

# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.  
 Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 34.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 1914.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

**All donations in money or kind should be addressed to the Financial Secretary of the E.L.F.S. :- Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.**

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Saturday, Nov. 7th.—14 Butcher's Rd., Tidal Basin.—Poster Parade at 3.30 p.m.  
 Sunday, Nov. 8th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Bouvier, Miss Somers.  
 8 p.m.—The Women's Hall—Mr. Victor Duval and others.  
 Monday, Nov. 9th, 3 p.m.—Bow, Women's Hall—Mrs. Bouvier.  
 8 p.m.—Lesbia Road—Mrs. Bouvier.  
 8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Road—Miss Feek.  
 8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates, Poplar—Mrs. Walker.  
 Tuesday, Nov. 10th, 2.30 p.m.—30 Churchill Road (indoors)—Mrs. Dove-Wilcox.  
 7.30 p.m.—Tidal Basin, 14 Butcher's Rd.—Mrs. Walker.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall, Railway St.—Mrs. Walshe.  
 Wednesday, Nov. 11th, 8 p.m.—Ford Rd.—Miss Rickards.  
 8 p.m.—Chrisp St.—Mrs. Davies.  
 Thursday, Nov. 12th, 3 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry—Mrs. Walker and others.  
 8 p.m.—Knapp Rd.—Miss Harbutt.  
 8 p.m.—124 Barking Road—Rev. Cyril Isherwood.  
 Friday, Nov. 13th, 3 p.m.—Poplar Women's Hall—Miss Harley.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott Street—Mrs. Walker.

The Brotherhood Church, Southgate Road, Islington ('bus 21 or 76 from the Bank or Old Street tube station) has organised a regular series of Sunday afternoon conferences for men and women. On November 8th, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst speaks there on "War and the Victimization of Women." The collection is to be given to the East London Federation of the Suffragettes' Infant Welfare Centres.

## E. L. F. S.

### A MEETING

Will be held in  
**CUSTOM HOUSE SCHOOL, Freemasons Rd.,**  
**Friday, Nov. 13th, at 8 p.m.**

#### SPEAKERS:

**Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,**  
**Mrs. WALKER.**  
**Chair: Miss MARY PHILLIPS.**

Trams from 'Abbey Arms,' Barking Road, pass door of School.

## BABIES' OUTFITS.

We lend necessitous mothers outfits for their babies, for the first months.

With the money subscribed for finding employment, we are getting baby clothes made, and paying unemployed women for making these things. Those who would give money and materials for making baby clothes would help in one of the best possible ways. Gifts of baby clothes can be made good use of, also nightdresses, quilts, blankets and sheets for the mothers. Even old sheets can be cut up for babies' napkins.

Each baby's outfit should consist of:—

#### FOR BABY.

Four gowns, three flannel barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests and a cot blanket.

#### FOR MOTHER.

Two night gowns, a woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets and one pair pillowcases.

#### A WOMAN TOWN CRIER.

Mrs. Blaker of Chertsey has been appointed town crier during the absence of her husband with the Colours.

## NEW CENTRES.

The new centre at 14 Butcher's Road, Canning Town, has been started on a small scale. Our milk bill for the three other centres at Bow, Bromley and Poplar, is so heavy that we are obliged to go cautiously.

The Bromley centre has been moved from Crowder's Hall, Bow Road to larger premises at 53 St. Leonard Street, where a restaurant is now open.

## THE NURSERY.

The nursery at Norman House, 45 Norman Road, is now open. The charge for a child's day in the nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., including meals, is 3d.

Volunteers are needed to help in taking the babies out.

## CLOTHING STALLS.

Clothing stalls, where new and second-hand clothes may be bought at very low prices, are open at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, on Fridays and Saturdays, at 20 Railway Street, Poplar on Saturday mornings, and at 53 St. Leonard Street on Fridays and Saturdays. We shall be glad if friends can send us any clothes for these stalls. Boots and shoes are very urgently needed.

All parcels should be sent to 400 Old Ford Road, E., addressed to Miss N. L. Smyth.

## GARMENT MAKING.

The East London Federation undertakes the making of women's and children's underclothing, dresses, overalls, and all sorts of garments.

## "PEDDLING" WITH RELIEF.

Last week's WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT giving revelations as to the administration of the Prince of Wales's fund in Poplar, appeared on Friday. It was sent to every member of the Mayor's Local Representative Committee, and its posters: "The Mayor's Mean Scale of Relief" were prominently displayed by newsagents in the Roman Road.

By last post Saturday the Mayor summoned the members of the Local Representative Committee to meet on Wednesday.

The Mayor said that he had received from the Prince of Wales's fund altogether £374 7s. od. during a period of nine weeks since the first grant was made. He said he had had "to plead like a cripple at a gate" for the money. This phrase seemed to please him immensely and he repeated it many times.

The Rev. W. H. Hunt asked whether it was outside the scope of the Prince of Wales's fund scheme to give grants of money to the Mayors for the purpose of alleviating distress. (We do not know whether or not this enquiry was intended to be humorous).

Reference was made to the fact that the Mayor's Committee in West Ham had had a grant of £5,000. Mr. Lansbury asked whether the Members of Parliament for that Borough had gone with the Mayor to ask for the money, and so obtained a larger grant. The Mayor said he did not know. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst asked whether there was any reason to suppose that the West Ham Committee had had a grant because they had put forward schemes of work as a basis on which to ask for it. Several Councillors replied that the Poplar Borough Council had sent up schemes for relief but these had not yet been sanctioned.

Miss Susan Lawrence raised the question of the Mayor's own special scale of relief, 4s. for a man, 4s. for a woman and 1s. for each child, which we exposed last week.

She said that in other boroughs relief had been given on the scale adopted by the Local Representative Committee, pending the issuing of the Central Prince of Wales Committee's own scale. She knew that officials connected with the Prince of Wales's Fund had been going round to the districts with the doles of money saying: "Make it last as long as you can." But that, she said, was entirely contrary to the wishes of the Prince of Wales's Fund Committee. She had that day seen Mr. Arthur Henderson and received his assurance of this. Miss Lawrence said that nothing was worse than inadequate relief, and she would have preferred that no relief should be given at all than on the Mayor's scale of 4s. a week for an adult and 1s. for a child.

The majority of those present seemed anxious to hush up this part of the business. They did not like to have the 4s. and 1s. scale referred to, though at one stage of the proceedings Alderman Bussey told the Mayor that he was "peddling" with the question of relief. There was quite a little scene between Mr. Bussey and the Mayor at this point.

The chief discussion of the evening centred around the scale of relief which has been adopted by the Central Committee of the Prince of Wales's Fund, and has been sent to all the Local Representative Committees.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst said that the Poplar Committee had adopted a scale of its own, and that this scale had been most carefully considered and adopted as the lowest possible minimum for the district. She therefore moved that the Poplar Committee adhere to its own scale of relief and refuse to administer to a lower scale. She said that if the

(Continued on page 136, col. 4.)



SOME OF OUR NURSINGS.

## MOTHERS AND BABIES.

Nurse Hebbes has prepared us a chart for infant feeding, and this is published as a free leaflet. Mothers who wish to have it can obtain it at any of our centres.

Our milk bill increases weekly. At Old Ford Road alone, we give upwards of 130 quarts each day. We urgently need subscriptions towards it; also gifts of:—

#### EGGS.

For invalids and babies who are too ill to digest milk, and are given the white of egg beaten up in water.

**ARROWROOT, BARLEY & RICE, BORACIC POWDER, BORACIC LINT, VASELINE, ZINC OINTMENT & BANDAGES, COD LIVER OIL & MALT.**

## TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.

If you have lost your furniture, sewing machine, or other things you value, through being kept waiting for your separation allowance, you are entitled to compensation from the War Office. Write to us.

The Australian *Woman Voter* has been heavily censored on account of its attitude towards the war. This shows that where women have the vote their opinion carries such weight that extreme measures have to be taken to prevent its expression at "awkward" moments. It will always be awkward to justify war to women.

Christmas Puddings can be ordered at 8d. and 1s. per lb. from Miss Morgan Brown at 400 Old Ford Road, or Mrs. Richmond, 20 Railway Street, Poplar. East London friends may pay for these in weekly instalments, if they wish.

## OUR TOY FACTORY.

At the toy factory we make flat wooden toys including boy scouts, girl guides, and animals of all kinds, and costing from 6d. upwards. Our "British Baby" dolls cost 5s. 6d., and "Jap Baby" dolls 7s. 6d. life size; smaller size 3s. 6d. China and Wax headed with stuffed bodies will be ready soon; price 3s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. Dolls' furniture may be had from 6d. a set. Horses, engines and other wooden toys, in the round, are cheap. Captain Gonne has given us some "Bognor" designs for soldier toys. Our toys are on show at 400 Old Ford Rd., from November 1st. Price Lists on application.

**We urgently need some machinery, in order to be able to do our work more cheaply and effectively. A few hundred pounds of capital just now would be of immense value in building up our toy, garment and bootmaking industries.**

## OUR BOOT FACTORY.

We have already executed quite a number of orders for our co-operative boot factory, and our customers are delighted.

We can thoroughly recommend the boots which will be made at our co-operative factory. Mr. Payne, who is our manager, has made boots and shoes for many members and officials of the Federation, and these have always beaten the record for wear and comfort. Price list to suit all buyers on application. We make hand-sewn and hand sew-round boots and shoes, special "Sanitary" boots and shoes, and "Natural" shoes for children as well as boots and shoes of all the cheaper kinds.



WOMEN! JOIN THE East London Federation of the Suffragettes WE NEED YOU!

I wish to become a member of the EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES. Name Address I enclose 1d. to cover membership and postage.

The Woman's Dreadnought. Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes. 321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Agents—INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 11 Adon St. Strand, W.C.; LONDON & SUBURBAN PUBLISHING Co., St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C. Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH and SONS, and Messrs. WILLING. Annual Subscription: Post free, 5s. 4d. No. 34.—Saturday, Nov. 7th, 1914.

Brevelly and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

CALL A TOWN'S MEETING!

Dear Friends, As the winter comes upon us and as the time of warfare, ever piling up the enormous cost of ammunition, of transport and the feeding of large masses of men engaged in destructive instead of productive work, lengthens poverty and destitution will increase with us at home.

Already privations are severe, prices are high, and many are reduced to the verge of starving, but these evils will increase, and we must prepare ourselves now to meet them and cope with them effectively. War was declared in August, this is November, and the Poplar Local Representative Committee has not yet decided how the relief shall be administered.

The Government has put forward a miserably low scale of charitable doles, and in numbers of districts refuses to allow the Prince of Wales's fund to be used for productive work. This rule is not held to in all districts, but in the Borough of Poplar the members of the Borough Council on the Mayor's Committee wish to abide by it.

The difficulties which face us in East London are common, though in varying degrees, to the whole country, and it is certain that, unless more satisfactory means of dealing with distress can be forged out by the constant hammering of those who wish to ensure a decent standard of livelihood for our people, widespread physical deterioration and race degeneration will result.

Ill-paid work and casual employment, with the resultant shortage of the necessities of civilised life, have set their cruel seal very deeply upon a section of our people. The Submerged Tenth they are sometimes called. The stultifying waves of destitution are rising about us very fast. We must fight with a will if we mean to keep them back! An American writer, who came to see me a few months ago, told me he thought that here in East London was the cradle of a new and ennobled English race, a race proud and brave and brotherly and strong.

Borough of Bow, Bromley and Poplar? We should be glad to hear from those who wish to help. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A LIVING WAGE FOR WOMEN. We demand that on all work subsidised by public funds adult women should be paid a minimum wage of 5d. an hour or £1 a week, and that these rates shall be enforced in the execution of all Government contracts.

We demand that the Government take the responsibility for providing work for all women who apply for it—whether they be married or unmarried. The Docker's Union News Bulletin for October 19th echoes our demand, and makes strong protest against the miserably inadequate measures at present taken to cope with unemployment amongst women.

In many districts the number of women who have registered at Labour Exchanges as unemployed is greater than that of men, but we regret to say that no national effort, except through the Distress Committees and the Queen's "Work for Women Fund," is in operation to secure work for the women. Moreover, the Distress Committee does little or nothing for the unmarried woman living at home.

If her father is in work the Distress Committee tells her that she ought to support her, and if he is out of work, well, he ought to get work. Again, the Distress Committees are prevented from finding work for women whose husbands and sons usually support them. This means that the majority of unemployed women will have to go to the Queen's Workrooms where the pay is still less than that given by the Distress Committees.

The question of unemployed women workers is becoming more and more acute as the dependents upon the women workers are increasing; that is to say, women breadwinners, are increasing in numbers owing to the number of male breadwinners killed and maimed during the war. The Executive having given the matter consideration has passed the following resolution, which we shall be glad for our branches to adopt and to forward to the Prime Minister and to the Queen.

This Executive Council of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, calls upon the Government to take into consideration the increasing necessity of providing work for unemployed women. We enter an emphatic protest against the proposal to pay 3d. per hour and a minimum wage of 10s. per week to women employed in the Queen's Workrooms.

LABOUR WAR COMMITTEE.

The London Labour War Emergency Committee has passed a resolution calling for the abolition of 10s. a week as the maximum wage to be paid to women employed in the Queen's workrooms, and demanding a wage of 5d. an hour. This resolution has been sent to the authorities concerned.

HE DOES NOT READ THE DREADNOUGHT!

A correspondent has sent us the following letter from Sir John Bethel, who evidently does not read either the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT or the paragraphs in the Daily Press referring to the rates of wages paid in the Queen's Workrooms. In future we ought to make a point of seeing that the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT reaches Sir John Bethel week by week.

I think you might write a letter to the Secretary of Queen Mary's Fund and strongly protest against the rate of wage which you state the Committee have adopted. I feel sure that the subscribers to the Fund would not approve the action of the Committee in paying such a miserable wage as 10s. od. per week. With reference to persons who have Government Contracts, they are bound to pay Trade Union rate of wages and observe Trade Union conditions, and if you can give me any definite information that any person engaged on Government contracts is paying men or women less than Trade Union rates I will bring the matter before the Department concerned and do all I can to compel the Contractor to comply with the terms of his contract. Yours faithfully, JOHN HENRY BETHEL.

The Central Committee on Women's Employment has arranged to establish an industry for fruit pulping, vegetable drying, and fruit bottling in the West of England; they also intend to employ women on fruit, vegetable and flower growing at Radlet, in Hertfordshire. This latter scheme has been originated by Mr. R. Phillimore, who is supplying the land. In the winter the women are to be taught subsidiary industries such as basket making. This is a good scheme, but we trust that the women are not to be employed at the sweated rates which obtain in the Queen's workrooms established by the same Committee.

THE ANTI-SWEATING LEAGUE?

On October 23, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst sent the following letter to Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, and to the Press:— Sir,—When the deputation from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes waited upon you on September 2, the question of the sweating of women who are making shirts for the army was raised.

You expressed great interest in the question, and told Mrs. Parsons, who raised the matter, that you would do all in your power to prevent the sweating. You especially asked me to supply you with information of any such cases, saying that if I would do so I should be giving the Board of Trade very valuable help. Since that interview I have many times written both to the Board of Trade and to the War Office in regard to the sweating of women employed on army contracts, both in making soldiers' shirts and other garments, and also when employed as brush-makers and packers and preparers of provisions for the troops.

I now receive the following reply:—"Madam, I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of October 14, with enclosure addressed to the President, on the subject of rates of wages paid by a sub-contractor for machining army shirts, and, in reply, to say that no minimum rates have been fixed for the branch of trade in question. The Board of Trade (Great Britain) have given notice of certain minimum rates of wages which they propose to fix, but it is not known whether, after considering objections to the rates, they will adhere to the proposals, and at the present time no such rates are in operation.—I am, madam, your obedient servant." "G. S. BARNES."

In substance, I take the letter to mean that you cannot, will not, and do not care to do anything to prevent the sweating of working women who are executing orders for the Government through the medium of contractors and sub-contractors. This being the case, to reply to us as you did when we saw you was dishonest in the extreme.—Yours faithfully, SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The Manchester Guardian published the letter and added the following footnote:—

A representative of the Manchester Guardian yesterday called at the offices of the Anti-Sweating League and received the following statement as to the allegations contained in Miss Pankhurst's letter:—"While undoubtedly the payments in some cases leave a good deal to be desired, general statements as to the sweating of Government work should be taken with reserve. What is happening now is that a great many women who previously never made

army clothing of any kind are being employed in factories where this kind of work is done. Naturally they are finding the work new and strange, and in consequence their earnings are inadequate. In some of the cases in which sweating is alleged the piece price paid is relatively so good that girls engaged upon it in well-equipped power-driven factories are earning 40s. a week upwards. "As a matter of fact the prices being paid for Government work are in general good, but such a statement assumes that the work is made up in factories properly equipped for such work. Any case in which a competent woman employed on Government clothing does not earn in the neighbourhood of 20s. a week should be reported to the Anti-Sweating League, and inquiry will be made. Any good worker used to the particular kind of work should be able to earn that wage without any exceptional skill she could earn a good deal more."

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst then wrote to the Manchester Guardian:—"My reply to this statement is most emphatically that it is not my experience. I am constantly writing to the War Office to notify cases of sweating by Government contractors in this district. I will not take up your space by giving a complete list of these, but will refer only to the women and girls who are making army brushes at Messrs. G. B. Kent's factory, Victoria Park, London, E. In this case I have seen the wage-books and pay-envelopes, and there was no possibility of mistake, because in the weeks in which the workers had been employed on army contracts the books are marked with a broad arrow, in order that they may be distinguishable by the firm and by the workers. Women are paid at 1s. 2d. a dozen for making the army brushes, which for quick workers comes out at a little over 2 1/2d. an hour. They work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the factory, and take the work home with them to do at night.

One young woman, who had worked five years at precisely this kind of work in the same factory and was considered extraordinary quick, earned 11s. 1d. in one week. Three shillings' worth of this work was done after she left the factory at night. She worked at home till 10 p.m. each evening. She had earned more than any of the others.

Of the rest, one who had worked at this sort of work for three years earned 7s. 4d., one had earned 7s. 5d., and one had earned 7s. 6d., and she had done it all at home. The fingers of these workers, especially the little fingers, were sore and disfigured with the wire. Some of them will never be able to straighten their fingers again. A large proportion had sore eyes through working so long at dark coloured bristles. One girl, who had worked 4 1/2 years at the trade, had specially sore eyes. These were all hand drawers. The bristles are supplied them all roughly tumbled together, lying this way and that, so that the workers have to pick out from the mass a certain quantity and pat and push these into a neat little bundle. Around this bundle they twist wire, push it into a hole in the wooden brush back, and fasten off with wire behind. One hundred and sixty three of these bundles must be made, pushed into the brush, and fixed for 1d.

Outworkers employed by the same factory have to do the same work, and are only paid 1s. 1d. a dozen. Machine drawers in the same factory are paid 9d. a dozen for making similar brushes. The quickest worker in the factory, who has been at this sort of work for many years, earns up to 12s. or 13s. on army work. She is especially intelligent and alert and quite a leader amongst the others. A younger woman, whose work is considered well above the average, earned from 8s. 6d. to 9s. The machine drawers only work during the factory hours; therefore, though their wages are not very much greater, they are less badly off than the hand drawers, because they are not obliged to sit working at home far into the night.

Here is an absolutely authentic case of sweating. It is but one of many others which have come to my notice.

The question of sweating by army contractors in East London was raised recently on the Stepney Borough Council. The Public Health Committee reported that War Office contractors in the district paid 2s. 0d. and 2s. 4d. for making soldiers' jackets, 3s. 3d. for overcoats, and 10d. for trousers.

Writing to the Liverpool Post on October 9, Mr. H. D. Roberts, the chairman of the Liverpool Anti-Sweating League, a branch of the same organisation whose representative you have quoted, states that skilled women are making kitbags at 25 per cent. less than the minimum tailoring rates under the Trade Board Acts.

These facts clearly demonstrate that the sweating of women employed by army contractors is serious and extensive. Mr. Roberts's letter proves, unfortunately, that it is not confined to East London. I must repeat, as I did in my letter to the President of the Board of Trade, that to promise to remedy the grievance of the women who are sweated by army contractors and to ask our organisation to supply the necessary information was exceedingly dishonest if the letter which was sent to us from the Board of Trade signed "G. S. Barnes" is a correct interpretation of the attitude of the Board in this matter.

It is important that the public should awake to this question of the sweating of women workers by Government contractors.—Yours, etc. E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

The Manchester Guardian published Miss Pankhurst's reply, and added this footnote:— Miss Pankhurst's letter has been shown by a London representative of the Manchester Guardian to an official of the Anti-Sweating League, who makes the following comment:—"Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's original statements were based upon the payments alleged to be made in respect of army clothing, as to which the comment then made can be substantiated. It is not the tradition of the Anti-Sweating League to say that any payment is sufficient, and the League emphatically does not endorse the payments quoted in Miss Pankhurst's second letter as current in Stepney for the making of soldiers' jackets, greatcoats, and trousers. The point to note is that these payments will be better or worse according as the clothing is being made in well-organised and well-equipped factories or in places without good organisation and equipment. It can certainly be said that the rates quoted, whether bad or good, are better than those current for the same work in time of peace. The statement made on behalf of the Anti-Sweating League that on the prices being paid for Government work any competent woman accustomed to army work should be able to earn at least twenty shillings a week is a very moderate one, and particulars of cases in which such rates are not being earned by such workers will be promptly attended to if Miss Pankhurst will forward them. Miss Pankhurst has so far produced no case in which women making army clothing are found to be receiving sweated rates of pay.

"Nothing was said by the representative of the Anti-Sweating League with regard to brushes, a trade in which there is as yet no trade board in existence. Undoubtedly very wretched rates of payment prevail in this trade, which has lately been the subject of reports by the Women's Industrial Council and others. If the facts are as serious as appears from Miss Pankhurst's statement, they should be at once communicated to the Director of Contracts at the War Office."

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's statements were not based on Army clothing merely, but on all Government contracts. It is strange that the report of the Public Health Department of the Stepney Borough Council and by the Liverpool Anti-Sweating League, receive such scant consideration from the London Anti-Sweating League. In regard to the statements quoted which relate to Kent's brush factory, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst had already sent these to the Director of Army Contracts, and prior to this correspondence facts had already reached

DEPENDENTS OF UNMARRIED SOLDIERS.

The Government has at last issued its scale of Separation Allowances for dependents of soldiers who are either unmarried or are widowers. The highest total amount to which the Government will contribute for the dependents of these men where the soldier has no children is 12s. 6d. in the case of a private or corporal, and 15s. 6d. for a sergeant, 16s. 6d. for a colour-sergeant, 22s. for a quartermaster-sergeant, and 23s. for a warrant officer.

Table showing Amount paid weekly by private soldier or corporal before enlistment, etc. vs. Amount which private soldier must give from his pay. Columns for s. d. and 1/2 day.

The following table gives the same information for higher rank (serjeants to warrant officers):—

Table showing Amount paid weekly by soldier before enlistment, etc. vs. Amount which soldier must give from his pay. Columns for s. d. and 1/2 day.

If the soldier made only a small allowance during peace and would like now to pay more to his dependents, he can make a larger contribution from his pay, but the Government contribution will not be correspondingly increased. The leaflet issued by the War Office gives the following example:— If a soldier paid only 6s. a week during peace, that will be the largest amount to which the Government will contribute, and to get it the soldier will have to give 3d. a day. If he gives 6d. a day, 7s. 9d. will be the weekly amount payable.

The Government contribution being 4s. 3d. in each case. The Government in no case contributing more than the maximum amounts already stated, except where there are children of the soldier in the care of the dependents. If there are children of the soldier in care of the dependents, a higher amount may be issued providing the soldier paid as much in time of peace up to a limit 20s. for a private or corporal and 25s. for higher ranks.

If there are children of the soldier who are being paid for at the mother's rate of 3s. a week elsewhere, the separation allowance to other dependents will be reduced by 6d. a week for each child. Thus an allowance to the soldier's mother of 12s. 6d. would become 10s. 6d., if her four little grandchildren should be living with a married daughter. The War Office circular adds:—

When a soldier has been the sole support of a woman who would otherwise be destitute, the full allotment as for a wife and children must be made by the soldier if he wishes any payment to be made to her and to any children of his in her charge. When the full allotment is made, the Government will contribute the full separation as for a wife and children. The full allotments for a wife and children are as follows:— Soldiers not below the rank of sergeant— Wife, 8s. 10d. a week, with 1s. 2d. for each child, up to a maximum of 9s. 4d. Other soldiers—Wife 3s. 6d. per week, with 7d. for each child, up to a maximum of 5s. 3d.

In the case of the soldier's "unmarried wife," the Government allowance will stop if the soldier even reduces the allowance. This is a peculiarly mean provision, now that the War Office is inviting every man who is legally married to reduce his allotment, because it is held that he cannot pay for his washing and other extras out of the 3d. a day, which is all that is left to him when the full separation allowance is paid. Another circular issued by the War Office puts the mother's rate at 3s. 7d., which is correct.

The following table shows how much of his pay a private soldier or corporal must allow if he wishes the dependent to receive what he gave in peace, or part of it:—

Table showing Amount which private soldier must give from his pay. Columns for s. d. and 1/2 day.

In the case of the legally married wives the War Office is sending the following letter, in many cases it is asserted, without the husband having made any representations whatsoever:—"Madam—Your husband has resigned that, in view of his own expenses and requirements, he finds himself unable to continue the allotment to you of (amount inserted) a day out of his pay. Your separation allowance of (amount inserted) week will not be altered, and it is thought that you may find yourself sufficiently well off not to claim from your husband a share of his pay."

The result is that many married men have already reduced their allotments, and the very fact that they have done so, will make it harder for the man who has an "unmarried wife" dependent on him to manage on a meagre 3d. a day. Thus, in order to secure the maintenance of his children and their mother, greater self denial is demanded of the man who, by not marrying, has perhaps shown that he is most lacking in those qualities. The precarious position of the woman and children with no legal claim is rendered more difficult and uncertain. Surely the War Office should be induced to drop this promise as to the full allotment which is only enforced in these most helpless cases!

Payments will be made weekly through the Post Office as in the case of soldiers wives. The War Office states:—"It will be some time before the first payment can be made as each case has to be verified."

No claim to these allowances will be good unless it can be proved that the soldier did actually keep, or help to keep, the person claiming. Soldiers already serving will get a form of application from the Commanding Officer, and if they are serving at home, the application should come from them.

Recruits if unmarried will similarly get a form of application from their Commanding Officer on joining for duty. Dependents of soldiers serving at home should apply to the soldiers to make a claim on their behalf. Any letters about these allowances should state plainly the name and address of sender, and full name, regimental number, battalion and regiment of soldier.

The Daily Citizen is demanding £1 a week for the wife, mother or widow of every soldier or sailor fighting or killed in the War, and £1 a week for every soldier or sailor permanently maimed by fighting. The London Executive of the League of Young Liberals has passed a resolution asking that the Govern-

ment shall give compensation to soldiers and their dependents, at least equal to that provided under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The floors of Hell are said to be paved with good intentions. Will the League of Young Liberals see that their party gets it done?

GIVE THIS PAPER TO A FRIEND.



## DISTRICT REPORTS.

## BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. WATKINS.

321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Lots of dolls are waiting to be dressed for the Children's Party. Will you all come along and help to dress them at the meetings on Fridays and Mondays? Who will volunteer to help at the stall, Friday and Saturday? It is only for a few hours altogether. If a few members would take a turn for one hour or even for half an hour it would make things much easier for those who do the whole time. Who will take the paper and collecting boxes to any railway station regularly once a week?

**Dreadnoughts** sold week ending Oct. 30.—Bow and Bromley 184. Mrs. Payne, 93.

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Morris, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

## POPLAR.

DREADNOUGHT. Secretary, Mrs. BIRD,

20 Railway Street.

Distress Secretary, Mrs. DRAKE.

Progress is being made, eight new members being enrolled! This is the way to make Poplar what it ought to be—the strongest in the Federation.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst gave us a visit on Tuesday. It was decided to have a work party on Tuesday night to make presents to give to the children at a Christmas party. Will members please turn up in good numbers? Thanks to Mr. Gray for his address, and to Mrs. Drake for filling the speaker's place on Friday afternoon last.

The *Dreadnought* being very interesting this week, it behoves members to make special efforts to sell.  
95 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending Oct. 29  
Distributed—Mr. Churcher 400, Master J. Crutchfield 600, Masters R. & G. Bird with *Dreadnought* Secretary 900.

## SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. DAISY PARSONS,

94 Ravenscroft Road.

Organiser: Miss MARY PHILLIPS,  
Centre for Tidal Basin and Custom House—  
14 Butchers' Road.

Meetings have again been good and enthusiastic. Mrs. Walker's speech at the "Peacock" was much appreciated. In connection with the new work that is being opened up in Custom House district, a public meeting will be held in the Custom House School, Freemason's Rd., on Friday of next week—November 13th, at 8 p.m., at which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has promised to speak. Everyone, please make a note of date, and bring friends. We cannot afford to spend money on advertising, but the best kind of advertising—the personal appeal—costs nothing. So we rely on members to practise this, and to give Miss Pankhurst a warm welcome on her first visit to Custom House. Friends from a distance may be glad of the information that a "Docks" car from Balaam Street, Barking Rd., takes them to the door of the school for 4d.

The milk centre goes well, and the number of people to be helped increases. We hope Mrs. Davies, who so kindly came before to see and advise about the babies, will be able to come again shortly.

More *Dreadnought* sellers and collectors are wanted, especially those who could go out on Saturday (about midday) to the gates of Docks and factories. Please let us have names in good time, so that we can make up a party next Saturday.

*Dreadnoughts* sold last week, 102.

## PRISONER'S WRITINGS.

*Lend a Hand* is a newspaper, edited and published by the inmates of the State Prison of Oregon, U.S.A. Some of the articles are taken from magazines, some are specially contributed by people interested in prisons, but the majority are written by those who are actually in prison.

Running through almost all the prisoners' writings is a constant protest against the cruel competitive struggle for existence in which so many individuals begin life, handicapped from the start.

"The revised rules of this prison are being prepared, and are worthy the perusal of all the inmates. It is gradually working round to where a convict has to work out his own salvation—get busy."

So runs one of the paragraphs, but there is a bitter humour in the following:—

## GAME LAWS.

Game may be hunted in Oregon in following seasons:—

Deer, in the Winter.  
Quail, in the fall.  
Duck, in the fall.

Convicts, no closed season.

"Another Escape!" so the inscription under a tragic little drawing by one of the prisoners, showing a group of convicts in their striped dress, carrying out a coffin through a door in a thick high wall, whilst a

sentry, with his rifle, watches from above. This drawing is attached to the obituary notice of a boy of 22 who refused to disclose his name and died in the prison hospital from "injuries received at the asylum farm."

On the same page are the following verses, written by an inmate of the San Quentin State Prison of California, and sent to the Editor of *Lend a Hand* by a Washington lady.

## THE PRISON GRAVEYARD.

From Prisoner No. 24218, San Quentin State Prison of California.

Here at the foot of this barren hill  
Where the tangled grasses and wild  
weeds creep.

In serried files 'neath whitewashed  
slabs

The silent dead of the prison sleep.  
How utterly vain were their anguished  
prayers:

How vain were the scalding tears they  
shed;

They drank the cup of its bitter dregs,  
And their forms were laid with the  
convict dead.

No soothing hand to assuage the pain;  
No loving kiss when the end was nigh;  
No gentle voice in the last farewell  
And with dearth of these it was hard  
to die.

No marble urn nor sculptured tomb  
To tell what battles through life were  
fought.

A number less on the prison roll,  
A soul effaced through the realms of  
thought.

Were these erring lives all lived in vain  
Whose only goal was a grave of shame?  
Were they fated thus by God's decree?  
Then whose the fault and where the  
blame?

Drifting about like a derelict  
With rudder broken and main mast  
gone,

Flying the signal of dire distress  
Fighting the tide that carried them on.  
And where was the profit and whose  
the gain

When these wrecks were shattered  
under the reef?

Ye 'Holier than thou' with pious mien  
Do these desolate graves bring you  
sweet relief?

Know ye not that perchance on some  
future day

A boyish hand from your own may slip,  
To noisle not in thy palm again,  
Whose feet to a grave like this may  
trip?

Their were the souls in the making yet,  
With the deeper lessons of life un-  
learned:

The chords in their heart were still  
untouched,  
And passions of youth in their breast  
still burned.

They gave not a thought to the uni-  
verse,

They had not heard of God's great plan,  
The only lesson their hard life taught,  
Was man's inhumanity to man.

May these lonely mounds on this  
barren hill

Serve as signposts on the way,  
Revealing the need of our fellow men,  
Guiding us on to that future day—  
When the children of earth standing  
hand in hand

Shall drink of the fountain of truth  
and see

The glorious dawn so long foretold  
The brotherhood of humanity.

A new constitution is being drawn  
up by the United States Congress  
for the Philippine Islands. A fierce  
discussion is taking place as to  
whether the Philippine women shall  
vote. It is said that they are "the  
best men on the Islands."

"With all the progress that has  
been possible through education and  
the refining influence of society, men  
still rise up at the behest of one in-  
dividual and go forth to destroy other  
men against whom they have no bitter-  
ness. This will continue until we  
cease to admire destruction instead of  
construction. I would give more for  
one Edison than a hundred Napoleons.  
The real heroes in every war have  
been the mothers. This condition of  
affairs will end only when republics  
fulfill their destinies in the proper  
sense. In other words, war will cease  
when woman have equal rights with  
men. When she has a voice and vote  
on the question of war or peace, wars  
will end."—The Mayor of Boston on  
Columbus Day.

## ADVICE TO LARGE FAMILIES.

The maximum scale of relief now  
to be adopted by Local Representa-  
tive Committees all over the country  
makes the *total family earnings up to*  
£1, irrespective of the size of the  
family (if more than four children), or  
the fact that some of them are adults.  
Take the case of a man (unemployed)  
with a wife and seven children where  
the eldest son and daughter are  
"adults," earning at present 10s. and  
3s. respectively. If all live together  
the maximum relief doled out to  
them will be 7s. (i.e. £1 for four adults  
and five children). If the son and  
the daughter who are earning each  
take a single room at 2s. and 3s. re-  
spectively, the increased rent would  
be 5s., but the relief would be £1 7s.  
instead of 7s., a net gain of 15s. For  
now the man, wife, and five children  
would get £1 relief and the girl would  
get 7s. to make her earnings up to 10s.

Or take another case we know of—  
that of a widow with four girls, three  
of them adults. Living together they  
will get £1. If the three girls live  
together in another house (paying 6s.  
rent) they will get 19s. The widow  
and her remaining child will get 12s.,  
a net gain of 5s.

Cases can be multiplied indefinitely  
—it is a mere matter of arithmetic.  
Broadly speaking any wage-earning  
boy or girl in a family where there  
are more than four children will best  
help their families and themselves by  
living away from home. The family  
cannot get more than £1, and if their  
leaving home does not affect the  
claim to this maximum the mother  
will have "one less mouth to feed,"  
while the boys and girls will probably  
get more food by having 10s. to them-  
selves for food and rent than by con-  
tinuing to live at home and having  
their share of the food obtainable after  
rent has been deducted from the £1.

This conclusion is much to be re-  
gretted. It is a pity that families  
should be broken up, but it is worse  
that people should be left to starve on  
a totally inadequate scale of "relief,"  
coupled with a system of inspection  
which the victims resent on pain of  
absolute starvation. The responsi-  
bility is with those who have framed  
a scale of relief which from every  
point of view—even from that of  
economy if a far-sighted view be  
taken—is utterly indefensible.

## WHAT ABOUT THE MEN?

"Always restrict and punish the  
women, let the men do as they please"  
sums up the general line of conduct  
adopted by the Government whenever  
morals and manners are offended.  
Therefore as a result of a consultation  
between the Commissioner of Police,  
Alderman Edward Johnson, the  
Chairman of the London Central  
Board of Trade Protection Societies  
and Mr. Frank P. Whitbread of the  
London Brewer's Council—all men,  
be it noted—it was agreed that all  
licenses should be asked, on and  
from Monday next, not to serve  
women with intoxicating liquors for  
consumption on or off the premises  
before 11.30 a.m.

If those who have decided on this  
course believe it to be in the public  
interest, why are they not enforcing  
the order in the case of men as well  
as in that of women?

It is because the Government are  
afraid to do so in case the men voters  
should be annoyed!

If such an order is necessary, it is  
more necessary in the case of men  
than of women, for statistics show  
that there are at least five drunken  
men to every drunken woman.

Messrs. Johnson and Whitbread  
know the relative proportion of in-  
toxicated consumed by men and  
women, and no doubt they agreed to  
this proposal because they know that  
it will make little difference to the  
liquor trade which they represent.

But, though we believe that this  
order will effect but a small propor-  
tion of women, we are strongly  
opposed to it, because we regard it  
as another dangerous precedent for  
interfering, without the consent of  
the womanhood of the nation, with  
the freedom of women to come and  
go as they please and to organise  
their lives as they will. When women  
have the Vote, laws will be equal for  
men and women.

(continued from front page.)

Poplar Committee were to lead the  
way in this matter, other Committees,  
which had adopted scales higher  
than that put forward by the Central  
authorities, would follow suit, and  
the Central authorities would be  
obliged to revise their scale. It was  
objected by some of those present  
that the Central authorities would  
refuse grants to Poplar, and Miss  
Pankhurst, therefore, added to her  
resolution, "That until the Central  
Committee has agreed to our scale,  
we collect our own funds." Mr.  
Lansbury seconded this resolution.

In the discussion that followed Mr.  
St. John Hutchinson, the L.C.C.  
member for the borough, moved that  
we adopt the Central Committee's  
scale, but strongly urged them to  
extend the maximum limit of 20s. to  
25s. for a family, and the rate of  
1s. 6d. a week for a child to 2s. Mr.  
Lansbury then asked Miss Pankhurst  
to withdraw her resolution, but she  
refused, on the ground that a mere  
verbal protest would make no  
difference. Mr. Lansbury, however,  
withdrew his seconding of her motion,  
and it therefore fell to the ground.

Councillor Green then asked that  
the words *strongly urge* should be  
deleted from the resolution, in order  
that the Government might not be  
embarrassed. The country, he said,  
was in a very serious state, and people  
must not be led to think they could  
have anything they wanted. (Fortu-  
nately for Mr. Green he is one of  
those whose business prospers under  
the present state of affairs.)

Mr. Hutchinson interrupted to say  
he would certainly take out the word  
'strongly,' and eventually the resolu-  
tion was carried.

The rest of the business was  
scrambled through with unseemly  
haste, most of it being referred to the  
General Purposes Committee. Commu-  
nications from the Ward Com-  
mittees were not read, and the  
minutes were not read. A resolution  
moved by Miss Pankhurst, "that  
the minutes and communications from  
Ward Committees be read as a matter  
of course at each meeting," fell to the  
ground without a seconder.

Nothing more will be done for some  
time unless the people of the borough  
will take vigorous action!

WOMEN IN NEW ZEALAND  
PARLIAMENT.

During the debate in the House of  
Representatives on the Reform Bill,  
which provided that members should  
be elected by proportional representa-  
tion instead of being nominated, the  
House by a substantial majority in-  
serted a clause making women eligible  
as members of the Council. The  
Legislative Council subsequently re-  
jected the new clause. At a confer-  
ence on the point the delegates of the  
Council offered, on behalf of the Upper  
House, to agree to admit women as  
soon as they were eligible for the  
Lower House. In order not to en-  
danger the Bill the House managers  
agreed to this compromise, and the  
House has now endorsed the man-  
agers' action, an amendment moved  
by Sir J. J. G. Ward that the original  
clause be reinserted being negated  
by 30 votes to 21.

We conclude that women will soon  
have been eligible for the New  
Zealand Parliament.

In Australia there is already no  
legal bar to women entering Parlia-  
ment. Mrs. Martel stood for election  
some ten years ago. Miss Vida Gold-  
stein has twice been a candidate, and  
the *Australian Woman Voter*, which  
comes to our office weekly, reports  
the progress of her latest Parliamen-  
tary contest.

Dear Editor,—Having heard you were  
greatly in need of warm garments to  
clothe the babies in Bow, I am sending you  
down ten pairs of socks, which I hope may be of  
some use to you. Might I make one valuable  
suggestion about the distribution of the  
same? Would it not be a good plan to try  
to make these socks go as far as possible by  
giving only one to each baby? Surely it is  
better that say 20 babies should have one  
foot warmly clad rather than that only a few  
should have both feet warm? No doubt  
some kindly, philanthropic people, seeing  
their great need, would, out of the kindness  
of their hearts, provide the other sock in  
each case. And just think what a lot of children  
would be provided for.

Hoping that you may see your way to act  
upon my suggestion. "Half a loaf is better  
than none!"

I am yours truly—SARCAS.