

THE VOTE,
DEC. 10th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

THE URGENT NEED.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, DEC. 10, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.
THE URGENT NEED. W.F.L. SUFFRAGE RALLY.
HEADQUARTER NOTES.
FRIENDS OR FOES? C. Despard.

WHAT WE THINK IN SCOTLAND. Eunice G. Murray.
OUR "WEDNESDAYS."
VIEW DAY. W.F.L. SETTLEMENT. DESPARD ARMS, & C.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Suffrage First.

The resolute stand taken up by the suffrage societies in association, in regard to the suggestions so widely circulated in the Press that manhood suffrage was in the wind, has convinced politicians that the Suffrage Movement is not only not dead, but it is not even sleeping. That there is a section behind the Treasury benches hard at work trying to jerrymander the franchise is indubitable; but we now understand that the much and mysteriously delayed Bill will be a Parliament and Registration Bill only, and not a Parliament, Franchise and Registration Bill, after all. It would be strange indeed, if the guardians of the constitution allowed so important a question to be dealt with in this off-hand fashion—in a bill of shreds and patches, designed to fill in gaps left by accident, carelessness, or incapacity. The situation still requires watching, in spite of the Prime Minister's assurance, published in the *Morning Post*, that there will be no modification of the existing franchise. "Pie-crust promises and plate-glass pledges" have made suffragists wary in their acceptance of all utterances from Downing Street. Further steps are in progress to consolidate the joint agreement which gave strong support to the letter addressed to Mr. Asquith last week.

The Bill and the Parliamentary Position.

The Bill is promised for this week, and agreement is said to have been reached. We shall see whether the House of Commons is willing to accept the extra year's lease of life proposed for this Parliament and the new expedient of a "successive session" to keep the Plural Voting Bill alive. Old feuds revive readily in the storm-ridden atmosphere of the House of Commons; and the stoutest efforts of Parliamentarians to suppress signs of party feeling do not avail to preserve an appearance of real harmony. The situation is a trifle ludicrous. Mr. Asquith's Government would

have come to an end, under the Parliament Act, in 1916. It actually came to an end, with dramatic suddenness, when the Coalition was formed. Nothing more unconstitutional (except the exclusion of women from representation) has ever been seen than the pretence that this is the same Government as the one returned at the last General Election. The *impasse* could be met by the expedient suggested, of declaring the Coalition to be a sort of hyphen—an emergency expedient—and resuming the Liberal Government after the war; but that, too, is but an irregularity. No such constitutional knot has ever been tied before; the pity of it all is, that the British electorate does not care a straw for its Constitution and the glorious traditions bound up in it, and therefore never bothers its head about the tricks Parliament plays with it. Some day there will be an awakening to the dangers incurred by allowing these precedents to be established; but the awakening will be too late to avert the dangers.

"The Old Gods."

Mr. Birrell, who was once described by a vivacious scribe as the "Kindly light amid the encircling gloom," in the dark days of the Ulster turmoil, has once more been giving play to his pretty fancy. Far from the madding crowd at Westminster, to a representative gathering at a chapel anniversary, he is reported as having alluded to the new solidarity of feeling among the classes, the new "brotherhood of the race," and many other things which the public will be surprised to hear of as existing. He hoped that "war legislation and the changes in our social relations" would not disappear, and that the "old gods" would not be summoned back from "their temporary retirement in the attics of St. Stephen's," and worshipped with renewed vigour. Mr. Birrell lets his lively imagination run away with him. The "old gods" have not been relegated to the

attics. They are only in stage attics, and not such very good scene-painting at that. They are close to the footlights, all ready for a leap into the House, if provoked. What, otherwise, is the meaning of the sordid wrangle round Cabinet Ministers' salaries, and the intrigues and jealousies in which the Parliament and Registration Bill nearly foundered in the very act of being launched? What is the meaning of the lectures on economy directed to working men and their wives, published in the *Daily Telegraph* in adjoining columns with the account of the Asquith wedding, all costly fur and diamonds? How is it possible for men of the intel-

lectual quality of Mr. Birrell to fool themselves and others with meaningless words and phrases in this fashion? And—most disquieting of all—what does he mean by deprecating the abolition of "war legislation?" If men do not care for their liberty and the Constitution, in the abstract, it appears likely that the concrete loss will very shortly be brought home to them when Munitions Act, National Registration, and Compulsion all round, are firmly rivetted on the national shoulders. If these be the new gods Mr. Birrell calls us to worship, in his intellectual chapel, there is indeed a surprise in store for the public.

THE URGENT NEED.

"That this meeting reaffirms the urgent need of keeping the question of Votes for Women prominently before the Government and the public; and calls on all suffragists to act in vigorous protest against any alteration of the franchise either during or after the war, unless and until women are included in all Acts for the representation of the people."

With enthusiasm and unanimity this resolution was carried at the Women Suffrage Rally held by the Women's Freedom League on December 5, at the Bijou Theatre, London. Throughout the meeting the demand was insistent and warmly supported and Miss Underwood, from the chair, maintained that all times were the time to press for Votes for Women. Excellent speeches were made by Mrs. Tanner, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Mustard, and Miss Boyle and the audience was quick to take up the various points of the present situation which the speakers strongly emphasised. Mrs. Tanner's forceful and witty speech completely captured her hearers. The co-operation of men and women, she said, was needed for the rebuilding of a shattered world, but for women to give of their best they must be free and unshackled. It was always the time for righting injustice; our men were dying for freedom abroad, our women were fettered and shackled at home. The Government would be better employed in bringing forward a Bill for Votes for Women, than in wrangling about the *Times*. The Earl of Meath and others had declared that this was not the time for women to press their demands; but now, Mrs. Tanner insisted, was "the time and the place and the loved ones all together." She protested against the arrogant assumption of power by the Cabinet, reducing the individual members of Parliament to a cypher and criticised severely those who preached economy to the working classes but did not practice it themselves. "I could keep the ten commandments better on £1,000 a year than on 10s. a week," she added. She dealt with the position of women in industry and repudiated the suggestion that they were like Chinese coolies and must be cleared out after the war. She uttered a word of warning against the comfortable belief that the vote would be given to women automatically after the war; there must be no slackness in the struggle, she said, the question of the future would be: How did you fight?

Mr. Laurence Housman, in a powerful speech, declared that war was the ultra expression of male dominance. The Antis were attacking the Government which best represented the "Anti" spirit when they denounced the State God of Germany. The war mind was more opposed to suffrage principles than the peace mind. We were fighting for suffrage principles abroad, that small nations should have the right to govern their own destiny,

but were shutting down freedom at home. The war mind was intolerant of the voice of minorities, but the herd mind, made sufficiently blind, could be used with great effect. Its tendency was to rush blindly to good or bad ends. The Suffrage Movement had brought out the consciousness of solidarity among women, but the herd mind had now largely left it. Those who worked to-day for woman suffrage were those who had the moral courage to work independently. The Government knows that in all sorts of departments of life it has the herd instinct against it, able to make things uncomfortable. But as long as this instinct can be headed along the line of war, it will be indifferent to monstrosities of legislation passed in the name of patriotism. Suffragists need more moral courage than ever before; if they fight well, they will win back the herd instinct. The war, said Mr. Housman, is the biggest bad thing which has happened since the world began. No wonder people think only of its dark side. The old problems are there just the same, but the Government, by keeping everything in the dark, is Germanising England. It is not blind to the problems to be solved at the end of the war when the army will come back millions strong. Woman suffrage is intimately bound up with them. There will be panic peace legislation, as there has been panic war legislation and that is why woman suffrage is urgently needed.

"Till we have political freedom, we shall not have economic justice," said Mrs. Mustard in an able speech, dealing principally with women's work to-day. One-third of the working men of the country, it has been stated, have obtained an increase of wages because the Government feared their united power. She urged the wider organisation of women as wage earners. She rejoiced that women were doing the work they chose, but declared they should be fairly paid. She showed how the Borough of Hackney was practising unjustifiable meanness in advertising for educated women at £1 a week to take the place of men clerks, while giving its dustmen 32/- "If we allow wages like that," she said, "we shall make a worse England for our men who have gone out to fight for freedom abroad."

Miss Boyle laid stress on the fact that from the beginning of the war the Women's Freedom League had not abandoned suffrage and had showed its

watchfulness in protecting women's interests. It was probably the timely action of the suffragists, she said, that had saved the situation over the Parliament and Registration Bill, which now, we are told by the Prime Minister, will not touch electoral reform. Women have now the power in their hands which has made working man so strong: their work is needed; it cannot be done without. They are proving such efficient workers that employers are not likely to let them go. The Prime Minister had appealed to women to "step in." Women were ready to work till they dropped but under proper conditions. The most patriotic thing they can do is to fight for the right. Miss Boyle protested against the atmosphere of hypocrisy which prevails and quoted Lord Reading's "surprise" to the legal profession by saying that it is a judge's business to administer justice, not simply the letter of the law. Hypocrisy must be swept away; we must see things as they are.

Among other signatories to the letter to the Prime Minister are May Whitty (Chairman: Actresses' Franchise League) and Rose M. Barratt (hon. sec. Irish Women's Franchise Federation). The Women Writers' Suffrage League wrote to the Prime Minister on the subject, and received the same reply as that sent to the jointly signed letter; the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies sent a strong statement that alterations of the franchise involving the continued exclusion of women would be the occasion for taking action.

As we go to Press we learn that the Bill to amend the Parliament Act provides for the existence of this Parliament till January, 1917. "The next Session, it is understood," says A.P.N. in the *Daily News*, "may count as a 'successive' Session for the purposes of Bills coming under the provisions of the Parliament Act, so that there is at any rate a bare possibility that the pre-war situation of such a measure as the Plural Voting Bill may be preserved. Provision will also be made for a special register, etc., to meet the needs of a General Election, if the war came to an end within the next year."

HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

London Meetings.

Our Wednesday afternoon meetings are finished, but we shall resume them early in the New Year, furnishing particulars of speakers and subjects in later issues of *The Vote*.

Monday evening, January 24, we shall hold the first of a series of interesting lectures when Mademoiselle Marie de Czaplicka, the Polish scientist, suffragist and leader of a research expedition in Siberia, will speak on "Poland's Share in History with special reference to the Present War." To this distinguished Pole has fallen the honour of being the first woman appointed to the charge of a scientific expedition, and it was the University of Oxford which was wise enough to give her this honour. On her return from Siberia she visited her mother at Warsaw and left by the last train from that city before the entry of the Germans. She speaks excellent English; the story she will tell will be of special interest, and her lecture will be illustrated by lantern slides.

Sunday afternoon, February 13, Miss Clara Reed has promised to give a lecture-recital on Ibsen's "Pretenders" at the Bijou Theatre, and we are also making arrangements for a lecture by Mademoiselle Labelle C. Boyajian on "Armenian Art and Literature." Further particulars will be given in next week's *Vote*.

Christmas Sale.

On Friday and Saturday this week, we are taking part in the United Suffragists' Christmas Sale in

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ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Congratulations to our good friend, Thomas J. Haslam, of Dublin, who has just celebrated his ninety-third birthday. He and his wife are the veterans of the Suffrage Movement, and have devoted themselves unceasingly to the advancement of the cause of justice and liberty.

The Press in the United States does not boycott Woman Suffrage, but takes the subject seriously, and deals with it fairly. *The Survey*, of New York, a thoughtful weekly, broad in outlook, recently instituted a poll of its subscribers in the twelve equal Franchise States on the working of Woman Suffrage and the result moved the paper to remark that seldom had it received on any subject "so many hearty, whole souled, eager responses to an inquiry." The voting was as follows:—For Woman Suffrage, 616; against, 15; dubious, 2; blank, 1. Among the ayes are 14 who acknowledge their conversion to Woman Suffrage after the event and on the basis of results achieved. The evidence published shows remarkably beneficial results achieved since women were enfranchised.

"The success of the suffrage petition being signed by the women of Manitoba is now assured. Seventeen thousand is the number of the signatures required by the Government as a sufficient indication of the desire of the women of Manitoba to exercise the franchise, and this number of signatures, with several hundred to spare, is already in the hands of the officials of the Political Equality League of Winnipeg."—*Grain Growers' Guide*.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, December 10th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Votes 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.
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FRIENDS OR FOES?

Last week we threw out our challenge. We tried to make it clear not only that rights of citizenship are necessary for women but that there never was a time when they were so urgently needed as they are now.

One of the great democratic leaders of the past, Joseph Mazzini, defined citizenship as having two aspects: one he called duties, the other rights; and the two stand together. They are always there. So long as a community exists, those who live within its borders are in honour bound to give service for the protection they receive; and all who serve have a right to be protected by the national law which, in its ideal form, is the consensus of the largest experience and highest wisdom of the nation.

There is nothing new in this. Year in and year out the Suffrage Societies of this and other countries have been putting forward the same arguments. There can be no doubt, however, that in the vivid light thrown by the present awful upheaval upon European society, some of the old truths, so often repeated that they seemed to be mere apprehensions, have assumed a new and tremendous importance.

It is not a little significant for instance, that while many of those who profess and call themselves patriots without knowing what the word patriotism means, are pressing women to stand back from the political arena and attend to their own business—helping and encouraging men—the papers are full of such phrases as "Woman has Arrived," "Discoveries are being made about Women," and behind these, we catch the note of uncertainty. What is it all to mean when "the time comes for settling up of accounts and readjustment of the social structure?"

These words are taken from a remarkable article in last Friday's *Daily News*, headed "Women Workers' Wonderful Record in Factories."

It appears from enquiries instituted at Derby that the output of women in certain factories, up to now worked by men, has been extraordinarily in excess of that produced by the men workers, and this even when the women are still classed as learners. Not only the employers, but the women themselves are surprised by the results. The men may have had their suspicions; but "they never let out the secret."

The lowness of the men's output may have been partly due, we are reminded, to intentional restriction arising from "economic causes and ideals." If it be so a question of the gravest importance

arises. Unconsidered, unprotected, unrepresented in the legislature, women have been the very Helots of labour. Recent cases such as the refusal of labour-certificates to girl munition workers under literally disgraceful circumstances have emphasised the fact, patent to us for so long, that to unorganised and unprotected classes scant justice is given. Do the men of the country, the workers, ever consider that, if things continue as they are, the main body of labour will be Helot labour—that through the women, whose demands they have persistently denied, the fabric of Trade Unionism, built up out of the labour and sacrifice of the men of the past, may be brought to the ground?

Miss McArthur's interesting and instructive article in the *Daily News* on "Women and the Munitions Act," should warn all who can see below the surface of the imminence of the danger with which labour is confronted. The number of women under the Munitions Act runs now into six figures. It is rumoured that many more will be employed. Probably, in the near future, more women than men will be subject to the provisions of the Act. Made in a hurry and inspired by panic, that Act has proved unworkable. Amendments are in progress. Who, we ask, in these amendments, will specially consider the interests of those who, as we are given reason to believe, will be principally affected by it? Without the shadow of a doubt, it will be as it has been. The weak will go to the wall.

Be it understood. We do not complain. We are making no piteous cry to the men. We are far from wishing them to take up our cause and plead for us. What we say is "Give us the weapon, by means of which you have been able to protect yourselves, and we will stand by you, as comrades should, strengthening you, making the ground under your feet more stable, as we go forward together into the larger and better world which is to be."

This, we hope, is how the men will consider the big problem that faces them. Let them, let us all, understand that the issues have shifted. New Values have been discovered. The old cry was under-cutting: We, the women, cannot live except by under-cutting you. The new cry, wholly unexpected, yet we meet it on every side is: Greater efficiency.

Physical disability, we were told, would always preclude women from taking her place as man's equal in industry. And now, strangely, spiritual force, indomitable will energising through woman's body makes her more than the equal of her mate.

Appeal has been made to our patriotism. In the name of all that is sacred we answer that we have fully responded. But, we are women. In us, the race that is to be lives and moves. The future is with us and we, in our turn, make our appeal. Give us a country worthy of our work and of our sacrifice. And that can never be while, as foes, men and women face one another. "Agree with thine quickly adversary while thou art in the way with him," was said by one of old time. There is commonsense as well as wisdom in that ancient saying.

Friends, not foes, with one common aim—our nation's salvation; one common work—the preservation of the liberties that have been won in the past; one common object—the building up of a commonwealth of nations that will be immune from the horrors that have disgraced the civilisation of to-day. We must stand together, knowing that against such strength in union, the powers of darkness will beat in vain. That is the true patriotism.

C. DESPARD.

WHAT WE THINK IN SCOTLAND.

In Scotland just now, you cannot open a paper without finding some reference to the excellent work women are doing. Experts are loud in praise of women's work in the munitions factories. We read, "they are capable, smart, neat, steady and industrious." As conductors in the tramways they have done so well that in Glasgow they are being trained to drive the electric cars. In the Post offices and other civil departments women in large and increasing numbers are to be found in all branches. The most bitter opponent to women as a co-worker has had to surrender to the stress of the times. If he has not wedded her, he has had to endure her.

There are optimists who believe that as men have given way in the matter of employing women, so as to ensure the continuance and prosperity of our industrial life, they will give way when the subject of Woman Suffrage once more comes to the front. Personally I doubt this. Unless the suffrage societies keep their own point of view before the public, unless they work incessantly and keep their faces set towards their goal—Votes for Women—victory will be denied them. The men, who to-day freely utilise woman's labour are in most cases quite willing to pay her less than the man she has replaced. They are willing to penalise her; in some cases she cannot work as a patriot unless she has independent means. Compare, for example, the cases of Army doctors and Army nurses. A doctor can serve his country and make money; a woman cannot be a nurse if she has any one dependent upon her, for she cannot make enough money to keep them and herself. Patriotism is reserved for the rich.

Employers use women because they cannot do without them, but do they demand for them equal pay, equal treatment and equal rights? Neither the Press, nor men's Trades Unions, nor individual men in Scotland have raised their voices in indignant protest at this differentiation of treatment between the sexes. Nor, excepting the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, has a man's voice been raised to protest against the mere suggestion of an alteration and extension of the franchise, which does not include women. Men have remained dumb and inactive; they can protest fast enough when their liberties are jeopardised, but when it comes to a wrong to women they remember the "political truce" and remain silent.

What is the moral we draw: Trust no praise bestowed upon us by men or by the Press. Praise costs nothing. Men think it pleases women and ministers to their vanity to hear that their work is good. We know the value of our own work and do not require condescending praise from men. Suffragists, be vigilant. If the position of women is to be improved as is our earnest hope, it will be primarily due to the suffrage societies who have remained true to their purpose, who have not lost their heads amid the unaccustomed welter of praise, who have not been afraid to speak of Votes for Women, who know that only when political liberty is won, will they be in the position to improve and safeguard their economic position.

In the north, every week adds to the dignity of the Women's Freedom League. We kept our flag flying, when it would have been easier to have hauled it down. Our reward has come, in the recognition we have won—"You are the League that has not given in, that still believes in your Cause," said a soldier to me the other day when he saw *The Vote* in my hand. "It's hard to fight the apathy of the world," he added, "harder than to face the foe." That is so. The fight before us may be long, we can only shorten it by keeping our lamps burning. Every day we are gaining

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new members and sympathisers. "Please take this," said a woman as she handed me a subscription, "I give it to you because you are still working for Votes for Women. I believe in it. What's the good of giving money to a society that has abandoned suffrage work?"

We are gaining in strength and this is well. We are strong to work for the nation, strong to resent an injury put upon women, strong to sweep aside old prejudices. Victory rests with the strong, the brave—those who are willing to suffer, to be misunderstood, if need be, rather than lower their flag, or remain quiet under wrongs.

Here in the north we are watching with the deepest interest the Registration Bill; we are not only watching, we are preparing to fight if necessary. We have no intention of sitting quiet while wrongs are inflicted upon us; we belong to a living wide-awake League, that is prepared to raise its voice in protest if the Government take advantage of this time of crisis to betray women. To our fellow-members across the border we give our assurance that we will not sit down with folded hands, in spite of the Press, in spite of the silence of the electors; we will raise our voices in protest and make ourselves heard.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

PETITION re ENGLISHWOMEN MARRIED TO ALIENS.

We have received a petition form to be filled up demanding from Mr. Asquith emergency legislation giving facilities for re-naturalisation. Petitions may be obtained from Miss Bertha Doring, 66, Denton-road, East Twickenham.

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German Women's Determination.

It is reported that the German Women's Suffrage Society have been holding a meeting about the matter of re-population. Their first resolution was that they would brook no interference on the part of the male sex.

STIMULUS AND CHEER FOR CHRISTMAS.

Send your friend a copy of the *de luxe* edition of the new Suffrage pamphlet,

"Christian Chivalry; the Racial Aspect of Women Enfranchisement,"

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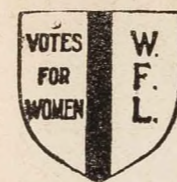
On December 1, Miss Helena Normanton gave an illuminating historic sketch of the Balance of Power; it originated, she said, early in the Tudor period, when the Holy Roman Empire, the precursors of the German Empire, and France were enemies; Henry VIII sided first with one and then with the other. Cardinal Wolsey's dictum on the question was: Go in on the weaker side and make it strong; on the strong side you do not count. The oscillation of the Balance of Power to and from France and England's policy with regard to it and happenings on the Continent were graphically described; dealing with England's interference in the affairs of Continental nations, Miss Normanton supported Cobden's point of view which was that she had better put her own abuses right before she attempted to settle other people's business. She had been deeply moved over atrocities abroad, but was quite content to leave her own women unenfranchised. To-day we are fighting for liberty for other nations and allow such "a horrifying document" as the First Defence of the Realm Act, somewhat modified by the Second, to be passed at home. A Balance of Power at home should have adjusted the position of women, of Ireland, of Church and State, and of Capital and Labour. We must see to it, she concluded, that the working of the Balance of Power abroad does not shift for the worse the Balance of Power at home. Mrs. Tanner made an excellent speech on the employment of women and the need for votes for women. Miss Underwood presided.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE.—Sunday, December 12, at 7 p.m., Stamford-street Chapel, Blackfriars, S.E., the Rev. W. J. Piggott, on "The Ministry of Womanhood."

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, December 10.—"AT HOME," W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A. Subject: "The Constitution in Danger."
Saturday, December 11.—"AT HOME," 2, Currie-street, Nine Elms, S.W., 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (to view Women's Freedom League Settlement). Tea. Short speeches by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Tippett, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Boyle and the Mayor of Battersea. (Tram No. 14 from Embankment.)
Monday, December 13.—BOWES PARK, Branch Meeting, 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, N., 7.30 p.m.
Thursday, December 16.—SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 10.30. LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.
Saturday, December 18.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. Tea and speeches by Mrs. Despard and others. 3.30 to 6 p.m. Tea, 6d.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and ½d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.
THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinners and suppers from 6d.), and recreation. Week-days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, December 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Social Evening, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood.
Wednesday, December 15.—IPSWICH, Hard-up Supper, 7.30 p.m.
Thursday, December 16.—IPSWICH, Afternoon Meeting, 22, Queen-street.
Monday, December 20.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Fair, Sale of Christmas Presents, Cakes and Candy, etc., W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND

Wednesday, December 15.—EDINBURGH, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m., Conference Delegates' Report and Symposium.
Saturday, December 18.—EDINBURGH, Sale of Work, 90, Lothian-road, 3 p.m.

BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street

Has anyone a second spare of scales to spare for our Merchandise Department. We should be grateful for a loan or gift of scales for use in the office. Miss Jessett is arranging a special evening before Christmas for the soldiers and sailors wives and their children. She wants separate pounds of fruit, groceries or nuts for the lucky tub for the wives, and toys—new, or in fairly good condition—for the Christmas tree for the little ones. Will everyone help with some gift to make the evening a success?

East London.

The next branch meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15, at 6 p.m., at 56, Gore Road, South Hackney, by kind permission of Mrs. Shadbolt. Members are reminded that their yearly subscription is due by December 31.

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Edinburgh—Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

An interesting branch meeting was held on December 1, when Mr. Rodbourne, a prominent local vegetarian, spoke on "Food in War Time." He showed that, apart from the value of vegetarian diet, the special conditions of the time would make its adoption by a large part of the community, a great benefit. He claimed that, at the least, all that can be done on a flesh diet can be done on a vegetarian diet, and gave interesting personal experiences in proof. Miss Jessie Brown, who presided, testified to the benefit derived from the change to vegetarian diet. Discussion followed. Members are reminded of our Sale of Work on Saturday, December 18. Donations of all kinds are wanted for the Cake and Sweet Stall, the Soft Goods Stall, the "White Elephants," and the Greenery Stall. Tea will be provided, and we hope for a good attendance of members and friends.

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

On Thursday, December 2, the Glasgow Council held its usual meeting to discuss the business of the branch. It was decided to hold a large public meeting in February, at which Mrs. Despard was to be asked to speak. Miss Murray and Miss Bunten were appointed conveners of the Public Meetings Committee. On the same evening, the monthly branch meeting was held. Mr. Dickson (M.D.C.) gave a most interesting address on "Secret Diplomacy," after which there was a discussion.

Herne Hill and Norwood

A very successful Whist Drive was held on Nov. 20, at 69, Danecroft-road, in aid of the Brackenhill Hospital and our own funds. As the refreshments and prizes were provided by members of the Branch, a profit of 31/- was realised and divided as above. Best of all, perhaps, the Whist Drive gained us a new member, so we go on our way rejoicing.

Kensington.

"Bravo, Kensington!" for their share in making the Fair a success. We are very thankful to our members for entertaining the League's military guests, and arranging for their transport, for many valuable contributions including cakes, chutney, curios, needlework and dressed dolls, and to those who acted as sellers and helped in other ways.

Paisley.

At our usual branch meeting on November 24, at the Class Room, Central Hall, Miss Eunice Murray gave an interesting address which was much appreciated.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Despite the inclement weather, there was a large attendance at the Café Chantant on Tuesday, November 30. The entertainment arranged by Madame Prior went off with a swing, several of the artistes being enthusiastically encored. Light refreshments were served in the interval.



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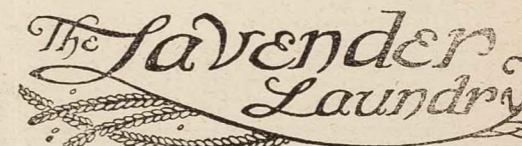
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DEC. 10,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

after which Miss Boyle delighted the audience with an address on "The Duty of Women in War-time." Mrs. Whetton presided and brought an enjoyable evening to a close by proposing a vote of thanks to Miss Boyle, Madame Prior and her concert party.

Southampton.

A very good meeting was held on December 1, when Miss Boyle spoke on "Women's Duty during the War." Mrs. Whetton opened the meeting with an explanation of the objects of the Women's Freedom League, which was very well received. The meeting, which consisted largely of strangers, was very enthusiastic, and we feel well pleased. A man in the audience thanked Miss Boyle for her clear address and assured her that she was well thought of in Naval service. *The Vote* was sold out and a fair amount of literature. We shall certainly want Miss Boyle to "Come again."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT 1, Everett Street, Nine Elms.

The London Branches Council hopes to welcome a large number of friends and members at the "At Home," at 2, Currie Street, Nine Elms, S.W., on Saturday, December 11, 3-6 p.m. Tea will be served from 3-4.30, during which time also the guests will have the opportunity of going over the Settlement. Beginning at 4.30, there will be short speeches by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Tippett, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Boyle and the Mayor of Battersea. The Settlement is easily reached by No. 14 tram from the Embankment: Fare, 1½d. Get down at Everett Street, Nine Elms Lane.

We gratefully acknowledge a gift of 1/6 from B.A.H., Gillingham; baking tins from Mrs. Thomas; Miss Kearton, cheese and butter; Miss Belle Lewis, sack of vegetables; Miss Riggall, 1/-, and the loan of a typewriter from D. Delbanco, Esq. We also thank Miss Murray very warmly for the gift of jam and Tipperary Twin dolls for the Guest House.

We are most anxious to give the kiddies a good Christmas dinner. Will you help us to do this by

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THE DESPARD ARMS.

We welcome the imitation, which is the sincerest form of flattery. Mrs. Despard was invited to speak at Bath on "The Public House," and her story of the Despard Arms was received so enthusiastically that £50 was collected at the meeting to start a Despard Arms there. Last Saturday, a Bath visitor inspected the Despard Arms as an object lesson. We still need more helpers in the afternoons and evenings. Please send names to the Hon. Secretary. On Saturday, December 18, friends are invited to meet Mrs. Despard, 3.30-6 p.m. Tea, 6d. We invite the Editor of the *Nation* who cries out for "a public house which is a real place of recreation and refreshment."

THE SUFFRAGETTES OF THE W.S.P.U.

Arising out of the Protest Meeting recently held at Caxton Hall, a large number of members of the W.S.P.U. met in Conference in St. George's Hall, Bloomsbury, last Saturday. Mrs. Lamartine Yates was elected to the chair. After considering Mrs. Pankhurst's continued withholding of a balance sheet repeatedly demanded by the members, it was decided that in view of the increased urgency of women's enfranchisement, the members should co-ordinate themselves under the title "The Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.," and concentrate on suffrage work.

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