

THE VOTE,  
DEC. 3rd, 1915.  
ONE PENNY.

GO FOR THE M.P.'s!

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 319.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, DEC. 3, 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 PARLIAMENT AND REGISTRATION BILL.

### Suffragists' Message to the Prime Minister.

The voice of Suffragists has sounded. The following letter, signed by many suffrage organisations, has been dispatched to the Prime Minister:—

To the Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.

DEAR SIR,—The statements which have appeared in the Press with regard to the Parliament and Registration Bill, taken in conjunction with Lord Lansdowne's announcement in the House of Lords, on November 4, of a Government measure to revise the electoral register, give suffragists grave reason for apprehension as to the intention of the Government so to deal with the franchise as to bring in large numbers of new male electors. We, the signatories of this letter, representing large bodies of suffragists, feel that any attempt to touch the franchise for men without granting the franchise to women would be a dishonour to men as well as an injustice to women, and would create a grave situation. We therefore beg for a definite assurance from you, as the head of his Majesty's Government, that, if such a measure is drafted, women, whose claim to enfranchisement has been, not lessened, but intensified by the war and all that it entails of suffering and service, shall be included in its provisions on equal terms with men.

We approach you in this way, being fully aware of the great pressure upon your time. But, failing a definite and satisfactory assurance from you upon

the grave matter in question, we should feel obliged to ask you to be good enough to receive a deputation on the subject from representatives of our organisations, or to depute a Member of the Cabinet to receive us on your behalf.—We are, yours faithfully,

C. DESPARD, Women's Freedom League.

B. AYRTON GOULD, United Suffragists.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST, East London Federation of Suffragettes.

JANE STRICKLAND, Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.

EDITH R. MANSSELL-MOULLIN, Forward Cymric Union.

M. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT, Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage.

B. GADSBY, Catholic Woman's Suffrage Society.

SUSAN A. VILLIERS, Church League for Woman Suffrage.

J. BEANLAND, Manchester Men's League for Woman Suffrage.

ANNA M. HASLAM, Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

ESTHER G. ROPER, National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society.

## GO FOR THE M.P.'s!

The ominous silence and secrecy in which the new plot against the women citizens of the State is being hatched is of far more dangerous portent than an open campaign, no matter how energetically prosecuted. And this silence and secrecy is the measure of the unsoundness of the ground on which the Government and its parasites in Parliament stand. They are perfectly aware of the unconstitutional nature of the course they are evi-

dently contemplating. They, who have thundered forth the iniquity of passing a measure of Women's Suffrage without a "mandate" from the country—in spite of the country having returned more than 400 openly avowed women suffragists at two or more general elections!—now smile on the proposal to alter the basis of qualification for the franchise in a way that has never even been discussed between them and the majority of their constituents. They,

who have allowed Women's Suffrage to be wrecked on every manner of Parliamentary obstruction and technicality, and on paltry questions of procedure, now appear ready to give their benediction to an unprecedented outrage on Parliamentary custom—the inclusion of an alteration of the franchise in a bill of odds and ends, not specifically intended to provide representation for the people. And they have taken advantage of the national crisis, when the nation is not allowed to express its will, to let fly this extraordinary boomerang, which is designed to benefit all its backers and, like the original Reform Bill, to "give everybody everything"—except women. Women must still stand without and wait. Their patriotism is being exploited to induce them to remain silent under this last and worst insult, and not to "make trouble." The "trouble," however, will be ready made; not by women, but by the treacherous politicians who are so lost to all sense of decency as to think the present a suitable time to indulge with impunity in party tricks and political *leger-de-main*.

The reckoning of these "slim" gentlemen may prove to be as unreliable as their principles and their pledges. The women's suffrage societies are as watchful as ever; and they have now behind them the ever-increasing volume of women-workers smarting under a constantly growing sense of injustice. The "£1 a day" wage of Mr. Lloyd George, in the munitions factories, has proved to be as elusive as a will-o'-the-wisp; the women working for army and navy clothing contracts are furious at their treatment in respect of the new tribunals; the women civil servants have grievances they never had before; women teachers are seething with indignation at the miserable economies in education: and everywhere, in all classes of women workers, there is a new consciousness of strength, a new and hitherto unknown sense of power. Their work is needed, their co-operation is courted; the country cannot pull through without them.

The example set by the men workers should steady all those women workers who may be swayed just now by sentimental arguments. The situation shows clearly that no gratitude for service rendered will prevent politicians cheating and defrauding women, so long as they believe women to be docile and submissive, and so long as they know them to be at a disadvantage in obtaining employment. The cry to-day, however, is for more women; their output exceeds the highest computations; and Members of Parliament had better beware, lest by their machinations, they rouse the new force to use the old weapon of the strike.

We of the Women's Freedom League will leave no stone unturned to bring Members of Parliament

to a sense of the situation as we feel it. In all the branches of the League, M.P.s must be attacked, by letter, deputation, and, if necessary, protest meeting. No Member should be able to come to his constituency for so much as a day without being asked to receive a deputation of women asking his intentions in regard to any alteration of the franchise. It is on the goodwill of Members that the Government must rely; if they can be roused, by smooth means or rough, to a knowledge of what their action means, the situation may yet be saved.

C. NINA BOYLE.

### Voices from the North.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage passed the following resolutions at their meeting on November 20:—

In view of the rumours of a new Service Franchise Parliamentary Register, and Lord Lansdowne's statement in the House of Lords on November 4 that "His Majesty's Government must be assumed to be held responsible, this meeting of Northern Men, while cordially agreeing with the principle suggested, yet declares—

- (1) Its unalterable determination to oppose any readjustment or increase of the Parliamentary Franchise which does not include equality of franchise rights for women.
- (2) That women have shown a sufficient sense of courage, patriotism and public spirit in the area of war, and in the hospitals, homes and economic system of the United Kingdom to warrant their demands for the vote.
- (3) That in view of these considerations and their heroic sacrifices in the national crisis the perpetuation of their outlawry is particularly ungenerous and unjust.
- (4) That a Government that calls upon women to subscribe to public loans and public service, cannot in justice withhold from them the rights that are or should be allied to public service.
- (5) That to take advantage of the woman's truce by ignoring their rights while increasing those of men is to be a distinct incentive to fresh and undesirable agitation.
- (6) That the Northern Men's Federation is not prepared to tolerate any more betrayals of the Woman's Suffrage Cause, and call upon the Government to incorporate women in the New Service Franchise on equal terms with men, and thus put an end to the long campaign of fifty years delayed justice which has disgraced our political sense of honour.

(Signed) W. BRUCE LINDSAY, J.P., Councillor,  
Edinburgh.  
JOHN McMICHAEL, J.P., Edingburgh.

speakers being Mr. Laurence Housman, Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tanner, and tea will be served in the theatre from 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets for reserved seats can be obtained from our Office at 1s. each, and there will be a special collection in aid of the funds of the Women's Freedom League. We shall want stewards for selling literature, *THE VOTE*, collecting, etc., and shall be pleased to have names of volunteers before Saturday. This meeting should be a great success, and we rely on our readers to join with us in making clear to the Government and the public the demand of women that no alteration shall be made in the franchise laws for men without women coming in on equal terms.

### Our "Wednesdays."

Next Wednesday afternoon, December 8, will be the last of the series of our meetings this session

at St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., and the subject under discussion will be of special interest to our readers.

Mr. George Francis, secretary of The Consumers' Defence League, will give an address on "Food Adulteration and Infantile Mortality." In a little pamphlet which we have seen, Mr. Francis gives some startling figures in regard to higher prices of food notwithstanding the fact that the imports of provisions show a large increase, so we think our readers may gain some valuable information if they come to St. George's Vestry next Wednesday afternoon. Miss Nina Boyle will also speak, and the chair will be taken at 3.30.

### Our Green, White and Gold Fair.

The Social Committee expresses its warm appreciation of the services of all who helped Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Harbord, Mrs. Pierotti, and Miss White so ably with the refreshments, of stall holders, stewards, and of the artistes who took part in the delightful programme arranged by Mrs. Corner. The secretaries of the committee take this opportunity of cordially thanking all friends who so kindly sent contributions for our stalls and for the refreshments. Unfortunately, it has been impossible to trace all the donors. If any have not received a letter of thanks, will they please accept this acknowledgment of our indebtedness.

### A Christmas Presents Sale.

The Women's Freedom League has accepted the invitation of the United Suffragists to take a stall at their Christmas Sale, Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11, to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. We urge our members to support us by coming to this sale, where we shall have a good collection of all kinds of useful and beautiful articles.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### AN APPEAL TO ENGLISH HOUSE MOTHERS.

War conditions are forcing us to think. We have sat over long quiescent in our houses, much as canaries sit in their cages, and have, like them, eaten without question the food which has been supplied to us. The canary is debarred from questioning the quality of its food; we house mothers are not. Yet have we analysed our bread, or sought to know what additions of dirt and preservatives are mixed with our morning milk? The very poor have to put up with shockingly adulterated food, but even the very rich, if they took the trouble to inquire, would find their food was far from pure.

The vendor and the consumer have unfortunately opposing interests. The consumer wants pure food at a reasonable price; the vendor wants to make money out of the consumer, and does not mind slowly poisoning him, if thereby his banking account is increased. A case in point. An important firm in the south of England lately worked a ton of animal fat into the butter they sold, thereby making thousands of pounds. The authorities prosecuted, and the firm was fined £90. Will the firm be prevented by this mere flea bite of a fine, from discontinuing their corrupt practices? The answer must be left to the reader's imagination.

The English mother has been either over-trustful or very careless about the food she gives her children. Is she to continue to sacrifice their health so that a handful of men may become rich? The whole question lies in the hands of the women, who are the housekeepers, the food buyers. What can they do? We believe there is a remedy. The workers, who earn, say, about £1 a week have faced the situation and formed co-operative societies, wherein the vendor and the consumer are one and the same person. These co-operative societies have saved their members untold gold, and enabled them to supply themselves with as pure food as can be

## KNITTED COATS

For XMAS GIFTS  
All One Guinea each.

In sympathy with the wave of economy that is spreading over the country, many ladies will doubtless prefer to give Christmas Presents of a practical and useful character. With this object in view we have decided to offer about 2500 Knitted Coats in real silk, and pure cashmere, in various designs, all of which are quite fresh and perfect in every way, and are therefore very suitable for Xmas Gifts.

Real Silk Knitted COAT, with collar and breast pocket. Superior quality yarn, usually sold for 5/6. In light sage, navy, tangerine, sage, pink, biscuit, cinnamon, purple, gold, emerald, apricot, royal, violet, tomato, turquoise, copper, rose. No white or black.

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obtained. The time has now come for people with quite considerable incomes to copy the working man. Some may feel inclined to join such a co-operative movement from philanthropy, but the majority, owing to high prices and declining income, will be drawn into forming such co-operative societies in self defence. A Consumers' League has already been formed in London, and the pioneers of the movement hope for the support of the public. These leagues have been formed with success on the Continent and in America. It is felt that, as combinations of working men can level up bad conditions and force up wages, so by combining in consumers' leagues the black coated citizen can check adulteration and force prices back to a proper level. State legislation cannot easily aid the consumer; laws against adulteration have sometimes actually lowered the standard and quality of many household necessities. For instance, butter and milk can be diluted with water, so long as they do not fall below the meagre standard of legal purity and strength.

Mr. G. W. E. Russell, writing recently in *Better Business*, a quarterly journal, says:—"If we are to escape utter wretchedness we must frame some kind of policy which will at least eliminate the profiteer and abolish every factor in society which tends to increase the cost of living. It will every year become more imperative to find the most economic methods of purchase and distribution, and no better method was ever yet devised than the co-operative method, where profiteering in distribution disappears."

The Women's Freedom League will have an opportunity, at St. George's Vestry Hall, Bloomsbury, on Wednesday afternoon, December 8 of listening to Mr. George Francis, the eloquent secretary of the National Consumers' League, and will hear facts from him which bring home to women the need for their active association in this vital national and human service.

THERESE MUIR MCKENZIE.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

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

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

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Hon. Head of Literature Department—Miss MARGARET HODGE.

Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.

Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

#### Votes for Women Rally.

We make an urgent and special appeal to our members and friends to come to our "Votes for Women Rally" at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, Sunday afternoon, December 5. The chair will be taken promptly at 4 o'clock, the

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## THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.  
 Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, December 3rd, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
 To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
 To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
 To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote  
 orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
 Telegrams: "DESPARD," Museum, London.

### 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.

### WOMAN'S CHALLENGE.

We note with satisfaction, but without surprise, that the Government have decided to postpone the introduction of their Registration Bill till the end of this week. This innocent little measure was to have slipped quietly through a complacent, more or less uninterested House; but difficulties have loomed ahead, and it has been thought well to give further time to its consideration. In the meantime, once more, the women of the country throw out their challenge.

"We are here," they say. "Our eyes are open. We know beyond all doubt the value of our work to the community; we realise even more than we did before the war how heavy is our stake in the life and wealth of the country; we are convinced that we cannot rightly perform the duties thrown on us by the urgency of the times without the practical recognition of our citizenship. Therefore, we will resist to the utmost any attempt to change the electoral laws that does not include the removal of their greatest anomaly—the denial to women of the right to representation."

Since the times are critical, it may be wise to go over some of the old ground; to state clearly what are our reasons for this challenge, and why we feel it to be of special importance now.

Those are in error who say now, or who have ever said, that we claim citizen rights as a reward for service. The truest service claims no reward save that of being given opportunity for further and larger service. If we look back over our political history we shall see that the right to Parliamentary representation was never won either by heroism or valour. It is the crying want, the growing sense of injustice in important classes of the community that has forced the dominant classes, often reluctantly, to grant a demand for the vote. It is precisely the same with us. Our civic disabilities cripple us; we are confronted on every side with laws which we had no hand in making; our money, our work, our children are taken from us without our consent; we are aware, moreover, of the fact that while attention is paid to the imperative desire—"mandate" they call it—of electors, voteless persons knock in vain at the doors of public men. Has not the answer been given to us again and again: "We must consult our constituents; we have no time to attend to you"?

That belongs to the past, we are told. It will not be so in the future. We confess we have no faith in the gratitude of political persons. To-day they are praising woman as they are praising Tommy; but let the politicians think that either of these will embarrass their Party schemes or en-

danger their success at the polls and a different tale will be told to the public. Let us then be on our guard.

An enlightening article by A.G.G. in Saturday's *Daily News*, headed "The War and the Worker," contains the following remarkable words:—

Nor must we forget the enormous factor which the arrival of woman will introduce into the problem of Re-construction. I am not sure that the future will not find in that arrival the biggest social and economic result of the war. The status of women has changed finally and absolutely, and we may, among other things, regard the question of the suffrage as settled.

The *Nation*, under "Events of the Week," deals with the postponement of the Registration Bill. Pleading with Unionists not to hold to the rich man's plurality of vote, when rich and poor are meeting death together in the trenches, the writer adds:—

But surely it is not too late to come to an honourable understanding on the suffrage which (be it well noted) will have to include a Women's Enfranchisement Bill.

That some of our clearest thinkers should, in view of the coming re-construction, be thinking in this direction augurs well; but we draw still greater hope from the attitude of women themselves. The lever, after all, in every expansion of the electoral vote has been discontent, thrusting out into revolt amongst an important class or section of the community. Wise men, like the writers we have quoted, are fully conscious of the fact that in the presence of a vast discontented body of workers, such social re-construction as we all desire will be impossible. They desire, therefore, to take time by the forelock and to start fair.

One of the old worn-out arguments has been triumphantly refuted by late events. Woman, it was said, should not have a voice in the counsels of the nation because she could not bear arms; and lurid pictures were sometimes drawn by our opponents of the non-combatant sex, the members of which would of course, so they said, all vote on one side, and make wars which men would have to fight for them.

That sort of absurdity has gone for ever. In every kind of painful and dangerous business women, during the present war, have proved their quality; and no one, either man or woman, will dare to say that they have not borne their share in the privation, the labour, the unspeakable suffering it has brought about. We know that Mr. Asquith himself, our arch opponent, confessed the other day that a year ago he did not know there were thousands of such heroic women as Nurse Edith Cavell. Will he remember that when he is asked, either now or in the future, to introduce a Women's Franchise Bill? Possibly; but meanwhile it is our part, while throwing out our challenge, to continue watchful. Who knows whether, on some side issue, a measure which would mean practically Manhood Suffrage might not be introduced? Such a disaster must be averted at all costs.

The Danish women have recently won their freedom; Holland has now made the question practical politics; Norway, which began with a limited franchise, has this year expanded it so that it includes all women. The temporary set-back in America was no defeat. It is well known that to effect it money was poured out like water, and all the worst elements in the life of the nation were brought into play. That, soon, the verdict will be reversed, that the strong and good side of American life will triumph, we do not doubt. What we do ask, what many over there are asking, is: "Will not Great Britain take the lead?"

C. DESPARD.

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### OUR GREEN, WHITE & GOLD FAIR.

Our Green, White and Gold Fair has passed into history leaving a very pleasant memory in the minds of all who were present at the Caxton Hall on Nov. 26 and 27 as helpers, entertainers or buyers. An important matter still to be completed is the counting of results, but it is hoped that a substantial sum will be added to the Treasury of the Women's Freedom League.

The large Hall presented a gay and attractive appearance, ringed round with stalls and decorated in our colours. An additional colour scheme was provided by the blue hospital suits and red ties of the wounded soldiers from King George's, Westminster, and the West London Hospitals, who were entertained each day, and whose hearty expressions of appreciation and thanks proved their enjoyment of the hospitality and entertainment offered.

The Fair was opened on Friday by Mrs. Despard and on Saturday by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson; both were accorded a warm welcome and both extended a warm welcome on behalf of the League to the fighting men from the Front, and told them of the fight for justice and freedom which women are waging in our own and other countries. They emphasised the fact that the Women's Freedom League had kept the suffrage flag flying during the war, and had done excellent national service in many directions, but to continue its work the League needed substantial financial assistance.

There was evidence in the Hall of some of the war work done by the League. The Harrow Branch and its secretary, Mrs. Huntsman, had a Comforts for Sufferers stall, and also exhibited postcards and letters from British prisoners in Germany who had received parcels and messages via the Branch. Montgomery and Aberdovey Branches most generously supplied a stall of warm clothing and knitted goods for soldiers and others, and purchasers appreciated the useful articles supplied. Mrs. Francis Lewis and Miss Alix M. Clark were in charge of this stall. The Women's Freedom League Settlement (Nine Elms) stall made an irresistible appeal and in addition to selling the many useful gifts Mrs. Tippett and her helpers were able to enlighten inquirers as to the work of the Settlement. Mrs. Snow's brief visits each day gave great pleasure to her many friends, who rejoiced to see her well on the way to recovery. Her merchandise stall was completely sold out, and buyers went off gratified with their bargains. The same happy result attended Mrs. Carey's vegetarian stall, and business was brisk at the General, Home-Made, White and Toy stalls, and at the Old Curiosity Shoppe. The literature department had a good show of books, W.F.L. calendars, etc., and those in charge were kept busy. The "Violet Clark" quartette played delightfully in the large hall each day, and the waitresses in white dresses, mob caps with yellow ribbon, dispensing tea and other good things, added brightness to the scene. Psychic delineations were most kindly given by Mrs. Thomson Price, and character reading by Mrs. Davidson and the Gipsy Fortune Teller. The soldier guests keenly enjoyed this part of the programme.

The following is a list of stall holders and helpers:—Toy, Miss Perry; White, Mrs. Hanscombe, Mrs. H. Thomson, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson; Home-Made, Mrs. Holmes, Miss Triplett; Montgomery and Aberdovey, Miss Alix M. Clark, Mrs. Francis Lewis; General, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Tuffnell, Miss Rieger; Merchandise, Mrs. Snow, Miss Jacob, Mrs. Rose; Comforts for Sufferers, Harrow Branch, Mrs. Higgins, Miss Cross; Nine Elms, Mrs. Tippett, Mrs. Delbanco, Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Presbury; Vegetarian, Mrs. Carey;

SHOP EARLY! WE CLOSE NOW AT 6 O'CLOCK.

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The Council Chamber attracted many visitors by reason of the excellence of the concerts and entertainments ably organised by Mrs. Corner. The grand Russian concerts each day were remarkably fine. Madame Marie Levinskaja took every one by storm by her delightful personality and spontaneous kindness as well as by her outstanding gifts as a pianist. Miss Felicia Borell (violin), Madame Fromont-Delune (cello), and Mlle. Brélia (operatic singer), completed the able exponents of Russian music. Miss Clara Reed and her friends from the Hasluck Academy rendered splendid service by their dramatic recitals, dances, and songs, which were warmly appreciated and keenly enjoyed. Our good friend, Mr. Harrison Hill, finding himself in London on Saturday, with half-an-hour to spare, most kindly came to the Hall and gave us one of his delightful entertainments, together with interesting stories of his experiences "with Tommy at the Front." He returns to France in a few days, and will be away a month. Miss Edith Carter's play, "Treasure in Heaven," admirably given by Miss Inez Bensusan, Mr. Leigh Lovell, and the author, of the Actresses' Franchise League, delighted everyone, and added yet another to the many kindnesses which the actresses have for so long rendered to the Women's Freedom League. Miss Bigg, matron of the Women's Hospital for Children, Harrow-road, gave valuable information in her interesting demonstrations of nursing, and Mrs. Garrud's Ju-Jitsu

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FRIDAY,  
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ONE  
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Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

some extent the danger of throwing many women out of work. Both addresses were followed by discussion. Miss Munro presided at the first, and Miss Nannie Brown at the other meeting.

#### Glasgow. Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's Road.

A very successful jumble sale in aid of the funds was held on November 20. Mrs. Scrimgeour, who was convener, reports that the sum realised was £16 16s. We have to thank Mrs. Scrimgeour and her helpers for their efforts to make the sale a success.

#### Ipswich

We had an interesting and well attended meeting on November 25. After we had teased tow for splints, Mrs. Rice, warmly welcomed on her return after her marriage, gave a demonstration in war economy in replacing wood with newspapers for lighting fires. We hope she will give us an account of her nursing experiences in France. Will all members keep Wednesday, December 15, free for our Hard-Up Supper to increase our funds? Come and bring your friends at 7.30 p.m. Admission 3d. Everyone is asked to bring a contribution in kind for the supper; there will be competitions, and a Dutch auction. We were very glad to have Miss Nicholson again, and to hear of her suffrage work in Ireland. Many thanks to the kind friends who sent articles or money for the Green, White, and Gold Fair; the former went to Mrs. Tippett's stall. There will be no afternoon meeting on the day after the Hard-Up Supper.

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

On Sunday afternoon, November 21, Miss Nina Boyle, who was invited to address a meeting of the Women's Adult School at North Ormesby, and to "bring in a little bit of religion," based her remarks on the lines of a hymn that had been sung:—"If there breathe on earth a slave, Are ye truly free and brave?" She pointed out that owing to the limitations of our language, women were always omitted, and that there could be no real freedom

while women were in subjection. She showed how politics govern all affairs of daily life—even spiritual affairs—and said that it was a woman's first duty to take her share in politics—not for the scramble of place and power, but as the noblest of all occupations, and for the good of humanity. Miss Boyle's admirable sermon was thoroughly appreciated by all her hearers.

On November 22 Miss Boyle addressed a public meeting at which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. She said the persistent demand of the Women's Freedom League for political enfranchisement had not slackened for one moment during the war, but that it had not prevented them from doing a vast amount of work in the service of the country. Women's first duty in the absence of the men who were risking their lives in defence of their country was to take hold of social and political affairs, and to endeavour to keep up the standard of wages. She outlined the work of the Women Police Volunteers, and emphasised the urgent need there is for women gaolers to take charge of women prisoners and trained nurses for prison infirmaries for both men and women.

#### Reading.

An interesting Branch meeting was held in the Parlour, Palmer Hall, on November 18, when Miss Ruth Hinder gave an address, from the teacher's point of view, on "Child Education in War Time," which was much appreciated, and evoked discussion. Mrs. Corry presented her Conference report, and specially urged the claims of THE VOTE. Miss Kath'een Connolly's recitation "The Monk Felix" was much enjoyed. It was announced that Miss Anna Munro had consented to fill the position of Branch president; the news met with the warmest appreciation. Mrs. Spir, who presided very ably, expressed heartiest thanks to Miss Hinder, Mrs. Corry, and Miss Connolly for their efforts.

#### Sal.

A social evening was held on Nov. 22 at the Y.W.C.A. rooms. Miss Hines presided, and Miss Janet Heyes, of Eccles, gave a rousing speech on the position of women. She was cordially welcomed, and congratulated the Branch on its vitality. Miss Lawrence sang, and Miss Andrews accompanied, to the great enjoyment of all. A good collection helped to defray expenses. It is hoped that a whist drive will be held in the New Year.

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