

THE VOTE
APRIL 13, 1917.
ONE PENNY.

"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON"

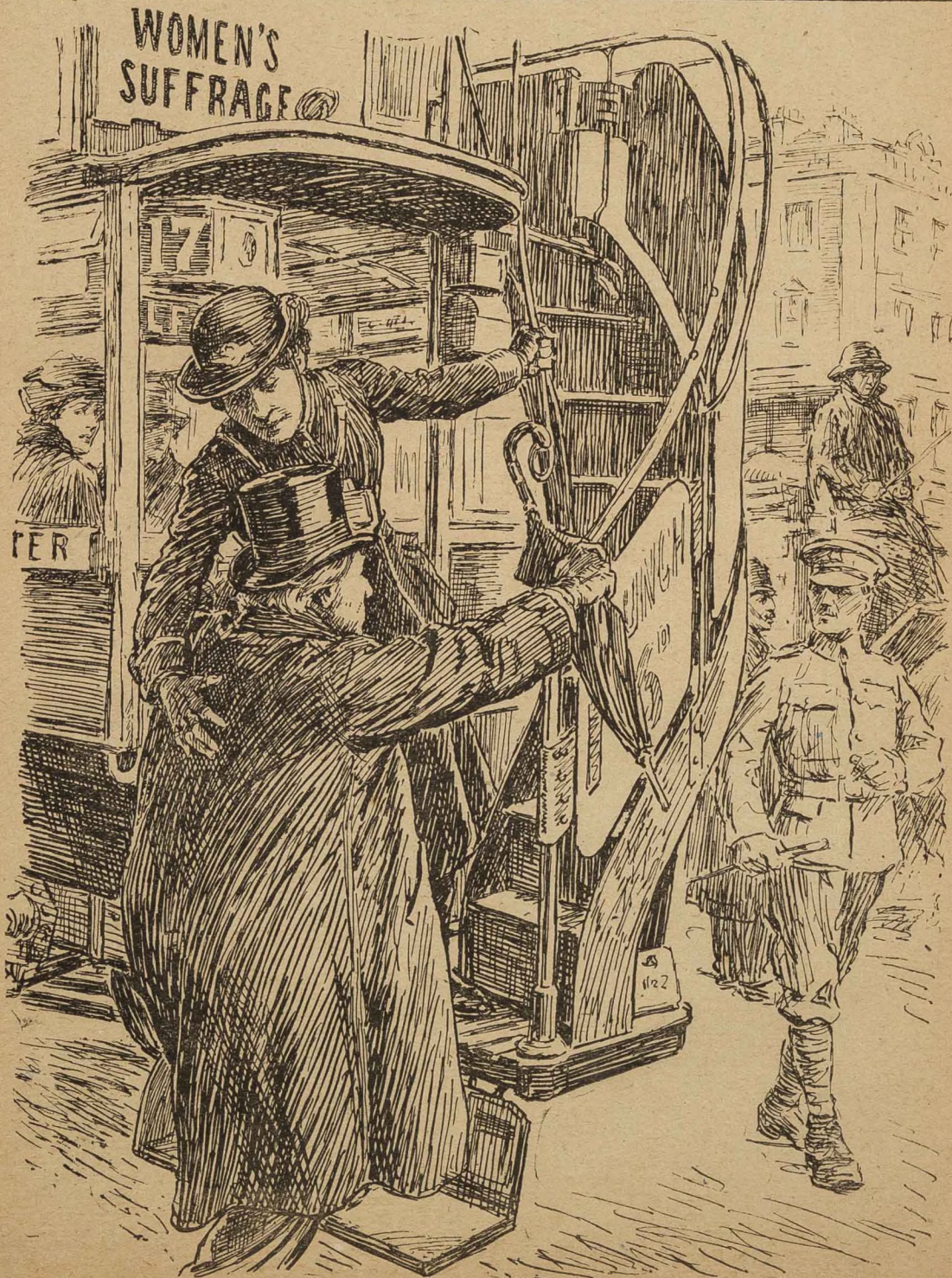
THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XVI. No. 390.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1917



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THE CATCH OF THE SEASON.

Women's Freedom League.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, April 13.—Poster Parade, leave International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C., 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 15.—Open Air Meeting, Hyde Park (near Marble Arch), 3.30 p.m.
Monday, April 16.—Poster Parade, leave International Suffrage Shop, 2 p.m. Public Meeting to protest against Clauses III. and V. of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Central Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Abadam, Mrs. Despard, Miss Esther Roper, Mr. George Lansbury, Commander Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P. Admission free. Reserved seats 2s. 6d. and 1s.

Tuesday, April 17.—Nine Elms Settlement. Lecture on "Hands and their Readings," by Mrs. St. Hill, president of the Chirological Society, at the Society's headquarters, 37, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Proceeds for Settlement. Tickets: 1s. 6d., from 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 8, or 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, April 18.—Public Meeting, Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Holford Knight on "Women and the Legal Profession," and others. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Hall at 4.30 at 6d. Hostess: Mrs. Thomson (of Stamford Hill).

Thursday, April 19.—Golder's Green Branch Meeting, 59, Ashbourne-avenue, 7.30 p.m., followed at 8 p.m. by discussion on "Child Labour," opened by Miss Ellen Burr. Friends cordially invited.

Saturday, April 21.—Joint Suffrage Meeting, Central Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Mrs. Despard, Miss Eva Gore Booth, Miss Slieve McGowan, Miss Evelyn Sharp, and Mrs. Swanwick. Admission free. Reserved seats 2s. 6d. and 1s.

Wednesday, April 25.—Public Meeting, Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., on "Our Glorious Liberties," and others. Chair: Mrs. Nourse. Hostess: Miss Margaret Hodge. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Hall at 4.30 at 6d. Stamford Hill Branch Meeting, 7, East Bank, 7.30. Speaker: Mr. Harper. Subject: "Gold versus Paper."

Friday, April 27.—Croydon Public Meeting, Lecture Room, Public Hall, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Abadam.
Saturday, April 28.—London Branches Council Drawing Room Meeting at 15, Clapham-mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W. (by kind invitation of Mrs. Corner), 3.15 p.m. Speakers: Miss Abadam on "The Feminist Outlook," and Mrs. Mustard on "True versus False Democracy." Music. Tea. Members and friends cordially invited.

Wednesday, May 2.—Public Meeting, Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Lind-of-Hageby, "Women's Part in Promoting Moral Hygiene," and Mrs. Despard. Hostess: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson.

Friday, May 4.—W.F.L. Whist Drive, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 for 7 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, April 17.—Portsmouth, Social evening, 17, Lombard-street, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18.—Portsmouth, Drawing Room Meeting, 89, Festing-grove, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Munro. Chair: Miss Clark.

Thursday, April 19.—Portsmouth, Public Meeting, Trades Hall, Fratton-road, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Maynard and Miss Munro. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wednesday, April 25.—Middlesbrough. Great Suffrage Demonstration, Town Hall, 7 p.m. Speakers to be announced.
Friday, April 27.—Swansea. Jumble Sale, Ragged Schools, 6.30 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, April 22.—Kingston Humanitarian Society Meeting, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTORAL REFORM BILL.

Whips or No Whips?

In answer to a letter to the Prime Minister from the Political Department of the Women's Freedom League, asking whether the statement was correct which appeared in *The New Statesman*, that the Whips would be put on for all the clauses of the Electoral Reform Bill except for Woman Suffrage, the following reply has been received:—

10, Downing-street, Whitehall, S.W.
April 5, 1917.

Dear Madam,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 31, and to inform you that no definite decision has been arrived at on the subject of your inquiry.

Yours faithfully, F. L. STEVENSON.

MISS ANNE E. CORNER.

Joint Suffrage Meeting.

A straight demand for the widest possible measure of woman suffrage will be sent to the Government from the joint suffrage meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on April 21. Particulars on another page. Every suffragist must rally to the flag.

Electoral Reform Debate, March 28, 1917.

In view of the importance of the debate and the division, we append the list of Members voting "Aye" and "No," and urge all suffragists to keep it for constant reference. It will be most valuable during the coming weeks. All who are interested can have the official report of the debate (3d., post free 4½d.) on application to the Women's Freedom League Office, 144, High-Holborn, London, W.C.

The result of the Division was:—
For Mr. Asquith's Motion 341
Against 62

Majority 279

AYES.

Abraham, W.; Acland, F. D.; Addison, Dr. C.; Adkins, Sir W. R. D.; Agg-Gardner, Sir J. T.; Ainsworth, Sir J. S.; Alden, Percy; Allen, A. A.; Allen, C. P.; Anderson, W. C.; Archdale, Lieut. E. M.; Arnold, Sydney; Asquith, H. H.; Astor, Hon. Waldorf; Baird, J. L.; Baker, H. T.; Baker, J. A.; Baldwin, Stanley; Balfour, A. J.; Balfour, Sir Robert; Baring, Sir Godfrey; Barlow, Sir J. E.; Barnes, G. N.; Barnett, Captain R. W.; Barran, Sir J. N.; Barran, R. H.; Barton, William; Bathurst, Captain C.; Beale, Sir W. P.; Beauchamp, Sir E.; Beck, A. C.; Beckett, Gervase; Bentham, G. J.; Bentinck, Lord H. Cavendish; Bethell, Sir J. H.; Billing, N. Pemberton; Birrell, Augustine; Black, Sir Arthur W.; Blake, Sir F. D.; Bliss, Joseph; Boland, J. P.; Boscawen, Sir Arthur Griffith; Bowerman, C. W.; Boyle, Daniel; Brace, William; Brady, P. J.; Bridgeman, W. C.; Brunner, J. F. L.; Bryce, J. A.; Bull, Sir W. J.; Burns, John; Butcher, J. G.; Buxton, Noel; Byles, Sir W. P.; Cator, John; Cave, Sir George; Cecil, Lord R.; Chancellor, H. G.; Churchill, Winston S.; Clancy, J. J.; Clough, William; Clyde, J. A.; Clynes, J. R.; Cochrane, C. A.; Collins, Sir S.; Collins, Sir W.; Condon, T. J.; Cornwall, Sir E. A.; Cory, J. H.; Cosgrave, James; Craig, Ernest; Crumley, Patrick; Currie, G. W.; Dalrymple, H. H.; Dalziel, Sir J. H.; Davies, David; Davies, Timothy; Davies, Sir W. H.; Denman, R. D.; Devlin, Joseph; Dickinson, W. H.; Dillon, John; Donelan, Captain A.; Donovan, J. T.; Doris, William; Dougherty, Sir J. B.; Du Cros, Sir A. P.; Duffy, W. J.; Duke, H. E.; Duncan, C.; Edwards, J. H.; Elverston, Sir Harold; Esmonde, John; Faber, G. D.; Falconer, James; Fell, Arthur; Ferees, T. R.; French, Peter; Field, William; Finney, Samael; Fisher, H. A. L.; Fisher, W. Hayes; Fitzgibbon, John; Fitzpatrick, J. L.; Forster, H. W.; Foster, P. S.; Gelder, Sir W. A.; George, D. Lloyd; Gibbs, Col. G. A.; Gilbert, J. D.; Ginnell, Laurence; Glanville, H. J.; Goddard, Sir D. F.; Goldstone, Frank; Greenwood, Sir G. G.; Greig, Colonel J. W.; Griffith, E. J.; Guest, F. E.; Gulland, J. W.; Hackett, John; Hall, D. B.; Hardy, Laurence; Harmsworth, Cecil; Harris, Percy A.; Harvey, T. E.; Haslam, Lewis; Hayden, J. P.; Hazleton, Richard; Healy, Maurice; Healy, T. M.; Helme, Sir N. W.; Hemmerde, E. G.; Henderson, Arthur; Henderson, J. M.; Henry, Sir C.; Herbert, A.; Hewart,

We Call Special Attention to the following Important Meetings.

Monday, April 16.—Central Hall, Westminster, Mass Meeting to protest against the dangerous Clauses III and V of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Speakers: Miss Abadam, Miss Esther Roper, Miss Maude Royden, Mr. George Lansbury, Commander Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P. Chair: Mrs. Despard. 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18.—Our "Wednesdays," Caxton Hall, Westminster. Mr. Holford Knight on "Women and the Legal Profession." Chair: Miss A. A. Smith, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 21.—Central Hall, Westminster, Joint Suffrage Meeting. Speakers: Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., Mrs. Despard, Miss Eva Gore-Booth, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Swanwick, Miss Slieve McGowan, Mrs. A. E. Corner, 3 p.m.

Come and Bring Your Friends!

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Increase in Wages for Munition Workers.

Before Parliament rose for the Easter recess Mr. Kellaway, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, informed Mr. Anderson in the House of Commons that the Minister of Munitions had considered the recommendations of the Committee on Production with reference to the wages of women, and had decided to issue a new series of orders which would raise the time rate of women now working on men's work by four shillings a week, and that of girls under 18 who were doing men's work by one penny an hour. The time rate of women over 18 who were not doing men's work, said Mr. Kellaway, would be increased by one penny an hour and three farthings an hour when employed on piecework; girls of 17 and under 18 would receive an increase of a halfpenny an hour and a farthing an hour when on piecework. The increases are to begin this week.

At the Suffrage Deputation to the Prime Minister.

Among the interesting incidents was Mrs. Fawcett's statement that Mrs. Tennant and Miss Violet Markham, director and assistant-director of the women's section of National Service, would have been present if it had been possible. "Miss Markham," said Mr. Lloyd George in some surprise, "I thought she was one of your opponents!" "A convert, sir, since the war," said Mrs. Fawcett amid laughter.

On U.S.A. Committee of National Defence.

Mrs. Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association is the only woman appointed by President Wilson to the Advisory Committee of National Defence.

"A VOICE FROM INDIA."—Mr. Harendranath Maitra will give four lectures on Saturdays, April 14, 21, 28, and May 5, at King's Weigh House, Thomas-street, Oxford-street, (near Bond-street Tube), on "India's Place in the Empire," (chair: H. W. Massingham, Esq.); "The Soul of India," (chair: Laurence Housman, Esq.); "India and England," (chair: Rabindranath Tagore and Indian Poetry," (chair: Ernest Rhys), 3 p.m. Tickets: 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s.

JOINT SUFFRAGE MEETING

Central Hall, Westminster,

SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, 3 P.M.

SPEAKERS: W. H. DICKINSON, Esq., M.P.

MRS. DESPARD

MISS EVA GORE BOOTH

MISS EVELYN SHARP

MRS. SWANWICK

MRS. CORNER

MISS SLIEVE MCGOWAN

Admission Free. Doors open 2.30 p.m. Reserved Tickets from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, 2/6 and 1/-

Sir Gordon; Higham, J. S.; Hills, J. W.; Hinds, John; Hodge, John; Hogge, J. M.; Hohler, G. F.; Holt, R. D.; Hope, J. D.; Howard, Geoffrey; Hudson, Walter; Hughes, S. L.; Hume-Williams, W. E.; Illingworth, A. H.; Jacobson, T. O.; Jardine, Sir John; John, E. T.; Jones, Edgar; Jones, H. H.; Jones, J. Towyn; Jones, Leif; Jones, W. K.; Jones, W. S. Glyn; Jowett, F. W.; Joyce, Michael; Joynson-Hicks, William; Keating, Matthew; Kellaway, F. G.; Kelly, Edward; Kenyon, Barnet; Kilbride, Denis; Kiley, J. D.; King, Joseph; Lamb, Sir E. H.; Lambert, G.; Lambert, Richard; Lardner, J. C. R.; Larmor, Sir J.; Law, A. Bonar; Law, H. A.; Layland-Barratt, Sir F.; Lee, Sir A. H.; Levy, Sir Maurice; Lewis, J. H.; Lloyd, G. A.; Long, Walter; Lonsdale Sir J. B.; Lough, Thomas; Lunden, Thomas; M'Curdy, C. A.; Macdonald, J. M.; Macdonald, J. Ramsay; McGehee, Richard; McKenna, Reginald; Mackinder, H. J.; M'Laren F. W. S.; M'Laren, H. D.; Maclean, Donald; Macmaster, Donald; M'icking, Major Gilbert; Macnamara, Dr. T. J.; MacNeill, J. G. Swift; McNeill, Ronald; Macpherson, J. L.; MacVeagh, Jeremiah; Maden, Sir J. H.; Mallalieu, F. W.; Manfield, Harry; Marks, Sir G. C.; Marshall, A. H.; Mason, D. M.; Mason, J. F.; Meagher, Michael; Meehan, F. E.; Meehan, Patrick; Meux, Sir Hedworth; Millar, J. D.; Mond, Sir Alfred; Money, Sir L. G. Chiozza; Montagu, E. S.; Morgan, G. H.; Munro, Robert; Needham, C. T.; Neville, J. N.; Morison, Hector; Morison, T. B.; Morton, A. C.; Newton, Major H. K.; Nicholson, Sir C. N.; Nolan, Joseph; Norman, Sir Henry; Norton Griffiths, Sir J.; Nugent, J. D.; Nugent, Sir W. R.; Nuttall, Harry; O'Brien, Patrick; O'Connor, John; O'Connor, T. P.; O'Dowd, John; O'Grady, James; O'Neill, Dr. Charles; Ormsby-Gore, William; Outhwaite, R. L.; Palmer, G. M.; Parker, James; Partington, Oswald; Pearce, Sir Robert; Pearce, Sir William; Pearson Weetman H. M.; Pease, H. P.; Perkins, W. F.; Peto, B. E.; Philipps, Maj.-Gen. Ivor; Ponsoby, Arthur A. W. H.; Pratt, J. W.; Prey-man, E. G.; Price, Sir R. J.; Priestley, Sir W. E. B.; Primrose, N. J.; Pringle, William M. R.; Radford, Sir G. H.; Raffan, P. W.; Rawson, Colonel Richard H.; Rea, W. Russell; Reddy, Michael; Redmond, W. A.; Rees, G. C.; Rendal, Athelstan; Richardson, Albion; Richardson, Arthur; Richardson, Thomas; Roberts, C. H.; Roberts, G. H.; Roberts, Sir J. H.; Robertson, J. M.; Robinson, Sidney; Roch, Walter F.; Rothschild, Lionel de; Rowlands, James; Rowntree, Arnold; Runciman, Walter; Rutherford, Watson; Samuel, Sir Harry; Samuel, H. L.; Samuels, A. W.; Scanlan, Thomas; Scott, Leslie; Seely, Lieut.-Colonel Sir C. H.; Shaw, A.; Sheehy, David; Sherwell, A. J.; Shortt, Edward; Simon, Sir John; Smith, Sir F. E.; Smith, Sir Swire; Smyth, Thomas F.; Snowden, Philip; Spear, Sir J. W.; Spicer, Sir Albert; Stanley, Sir A.; Starkey, J. R.; Strauss, Edward A.; Swann, Sir Charles E.; Swift, Rigby; Sykes, Sir Mark; Taylor, Theodore C.; Thomas, J. H.; Thorne, G. R.; Thorne, William; Toulmin, Sir George; Trevelyan, C. P.; Turton, F. R.; Walsh, Stephen; Walters, Sir J. T.; Ward, W. D.; Warner, Sir T. C.; Wason, E.; Wason, J. C.; Watson, W.; Watson, J. B.; Watt, H. A.; Wedgwood, Commander J. C.; Weston, J. W.; White, J. Dundas; Whitty, P. J.; Williams, Aneurin; Williams, John; Williams, Llewelyn; Williams, Penry; Williams, Col. Sir Robert; Williams, T. J.; Williamson, Sir Archibald; Wilson, J. W.; Wilson, Captain Leslie O.; Wilson, W. T.; Wilson, Lt.-Col. Sir M.; Winfrey, Sir Richard; Wing, T. E.; Wood, E. F. L.; Wood, T. McKinnon; Worthington Evans, Major Sir L.; Yeo, A. W.; Young, Edward H.; Young, William; Yoxall, Sir J. H.

Tellers for the Ayes.—Mr. Wiles and Mr. Pollock.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major William; Archer-Shee, Lt.-Col. Martin; Banbury, Sir Frederick G.; Bathurst, Col. A. B.; Bellairs, Commander C. W.; Benn, A. S.; Bird, Alfred; Blair, Reginald; Boles, Lieut.-Colonel D. F.; Boyton, James; Broughton, U. H.; Burdett-Contts, W.; Burn, Colonel C. R.; Cautley, H. S.; Cecil, Evelyn; Chaloner, Colonel R. G. W.; Coats, Sir Stuart A.; Cooper, Sir R. A.; Craik, Sir Henry; Dixon, C. H.; Fletcher, J. S.; Grant, J. A.; Grettton, John; Guinness, Rupert; Gwynne, R. S.; Haddock, G. B.; Hamilton, C. G. C.; Hamilton, Lord C. J.; Hickman, Colonel T. E.; Horne, Edgar; Hunter, Sir C. R.; Ingleby, Holcombe; Jackson, Lieut.-Col. F. S.; Jardine, Ernest; Lloyd, G. B.; Locker-Lampson, G.; Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.; MacCaw, W. J. MacGeagh; Middlemore, J. T.; Nicholson, W. G.; Paget, A. H.; Pennefather, De Fonblanque; Philipps, Sir Owen; Pryce-Jones, Colonel Edward; Quilter, Sir Cuthbert; Rawlinson, J. F. P.; Rees, Sir J. D.; Reid, Sir G.; Remnant, J. F.; Rutherford, Sir J.; Samuel, Samuel; Steel-Maitland, A. D.; Stewart, Gershom; Sykes, Colonel A. J.; Terrell, George; Terrell, Henry; Ward, A. S.; Warde, Colonel C. E.; Wills, Sir Gilbert; Wilson-Fox, Henry; Wood, John; Yate, Colonel C. E.

Tellers for the Noes.—Mr. Salter and Sir Francis Lowe.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, April 13th, 1917.

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 1429, 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.

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At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.

AGENTS.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross, W.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall and Co., Temple-avenue, E.C.; City and Suburban Publishing Company, St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; E. Marlborough, Old Bailey, E.C.; A. Ritchie, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Orange-street, Haymarket; John Heywood, Manchester. Can be obtained at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son and all newsagents.

EASTER, 1917.

April 7.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-MEMBERS,

From the heart of Ireland, where I am taking a rest with my Irish relatives, I greet you. I have not been able to answer the many kind and gracious letters of sympathy sent to me by fellow-members and colleagues on the "passing" of my beloved sister. You are readers of THE VOTE and I take the opportunity of thanking you in its columns for your appreciation of her and your love to myself.

Surely the world's history has seldom seen so sad an Easter Day as the one which is about to open. Everywhere there is sorrow. In myriads of souls there is perplexity. Yet, and in spite of all, we kept our Easter festival. For the miracle of resurrection is everlasting; and, through the gloom, we can foresee the breaking cloud and the over-arching light.

Let us then, taking heart, work on patiently, courageously, steadfastly.

The peoples are awaking, and from nation to nation the joyful contagion is spreading. Russia, America—may it not presently be Germany?—and we of Great Britain, with our glorious traditions behind us, are we to stand aloof? I cannot think so! The initial steps have been taken, and these are ever the most difficult. Now we shall go on into a world which, for the first time in all history, will be really ours.

There is much for us to do. We have to help to create such conditions, to set on foot such international relations, to build up such a public opinion as will, for all the future, make war impossible. That done we shall be able to set ourselves to our true work as women, to making life for all the children of humanity beautiful and valiant, abundant and free.

Such is our Easter hope. It is for you, the young and the middle-aged, to bring it to fruition.

Remember for your consolation that which has been well said by one of our modern poets:

No shadow falls but there, behind it, stands
The Light.

Behind the wrongs and sorrows of life's troublous
Stands Right. [ways

Yours in our great cause,

C. DESPARD.

The Triumph of Easter, 1917.

Wake, wake to hope, poor world so tired of loss!
Hope bound no more, for Love, but now released her.
Is not the Lenten lily by the Cross?
Is it not Easter?

Doubt not that day is risen! The sky's one rose
To the East; gold lights to westward one by one rise.
See how, along the deep Siberian snows,
Quickens the sunrise!

See, as past league on league of Ocean's world
Columbus saw at last his prow push inland.
Thy flag, the flag of Freedom, no more furled,
Fire-hearted Finland!

Wake! for the hour is light's, is liberty's;
The quest to-day is his, is hers, who dares it;
And France, resilient France, the splendour sees,
Sees it and shares it.

And Flanders—lowland pollard, southland vine
And northland pine, one day shall tell one story.
Ay, even unto the forests of the Rhine
Shall spread the glory!

No nation, none, left out! No class, no creed,
Nor either sex; for man shall know his mother,
His maker too; she who is risen indeed,
She and no other.

Was it for naught they broke the golden bowl,
Dear Christ, on that steep hill which left Thee breathless?
Seest Thou not of the travail of Thy soul,
O dead and deathless?

New Adam and new Eve—a world made new
In peace! For this shall be; for what surprises
When on the serfland Freedom falls like dew,
When Russia rises?

Hope's resurrection—ancient foe turned friend—
Love free, on lands reluctant Hate has leashed her.
The Cross was the beginning of the end,
The end is Easter.

S. GERTRUDE FORD.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Honours for Women.

It appears that, at long last, women are to be honoured on their own merits and in their own right. According to Press reports, a new Order is to be instituted by His Majesty the King—the Order of the British Empire—and will be bestowed on women as well as men. The following particulars are given:—

It will supplement existing Orders, as the honours conferred under these, such as the Order of the Bath and of St. Michael and St. George, are limited; and in these days it has been felt that something more comprehensive was required.

The new Order will be something akin to the French Legion of Honour, except that under it the honour will be conferred more readily on women. There will be the usual degrees of the Order, the two highest being Grand Commander and Knight or Lady Commander.

Women will be honoured on their own merits and in their own right.

Connected with the Order there will be medals which will be available for factory foremen or workers who have distinguished themselves, especially for public services during the war.

The Orders issued will be representative of the British Empire as a whole, and it is expected that the first list will be issued in the near future.

The *Daily Chronicle*, commenting on the new Order, says:—"We are particularly glad to learn that within its ranks women will be honoured, on their own merits and in their own right, just as freely as men. The *Daily Chronicle* has long and constantly contended for the abolition of all sex distinctions in the conferment of honours. Their origins are quite obsolete, and their perpetuation is an absurdity as well as an injustice."

The Women's Freedom League has long pointed out the absurdity and injustice of the failure of the State to recognise the valuable services of women, and, in those dim and distant days before the war, gave the State a lead by publishing in THE VOTE a

RUSSIA AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Women Excluded.

In reply to a wire asking whether the universal suffrage proclaimed by the new Government included woman suffrage, the secretary of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance has received a cable from Madame Schiach-Kina-Yavein, saying that women are not included in the liberties proclaimed. The message continues:—

"WE DEMAND, WE PROTEST, WE DEMONSTRATE."

We urge our Russian sisters to continue their protests until the disappointment of the above message is wiped out. The gigantic task which the new Government has in hand can only be fitly carried through if women stand side by side with men. To antagonise now the women who have struggled and sacrificed in the long fight for freedom would be not only a crying injustice but base ingratitude. Free Russia has the example of progressive Finland close at hand, where women not only vote but sit in Parliament. She cannot fall behind. As Mr. W. T. Goode wrote in THE VOTE a fortnight ago: "An emancipated Russia must mean emancipated Russian women." Anything less would be "a contradiction so incredible as to border on the absurd."

Dr. Harold Williams, the able Petrograd correspondent of *The Daily Chronicle*, considers that there is not likely to be any need for a suffrage campaign, as women will get votes. From his interesting article, which appeared on April 5, telling how women have taken a prominent even dangerous and important part in the amazing events of the past three weeks, we take the following extracts:—

The Government has not yet officially announced its views on woman's suffrage, but Ministers say it is decided that women shall vote both in municipal and rural council elections, and in elections for the Constituent Assembly. The chief newspapers have declared in principle for women's suffrage, and the now dominant parties have long since included it in their programmes.

There is so much work to be done in New Russia, there are so many women's hands and brains willing and eager to do it, that a struggle for the suffrage at the present moment would be a futile diversion of energy from much more urgent and important tasks. It is fortunate that there will probably be no need for a suffrage campaign, and that Russian women will be able to devote all their powers to genuinely constructive work and political and social education and organisation.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The Grand Committee which has been dealing with this Bill finished its business on March 29. On the last morning Sir George Cave introduced without notice the following new clause:—

1. Where a girl is convicted before any court:—

(a) of loitering or importuning passengers for the purposes of prostitution or solicitation, or of any other offence of a like nature; or

(b) of any offence under the Vagrancy Act, 1824, of wandering in the public streets or public highway, and behaving in a riotous or indecent manner; or

(c) of any offence under the Punishment of Incest Act, 1908; or

(d) of any offence under this Act;

and the court is of opinion that the girl is under the age of eighteen, and that by reason of her mode of life or associations it is expedient to make an Order under this section, the court may, in lieu of awarding any punishment, order the girl to be detained until she attains the age of nineteen, or for any less period, in an institution or home for the time being approved by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.

2. A court of summary jurisdiction, on remanding or committing for trial a girl charged with any of the offences specified in this section who is not released on bail, may, if the court is of opinion that the girl is under the age of eighteen, instead of committing her to prison, commit her to custody in an institution or home approved for the purposes of this section and named in the commitment, to be there detained for the period for which she is remanded, or until she is thence delivered in due course of law.

list of women whom the King should delight to honour. To these names many others must now be added: women on active military service as doctors and nurses have shown a heroism and devotion to duty worthy to rank with the courage of men. Sir Douglas Haig, in a message to the Army, pointed to the heroic conduct of British women in munition works who "carried on" in spite of a serious explosion; the Prime Minister, speaking in the debate on March 28 on electoral reform, gave instances of similar courage. There are also the teachers who quietly yet effectively, and largely unrecognised, are contributing to the well-being and progress of the nation, and women who, in the arts, science, and industry, are enriching national life. It is in no sense as a reward that women demand a place in the honours list, but as a recognition of the importance of their service to the nation.

Not a Day Too Soon.

Whatever else can be said of women's enfranchisement few will pretend that the reform is premature. We have a million defective children; the figure is that given by Sir George Newman, head of the School Medical Service of the Board of Education. The fulness of time demands that women shall examine the causes that produce a million defectives, a source of weakness to the nation instead of strength; only women's courage will lay the axe to the root of the matter. Another proof of the folly of excluding women's voice from the electorate was afforded by *The Times* Literary Supplement of March 15. It dealt with the work of six authoresses, including Lady Frazer's translation of M. Loyson's *The Gods in the Battle*. Each writer had a column-long notice, and two had nearly two columns. The suffrage 'bus should be a tank in the hewing down of opposition.

No Gardens for Irishwomen.

From the land of surprises comes another. Miss Dora Mellone writes:—

"A well-known expert on gardening, lecturing in Dublin on March 30, referred to the amazing fact that girls are not admitted to the classes on gardening organised in the elementary schools by the National Board of Education. The instructor is paid by the Department of Agriculture, and the class must have a minimum membership of twenty. It is not always possible to find as many boys in the more sparsely populated districts, but even when this is the case, and when there are girls anxious to join, they are not allowed. Yet the need for increasing the production of garden vegetables is even more urgent than the need for increasing tillage, as the sharpest pinch will be in May and June of this year, when the old potatoes are exhausted. The lecturer expressed the hope that the new political possibilities for women, in all our minds this week, would soon abolish these absurd restrictions."

Skilled but Unemployed.

A correspondent writes:—"Among the many injustices from which women are suffering the following is one of the greatest: A large body of women have been fully trained and qualified to give massage in the various hospitals in the country, and through some blundering they are still waiting to go into military hospitals, having been ready for the last two years. These women have had the best training possible, and for lack of their services hundreds of soldiers are suffering."

READERS WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW that Miss S. Gertrude Ford, whose unflinching service to the Woman Suffrage cause and other work for humanity is known far and wide, has a booklet of new poems in the press. It will be published shortly at the modest sum of 3d., under the title of "A Fight to a Finish, and other Songs of Peace sung in War Time." Miss Ford's poems are sure of a warm welcome in this country and beyond.

3. An institution or home shall not be approved for the purposes of this section, unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that prostitutes who have attained the age of twenty-one are not received into the institution or home.

4. Section 109 of the Children Act, 1908, shall apply, with the necessary modifications with reference to detention, and to girls ordered to be detained, under this section.

Is this the Home Secretary's revenge for the forced withdrawal of Clause 2, Sub-section 3, and his defeat on Clause 6? If so, it is a very complete revenge, since this new clause is much worse than Clause 6, and even contains, as one supporter of it pointed out, possibilities for compulsory medical examination. The same speaker protested against a clause of such scope and importance being introduced and passed without proper notice, and deprecated hasty legislation on such a matter. The clause passed through all its stages in a very small Committee, and unfortunately not one of the members who have throughout supported the women's point of view was present. In their panic desire to "clean our streets" members do not appear to mind how much dirt they thrust underground, or how vindictively they deal (under the guise of benevolence) with the children who are the victims of their own failure to provide by legislation a decent social system. It was freely stated that girls under eighteen were children "not fit to stand on their own feet," and yet when they were asked to raise the age of consent to seventeen it was declared that girls of seventeen were worldly-wise, tempters, the scourge of the land, etc. So the tales are altered to suit the circumstances! How many people realise that under this clause children of any age under eighteen, perhaps twelve or thirteen, may be arrested and kept in institutions until they are nineteen? What they will be after those years of imprisonment we hesitate even to imagine. It is to be hoped that all women will rise in their wrath and demand the removal of this scandalous clause, with the objectionable ones still remaining, from the Bill. Every nerve must be strained to bring this about.

ANNE E. CORNER.

Immediate Protest.

The following letter was sent immediately to the Home Secretary, and arrangements made for a Mass Protest Meeting, of which particulars are given on another page.

March, 31, 1917.

To the Rt. Hon. Sir GEORGE CAVE, K.C., M.P.,
Home Office, S.W.

SIR,—The Women's Freedom League congratulates you upon the passage through Grand Committee of the amended form of Clause I. of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill and on the passage of Clause III., but demands that the age of consent be raised to 18.

We urge you to reintroduce Clause IX., which is greatly needed in the interests of many unfortunate children.

To those portions of Clause II. which still remain we strongly object; they will in practice discriminate unjustly between men and women; they will be used against prostitutes only, and all measures for penalising such women as a special class and for their compulsory segregation are both unjust to the individuals themselves and useless in attaining their object.

In place of Clause II. we ask for a clause making the presence of infectious venereal disease, in the case of either husband or wife, a ground for divorce. Such a clause would apply equally to men and women and would lessen the incidence of these diseases.

To the new clause inserted by you in place of Clause VI. we strongly object, and we protest against the unfair manner in which, without warning, it was sprung upon the Grand Committee and rushed through it at the end of its last sitting.

This new clause reintroduces all the most objectionable provisions which have been gradually eliminated from the Bill, and to it and to Clause II. the Women's Freedom League and the women's societies co-operating with us in this matter, are organising a determined and uncompromising opposition.—We have the honour to be, Sir, yours faithfully,

C. DESPARD (President),
E. KNIGHT (Hon. Treasurer),
ANNE E. CORNER (Acting Political Organiser),
FLORENCE UNDERWOOD (Secretary).

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

"THE PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY FOR NURSES."

The Great Struggle: Autocracy or Democracy.

Nearly thirty years ago the battle began for the enfranchisement of the Nursing Profession. Many battles have been won, but we are still in the great push to full victory. We mean to fight to a finish against the alien enemy of our profession—autocracy—and establish the *Perfect Law of Liberty*.

The paradoxical situation is this: A College of Nursing has been established and made into a limited company (without share guarantee); the signatories or members of that company are not, as you might reasonably suppose, members of the profession, or even doctors, but laymen to a man—men who know nothing about nursing or nursing politics! This is called organising the Nursing profession. But organisation means something from within. Then there can be no true organisation of a profession by outsiders; it is a false application of the word. These seven laymen have appointed upon their nominated Council several matrons of hospitals, some doctors, and one or two more laymen, but not a single independent nurse. It is an unrepresentative Council. Matrons are employed by their Committees, and cannot represent the rank and file unless elected by them on to the Council; or, in the case of a provisional Council, by the self-governing Associations of Nurses. It will hardly be credited that these Associations, which have worked long and arduously for a just Bill for the State Registration of Nurses and have done much to build up the profession, were not consulted at all!

The College of Nursing, Limited, has drafted a Bill for State Registration, not on broad, democratic lines like our own, but on rigid lines of autocracy, based upon their Memorandum and Articles of Association. The injustice to the nurses, as shown in them, is of such a nature as to be almost unbelievable; witness the following:—

(1) To remove from the Register the name or names of any person or persons as the Council may in its discretion think proper.

N.B.—No power of appeal is provided.

(2) To grant certificates, provided that the College does not grant, or profess to grant, titles or diplomas.

N.B.—Whoever heard of a College of any educational value that does not grant titles or diplomas.

(3) That the Council shall have power to appoint members to that Body.

Now, as all members are eligible for re-election, it is extremely likely that they will reappoint themselves again and again in a vicious circle.

We have an example of that in the Royal British Nurses' Association; members of that nominated Council have been sitting on it for twenty years! As an illustration of this danger, the following piece of past history is worth relating.

Many years ago a member of the R.B.N.A. ventured, in a very temperate letter to the Press (the *British Journal of Nursing*), to criticise the mismanagement of the Association. She was thereupon threatened with removal from the roll by the honorary officers. She carried her case into the High Courts and won it. The significant point is this: It is now proposed to amalgamate the R.B.N.A. with the College of Nursing Company, and one of the gentlemen who threatened the critic, and who has sat on the Council for twenty years, has been nominated to a seat on the conjoint Council. It is easy to see that unless this new, unauthorised and autocratic power is defeated, the Nursing Profession will be submerged. A Canadian Nurse said the other day, "The situation in England to-day is terrible; I wonder you women have the courage to go on with it."

THEY SUPPORT US!

The sharpest part of the struggle is before us. There are at present two Bills for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. The one drafted by the Central Committee for State Registration—a powerful, influential body which represents some 50,000 professional persons (doctors and nurses). It has been before Parliament thirteen or fourteen years; it was carried through the House of Lords without a division, but, being the Bill of voteless women, it has always been blocked in the Commons. It is known as the "Nurses' Bill," the democratic Bill. The other has been drafted by the College of Nursing Company, and may rightly and fairly be called the Employers' Bill, the autocratic Bill. Let the readers of THE VOTE make no mistake. Let them watch events, and get their members to oppose the unjust Bill and support the other. Nurses are underpaid and overworked, but conditions will never be altered until they get legal status.

We Nurses, fighting for freedom of speech and action, gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the Women's Freedom League, but are disappointed that other Suffrage Societies have not championed our Cause. Our claim upon them is that our fight is part of the Suffrage Movement, so dear and important to us all.

BEATRICE KENT.

Our "Wednesdays."

At our last "Wednesday" before Easter Mrs. Kington Parkes gave a stirring address on "Women in Political Warfare," and pointed out that in the history of the long struggle for political emancipation the courage and determination of the women stood out in strong contrast with the trickery and disappointments to which they were subjected, but that the wreckage of woman suffrage bills had meant serious waste and distressing loss of life for the nation. She considered that the first reading of the Conciliation Bill marked a real advance into the enemy's country, and a change of attitude from levity to seriousness was observable among Members of Parliament. Women, she added, do not minimise the power of the vote because so many men have sold their birthright; they wish to elevate political life and put principle before party. Enfranchised women must voice the needs of the inarticulate, the young, the old, the industrial workers. Their aim is true citizenship, good comradeship; their goal the death of hate and the triumph of love. Mrs. Despard spoke with moving effect on the great victory for freedom in Russia, giving touching stories of Russian women who have suffered and sacrificed for many years. She hoped our shivering politicians would learn courage from Russia. Speaking of spiritual evolution from the individual to the family, tribe, race, nation, and humanity, uniting all life in the Divine, she declared that the work of women was the healing of body and soul. Miss Underwood presided.

BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon Office, 52a, The Arcade, High-street.

The public meeting on April 27 will take place at 7 p.m., instead of the afternoon, as previously advertised. Miss Abadam will speak on "Feminism and Morality," a subject which should appeal to everyone at the present time. Goods for our Spring Jumble Sale are wanted. Annual subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer or Secretary, as early in April as possible.

Edinburgh Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian Road.

Several good meetings have been held recently. Miss A. B. Jack gave a lecture of exceptional interest, illustrated by beautiful lantern views, describing her visit to India. Miss Jack has had not only a delightful holiday, but an opportunity of seeing many parts of the country and much of the life of the people, and was, as usual, most successful in conveying her impressions to her audience. Miss Mary Williamson, M.A., lecturing on Woman's Suffrage and Imperialism, developed the argument that of the advanced movements of the day the Woman's Movement has during the war shown the keenest sense of the duties and responsibilities of Empire. This led to a good discussion. In a lantern lecture with the suggestive title "Super-monkey or Man?" Miss G. H. Jacob, B.Sc., traced the development of the human race from its remote ancestors, her illustrations going to prove that while we may claim to be past the "monkey" stage we are far from having attained to true "humanness"—one chief reason being, of course, the position of woman. In the

case of both lantern lectures we are greatly indebted to Miss Jacob for the use of the lantern, and to Mr. Paterson for working it.

At a business meeting arrangements were made for a sale of work on May 12, and a jumble sale on May 19. As we are removing to new premises at 13, South Charlotte-street, funds are very urgently required, and contributions of all kinds will be most gratefully received. In response to Miss Boyle's suggestion it was agreed to send a donation of comforts to the Serbian Convalescent Camp at Vodena.

Middlesbrough Suffrage Club, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

On April 2 a lecture was given in the Suffrage Rooms on "Prisons and Punishment," by Miss Dorothy Evans, in which she illustrated from her personal experience the mental and physical degeneration caused by our prison conditions. The semi-starvation, lack of light, or air, or exercise, causing general debility; the hopelessness and rigid routine undermining all personal initiative. The system is neither deterrent nor reformatory, but exceedingly costly; a common saying among prison officials being, "Once in jail they are sure to come back." But the needed reconsideration of the whole prison system must wait until women can co-operate as voters in the necessary reforms. Our suffrage resolution was passed by the South Bank General Workers Union after a lively debate on March 29. In the coming week meetings for the passing of the Suffrage resolution are being held in several Co-operative Guilds and Patriotic and Tipperary Clubs in the district.

Portsmouth.

Miss Munro and Miss Clark are to visit Portsmouth from April 17 to April 20. Members are urged to attend the meeting on Tuesday, April 17, at 7.30 p.m., at 17, Lombard-street, to meet them. There will be music and refreshments. A Drawing Room Meeting and a Public Meeting have been arranged. For further particulars see forthcoming events.

Swansea.

A very enjoyable evening was spent by those who were present at Miss Kirkland's At Home on March 29. As this was the annual meeting, after the reports of the treasurer and secretary had been read, the election of officers and committee took place. Mrs. Hutton was elected vice-president, and it was resolved to retain the committee as it stands. Miss Neal, our president for the coming year, then gave a very interesting account of the experiences of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart and her hospital unit in Serbia. Mrs. Faulkes, organiser of the Girls' National Club, spoke of the good work being done amongst girl munition workers, and told of the splendid progress the Club has made since its opening five weeks ago. Following Mrs. Faulkes, Miss Phipps made an appeal for help for the jumble sale, which is to be held by the Branch on April 27, at the Ragged Schools. At the end of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Miss Kirkland, who so kindly acted as hostess.

West Hartlepool.

A successful joint meeting was held in the I.L.P. Hall on March 28. Speeches in support of the Speaker's Conference resolutions, but calling for wider inclusion of women, were given by Mr. Candler, Mr. Bray, Miss Dorothy Evans and Mrs. Morse. As a result of the meeting it is hoped that the various societies represented will affiliate to form a local centre of the National Council for Adult Suffrage.

Several new members were enrolled in the Women's Freedom League Branch and some new propaganda work was planned.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Work in War—and Peace—Time.

Nine Elms Settlement, 1, Everett-street, S.W.

Mrs. St. Hill, president of the Cheirological Society, has kindly offered to give, at 37, Cheyne-walk, on April 17, 3.30 p.m., a lecture in aid of our work on "Hands and their Readings." This very interesting speaker has made a special study of reading character (not "fortunes") from the hand, and we hope for a good gathering full of profit to the Settlement. Tickets, price 1s. 6d., may be obtained from Miss Underwood, 144, High Holborn, W.C., or from Miss Holmes at 1, Everett-street, S.W. 8. Grateful acknowledgments to Miss Ethel Bull for clothing and toys; Mrs. Delbanco, provisions; per Mr. Delbanco, jumble sale goods; Miss Riggall, 2s.; Miss Paterson, 5s.

The Despard Arms, 125, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1.

We are in the midst of making arrangements for a continual hot water supply, hitherto lacking, but imperatively necessary in view of the needs of our large family of soldiers. We shall be grateful for any assistance friends can give us in this great need, and remind sympathisers that our resources in table cloths, bed linen, strong towels, tea cloths, etc., are being strained to breaking point. We are

SEE OUR SALE AND

EXCHANGE, PAGE 184.

FRIDAY,
APRIL 13,
1917.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

arranging for a Pound Day shortly, and expect to give particulars next week. In the meantime, will friends gather up the pounds?

Northern Men's Federation for Women Suffrage.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, Midlothian Centre, a resolution was passed unanimously expressing appreciation of the untiring zeal of their founder, Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, and assuring her of their continued loyalty and support as a body of electors.

A TOUCHING TRIBUTE.

Many who attend the "Wednesdays" and other meetings will remember our old member and keen suffragist, Miss Prendergast, a lonely Irishwoman, but a constant attender at all meetings. She passed away last week in a nursing home, and the sister-in-charge has informed us that Miss Prendergast's only interest was to talk of the Women's Freedom League and the kindness shown to her by members. R.I.P.

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A PILGRIMAGE TO BUDDHA - Keshub Chunder Sen
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CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

A PROTEST MEETING

against Clauses III and V of the above Bill

AT THE
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER,

ON
MONDAY, APRIL 16th, 8 p.m.

Speakers:

Miss ABADAM, Mrs. DESPARD, Miss ESTHER ROPER, Miss MAUDE ROYDEN, Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY, and Commander WEDGWOOD, D.S.O., M.P.

Admission Free. Doors open at 7.30.

Reserved Tickets 2/6 and 1/- from Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, The International Shop, 5, Duke Street, W.C. 2, or at the Central Hall, Monday Evening.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WICKED WASTE MAKES WOEFUL WANT.—Save TIME and LABOUR by using DURA-BRITE Stain-proof, Rust-proof KNIVES. Always bright. Never require polishing. Cheese knives, 14s. the half-dozen; table knives, 16s. 6d.; dainty tea knives, 12s. 6d.—Apply P. M. P., "THE VOTE" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

THE HOMELY HOSTEL, 1, Station-place, Letchworth Garden City, Herts; good table; moderate terms; central, healthy position.—Proprietress, Miss BUCKEA.

THE HANDICRAFTS, 82, High-street, Hampstead, N.W.—Hand-weavings, Hand-made Laces, Home-spuns, Jewellery, Basketwork, Pottery, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS—cont.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. April 18. Speaker: Mr. Holford Knight on "Women and the Legal Profession," etc. Tea, 4.30, 6d. Hostess: Mrs. Thomson, of Stamford Hill.

UNFURNISHED.—Three Large Rooms; one suitable as kitchen; newly decorated; 2 minutes from Metropolitan, Willesden Green.—O., c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY.—Large Bed-sitting Room, clean, simply furnished, overlooking square, two windows, to be let for 3 months; use of piano; 6s. a week.—Apply Miss R. HORNE, 8, Arundel-square, Barnsbury, N. (near Highbury Station).

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