

THE VOTE,
Sept. 11, 1914.
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LÆSEFORENING
MOBILISATION.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1914.

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.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

What Women Think.

We do not know what department of the Government is responsible for not finding premises to house the women turned out of military quarters to make room for the new army. Obviously, it is not Lord Kitchener's business to find civilian quarters and to "commandeer" them for a civilian population; but one feels that, before he exerted himself to appeal for charitable accommodation for these unfortunate and doubly-bereaved families, he must have met with a rebuff somewhere.

Women will want to know why, when the Government can put through such colossal schemes as the recent mobilisation, embarkation, and provisioning of our troops, the rehabilitation of finance, the state control of the railways, and the supervision of the food supplies; when it can take in hand, at a day's notice, with ease and smooth working, matters never before touched by a Government in this country, it cannot at the same time deal with matters of far less intricacy, but of equal import in the national scheme of things. The wives and families of soldiers have had their family resources cut down, their men removed from their ken under a bitter veil of secrecy, and a miserable delay in dealing out the meagre pittance to which they are entitled. Now they are to be removed from their homes and offered "charity" accommodation; and we venture to say that this is a national disgrace. It should be the business of the Home Office, or the Local Government Board, or some specially appointed official, to take over suitable premises for these families in convenient neighbourhoods and to assist them in transferring their goods. It must be impressed on the public that the women now rendered homeless are the wives of the regular soldiers, married "on the

strength," under a War Office guarantee of quarters and allowances. To go back on this guarantee, at a time when its protection is most needed, is surely as callous a breach of good faith as—let us say—the violation of Belgian territory; the victims being those whose political and economic helplessness should have saved them from such an attack on their position.

The Magistrates again.

One wonders what the decent men in the army, new and old, feel about the recent determination on the part of His Majesty's Bench to supply them with the off-scourings of the police court cells as comrades in arms! Apparently, any scoundrel can now escape the consequences of any misdeed so long as he promises to "join the army." The King's uniform is hardly honoured, one would fancy, in being thus made a cloak for criminals; and it is a poor compliment to the honourable men who are proud of that uniform. The Arundel County Bench has, in especial, distinguished itself by inflicting a small fine instead of imprisonment on a ruffian convicted of an assault on a child. A similar complaint comes from Littlehampton. With the terrible record of assaults on women and children achieved by the German soldiers, we should have thought it a pity to reinforce our army with this particular element; and we trust that the last has not been heard of this protest.

The Girls of England.

It has been urged against Women Suffrage that, if women had votes, they would be able to compel men to fight, while themselves remaining immune from the dangers of war. This objection seems to have been forgotten to-day and passionate appeals are made to the women of England to inspire their men with patriotic sentiment and to urge them forward "for the honour of the flag." The confidence thus reposed in women betokens a faith in that indirect influence on which the Anti-Suffragist

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insists. We read impassioned letters in the Press entreating the girls of England not to play tennis or walk out with young men who have not offered their services to their country. The girls are doing splendid work in the organisation of Red Cross Hospitals and in connection with various agencies, having for their object the relief of the distress caused by the war. We think they will do well to leave the stimulating of their menkind to Dukes and Duchesses and employers of labour who, in some cases, have accomplished the process by the promise of the loss of their jobs should they fail to join the colours. Indeed, the urging of others to the sacrifice of life, and of all that life holds dear, could only come with any force from those already in the conflict or from an old campaigner, like Lord Roberts, and certainly not from non-combatants. In the past, we have bitterly resented the lectures on our duties which have been inflicted upon us by men. We think men will equally resent being "inspired" or "stimulated" by us to a course of action for which they feel no sense of vocation.

Taking the Children's Bread.

We heartily endorse the protest of the Bishop of Chichester against the use of schools as Red Cross Hospitals until every other available building has been used for that purpose. Unfortunately, we cannot prevent the sins of one generation being visited on the next. Nor, seemingly, can we prevent the pain and suffering and the agony of parting falling in the main on the young. If the lives of this generation are hampered and darkened by the shadow of war, this is all the more reason for us to resolve that the next generation shall be made more worthy, and more virile and be better equipped in mind and body for the work which will fall upon them in the building up of the State of the future. Have we a right to take the children's bread of learning even to bestow it on the wounded?

Where Women Count.

A General Election for the Commonwealth Parliament is now proceeding in Australia. It will be remembered that, at the General Election last year the Liberals were returned by a majority of one to the Assembly, while the Labour retained a considerable majority in the Senate. The new Governor General has dissolved both Houses. Miss Vida Goldstein is again standing in Victoria, and there are also women candidates in New South Wales and other States. Good luck to the women of Australia.

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FOR THE "VOTE."

Mrs. M. Cunningham 10s.
Miss Allwork 10s.

The General Secretary of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps would be glad to know whether any member of the Women's Freedom League would take her place on a Ward Committee of the Finsbury District Committee for the Prevention and Relief of Distress caused by the War. The committee meetings are generally held at 5 p.m., an hour which clashes with office hours. There is a great deal of good work planned, and it would be well for the Corps to keep in touch with this district.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.
President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT
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Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Our Suffrage work for the autumn and winter months is now beginning in earnest, and we appeal to all those who care for Woman Suffrage to stand by the Women's Freedom League and help us to get in fresh recruits for our Cause. As Suffragists, we believe that the most patriotic thing to do at the present time is to keep our Cause before the public and to press forward the greatest social reform of modern times. We intend to hold a series of members' meetings between now and Christmas, and wish to draw the special attention of our readers to the following fixtures:—

Friday, Sept. 25th, at the Suffrage Club, York Street St. James' S.W.

Mr. Laurence Housman will open a discussion on 'Sinful Charity.' The chair will be taken at 8 p.m. Admission is free, but there will be a few reserved seats, tickets for which can be obtained at the W.F.L. office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

We shall resume these regular weekly meetings on Wednesday afternoon, October 7, when, by the kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister, the first of the series will be held at 1, Mount-st., Berkeley-sq., W. The Speaker will be Mr. Laurence Housman, and the chair will be taken at 3.30. Invitation cards for this meeting can be obtained at our office.

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party.

Saturday evening, October 10, we shall celebrate our President's seventieth birthday at Portman Rooms, Baker-street, W. Will readers keep this date free and make sure of being present on this occasion, if at all possible? F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS

A committee meeting of the Corps was held on Thursday, September 3, at 2.30 p.m. It was agreed that letters should be sent to members of the committee of the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund pointing out that no woman representing Woman Suffrage Societies had been elected on the committee of the Fund; that a letter should be sent to the President of the Local Government Board urging the necessity of opening factories and other forms of employment for women and girls out of work; and that a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State for War protesting against the delay in paying the wives and dependents of soldiers at the front.

It was agreed that there should be a minimum charge of one shilling registration fee for those wishing to become members of the W.S.N.A.C.: also that all country Branches should be affiliated to the London Branch and should pay an affiliation fee of five shillings.

It was agreed that the badge for the W.S.N.A.C. should take two forms, either a tab to be worn with the W.F.L. button, or a button the exact design of which was not decided.

Mrs. Despard reported that Mrs. Arthur, of 21, Edgeware-road, had very kindly offered a workroom and personal supervision; it was agreed to allocate the sum of £20 for the opening of this workroom. It was suggested that every effort should be made to make it self-supporting in order that another one might be started in its place.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Members made a splendid response last Tuesday evening to the invitation issued by Mrs. Despard and the officials of the Women's Freedom League to meet and discuss with them at 1, Robert-street, the work of the League. The chair was taken by Mrs. Mustard, who said that the members had been called together to determine how best our Cause could be served, we must dedicate ourselves to it afresh, our Suffrage work must go on, and we must not slacken our efforts until we meet with victory.

Mrs. Despard, who was received with great acclamation, declared that the Women's Freedom League was determined to put Woman Suffrage in the forefront of its programme; women were being called upon to make great sacrifices because of the War. Women had never shrunk from sacrifice on behalf of others, but they must remember they were also called upon to make still further sacrifice on behalf of their own Cause, and the women's Cause would, in the long run be the Cause of Peace.

Miss Underwood appealed to Branch members to support every department of the Women's Freedom League. If they really cared for Woman Suffrage, they must stick to the League, and work as they never had never worked before to secure fresh members, carry on more propaganda, and to see that our paper, THE VOTE, reached a larger section of the public than had hitherto been possible.

Miss Boyle said she had always supported the Cause of Woman Suffrage because she believed it the most patriotic thing to do. It was for the good of our country. Never before had there been so much talk of the women and children of the nation, and this was due to the education given to the country during the last ten years by women Suffragists. We intend to carry on our campaign hand in hand with a campaign for the relief of women and children who had fallen on hard times because of the war. Miss Boyle appealed for all the support the members could give to the Women's Freedom League.

Further appeals for the support of the various departments were made by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Snow and Miss Thomas. Mrs. Huntsman made a special appeal for funds for the League, which resulted in numerous promises of monetary support being sent to the Honorary Treasurer.

TAX RESISTANCE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—It is with great satisfaction that I learned the other day that the Women's Freedom League, while abandoning active militant action at this time of national crisis, was still maintaining its constitutional action of tax resistance. One of the more subtle evils of a time of war is that the nation may grow to acquiesce quietly in unnecessary encroachments on civil liberty, from fear of embarrassing those in authority on whom the immediate integrity of the nation depends. If, however, civil rights have been unthinkingly relinquished, rehabilitation is increasingly difficult when peace is again restored. Therefore, though we may cheerfully waive our individual rights as citizens, and bow to exigencies of martial law when called upon to do so, yet it is of extreme importance that we should not lose sight of the great constitutional principles on which our liberties are based. Tax resistance is a means of asserting calmly and firmly the existence and ultimate authority of these principles. At such a time as this it is true that our country needs all that her sons and daughters can give, both of money and service, but not now, any more than before war was declared, can we trust an unrepresentative Government to use its revenues in the best interests of the whole nation. I would, therefore, suggest that every tax resister should contribute the sum she owes to the Government to a National Fund of her own choosing, and should send her donation as "Taxes withheld from the Government by a voteless woman."

A PERSISTENT TAX RESISTER.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Killed

Mrs. EAYES, Peterborough, found dead in yard of her house with her throat cut, August 22. Husband also found with wound in throat, but recovered. The couple had been heard quarrelling violently; quarrels were frequent.

Criminal Assault.

KATE TRIMMER, 11, Arundel, indecently assaulted and ill-used by Harry Dartnell, a married man, with five children of his own. Pleaded guilty. Said he had twelve years' good character; had been in the army, and wished to join again. Mr. Edwin Henty, Chairman of the Arundel Bench, consulted his colleagues. Result: *Fine of £2, and one month's grace to raise the money.*

FLORENCE COOPER, Halesworth, cycling near Southwold, followed by man cyclist who stopped her and knocked her off her machine. Threw her down three times. Face badly cut. A man was captured and committed for trial—*Worthing Gazette*, August 19.

Murderous Assault

Eight-year-old daughter of Walter Raye, at Barnsley, ordered home from the fair-ground by her father, who followed her, thrashed and stripped her, and strung her up over the door by a clothes-line, with a noose round her neck. Neighbours saved the child's life, but the man repeated a threat to hang her subsequently. Charged at Barnsley and remanded.

May Wilson, Tottenham Court Road, living with Chas. Perrier, and supporting him by her immoral earnings for three years. On August 22, 23 and 24 violently assaulted by him, being kicked until black and blue all over. Threw a knife at her and struck her head. The man had been charged several times before, and will also be charged with being in possession of coining plant and material.

Mrs. Rogers and baby daughter, Liverpool, attacked by husband on night of August 16, and seriously wounded. The man endeavoured to cut their throats with a pocket-knife. Was in drink at the time.

Mrs. Kilroy and Ellen Clark, Mile End, assaulted by James Reynolds, with whom the woman Clark was living. Mrs. Kilroy heard screams and saw Clark in bed, her head streaming with blood. Mrs. Kilroy was then herself attacked, and received an incised wound under the collarbone in a dangerous position. Case heard and remanded by Mr. Leicester at the Thames Police Court.

Mrs. Smith, of the Manchester Inn, Romsley, summoned her husband at Halesowen, North Worcester, for persistent cruelty. Married 10 years, never free from bruises. Had been struck with a gun, with a wooden mallet, with fists, had been nearly thrown out of a window, and nearly strangled. *No punishment; separation order and maintenance.*

We wish to call pointed attention to the case detailed by Mrs. Watson recently. May Pooley was charged with stealing a purse from "a man unknown." The constable was "told" by a seafaring man, who gave no name or address, that the woman he had with him had stolen his purse. She told him to go and look for it, and he went, and did not reappear. Nevertheless, the constable *continued the case* on his own responsibility, and on his evidence alone that he saw the purse in her possession, and that she offered him money out of it, the case was tried and the woman was given *four months' hard labour*. Mr. Justice Spokes has surely not added to his reputation by so glaring an abuse of his power; and we venture to say that anyone who could have afforded to appeal would have had no difficulty in getting this disgraceful verdict upset. There was no evidence but the constable's word that the purse did not belong to the woman herself. And in the absence of the prosecutor it is an amazing thing that such a case should have been proceeded with at all. It would not have been, had the prosecutor been a woman and the accused a man!

In this connexion we are reminded of the assault committed on the Freedom League Poster Paraders on the Embankment the day of the Anti-Home Rule demonstration. Some hooligans, acting as marshals under the direction of Lord Londonderry, set upon the paraders, tore off Miss Boyle's posters, broke Mrs. Tritton's banner-pole, and caught Miss Underwood by the throat. A constable came to stop the disorder, and Miss Boyle instructed him to take the hooligan in charge. He did not do so, although she gave him her name. Miss Boyle, with another witness, then went to Scotland Yard and lodged a complaint against the officer for not having arrested, when told to do so, the person who assaulted them. The answer to the complaint received from the Commissioner of Police was that "the officer did not see the assault complained of!" We should be glad to know, therefore, why the officer who did not see May Pooley rob the sailor, took her in custody at the bidding of a man who gave no name and would not support the charge!

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY September, 11th, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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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MOBILISATION.

The word mobilisation is in every mouth. One army goes out and another is being made ready to follow it. Even the nations that do not seem now to be threatened by the war-fiend are gathering their armies together and massing them on their frontiers so that, in case of emergency, they may be ready. As we look at the grim process, we are apt to forget that it could not take place unless, long before the necessity for it arose, the forces that make it possible had been stored up.

This is not the moment to ask whether these forces ought to have been created, whether the Kings and Emperors, the Ministers of State and diplomatists (each of whom assures us that he, at least, did his best to maintain peace) might not long ago, by international consent, have prevented the heaping up of destructive forces. That question will be settled by and by, when the betrayed peoples have had time to speak. Meanwhile the forces are there—the men, the munitions of war, the big guns. Mobilise! Bring these awful engines of destruction to where the war is being waged, and let the nations who, to their cost, have created and maintained them try conclusions one against the other.

This is what strikes the eye; but it is not always what strikes the eye that has the deepest significance; and it is our business here to point out that another mobilisation is going forward. It moves silently; no braying of war-drums, no waving of war-flags advertises it. Some amongst those who take part in it may themselves be unaware of its importance. That does not matter, for the units of this army have no desire for pomp and circumstance. If you ask them why they move, they will answer that they can do no other, and that is true, because mighty, irresistible forces are behind them.

We recognise that the mobilisation of armies and navies could not take place effectively had it not been carefully prepared in times of peace. Whatever our feelings about war as war may be, there is no one of us who could resist a throb of pride and admiration when the veil of silence was lifted—when we knew that our soldiers, our engineers, our purveyors of provision, our transport workers, with the host of labourers many of them women, who worked with and under these, had safely and swiftly accomplished their task, and we knew that our British troops had landed in France and were ready for the part which they have so gallantly played in the great conflict. So it is with this other mobilisation—that of women and the men of goodwill who have stood by them in their conflict.

We hear little of that conflict now. There are those of us who believe that, when the present

conflagration is over, when, exhausted by the war-fever, men turn to the work of re-construction, there will be no further need for women to urge their claim to citizenship. They will be accepted as an integral part of the new order. But, however that may be, one thing is certain; through the organisations that their need and their inspiration have built up, the women amongst the nations are mobilising for service. On every side we hear the same cry, and every day it is growing in volume: "Here am I; send me!"

In our last issue, we gave in some detail the work that is being undertaken by the "Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps." Here we speak generally. Not service alone—for that might be spasmodic and bodily directed—but co-operation is the word that is going round. Each society taking up its special task; but each working with all, because all have behind them the same force. That force—let us fully grasp the wonder of it—is spiritual. In the name of neither Emperor, nor King, nor Government; but in obedience to the glorious impulses of life, which full value they have only just discovered, the women of our nation are moving.

What is that force? the incredulous may ask. We answer: "It did not grow up of itself." Let any one of us who know look back over the history of the Woman's Movement; let them think of its rapid expansion, of its energy—nay, even of its tragic happenings, many of them it may be mistaken, yet all inspired with the same spirit, and they will be able to understand how it is that, at our hour of need, they are able in organised masses to obey their country's call. Certain qualities, such as courage, initiative, independence, determination, are necessary for the services that women are offering now. Of these, save in certain great exceptional cases, they have been robbed by long subjection. During the late years of conflict against the limitations imposed upon them, women have been developing and storing up these spiritual forces. Moreover, those other great qualities—love, compassion, judgment, which they have always possessed, have been broadened out. In the Movement, many have learned that it is not to their own families and personal friends alone that their love and compassion are due. With their gospel of the true womanhood, they have gone out into the world; they have perceived that the State, no less than the family, demands their care. And now, when men, through their physical force theory carried out in action, are tearing the framework of social life to pieces; they stand ready to bind up the wounds of Society and with the men of goodwill, to rebuild civilisation on a truer and sounder base. One word of warning before we conclude. In all our enthusiasm as individuals, let us never forget that it is organised work which really, in the long run, tells. We are throwing, and rightly, an enormous amount of organised energy into everything that affects our soldiers and sailors and those they have left behind them. But much more has to be done. There are indirect as well as direct sufferers from the war.

To one of us the other day there came a postcard, without a signature, written from Homerton: "What are we to do?" it ran. "We cannot now earn our living. Shall we starve or shall we commit suicide, or will the Government shoot us off at once?"

This is the kind of thing that has to be faced. It means the breaking up of the old order that has not been strong enough to bear the stress brought upon it by the present cataclysm. Let us remem-

ber, moreover, that, if there is distress from unemployment now, it will be much greater when the war is over. Then the new armies will be disbanded and masses of men whom we extol as heroes to-day will be thrown upon the labour market. Will the employers of labour, who have carried on trades without them, welcome them with open arms?

The truth is that we shall have no righteous readjustment unless it begins now. Now is the time for the Government to take up shut-down industries, to grip the food and the clothing supply, to set women to do for the community the necessary work that is waiting to be done, to put forward schemes of land-reclamation which will largely increase the producing power of the country.

For instance, we of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps have a scheme on hand for the clothing of the children in the elementary schools next winter. We have the best hygienic patterns, the Co-operative Society in London is giving us great advantages in the purchase of materials, and we have already started a work-room which will probably be followed by others. Our hope is that when we have shown what can be done in the way of warm and healthy clothing for the children of the nation, some governing body will take this matter up, and that, when this war is over, we may have what we have never had before—factories under public control, whose business it will be to make, at the least possible cost, comfortable and beautiful garments for the workers' children.

We give this merely as an example of the permanent good that can be achieved if our efforts are well directed. To quote from an excellent article in the current number of the *Nation*:—

"If we trust to the economic and social methods that did, in a sort of way, work before the war, in this crisis there will be such a social smash as the world has never known before. In these matters the path of courage is the path of safety."

C. DESPARD.

THE NATURAL.

II.

As soon as war broke out, a working party was formed in the village, and the natural, so everybody said, behaved disgracefully. For she refused—actually refused—to join it. She said that according to the papers, no end of women were destitute through lack of employment, and that, if women who were not destitute took to working for nothing, it meant more destitution for the women who were dependent upon work which was paid for. So she did nothing, *nothing*—except take her money out of the Savings Bank and send it up to some organisation; an organisation which, so everybody believed, was nothing more or less than a Suffrage Society, or was at any rate started by Suffragists. That was what she did, while *they*, the people who thought and cared about the soldiers and their needs, were working as hard as they could work at socks and shirts. And she couldn't see that her idleness was unpatriotic! Just like her, of course; she never could see the things that were plain to everybody else.

Another thing that was extremely aggravating, or would have been extremely aggravating, if the people had not known that it was due to the fact that she was almost wanting (but, of course, it was very difficult always to remember it, especially as in some ways she was quite bright) was that she could not grasp the principles of civilised warfare, nor see how they accorded with Christianity. If it was wrong to kill one man it must be wrong, even more wrong, to kill a thousand men, she said. So silly! As if fighting for one's country didn't make all the difference. If you said that to her, she answered by asking if the enemy were not fighting for their country too? And why should it be right for our nation to fight for their country

and wrong for another nation? She had no idea of arguing or of following an argument. She went so far as to say—so little did she understand Christian warfare—that it seemed to her absurd first to get up an army of men to destroy and wound and then an army of women to save the lives of the wounded. It would have been simpler and less expensive not to have any wounded, she said; and more reasonable to settle quarrels before all the killing and wounding than after it. The idea of *her* talking about reasonableness, when anyone could see she was half-witted! It was pointed out to her that the wounded soldiers of the enemy were helped, as well as those belonging to the English troops, and indeed that every nation recognised the obligation to care for the wounded amongst those with whom they fought, and that this was what was meant by Christian warfare, because it was a noble and a Christian thing to forgive and minister to an enemy. It was in connection with this attempt to make things clear to her that she really, so to speak, took the cake in stupidity. All she said, after all the efforts that had been made to enlighten her, was to ask if it was necessary to half kill your enemy before you forgave and ministered to him.

They let her alone after that; it was really no use trying to make her see. They let her talk about the fuss that people made when Suffragettes destroyed churches, and of the calm way in which the destruction of churches in order to make trenches was accepted; they said *nothing*. It was no use trying to answer her, you *couldn't* answer her, for she couldn't understand, couldn't see the point. For instance, she was asked if it was not awful, the way the Germans abused and destroyed little children. And she answered that she didn't think it as bad to abuse and destroy children in warfare as to violate them—especially the children of your own nation—in time of peace.

What could they say? Nothing at all—to her—for the simple reason that she didn't appreciate their arguments. To each other they said: "It's only what you might expect. She's nothing but a natural, or at any rate next door to one."

G. COLMORE.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM: FORESHADOWINGS IN FICTION.

By L. A. M. PRIESTLEY (Author of "Love Stories of Eminent Women.")

viii. "The Odd Women," by Geo. Gissing.

Two other characters in the book present the new order of women—the practical independent working woman. Miss Barfoot, lecturing to her class of girl students is a mouthpiece of Suffrage doctrines:—

"Woman and womanish are two very different words; but the latter, as the world uses it, has become practically synonymous with the former. A womanly occupation means practically an occupation that a man disdains, and here is the root of the matter. I repeat that I am not first of all anxious to supply you with daily bread. I am a troublesome, aggressive, revolutionary person. I want to do away with that common confusion of the words womanly and womanish, and I see very clearly this can only be effected by an armed movement, an invasion by women of the spheres which men have always forbidden us to enter. I am strenuously opposed to that view of us set forth in such charming language by Mr. Ruskin, for it tells on the side of those men who think and speak of us in a way the reverse of charming. Were we living in an ideal world I think women would not go to sit all day in offices. But the fact is we live in a world as far from ideal as can be conceived. If woman is no longer to be womanish, but a human being of powers and responsibilities, she must become militant, defiant. She must push her claims to the extremity."

Our author indeed had a prophetic instinct, though he died before the advent of the militant Suffragist! Miss Barfoot continues in the same strain:—

"Our proper world is the world of intelligence, of honest effort of moral strength. The old types of women are no longer helpful to us. Like the church service, which to all but one person in a thousand, has become meaningless gable by dint of repetition, these types have lost their effect. . . . I don't care whether we crowd out the men or not. I don't care what results if only women are made strong, and self-reliant and nobly independent! The world must look to its concerns. Most likely we shall have a revolution in the social order greater than any that yet seems possible. . . . When I think of the contemptible wretchedness of women enslaved by custom by their weakness, by their desires, I am ready to cry 'Let the world perish in tumult rather than things go on this way.'"

A little further on and we have the essence of a Suffrage sermon:—

"It is very far from our wish to cause hardships to anyone, but we ourselves are escaping from a hardship that has become intolerable. We are educating ourselves. There must be a new type of woman active in every sphere of life; a new worker out in the world; a new ruler of the home. Of the old ideal virtues we can retain many, but we have to add to them those which have been thought appropriate in men only. Let a woman be gentle, but at the same time let her be strong; let her be pure of heart but none the less wise and instructed. Because we have to set an example to the sleepy of our sex we must carry on an active warfare. . . . Whether woman is the equal of man I neither know nor care. . . . Enough for us to know our natural growth has been stunted. The mass of women have always been paltry creatures, and their paltriness has proved a curse to men. So if you like to put it that way we are working for the advantage of men as well as our own. Let the responsibility for disorder rest on those who have made us despise our old selves. At any cost—at any cost—we will free ourselves from the heritage of weakness and contempt."

(To be continued.)

Men's Society for Women's Rights.

The Society is endeavouring to establish a Women's Suffrage Field Hospital for the sick and wounded at Harwich, and has issued an appeal for the services of doctors, nurses, clothing, drugs and help of many kinds. The War Office and the Red Cross Society have recognised the Hospital. The camp organisation is to remain permanent after the war to facilitate the work of the Society in assisting women in need of legal assistance and of help to secure employment at a decent wage.

BRANCH NOTES.

Clapham.

The usual meeting was held on Sunday on Clapham Common. A large audience listened to a very bright address from Mrs. Samuel and plied her with questions. Interest in the need for woman's voice in politics is quickened rather than otherwise by the war. We took a good collection. Miss Winifred St. Clair was in the chair.

Croydon.

At a special Branch meeting on August 24, Mrs. Love-day was elected as our representative to serve on the Mayor's Committee for the Relief of Distress caused by the War. At the Branch meeting, plans were discussed for the work of the Branch and of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. It was decided (i) To appeal for left-off boots and shoes, which the Branch would undertake to have repaired, and then distributed to necessitous children, through the teachers of the elementary schools; (ii) To make garments for such children—the Mayor to be asked to make a grant from the Prince of Wales' Fund for the purchase of material. Inquiries are to be made about existing schemes to aid women and children before offering our help. Several members promised to serve on Care and Canteen Committees, or to assist in other ways. Weekly Branch meetings will be held on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. to make arrangements for special work undertaken by the Branch. Will members collect for our "Repairing Fund"?

Hackney.

All members are asked to attend a meeting at 49, Moresby-road on Monday, 14th inst., at 7.30 p.m., to discuss plans for local work in connection with the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps.

Ipswich

A meeting was held on September 3 to discuss plans for the future work of the Branch and of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps. We are collecting books, cards, games and puzzles for soldiers and sailors, and have been helping the Men's Society for women's rights in the formation of their hospital. We hope soon to have a stock of garments ready for distribution. M. T. HOSSACK.

Manchester

At a Branch meeting held at 79, Piccadilly on Wednesday, September 2, a Branch of the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps was formed. It was arranged to co-operate as much as possible with existing organisations and to form a working party for the making of garments for needy children. Meetings for discussion and work are to be held every Tuesday at 79, Piccadilly. Miss Andrews was appointed Captain, and Miss Platt Secretary, of the Corps. Committee: Miss Hordern, Miss Hudson, Mrs. James, Miss Janet Heyes, Miss Fildes, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Rogerson, and Mrs. Watson. Miss Hordern is still working energetically for the Suffrage, and the Manchester Branch will never lose sight of our final aim, namely, the political emancipation of women.

Middlesbrough.

A business meeting was held on September 3 in Hinton's Cafe. Mrs. Schofield spoke of the importance of women's work, and urged the need to press our claim home. Distress already existed, and it would be a worthy object to see that during the winter no one suffered from cold or hunger. Mrs. Cattermole, reporting on investigations made by a sub-committee appointed to find out cases of women unemployed owing to the war, said that many women were urgently in need of help. It was resolved that we invite various organised bodies of women in the district to form a committee, to make suggestions, and formulate schemes to submit to the Citizen Committee for dealing with the distress among the people of the district. It was agreed to accept representation on the Ladies' Committee, and Miss James undertook to represent the W.F.L. point of view on this committee. Miss Broadbridge was appointed Secretary of an Ambulance Class and instructed to make all necessary arrangements. During the winter sessions meetings will be held as usual. The next business meeting is fixed for Monday, Sept. 14, at 8 p.m., in Hinton's Cafe.

Visit the Women's Freedom League Merchandise Department.

at Headquarters, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi. You will find Tea, Coffee, Cocoa, Chocolate, Jam, Marmalade, Jellies, Butter Beans, Split Peas, Haricots, Biscuits, and other Groceries; also Blouses, Underclothing, Stockings, Gloves, and all kinds of Haberdashery. All Profits help to support "THE VOTE"

NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN.—Aberystwith.

Speaker: MISS ANNA MUNRO.

Organiser: MISS ALIX M. CLARK.

The above Campaign has been continued with the greatest vigour and enthusiasm, and the interest roused in the Suffrage question remains unabated. The W.F.A. flag has been hoisted on the beach daily, and is a signal for the congregation of large crowds. Miss Anna Munro is often asked by members of the audience to deal with some special aspect of the Woman's Movement, which she does with her usual charm and eloquence, delighting the audience, which has turned the apathy of many into enthusiasm and interest. Any impertinent interjections are quickly quelled by the more responsible of the audience. The questions show that they are not put for mere idle curiosity, but to obtain real knowledge of the Movement. THE VOTE sells readily, and the Campaign has been an unqualified success. ALIX M. CLARK, Hon. Organiser.

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow.

The Glasgow Branch opened the winter's session on Thursday, September 3, when a very crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held, over which Miss Normanton presided. Owing to the National Crisis, it was decided to postpone the Sale of work arranged for a date in December, but in its place to hold a Café Chantant, and to devote the proceeds to the National Aid Corps. A Jumble Sale was announced to take place early in October to raise funds for current expenses and a Public Meeting for November 9, when Mr. George Lansbury would be the Speaker. Members are requested to keep these dates in mind. Much sympathy was expressed with the idea of a Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps, and all present felt the necessity of helping to mitigate some of the distress which would be caused through the War. Miss Bessie Semple was appointed to act as Captain of the Corps, and promises of help were given. Miss Semple, in a stirring and impressive address, spoke upon the "Present Situation." At the close of the meeting a collection amounting to £11 12s. was taken on behalf of the Belgian Relief Fund.

Paisley.

On Monday, August 31, Miss Broughton held a very successful dinner-hour meeting outside the gates of Clarks' Thread Mills, Paisley, when over four hundred girls were present, who accorded the Speaker a very attentive hearing.

On Tuesday evening, in the Central Hall Committee Room, the members of the Paisley Branch met to discuss the winter's work and methods of helping in the present crisis. The annual business meeting was arranged to take place on Tuesday September 15, and the ordinary Branch meeting for Tuesday, October 6. It was suggested that funds should be raised for the Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps by holding an open-air demonstration, particulars of which will appear later in THE VOTE.

Johnstone.

An outdoor meeting took place at Johnstone on Friday evening, September 4, when Miss Ada Broughton spoke upon the present crisis, and explained the aims and objects of the National Aid Corps. The audience, although not very large, was most attentive and appreciated.

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I remain, yours sincerely,

R. J. C. WOLSELEY.

Stafford, March 16th, 1914.

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS—

455, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Friday, September 11.—CROYDON, W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street. Special Branch meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday, September 13.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Miss Rushbrooke. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Boyle and Mrs. Hyde. CLAPHAM COMMON, 5.30. Mrs. Tanner and Miss St. Clair.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Monday, September 14.—KENSINGTON, corner Lancaster-road and Blenheim Crescent, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner. HACKNEY. Branch Meeting, 7.30. 49, Moresby-road.

Tuesday, September 15.—CLAPHAM, 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromells-road. Branch members' meeting, 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 16.—MEETING (by kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister), 3.30-5 p.m., of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, at 1, Mount-street, Berkeley-square. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Lindaf-Hageby. Chairman: Mrs. McAllister.

Sunday, September 20.—BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Miss Nina Boyle. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mr. Kennedy. CLAPHAM COMMON, 5.30 p.m.

Friday, September 25.—DISCUSSION MEETING at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, St. James's, S.W. Opener: Mr. Laurence Housman. Subject: "Sinful Charity." Admission Free Discussion. Few reserved seats. Tickets from W.F.L. Office.

Sunday, September 27.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard and Miss le Croisette.

Monday, September 28.—KENSINGTON, corner Lancaster-road and Blenheim-crescent, 8 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke.

Wednesday, October 7.—1, MOUNT-STREET, Berkeley-square. Mrs. Ronald McAllister "At Home" to members and friends of W.F.L. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman and others. 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, October 10.—PORTMAN ROOMS. Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, 8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, October 12.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. Members' meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and others.

Monday, September 14.—GRAYS. Open-air meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. MIDDLESBROUGH, Hinton's Cafe. Business meeting, 8 p.m.

Brighton and Hove.

Monday, September 14.—HOME NURSING LECTURE, at 8, San Remo, Hove, 6 p.m. Dr. Louisa Martindale.

Tuesday, September 15.—SEWING MEETING, at 8, San Remo, Hove, 8 p.m.

Thursday, September 17.—HOME NURSING PRACTICE MEETING, at 8, San Remo, Hove, 6 p.m.

NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser: MISS A. M. CLARK. Speaker: MISS ANNA MUNRO. Meetings daily at Aberystwyth.

SCOTLAND.

Paisley.

Tuesday, September 15.—CENTRAL HALL COMMITTEE ROOM. Annual business meeting, 8 o'clock.

Tuesday, October 6.—BRANCH MEETING.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Monday, October 5.—ST. ALBANS' DEBATING SOCIETY. Debate: "Women's Work in Local Government v. the Suffrage Agitation." To be opened by Miss Boyle on the Suffragist side.

Sunday, October 11.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCY, Fife Hall, Kingston-on-Thames. Lecture by Miss Andrews. "War—and after?" 7 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Last week a deputation from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes waited on Mr. Runciman at the Board of Trade. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst introduced the deputation saying that they had come to ask that, during the war, the Government should control the food supplies in order to safeguard the interests of the working people, who form the immense majority of the population. "The people cannot be allowed to starve," she said, "it will cost money to feed them however it is done, and it will be cheaper in the end if the Government pays something to keep prices down rather than give food away wholesale." Other members of the deputation told from personal experience of the high prices and consequent hardship now prevalent in the East end; they also complained of the overtime that was being worked on Government contracts, and Mr. Runciman promised that the Board of Trade would arrange that, in the giving out of all future Government contracts, it should be stipulated that no overtime should be worked.

ONE
PENNY

THE VOTE

WEEKLY

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

WE accept Announcements of Suffrage
and kindred Meetings for this Column
at the rate per single insertion of 2s.
for 24 words, 1d. every additional
word; four insertions at the price of
three. All Announcements must be
Prepaid, and, to ensure insertion,
copy should reach the ADVERTISEMENT
MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st.,
Adelphi, London, by the *First Post* on
Monday Morning.

THE MID-LONDON BRANCH of
the Women's Freedom League
holds open-air Meetings in Regent's
Park every Sunday at 12 o'clock.

HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.—
"Birthday Fund" Party, by kind
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Oak Tree House, Branch Hill, Hamp-
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