

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 361.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1915.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free)
1d.

THE CHILD SLAVE



A. PATRIOT

LA FRANCE: "Tiens! Have you no women to till the fields in your country, Monsieur John Bull?"

(In France the women take the place of the farm labourers who have gone to the war. In this country, women are ignored and little boys of eleven and twelve are being taken from school to make up for the shortage of male labour.)

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, Regent 5150
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

THE CAMPAIGN

Indoor Meetings

Tuesday, February 9; 8 p.m.—Open Meeting— U.S. Women's Club. Speakers: Rev. J. M. Maillard, Mrs. Gregory.

Wednesday, February 10; 4 p.m.—At Home to Papersellers.—By invitation only.

Thursday, February 11; 6 p.m.—Members' Meeting.—U.S. Offices, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25; 8 p.m.—PUBLIC MEETING IN THE KINGSWAY HALL.—Chair: Miss Evelyn Sharp. Speakers: Mrs. Agnes H. Harben (just back from Red Cross work in Paris), Mr. Israel Zangwill, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mr. H. W. Massingham (engagements permitting), Mrs. Ben Webster (Miss May Whitty), and Mr. Henry W. Nevinson (recently in France).

Tickets: Reserved and numbered, 2s. 6d. and 1s.; unreserved, 6d.; from the Ticket Secretary, 3, Adam Street.

Outdoor Meetings

Friday, February 5; 8 p.m.—Liverpool Street and Walworth Road. Mr. Mackinlay.

Monday, February 8; 3 p.m.—Liverpool Street and Walworth Road. Miss Dransfield.

Wednesday, February 10; 8 p.m.—Larcom Street and Walworth Road. Miss Phœbe Rickard.

KINGSWAY HALL MEETING

"To demand that Woman's Voice be heard in any Settlement of Peace"

In the midst of the tragedy of war, many people are directing their thoughts towards the settlement that must come when war is over. United Suffragists feel that this settlement must not be made without the help of women, who are so vitally concerned. To express this point of view they are holding a mass meeting in the Kingsway Hall on Thursday, February 25. It is essential that this should be made a great rally at a moment when discussions are already afoot as to the kind of Peace that must follow the present war. All readers are urgently called upon to do their "bit" in this episode of the Greater War by taking tickets at once for themselves and their friends, by sending in their names to the U.S. as bill distributors, by holding drawing-room meetings, and advertising the meeting to the best of their ability.

IN MANCHESTER

A very good meeting was held by the U.S. in the Association Hall, Manchester, on Wednesday in last week, in conjunction with the Manchester Men's League and the Women's Freedom League. Mr. J. Beanland took the Chair and dealt with the unjust administration of payments to soldiers' mothers, giving admirable local instances to support his allegations. Miss Nina Boyle dealt principally with the various orders restricting the liberties of women; and Mr. George Lansbury showed how the want of the woman's vote was seen in the rise of food prices and the inaction of the Government in the matter. Miss Evelyn Sharp spoke of the sacrifices being made by men for their country, and said it was the business of non-combatants, both men and women, to see that the country was made worthy of the sacrifice by giving to women the rights for which these men thought they were giving their lives because the Germans had infringed them in Belgium. A resolution demanding, among other things, the "equal imposition upon men and women alike of any restrictions of liberty rendered necessary by the war," and also that "the Government take advantage of the Party Truce to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women," was carried by an audience pretty equally composed of men and women, with only one dissident.

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Many members and friends were unable to be present at the "At Home" in the Eustace Miles Restaurant on January 22, on account of the snowy weather. Two meetings will be held in the U.S. Offices at 3, Adam Street, on Thursday, February 11, and Thursday, February 18, at 6 p.m., at which members of the Committee will be present; and it is hoped that U.S. London members will come to these meetings, which have been fixed at an hour specially convenient to workers, in order to talk over schemes of work, especially with regard to the campaign for the Kingsway Hall meeting.

BIRMINGHAM U.S.

Hon. Sec., Miss Haly, 59, County Buildings, Corporation Street
A Birmingham U.S. has been founded, with Miss Margaret Haly as Hon. Secretary. Offices have been taken in a central position, and will be open on Fridays 10 a.m.—9 p.m.; Saturdays 10—1; other days 2—8. Five papersellers are already enrolled, and will begin work with the sale of this issue. The offices open to-day (Friday). All Birmingham sympathisers, men and women, are asked to call at 59, County Buildings and join the U.S. at once. Great praise is due to Miss Bertha Brewster, to whose initiative this new branch owes its existence. Mr. Charles Gray, U.S. Branches Organiser, is now at Birmingham.

BOLTON U.S.
Hon. Sec., Mrs. Jessie Crompton, 68, Hilden Street, Bolton

The Bolton branch of the U.S. has had a valuable contribution to its library in the addition of Mrs. Pankhurst's book, "My Own Story." For this we are indebted to Mrs. Anderson, of Clifton, Bristol, to whom the thanks of the Union go. We are glad to report increased interest in the Suffrage cause as seen in the number of strangers who are buying our paper from the women in our "trenches," also in our increasing membership. A fancy dress "Social" is to be held in the Borough Hall on Saturday, February 6. Tickets, 1s. 3d. each, may be had from members of Committee.
Monday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m., Members' Meeting.—Borough Hall. Look in VOTES FOR WOMEN for the speaker!

The Amersham and Chorley Wood local reports are held over owing to want of space.

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB

92, Borough Road, S.E.

Thirty-four members have joined the Club since the beginning of January, and use it constantly. The audience at the Tuesday night Suffrage meetings grows steadily larger, and each week more club members join U.S. Badges are now in great demand. Mrs. Parsons, who came last week from the East End and spoke to our working women as one of themselves, roused great enthusiasm.

THE CHILDREN'S PARTY

The Children's Party, held in a hall adjoining the U.S. Club, was in every way a success. Nearly 200 children and mothers sat down to tea, and for three-quarters of an hour tea and bread and butter and jam and cakes and buns vanished like the eggs in the conjuring tricks that followed later. After tea, a delightful entertainment was given, in which Miss Fox and Miss Seymour sang and played, Miss Gantz recited, Miss Evelyn Sharp told a fairy tale, and Mr. Bettsworth gave a conjuring performance. Father Christmas (Mr. Sidney Wood) wound up the proceedings by distributing toys. Every child went away with a toy and a bag of sweets and a cracker.

Mrs. Barry, with her band of energetic helpers, whose names are too many to mention, managed the tea and catering without a hitch; she also gave the nuts and crackers. Besides those acknowledged last week, gifts of cakes were received from Mrs. Nicolaidi and Mrs. Somers; milk from Miss Brewster; sweets from Mrs. Gould and Miss Sharp; toys and dolls from Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Whitaker, Mrs. Ayrtton, Mrs. Jelké, Miss A. Chester, and an

anonymous friend. Miss Fox kindly collected and arranged the toys. Gifts of money were also most generously sent, and will be acknowledged next week.

We are asked to say that acknowledgments made last week to Miss Hickey and Mrs. Terens belonged respectively to Miss Hockey and Mrs. Ferens.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN"

"At Home" to Papersellers

A very important gathering is expected at the "At Home" which is being given on the afternoon of February 10 to paper-sellers and poster-inspectors, by Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck and Miss Evelyn Sharp. A discussion will be held on ways of extending the circulation of VOTES FOR WOMEN, and this will be followed by a recital by the well-known flutist, Miss Penville. An invitation will be sent to anyone prepared to undertake a definite piece of work in connection with the sale of VOTES FOR WOMEN, who will apply in writing to Miss Evelyn Sharp at the U.S. Offices. Any country paper-seller or inspector who will be in town on the day is also asked to send in his or her name; also anybody whose name may have been inadvertently overlooked.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CENTRE

Mrs. Hicks, of 33, Downside Crescent, Hampstead, has kindly undertaken to establish a paper-selling centre at her house, and will be glad to hear of anyone in that neighbourhood ready to sell VOTES FOR WOMEN or to extend its circulation in any way. It is hoped that a great impetus will thus be given to paper-selling in Hampstead, and to the movement for which it stands.



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CONTENTS

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Our Cartoon | 153 |
| United Suffragists | 154 |
| The Outlook | 155 |
| The Real Cure for High Prices | 156 |
| Peter Comes Home. By T. O'Meara | 157 |
| The Dinner of the Poor. By Mrs. Pember Reeves | 157 |
| Literature of the Cause | 158 |
| Correspondence | 158 |
| Comparison of Punishments | 159 |
| The Soldier's Wife | 159 |
| The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage | 159 |

DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

Parliament re-assembled last Tuesday. "For once," remarks the *Times*, somewhat unkindly, "the House of Commons has the sternest realities to discuss," and in our leading article we indicate some of those realities. Mr. Asquith's announcement of the intention of the Government to take all the time of the House, and Lord Crew's, in the House of Lords, that no contentious legislation would be introduced, rule out the likelihood that the Plural Voting Bill will be proceeded with. But neither statement precludes the possibility of the passage of a non-party measure of Woman Suffrage during the Party truce in politics.

Women and Peace

Although there is no indication that hostilities are in any way slackening on the Continent, the growing desire that peace, when it is made, shall be of a more lasting nature than ever before becomes daily more apparent in this country. Earl Gray, who takes the Chair at the "From War to Peace" meeting in London next Monday, has written to the Press to state that a resolution will be moved insisting that the peace which follows this war shall be one which will secure the collective responsibility of all civilised nations for the maintenance and enforcement of international law.

We hope that an amendment will be moved to this resolution, calling for the enfranchisement of women as a necessary and preliminary step to securing "the collective responsibility" of civilised nations. It is further stated in the programme just issued for the meetings of the National Free Church Council, to be held in Manchester next month, that the "Basis of a Lasting Peace" will be one of the subjects discussed. Here again it is of the first importance that the Council should adopt a resolution to the effect that no peace can be anything but transitory that is founded upon the deliberations of men alone.

The U.S. and Women's Votes

United Suffragists will make this demand for enfranchisement (as a necessary preliminary to peace councils) the rallying point of their great meeting in the Kingsway Hall on February 25. A deep wrong has been done to women in the making of war without their consent; some preparation can be made for this wrong if their consent—through the medium of the vote—is sought before peace is arranged. There is no intention or desire to embarrass the Government in putting forward this demand now. Legislation of a Party character must necessarily be avoided until the war is over. Woman Suffrage is not a Party question; and the removal of the sex bar in politics will benefit neither one Party nor the other. But it will heal an ancient sore which still makes for disunion in the nation at a time when union is imperative; and it will release for work of a constructive kind, at a time when a constructive Peace is under dis-

cussion, women who are now powerless to give the help they so passionately desire to place at the disposal of their country.

An Important Pronouncement

In a "Foreword" to an appeal to farmers, issued by the Department of Agriculture, Sir Robert Borden, Canada's Prime Minister, insists that the war must mark a great epoch in the history of inter-Imperial relations. Commenting on this, the *Times* correspondent at Toronto said last week:—

If one hundred or two hundred thousand Canadian soldiers engage in the conflict, and obligations are assumed by Canada, it is inconceivable that the country should have absolutely no voice in the ultimate settlement.

In this country half the nation, bearing the burdens of war equally with the other half, suffering the anguish as well as the financial loss of war equally with the other half, will have "absolutely no voice in the ultimate settlement" of peace unless women are enfranchised without delay. If it is "inconceivable" that Canada should not be consulted in the making of peace, what has the *Times* to say of the total exclusion of women from such settlement?

The New Scale of Pensions and Payments

As we went to press the first report of the Pensions Committee was made public. A slight advance is proposed in the separation allowance in respect of the payments for children, but not in the amount paid to the wife; a sliding scale dependent on increasing age is proposed for the widow, starting at ten shillings and rising to fifteen (the former flat rate proposed was seven-and-sixpence), with a slight increase in

WOMEN AND PEACE

COME TO THE KINGSWAY HALL

ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

(See opposite page.)

the payments for children after the first child. For total disablement the payment is raised from 14s. to 25s., with no mention as to how much of this is intended for the wife, who, in the former scheme, was valued at half-a-crown. Training for the widow, but not for the partially disabled man, is mentioned in this preliminary statement, about which we shall have more to say next week.

Child Labour

We were among the first to expose the attempts being made to ignore the existence of women and to substitute boys of school age for adult farm labourers absent through enlistment; and we gave some account in our columns last week of what was happening in this connection in some agricultural districts. Inquiries made by the Workers' National Committee and the National Educational Association show that in several counties boys are being released from school at twelve years of age, and even at eleven in the Soke of Peterborough; though in one or two districts the proposal has been rejected. A Labour deputation, of which Miss Susan Laurence, L.C.C., will be a member, is to wait upon the Prime Minister on the subject. As long as the outcry does not end in another Committee being appointed to enquire into it, something may possibly be done to avert this new danger to childhood. But we cannot be sure of anything as long as women have no power; and we smile sadly when we read in a *Times* leader that the proper persons to be consulted are "the parents, the boys, and the local education authority." For the mother, in

England, is not a parent—unless her child is illegitimate.

Women and Employment

The fact that children are cheaper even than women in the labour market accounts, no doubt, for the farmer's anxiety to capture boy slaves; for, as Lady Castlereagh again points out in the *Times*, women are both available and competent. And the *Daily Citizen*, in an account of the Queen's Work for Women Fund, says very truly: "Until a workroom is actually opened, it is felt by some local committees that the real extent of unemployment among women is not known." This would probably be denied by the indignant employer who writes to the *East End News* to complain that "the women are malingering," because, apparently, they will not work for him at wages ranging from 8s. 6d. to 11s. a week! It is satisfactory to note, in the face of all this prejudice, that the *Clerk* speaks this month of a "threatened invasion of women" as bank clerks, and adds very wisely:

There will doubtless be cries to keep the women out of banks. To listen to them would be as foolish as to run your heads against a brick wall. The safer and safer way is to combine with the women to keep up the salary scale, or raise it.

Speaking of clerks, a picture in a daily paper of women clerks working in the German War Office makes us wish that the equivalent British Office, so courteous to women's deputations, would admit them also as fellow workers—and so probably do away with the need for some of the deputations!

Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence

A cablegram has reached us from Mr. and Mrs. Pethick Lawrence containing the information that their visit to Japan has had to be abandoned owing to the great demand for more meetings in America on the subject of "Women's War on War." Based on the demand for the enfranchisement of women, so that the complete democratisation of nations may make for a constructive rather than destructive peace when the war is over, this movement which Mrs. Lawrence went to America to inaugurate has now reached such dimensions that both she and Mr. Pethick Lawrence are in constant request as speakers. They are now on their way to San Francisco, where they will address large meetings. At the Twentieth Century Club in Boston, the other day, Mr. Lawrence spoke of the stupendous cost of the war in lives and economic waste, and said he believed that a parliament of the neutral nations would bring about a cessation of the struggle, as it would then be possible to arrive at what each belligerent was fighting for, and what it really wanted.

Items of Interest

In spite of the refusal of the Home Office to approve or disapprove the scheme—these anti-feminist wobblers!—the Southampton Corporation decided last week to appoint two woman constables.

The L.C.C. has graciously consented to remove its marriage ban in the case of Mrs. Macdonald, a public health medical officer, as her husband is serving with the colours. Even without a European War the Suffragists of New York have recently succeeded in winning leave of absence for married women teachers during the infancy of their babies—a real victory in the Greater War.

Speaking on the war under the title of "The Great Adventure," Miss Maude Royden gave a striking address at the Friends' Meeting House, Manchester, in which she said that we have to find an adventure still more splendid—the adventure not of war but of peace.

Mr. Masterman's resignation of the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, and also of the Chairmanship of the Insurance Commission, is a warning to professing Liberals who deny the rights of citizenship to women and thus undermine their political career.

Articles and News contributed for insertion in VOTES FOR WOMEN should be sent to The Editors, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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VOTES FOR WOMEN

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1915.

THE REAL CURE FOR HIGH PRICES

Before these lines are in print the House of Commons will have met, and also, if report may be trusted, the now notorious Committee on pensions and allowances will have published its recommendations. Prophecy is perhaps never wise; certainly it reaches a height of unwisdom when its truth or falsity is likely to be known before it itself appears, and we hazard no conjecture as to what the Commons may do before the end of the week or what the Committee may prove to have done. But one or two points are already open to comment. It is anticipated, by at least some of the Liberal Press, that the Committee's recommendations will not be so humane as to stagger humanity; Mr. Bonar Law has even been thanked by Liberals for his "sportsmanlike" action in sharing the responsibility, so that any blame which the Committee's findings may incur will not fall upon the Government alone. If disabled soldiers and sailors and the widows and children of dead soldiers and sailors receive less at the Committee's hands than they ought in right and justice to receive, no single one of the three political parties, it is true, will be free from blame; all are to be found represented on the Committee, and all will be implicated in its findings. The only section of the community which will have clean hands in the matter will be the women, whose instincts of justice go for nothing in a community where they are not allowed to be citizens. We hope from our hearts that our fears are ill-founded. But the grievance of the long delay, during which prices have been rising and allowances have been stationary, will need a very great deal of wiping out. Indeed it is one of the tragedies of public—as of private—life that no future justice can make amends for an injustice done. Every hour of delay in doing right is a permanent and irremediable wrong.

As for Parliament, we have observed that one or two newspapers have published notes by their Parliamentary correspondents to the effect that there is really very little for Members to debate; they are expected, it seems, just to approve the financial measures upon which the Government may have decided. Their speech is to be "Yea, Yea"—never "Nay, Nay." Their function is to be degraded from ratiocination to ratification. We need not say how strongly we dissent from this view. There are all sorts of things to which the House should turn its immediate and sincere and punctilious attention. One of them is the cost of living. Another (not really to be dissociated from the first) is votes for women.

It is common knowledge—knowledge, alas, all too common—that the bare essentials of life, bread and coal, are rising in price at a pace

which can only be described as terrifying. Fortunate people, who are so well-to-do that they need not enquire into the price of what warms them and feeds them, may regard "Another twoshilling rise in coal," or "Another penny in the quarter loaf," as merely an interesting item in their morning's paper; but what is an abstract percentage to them is starvation to Mrs. Thomas Atkins. Since the beginning of the war bread has gone up anything from 50 to 60 per cent.—from 5d., or at the most 5½d., to 7½d. and 8d. Coal is in some parts roughly half again as much as it was last summer; ten days ago some poor women were buying a pitiful half-hundredweight for a shilling, and there has been a further rise since then. What is the reason? It has been well said that the only cure for war prices is peace, just as the only cure for poverty is money; but few are maintaining that the mere legitimate pressure of war conditions is responsible for the whole, or anything approaching the whole, of the present rise. The shipowners are bitterly blamed; they are accused of reaping an enormous profit at the expense of the community. It is said that the rate of freights has been abnormally exalted, quite beyond what the difficulties of transport could explain. Another cause of high prices is alleged to be the congestion of inland traffic and of seaports, due in turn not so much to genuine scarcity of labour as to muddled arrangement and administration. At the port of London it is possible to find ships "held up" and dockers simultaneously unemployed, while railway station after railway station shows lines of waiting trucks that are apparently tied by nothing stronger than red tape. On the other hand, we are told by "economists" that we must put up with high prices because they are in accord with the sacred and unassailable law of supply and demand. Well, in the late days of the Roman Republic it was the pleasant habit of financiers to lend money to subject races at 40 and 50 per cent.—in strict accordance with the sacred law, for there was a demand for money even at that interest. Women, though voteless, read their history, and know that the Government cut down all these rates to 12 per cent. by law; and when, nineteen centuries or so afterwards, they are told that the Government could not possibly do any such thing, voteless women reply that if the Government will arrange for the poor to have cheap food now, they will be quite content for the economists of a dim and speculative future to discover that the arrangement cannot have taken place.

But is our demand, as Suffragists, that a Government which does not represent us shall do for women what they could do so much better, if only they had representation, for themselves? By no means. In so far as war prices are inevitable, women are paying for a war they had no voice in and making sacrifices for a peace in which, it is blandly assumed, they are to have no voice. In so far as these prices are avoidable, women have to put up with the injustice or incompetence of people whom they can in no way control. Is lack of Government action to be blamed? Women cannot influence the Government. Is lack of labour to be blamed? Women are excluded from some occupations—such as agriculture—which they could enter upon immediately; from other essential occupations—such as cartage—they are for the most part excluded because of the past monopoly of the requisite training by men. Women are doubly, nay trebly, hit; they are for obvious reasons suffering more than men from unemployment; they are, in themselves and through their children, suffering more from shortage of warmth and food in the home; above all, they are debarred from taking the muddle in hand and putting it straight.

Let the newly-met House of Commons redress all these grievances; let it bring justice and freedom to our own people; let it enfranchise women.

PETER COMES HOME

By T. O'Meara

The two Babes-to-be stood at the great doorway of the Castle East of the Sun and peeped out. They could see all the little twinkly stars and the rainbows, and, very far below, hidden under a sombre patch of smoky grey cloud, the Earth.

"We shall have to go, I suppose," said the Man-Babe. (It is only after they come to live on Earth that Man-Babes learn to say "I" instead of "we" when they are talking to a woman.)

The Woman-Babe nodded. "Yes. They say—don't they?—that our king and country needs us. Lots and lots of us! I wonder why? I wonder what it means!"

"We shall find out, I expect," said the Man-Babe, sighing a little. They had been so very happy in the Castle East of the Sun, and they were not at all anxious to go and be born. "Peter's gone, too," he added. "He was one of the first. I don't think we ought to shirk it when Peter's gone. I don't want him to think we're afraid."

"Perhaps we shall meet Peter there," said the Woman-Babe, comfortingly.

"Perhaps," said the Man-Babe, and they were silent for a little while.

Then the Woman-Babe said, "Look at all those little clouds sailing up to Castle West of the Moon. What numbers there have been lately! I never saw so many. Isn't it queer? I wonder if that's anything to do with the reason why they want us?"

"I don't like them," said the Man-Babe, shaking his head. "There are too many of them. They frighten me. See, there are so many today that one of them—that tiny one—is drifting right away from all the rest. Why, I do believe it's coming here!"

"Oh, let's look!" cried the Woman-Babe, and they both sprang forward.

And as the tiny white cloud sailed slowly up to them a little voice called feebly, "Help me out, please!" And the Man-Babe exclaimed, "Why, bless my wings, it's Peter himself!"

But Peter, who had been the plumpest and pinkest and jolliest of all the Babes-to-be when he left the Castle a few short weeks ago, was now so thin and pinched and miserable and wasted that his friends shrank back in horror, for (never having been to Earth) they had never seen a baby looking like this before.

"It's all right," said Peter, reassuringly. "It's only what they do to you down there. Lay me in a sunbeam for a little while and I'll feel better."

So they lifted him out, very gently, and laid him in a sunbeam, and gave him some nectar, and presently he was able to sit up and talk to them. And the first thing he said was "Don't go!"

"Don't go?" repeated the Man-Babe and the Woman-Babe, in amazement.

"No! It's the biggest swindle in the universe! It's the confidence trick—that's what it is! To hear them talk you'd think they'd be glad to see us; you'd think they'd take care of us when we came; you'd think they'd have proper houses for us, and nice food, and baths and powder-puffs and flannels and things. It's all a pack of lies! Why, I was born in a room with my six little brothers and sisters because there was nowhere else for mother to go, and they were very frightened, and cried, and I cried too; and mother cried dreadfully. And in a week she had to get up and go out to do washing for the fat people, because the allowance hadn't come."

"What's that?" cried the Man-Babe.

"It's a thing they send her now, because my father's away being killed at a place called the Front. Did you know that that was what they wanted us for? I didn't know; but it seems that every thirty years or so, when we've had time to grow up and learn how to do all the clever things, they set to work and kill us

by the hundreds and thousands; and then they say they want more of us, and in another thirty years they begin to do it all over again."

"Why?" demanded the Woman-Babe, indignantly.

"I don't know. I didn't have time to learn why. I was so disgusted I came away at once. It made my mother cry; but I couldn't stop. And she cried very often, because she said she was so tired. And then food went up—"

"What's that?" asked the Man-Babe.

"I don't know that, either; but it means everybody being very hungry and miserable, especially one's mother. And then coals go up, and everybody's very cold, especially one's mother. And all the time the killing goes on; and altogether, a beastlier place I never saw. If I'd known what it was like I'd never have gone at all."

"Is it always going to be like that?" said the Woman-Babe, trembling a little.

"I don't know. But there was one evening when mother took me out under her shawl to get some bits of bread that were too stale for the fat people to eat. And we had to wait a long time in the rain at the corner till the fat people had had all they wanted, and there was

a woman who came and talked to us there, and she said perhaps it might be different some day, when—when—"

"When what?" said the Woman-Babe, eagerly.

"When they let one's mother help to say when food is to go up and come down, and when the killing is to begin and when it's to leave off. At present she mustn't say anything at all about it—she just has to be hungry and cold, and watch all the big babies being killed, and have us in the little rooms where there isn't any fire, and watch us going away again when we can't stand it any longer. It's a rotten job, being anybody's mother—down there. I wanted to apologise to her all the time; but she couldn't understand my language."

"I shall wait," said the Man-Babe, decidedly. "I shan't go yet. How glad I am you warned us, Peter!"

But the Woman-Babe looked thoughtful. "I think," she said, "I should like to go and help people's mothers." And, taking a little run, she jumped through the great doorway and flew away to Earth.

"No accounting for tastes," said the Man-Babe.

THE DINNER OF THE POOR

By Mrs. Pember Reeves

In August the half-quarter loaf cost the working woman in London 2½d. If she bought it over the counter the baker was bound to put it on the scales and make up the weight with more bread till an exact half-quarter was given in return for the money. At this moment the same woman is paying 3½d. for the same amount of bread, and she is being warned by her baker that to-morrow, or the day after, it will be 3¾d. When this working woman puts a penny in her gas-meter she gets less gas for it.

When she orders her weekly hundredweight of coal she is charged 1s. 8d. or 1s. 9d., instead of the normal winter price of 1s. 6d. Potatoes are more often 2lbs for 1½d. than the usual 2lbs a penny. Meat is nearly out of the question for women and children at all. The old "pound 'er pieces" at 4½d. is now altered to 6½d. or even 7d.—"an' only scraps 'er skin at that," remarks the patient expert who was wont in the old days to take her pound "regler 'er Wensdy."

Milk has not yet risen, though a rise is talked of, but milk was always a rare luxury which 90 per cent. of families, with a weekly income of less than 30s., never allowed themselves. Tinned milk is now sold for 4d. where it used to be 3d. Eggs are unknown, except in the cases where a mournful hen, unaided by any other of her species, produces an occasional but passionately welcomed treat. Herrings, which used to be two a penny, are now either not to be had, or are more expensive. Bloaters and kippers have gone up, and bacon has vanished from the really poor menus.

Mrs. D., whose husband before the war was earning 25s. and allowing 23s., used to spend her weekly income in such a way that she could count on about 10s. 6d. for the food of her six children, her husband, and herself. Now, however, owing to the rise in coal, gas, wood, and oil she finds herself with a sum which barely reaches 10s. She used to spend her 10s. 6d. more or less as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Item, s. d., s. d., s. d. Lists items like 14 loaves, Meat, 20lbs potatoes, etc.

The rise in prices would bring this modest list up to over 15s., and Mrs. D. has something like sixpence less to spend than she used to have. She has to re-arrange her expenditure with a result something like this:—

Table with 4 columns: Item, s. d., s. d., s. d. Lists items like 14 loaves, Meat, 20lbs potatoes, etc.

That is to say, she takes the same amount of bread, of potatoes, tea, sugar, butter, and tin milk, but half the quantity of meat, vegetables, condiments, flour, cheese, and haddock, while she cuts off altogether jam, suet, and lard. This means that the man gets less meat but all the meat there is, less cheese and haddock, though all that there is; while the whole family eat less vegetables and flour, and do without jam, suet, and lard.

It will be readily seen that this state of things means slow starvation for the non-breadwinners. In every case the wage-earner must have enough to keep him in efficient strength, while the others must be content with what is left. Such a condition of affairs cannot continue without further gravely imperilling the national work of producing and rearing children who should be in twenty years' time the chief source of strength to the nation—in war or in peace.

LITERATURE OF THE CAUSE

"THE CATHOLIC SUFFRAGIST"

All Suffragists owe their thanks to the enterprise of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society in bringing out the first number of their new monthly organ, *The Catholic Suffragist*, during a European war. United Suffragists will especially welcome the support of their own determination to keep the flag flying, contained in the words of the Editorial:—

Some of our members, though anxious for our paper to appear, may question the wisdom of publishing it at this moment. We confess that if our motives were commercial, selfish, or sordid, we should have waited a more favourable opportunity, but after much thought and discussion the Committee came to the decision that every organised body of women should have the means of expressing their views at this crisis, when the honour and liberties of women are threatened on every side. The written word has more power and can reach further than the spoken, and it must not be said that Catholic women stood aside while their sisters were in danger.

Mrs. Meynell contributes a beautifully written article indicative of the aims of the Catholic who is also a Suffragist. She concludes with the words:—

Great work, great devotion, great power, great ability are spent by those reforming women who have temporal evils to correct and temporal good to try for. Is it not then a wonder that all Christian women, and therefore all Catholic women, are not in the forefront of such a movement? For their aim, their pain, their compassion, their hope, are for things material and temporal, but also for things spiritual and eternal.

The new publication is edited by Miss Leonora de Alberti, and is published at 55, Berners Street, W., price one penny monthly.

A TOPICAL REPORT

In view of the threatened extension of child labour, both in agricultural and factory work, the Report of the Committee on Wage Earning Children for the year 1914, which was issued the other day, is of special interest. The history it gives of the ill-fated Children (Employment and School Attendance) Bill last year shows how hopeless it is to attempt to force legislation dealing with these vital matters through Parliament without the leverage of the women's vote. The aim of the measure was to abolish the half-time system (under which 25,000 boys and girls under 14 and over 12 are at work half the day in the factory and half the day in school), and to abolish total exemptions from school attendance of children under 13, but to allow exemptions over that age if sanctioned by by-laws approved by the Board of Education. The same authority could sanction the raising, by means of by-laws, of the school age to 15; and the local education authorities could also make attendance at Continuation Classes a condition of employment up to the age of 16.

Discreditable Tactics

A Bill so essentially just and necessary could not hope to get through a Parliament accountable to men only. Open opposition could scarcely be offered to it, even by our present House of Commons; so it got as far as the Report stage, when a limited number of members, chiefly Lancashire representatives who objected to the half-time clause, talked out the Bill, refusing even to accept the compromise offered by its promoters, who agreed to give way on the school attendance and continuation classes clauses. Yet 50 resolutions had been passed in favour of the Bill by Local Education Committees and Juvenile Advisory Committees!

Now we are reaping what we have sown. The country, because women, who care most for the welfare of children, have no political power, allowed this urgent Bill to be killed. At least half a million children in Great Britain are already wage-earners, many of whom would have been removed from the labour market if the Bill had become law. And now, because so little outcry was made when the measure was talked out, the authorities probably think they can

surreptitiously extend child labour in field and factory without causing any outcry at all.

This is an incident in that Greater War that never stops whether Europe is in arms or not. And the casualty lists contain only the names of children.

OUR NEW LEAFLET

The following leaflet has been issued by the U.S., and can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, U.S. Offices, 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., price 1s. per 100, and 7s. 6d. per 1,000:—

WHY WE KEEP THE SUFFRAGE FLAG FLYING DURING THE WAR OF 1914-15

Because we think it is our business as a Suffrage Society never to haul down the Flag until the Vote is won.

Because women have risked their lives to bring into the world the men who are giving their lives in the War, and they have a greater right than anyone to demand a voice in the settlement of the Peace that will ultimately bring it to an end.

Because their voice will not be heard unless they first win the Vote.

Because there is now a Party Truce in Parliament, and as we have always been told that our question could not be dealt with by the Government because it is a non-party question, we maintain we have an unanswerable case in demanding that it be settled now while Party differences are suspended.

Because when the War is over Parliament will have such a difficult task before them, in view of the altered conditions of the country, that they would do better to secure the women's help by giving them the Vote now than to incur the

risk of renewed militancy by withholding it from them.

Because advantage is being taken of the War to make fresh attacks upon the liberties of women, as seen in official orders placing soldiers' wives under police supervision, confining women (not men) to their houses after dark, and prohibiting during certain hours the sale of intoxicating drink to women (not to men); and Suffragists alone can be depended upon for the eternal vigilance that safeguards all liberties.

Because tragic and overwhelming as the European War is, there is still Greater War that always goes on at home against injustice, oppression and poverty, and the evils they produce, such as bad housing, infant mortality, and crimes against children, which cannot be properly combated without the weapon of the Vote.

Because while brave men are dying for their country, brave women should never cease to demand this weapon in order to make the country worth dying for.

Because we are Suffragists, and, like Luther, Here stand we—we can do no other!

BOOKS RECEIVED

"A Medical Dictionary for Nurses." By Amy E. Pope. (London: Putnam's Sons. Price 8s. 6d. net.)

"A Woman's Career." By Myrtle Reed. (London: Putnam's Sons. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

"The Englishwoman." February. (London: Evans Bros. Price 1s. net.)

"The Patriot's Birthday Book." Compiled by C. E. Thomas. (London: Murray and Co. Price 1s. net.)

"The Socialist Review." January—March. (London: Independent Labour Party. Price 6d. net.)

"Woman at Home." February. (20, Tavistock Square, W.C. Price 6d. net.)

CORRESPONDENCE

THE TREATMENT OF PROSTITUTES

Dr. Evans' Reply

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.
Dear Editors,—May I acknowledge Mr. Laurence Housman's reply, although I am late in doing so? It appears to me to some extent misunderstand him, and that he does not share Lecky's view of the prostitute as High Priestess of the Home. In his original article Mr. Housman used the expression "women not of loose character will pay the price," to which phrase I directed my remarks.

I now understand he thinks the removal of prostitutes will increase the risk not so much to women as to young girls and children. But is it a fact that the presence of prostitutes affords protection to young girls and children? Before I can believe it I must have very convincing proof. In some cases certainly the effect of their presence is quite otherwise. In his original article Mr. Housman referred to the increased number of assaults occurring during a strike, but that is not evidence that the presence of prostitutes protects children. The fact that a committee was formed before the war for the prevention of criminal assaults on children does not support his suggestion. I submit that the presence of prostitutes tends to increase the demand for younger and still younger victims.

Mr. Laurence Housman and Mrs. Solomon take me to task for not stating what I would do with the men who are unable to manage themselves. My letter was already overlong. May I, however, say that, from a racial point of view, in my opinion the man who assaults or seduces a young girl or a child is a greater danger when left at large in a community than a murderer. I think the same is true of the woman who seduces a boy. But how such men and youths are to be controlled is, I think, emphatically a question for men. Hitherto men have aimed mainly at controlling women, not themselves and one another. I do not intend to consume your space in copying their bad example.

I agree with Mr. Housman's demand for "wholeheartedly" like a revolution in the home" wholeheartedly. To some extent it has already begun.

In reply to "M." I would say that the women who struggled before us have not suffered so in vain as her remarks suggest. In my experience the average woman of to-day does not enter upon marriage as upon a solemnised form of Mrs. Warren's profession.

There is another point suggested by the proximity of Mr. Housman's letter to your reports of an assault on a girl of 13 and a theft of lead, and the contrast in the sentences. It is commonly supposed that men treat assaults on children as trivial offences, and thefts of all kinds as serious offences, because they regard offences against the person as of less moment. I wonder what would have been the sentence if the child's father had given it? Does the average man regard an assault

on his little daughter as more trivial than the theft of his purse? Mr. Laurence Housman suggests another explanation. If men commonly suppose that prostitutes afford protection to young girls and children, they may also suppose that the existence of one more child victim is a protection to other children, and they may be dealing lightly with the man because they feel that in destroying their neighbour's little daughter he has added protection to their own.

If, as I believe, the demand is not a fixed quantity but increases with the supply, then, however, every such child victim increases the risk to other children. If this is true, then some day men will surely put their heads together in earnest and devise some means of controlling those men who cannot manage themselves, however capable they may be in managing their affairs. It is for women to find some way of controlling women who cannot manage themselves. As a beginning I suggested methods of dealing with those who can manage neither themselves nor their affairs, because their inability to manage their affairs does certainly increase their difficulty in managing themselves; and because I cannot think of any method immediately applicable for dealing with the further question.—

ERIE EVANS.
23, Dumfries Place, Cardiff.
[This correspondence must now cease.—Ed., VOTES FOR WOMEN.]

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC POSITION

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—I am fully in agreement with the view expressed by your correspondent, "A Happy, Unmarried Woman Worker." Probably she has not noticed my letter which appeared in VOTES FOR WOMEN a few weeks ago, which was much to the same effect. Again, I urge women most earnestly to watch well the attempt now being made by their enemies to cripple them financially with the double view of depriving them of all (even indirect) political power and of forcing them as a sex to become absolutely dependent upon men, thus driving them more and more into immorality as a profession, or at best into marriage for a home.

Women should organise at once in defence of their economic position, using as pressure to enforce their demands that powerful political influence, which is their strongest asset, and of which, knowing this, their opponents seek to deprive them, to oppose any Government which refuses to withdraw the differentiation of Income Tax, and to pledge itself not to attack women's labour. No Government could stand up against such a form of pressure.—

Yours, &c.,
CHARLOTTE E. IRELAND.
Aintree House, Annerley Hill, Upper Norwood, S.E.

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Indecent Assault on Child
The *Leicester Chronicle* (January 30) reports case of a labourer charged at the Leicester Assizes before Sir Frederick Low, K.C., M.P., with an indecent offence against a little girl of nine, on two different occasions. He pleaded guilty. For the offence it was urged that he had served 17½ years in the Army.
Sentence: Eighteen months' imprisonment.

Assault on a Wife

The *Morning Advertiser* (January 15) reports case of a man summoned before Mr. Grubbe at East Ham Police Court for assaulting his wife because she could not supply him with dinner out of the 7s. he gave her for the week. (He earned 37s. 6d.) He struck her on the mouth, injured his son's arm, and threatened to kill the two children. He tore up the summons and did not appear in Court.
Sentence: Fined 15s.

Cruelty to a Horse

The *Morning Advertiser* (January 27) reports case of a carman summoned at the Guildhall before Alderman Sir Alfred Newton for cruelty to a horse. Raw sores had been blacked over for concealment, and it had evidently been probed with a steel-lined whip, and "must have suffered excruciating pain," said the veterinary surgeon, who described the case as one of the worst he had seen. It had to be slaughtered.
Sentence: Fourteen days' hard labour.

HEAVY SENTENCES

Forgery

The *Times* (January 15) reports case of an inventor charged before Mr. Justice Rowlatt at the Central Criminal Court with having in his possession forged £1 notes. There was a previous conviction against him for forging bank notes in Vienna.
Sentence: Five years' penal servitude.

Theft

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* (October 22) reports case of a fitter charged before Mr. G. B. C. Yarborough at the West Riding Quarter Sessions with stealing seven brass altar vases.
Sentence: Three years' penal servitude, and five years' preventive detention.

False Pretences

The *Derbyshire Times* (October 24) reports case of a young woman charged at the Derbyshire Quarter Sessions with obtaining three silk blouses, value 17s. 9d., by false pretences. There were several previous convictions, and she was described as "a dangerous thief and pickpocket."
Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

THE SOLDIER'S WIFE

We are glad to see that Mr. Francis did not concur in the War Office dismissal of an application made last week by the deserted wife of a new recruit (see *Morning Advertiser*, January 27). The woman had been deserted eighteen months before by her husband and left with two children, whom she supported with great difficulty. She could obtain no information as to her husband's whereabouts until she heard quite recently that he had enlisted and was quartered at Dover. On applying to the War Office for the payments to which she naturally felt she was entitled, she was told by the regimental paymaster that nothing could be done for her because her husband did not support her prior to his enlistment.

Mr. Francis said he thought there must be some misunderstanding, as enlistment did not do away with a man's liability; and he advised the woman to apply to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association for help, failing which she could renew her application to him. We hope the magistrate is right, and that she can legally claim her allowance; though in that case the regimental paymaster, unless he has been misrepresented, is undoubtedly wrong. But if the War Office really can do nothing in a case

of this kind, what a reflection is cast upon the position of the married woman in this country!

THE NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

(From a Correspondent.)

Amidst the crash of arms and the disorganisation of society, the members of the Northern Men's Federation, while performing their obligations to the war, are, at the same time preserving an unshakable attitude to the cause of women's emancipation, for which they stand.

In Edinburgh

The following resolution has been passed and sent to the authorities, and affords proof that oppressive measures against women are no more palatable to decent-minded men than they are to women themselves:—

"The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage consider that by placing the soldier's and sailor's wife under the surveillance of the police authorities (i.e., the criminal department), the Government of the country have stigmatised the nation through its womanhood.

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand. Telephone 5150 Regent. Colours: Purple, White, and Orange.

OBJECT:—To secure a Government measure to give women the Vote on equal terms with men.

Membership Card

The United Suffragists—
(1) Believe that men and women can usefully co-operate on equal terms in one organisation for the enfranchisement of women.
(2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.
(3) Recognise various forms of suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.

There is no fixed subscription or entrance fee, but members are relied upon to support the Society to the best of their ability. Membership is open to everyone who endorses the object of this Society, irrespective of membership of any other Society, militant or non-militant.

I wish to join the United Suffragists, whose object I approve.

Name (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Please-write clearly.

Address

Fill in the above Form and post it to—

Hon. Sec. United Suffragists, 3, Adam Street, London, W.C.

COMING EVENTS

The Women's Freedom League will hold a meeting at the Suffrage Club, York Street, on Wednesday, February 10, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. John Scurr and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Clarke.

The United Suffragists will hold a public meeting in the Kingsway Hall on Thursday, February 25, at 8 p.m. (See page 154 for particulars.)

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presented among the ad-

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"They call upon the authorities responsible for the gross abuse of the liberty of the subject to rescind the order concerning public-houses, which they look upon as an insult to men as well as women, and to deal with all cases of drunkenness upon their individual merits."

The Northern Men resent the imputation that because certain women, like certain men, indulge too much in drink, the nation's womanhood shall remain under this wholesale insult; and, furthermore, they deplore the habit indulged in by the Government of perpetually forcing the disenfranchised portion of the community under the ban of the criminal department of Great Britain.—Signed: M. Arncliffe Sennett, President N.M.F.; Gerald W. Crawford, Alex. Scott, Wm. Archbold, John A. Young, L.D.S., J.P., Alex. Barrie, William Graham (all Councillors); W. Bruce Lindsay, John Murray, T. G. Fisher, Alex. Stevenson, J.P. (all members of Edinburgh Corporation); W. Cutbertain, J.P., Past Moderator Edinburgh High Constables.

Helped by the devoted Hon. Secretary of the Branch, Miss Nannie Brown, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Orr, the members lately held a demonstration in Edinburgh, and Councillors Crawford, Barrie, Graham and others took a collection in the streets, and collected for the Women's Fund £10 18s. 9d. (chiefly pennies).

Recruits for the European War

For the lesser issue known as the European War, the Edinburgh Branch of the Northern Men's Federation is proud to number among the new recruits for Lord Kitchener's Army Councillor Crawford, Councillor Cameron, ex-Councillor C. D. M. Ross (Crieff), Messrs. W. J. Inglis, Henry O. Brown, W. D. Boyde, W. F. Beattie (the famous sculptor), James Campbell, William McLachlan, D. MacMillan; and for home defence Mr. J. Wilson McLaren (Special Constable). No man record for a young society, and a proof of its virility!

Glasgow and the Woman's Question

Glasgow, too, stands firm on the woman question. Bridgeton and St. Rollox, the two divisions which returned Mr. McCallum Scott and Mr. McKinnon Wood, K.C., as supporters of the Asquithian anti-woman policy, are two divisions which have been carefully nursed by Mr. Illingworth, the organiser for Bridgeton. They have passed the following resolutions, under the chairmanship of Messrs. Ferguson and Illingworth, and these resolutions have also been dispatched to the authorities:—

1. "That this meeting of electors and others in the Bridgeton Division of Glasgow calls upon the Government to grant one pound (£1) per week to dependants—irrespective of children—of those who are serving their country, as the present allowance is quite inadequate."

2. "That the meeting calls upon the Government to abolish police supervision of the wives of soldiers and sailors."

3. "The meeting desires to draw attention to the fact that in some towns the military authorities prevent women using the streets after certain hours. It considers that such action is an unjust interference with the liberty of the subject."

4. "The meeting views with alarm the apparent attempt to revive the Contagious Diseases Act in Cardiff. It considers that the civil authorities should retain control of the public streets instead of permitting the interference of the military."

J. FERGUSON, Chairman.
J. ILLINGWORTH, Hon. Org.

The same resolutions were unanimously carried at St. Rollox on January 11, with Mr. Illingworth in the chair.

It will be seen, therefore, that although the members of the Northern Men's Federation are playing their part in the great world tragedy of man's making, they are not unmindful of the larger issue at stake concerning humanity as a whole, and are cheerfully co-operating with Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett in her view that the flag of woman's emancipation, which precedes every other issue in the world, should be kept flying to the last stand.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertion, 24 words or less, 1s. 6d., 1d. per word for every additional word (four insertions for the price of three).

All advertisements must be prepaid. To ensure insertion in our next issue, all advertisements must be received not later than Tuesday morning. Address, the Advertisement Manager, VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES

ST. MARY - AT - HILL. — Church of the Army Church, Eastcheap. Sundays, 9 and 6, views, orchestra, band. Prebendary Carlille.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds public meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, each Wednesday afternoon at 3.30. Speakers, February 10, Mr. John Scurr, Miss Nina Boyle. Chair, Mrs. Clarke. Admission free.

BOARD RESIDENCE, Etc.

ABSOLUTE Privacy, Quietude, and Refinement, no extras. At the Strand Imperial Hotel, opposite Gaiety Theatre, ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters; sumptuous bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted; breakfast, bath, attendance, and lights, from 5s. 6d.; on pension 8s.; special terms for long stay; finest English provisions.—Manageress, 4788 Gerard.

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