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THE VOTE
March 19, 1915
ONE PENNY

"THE PUBLIC HOUSE." BY MRS. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1915

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Remember the Women!

We have read with much interest Lord Kitchener's appeal to the men who are manufacturing the munitions of war. We are glad that he recognises publicly that persons at home engaged in work for their country, while she is in the midst of a gigantic struggle for existence, are worthy of as much praise and meed of honour as those fighting in the field; also that they have a right to a share in the unusual financial benefits now being reaped by great trading companies. We desire, however, to call attention to the fact that women as well as men are engaged in these services, and that they have given strength and toil to meet the special pressure of work demanded of them. They ought not to be left out when it is a question of honour and reward. France, Russia, and Germany have already recognised the varied and valuable services directly rendered by women in the war. How soon will Great Britain follow their excellent lead? Will not Lord Kitchener point the way?

Women and Imperial Affairs.

We are getting accustomed now to the cry of men in Parliament, in the Press, and on the platform for the help of women in the national crisis. They are being driven to "discover" women and their use outside the sacrosanct sphere of home. The latest appeal is remarkable because it urges women to take up Imperial affairs which, hitherto, they were supposed to be unfit to touch and incapable of comprehending. Sir William Wedderburn, however, an Indian administrator of long years of service, boldly begs women to undertake the responsible work of organising an *Entente Cordiale* between Great Britain and India. He argues at length in the *New Statesman* that not only are women admirably adapted to carry out this necessary work, but that its entire management should be left in their hands—since "most men of altru-

istic inclination are overburdened with work." We pass over this last observation with a smile, but point out that for more than thirty years women have been doing this very service quietly and unostentatiously; once again, men have "discovered" the need, and urge it as something new. The National Indian Association, which brings East and West together in this country, and by its Branches in India, was founded by a woman, Miss Mary Carpenter, carried on by her friend, Miss Adelaide Manning, and is now inspired by Miss E. J. Beck; the two latter are among the few women whom the Government of India has honoured for their work. There is room for wide development, but the foundation was laid long ago—by women.

Not This Time.

It is not the fault of the licensing magistrates and the Chief Constable of Blackburn that restrictions against "women only" have not been put into practice. They applied to the Home Secretary for his consent, and he actually refused, on the ground that the Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restriction) Act, 1914, did not allow an order to be applied to "females alone." This is a welcome sign of repentance. As the male authorities of Blackburn did not feel moved to restrict men also, no change has been made. There was the usual charge of "increased drunkenness amongst women" since the war began; but the report for the year presented to the magistrates recently, showed that "314 males and 120 females" had been proceeded against for drunkenness, these figures being a decrease of 61 male and an increase of 19 female cases." Even with the decrease among men—how many have gone to the Front?—the women are shown to be far less drunken. The police have full power to deal with offenders, male and female, without further restrictions.

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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Piccadilly.

Next Wednesday the speakers will be the Rev. C. Baumgarten, on "Ideals of Social Government," and Mrs. Mustard. As this meeting will be the last of the present series, we hope to see a good rally of members and friends. The chair will be taken at 3.30. The next series will begin on Wednesday afternoon, April 14, when the speakers will be the Rev. W. Piggott and Miss Nina Boyle.

Sunday afternoon, April 18, we shall have a special meeting at the Suffrage Club, the speaker being the Rev. Hatty Baker, of Plymouth, who has promised us an address on "The War and After." Discussion will be invited after the lecture, and we hope that many of our members will bring their friends to what we are sure will be a thoroughly enjoyable meeting. Admission is free, and tea can be obtained at the Club.

Discussion Meeting.

Mr. W. L. George has very kindly promised to open another discussion at the Suffrage Club, on Friday evening, April 30. The subject will be "Woman and the Arts," and the chair will be taken at 8 o'clock. Tickets for numbered and reserved seats can be obtained from this office at 1s. each. We have a few reserved tickets at 6d. All tickets should be secured beforehand by those who do not wish to stand throughout the evening.

Welsh Campaign.

This week Miss A. M. Clark and Miss Munro begin a campaign in Montgomery Boroughs and district. Drawing-room meetings and public meetings have been arranged at Newtown, Llanfyllin, Trefeglwyn, Llanfyllin, Welshpool, and Aberdovey, the principal speakers being Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro.

Easter Holidays.

This office and the Minerva Publishing Company will be closed from Thursday afternoon, April 1, until Tuesday morning, April 6.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

"THE VOTE."**SPECIAL EASTER NUMBER.**

A special Educational Number of 16 pages will be published for Easter, and will contain articles dealing with many important questions, among them children and agricultural labour—a dominant interest in view of the complacency with which "The Men who Govern Us" are willing to sacrifice the educational rights won at considerable cost for the children, "the nation's hope." The articles will be written by experts, and the number will be published on Tuesday, March 30, two days earlier than usual, so that it may be widely distributed before Easter. Let every member and friend make an Easter gift to the VOTE by taking at least one dozen copies to sell or give away during the holidays and gain new regular subscribers.

N.B.—Will contributors and Branch Secretaries kindly note that Thursday, March 25, is the latest day for receiving copy for the Easter number?

TO ALL MEMBERS:

Wear your Badge Never go out without it!

STILL WORRYING.

Somerset House is still anxious about our Secretary's imaginary Income Tax. They are now willing to let her down lightly, as will be seen by the following letter sent with an illegible signature. Miss Underwood, unperturbed, is doing her work as usual.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London, E.C.
4th March, 1915.

MADAM,—With reference to the proceedings commenced against you for recovery of the arrears of Income Tax (Schedule E) outstanding for the year 1913-14, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to state that judgment has been signed against you in the High Court of Justice for the duty, £11 13s. 4d., and £4 18s. 6d. the costs, and that the next step in the matter will be to issue a Writ to the Sheriff's Officer for execution.

The Board are unwilling to resort to this measure without giving you a final opportunity of satisfying the Crown's claim. They will, therefore, hold the matter over for one week from this date, and they will, moreover, accept in lieu of the full costs the amount actually spent out of pocket, £2 0s. 0d., thereby relieving you to the extent of £2 18s. 6d.

The amount payable under this arrangement is £13 13s. 4d., viz.:

Duty ...	£11 13 4
Reduced costs ...	2 0 0
	<hr/> £13 13 4

I enclose an envelope in which the remittance may be sent to the Accountant General at this office.

I am, Madam, your obedient servant,
Miss F. A. Underwood.

(For Secretary.)

CAFÉ CHANTANT.

The Caxton Hall presented an appearance of unwonted gaiety on March 11 and 12 when the Café Chantant, organised by the Women's Freedom League, was in progress. The banners of the League and of the other Suffrage Societies which co-operated were most decorative in effect, and the green, white, and gold colour scheme gave a welcome brightness to the scene. Attractive stalls lined the walls of the large hall, and the tea-tables were most inviting. An excellent musical programme was given each day in the large hall, and good side-shows in the lounge.

Our President was received with enthusiasm when she opened the Café Chantant on Thursday, and welcomed all the Societies who co-operated; a bouquet in the colours of the League was presented to her by Mrs. Corner and flowers by a little boy in khaki. The following day Miss Eunice Murray performed the opening ceremony amid great applause. Those who were unable to be present may gain a good idea of the interests of the two days by sending to Headquarters for a programme (price 2d.).

Our thanks are warmly given to Madame Carola and Mrs. Corner for arranging such an excellent programme, and to the many clever artistes who so kindly gave their services. We were very glad to welcome our old friend, Mrs. Thomson Price, for whose admirable psychic delineations a long queue waited patiently during the afternoon and evening, and even then some who bought tickets could not reach the delineator. To the Gipsy Fortune Teller and La Yenda we also tender our sincere thanks. Another old friend who came to help us was Madame Garrud, who, we are glad to say, in spite of reports to the contrary, is still in London continuing her excellent and useful demonstrations of the art of ju-jitsu. All who saw her and her son were much impressed by the ease and skill with which they proved the powerlessness of brute force.

In addition to the "Violet Clark" quartette—all women—whose charming and effective playing was a noteworthy feature each day, we mention with fullest appreciation for the excellent service they rendered Miss Edythe Olive (Actresses' Franchise League), Miss Clara Greet, Miss Cécile Hartog, Miss Jessie Snow, Miss Mollie Seymour,

Miss Dorothy Forbes, Miss Kathleen, Boutall, the Misses Gullen, Miss Zillhardt, Miss Bryer, Miss Evie Hope, Mr. Charles Corner, and Mr. A. Hayward. The recitations of little Margery Gush were not only warmly welcomed, but showed great promise for the future, and the dances (Indian) of Mrs. Dunman and of Mrs. Poole and Mr. Nicholls (Harlequin and Columbine) and the variety entertainment of the Merry Maids all added to the attractions of the admirable programme.

The refreshments were splendidly managed by Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Harbord, and Mrs. Pierotti, and Mrs. Fisher asks us to thank the following friends for their welcome contributions of cakes, etc., etc.:—Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Cunningham (Clapton), Mrs. Tippet, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Bookham, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Chalkley, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Tomblin, and the Misses Bucher, Boyce, Anderson, Jenks, Ibbotson, B. Kent, G. F. Larner, Thomson, Rushbrook, White, Reeves, Eggett, and Catmure.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.**Old Bailey.** Before Mr. Justice Atkins. Feb. Sessions

SYDNEY PITTMAN was charged with committing rape on a girl of seventeen. The girl was a barmaid at the Southwark Tavern, and was acquainted with prisoner. She met him on January 11, and went with him to buy a present. There is no doubt he made her drunk—his defence was that she was drinking with him in various public-houses—and then took her to 77, Southward-street and committed an indecent assault upon her. Rape is an exceedingly difficult charge to prove and the easiest to refute; had the charge been one of indecent assault, prisoner would have stood a good chance of being convicted. As it was, the judge stopped the case, and he was discharged. The police and the lawyers seem to have neglected their very obvious duty; instead of the case being handed over to the Crown to prosecute, the mother is nearly penniless through lawyers' fees. The Women Police Volunteers are taking the matter up, and helping the girl.

ISIDORE HARTFIELD, 56, was charged before Mr. Rentoul with indecency towards Deborah Tesser, a girl of 15. The offence had been going on for several weeks, when the girl's health was the means of bringing the affair to light. The man's defence was that he thought she was sixteen—although he had known her from a child. The birth of an infant is expected. Not Guilty.

Before Mr. Justice Darling. March Sessions.

CHRISTOPHER BELLINGER pleaded guilty to two offences against two little girls of 8 years of age. Three years' penal servitude.

Before the Common Serjeant.

JOE BATEMAN, 17, was charged with an offence against a girl of 14. He pleaded that he thought she was 16, that other men had "carried on" with her, also that he committed the offence in June of last year—this completely sheltering him, as proceedings must be taken within six months. The girl is about to become a mother. Prisoner was found Not Guilty. EDITH M. WATSON.

"THE INEXORABLE TRUTH."

The reading of her new play, "The Inexorable Truth," by Miss Winifred M. Jones, whose plays aroused much public interest when produced in Middlesbrough last year, attracted so large an audience to the Suffrage Centre (231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-rd.), Middlesbrough, that unfortunately we were not able to find room for all.

The play was read by Miss Jones in her inimitable way; the brilliant wit and humour of this "quixotic comedy," with its underlying current of keen-edged satire, evoked a warm and appreciative response. "The Inexorable Truth" comes as a challenge—swift and flashing as the "Sword of Truth" (to use one of the figures of speech of the play)—to all that is conventional in modern life and thought. As the revelation of a mind which probes beneath the superficial value of things, always in quest of the deeper reality, which asks many questions, and raises many issues, which is always strong and always original, and dares to stand or fall by its own merit, "The Inexorable Truth" is a play not only worthy of being produced, but of being widely read. The conversation of the people of the play scintillates with rare gems of epigrammatic thought, arresting paradoxes, and exceptionally fine metaphors and similes.

Mr. Charles Coates paid a very eloquent tribute to the

A Women's War Book FOR EASTER.**"ECCE MATER,"**

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SMART BLOUSE (as sketch), in Crepe Focenne Brocade with yoke of hand veining, buttons of brocade in groups of five, high collar at back in. In ivory and black. **16/9**

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excellence of the play in a vote of thanks; Mr. Ewart Richardson, as one of an outside public interested in this new achievement, seconded; and it was carried with enthusiasm. The Middlesbrough Branch is justly proud of its talented Vice-President.

The chair on this occasion was taken by Mr. H. Hobson. The songs given by Miss Edith Calvert and Miss Ruth Dawson, and the recitations by Miss Dorothy Howell, added to the pleasure of the evening. L. M.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.**Mrs. McAllister, Hostess.**

By kind hospitality of Mrs. Ronald McAllister, an "At Home," will be held at her house, 1, Mount-st., Berkeley-sq., W., on Friday, March 26, 3.30-5 p.m. Mrs. Mustard will speak on the Hackney Workrooms, and Mrs. Tippet on the Nine Elms Settlement.

Nine Elms Restaurant and Play Club.

Mrs. Tippet has great pleasure in thanking Mrs. Busch Mitchell, of Montgomery Boroughs, as "the anonymous donor" of a case of apples and vegetables acknowledged a fortnight ago. She is always grateful for such welcome gifts—the more the better! Her cordial thanks are also given to Miss Crombie for a cake, and to Mrs. Kearton for candied peel and split peas. She is in urgent need of a gallon of nut oil, costing 5s. 6d., and a regular helper on Thursdays. Toys for the Children's Play Club will be most welcome, also money for four sets of children's garments (Despard design), to be made in Mrs. Despard's Workrooms, prices 8/6 and 10/- each.

Members' Work: Our Congratulations to—

Miss A. H. Bennett, on her book, "English Medical Women: Their Work in Peace and War," with preface by Stephen Paget, F.R.C.S. (Pitman and Sons, publishers, 3/6, illustrated), which gives an account of modern women's entrance into the medical profession, the pioneers' struggle at the Edinburgh University, and the subsequent founding of the Medical School for Women in London, describes the hospitals founded, officered and carried on by women in Great Britain, and their work in military hospitals abroad during the present war. A most useful book for those considering a medical career.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, March 19th, 1915.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

THE CRY OF THE CHILDREN.

"Let there be no mistake; this great war is not going to leave social problems in the old place." That is the note of warning which comes from the *Daily Citizen*. The recent debate in the House of Commons concerning a problem not yet indeed satisfactorily settled, but which had seemed to be on its way towards solution, gives reality and urgency to the words we have quoted. Lack of forethought on the part of successive Governments, with the hap-hazard policy which is adopted whenever the life of the great masses of the people and the vested interests of a few come into conflict, has brought us to the present pass. The nation is like a spendthrift family. Those who have had control of its resources have thought principally of satisfying the persons and classes which, in political parlance, are of any account; they have hoped that everything would continue very much as it is; and the day of tribulation has found them unprepared for their great task.

What is that task? Thousands of voices will shout in unison: "To create a bigger and more efficient army than we have ever had before; to lay in vast stocks of ammunition and other things necessary for war; to train our men in fortitude and our women in patience; afterwards—when the war is over—we can deal with the social problems it has raised."

Alas! it is the usual makeshift policy. Do what they will, say what they may, the Government find themselves faced to-day with questions which they can only neglect at their own peril, and the peril of the people.

Agriculture; child labour; the employment of women in work that has up to now been done by men. These are the problems that have to be met; and it is not too much to say that on the way in which they are handled now the happiness or misery of many generations may depend. That, and nothing less, is their task.

Agriculture! The farmers are crying out that there is a shortage in the supply of labour. They claim that unless labour is immediately forthcoming the output of produce will suffer, and that this, under present circumstances, will be exceedingly disastrous for the country. Therefore, let the ordinary regulations as regards country children be suspended. Boy labour is needed. It must be supplied. To which we would answer in the first place, children are as important as men to the community. Distinct evidence has been given of the fact that little boys taken out of their beds habitually at an unnaturally early hour and made to work an unnatural number of hours lose in weight and bulk, and are consequently less fitted for work in the future. Not only so; but the many

years of hard, monotonous toil sicken a boy with the country, and when he is seventeen or eighteen years of age he chooses the town, and helps to flood the over-crowded labour market there.

It is not only now that the shortage of boy labour has been heard of. Over and over again, since the children's right to education and play in their early years was recognised, we have had the same cry. A long time ago, when the minds of certain Guardians of the Poor were exercised about the emigration of children, proposals were made to the Local Government Board by the Lambert Guardians that they should be allowed to purchase land and to run a farm of their own, on which they could train their children for agriculture, instead of sending the very best of them to Canada. At that time between workhouse inmates, aged men and women, the sick in the infirmary, and orphan and destitute children, the Lambeth Guardians had no less than three thousand persons to provide for; and it was pointed out that through such a farm they could supply their own needs in milk, butter and vegetables, cultivating waste land for the purpose and placing healthy children under skilled training. It was hoped then that other Metropolitan Boards would start similar schemes, and that there might be a continual stream of healthy young life to the country. Mr. Long, who is now so anxious about agriculture, was, we believe, at that time President of the Local Government Board. He refused his sanction, and the scheme fell through. Our boys and girls went out as before to Canada, where many of them had the opportunity of that training in agriculture which was denied them in their own country; and, in several counties, the shortage of boy labour was keenly felt. This is only one instance of the hap-hazard, hand-to-mouth policy, that has characterised successive Governments in the past.

Unhappily for our people, hap-hazard continues to reign. All sorts of questions that ought to have been dealt with before came out in the recent debate. Importation to certain districts of unemployed persons from the towns has been suggested; and had agricultural labourers' conditions, their wages, their housing, been considered before the war, no doubt there would be little difficulty in this direction. But precious time has been wasted in party squabbles, and agriculturists, like working women, have been left to the tender mercies of chance.

We have read the debate on child labour in the House of Commons, and have been struck with one point. Except for the somewhat casual references to women working in the fields, which would be neither impossible nor unseemly, no appeal is made to them. The speakers are addressing the men of the country—the only persons who count.

Members of the Government speak in guarded terms. Mr. Asquith is particularly bland, purposely vague; but very courteous. The temper of the House of Commons at present is quite amazing. No heat! The atmosphere is that of academic discussion. We have wondered, as we read their speeches, how it would have been if these gentlemen had been discussing the future of their own sons, and if they had known that the mothers of the children were waiting at home for the report of the decision of the House. In such circumstances would even heated debate have been held to be indecorous? We think not. They were dealing not with their own children but with the children of agricultural labourers. Some of these men are in the new army; many are fighting at the front. Their children and the mothers of their children should be to the nation a sacred trust. Yet, of them no mention is made. The Government grants the necessity for additional labour but is

MRS. DESPARD ON THE PUBLIC HOUSE.

The announcement that our President would speak on "The Public-House" at our "Wednesday" afternoon at the Suffrage Club on March 10 brought together a large and eagerly interested audience that demonstrated throughout warm support of her ideas and the attempt to be made by the North London Branches of the Women's Freedom League to realise them.

Mrs. Despard pointed out how words had been degraded from their original meaning—"hell," simply a place of spirits; "damnation," only condemnation; "bloody," really "By our lady," etc.—and that the "public-house," instead of being an honoured possession of a public of men and women, had become practically a monopoly often of the lowest type of men, a poor, ugly place, and a shame to the nation. The lives of women are more monotonous than those of men, there is less diversion, less change; they have only the doorstep as a place to interchange views; if they go to the public-house they must pay their toll of a glass or glasses of drink. Mrs. Despard urged the necessity of a public-house where men, women and children could go without stigma or degradation, not "belonging to the 'igh people'" but their own, managed by themselves, a proper place of entertainment where good food and drink can be obtained at reasonable prices. It would be good for the Government, she maintained, if working women were consulted in schemes of social legislation.

Mrs. Despard told how the North London Branches of the Women's Freedom League are to make an experiment on the lines suggested, and open "The Despard Arms," at 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-street, on March 27. The house has been for fourteen years the home of the Esperance Club, started by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Miss Mary Neal, and a centre of the revival of Morris Dancing. It is now only used on two or three evenings in the week and rooms are available, clean, well lighted, furnished, airy. It will be open to men and women for refreshment and recreation; food and non-alcoholic drinks will be supplied at very reasonable prices; games, picture papers, etc., will be provided, and from time to time various entertainments given. The Morris dancers will give an evening on Monday, March 29, and our good friend, Mr. Harrison Hill, has promised to come on the opening night, also on Thursday, March 25, when there will be a "House Warming" to give friends an opportunity of seeing the place and its possibilities. Mrs. Despard made an appeal for help of every kind—personal and financial, also for stores, newspapers, games, writing pads, crockery, kitchen utensils, etc. It is hoped that sufficient helpers will be available to open the "Despard Arms" on Sundays—a day on which it should be of great service—as well as every week-day, from 3 to 10 p.m. All interested were invited to communicate with the hon. secretary (*pro tem.*) of the scheme, Miss A. A. Smith, 22, Harley-road, Hampstead.

Miss Nina Boyle spoke on the fight that must be waged for the protection of the liberties already gained, many of which appear to be very lightly held by the men who govern us; a Bill to reintroduce child labour has actually been brought forward; the right of trial by jury is threatened by panic legislation. We shall be liable to such dangers, said Miss Boyle, until women have the power of the vote and can use it for the protection of liberties already won and to win new rights.

TO DISCUSS

THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO WAR & PEACE.

THREE GREAT MEETINGS for MEN and WOMEN will be held at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, on MONDAY, MARCH 22nd, at 11.0 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Chairman: The Rev. W. TEMPLE.

Speakers:

H. W. NEVINSON, Esq.	Miss ZOE FAIRFIELD
The Rev. RICHARD ROBERTS	The Rt. Rev. THE LORD BISHOP
Miss EGLANTYNE JEBB	OF LINCOLN
Miss CATHERINE E. MARSHALL	The Rev. E. S. WOODS
The Rev. Dr. ORCHARD	Miss MAUDE ROYDEN
The Rev. A. H. GRAY	The Rev. Dr. DEARMER
Mrs. BARBARA MCKENZIE	Mr. BRUCE GLASIER
Dr. HENRY T. HODGKIN	

Prices of Seats for one Meeting: 7/6, 5/-, 2/6, 1/-
" " for the 3 Meetings: 18/0, 12/6, 6/-, 2/6

FOR ADMISSION PLEASE APPLY FOR TICKETS.

Programmes and Tickets may be had from Miss LUCY GARDNER, The Collegium, 92, St. George's Square, London, S.W. Stamped, addressed Envelopes should be sent when applying for Tickets.

N.B.—Please send for Programmes for Distribution, and speak of this Conference to your friends.

exceedingly anxious that there shall be no hurried legislation: a little "elasticity of administration," more latitude given to local authorities, who, after all, must be supposed to know the needs of their respective districts, and all will be well. As soon as ever the war is over, things may resume their normal course. But, will they? Moreover, what is this local authority? In agricultural districts it will be composed principally of farmers and their relatives. No matter, we are told. They are good people, who could not possibly be hard upon the children. By the by, Mr. Chaplin, who advocated wholesale surrender of the little boys to the farmer, made a rather significant admission. He was speaking of other expedients. "They (the farmers may get them," he said, "from the reformatory schools, but what are they as compared with the boys living in their own villages, *under their own thumbs and known to them?*" (Italics ours.)

The parents of these boys are also known to them; some may be wives of men in the army; they will live probably in the houses owned by those who wish to employ their children: the same persons will be members of Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Associations, or of Local Relief Committees. If a mother objects to the breaking-off of her child's education, almost before it has begun; if she feels that its body is too immature to stand the strain of starting work, in all weathers, at four o'clock in the morning, will she find a local authority sympathetic? We fear that she will, on the contrary, find herself faced with difficulties that she may not be able to encounter.

But let us not blind ourselves to the truth—beneath all this blandness and suavety there is much more than meets the eye. A deliberate effort is being made here, as elsewhere, to return to what some of these persons in authority would call "the good old times," when the labouring man was the chattel of the landowner and the wife and children were his chattels. Some of us can remember those who fought in the forefront of the battle to free the children. The memory of that noble pioneer, Sir Samuel Romilly, who died before he had seen the beginning of his reforms even attempted, is still green; Lord Shaftesbury was near the close of his grand life of conflict and victory; Mrs. Barrett Browning's poem, "The Cry of the Children," had stirred the heart of England, as it was stirred a little earlier by "Uncle Tom's Cabin." These splendid fighters in the cause of righteousness have left us; but their memory and, we hope, their spirit remains. Are we, by our pusillanimity now, by our readiness to use the bodies of children for a stepping-stone to economic safety, even as they were used to in bygone days for a stepping-stone to commercial success, to throw our nation back into the industrial hopelessness from which they by their heroic efforts raised it? If women can prevent it, this shall not be.

There is much to be said about the other expedients, especially the employment of women in the fields. Of this we will write next week.

C. DESPARD.

"THE DESPARD ARMS."

To all members of the Women's Freedom League, friends, enemies and sympathisers!

Come to the House-Warming
at 50, Cumberland Market, Albany Street (near Portland Road Station, Metropolitan Railway; Motor 'Bus No. 3), on THURSDAY, March 25, 7 to 10 p.m.

Bring your own Supper.

Bring also a "Pound" contribution of any kind. You will then see what "The Despard Arms" will do when open to the public—men and women—on March 27, at 7.30 p.m.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1914, £25,135 5s. 7d

Table with columns for amount previously acknowledged, £ s. d., and lists of donors and amounts.

Table listing Café Chantant donors and amounts, including Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Sholl, and others.

Table listing individual donors and amounts, including Miss J. L. Bunten, Mrs. Schofield Coates, and others.

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South-Western Bank, Limited."

To Branch Treasurers.—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treas.

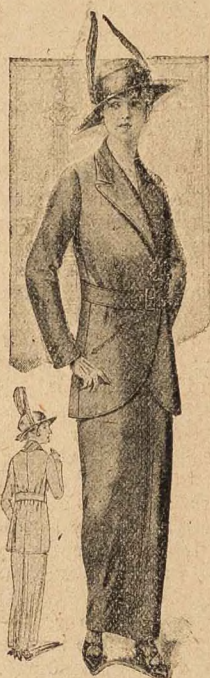
WE CALL THE ATTENTION of our readers to the Conference which will be held on Monday, March 22, at the Central Hall, Westminster, to discuss the religious aspect of the Women's Movement in relation to war and peace.

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BRANCH NOTES.

Bournemouth. A successful meeting was held by kind permission of Mrs. Hume at Freedom Hall on Wednesday, March 3, the speakers being Miss Eunice Murray and Mr. Laurence Housman; Mrs. Hume presided.

Chester. We welcomed Miss Ada Broughton at an afternoon meeting on March 13, and those who attended were very interested in her address. We were fortunate in securing Miss Trotter, who happened to be in Chester for the weekend, for the chair.

Clapham. We had a very successful meeting on Thursday, March 11, at the Wirtemberg Hall, the speakers being our President (Mrs. Despard), Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Tippet; Miss Winifred St. Clair presided.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street. Now that Spring-cleaning is commencing, will members please remember our Spring Jumble Sale?

[Continued on pages 539 and 540.]

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

Friday, March 19.—PUBLIC MEETING, Croydon W.F.L., 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 3.30 p.m.; speaker: Miss Goddard.

Saturday March 20.—WHIST DRIVE, Croydon W.F.L., 32a, The Arcade, High-st., 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W.; speaker: the Rev. C. Baumgarten, "Ideals of Social Government," and Mrs. Mustard.

Thursday, March 25.—"DESPARD ARMS" House Warming, 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st., 7.30 to 10 p.m.

Friday, March 26.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 1, Mount-st., Berkeley-sq., W., by kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister, 3.30 to 5 p.m.; speakers: Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Tippet.

Saturday, March 27.—"DESPARD ARMS," 50, Cumberland Market, Albany-st. Opening by Mrs. Despard, 7.30.

Wednesday, April 14.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3.30 p.m.; speaker: the Rev. W. Piggott, "Expert Bureaucracy as Freedom's Foe." MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 18.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speaker: The Rev. Hatty Baker, "The War and After." Admission free. Tea 6d. (obtainable at the Club).

Wednesday, April 21.—PUBLIC MEETING, the Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, 3.30; Mrs. Despard and others.

Friday, April 30.—DISCUSSION MEETING, The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, 8 p.m. Mr. W. L. George: Subject, "Woman and the Arts." Admission by ticket, 1s. (numbered and reserved). There will also be a few 6d. tickets.

PROVINCES.

Monday, March 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.; "At Home." Speaker: Miss Veitch, N.U.W.S.S., on "Women—To-day." Music, refreshments.

Monday, April 12.—MIDDLESBROUGH, 8 p.m., "At Home." Speaker: Rev. T. C. Gobat, on "Mrs. Warren's Profession."

Saturday, April 17.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Bazaar, Suffrage Centre, 2.30-10.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH.

Sunday, March 21.—NEWTOWN, Public Meeting, Central Hall. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro, on "Peace and War"; 3 p.m.

Monday, March 22.—LLANSAINTFFRAID, Drawing Room Meeting, Bôd Gwylim. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. 3 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 25.—TREFEGLWYN, Public Meeting, National School. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro; chair: Miss Alix. M. Clark. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30.—LLANFYLIN, "At Home," Town Hall. President: Mrs. Busch Mitchell. Subject, "Peace and War." Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. 3.30 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31.—WELSHPOOL, Public Meeting, Town Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Munro; chair: Miss Alix. M. Clark. 8 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, March 19.—GLASGOW, Drawing-Room Meeting, Mrs. Kelsall, 29, Queensborough-Gardens. 3 p.m.; speaker: Miss Boyle.

Saturday, March 20.—GLASGOW OPEN-AIR MEETING, "The Fountain," Langside Halls. 7.30 p.m.; speaker: Miss Boyle.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Friday, March 19.—WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD, Bowes Park; speaker, Miss Anna Munro, 7.45 p.m.

Wednesday, March 31.—NORTH LONDON CLARION FELLOWSHIP, Pine House, Holloway-road, N. 8.15; Miss Nina Boyle, "Impertinences."

Advertisement for William Clarke & Son's Coal. Text: Make the home bright by using William CLARKE & SON'S COAL. Splendid Value. Prices on Application. 341, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. Phone. 3656 North.

[Continued from page 538.] the "Pound Day" and cakes and preserves to our provision stall at the Café Chantant; also members of other Branches, who so kindly brought home-made preserves, etc.,

Dunfermline

A meeting was held at 2, Kirkgate, on March 9, when arrangements were made for a social evening in the Masonic Hall, New Row, on Wednesday, March 24, at 7.30 p.m. It is hoped that members will turn out and make this social as great a success as the last. Tickets at 1/3 each can be had from the hon. secretary, or from members of the Committee.

Stirling Bigamy Case.—We have written to the Secretary for Scotland demanding the immediate release of Jane Simpson (or Wilson), sentenced at Stirling for bigamy, and have had published in the weekly Press a full report of the case and of the action taken by the Women's Freedom League.

East London.

Owing to Miss Adams having an important engagement which prevents our being able to use her flat for the projected Branch meeting on March 22, it has been postponed till Tuesday, March 23, at 6 p.m. All members are urged to attend and to contribute to the discussion on "Boy Labour in War Time."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB. 9, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W. FOR MEN AND WOMEN. SUBSCRIPTIONS: London Members (Resident within 15 miles of Charing Cross) per annum One Guinea. Entrance Fee One Guinea. Country Members (England and Wales) per annum One Guinea (No Entrance Fee). Country Members (Ireland and Scotland) per annum 10s. 6d. (No Entrance Fee). Foreign Members (Resident abroad) per annum 10s. 6d. (No Entrance Fee). Valuable Lending and Reference Library for Members. English and Foreign Books dealing with every aspect of the Women's Movement. Non-members enrolled as Associates by paying 5/6 per ann. Luncheons, 1/- and 1/6. Dinners, 1/- and 1/9. All particulars—SECRETARY. Tel.: 3932 Mayfair.

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ONE
PENNY

THE VOTE

CWEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Liverpool.

A very successful meeting was held on March 10, in the Hardman Hall, to demand that woman's voice should be heard in any peace settlement, and to protest against registration and police supervision of soldiers' wives and against the high prices of food, and to demand enfranchisement of women without delay. Miss Janet Heyes (Manchester), who presided, moved a resolution embodying these views, which was seconded by Mr. John Cook (Manchester), and carried with enthusiasm. Miss Eunice Murray, who was the principal speaker, protested strongly against the slanderous and unfounded aspersions on the wives of soldiers by those who had never been in their homes, and repeated by the newspapers without investigations; these charges were reflected by the measures of registration and surveillance; but though the slander had been again and again disproved by statistics and by experience, no apology had been received from the Government or the Press. Mr. Asquith's speech in the food prices debate amounted to nothing more than a whitewashing of everybody. Less whitewashing and more action was wanted. New members were enrolled and others promised to join. The "Vote" and other Suffrage Literature was on sale. The following evening an excellent open-air meeting was held in Beaumont Street. Miss Trott took the chair, and Miss Broughton addressed the crowd, which gave her a splendid hearing.

Regents Park.

On March 2 the first meeting of the Regent's Park Branch was held at 27, York-terrace, Regent's Park, by kind permission of our hon. treasurer, Mrs. Eastman, who presided. Miss Underwood addressed us in a short and forcible manner on our duties as members of the Women's Freedom League. The feature of the meeting was a lively discussion on the ways and means of the "Despard Arms," and we all resolved to exert every effort, in co-operation with the other North London Branches, to make this fine scheme a great success, hoping that our friends will come forward with many offers of money and personal help. To enlarge and strengthen our Branch, we hope all friends of the W.F.L. living in this district will join us without delay. Will they please send in their names to the hon. secretary, Miss Karpeles, 35, Cumberland Mansions, Bryanston-square, W.?

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

Members of the Women's Freedom League will be interested to know that our President has been appointed a delegate to the International Congress of Women at the Hague, on April 28-30, 1915. The Peace Palace has already been found too small to accommodate the members who will attend. Among the sympathisers in Great Britain are Lady Courtney, Mrs. Charles Trevelyan, Mrs. C. R. Buxton, and Councillor Margaret Ashton. Offices are now open at Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.; Miss Chrystal Macmillan is hon. secretary.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.
THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Mar. 24, the Rev. C. Baumgarten, "Ideals of Social Government"; and Mrs. Mustard, 3.30 p.m.

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