

THE VOTE,
JUNE 23, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

A WOMAN SUFFRAGIST IN CANADA.

MRS. ARTHUR LEWIS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1916.

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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THE PRIME MINISTER AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Following on the reply of the Prime Minister that he was unable, owing to his exacting engagements, to receive the influential Woman Suffrage Deputation which desired to place their views before him, and his request that their representations should be submitted to him in writing, the statement given below, and signed by the Deputation, has been sent. Our readers will realise its importance and keep a watchful eye on events.

27, Chancery-lane, W.C.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.

SIR,—We desire to ascertain the intention of the Government with regard to the inclusion of the enfranchisement of women in the Bill that must shortly be introduced—as the Government has admitted—to deal with the Parliamentary Register.

All parties are apparently in agreement in maintaining that no revision can be effective which does not by its proposals bring in numbers of fresh voters. We wish most urgently to represent to you that if statutory limitations as to time or other franchise qualifications are held to come within the scope of the registration scheme now under consideration of the Government, so also may statutory limitations as to sex come within the scope of this measure. We would respectfully urge this consideration upon you as revealing a welcome opportunity to include the enfranchisement of women in the forthcoming legislation to deal with the Register.

But if the Government, in spite of these representations, should take the view that women cannot be enfranchised under a Registration Act, or by Order in Council, or by other means taken to deal with the Register as it stands, then we urge that the Government shall substitute a Franchise Bill by which under no contingency will women's long overdue claims be disregarded.

Since, Sir, we are bound to anticipate any objections that may be advanced against this proposal, we wish to reply to the argument that the proposed Bill to reform the Register is an emergency measure to facilitate Parliamentary election during the war. We submit to your consideration the fact that even emergency registration reforms will hold good after the war; and we urge you to consider the further fact that there is no emergency more pressing than the political helplessness of women in view of the present industrial conditions, rendered more difficult than ever by the circumstances of the war. That women have risen to meet the nation's need in an hour of emergency

has been universally admitted. Will not the nation, as represented by the Government, take this opportunity and rise to the emergency need of women for political enfranchisement?

Both on political and on human grounds we press this course upon you. You have yourself on a former occasion expressed the opinion that Woman Suffrage suffered politically from being a non-party question. This, Sir, now becomes a cogent reason for settling it during the existence of a Coalition Cabinet. Further, if some precedent would seem to be required for enfranchising women during a war, we have it in our own Dominions, where both in Alberta and Saskatchewan women have been given the vote this year. In Denmark also—which, though not a belligerent country, is very seriously affected by the war—national unity was secured last year by the complete enfranchisement of women.

On human grounds we need hardly appeal to you, Sir, who on more than one occasion during the war have publicly testified to the splendid war services of women. But we would submit to you that to praise women without acknowledging their fitness for citizenship amounts to a tacit endorsement of their political subjection in its suggestion that it is their service and not their intelligent co-operation that you recognise, desire, or value. In no sense do women ask reward for what they have freely and disinterestedly given; least of all do they regard a constitutional right in the light of a reward. But if the votes of men are to be secured to them by reason of their war service—the reason most frequently advanced for registration reform at this time—the votes of women cannot with justice be withheld when they, too, are giving all they have to give in our country's defence, and bearing at least an equal share of the burden and suffering that war brings upon the whole nation.

For these reasons, and for others which will be readily suggested to you by your political experience, your sense of justice, and by the humanity that is common to us all, we urge you to take this great opportunity of performing an act of wisdom and beneficence which will cause the Coalition

Government to be remembered long after the tragedy that called it into existence has become but a dim memory.—We are, yours faithfully,

(Signed) THERESE MUIR MACKENZIE, H. W. MASSINGHAM, FLORENCE FENWICK MILLER, HENRY W. NEVINSON, FREDERICK WHELEN, BEN TURNER, WINIFRED HOLIDAY, HERBERT H. ELVIN, W. C. ROBINSON, EVELYN SHARP, MURIEL DE LA WARR, RUTH CAVENDISH BENTINCK, ANNE COBDEN SANDERSON, CHARLOTTE DESPARD, VERNON HARTSHORN, GERTRUDE FORBES-ROBERTSON, ROBERT SMILLIE, J. SPRING RICE, M. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT, ROBERT WILLIAMS, M. A. ST. CLAIR STOBART, JOHN MASEFIELD, JOHN PERRY, BEN TILLET.

The following covering letter accompanied the statement:—

27, Chancery-lane, W.C., June 9th, 1916.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.

SIR,—I enclose a signed statement by the members of the proposed Suffrage deputation setting forth briefly what they would have liked to represent to you personally had you been able to receive them. They beg you to give your earnest and judicial consideration to their views before the Government's proposals on the subject are finally formulated.

The deputation wish me to add that, while appreciating your reasons for being unable to grant them an interview, they still feel, in view of your statement in the House on June 1—that the Government "have this question under consideration, and will state their conclusions at an early date after the recess"—that it is of the utmost importance for them to be able to present the women's side of the question to those who are engaged in arriving at these conclusions. They would therefore ask you to be so good as to arrange for them to be received by the Minister or Ministers responsible for the drafting of the Government's proposals at some date before the reassembling of Parliament.

Trusting to your courtesy and to your appreciation of the importance both of the situation and of the personnel of the deputation to see that this interview is granted in compensation for your own inability to receive them,—I am, yours faithfully,

BARBARA AYRTON GOULD,
Hon. Sec. Deputation Committee.

Forecasts.

The forecast on the eve of the reassembling of Parliament was that there would be no general election this year. *The Daily Telegraph* considered the question of the duration of Parliament was not pressing, that the line of least resistance would be followed, and that "Parliament will again extend its own existence. The Lobby correspondent of *The Daily News* arrived at the same conclusion by the following reasoning:—

After a brief visit to the constituencies members return to Westminster with the conviction that the country will not stand a general election this year. It is apparently the one thing that the constituencies regard as the most illogical and futile at this juncture, and, incidentally, the Local Government Board has been quite unable up to the present to devise a scheme for giving soldiers on service the vote. Their commanding officers regard this as an altogether unnecessary complication to discipline. The prospects of the Registration Bill, on this and other grounds, are therefore diminishing. Nobody now seriously contemplates the possibility of a general election before the year is out. The life of this Parliament must again be renewed for a term.

The Unionist War Committee, however, urges prompt legislation. At its meeting on June 20, under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Carson, it was agreed to put the following notice of motion on the Order Paper for an early day:—

That in the opinion of this House it is the duty of the Government without further delay to introduce legislation to prepare a new Register of Parliamentary voters, and to confer the Parliamentary franchise on all sailors and soldiers who are serving, or have served, in his Majesty's Forces.

Resolution from Letchworth Suffragists.

A united meeting of Suffrage Societies was held at Letchworth to discuss the possibilities of the threatened Registration Bill, and the following letter was sent to the Prime Minister:—

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

Women's Freedom League.

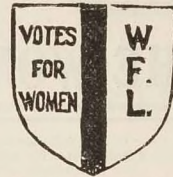
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Chair: Miss Hodge.

Sunday, June 25.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 12 noon. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner and Miss Hodge.

Wednesday, June 28.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Chair: Miss K. B. Smith.

Thursday, June 29.—NINE ELMS SETTLEMENT, "At Home," 1, Everett-street, 4.30 to 7.30 p.m. Tea, Music and Short Speeches.

Sunday, July 2.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 12 noon. Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

Monday, July 3.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Thursday, July 6.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, July 8.—DESPARD ARMS. AFTERNOON SPORTS, 22, Harley-road, Hampstead. Friends 1s., including tea, 4 to 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 9.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Nevinson. Thursday, July 13.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 3d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead Road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinner and supper from 6d.) and recreation. Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Monday, June 26.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Branch Meeting at Suffrage Centre. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 5.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Garden Party at Wilthrop House, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates). Tickets 1s. 3 to 6.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, July 1.—EDINBURGH. Summer Sale, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 3 p.m. Please note change of date.

The Prime Minister and Woman Suffrage.

(Continued.)

"Erin."

William Way,
Letchworth, Herts.

To the Right Honourable H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.
SIR,—A Committee, representative of the following Women's Societies of Letchworth, earnestly desire to press upon the Government the following points with regards to the proposed Registration Bill:—

1. Any alteration which changes the basis of the Parliamentary franchise, while overlooking the just claims of women, would be widely and deeply resented throughout the country.

2. Women equally with men are giving valuable service to their country both at home and abroad, and they demand equal opportunities to share in the work of reconstruction that lies before all in the immediate future.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully, (Signed) F. WILKINSON, M. STEEN (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies); CLARA LEE, ANITA HARRISON (Women's Freedom League); RUTH PYM, G. D. GARROD (United Suffragists); M. F. TILLYARD, E. PEARSON (British Women's Temperance Society); DOROTHEA HUNTER, FLORENCE FIRTH (Women's International League).

THEY SUPPORT US!

ANOTHER BRICK TO THE PYRAMID.

Every month, every day that passes, adds another brick to the irrefutableness of the logic that demands the enfranchisement of women. Those of us who are old enough to have heard Lydia Becker and Mrs. M. G. Fawcett lecturing on behalf of the women's cause in the seventies, can remember the loud guffaws of amusement that proceeded from ignorant youths in the audience. Within the last few years, even the House of Commons, once noted for its disrespect, has learned to afford a respectful hearing to the men who claim women's help for the right government of this Empire. And we women are gradually facing that great truth that Nietzsche preached: Man is more of a child than woman. There is not a nation but needs her counsels, her point of view in all its legislation.

The brick that to-day has to be added to the Great Pyramid of woman's enfranchisement is the loss of thousands of men in the North Sea off the coast of Jutland, on May 31st, variously estimated from 4,500 to 6,000; plus 680 lost in the *Hampshire* on June 5th; and many thousands of others before those dates. These men were the husbands, fathers, brothers, sons of thousands of Englishwomen, heads of homes and houses, voters on the lists of Parliamentary registers. In New Zealand ever since 1893, the whole family has been represented in the Dominion's counsels. Many a farmer on voting day harnesses horses to a vehicle, and the whole family, all persons of the age of 21, as well as all hired help, drive to the polling-booth and record their votes as best them seemeth. In Great Britain, with its feudal worship of the male, only males go to the polling-booth; many of them are reputable heads of families, others are bachelors, and some are even male prostitutes and procurers. In some mysterious way, their votes are supposed to strengthen the purity of the home. The votes of Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Besant, Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Carlisle, and a host of other women would undermine its sanctity. Presumably it is thus our legislators "reason."

In the present appalling struggle, the greatest crime ever committed against humanity, it is calculated by Maximilian Harden, in his paper *Die Zukunft*, that the war has already yielded five million corpses and ten million cripples. Who are—at least we can ask the question for Great Britain, the country which we best know—to represent the households where the head or mainstay has given his life for his country, or to which he returns as a more or less helpless cripple? Up to the present, such men are of England's best blood, because they volunteered to defend her liberties and those of Europe. With what face can the politicians offer us a new Parliamentary register, safeguarding the electoral rights of men at the Front, and in the Navy, when the households represented by the dead are passed over as those whose opinions and counsels are worthless? As a result of the battle of Jutland there are 1,500 young widows in Portsmouth alone. *The Evening News* of that city on June 10 contained eleven columns of "In Memoriam" notices sent by the relatives of our brave sailors. There are streets in which nine adjacent houses are mourning their dead. And when the days of their mourning are ended, the woman has to begin again the serious business of living, in many cases of keeping together a home for the dead man's children in a world so preposterously unjust that in the main it refuses equal pay for equal work on the ground that a man must work for the support of women and children. How does this theory fit in socially with our war losses, steadily mounting day by day? Of

course, there are war allowances; but these are less for the Navy than for the Army; the politicians had to make the latter more attractive to volunteers. We shall be reminded by some that women are getting equal pay with men in certain fields of work. This is true, but those "fields" are usually very small corners of the Great Vineyard of Labour.

To my mind there has seldom been a more convincing argument for women's enfranchisement than the battle of Jutland, the engulfing of the *Hampshire*, and all the rest. That great crowd of women that beset the Admiralty Offices on June 2nd should march to the gates of the House of Commons and demand recognition of their citizenship at the hands of the politicians. We must call to mind the wise words of Mr. Thos. Holmes, the missionary of London Police-courts. He declared in his "London's Underworld" that "the oppression of women, whether by women or men, means a perpetuation of the underworld, with all its sorrows and horrors, and the underpayment of women is a curse that smites all the way round." It is because we believe in justice, because we see and suffer the effects of this curse, that we demand equal pay for equal work. And because the Government is the greatest employer of women's labour in the country, it must set its own house in order first, and show itself the Great Exemplar for all other employers, even those that have seats in Parliament, seats which pay no small share in the advancement of their owners' interests, and of the claims of men as against those of women. The Pyramid of Reason is growing. We need a great artist to represent the Scales of Justice and of Labour weighted against woman, to the detriment of both sexes, of the child, of civilisation itself. Has there ever been such a whip to imagination as the world presents at this moment?

C. S. BREMNER.

We Call Special Attention to—

Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party.

Members and friends are reminded that the Birthday Party is fixed for July 6, at Caxton Hall, at 7 p.m. It will open with the reception by Mrs. Despard, followed by a short entertainment arranged by the Social Committee. The money collected for the Birthday Fund will be presented to Mrs. Despard, who will, of course, have something to say to us. Mrs. Israel Zangwill, Miss Munro, Mrs. Tanner, and Miss Boyle will also speak. We hope that every London member will do her utmost to be present. There will be a cake and candy stall in the charge of Miss Alix Clark, who will be very pleased to receive contributions at this office. Will members with gardens send flowers or plants for the Flower Stall? Tickets (including refreshments) are 1s. each.

The Debate to-night (Friday) between Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., and Miss Margaret Hodge on "Industrial Compulsion for Women." 7.30 p.m.

The Open-air meetings in Hyde Park on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Sundays at noon.

Our President's Real Birthday.

On June 15, Mrs. Despard's real birthday, the office staff sent her flowers and a telegram of congratulation and affectionate greetings; in reply they received a charming letter which they appreciated very warmly, with a special invitation from Mrs. Despard to spend an afternoon with her at her bungalow at Bromley. The National Executive at its last meeting passed a unanimous resolution conveying a similar message, together with cordial appreciation of her devoted service to the Women's Freedom League.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1084.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, June 23rd, 1916.

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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including VOTE orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.
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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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PATRIOTISM AND FREEDOM.

"It will never be possible, in my judgment, to revert to our old methods of counsel and of government. The fabric of the Empire will have to be refashioned."

For once, we might be prepared to re-echo this statement, made by the Prime Minister to his constituents last week, were it not that men, and especially politicians, are past-masters in the art of putting off until the day after to-morrow the things which they should have done the week before last. This will be recognised as a moderate statement of a commonplace which "every woman knows." Recent developments have demonstrated anew that the exercise of this facile art has its attendant dangers, resulting, in Mr. Asquith's own words, in "a tragic series of missed and misused opportunities."

Unfortunately, the bottomless pit of missed and misused opportunities, both in political as in the individual life, affords us all inexhaustible, though somewhat unpalatable, food for reflection, and we would ask Mr. Asquith and his colleagues whether, among the bones of that Golgotha, do not lie missed and misused opportunities of doing justice to women. Tragic as was the tale of violence wreaked upon their bodies, equally tragic was the failure of politicians to see the deeds of the militants in the light of the motives which illumined them. The inability to recognise that the fruition of the women's struggle would have brought with it the good gifts of freedom "whence all good gifts are" was another missed opportunity.

"When the reign of peace is re-established, we shall have," so he says, "to take stock as an Empire of our internal relations," thus putting off till . . . (?) the consideration of questions already ripe for settlement. At the same time, he declines to receive a deputation of suffragists, adding another lost opportunity to the tragic series, though in face of the vastest, most annihilating and death-dealing cataclysm into which unlimited male domination has ever hurled this planet, it would have been difficult for him to urge that the welfare of the human family was assured in male hands.

It would seem to us that there could be no time like the present to work out and solve the problems connected with the working of the democratic machine—questions, all of which were, to some extent, before the country before the war—such as Women's Suffrage, Home Rule, Imperial Federation, the Constitution of the Second Chamber, Parliamentary Control of Foreign Policy, etc. These questions deal with the outward signs of an inner change of political feeling, a shaking off of the heavy hand of autocracy—whether it be the heavy

hand of one sex over another, or of one country and people over another, or of the hand of the governing caste over the democracy. They all have as their aim the perfecting of representative government, the widening of the area of political responsibility and the raising of the level of national and individual life. The question of Women's Suffrage is one which, it would seem, might well have been solved at the present time. In the past, we have been told that time was not available. The Ca' Canny methods of the House of Commons give the lie to such a plea to-day. The difficulties also of dealing with a non-party measure by a Government and House of Commons elected on a party basis were frequently urged upon us in the past. To-day, with a non-party Government in power, a new excuse has to be found.

A new world lies before us, a mutilated, devastated world, in which Rachel weeps for her children—many mere children in years, whose bodies cover the North Sea bed and the battlefields of Europe. She mourns her lost aspirations after a fuller and more abundant national life; she grieves for the darkened future of the human race. The failure of men's undiluted government is too evident for her to contemplate with equanimity. If women have ever doubted that they have a part to play in national, as well as in family life, they can doubt no longer that the world has need of them and they will surely regard it as lack of patriotism to acquiesce in playing that part with shackled limbs. All their vital energies will be required to build a new world on the ruins of the old. It will be impossible for them to believe that they have no use for the weapon of the vote.

With or without the vote, the work of women will be called for. Deeper than the facts of life are the instincts from which those facts have sprung, and which have fostered in them a spirit of service which moves in ever widening circles. It has been theirs to tend the growing youth of the world, and the building up of the life of the future will be, as in the past, their work. It will be theirs to bring to birth a new world, enfeebled though it be by the struggles of the old, to lay out the dead hopes and, as we trust, to bury with them the antiquated prejudices of the past.

It may be that hitherto our energies have been too largely of the passive order. Women have served in the past, watching and waiting, but in the future we must take a more upstanding attitude, live on higher levels and refuse to echo the thoughts and words of men even though, as at the present time, this may bring upon us the accusation of lack of patriotism. We have our own eyes and our own brains which cannot function through theirs. We must go forth "on adventures brave and new." Men have been unable to create those conditions under which our work in the world can be effectively performed. War, which soaks continents in the blood of mothers' sons, annihilates the work of women, and we must insist that some more judicial means are found to settle national and international quarrels in the future, just as judicial means have been found to settle the quarrels of individuals. Women must see that it is impossible to let nations "fight it out" any more than it is possible to let men, women, children, or dogs do so. We cannot complain of waste in lesser departments of national economy and continue to allow the most desolating and anguishing of all waste—the waste of human life with its infinite potentialities.

The welfare of the nation requires the complete co-operation of all its adult units, comrades, equally armed, working together, as Mr. Asquith claims for the Allies, "with perfect loyalty and understanding."
E. M. N. C.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Railway Men and Women Workers.

At the annual meeting of the National Union of Railwaymen at Bath on June 19, Mr. Albert Bellamy, in his presidential address, said that the employment of women on railways raised a serious problem for the future. It was their concern to see that the standard should be raised rather than lowered. Women were joining the Union in large numbers. Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., assistant general secretary of the Union, made a strong protest against one and three-quarter millions of women being thrown out of industry after the war, and insisted that equal pay for equal work was the only way to prevent woman's labour reducing the value of man's.

Women in Royal Dockyards.

Women are to work in Royal Dockyards under similar conditions to those arranged by the Ministry of Munitions for controlled establishments. The principal dockyards affected by the dilution of labour scheme are Pembroke, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Sheerness, Rosyth, Queenstown, Dover, and Gourock torpedo yards.

"The Farmers Departed much Impressed."

Thus does *The Daily Mail* reporter conclude the report of the exhibition of farming by fifty girls at Kelmscott, Oxfordshire, on June 15, organised by the War Agricultural Committee of the county. Oxfordshire follows Devonshire, Lincolnshire, and elsewhere in proving the success of women on the land. In ploughing and harrowing with a team of horses, hoeing, weeding, milking, dairying, and in the heavier tasks of the farm, the girls were quick and expert, and showed skill, energy, strength, and enthusiasm.

Honour to the Nurses.

In the long list of 4,800 names mentioned by General Sir Douglas Haig, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in France, in his dispatch published on June 15, as worthy of notice for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field, are many members of the various nursing services of our own country, India, the Dominions, and United States. "The women have mobilised as an army of mercy," says *The Daily Telegraph*; "their record of service is recalled in the broken bodies which have been saved; in the agonised minds which have been tranquilised."

Police Women.

In the text of the Home Secretary's Bill amending the Police Act two of the new provisions relate to women employed on police duty and at work in factories other than munition works. Some of the work usually performed by the police is now in certain towns undertaken by women who are not constables. Clause IV. of the new Bill proposes that the women should be treated as constables for purposes of determining the amount to be paid to the police authority out of the Exchequer Contribution Account. Powers already exist to require "welfare" arrangements by employers for women workers in munition works under the supervision of a Department of the Ministry. Mr. Herbert Samuel now proposes to empower the Home Secretary to require other industries to provide "reasonable and practicable welfare provisions by order which can be adjusted to the circumstances of a given industry or process works or class of works." Mr. B. Seebohm Rowntree, Director of the Welfare Department, Ministry of Munitions, makes a plea for suitable women possessing "tact, gentleness, honour, and dignity," as welfare supervisors.

The Falling Birthrate.

The publication in book form, under the title of "The Declining Birthrate: Its Causes and Effects" (Chapman and Hall, 7s. 6d.), of the report of the National Birthrate Commission, appointed in 1913, has made theorists and leader writers busy. When the nation shows such lamentable neglect of the babies that are born, allowing 110 per 1,000 to die before they reach the age of one year, is it to be trusted with more? Women, too, having no control over the conditions into which children are born, may well hesitate to increase the population. Blame must not fall on the women alone; the recent report of the Commission on Venereal Disease was a revelation as well as a shock.

Bonuses for Babies in France.

M. Paul Banazet, according to the *Matin*, is to put a scheme before the Chamber of Deputies in order to encourage larger families. His basic proposition is that at least four children should be produced by every woman in France, and to that end he proposes the following payments to all mothers, whether married or not:—£20 for each of the first two children; £40 for the third child; and £80 for the fourth, with £40 for each succeeding child. This money will be the sole property of the mother, married or not. The father is to receive £80 after he has presented to the nation at least four children.

"Hidden Plague" Regulations in Germany.

According to German papers to hand recently, says *The Daily Mail*, drastic regulations are in force for combating the "hidden plague." The general commanding the military forces in Schleswig-Holstein has promulgated the decree authorising the Police Authorities of the province to arrest and forcibly detain in an isolation hospital all persons who are even suspected of suffering from such contagious disease. The decree asserts:—

1. That any person who transfers such disease to another commits deliberate or criminally negligent assault and battery, and may be punished under the corresponding paragraphs of the penal code. Such misdemeanours are hereby formally forbidden in the interest of public safety.

2. Persons afflicted with the above disease are required to notify their condition immediately to the police.

3. Violations of these regulations shall be punishable with one year of imprisonment, or fines up to £75.

Violations shall consist of failure to make notification or to follow instructions of the police after such notification has been made. The police are empowered to examine medically persons suspected of infection, and may incarcerate infected persons in hospital until cured.

The Food Problem: One Woman and Ten Men to Investigate.

The President of the Board of Trade has appointed a committee to investigate the causes of the increase of the price of food, and to make recommendations for dealing with the situation. The members are: The Rt. Hon. J. M. Robertson, M.P. (chairman), Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mr. W. C. Anderson, M.P., Professor W. J. Ashley, Mr. John Boland, M.P., Mr. Thomas Brodrick, Sir Gilbert Claughton, Bart., Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Mr. R. E. Prothero, M.P., Mr. Thomas Shaw, J.P., Sir W. Capel Slaughter. One woman, ten men! Mrs. Pember Reeves is an admirable appointment, but why not other capable and experienced women instead of an editor and a lawyer?

HAND-WOVEN MATERIALS

MADE IN THE

DAUNTLESS HALL WORK-ROOM.

Artistic Dress Fabrics

In Linen, Cotton, Wool, &c. Send for price list, or 2s. for sample Towel, to help the Women Workers, or call and see the goods at
The Alston Studio, 8, New Bond Street, W.
Where lessons in SPINNING and WEAVING are given.
TERMS ON APPLICATION.

A WOMAN SUFFRAGIST IN CANADA.

Through the courtesy of the Margate Pioneer Society, and the instrumentality of our good friends and valued members, Mrs. Marion Holmes and Mrs. Ethel Bobby [Mrs. Holmes was the co-founder of the Society with Mrs. Marian Woolls, and its first President; Mrs. Bobby has also been its President, and Mrs. Despard has often addressed the Society], we are able to publish extracts from a most interesting letter written by Mrs. Arthur Lewis, who joined the Margate Society in 1903 and was vice-President for three years, afterwards becoming President. Mrs. Lewis, who rendered the Society excellent service in every possible way, went to Canada with her family in 1912, and now lives at Calgary. Her letter covers many points of vital interest, and she writes from personal and practical experience. Her story of the effective work of the Consumers' League and other achievements of the women of Calgary is inspiring. She writes:—

"There is a very great change in the cost of living since we came to Calgary, and many things have been made cheaper entirely by means of the efforts of a few women. Some two years ago Calgary had a public market in a very inaccessible place. It was neither public nor did it do any market or other business, except to cost the rate-payers a great deal of money. The farmers did not use it to any extent, and while vegetables rotted away on the farms the city people were going without on account of the high prices. A cabbage cost 25 cents—that is, a shilling and a halfpenny; other things were in proportion. So the women got busy, and formed a 'Consumers' League,' with the avowed intention of bringing the grower and the consumer together, without the intervention of so many middlemen. The farmers around the outskirts of the city were invited to bring in their produce and the women of the city were asked to go with their market baskets on their arms to the city market, to make their purchases for the week, and take them home themselves. The market was a very crude affair; the horses came right in and stood side by side with the stalls on which were displayed the meat and butter. This was one of the first things the women determined to have altered. A deputation waited on the City Fathers at the City Hall and demanded that horses be not allowed in the public market. The 'powers that be' were amazed at such 'faddish ideas,' but the women refused to go till their request was granted, so the men very reluctantly gave in. The next thing was to demand that the whole place be whitewashed, painted, and the windows washed. The farmers then began to bring in their meat nicely wrapped up in bedclothes that were not freshly laundered: the meat was of excellent quality, and could be sold at a very low price compared to the usual prices in the stores, but the women had to explain as tactfully as possible that they preferred the meat wrapped in clean and new cheese-cloth, and that bedclothes were not permissible. A large quantity of vegetables was brought in, and for the first time in Calgary one could purchase these necessities in abundance without unduly depleting one's exchequer. The women of the city loyally supported the market for a few weeks, but found car fares there and back rather costly when their purchases were small. So the authorities were asked to allow one fare to cover going and returning (our lowest car fare is 2½d.). This they consented to do, and from that moment the success of the women's venture was assured. They frequently had to haunt the City Hall to get various grievances redressed, but it was a brave man who dared say them nay. One who was rash enough to say, 'Let the women go home and clean their kitchens before they worry

about cleaning up the market,' found out on election day that his services were no longer required; he also had his telephone kept busy for days by women inviting him to visit their kitchens.

"One article after another has been taken up by the executive of the Consumers' League; even the coinage has been improved. Three years ago our smallest coin was a five-cent piece (twopence half-penny), and consequently in marketing one had to pay this sum many times over when a cent would have been enough. In spite of all sorts of ridicule we demanded our cents in change at the stores; the more progressive ones imported a quantity of copper coins, and our copper coinage was assured. This item alone means a considerable difference in our monthly budgets.

"I had the honour of founding the first Suffrage Society in Calgary soon after coming here, about two years ago. We had none of the difficulties that obtained in our Mother Country. Editors fell over themselves in their eagerness to get our news and reports of meetings. The newspapers gave us all the space we needed for nothing. The Society page issued daily by all our three papers is edited by exceedingly able girls, and they are always anxious to obtain news; one of them was a Scotch girl who used to write for *T. P.'s Weekly*. She became one of our best speakers. We had a very exciting election campaign, and afterwards, when the local Council of Women was formed here, representing all the Women's Societies in Calgary, we turned over the Suffrage work to that body, as it had greater weight behind it. Our Suffrage work culminated in a deputation to the Premier of Alberta, in the House of Parliament at Edmonton. This deputation was courteously received. Since then still further progress has been made.

"We find that for purely city matters our Local Council has great weight, and we can get almost any question settled as we want it. For instance, until lately, when a female prisoner was put into prison, as there was no woman on the staff, she was left entirely to the care of men day and night until the case could be tried. After persistent work we now have a police-matron, and hope very soon to have another police-woman to patrol our main streets to look after young girls. We have also two women magistrates in the juvenile courts, who try cases of children and girls under eighteen. Often a terrified young girl will tell her story to a sympathetic woman in a room alone who would be dumb when confronted by men in a crowded court. These juvenile delinquents are looked after by the Children's Aid Society.

"Two years ago Calgary had a Red Light district, or 'segregated area,' in common with most western towns, and things were getting so bad that every night automobiles drove off with loads of young sons and husbands and sweethearts to these haunts of vice. A municipal election was approaching, and for the first time the women of the city determined to fight the element in the Council that countenanced these evils. They rose in their might, and I have never witnessed a braver deed than when some of them, mothers whose sons had been ruined, spoke in a public meeting for the first time, demanding the abolition of the district. They won! Thanks to our new Council, helped by a capable chief of police, and the moral support of the women, Calgary is now one of the cleanest cities in the West."

In Sympathy.

Deep-felt sympathy from her many friends in the Women's Freedom League will go out to Mrs. Thomson Price in the great sorrow that has befallen her in the death of her husband. Always ready to share and alleviate the sorrows of others, she will be surrounded at this time by their sympathy and service.

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NATIONAL FUND.

[Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1915, £25,531 19s. 2d.]

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	204	14	6
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend"	2	10	0
Miss Eunice Murray	2	0	0
Mrs. Knight	1	0	0
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Saul Solomon	12	6	
Mrs. Stebbing	6	0	
Mrs. Angold	3	0	
Miss Hurry	1	0	
Clapham Branch	10	0	
East London Branch	19	6	
Hackney Branch	6	6	
Hornsey Branch	10	0	
Kensington Branch	5	0	
Mid-London Branch	5	0	
Tufnell Park Branch	8	0	
	10	16	6
"Russia in England."			
J. Prelooke, Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Anderson	1	0	0
Lady Treacher	10	0	
Mrs. Yeo	10	0	
Mrs. E. M. N. Clark	8	0	
Flower Stall	1	12	8
Armenian Stall	7	6	
Profit on Refreshments	18	3	
Cloak-room Takings	23	4	6
Tickets	5	1	6
Sale of Programmes	3	3	6
	38	2	2
"A. B. C."	6	0	0
J. Dalrymple	2	0	0
Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0	
Dr. Knight	5	0	
Miss F. A. Underwood	5	0	
Mrs. A. Aldridge	2	6	
Miss Hurry	2	6	
Miss Drimmie	2	0	
Mrs. Hatfield	1	6	
Miss Minnie Smith	1	6	
Mrs. O. M. Aldridge	1	0	
Miss E. M. Dee	1	0	
Mrs. M. Gordon	1	0	
Miss Eva Perry	1	0	
Tickets	6	6	
Office Sales	1	0	
Branches—			
Bournemouth	1	1	0
Portsmouth	10	6	
Capitation Fees—			
Dunfermline	8	0	
Regent's Park	2	6	
	£265	18	8

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

The Settlement very cordially invite all readers of THE VOTE who may be in town on June 29 to an At Home in aid of our work, at Mrs. Despard's, 2, Currie-street (tram No. 14, from Embankment). There will be tea, short speeches, and a musical programme arranged by Mrs. Corner. Time, 4.30 to 7.30. A very much appreciated gift this week is a box of garden produce per Mrs. Giles, of Blackpool; and we also thank Mrs. Hope and Miss M. Holmes for contributions to jumble sale; Mrs. Harrison for a fine lot of toys for the guest children; Mrs. Delbanco, two tables; D. Delbanco, Esq., spice and cinnamon; Miss Sykes, butter and rolls; Mrs. Clark, child's boots and a cake. Will anyone give us some old kitchen spoons for our children's dining-room, which is still growing in popularity? Also, some eggs for our At Home cakes would be most welcome. We have four boys about the same size in the guest-house now, and are very short of jerseys for them. We also need some light summer socks or stockings.

The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W.

We are still in need of renewed kitchen utensils:—Saucepans (large, small and medium size), also frying pans, baking tins, egg whisk, also small teapots, small cruets, table knives, forks, spoons, etc. Our prisoner of war in Germany continues to write most gratefully for the parcels sent to him every month; the help of friends in sending us useful articles for the parcels will be warmly welcomed. Please remember our SPORTS AFTERNOON on July 8, 4 to 7 p.m., at 22, Harley-road, Hampstead. Tickets, including tea, 1s.

Our grateful thanks are given to Mrs. Russell, of Hind-head, for her welcome gift of £1.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1084.

RALLY ROUND THE FLAG!

Are you working hard for the success of the Birthday Fund?
We must have 20,000 shillings by July 6th to add to our 50,000 Shilling Fund which is to win The Vote.

OUR OPEN COLUMN

** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

Less Moralising: More Money.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

SIR,—Your interesting leader on Mr. Shaw's speech invites correspondence. Mr. Shaw asserts that what we need is "more production and less waste." Precisely, but how is it to be done? Perhaps Mr. Shaw's joy-riding will become too expensive through legislation, a method to which, as an economic Socialist, he cannot object. But generally speaking the voluntary system must be invoked to reduce or rather "postpone" expenditure. Motor-cars have been seen even in the East End, as a car is a vehicle capable of motion and not a vegetable.

Mr. Shaw is wrong in ascribing to the National War Savings Committee a desire to put the country on a sackcloth and ashes basis. They appeal for thrift, not as a moral virtue, but as a national necessity. The fact that four million War Savings certificates have been sold proves that the masses want to save. Millionaires and successful play-wrights buy Treasury Bills and War Loan Stock. The small fry are for the wage-earner. The thrift bacteria are rampant, a fact which Mr. Shaw no doubt will ascribe to the neglect of drains.—Yours faithfully,

REGINALD R. BUCKLEY.

Savage Club, W.C.

British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union Second (Biennial) Conference, July 5th to 7th, 1916.

One of the chief aims of this Union is to lead the other nations of the world to realise the complete unity of the British Empire. At the Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, held at Stockholm in 1911, delegates from Australia were placed alphabetically next to those from Austro-Hungary, and were looked upon as quite separate from those of Great Britain, as were also the representatives from Canada and South Africa, who were classified alphabetically, and were seated in quite a different part of the hall. That the British Empire is an entity in fact as well as in theory has been brought home most vividly to all of us in this war by the prompt and spontaneous co-operation of her sons from the remotest regions of the earth in defence of her laws and liberties. It is surely incumbent upon us to strengthen and to disseminate this impression by every means in our power.

A united meeting of British women from all parts of the British Empire, such as is to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, July 5-7, will not only bring home to each one of our Oversea Dominions the essential unity between her and her sister countries, but it will be a demonstration to the outside world of the fact that the Empire is one and indivisible, and not a number of isolated units linked together only by a conventional name.

MARGARET HODGE.

Congratulations to—

Miss Gladys Poppleton, formerly a member of the Mid-London Branch, and afterwards hon. secretary of the Catford Branch of the Women's Freedom League, and to Mr. F. M. Townend, an associate of the Mid-London Branch, on their recent marriage. Union is strength, and the League, in sending warmest good wishes, looks for an accession of strength from the united work of two good Suffragists.

FRIDAY,
JUNE 23,
1916.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

Last week the Branch took charge of the Tipperary Rooms. On Wednesday a concert was given by the members, at which Mrs. Schofield Coates gave a short address. Songs were given by Mrs. Stones, Mrs. Walker, Miss Goddard, and Mr. Roxborough, Mrs. Walker being the accompanist. Our thanks are also given to Mrs. Wilson, Miss Blackie, Mrs. Isabel Wilson, Mrs. Dean and Mrs. Holden, who kindly helped with the refreshments during the week. The next Branch meeting will be held on Monday, June 26. Members please note.

Ipswich.

Our weekly meetings will be held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. instead of in the afternoon; we hope members will do their best to attend. We are picking tow for the Hospital War Depot, and when we have sent off our parcel of hospital requisites we shall work for the Green, Gold and White Fair.

Promises of goods towards a jumble sale, or the goods themselves, will be gratefully received. We thank Mrs. Gentry, Mrs. King, and Mrs. Cooper for contributions towards the 50,000 Shilling Fund and hope for still more contributions before Mrs. Despard's birthday. At our last meeting we had a discussion on education, especially with regard to the age of leaving school; the value of organised games for girls and boys, and of continuation classes were points considered; also that women rather than children should be employed as much as possible in the place of men during the present crisis.

A RUSSIAN SONG RECITAL will be given by Madame Slava Krassavina, whose services were so much appreciated on the occasion of our "Russia in England Day," on Sunday, July 2, at 8.30 p.m., by kind permission of Mrs. K. L. Dalliba, at 9, Langford-place, St. John's Wood, N.W. Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker will speak on "Russian Music." Tickets, 10s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d., may be obtained from Mrs. Dalliba and Mr. Henri Leon, 39, Upper Bedford-place, W.C.

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SALE AND EXCHANGE.

These advertisements are charged 1s. for each 24 words or less.

FOR SALE.

BARGAINS FOR BOY OF 14.—

Two pairs white Flannel Trousers, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; four white matt Tennis Shirts, 5s.; black cloth Jacket, 5s.—Box 30, "THE VOTE" Office.

DARK BLUE RAIN-PROOF COAT.

Suit tall person; good condition; bargain, 5s.—Apply Box 39, "THE VOTE" Office.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MEMORIAL HALL, Manchester,

Wednesday, June 28, at 7.30 p.m., Recital of Works for One and Two Pianofortes, by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick.—Tickets 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d. and 1s., from Messrs. FORSYTH BROS., LTD., 126, Deansgate, and at the door.

A LADY (Suffragist), engaged in business, wishes to meet a Lady similarly engaged to share her flat in Westminster.—Address, E. W. ALLEN, 5, Vincent House, Regency-street, S.W.

LADY, with small flat at Kew, desires occasional Lady Guest. Week-end, 8s.; whole week, 18s. 6d.—Box 23, VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

LARGE Bed-sitting-room to Let, furnished or unfurnished, in Freedom Leaguer's flat (Alexandra Mansions). Bath, electric light. Furnished, 7s. 6d.—LEAGUER, 5, Newman's-row, Holborn.

ON demande une jeune dame française capable de surveiller une jeune domestique française, et tenir compagnie à la dame de la maison.—Box 37, "THE VOTE" Office.

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HOTEL, opposite Gaiety Theatre, Strand, London. Absolute Privacy, Quietude and Refinement. Ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters. Sumptuous Bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted. Breakfast, Bath, Attendance and Lights, from 5s. 6d. En pension, 9s. For long stays, special terms. Finest English provisions.—MANAGERESS, 4788 Gerrard.

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TAGE; 2 sitting, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, scullery. Electric light, gas cooker, water laid on. Fifteen minutes from station. Moderate rent.—Mrs. HART, 27, Arthur-road, Horsham, Sussex.

British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

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