bare eighth of the money is available for the trade education of women and girls, vast numbers of whom do, and must, earn their own living. The bulk of the money is spent on men and boys. It is not too much to say that the failure of our Government to lay down a right theory on the subject of work, that the labour of girls and women is as much due to society as is that of men and boys, and should entail as serious preparation, has caused a great deal of trouble during the present war, and has materially added to the difficulties of government. Last week the Tooting and Croydon tram-drivers struck work because the South Metropolitan Company were giving some women lessons in tram-driving. Hardly a week passes but some group of men is striking for some reason connected with the recognition of women's labour.

The Government is like a foolish parent too partial to its male children and reaping the reward due to its past folly. Three facts emerge for the guidance of women workers:—

1. They must demand the right to labour.
2. They must claim equal pay for equal work.
3. They must press for the acknowledgment of their citizenship, their enfranchisement, and absolute equality before the law.

An advertisement of a greatly puffed cleanser asks all over Britain: "Why does a woman look old sooner than a man?" Personally, I am

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impressed by the fact that of a man and woman the same age, she is often the more youthful looking of the two. But in certain classes of society too large families, too small wages to rear them on, overcrowding in the house, underfeeding, too little rest and recreation, would make the right answer to the question. "Too old at forty" can take on a sinister meaning when we look into some women's circumstances. Speaking to the writer some years ago, a member of the New York Charity Organisation Society alluded to the working-class women of London: "The real beast of burden in your city is not the horse nor the ass, but the working-man's wife. Her life appals me." Yet it is the logical outcome of the theory that home is the woman's sphere and of the practice of admitting her to the labour market, not as a fellow-worker and equal, but as one there on mere sufferance, who is paid less than the sum to which she is entitled as of right, and who may be kicked out when those who suffer her grow weary of her presence or imagine that their interests are imperilled by her claims.

Women live longer than men. The life assurance offices note the fact, and when a woman wants an annuity they make her pay more for it. Actuaries are not sentimentalists; they deal with facts, and base calculations on them. A few years ago a Paris life assurance office looked into this matter of the greater viability of feminine life. It often strikes men as improper, unexpected, undesirable. The French office asked the question, "How is it that when a woman of forty comes to this office to assure her life, we almost invariably accept her as a sound, good life; but when a man of that age presents himself, he is almost certain to be suffering from lesions of his vital organs, more or less serious?" They came to the conclusion that three causes explained man's physical inferiority at forty: drink, too much smoking of tobacco, and sexual debauchery.

If we are too old at forty, when nearly everything points to the fact that human beings are intended to live to the age of a hundred, we may depend upon it, both men and women, that we have not found the right way of living. Our great failure has been the failure in social justice; it ought to be possible for humanity to live under the régime of justice. Neither the race nor the empire will endure that lacks it. The race deteriorates, the Empire disintegrates, that is not founded on the rock. Why should our Empire last when all other empires have split and gone to pieces? We need nothing so much at the moment as an application of general principles to the state of our society. Its soil has shown three great cracks since August, 1914: The failure to control the drink traffic, with the result that the drink bill of 1915 was the largest ever known, exceeding £181,000,000; the failure to conscript wealth first and life second; the dismissal of women from work at the interested bidding of men.

### What our Members are Doing.

#### Architect.

Congratulations to Miss Mary Morrison, a member of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League, and a fully qualified architect, on her appointment as draughtswoman in a well-known shipbuilding firm on the Clyde, at the same salary as the man she has replaced.

#### University Extension Lecturer.

Congratulations to Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., on her appointment as London University Extension lecturer.

## WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

### Armlits for Women, and their Message.

The Board of Agriculture are now issuing a certificate to all women who register their names for work on the land. It is of light cardboard, with the Royal Arms in colours, and below on a scroll the sentence, "Every woman who helps in agriculture during the war is as truly serving her country as the man who is fighting in the trenches or on the sea."—*Daily Press*.

This would appear to be *official*; so perhaps now we shall hear no more of that overworked argument that "as women cannot fight they should not have the vote."

### Firewomen.

The Women's Volunteer Reserve have commenced duty as firewomen at the Holborn Union Workhouse for Aged Women. They sleep in bunks, and have all the necessary appliances, including pumps, hose, ladders, etc. They are trained in first aid.

### Woman Chaplain and Doctor at Holloway.

Mrs. Nelly Best, who is now in Holloway serving a sentence of six months in the first division for "prejudicing recruiting," has been granted the privilege of a Quaker woman chaplain. Through the exertions of Mr. Scott Duckers Mrs. Stephen Hobhouse has been appointed as Mrs. Best's chaplain, and has the Governor's permission to visit the prisoner whenever she wishes. Mrs. Hobhouse and Mr. Duckers have also been successful in obtaining for Mrs. Best the attendance of a woman doctor. Since her admission Mrs. Best has been in hospital, and has refused to submit to any examination by the prison doctors. A few days ago Dr. Sinclair, of 14, Endsleigh-street, attended Mrs. Best professionally, and was with her for nearly an hour, only the nurse being present. Mrs. Sinclair was asked to write a report for the Governor, and it is hoped that she will be allowed to continue to visit Mrs. Best, who requires medical treatment.

### Imprisoned.

Miss Sherry was tried at Birmingham on April 10 for failing to possess an insurance card. Miss Sherry has always refused to pay compulsory insurance until women are enfranchised, but when war was declared she notified that she would pay during the war. She still refused, however, to sign the form of application for a card from the Post Office because it stated "I agree to compulsory insurance." Miss Sherry was sentenced to 13 days, or to pay 20s. and costs. She refused to pay, and is now in gaol. It should be noted that while Miss Sherry refused altogether to pay insurance she was allowed to go free, but believing it right to compromise in war-time, she was subjected to bullying, and finally prosecution, by the authorities.

### National Union of Teachers' Campaign, Buxton, Easter, 1916.

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I thank all friends who have helped, and shall be glad of further contributions to cover the expenses of this important campaign. Helpers are urgently needed for all kinds of work.

Alix M. Clark, Hon. Organiser.  
5, The Mountlands, Hardwick-square, Buxton.

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FRIDAY,  
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1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE: Branch and Group Secretaries.

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CLAPHAM.—Miss Underwood, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, S.W.  
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EAST LONDON.—Miss Adams, 20, High-street, West Norwood.  
GOLDER'S GREEN (*pro tem.*).—Miss Ada Mitchell, 138, Addison-way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.  
HACKNEY.—Mrs. Pierotti, 31, Walsingham-road, Clapton, N.E.  
HAMPSTEAD.—Mme. Putz, 10, The Grange, Maitland-park, N.W.  
HARROW.—Mrs. Huntsman, 16, Northwick-park-road.  
HERNE HILL.—Miss W. M. Spriggs, 69, Danecroft-road, S.E.  
HIGHBURY.—Miss John, 11, Canonbury Park South, Canonbury, N.  
HORNSEY.—Miss Masterman, 40, Beatrice-road, Stroud Green, N.  
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MID-LONDON (*pro tem.*).—Mrs. Crawford, 10, Ordnance-road, St. John's Wood, N.W.  
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ANFIELD.—Miss Davey, 51, Grey-road, Walton, Liverpool.  
BOURNEMOUTH.—Mrs. R. P. Underwood, 1, Pearson-avenue, Ashley-road, Upper Parkstone.  
BRIGHTON AND HOVE.—Miss Hare, 8, San Remo.  
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PERTH.—Mrs. Macpherson, 3, Charlotte-street.  
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