

# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.  
 Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 25.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1914.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Sept. 6th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park—Miss Bouvier.  
 8 p.m.—The Women's Hall.  
 Monday, Sept. 7th, 3 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Member's Meeting.  
 8 p.m.—Custom House, Freemason's Road  
 8.30 p.m.—South Hackney, Swiss Cottage.—Mr. Charles Gray.  
 Tuesday, Sept. 8th, 2.30 p.m.—Hackney, 30 Churchhill Road—Mrs. Scurr.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates—Mrs. Walker.  
 8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Courtts Rd.—Miss Rickards.  
 Wednesday, Sept. 9th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.—Miss Lynch.  
 8 p.m.—Chrip St.—Miss Somers.  
 Thursday, Sept. 10th, 3 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.—Women's Meeting.  
 8 p.m.—Canning Town, 124 Barking Rd.—8 p.m.—Bromley, Knapp Rd.—Mrs. Walker  
 Friday, Sept. 11th, 8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Miss Somers.  
 8 p.m.—Poplar, Piggott St.—Mrs. Walker.

## E.L.F.S.

**"COST PRICE"**  
**RESTAURANT,**  
 400 Old Ford Road, E.  
**2-Course Meals**  
**Price 2d.**

12 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Soup 1d. a pint, 7 to 8 p.m.

Meals may be eaten in the Restaurant or taken home.

## OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

We have been able to find some paid employment for women in our restaurant, and orders for women's, babies' and children's underclothing have been given out, but many more are asking for work. Some brush-making has been done.

Several women who make babies' kid shoes have applied to us for work. A Gentleman's Collar Worker applies for work to do at home.

A Head Mistress living in Wales offers home to a delicate young woman and aged couple as house-keepers, also home for growing girl in healthy district; train fares paid.

Our first "Cost Price Restaurant" was opened on Monday under the management of Mrs. Ennis Richmond. Dinner is served from 12 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 2d. a head, and from 6 to 8 p.m., a pint of soup, with bread, may be had for 1d. Food may be bought to take home.

The R. S. P. U. very kindly gave their time to make tables for the Restaurant.

**WANTED for our babies milk distribution centres, milk, eggs, in order that the whites may be beaten up in water in cases where milk cannot be digested, barley for making barley water. Doctors and nurses are asked to volunteer for service amongst our babies.**

**WANTED for our "Cost Price" Restaurants, where dinners are provided at 2d. a head; meat, Fruit and Vegetables and food of all kinds.**

The "Forward" estimates that 500 rent summonses are being issued in Glasgow each week.

When you are in distress, do not take the food out of your children's mouths to pay the landlord.

Do not allow your neighbours to be driven out.

## MUST THEY BE TURNED OUT?

At Tately, in Essex, lives a man who is forty years of age, and who, till seven years ago, was a bricklayer. He then had an accident which caused inflammation of the eyes, and he lost his sight. He learned basket making and so managed to keep his wife and five children. The eldest boy is fourteen and has just left school, and would like to get work but cannot owing to the war. The father, too, now finds that people do not want baskets, and that the materials for making them have gone up in price.

## EAST LONDON WOMEN AT THE BOARD OF TRADE.

On Wednesday afternoon, September 2nd, a deputation from the East London Federation of the Suffragettes waited on the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Runciman in Whitehall Gardens.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, who introduced the deputation, said 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.

charged by some of the larger shops in the same district.

The small shopkeepers were suffering great hardships, because whilst the wholesale dealers were forcing them to pay high prices, they could not get high prices from their customers. Many women members of the East London Federation kept little shops and these women knew that the women who came to buy of them could not afford to pay more than they used to do for food and so they, who were no richer than their customers, were in some cases selling commodities at a loss.

The deputation from the East London Federation had come to say that prices must be kept down to what the majority of the people could afford to pay. If this were not done many of the children would die and there would be widespread physical deterioration amongst those who lived.

Normal prices before the war ought to be the maximum now, indeed the maximum was already becoming too high as unemployment and short time were rapidly increasing. Moreover, rates of wages for those in work were liable to go down as strikes were useless now.

If the private traders could not keep the prices down the Government could. It was not for the members of the deputation to work out the details of the scheme. The Government had sources of information and opportunities for gathering it that were not open to them, but they who came from the heart of a district where there was suffering and hardship through the high prices of necessities, must urge with insistence that the Government should take control of the supplies and keep the prices down. The Government could accomplish this if they would fix the prices at which the farmer, importer, or manufacturer should sell, at a fixed profit, the Government making good the deficit, if any. The Government should also fix the prices, at a fixed profit, at which goods were to be sold in the shop.

It might be objected that if the Government were to make good the deficit in cases where, for instance, an importer was expected to sell goods at a lower price than he had paid for them, the rates and taxes would be greatly increased, but the people had got to be fed somehow. They could not be allowed to starve. To feed them would cost money however it were done. It would be cheaper for the Government to pay something to keep the price of food down than to give it away wholesale. In doing so they would help poor people who were too proud to ask for charity and prevent them suffering more than those who did not find it hard to beg. Moreover, they would prevent unscrupulous people from making enormous profits. Where food had to be given away Government control would facilitate this.

If the Government preferred, they could nationalise the food supply, and put the shopkeepers in as managers at a fixed salary.

In Switzerland the Government had taken control of the food supply. Mrs. Whyte, of Edinburgh (mother of Mr. A. S. Whyte, M.P.), had just returned from Lausanne and had reported that Government price lists were put up in all the shops and that the quantity sold to each customer was restricted. Policemen were stationed ready to be called into the shops in case of overcharging. In order to preserve food for actual

(Continued on page 99, col. 1.)



"COST PRICE" RESTAURANT, OLD FORD ROAD.

The mother is delicate and there is a baby of seven months old. The rent, 15s. a month for a 4-roomed house and garden, is two months in arrears.

The landlord is a well-off man who could afford to wait, but he has served the following curt notice:—

"I give you notice to quit the house occupied by you on September 12th. Signed—"  
 Houses are difficult to get in the country. What can these poor people do?

Our correspondent says:—"Starvation stares them all in the face. Can anything be done? They are so thoroughly respectable. I think they deserve help against a landlord who is hard upon them."

We have advised our correspondent to write to the Home Office and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to advise the people to refuse to go, and to stir up the local public to protect them. Also to stir up the local authorities to find work for the unemployed.

But does anyone want any baskets in the meantime?

## RENT!

Last week we reported the case of Mrs. P. of Wyke Road, Bow, whose nearly blind husband was taken off to prison for failure, through poverty and misfortune, to send their little girl to school, and whose landlord had written saying he was sending a bailiff with a warrant to distrain because they were in arrears with their rent. The E.L.F.S. agitated busily as soon as the case was brought to our knowledge, and after a few hours negotiation through Parliament and the Home Office, Mr. P. was released and the warrant to distrain was refused.

Several other women have come to us asking for protection against their landlords, and so far no warrants have been issued in these cases. Come to us if you are in trouble with your landlord.

In East London the average of wages was very low, and the women were only able to buy the barest necessities at the best of times. When war first broke out the small consumers of East London had suffered acutely. The mothers had not been able to buy anything like their usual quantity of provisions and a large proportion of families had gone hungry for several days of the week.

To keep the prices down the Government had called a committee of big traders, people interested in keeping prices up. The deputation had come to say that those who ought to form the committee are those who know what the people of the nation can afford to pay. The women were of opinion that the big dealers were making more profit than usual out of the war and that they could well afford to sell cheaper. Miss Pankhurst here read an extract from a letter from one of the largest corn and flour merchants in the North of England, in which he said:—

"Business has been very brisk for the last month, and markets gradually rising, which always means a fairly good time for us."

The strongest proof that the prices fixed had been unnecessarily high was that so many shopkeepers had been able to charge much less. It was useless for the Government to fix a maximum so high that shopkeepers could not force their customers to pay it; that amounted to leaving the public to keep the prices down for themselves.

There was need for the Government control of the food supplies in order to protect the small shopkeepers as well as the consumers, and proof that many large traders could afford to sell more cheaply was found in the fact that many small East London shopkeepers, who could only afford to buy in small quantities and who therefore bought at a great relative disadvantage, were selling the same food at lower prices than those



## DISTRICT REPORTS.

## BOW AND BROMLEY.

**Organiser (pro tem.)—Mrs. BOUVIER.**  
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.  
Good meetings have been held at Chrisp Street and other open-air places, and at the Women's Hall on Sunday. Canvassing is going on steadily and more volunteers for this splendid work are needed. Thanks to all those who canvassed and helped at the stall last week. Members went lobbying at the House on Tuesday. More helpers for the stall (Friday, 6-10 p.m., Saturday 11-1 o'clock and 6-10 p.m.) are needed. Even one hour of help will be of the greatest assistance.

**Dreadnoughts** sold week ending Aug. 28:—  
Central 284. Bow and Bromley 282.

Mrs. Payne 61  
Miss Roach 72  
Miss Winter 51

**CONTRIBUTED:**  
Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Savoy, 250; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Mrs. Watkins, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 100.

## POPLAR.

**Office—319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.**

**Organiser—Miss MARY PHILLIPS.**  
Thanks are due to members who went lobbying to the House of Commons on Tuesday. Mrs. Schlette and Mrs. Hicks have taken charge of milk distribution at 319 East India Dock Road. Good meetings at East India Dock Gates and Piggett Street. Mrs. Drake will be in charge of the work during the Organiser's absence.

## SOUTH WEST HAM.

**Hon. Sec.—Mrs. DAISY PARSONS,**  
94 Ravenscroft Road.

During the past week members have been lobbying Members of Parliament to take control of food supplies. Six of our members have registered themselves for relieving distress cases. This proves to be an excellent way of canvassing. There will be no indoor meeting next Thursday at 12:45 Barking Road. Mrs. Bouvier spoke at the "Peacock" on Monday, and Nurse Smith on Thursday, gave a very interesting speech on "Health of the Children."

**91 Dreadnoughts** sold week ending Aug. 28.  
**Canning Town.** Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Layton and Mrs. Tidmarsh.  
**Plaistow.** Dist. leader—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beauford Rd. Distributor—Mrs. Cook.  
**Custom House.** Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chantler Road. Distributor—Mrs. Pullen.

**Tidal Basin.** Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributor—Miss Greenleaf.  
**Silvertown.** Dist. leader—Miss G. Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributors—Miss Nicholas and friends.

## OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

## R. S. P. U.

**Hon. Sec.—J. W. BONARIUS,** 89 Wyke Road.  
Meetings as usual on Wednesday and Friday to urge the Government to take over food supplies and give Votes to Women. Tickets for benefit concert in aid of Comrade Wise, of R. S. P. U. and Gas Workers' Union, may be had from any member of the R. S. P. U. We are holding a social in the Women's Hall on Saturday, September 19th. Those who are in distress through the war are asked to give full particulars to J. W. Bonarius, at the above address, any evening he will then forward same to Labour Members on the Central Committee formed to relieve distress in this district.

**50 Dreadnoughts** sold week ending Aug. 28.

## GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

Anon 5/-, Mrs. Baillie Weaver £1, Ben Webster, Esq. £5, Mrs. Adshad £5, Miss Glickstein £4, Mrs. Robinson 5/-, Tom Norris, Esq. 10/-, Miss Lucie James £1, Miss E. Limousine 2/-, Mrs. Fels £5, Mrs. & Miss Hicks £2, Miss Griffiths 2/-, Miss McMunn £1, Anon 10/-, Miss H. Newcomb £1, Mrs. Mansel Pleydell £1, Mrs. E. M. Morrison £1, Miss H. M. Collier £2, Miss Setchfield 2/6, Miss E. Gore Browne £1, Misses Sidney Woolf 3/-, Miss Mgt. Douglas 2/-, Miss G. Lambert 2/-, Signora Pascoli £1, Anon 4/-, Miss Baillie 7/6, Mrs. Bullied 10/-, Miss Norbury £1, Miss Wells 10/-, Mrs. Singer £1 15/-, Sandy Kirkwood, Esq. 2/6, Miss Hancock 5/-, Miss Hardy £1, Anon £1, Two Suffragettes £2, Miss Carter £3, Miss Jane Lomax 2/6.

## FOR MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.

Mrs. Haverson £2/2, Mrs. A. E. Wener £1, Mrs. Baillie Weaver £1, W. R. Garrett 10/-, Mrs. and Miss Douglas £1, Miss Llewellyn Davies 10/-, Mrs. O. K. Simes 12/-, Miss F. E. Rowe £1, E. A. D. White, Esq. 10/-, Anon £1, Anon £6, Mrs. Beverley 5/-, Mrs. M. E. Dunn £1, Mr. & Mrs. Stuckley £2, E. E. E. Dunn Esq. £1, Mrs. Julie Morris 5/-, Miss F. M. Thomas 10/-, per Miss G. Stewart £1/9/0, Mrs. Richmond 10/-, Mrs. Kenny 10/-, F. A. Carlton Smith, Esq. 2/-, A. Postmistress 10/-, Free Church Suffragist 1/-, per International Suffrage Shop £2/2/6, Mrs. Hanson 2/6, A Working-woman 1/-, Miss Kidd 5/-, Mrs. Warry 5/-, For Milk, etc. 2/6, Miss K. Wells 10/-, Mrs. Seimens £1.

**EGGS—Mrs. Pike,** Miss Durham, Mrs. Burke, Misses Spang.  
**BARLEY, ETC.—Mrs. Ferguson** and others.  
**MILK—Mrs. Alger,** Harrow C.L.W.S. per Mrs. Foxwell.  
**FRUIT & VEGETABLES—Miss Fedden,** A Friend.

**A. E. WAKEFIELD,** 259 Old Ford Road, Grocer.—General Stores.—Goods of best quality. Clubs held.

## OUR DEMANDS.

(1) That during the war the food supply shall be controlled by the Government in the interests of all the people, in order that all may feed or starve together, without regard to wealth or social position. To make sure that the food supply is properly controlled, we demand that working women shall be called into consultation in fixing the prices to be charged for food, and the way in which the food shall be distributed.

(2) That committees with Governmental power shall be formed to provide employment for men and women at trade union rates; women to be paid at equal rates with men for equal work.

(3) That the Moratorium be extended to rent and debts under £5 as well as to debts over £5, as it is of vital importance that homes shall be kept together, and the poor who have contracted debts under £5, which are large in proportion to their income, need this relief as much or more than the rich.

(4) That working women shall be placed on all committees for fixing food prices, and for providing employment and relief.

(5) That the Parliamentary franchise be immediately granted to women in order that they may help in minimising, as far as possible, the horrors of war.

## OUR DUTY.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes has offered what service it can give to the mayors in the districts where its work lies. To lend aid to the relief committees is not a thing for which anyone need wish to take special credit; it is the ordinary instinct of humanity to do what one can at such a time of exceptional crisis and distress. The members of the Federation are mostly poor and busy women; they cannot give so much in material matters and millionaires, but they know by experience the needs of working women. The Federation feels that its principal duty is to bring pressure to bear on the Government, which has much greater power to attend to such matters than any number of private individuals, to secure justice for the women, and especially the working women of the country.

If women had the vote the prospect of securing justice in all such matters would be brighter, but in the meantime the Federation is determined to do what it can to keep the working women's point of view to the fore.

## WE ALSO URGE.

That all vacant pieces of waste ground in crowded districts be purchased, and that these be used both for building cottages with gardens and for laying out playgrounds for the children living in existing cottages without gardens and situated far from a park.

That housing and drainage improvements be carried out wherever there is need, and especially in the streets in the neighbourhood of Suffolk Street and Sussex Street, in the North Ward of Poplar, in order that the lower rooms in these streets may not be, as at present, flooded with foul smelling water during spring tides and in heavy rains.

That the Local Representative Committees co-operate with the Borough Council with a view to these schemes being carried out by the aid of a portion of the £4,000,000 building grant which has been set aside under the New Emergency Housing Act, and that the Local Representative Committee approach the Local Government Board, the Cabinet Committee, and the Prince of Wales' Fund for any financial or other assistance that may be necessary.

That the Borough Council be approached and asked to arrange that the dust pails shall be emptied every day instead of twice a week as at present, and that larger pails with lids shall be provided, in order both to provide employment and to improve the sanitary conditions.

All work to be paid for at Trade Union rates and women to receive the same pay as men when doing the same work.

That the Local Representative Committees open as many factories as may be necessary to provide work for unemployed garment and shoe and hat makers, and that home work for women be given out in conjunction with these factories. Clothing made to be afterwards given free of charge in necessitous cases.

That the Local Representative Committees open factories for food preserving, the Government to be

asked to carry food free of charge on the railways for use in these factories. Freight charges for food in ordinary use to be greatly reduced. The Food preserved in the Local Representative Committee's Factories to be used under the direction of the Committees and chiefly for necessitous cases.

That the Local Representative Committee establish as many restaurants as may be necessary, where food may be sold cheaply for consumption on or off the premises and free tickets for which may be given by the Ward Sub-Committee in necessitous cases.

That the Local Representative Committee approach the Local Government Board, the Cabinet Committee, and the Prince of Wales' Fund for any financial or other assistance that may be necessary. All work to be paid for at Trade Union rates, and women to receive equal pay with men when doing the same work.

That the scheme set forth in the Memorandum issued by the Local Government Board on mother and child welfare, including free clinics, systematic medical advice at home and hospital treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and infants under school age, be adopted and that to it shall be added the provision of free milk for babies in every case in which it can be shown that the family is not able to provide for the baby as much milk as a child of its age ought to have, the milk to be provided, either on the recommendation of the nurse or doctor, or in response to an application by the father, mother or guardian.

Also that expectant mothers and their children under school age shall be given adequate nourishment, either by the provision of meals at a food centre, or by food tickets, or by payment in cash on the advice of a doctor or their own application, when it can be shown that the mothers are unable themselves to provide what is necessary. The meals should be connected with doctoring in order that the right kind of nourishment may be supplied.

That free meals for the school children shall be given on Saturday, Sunday and other holidays, and that children whose parents are receiving Poor Law Relief shall not be disqualified on that account.

That the Local Representative Committee appoint a number of women inspectors to investigate the local food prices and report with a view to prosecution where extortion is proved.

That hospitals in the locality be asked to remit fees in necessitous cases during the war, and in all cases of young children.

That where a woman has been living as the wife of a man who is in the Regular Forces or Reserve, and is the mother of his children, and he has been her financial support, she shall be entitled to the same allowance as though she were legally married to him.

That the present allowance for soldiers' and sailors' families be increased to a minimum of £1 and a maximum of £2 per week, in order that they may be spared the humiliation and serious inconvenience to which they are put, and the interference with their work both domestic and wage earning, which arises through their being obliged to attend and wait their turn each week for additional and often inadequate grants of money from the Prince of Wales' fund.

POLICE WOMEN.  
ARE THEY LEGAL?

The Home Office states that it is of opinion that an Act of Parliament will be necessary to enable women to be sworn as constables or special constables, with power of arrest. Nevertheless two women have been duly sworn as special constables at Sandgate, in Kent.

Sir George Sherston Baker wrote to the *Times* of July 26th asserting that there was "ample authority" for the appointment of women constables, and in support of his view said:—"I say authority, because the numerous statutes which have interlarded the common law of England may have affected the immediate possibility of such appointments without a new Act of Parliament. That is a mere question of careful perusal of the Statute-book. But I desire to point out that such authority does exist. In the 28th year of George III. (1788) the

appointment of a woman overseer was debated in the King's Bench. The Court allowed the validity of the appointment. Mr. Justice Ashurst in giving the judgment of the Court said: "There are many instances where women in offices of a higher nature are held not to be disqualified, as in the case of the office of High Chamberlain, High Constable, and Marshal, and that of a common constable." (2 Term R. 395).

To this I may add that the celebrated Ann Countess of Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery had, according to Coke, the office of hereditary sheriff of Westmorland (civil and criminal) and exercised it in person. At the assizes at Appleby she sat with the Judges on the bench.

I could cite other instances, but will only add one more—that of Lady Braughton, who, as it appears from Keble's Reports, was in 1684 the Keeper of the Prison of the Gate House of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster."

It is now generally admitted that policemen would be helpful in aiding homeless women and children, and in difficult cases concerning them, but in some quarters doubts are expressed of their power to attain all-round efficiency.

Even the most burly of male policemen is not always an athlete and prizefighter. In Bow recently six policemen were unable to take one young amateur boxer to prison, and reinforcements had to be called up. Women constables would have the same power to blow a whistle for reinforcements that the policeman has, but there are other ways also of enforcing authority.

Here is an extract from the June 19th *Century and After*:—"In Denver, Colorado, there has been a woman in the police force since 1912. I was told in 1913 by friends living in the town that she had revolutionised the treatment of the young offender. 'The best man on the Denver Police force happens to be a woman,' said the chief of the police. . . . Miss Roche is the daughter of well-to-do parents, a graduate of Vassar College and a post-graduate of Columbia University. After having worked in a settlement in New York she lived in the Italian quarter there, studying the difficulties and temptations of the Italian emigrants. When she first took up the work of policewoman she tried to avoid the necessity for actual arrests. When she made the rounds of the places of amusement she did not say to the managers 'Do so and so or I will have you summoned.' She talked earnestly to them and spoke of the assaults and seduction that result from the nightly swarming of mere children to such places of amusement. She appealed to their sense of decency and love of family, and her policy turned the managers into active supporters of the law. She made the acquaintance of the leaders of the gangs of young hoodlums. She refused to consider them as criminals, and she astonished the police when they found that these young ruffians responded to her appeals to their better nature. There is a story of an energetic policeman who went in the course of his duty to a dance hall. His presence was resented by the young Irishmen present and one of them struck him violently. A fight began and the policeman was getting the worst of it, when suddenly Miss Roche appeared on the scene. She stopped the fight with a few stern words and then escorted the policeman to a place of safety."

## VOTES FOR WOMEN MEETINGS

Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, E.,  
EVERY SUNDAY,  
at 8 p.m.

## TO SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' WIVES.

You are entitled to rs. 7d. a day for yourself if you live in the London postal area, not rs. 1d. Write to the War Office if you do not get it.

If you are in distress, register at the nearest Public Library.