

THE VOTE,  
Oct. 1st, 1915.  
ONE PENNY.

UNDER THE SUFFRAGE FLAG.--C. Despard.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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## THE WAR BUDGET AND WOMEN. THE INCOME TAX PUZZLE.

The net so skilfully spread by Mr. McKenna will enclose in its meshes numerous working women who have hitherto been spared the attentions of the income tax assessor. The women who run a little business on their own account and thereby earn a precarious income of £130 to £160 a year form a large class. It includes the little dressmaker and milliner, the woman with a small shop or laundry, a modest preparatory school, a suburban typewriting office or tea room, the woman who gives piano-forte or singing lessons, the private nurse, the struggling boarding house keeper, and many more. By such as these the lowering of the exemption limit will be felt as a great burden, not so much because they will now have to pay income tax, which is bad enough, but because they will henceforth be compelled to render, year by year, a strict account of their profits with as much precision as the millionaire coal owner or Government contractor. As the effort to prepare a return of income (to be calculated on the average net profits of three preceding years) has been known to induce nervous exhaustion in the successful business man, the prospect cannot be expected to attract the struggling business woman who is not successful. As a rule all her time and energies are required in the exercise of her calling, leaving none to spare for meticulous calculation of such items as gross turnover, trade expenses, bad and doubtful debts, wear and tear of plant, involving the most bewildering rules that the unpractical official mind can invent.

The woman with a small unearned income, subjected to a heavy tax, is a deserving object of sympathy, but she is spared acquaintance with the fearsome Schedule "D" Form, with its elaborate direction of one's attention to the fact that "the amount of income tax to be returned for assessment in any given year is neither the actual income of that year nor the income which a person expects to make

in that year, but is a *statutory* income," of which the amount is to be computed in accordance with six closely printed sheets of "Notes, Explanations and Instructions," which do not succeed in explaining anything or instructing anybody. Most people would cheerfully prefer a week's hard work to sitting down and ascertaining what their "statutory" income really is. Any curious person, by the way, who would like a copy of the "Notes," etc., will be accommodated on mentioning

82. Wt. 47180/1593. 219,725. 3/15. Wy. & S [176]

This jargon, however, only indicates the first four pages. The two succeeding pages are designated thus:—

[4256] 200m. 10/14R-4 G & S 3691 141

like an algebraic problem, to which indeed they bear a close resemblance. It would be interesting to know who compiles these uncanny formulae, and what he (it could only be a "he") is paid for exercising such undoubted ingenuity. But this is a digression.

Women in receipt of a weekly salary ranging from £130 to £160, and these include the superior clerk, the private secretary, school teachers, young journalists, etc., will now be liable to income tax, but the anxieties of these will be limited to finding the money, as their employers will make the necessary return of income on their behalf.

Before Mr. McKenna's appearance on the scene, the official income tax handbook ran to 700 pages. When the present position has been fully worked out, and when the Commissioners have finished issuing the necessary memoranda and regulations, the handbook will probably need 1,700 pages. The variations of the income tax rate are now as numerous as those of the irregular verb, and no mere magazine article could lay down hard and fast rules



for guidance. The prime aim of the income tax payer should be to know her "statutory" income to a penny, and so be able to check the Revenue officials, should they wish to take an inflated view of her circumstances. A pound or two on the wrong side may make a serious difference.

The clearest formula I have yet been able to devise, to ascertain the correct rate of income tax, is reminiscent of the children's game where one has to think of a number, double it and add something to it! The number to be thought of is the pre-war income tax; double this, add to it one-fifth (20 per cent.), and one gets the current rates of liability for 1915-16 as follows:—

#### UNEARNED INCOMES.

Under £130 nil.  
£130 to £300—2s. 4d. 4-5ths in the £.  
£300 to £500—2s. 9d. 3-5ths in the £.  
Over £500—3s. in the £.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—MUSEUM 1429

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President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT  
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Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.  
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.  
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### HEADQUARTER NOTES.

#### Annual Conference.

In normal times we should have held our Conference, the Women's Freedom League Parliament, in March, but this year it has been postponed until Saturday, October 16, when delegates from our Branches in England, Scotland and Wales will come together at St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., to discuss and vote upon resolutions and amendments sent up by the Branches, which will decide the policy to be pursued by our League during the coming year. Only delegates appointed by their Branches and members of the National Executive Committee have the right to speak and vote at this Conference, but every member of the Women's Freedom League has the right to be present during the discussion. The Conference will begin at 10.30 a.m. and will continue throughout the day. The following afternoon, Sunday, October 17, a reception to delegates and friends will be held at our offices from 3.30 to 5 p.m.

#### Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday, October 6, we begin our regular Wednesday afternoon meetings at St. George's Vestry Hall, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle and the chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray. We look forward to seeing very many of our friends at our meeting place, which is within two minutes' walk of our Offices and Club Room at 144, High Holborn, where tea can be obtained immediately after the meeting.

#### Future London Activities.

Sunday afternoon, November 14, Miss Clara Reed, who is well known in London as a lecturer and reciter, has very kindly undertaken to give a special Lecture - Recital of Stephen Phillips'

#### EARNED INCOMES.

Under £130 nil.  
£130 to £1,000—1s. 9d. 3-5ths in the £.

It is instructive to note that already after one year of war, income tax has advanced by 120 per cent., while next year the increase will touch 140 per cent. at the least.

It may be added that rates involving fractions of a penny are not treated by the Inland Revenue as a halfpenny or a penny (whichever may be the nearest), but are calculated on the exact fractions. This was the rule observed last year when for the first time a fraction of a penny made its appearance in income tax; those people whose unearned income lay between £300 and £500 being then chargeable at 1s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the £. So the income tax payer now needs to be something of a mathematician if she wishes to guard her interests to the fullest extent.

ETHEL AYRES PURDIE.

tragedy, "Herod," in the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., the proceeds of which are to go towards the funds of the Women's Freedom League. The programme will include special music, and tea can be obtained on the premises after the performance. Tickets are now on sale at this Office at 2s. (numbered and reserved), and 1s. (reserved but unnumbered). As the Bijou Theatre (which has recently been charmingly redecorated) is not very large, we would advise those who wish to be present to purchase their tickets early.

#### Lecture on Poland.

Miss Czaplicka, the Polish scientist and suffragist, who, readers will remember, is the first woman to be appointed head of a scientific research expedition, having led an expedition for anthropological research in Siberia, is now busily engaged in coordinating the results of the expedition, and has been obliged to postpone her lecture to the Women's Freedom League, which we hoped to have in November, until Monday, January 24, 1916. Her subject will be "Poland's Part in History, with special reference to the present War," and Miss Czaplicka expects to have her lantern illustrations ready by that date. Members are advised to make a note of the date; they may be sure of an evening of unique interest.

#### WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

##### Nine Elms Work.

Mrs. Tippett wishes to thank all who have so generously helped her at meetings and by taking collecting boxes; also the children who got up, quite by themselves, such a successful village concert; also Mr. Young, Mrs. Clark and another friend for gifts of apples for the restaurant. The following contributions are gratefully acknowledged:—

RENT FOR RESTAURANT.—Jumble sale, £9 12s. 5d.; Collected per Mrs. Clark, 7s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; per Mrs. Tippett, £2 6s. 3d.

FOR MILK DEPOT.—Meetings, Haughley, £1 18s.; Stowmarket, £2 5s. 6d.; Bury St. Edmunds, £2 10s.; Ipswich, £2; collected by Miss Dora Foster, £1 13s. 7d.; Children's concert, 8s. 6d.; cheques received, £1 10s.

BRITISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.—The meeting arranged for October 1 at His Majesty's Theatre is unavoidably postponed.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

### National Service Organisation.

#### Make Women National Housekeepers now.

"Pat a cake, pat a cake, baker's man," the popular nursery song embodies an idea, familiar enough to our generation, but one that would have caused our early English ancestors much astonishment, for the very word "hlaedis" (lady) signified the kneader of the loaf, and bread making was an art which women monopolised. If the same conditions held good to-day, we should, I am sure, see more economy in the use of flour at this time of crisis. Women are above all far-seeing, and to each one of the sex the lavish display of extremely attractive cakes, covered with their glittering coating of sugar, in the confectioners' shops, must seem as unnecessary as it is improvident. We have been asked to economise in sugar, as it is a foreign product, yet every day the temptation to indulge in the consumption of it and the intimation of the abundance of it, is ostentatiously brandished before our eyes. What a thousand pities it is that women cannot be entrusted with the national housekeeping, for they would undoubtedly find some substitute for sugar and make it the fashionable food. Like to the Queen in the nursery rhyme, the woman of to-day would serve up bread and honey, and let the financiers in the counting house rake in what was saved upon imports.

Ousted as she has been from her employment as the national food provider, the exodus of our men to the Front has opened out other avenues of employment for women. On the railways we see many women as ticket collectors and porters. Woman is doing so well in her new work that it is unlikely that admission to it will be closed to her after the war. Of course, the old prejudices and the old sex jealousy occasionally incite her male co-workers or her new employers to find fault with her work, but the complaints are either indefinite or mere repetitions of ancient and time-worn adages, which were invented to restrict the sphere of her usefulness in any department except that of ministering to the comfort of her mate. The Newcastle railway men asked for the withdrawal of women porters on the ground that the introduction of women as such is operating to the disadvantage of the regular staff—a conveniently vague accusation, which might be interpreted to mean that the women had introduced a higher standard of work. A business man, commenting on the result of employing women instead of men as clerks, confessed that their work was wholly satisfactory, but added "There are some things they could not do, taxicab driving, for example, they haven't the nerve." This profound remark, in reality a mere parrot repetition of an old prejudice, was made only a few days ago, when the *Times*, the epitome of all that is conservative in the nation, was imploring women to prepare themselves in large numbers to act as surgeons, as they had shown themselves so successful in an art which cannot well be practised by the nervous or the nerveless of either sex.

The genius of Dickens has made the omnibus "cad" quite a typical figure of the London of his day, and one wonders what he would say to the women conductors of to-day that are to be seen in such numbers in the city of Glasgow, where, according to the manager, more than 12,000 women have applied for situations. He went on to say that these candidates for tramway work receive eight days' training, show themselves apt pupils, and the city's experiment in employing them in large num-

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bers has been entirely satisfactory. He also stated that "the women's influence was all for good, even on the roughest routes, and that they could handle unruly men better than male conductors." It was comforting to read this tribute to the influence of women. The only adverse criticism, passed by Mr. Dalrymple (the manager), upon women as employees was that they did not always realise the importance of time, and were sometimes a few minutes late. In headings to reports of his speech "failure to realise the importance of time" figured conspicuously, though their good qualities as workers, which he mentioned, had little prominence. Thus, his speech, which was almost uniformly in favour of the employment of women as tram conductors, seemed, on glancing at the title to be a severe condemnation of them. A good many other speakers at the meeting took up with some eagerness the defect mentioned by the manager, attributing it to woman's love of gossip, which always interfered with her punctuality. Had they been less wedded to prejudice and to old world ideas, other explanations might have occurred to them. A woman, whatever may be her professional work, has always many domestic duties to perform, and her whole training has led her to consider these of the first importance because they contribute to the comfort of others. They might remember, too, that one of the favourite maxims in peace time was that a woman's work is never done, a convenient enough doctrine for a husband or an employer to whose comfort or wealth she is to contribute, but hardly one to inculcate in the victim of a pernicious system an accurate sense of the value of time, though it might well create a settled aversion to work.

MARGARET HODGE.

Press Secretary Women's Service Organisation.



## THE VOTE.

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144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, October 1st, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
To the Advertisement Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote  
orders, printing and merchandise, etc.  
Offices: 144, H-GH HOLBORN, W.C.  
Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.  
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents  
and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

### UNDER THE SUFFRAGE FLAG.

"Keep the flag flying!" That is the cry which is continually ringing out from our platforms. It is a good cry and a stirring one; for the flag has ever been symbolic of Unity and rallying round it in multitudes means throwing a great force of combined energy into the attainment of some common aim.

This is unquestionable; but there is something more to be said. Loyalty to the flag, the symbol of Unity, is neither real nor true unless it is persisted in under all circumstances. "Not the time" say some. "Your flag may be torn into ribbons and you will lose it altogether. Keep it furled until a more convenient season. In the meantime, win the gratitude of those who have opposed you by serving them freely."

To which the true suffragist answers, We will serve. We demand the right to serve. In our service, those who opposed and those who blessed are one and the same, for we serve our nation; but wherever we go and whatever we do, we keep before ourselves and those we serve, the one demand—now, of necessity, when we look out upon the ruin the spirit of physical force domination has wrought, more urgent than ever before—"Give us our place in the nation. Accord to us citizen rights."

Let us understand clearly! That does not mean that even as a League, we stint our activities in any direction. On the contrary, our conviction is that, as we broaden our outlook, as our activities increase, so we strengthen and encourage fellow-suffragists, so we draw to the flag those who may have been hostile or indifferent.

At the present moment, when the world that has been passing away in the awful heat of ever more concentrated warfare, there is no question of more vital importance to the world than the relation of woman to the thing that now is and to that which is to be.

What does womanhood stand for! Looking back into the immemorial past, we see the Divine Mother—Nature—working through two distinct instincts. One is that which leads the individual to draw to itself that which it needs for its building up and maintenance. The other moves outwards, not to draw in, but to give, and, through its giving to build up other forms. There can be little doubt that this second instinct, inspired by the race-soul, was originally feminine. Patiently the great mother worked from instinct to habit, from habit to mastering constraint, till Humanity arriving and being evolved, there was

thrown into the world the great thing we call love, through which such marvels have been wrought. The sublime parable is given in the book of Genesis "And the Earth was without form and void: and the Spirit of God brooded on the face of the waters." Then form emerged: the firmament that was above: the firmament that was below. Dry land appeared: upon it the herb bearing seed in itself and the living creation.

That is the woman principle in action. If asked then for what womanhood stands, the answer of those who know will be: For love, and growing out of that for compassion. "Oh! mother of pity and love and deep compassion" says a modern mystic, "with whom it is ever to seek after the ideal human, endlessly to strive, endlessly to fail, to hope always in spite of disillusion: to love unflinchingly against all disappointment, against even betrayal."

If this be anything like a true ideal of womanhood, it is the direct antithesis of the deadly game which men call war; and we cannot but believe that had the woman principle been allowed free play in the moulding of societies, such scenes of horror as those which to-day are constantly before our eyes would be impossible. It is to render these impossible for the future that we are determined at whatever cost or hazard, to keep our flag flying.

That does not mean, as we of the Women's Freedom League read it, that we are to do nothing else. Our title is wide and to it we have always striven to adapt ourselves. We seek freedom for unused faculties; we seek freedom for powers long ruthlessly imprisoned. And the various activities which have been made possible through the present distress, or rather consciousness of distress, are opening a road to release.

Woman is potentially a mother. When the child of a good mother, through its own folly and disobedience, sustains a hurt, she does not stand coldly aside, bidding it help itself. On the contrary she throws all her strength and tenderness into the work of healing; but her thought is of how the like danger may be avoided for the future, and when the child is cured, she brings home to it the lesson of pain. That is the great Mother's way. We should follow in Her footsteps.

It gives us deep satisfaction to know, that since the war began, our League and its members, never for one moment dropping the Flag, have carried on and are still engaged upon many fine activities. The record of what is being done in the Provinces, Scotland and Wales would much more than fill this paper. Through our National Aid Corps, in the darkest days of the war, splendid service has been rendered especially to women and children. It will continue its activities during the coming winter, which, if the war prolongs itself, and the taxes that press so heavily upon women, increase, will bring great distress. Within a few days, the work at Nine Elms—Vegetarian Restaurant, Children's Guest House and Play Club will reopen, and plans are in hand for other work in various parts of the country.

The Brackenhill Hospital goes on—a fine example of what one woman's thought and organising ability can effect.

Growing out of the demand for woman's work and the clumsy efforts that were made to satisfy it, in conformity with the views of men, there arose that valuable department of our League, the National Service Organisation. This proves the power that women possess not only to serve, but to make their service effective—a service, in the highest sense national because freely and joyously given.

The effort to redeem the public-house, which began some months ago, through the fine and per-

sistent energy of members of our North London Branches, is another of our steps towards freedom. The public in the crowded neighbourhood where our new premises stand are already keenly interested, and there can be no doubt that many of those who come and go, seeing what woman can and will do for a great object, will presently serve under the flag that is so dear to us.

It is our earnest hope that these efforts of ours will provoke to imitation—that throughout the country Women's National Service Organisations will not only supplement Labour Bureaux, but also by the education and sympathy they offer to women workers help to solve some of the thorny industrial problems which bewilder the world of labour; that many more country and garden hospitals may be established for children, women and girls, and that public houses, joyous and clean, may be opened in every great working centre. For it is our profound conviction that the more extended and important woman's work in the nation is, the more certainly it follows that her citizenship, incontrovertibly proved, will be speedily recognised.

That done, we shall be able to proceed with the momentous work of social re-construction.

C. DESPARD.

### Keir Hardie: A Champion of Woman Suffrage.

Since these words were written, news has come to me of the passing away of my dear comrade and old friend, Keir Hardie. It is right that a woman's organ should offer its tribute to him, for amongst all our sympathisers and friends there was none more stalwart and true than this simple brave-souled man. In our darkest days he stood by us. Rather than even seem to desert us, he risked popularity and power with the political party which he himself had helped to create. In the House of Commons he was our defender always. And he was a passionate seeker for peace. There is little doubt indeed that the tragedy of the war shortened his life.

He has passed while still the conflict is raging. May he rest in peace! The prayers of those to whom his life has been a stimulus and an example will follow him to the land which to us is the Land of Shadows; to him it may be "an awakening from the dream of Life."

C. D.

### THE OLD TALE.

Always the target for attack, the mothers have caught it again. The Royal Sanitary Institute had a conference at Brighton, and "Maternity and Child Welfare" was somewhat rashly adopted as the *pièce de résistance* of the symposium. The limitation of the birth-rate was denounced as "suicidal folly and immorality" by one gentleman, who was followed by a colleague who thought that "the increase of the birth-rate of far greater importance to the nation than the decrease of infantile mortality." Various schemes of taxation for lessening the burden of the father were discussed; and the salient feature of the conference seems to have been, if one may judge from the newspaper reports, a beautiful detachment which entirely ignored the point of view of the mother, or, indeed, the possibility of her having a point of view at all. Miss Riordan, sanitary inspector, of Deptford, imported the only note of reality, by pointing out the difficulties working-people have to encounter in housing and feeding their families on small wages; but the mere suggestion of blaming landlords, or asking for Government help for women, appears to have provoked the chairman, Mr. Percy Boulnois, who denounced State interference, turned the discussion on to the merits of



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"the voluntary system," and roundly declared that "in most cases, no doubt, it was the carelessness and ignorance of the mothers which gave rise to a great deal of infantile mortality." So, with a comfortable reliance on the old practice, "'Ere's a mother; 'eave 'alf a brick at 'er," the conference performed its solemn duty to society.

At Chatham, where husband and wife were prosecuted for neglecting their six sons and daughters and where the home conditions were revoltingly dirty and neglected, the male and sole "parent," who has absolute legal power over his children, was given one month's hard labour, while the mother—who, had she been a thief or a forger, or even a murderer, would have been able to shelter under the plea that she acted under the husband's influence and got thereby a light sentence—was given three months. There is no lightening of the bullying and ill-treating of women in Britain, in spite of our expressed horror of Prussian brutality. Having passed a law forbidding women to take their babies with them into the only houses of entertainment and refreshment open to many classes—i.e., public-houses—we now find the Medical Officer of Health for East Ham denouncing the results of this legislation and, of course, blaming the mothers. He demands to know the number of deaths of infants through leaving them outside public-houses at all hours of the day and in all weathers, and suggests that cases under the Children's Act should be brought against the mothers. *It was the Children's Act that decreed they must not go inside, Dr. Benton!* Blame the Government of stupid men, not the mothers. The real solution is not to prosecute the mothers, but to clean up houses of public entertainment.

C. NINA BOYLE.



**WOMEN IN WAR TIME.**

The League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives calls attention to the fact that when the House of Lords shelved the Naval and Military Pensions Bill it was said that the mothers and other dependent relatives of the soldiers and sailors would not suffer; but when the 26 weeks after the soldier's death have expired, the relatives who apply for pensions receive the following letter: Madam,—With reference to your letter of \_\_\_\_\_, I am directed to inform you that any claim you may wish to make to a dependent's pension or other grant should be put forward when the proposed Statutory Committee, which is shortly to be considered by Parliament, has been appointed.

An announcement on the subject will be made in due course.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

J. G. ASHLEY,

For the Assistant Financial Secretary.

The relatives of soldiers and sailors are thus being made to suffer in very practical fashion in spite of the promise. The Bill gives power to the Statutory Committee "to decide whether any pension, grant or separation allowance to wife, widow, child, or other dependent has, under the regulations subject to which it was granted, become forfeited." This, the League points out, is a very dangerous clause; at the present time no State pensioner is liable to lose a pension, except on receiving sentence of imprisonment for an offence without the option of a fine. This clause therefore introduces a new and dangerous innovation. Pensions and allowances should be absolutely secured to the persons concerned, not be forfeited for any cause.

**Woman Suffrage in Canada.**

A telegram from Edmonton, Canada, states that the Government of the Province of Alberta will unanimously adopt equal suffrage at the next session of the Legislature. This announcement is signed by the Hon. Arthur Sifton, the Premier of the Province, and also by the Leader of the Opposition. Alberta will be the first of Canada's nine provinces to adopt the measure. It is believed that Saskatchewan and Manitoba will shortly follow Alberta's example.

**French Woman buys War Material.**

France is making use of her women to-day in sending them to foreign countries to buy materials of war. Madame Dorece Millerand, an accredited agent of the French Government, is in America purchasing steel and steel products for her country. She closed a contract with one steel Company for 50,000 tons of steel for use in the manufacture of high velocity projectiles. Madame Millerand has been in the service of the French Government in one capacity or another for five years.

**Justices of the Peace.**

Four women have been appointed Justices of the Peace in South Australia. The Attorney-General remarked, with regard to the innovation: "We have broken the British practice of centuries; some century-old practices are too aged for everyday use."

**Women Wages and Votes.**

The audience at the Budget Demonstration in Trafalgar Square last Sunday afternoon was both large and enthusiastic when the demand was made that a woman, doing a man's work should have a man's pay, that votes for women were necessary to protect their homes and wages, that there should be no taxation of food or wages, and no compulsory service. Among the speakers were Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., Mr. George Lansbury, and Mr. Robert Williams, M.P.

**BROCKWELL PARK.**

A good meeting was held last Sunday morning. Miss Underwood and Miss Eggett were the speakers. During October, the meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons at 3.30; speaker next Sunday, Miss Eunice Murray.

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS : W.F.L.**

**LONDON AND SUBURBS.**



**Sunday, October 3.**—BROCKWELL PARK, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss E. Murray.

**Monday, October 4.**—CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE, 144, High Holborn, 10.30 a.m.

**Wednesday, October 6.**—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.

**DARE TO BE FREE**

**Thursday, October 7.**—RICHMOND, Branch Meeting. **Friday, October 8.**—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

**Sunday, October 10.**—BROCKWELL PARK, 3.30. Speaker: Miss Eggett.

**Monday, October 11.**—CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 15, Clapham Mansions, 7.30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 13.**—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "My Experiences as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded"; Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Tanner.

**Thursday, October 14.**—MID-LONDON BRANCH, Meeting. Business: Instructions to Conference Delegate. 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7.30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 16.**—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart Street, Bloomsbury W.C., 10 a.m.

**Sunday, October 17.**—Reception to Conference Delegates at Headquarters, 3.30 p.m.

**Monday, October 18.**—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 17, The Crescent, New Southgate, 7.30 p.m. Report of Conference.

**Wednesday, October 20.**—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mr. J. Cameron Grant and Miss Nina Boyle.

**Sunday, Nov. 14.** Lecture-Recital by Miss Clara Reed, "Herod" (Stephen Phillips), at the Bijou Theatre, Bedford Strand, W.C. 3.30. Music, Refreshments. Admission by Ticket, 2/- Numbered and Reserved; 1/- Res rved, from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

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**PROVINCES.**

**Thursday, October 7.**—MIDDLESBROUGH, Suffrage Centre, 231a, The Avenue, Linthorpe-road. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

**WALES.**

**Tuesday, October 5.**—CARDIFF, Public Meeting at The Welsh Industries, Queen-street, 8 p.m. Address by Mr. J. E. Edmunds. Business Meeting for members at 7.30.

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**BRANCH NOTES.**

**Cardiff.**

On September 24 a very successful emergency meeting was held at the Welsh Industries to discuss the resolutions for the forthcoming Conference on October 16, at which a delegate will represent the Branch. A meeting will also be held at the Welsh Industries on Tuesday, October 5, at 8 p.m., when Mr. J. E. Edmunds will give an address. Members are urgently asked to be present at 7.30 as any business there may be will be transacted before the address is given. Will members make the meeting known? We hope to have a full discussion on the lecture. THE VOTE is now on sale at Mr. Dyer's, the bookseller, Queen-street. Will members also kindly make this known among their friends?

**Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.**

We hope every member will attend our first autumn meeting on Friday, October 8, and will bring a friend to hear Miss Boyle's address.

Our thanks are given to members who have promised or sent goods for our next jumble sale, but still more are wanted.

Miss Jessett has now taken over the merchandise department, and hopes that all members will make regular weekly purchases, and in this way definitely help our funds.

**Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.**

A Branch meeting was held on September 20 at which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. Conference resolutions were discussed and nominations for delegates received. The Branch was informed that Mrs. Despard would be the speaker at the first meeting of the autumn session on October 7. Madame Richardson, who represents the Branch at the meetings of the National Union of Women Workers, gave an interesting account of the year's work. The secretary was asked to get names of people to help at the Tipperary Rooms, so that the W.F.L. might take charge for a week, in turn with other local societies.

**Richmond.**

By the kind permission of Mrs. O'Flaherty, a very successful drawing room meeting was held at 47, Morley-road, Twickenham, last Thursday evening. The chair was taken by Mrs. Weaver, who had organised the meeting, and who is most kindly acting at hon. secretary *pro tem.* for this Branch. Mrs. Weaver apologised for the absence of Mrs. Tanner, who was now taking part in the Scottish campaign for Woman Suffrage, and introduced the speaker, Miss Underwood. Before the meeting closed, nine of those present signed cards of membership for the Richmond Branch, and a meeting was fixed for Thursday evening, October 7.



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1915

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## The Despard Arms in its New Home

"For refreshment and re-creation—the building up again of that which has run down and is likely to fail." This, said Mrs. Despard on the occasion of the Opening of the Despard Arms in its new home, is the purpose of the enterprise. "In our public house, the public—men and women—will be able to obtain good food at moderate cost and the re-creation of bright, warm rooms with games, books, social intercourse and entertainments."

Judging by the enthusiasm which greeted her words, the Despard Arms will be greatly appreciated in its new surroundings. As soon as its doors were open, the public was ready to come in and found the fare provided very much to its taste. The boys who enjoyed the advantages of Cumberland Market turned up in force and gave Mrs. Despard a rousing reception. Friends came from far and near, despite drenching rain, including our welcome mirth-bringer, Mr. Harrison Hill. He told stories of his experiences "Somewhere in France," as a member of one of Miss Lena Ashwell's concert parties for the soldiers, and sang "The Songs that Tommy Loves," inspiring us all to join in choruses—even in a tongue-twisting one about "Which is the switch for Ipswich..." The last verse of one of Tommy's favourite songs "Dear Old Pals," was sung thus:—

And now I've come back to Camden Town's charms,  
And I'm singing to you at the new Despard Arms,  
So we'll cheer Mrs. Despard and shout Hip Hooray  
For her brother, Sir John—it's his birthday to-day!

Miss Edythe Mannering braved the weather to come and sing and her kindness was much appreciated. Mrs. Despard's speech of welcome, both at the House Warming on September 25 and the

Opening on September 28, gave many visitors a new understanding of the aims in view and inspired them with enthusiasm for the crusade to show what an advantage to the public a real public house may be. Our thanks are cordially given to Miss Julie Huntsman, whose recitations on Saturday gave great pleasure.

The Despard Arms began business in earnest last Wednesday morning. A special feature is its dinners served from 12 to 2 o'clock, from sixpence upwards. It is open on week days from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 4 to 10 p.m.

## News of Mrs. Snow.

Members will learn with great regret that Mrs. Snow will not be able, through illness, to come to the office for some weeks, and they will unite in the sincere wish for her early recovery to health and strength. In the office, where her kindness and consideration have endeared her to every member, Mrs. Snow's temporary absence will be felt as a great personal loss. Our readers know that Mrs. Snow's special work was in connection with our Merchandise Department. It is impossible to replace the energy and devotion which she has put into this enterprise, but we ask our members to help us show our appreciation of the splendid work she has done by substantially increasing their purchases from this office during the next few weeks, so that when Mrs. Snow returns she will be cheered by the fact that her work has not been unfruitful of results while she has been unable to attend to it. Under special arrangements just completed, orders for household necessities, printing, dressmaking and renovations should be sent at once to Miss Holman, who will see that they are executed with all possible dispatch.

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