

THE VOTE
Nov. 27, 1914.
ONE PENNY

"THE ENEMY!"

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. No. 266.

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FRIDAY, NOV. 27, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.
AT HEADQUARTERS.
"THE ENEMY." *C. Nina Boyle.*
WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS CAMPAIGN:
THESE MEN! *C. Nina Boyle.*
OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Church and Women.

The Southwark Diocesan Conference has passed a resolution expressing regret that the State should administer funds on behalf of soldiers and sailors "without safeguarding the distinction between married wives and unmarried dependents." At least, that is the version of it given by the *Daily Mail*, which might leave one in doubt about who the "unmarried dependents" are who must be distinguished. Sisters, for instance, and daughters, might be "unmarried dependents," but the resolution is, of course, aimed at the unmarried mothers of soldiers' and sailors' children. Canon Deedes is reported as having said that the new order in respect of separation allowances for these dependents "placed marriage and concubinage practically on a level," but Archdeacon Escreet, while maintaining the sanctity of the marriage tie, was disposed to deal leniently with men and women who had "lived loyally together." We know that many persons and societies have expressed views on this matter, some approving of and some scandalised at the action of the Government.

We find it difficult to enter into the question from the point of view of purity, morality, or the sanctity of the marriage tie. The separation orders are not a certificate of good conduct, nor an act of grace, nor a dole of charity to the deserving. They are part of the sailor's or soldier's earnings paid to him for the risk of his life and for the loss of his pay to his dependents, no matter who they may be. This is no question of a recog-

inition of marriage or concubinage; it is a recognition—for the first time—of a man's joint responsibility for the children he brings into the world. This responsibility has all too long been borne by the mothers alone; and there is no Suffrage society that has not urged that an end should be put to this state of things. We hold most strongly that the Churches should have made this their special crusade; that they have not done so is to their discredit. And that Church conferences should protest against men being encouraged to shoulder their responsibilities in regard to these women and children, and should publicly uphold the double standard of morals, is one more sign of how far Christians can stray from Christianity.

Wise and Unwise.

We note with pleasure that the Suffrage women of Birmingham have passed a resolution supporting the action of the Birmingham authorities and the chief of police in their firm rejection of the proposal to place wives and dependents of soldiers and sailors under police supervision. All honour to Birmingham. Our law-makers in their masculine wisdom are setting about a revision of pensions and allowances, and feeling splendidly generous by abolishing party spirit from the Select Committee. The sex spirit remains, of course, for no woman is to help in the deliberations, either for the wives of officers or of the rank and file, though women and children will form the majority of those concerned.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Discussion Meeting.

We specially invite our readers to the meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, St. James's (near Piccadilly Circus), this (Friday) evening, at 8 o'clock. The speaker will be Mr. A. W. Madson, B.Sc., and his subject "The War and the Land Question." The chair will be taken by Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. The subject-matter of Mr. Madson's address will most probably be highly controversial, so we hope that many of our friends will come prepared to take part in the discussion. Admission is free, but tickets for reserved seats can be obtained from the W.F.L. office at 1s. each.

Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps

Next Tuesday afternoon, December 1, a drawing-room meeting will be held at 50, Hans Mansions, Hans-road, S.W. (Knightsbridge station, Piccadilly Tube), by kind permission of Lady Treacher, from 3.30 to 5 o'clock. At this meeting the object and work of the Women's Hospital at Brackenhill will be explained, and the collection will go to the support of this hospital. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Mrs. E. M. N. Clark, and, it is also expected, one or two members of the medical profession. All who are interested in this excellent work can obtain invitation cards from the W.F.L. office.

The following Tuesday, December 8, another drawing-room meeting on behalf of the Corps will be held at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, Clapham Common, S.W., by kind permission of Mrs. Corner. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro, the chair being taken by Mrs. Huntsman, at 3 p.m.

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

Next Wednesday afternoon the speakers at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, will be Miss Constance Andrews and Mr. H. Baillie Weaver. It is a long time since we had the pleasure of hearing these speakers at our afternoon meetings, and we are sure that a large audience will be attracted to welcome them.

Christmas Presents Sale.

We cordially thank all friends who have so kindly sent us presents for our stall at the Christmas Fair, which the United Suffragists are arranging to take place at Eustace Miles Restaurant next Friday, December 4. We shall be pleased to receive others before December 1. Tickets can be purchased at this Office; admission from 3 to 5 p.m. 1s., after 5 o'clock 6d. each. This Fair will be well worth a visit, and we urge our readers to spend the half-day there and to buy their Christmas presents from us. Mrs. Snow will have a Merchandise Stall, and we are sure it will give our members and friends genuine pleasure to show their appreciation of her work by keeping her busy with sales from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m.

New Year's Party.

The date of this has unavoidably been postponed, and it will now be held Thursday, January 7, at Caxton Hall. We shall issue a free invitation to Belgian refugees, but otherwise admission will be 6d. each. We shall have a Christmas Tree for Belgian children, and we hope our readers will give us all the support they can to make our efforts on January 7 a complete success.

Christmas Calendar.

We have a novel and delightful calendar for the year 1915 now on sale in our Literature Department. It is essentially a Freedom League Calendar, and the numerous apt quotations are culled from the writings of Freedom Leaguers. On the outside we have our motto "Dare to be Free" in letters of gold. With Mrs. Despard's portrait on the outside this calendar is well worth the price of 1s., which is charged for it. Only a limited number has been printed, so we strongly recommend our readers to send in their orders quickly. It can be sent anywhere post free for 1s. 2d. F.A.U.

"THE ENEMY,"

While women, British-born and British-bred, are being harried and bullied and persecuted by their fellow-Britons because they have elected to bestow their personal—not their national—affections upon German or Austrian men, it should give us food for considerable reflection if we contrasted the record of these women with those of the men whom a male administration clasps to the national bosom. We believe we are justified in asserting that not one of the British women married to "alien enemies" has been detected in or even been suspected of any form of conduct prejudicial to the interests of the country of their birth. No such woman has been discovered with maps and plans of fortifications, wireless installations, or other evidences of evil intention. No such woman has been detected in treasonable correspondence with her husband or her husband's people. No such woman has indulged in disloyal demonstrations or defiance. But what of the men? Can this be said with as much truth of the naturalised German men or the German women, married to British men, who are given rights of which our own women are despoiled?

In South Africa, a costly war was waged to gain "equal rights for Briton and Boer alike." Not one British woman, or Boer either for that matter, got any rights at all except the priceless privilege of paying the piper. The British women are still loyally abiding by the settlement; but thousands of the Boer men, admitted to rights from which British women were excluded, took up arms against us—to what extent we do not know for certain owing to the irresponsible liberties taken by the Press. The Liberal Government is loud in praise of the results of its policy in granting "equal rights" and self-government to the Boer people. That, it appears, is the only thing that has kept Messrs. Botha, Smuts, and Co. from joining the rebels. If we did not despair of the capacity of a Liberal Government for learning any lesson from history; if we did not all too clearly and surely know the present Cabinet to be "as the deaf adder which stoppeth her ears"; we should expect them to be able to glean some useful truths from the varied results of their brewing. But they continue to be as those who having eyes see not; neither is there any understanding in their hearts.

One set of Boers loyal because they had self-government; another disloyal although trusted and nationalised. But British women, neither self-governing nor trusted, loyal in spite of all, find themselves flung hither and thither by Act of Parliament; not by their own wish or feeling but to save men from legal complications in regard to such minor matters as property; denied the right to maintain and cherish the nationality they have never done anything to forfeit; and through all this, upholding a standard of conduct men are unable to attain. We ask our readers to recall the cases of British women married to aliens, whose barbarous treatment at Brighton and Worthing

recently provoked such indignation; and then think of the man Ernst. Born in Britain of a naturalised parent, with full British rights, this British subject and voter has for years been engaged in spying for the German Government. He gets seven years. We want to know why? Lodz was shot, and he was a genuine German, taking the chances that such an one must take. But British women will wonder why he was held more guilty than the man to whom was granted all that British women may not have, and who used those privileges to injure the country that adopted him.

When politicians learn to look on the patriotism of women as something which cannot be transferred at the will of others, something outside the realm of legislation and command, they will begin to earn the right to make demands on that patriotism. In the meantime, the shameless way they are exploiting the women of the country, trading on their feelings, appealing to them to make good the disgraceful deficiencies of Government departments and to supply by charity what the War Office should have had in large surplus stock; is no less a national disgrace than the position in which they have placed women under the law.

We commend this further case to the notice of all readers of THE VOTE:—

A tottering, feeble old lady, near relative of Mr. Hobhouse, Postmaster-General, was hauled up before the magistrates at Worthing charged with not having registered as an alien and living in a prohibited area. She was born in Calcutta, had three brothers in the Indian Army, had married an Austrian who died six years ago, and who had been 26 years out of Austria. "The magistrates were reluctant to deal with her harshly," and gave her a week to get out of Worthing. She has since been "allowed" to stay. But her landlady, for "aiding and abetting"—that is, for not denouncing the old lady or turning her out into the street, was fined £5 or 14 days. There is another old lady of over 80 who, under the same circumstances, has been given a week to find a new home.

This was in England, not Russia—or Germany!
C. NINA BOYLE.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS SALE.

The Women's Freedom League wants money badly, and we look to Christmas to replenish our exchequer. The sale beginning at Eustace Miles' Restaurant on December 4 will continue at the Office, migrating to the Suffrage Club for the afternoon of December 9. Branches and friends are working hard; every member's help is necessary to make Christmas a financial success.

We ask, first of all, for contributions in money, next for all kinds of saleable articles, including strong hardwearing clothing, and lastly for numerous and generous buyers. Christmas presents must be bought, therefore, buy them from your League.

Best thanks for donations already received:—Miss Eunice Murray, £4; Mrs. Sohn, 2s. 6d.; per Miss Barrs, Mrs Glover, 2s. 6d.; Miss Jarret, 2s.; Mrs. Soar, 2s. E. KNIGHT.

OUR BELGIAN GUESTS.

On January 7 the Women's Freedom League has arranged to entertain our Belgian friends at a New Year's party at Caxton Hall. Mrs. Fisher particularly asks every member to remember her when making Christmas cakes and puddings and to help her by giving a cake, a pudding and six mince pies, also a toy for the Christmas Tree, so that Father Christmas need not send any little Belgian child away neglected.

A large army of helpers is required to make this big party a success. Please send a postcard at once to Mrs. Fisher at the office, promising to steward and to help as above.



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THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

Last Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held in the Lecture Hall of the Public Library, Lavender Hill, Battersea. The objects of the Corps were explained and a description given of some of its varied activities. Mrs. Tanner spoke on the constructive power of women, and the necessity of women's point of view being expressed in the counsels of the nation. She combated the theory that wars were necessary to prevent the race from becoming cowardly, and considered that the stoical resistance of the Belgians, their devotion and self-sacrifice to the ideal of independence were sufficient arguments against such a theory. Courage and bravery were virtues acquired in times of peace. Women had been the civilisers of the world, and Mrs. Tanner firmly believed that if women of all nations had an equal voice with men in the affairs of their countries the present war would have been an impossibility.

Miss Nina Boyle, who appeared in the Police uniform of an officer of the Women Police Volunteers, urged those present to support the work of the Corps. A restaurant had been opened in Nine Elms, where about 150 meals were served each day to women and children, the prices charged varying from one-halfpenny to twopenny. Workrooms for the employment of women and girls at needlework and in the making of soft toys, were established in different parts of London, poor children were being supplied with comfortable clothing, and poor mothers were being supplied with nourishing meals and free medical attention. Miss Boyle described a scheme of Co-operative Bakery, which the Corps had under consideration, by which much of the bakery trade could be brought back into the hands of women, and she concluded with a racy account of the activities of the Women Police Volunteers. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, November 27th, 1914.

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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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THESE MEN!

No one can accuse us of not paying close attention to the doings and sayings of the potent, grave and reverend signiors who preside over the destinies of Great Britain. Without wishing to flatter them or to set up in them that condition known as swelled head, we can lay our hand on our heart and solemnly aver that none of their actions or utterances pass us by. We scan our daily papers with faint interest until our eye lights on a speech or a saying of a Cabinet minister; we study Hansard with diligent zeal. We even go to meetings. What we do not know about them and their habits or thought is, we may confidently assert, not knowledge. And the more we watch and the longer we study, the stranger it all seems. Regardless of etymology, we exclaim, with Alice in Wonderland, "Curiouser and curiouser!"

For instance, let us ask our readers to reflect on the outcry there has been recently about intemperance. One of the emergency measures passed very shortly after the outbreak of war was to give certain authorities the power to close public-houses earlier in the evening and to open them later in the morning. There was, apparently, too much drinking. Everyone agreed that it was a pity; some went so far as to say it was a disgrace; quite a number wanted to have public-houses closed altogether during the war. And then came the Budget, and an altogether startling confession of faith from the little Welshman whose following is so largely composed of the pious and the godly. He piles up the tax on beer; not, strange to relate, to prevent so much drinking, but to obtain a huge increase of revenue from it. And he pointed his action with one high-souled sentiment that will find a spirited echo in the heart of every drunkard in the country: "Every half-pint that a man drinks will be contributing to the cost of carrying on the war."

Could anyone, yearning for an excuse to consume yet another glass, desire a better inducement than this? The mind conjures up a vision of ardent Georgites, inspired by this noble phrase, contributing to the cost of the war in their multitudes—a certain measure of speeding-up being forced on them by the earlier closing—all over the country. It will be interesting to see whether the nation will respond to the call, or whether a measure of coyness will result from the consideration of that extra halfpenny. The pleasure of getting drunk patriotically, and, so to speak, to order, may, however, be trusted to prevail in large numbers of cases.

Mr. George's hearty presentment of the duty of taking another half-pint was genially received by

an aimable and indulgent House. This House, we recollect Mr. McKenna telling an "influential" deputation only a week or two ago, could come to agreement on the question of limiting the supply of drink for men only with great difficulty. It was a contentious subject; a subject of the rights and liberties and privileges of male persons. They came to agreement at once, however, about a curtailment of the rights and liberties and privileges of women, whose supposed tendency to partake of strong drink at an increased rate since the outbreak of war has caused many of these gentlemen the deepest concern. It has pained and shocked them unspeakably; they are disgusted; indignant. They have talked of how dreadful it is when the "restraining hand of the husband" is no longer there, to see women sinking into the abyss of drink. There has been much talk of this description, mostly nonsense.

We may fairly ask, at this point, why women also are not reminded that "every half-pint a woman drinks is a contribution to the cost of carrying on the war." We are so constantly informed that it is our duty to be patriotic and to inculcate patriotic principles in others; and yet we find that when it comes to "contributing the cost of carrying on the war" we are discouraged and discountenanced. It is all very puzzling and topsy-turvy; but there is something much more difficult still to come.

To keep women sober, and to discourage them from partaking of strong drink, the tax on tea is to be raised by threepence. This seems a very odd way to advance sobriety. Mr. George did it apparently to sober the elated teetotaller (who was pilloried by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as if he were a far worse criminal than the drunkard) in case sobriety might become too attractive. So we have this position established by the united efforts of His Majesty's advisors: That women must not be encouraged to contribute to the cost of carrying on the war by drinking beer, because that might make them drunk; and that they must be made to contribute to the cost of carrying on the war by a tax on tea, which will discourage them from remaining sober. Or, if that be not the position established, will Mr. George and Mr. McKenna tell us what it is or what it isn't; or whether perhaps it is one of those things that no fellow can find out?

In very truth, women have good reason to be angry and ashamed of the pretentious hypocrisy of the men to whom the war emergency has given their chance just at present. It hardly seems possible for any of these gentlemen to touch the affairs of women at any point without some display of sex bigotry or some outbreak of sickening cant. The snuffle of righteousness when any lapse by women is under discussion—in such marked contrast to the jovial, man-of-the-world tolerance displayed towards masculine vice that only a complete absence of the sense of humour could enable them to look each other in the face—has become more pronounced in the last few weeks. The indulgence extended to the "stronger" sex was amply illustrated by Sir Ivor Herbert's pained disclaimer, when the Prime Minister replied to him on the matter of "preventible" or "avoidable" disease. Sir Ivor said that in bringing up the matter "Nothing was further from my mind than to cast any aspersion upon the young men. . . . I do not wish it to be supposed for one moment that I was casting any aspersion upon them." The "aspersion" in question was, that a very large amount of "wastage" was going on among the recruits and in the Army through "two causes and two causes only—drink and women." But Sir Ivor Herbert does not regard this as a "charge."

or an "aspersion." He reserves his anger for the "temptations," and asks for special measures to deal with them. There is a howl of fury because women of immoral character are marking down the camps for purposes of plying their trade. *What did these gentlemen expect?* Who pays for that awful trade? Who refused to give women any assistance in beating out the sources of it and cutting off facilities for it? We think of the complacency with which outrage on little girls is regarded; of the Piccadilly flat to which young girls were beguiled by rich men; and place these side by side with the indignation lavished on the "tempting" of grown men—who are supposed to be fit to take up the most serious duties of the nation—and we have no words in which to describe the contempt it inspires for the ordinary outlook of the ordinary member of Parliament and Government official. We have had enough of their muddling and mischief-making; they are weighed in the balance and found wanting. We want to handle our own affairs and introduce at least some semblance of real morality and righteousness into the national standards of life. C. NINA BOYLE.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS CAMPAIGN.

Our campaign opened in Caersws on Nov. 11, when Miss Anna Munro's eloquent speech on the Social Evil made a great impression. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. E. Jones, Maesmawr Hall, Miss Alix M. Clark presided. On Nov. 12 the Newtown Westley Guild worked up an excellent meeting at which Miss Munro spoke again on the Social Evil. The chair was taken by the Rev. R. V. Roberts, who advocated votes for women, dual education, and women police as necessary remedies for the widespread evil. Profound attention was given to Miss Munro and hearty thanks. A collection of 12s. 4½d. was taken for the Belgian Refugee Fund and our literature, including THE VOTE sold well. On Nov. 13 the Temperance and Purity Society, Carno, invited Miss Anna Munro to open their Winter Session. In spite of the boisterous and inclement weather, a large gathering assembled, many having walked miles to attend the meeting. Miss Munro's visit to Carno last February created such a lasting impression that the people determined not to miss hearing her on her second visit. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. Williams. Miss Alix M. Clark explained what the Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps stood for, and made an appeal on behalf of the Belgian Refugee Fund which resulted in a collection of 30s. Suffrage literature was eagerly bought by the audience and Miss Munro was earnestly requested to pay a visit to Carno whenever she visited Montgomery Boroughs. On Nov. 14 Miss Munro spoke at "The Cross," Newtown (a pitch which has hitherto been refused for open-air meetings) on "Woman and the War," and gave an exceedingly lucid and telling address. In spite of the cold snap, a large crowd listened, asked questions, and showed keen interest.

On Nov. 17 the Montgomery Boroughs Branch scored a great triumph. Miss Alix M. Clark had organised a public debate on Votes for Women, which was open for all over seventeen years of age. Dr. E. M. Watkins presided and there was a very good attendance, with almost as many men as women. Miss Anna Munro made an excellent opening for the affirmative and Miss Allison, B.A., a very good case for the negative. A lively discussion took place; among the speakers were Miss M. M. Watkins, Miss Evans, Mr. Louis Jones, Mr. Jarrett Reese, Mr. H. Watkins. In replying, Miss Munro made an eloquent and brilliant speech which won many followers. The Suffragists won by an overwhelming majority, only five voting against.

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Dr. Watkins for the impartial way he conducted the meeting. Literature was sold and a collection of £1 taken.

On Nov. 19 virgin soil was broken at a meeting in Llandyssil, when Miss Munro spoke on "Woman and her connection with the European War, and the war at home against destitution, sweating, bad housing and industrial and infantile mortality." There was a good audience composed chiefly of agricultural people, who listened with intent earnestness. Miss Alix M. Clark presided; the Rector kindly allowed us the use of the school free, and Mr. Wroughton, the schoolmaster, gave great assistance at the meeting.

On November 20 a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Montgomery, when the Rev. R. M. Rollason presided; Miss Anna Munro gave a stirring address on the Social Evil, and Miss Alix M. Clark spoke on behalf of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. Our good friend and Suffragist, Mr. Busch Michell, who attended and supported the platform, gave a short address. A collection of £1 9s. 6d. was taken, and the literature and THE VOTE sold well.

The campaign throughout has been highly successful and has aroused widespread appreciation; it will be continued during the next fortnight. The local Press has reported the meetings very favourably. During the past week two little Suffragists from Montgomery Boroughs, Miss Betty Crofts and Miss Ottoline Barratt, have received personal letters from Mrs. Despard, to their great joy; they had collected clothes for Mrs. Despard's war babies.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB.

A very successful meeting was held on November 18 at the Suffrage Club when Mrs. Despard, Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard each received a great ovation. Mrs. Despard declared that whatever else we did, the Women's Freedom League was determined to keep the Woman Suffrage flag flying. The storm-cloud had burst, and was causing incalculable destruction throughout Europe. It was now the duty of women to do what they could to preserve the homes of the people, but when the war was over they must be ready to claim full citizen rights for women. Mr. Lansbury agreed that the present was not the time to stop the agitation for votes for women. Women were suffering keenly through the present war; they would have to share with men its responsibilities and its burdens. Organised women must refuse to subscribe to militarism as a doctrine of life, and should insist that the controlling force in the world must rest on a sense of brotherhood and the co-operation of nations. Women should organise a set of opinions which would be expressed in the settlement after this war. Mr. Lansbury strongly recommended that women should read everything they could about the war, and consider the facts of it from every point of view; and he urged them never to desire for themselves or their country any right or privilege they would not be prepared to concede to others.

Mrs. Mustard said that women, more than men, know the cost of human life, but no woman had been considered fit to be consulted on the present destruction of life. Anti-Suffragists had often said that they did not want to see the nations under petticoat government, and she now asked them to look across the fields of Europe and consider if they were satisfied with the present sample of trousers government! Mrs. Mustard did not deny that much of women's best work was done in the home, but she did not think that any true woman could at this time of day centre all her ideas within the four walls of a house. She had to extend her sympathies to the needs of other women and the care of their children. The speaker urged women to watch the trend of legislation and stubbornly refuse to allow the people who controlled the war to control also the affairs of women.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Hampstead

A Jumble Sale will be held at Spencer Hall, Dartmouth Park-hill, N.W. (near Tufnell-park Tube station), on Saturday afternoon, November 28. We shall be very grateful for any old clothes or odds and ends brought to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, or sent to Mrs. Putz, 10, The Grange, Maitland Park, N.W., on Friday, or to the Hall on Saturday morning.

Croydon—Offices, 36a, The Arcade, High Street.

Our best thanks to Miss Atkinson, Miss Becher, Mrs. Loveday and Mrs. Whyatt for entertaining our guests at the Women's Social on November 18. **WANTED:**—(1) Members to help at Jumble Sale at Office on Monday, Nov. 30, from 12 to 4 p.m., or part of time. (2) Contributions for the Christmas Presents Sale, to be sent to Headquarters by Dec. 1, or forwarded at once direct to Mrs. Fisher, at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. (3) Children's left-off boots and shoes. Next Whist Drive will be held at 32a, The Arcade, High-street, on Saturday, Dec. 12; tickets 1s. each; profits to go to the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps Fund.

Sheffield

A very successful meeting was held on November 13 in the Builders' Exchange, when Miss Nina Boyle gave her lecture, "Women's Position in War Time." In spite of the inclement weather, the meeting was well attended, and we made a good financial profit. **THE VOTE** sold well, and help was promised for our Penny Dinner scheme. The scheme came into operation on November 21. The room has been lent and the local distress committee sends to it those who need a nourishing meal in the middle of the day but are too poor to provide it. An attractive list of savoury and nourishing dinners has been drawn up by Miss Katherine Gillott; we are employing a woman at the trade union rate of wages to do the work, and several members of the Corps are giving one morning a week to the work of supervision and buying. We have had promises of weekly subscriptions to cover the wage required and have already collected £5 towards running the venture. One of our members is collecting remnants of woollen material and making them up into children's dresses for the destitute school children in our midst. Others are busy working for the parcel of goods we have promised for the Christmas Presents Sale. The next meeting will be held at 45, Rossington-road, by kind permission of Mrs. Whitehouse.

Nottingham

On November 16 a public meeting was held in the Albert Hall Institute. The chair was taken by Richard Granger, Esq., prospective Liberal candidate for Nottingham, and Miss Nina Boyle was the speaker. After describing the work done by the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, Miss Boyle aroused much enthusiasm by her stirring denunciation of men's methods and administration. Her witty remarks were very much to the point, and were highly appreciated by her audience. Much interest was aroused in her scheme of Women Police Volunteers. Many questions were asked with regard to instruction, etc., and it is very probable that before long much good will be done in Nottingham by a force of women police. Our Suffrage pamphlets and **THE VOTE** sold well. Two members and one associate joined the League, and we are glad to announce that the Branch is now formed. This has been done since the outbreak of war. Who can doubt the wisdom of keeping the Suffrage flag flying though war is going on?

Grantham

By kind permission of Mrs. A. Stephens, a drawing-room meeting was held on November 17 to welcome Miss Boyle, whose inspiring address was listened to with keen attention. Dealing with the position of women, both during the present war and the Boer war, she pointed out that men are fighting to-day, not to protect their wives and children for that they are not able to do, but for those higher things in which both men and women have a part—love of country and of humanity, and the triumph of civilisation over methods of barbarism. Mrs. Stephens, in the chair, made a charming little speech, endorsing Miss Boyle's remarks on the terrible position of British women married to aliens. All present hope to see Miss Boyle again before very long. An open-air meeting was also held in the Market Place on November 17, when many men of Lord Kitchener's Army stationed at Belton Park gave Miss Boyle a very attentive hearing.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

At the last members' meeting a resolution was passed unanimously protesting against the prohibition of women from licensed houses during certain hours, and demanding that the public shall be treated as a whole and not as independent sections or sexes, was passed unanimously. A notice of this appeared in the local paper, and a copy of the resolution was sent to the Home Secretary. By the kind invitation of Mrs. White a whist drive will be held at 37, Aston-road, Southsea, on Wednesday, December 2, at 7.30 p.m.; tickets 1s. each.

The Women Volunteer Police filled the front page of the Daily Graphic on November 25th.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, November 27.—CROYDON, 32a, The Arcade, High-street. Public meeting, 3.30. Speaker: Mrs. E. M. Moore. Discussion Meeting, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W., 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. A. W. Madsen, B.Sc. Subject: "The War and the Land Question." Chairman: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark. Admission free. Few reserved seats at 1s.

Saturday, November 28.—HAMPSTEAD Branch Jumble Sale, Spencer-hall, 19, Dartmouth Park-hill, N.W., 3-6 p.m. (Tufnell Park Tube Station).

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

Tuesday, December 1.—WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS MEETING in aid of Bromley Women's Hospital, at 50, Hans Mansions, Hans-road, S.W., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Clark and others. Hostess: Lady Treacher.

Wednesday, December 2.—Public Meeting, Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. H. Baillie Weaver: "The Legal Position of Woman"; and Miss C. E. Andrews: "The Fruits of Male Monopoly."

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

Sunday, December 6.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m. HERNE HILL, 69, Danecroft-road. Drawing-room meeting, 3.30. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Hostesses: The Misses Spriggs.

Monday, December 7.—W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. London Branches Council Meeting at 6.30. Members' meeting, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, December 8.—W.S.N.A.C. Drawing-room meeting, at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Munro. Chair: Mrs. Huntsman. Hostess: Mrs. Corner. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.30.

Wednesday, December 9.—PUBLIC MEETING, at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W., 3.30. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, SPECIAL SHOW OF MERCHANDISE 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Members and friends cordially invited by Mrs. Snow to come and inspect and purchase goods from her Dept.

Thursday, December 10.—SPECIAL SHOW OF MERCHANDISE in W.F.L. Office, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday, December 11.—CROYDON, 32a, The Arcade, High-street. Public meeting, 3.30. Speaker: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Wednesday, December 16.—THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York-street. Public meeting, 3.30. Mrs. Montefiore: "Women in War Time"; and others.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday December 1.—HOVE, 8, San Remo. Sewing party, 8 p.m. (and every Tuesday).

Wednesday, December 2.—BRIGHTON AND HOVE. Jujitsu class, in connection with Women Police Corps, afternoon and evening. Fees, to W.P.V. Recruits for 12 lessons, 2s. 6d.; to others 5s. Further particulars from 8, San Remo. PORTSMOUTH, 37, Aston-road, Whist Drive, 7.30. Tickets 1s. each.

Tuesday, December 8.—BRIGHTON AND HOVE. Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. Chairman and Committee "At Home," at The Women's Franchise Club, 4, New-road, Brighton, to meet Miss C. Nina Boyle, 3.30-6 p.m. Brighton and Hove Sewing Meeting, at 8, San Remo.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH'S CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser: Miss A. M. Clark.
Friday, November 27.—LIANFYLIN, Town Hall. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Three Years in London Slumdom." Chair: Rev. Ll. Davies, M.A.R.D. 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 28.—NEWTOWN, National School. Public Meeting G.F.S. Mothers' Union. Subject: "Three Years in London Slumdom." Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Rev. R. Evan Jones, M.A.R.D. 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2.—CHURCHSTOKE, National Schools. Public Meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. "Women and War." Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark. 7.30.

Thursday, December 3.—NEWTOWN, Baptist Mutual Improvement Society. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Woman's Work in Time of War." 8 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, December 3.—GLASGOW, 70, St. George's-road. Branch meeting. Speaker: Mr. T. Quigley. Subject: "Proportional Representation."

Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12.—GLASGOW, Charing Cross Hall. Café Chantant and Sale of Work. Tickets, 6d. each.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, December 1.—WOMEN'S EMERGENCY CORPS MEETING. Miss Boyle: "Women Police Volunteers."

Mrs. DESPARD

presides at the
CAXTON HALL, Westminster, on Sat. Nov. 28th, at 8 p.m.
at a Meeting to be addressed by
Mr. W. TUDOR-POLE.

Subject: "Some Deeper Aspects of the Great War."

Reserved Seats 2s. and 1s., from the Secretary, 40, Courtfield-gardens, W.; or J. M. Watkins, Cecil-court, Charing Cross-road, W.C. Admission to a portion of the Hall free.

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ONE
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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at **THE SUFFRAGE CLUB**, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers December 2, Mr. H. Baillie Weaver ("The Legal Position of Woman"); Miss C. E. Andrews ("The Fruits of Male Monopoly"); admission free; collection. Buy **THE VOTE**, 1d. weekly.

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

MEMORIAL HALL, Manchester. Monday, December 7th, at 7.30 p.m. Hope Squire and Frank Merrick will play "Unfamiliar Works for Two Pianofortes." Tickets 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., 126, Deansgate; and at the door.

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