

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 11, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

May they Stand on a Chair?

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 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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WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

RAISE THE FLAG HIGH: 50,000 SHILLING FUND.

MEN DEMAND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

There can be no doubt that, as we said in our leading article last week, Women's Suffrage is now a serious consideration in governing circles. Lord Grey of Falloden and Lord Robert Cecil have declared unequivocally that they will press for it in any scheme of franchise alteration; *The Daily News* openly declares it to be a stumbling-block which even the Prime Minister cannot sweep aside in his registration proposals. *The Times*, while pressing for a new register, ignores the question of women altogether; and *The Daily Telegraph*, in amusing contrast to the Penny Dreadful's heated demand for votes for the fighting forces, points out the utter impossibility of any such thing. The Prime Minister will have some difficulty in steering past all the snags.

We know of "a growing feeling in the country," and "an increasing conviction in Parliament in favour of Votes for Women." We append some recent pronouncements by men demanding the inclusion of women in any extension of the franchise.

Lord Grey of Falloden (Member of the Government).

Writing to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that whenever or however the question of extending the basis of the franchise is dealt with he will, as far as his personal influence can be used, contend that enfranchisement of women should be considered and included.

Lord Robert Cecil (Member of Government).

A deputation of Suffragists, headed by Mrs. Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, was received a few days ago by Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Robert Cecil. Lord Robert stated that an alteration in the register reducing the residential qualification to two or three months would mean a very large addition to the register, and would be a long step towards manhood suffrage. He would not assent to any alteration in the franchise or in registration which substantially increased the number of voters unless it included some measure of enfranchisement for women.

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"The Daily News"—Political Notes, August 8.

"If in bringing the present register up to date (apart from soldiers) the franchise was in effect extended largely in the case of civilians by diminishing the residential qualification—the only method which would produce anything like an adequate electorate now, so great is the number of homes broken up and removals due to the war—then, obviously, a real injustice would be done to women who claim the vote whenever the franchise is extended. There is a growing feeling in the country, I hear, that any change in enfranchisement must include women, who in the nation's trial have played so noble and capable a part. Thus a real dilemma confronts the Government, and they will probably shelve the question till next session."

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

The Federation is taking a strong stand with regard to the inclusion of women in any amendment or addition to the Parliamentary Register. The following resolution and letters have been sent by the different Centres to the Prime Minister, the members of the Coalition Government, the Chairmen of War Committees, and other Members of Parliament:—

Edinburgh, Midlothian Centre.

The Executive Committee of the Northern Men's Federation passed unanimously a resolution calling upon the Coalition Government "to incorporate women on equal terms with men in the Parliamentary Register, and announce their determination to oppose by every means in their power any alteration of the franchise which does not include women."

Berwick-on-Tweed Centre.

The following letter has been sent:—
SIR,—We, like all other Suffrage societies, have been following the deliberations of the House of Commons on the question of a new Registration Act with the keenest interest, and I have been authorised by the Berwick-on-Tweed Branch of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage to inform you that we would strongly resent any alteration of the Register which does not make full provision for the enfranchisement of women on the same terms as men. We feel that, after the noble way in which the women have come forward to help in this great crisis, it would be an ignoble and dastardly act for any Minister or Government to ignore the just and righteous claims of the women to have the franchise.—Yours faithfully, R. K. GAUL (Hon. Sec.).

Glasgow Centre.

The following letter has been sent:—
SIR,—Since the commencement of the war we, the members of the above Federation, have refrained from active work on behalf of our claim that women should have the vote on the same terms as those enjoyed by men. Our earnest desire that nothing should be done to imperil the unity of all parties in the prosecution of the war impelled us to keep our activities in abeyance. We now learn that a Franchise Bill is to be brought in which ignores the claim of women, and as such a measure will be both an injustice and a betrayal, it will be met with uncompromising opposition from this Federation. For our action the Government must be held responsible, as the introduction of such a measure will violate the understanding that matters of a contentious nature would not be brought forward during war time. If it be thought, which we do not admit, that the right of women to share in the conduct of our affairs, national and imperial, could not be urged with the same cogency prior to the start of hostilities, we now hold that equality of service, self-sacrifice, financial service, and personal loss demand equality of representation, and towards that end we shall at once begin to work if a Bill be introduced which refuses justice to women.—ROBERT FERGUSON (Hon. Sec.).

Manchester and East Lancs. Centre.

The following letter has been sent:—
SIR,—The Manchester and East Lancs Branch of the above Federation are watching with the keenest anxiety the reports of Government and other proposals to reform the Franchise. I am instructed to say that any attempt at revision of registration, etc., which does not include provision of votes for women on as democratic a basis as that for men will be the call to an agitation on our part that not even the war and its needs will be able to check. Do not let it be said that women are to be again put off with "complications minus justice."—Yours faithfully, J. DARRYSHIRE (Hon. Sec.).

Dock, Wharf, Riverside & General Workers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

The following resolution has been sent to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the President of the Local Government Board:—

This Executive Council of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union pledges itself to support the women of the country in their efforts to obtain recognition as citizens, and calls upon the Government to include women as voters in any amendment or addition to the Registration Act.

"Monday Next, I Hope."

The Prime Minister's latest pronouncement on the life of Parliament and Registration proposals was made last Tuesday as follows:—

Mr. RONALD McNEILL asked what steps the Government intended to take for the purpose of revising the register for Parliamentary voters.

Mr. ASQUITH: The Government will state their proposals in regard to this matter when the Bill prolonging the life of Parliament is introduced, which, I hope, will be on Monday next.

Mr. RONALD McNEILL asked whether the registration proposals would be put in the form of a Bill before the Prolongation Bill was passed.

Mr. ASQUITH: I think it will be found desirable to table a Bill.

Lord Lytton at the Admiralty.

Comment on the appointment of Lord Lytton points out the fact that he is the well-known champion of woman suffrage. *The World* says: "Lord Lytton, who succeeds the Duke of Devonshire as Civil Lord of the Admiralty, is what may be called advanced in his views politically and socially. He has taken more than a theoretic part in social questions, having run model public-houses, besides having spoken out very freely for woman suffrage, with leanings also towards vegetarianism. His turn of mind is terribly practical and quite free from the mystical wisdom which is the despair of the average man. He is the type of man now much in demand for appointments where usefulness now counts more than party figure-heads."

Sir Arthur Markham.

Suffragists have suffered a heavy loss through the death of Sir Arthur Markham, who won and maintained in the House of Commons the character of an outspoken and unsparring critic and an entirely honest politician.

NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A meeting of the Federation was held in the East Meadows, Edinburgh, last Sunday afternoon. Mr. J. Wilson McLaren, who presided over a large audience, expressed warm appreciation of the fair and impartial manner in which the meetings and deputations of the Federation had been reported in the Edinburgh Press. Mr. Andrew Gilzean declared that men and women must stand or fall together, and the more power women had to better their conditions the better it would be for men. After the women were enfranchised in New Zealand the proportion of men who made use of their vote rose from 65 to 83 per cent., showing that women's entrance into political life had given a fresh stimulus to men. Councillor Drummond held that the underpayment of women had been one of the greatest evils on the labour market; now that we were entering upon a perfectly new era in the industrial world owing to conditions brought about by the war, it was the proper time to confer upon women the right of citizenship. To leave them out of a new Register or Service Franchise Bill would be a grave injustice, which the members of the Federation meant to oppose by every means in their power. Parish Councillor Millar maintained that the present was the very best time for the inclusion of women as voters on equal terms with men, so that they might face together the great economic problems which would have to be dealt with at the end of the war. Mr. Thomas Shaw and Mr. James Brunton urged the electors to sign the petition in favour of the inclusion of women in the new Parliamentary Register, and there was wide response.

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

Friday, September 22.—CAXTON HALL. Mrs. Despard's Return Party, from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Invitation cards from W.F.L. Office. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss E. Murray, Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mrs. E. Zangwill.

Sunday, October 1.—HASLUCK'S ACADEMY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, Miss Clara Reed, Recital "Becket," 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4.—CAXTON HALL. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. E. M.

Moore. 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11.—CAXTON HALL. Speaker: Mrs. Aldridge. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18.—CAXTON HALL. Speaker: Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., on "The Soldiers' Rights." 3.30 p.m.

Friday, October 20.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting.

PROVINCIAL.

ABERYSTWYTH CAMPAIGN.—Meetings on the Beach each day at 11.30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Dorothy Evans.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, August 13.—WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION. Meetings in Hyde Park, near Marble Arch, to demand a Franchise Bill to include women, 5 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. Closed until August 28. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN THE UNITED STATES.

A great step in advance was made when the Democratic party followed the example of the Republicans and the Progressives and adopted by 888 to 181 the following "plank": "We favour the extension of the franchise to the women of this country, State by State, on the same terms as to the men."

Commenting on "What the Suffrage Planks mean," the *Woman's Journal* says: Both the Republican and Democratic parties have declared that they favour the extension of suffrage by the States to women. They have made this statement, not as a general theory, but as a definite part of the political platform upon which they are to conduct their campaigns this year, and for which they are to be responsible during the next four years.

The words that they 'favour extending suffrage to women' cannot be considered as ornaments in the respective platforms. A platform is not made to be ornamental. It is made as a pledge. That pledge means that when the Republican and Democratic parties launch their campaigns in South Dakota and West Virginia this year they are in honour bound to use all of their influence through speakers, State chairmen, and representatives to have the equal suffrage amendment passed at the November election. They are in honour bound to make it clear throughout the length and breadth of those two States that they stand for the passage of that amendment enfranchising women.

"A party pledge is as much a matter of honour to the group of men who make it as an individual

pledge is to a gentleman. It is as binding upon the man who accepts its inclusion in a platform in becoming a candidate as if he had made a personal promise. It is up to the political parties to make good their pledges to the women of the country, and it is up to President Wilson and Mr. Hughes to see that the faith is kept. Suffragists will hold them responsible."

The *Woman Voter* points out that both the dominant national parties enter the 1916 Presidential campaign with suffrage planks in their platforms, and declares that the suffrage demonstrations at Chicago and St. Louis were dignified, impressive, and probably the greatest ever carried out by suffragists in the United States.

Newspapers throughout the country have been keen in their comment on the action taken by the two leading political parties of the country in regard to equal suffrage. The amount of space, as well as the tone of the editorials, indicates how thoroughly they believe that the suffrage planks of both the Republicans and the Democrats signify a tremendous advance for the cause of justice.

The *Chicago Herald* says editorially: "As a result of the recent events equal suffrage goes before the country with its prestige immeasurably strengthened. Recent events indicating a setback for the movement, such as the adverse vote in Iowa, are seen to be mere incidents in a campaign which, as a whole, is steadily moving forward. They are the skirmishes which do not affect the main issue—events which merely mark the field where ultimate victory is assured."

Suffragists' Protest at Manchester.

The Manchester City Council refused the application of the United Suffragists for permission to hold a woman suffrage demonstration in Platt Fields on July 22, and a strong letter of protest has been addressed to the Lord Mayor, signed by the Manchester and District Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies, Church League for Women's Suffrage, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, Friends' League for Women's Suffrage, United Suffragists, Women's Freedom League, Women's Labour League, Women's Co-operative Guild (district committee), and the Women's International League. The letter points out that "the war service of women in all departments of social, industrial, and political life is at this moment indispensable to the nation, and this fact is meeting with universal recognition. It is imperative that women should organise to deal with national problems which equally affect men and women. It is unreasonable to ask for the co-operation of women, to ask women to sacrifice their homes to the national need, to give their work and their money to the State, to tell women that in the last resort the nation depends on their efforts, and at the same time to deny them a perfectly legitimate method of stating their needs."

Brave and Devoted Service in Dublin.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage, Ireland (24, Kildare-street, Dublin), is still helping close on one hundred women who lost their employment through the war. Since the outbreak of war over £2,000 have been paid out in wages, and the work is now almost self-supporting. During the rebellion its war relief work went on uninterruptedly, owing to the devotion of Miss Hilda Webb, who several times passed through the firing line to the office, in order that the women should not be deprived of their work and wages, and not one woman failed to bring in her work during that trying week. The weekly output of Army shirts is one thousand; not one has been rejected.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1140.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, August 11th, 1916.

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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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AFTER-WAR ECONOMY.

II.—LABOUR.

We are entering upon the third year of the momentous struggle between nations and principles which burst upon us with appalling suddenness twenty-four long months ago. As we look back, as we remember how much of life, of treasure, of happiness has been swept down this raging flood of Time, as we recall the depression, the elation, the tremulous hope—"Is the end in sight?"—the black despair—"No; the end is more remote than ever"—it seems at times as if ages instead of years separated us from the days when Peace was within our borders.

To-day the papers are full of jubilation. On all the fronts there has been progress. "Victory is in sight" formed the keynote of the addresses that were made to soldiers and civilians on the anniversary of that fate-laden 4th of August which committed Great Britain to her part in the Great War. That may be, though even the soothsayers have ceased to prophesy with any definiteness. What we do know, however, is that sooner or later, and perhaps suddenly, the guns will cease to vomit forth destruction; the armies, or what is left of them, will return to their own lands; the hosts upon hosts of civilians who are engaged in war work will find their occupation gone, and the Governments of this and other lands will be called upon to organise—not destruction but construction, not death, but life, not military, but industrial armies; and it is no exaggeration to say that the fate of nations, the whole future, indeed, of our civilization, depends upon the action which will be taken by those in authority when that time of crisis arrives.

Let us see what it means. We learn from recently published figures that no less than 4,000 factories are engaged in making war munitions. Government orders for military and naval equipment of every kind employ the full labour-power of countless other establishments. The labour employed, which is largely that of woman, is paid by the Treasury. Apart from the manual side, thousands are employed in clerical work of every description. The stoppage—it may be sudden and abrupt—of Government orders will entail the throwing out of work of nearly half our working population. Mr. Sydney Webb estimates the numbers as seven million persons, men and women, including the men discharged from Army and Navy. If this be anything like the truth we shall agree that no such gigantic problem has ever faced a British Government.

How is it to be met? We believe that if the nation is prepared to read the lessons even of the im-

mediate past and to act upon them, it might be possible to solve that problem, with less of danger and dislocation than now seem to threaten us.

Look back to the beginning of the war. Men, money, energy, enthusiasm were being poured out freely; but the result—this at least was the general feeling—was not commensurate with the sacrifice. This is not the place to enter into the controversial question, Who was to blame? The broad, general answer is—there was a terrible lack of co-operation. We had become accustomed as a nation to work each for our own hand; competition—"get as rich as you can and never mind the rest"—had been the order of the day; and our statesmen—for the most part men of the lawyer mind—found it difficult to shift their standpoint. Circumstances hurried them into unknown paths, which many of them, we may believe, have entered trembling, and the nation has been organised; labour-power has been placed and used; what, a few years ago, would have been thought miracles of achievement have come to pass; and, as the military chiefs do not fail to point out, the result has been present progress, will be victory and peace.

One of the questions that arise when we look on all that has been done is, Where was all this splendid power lurking in the days that preceded the war? To say that it was not wanted would be sheer folly. None but those who have gone blindfold through life would dare to make such an assertion. But if it existed, and if the nation had need of it, why was it not discovered; why was it not used?

We spoke in a recent issue, alluding to the cry for war-economy, of the waste that had gone on before the war, waste of our two most precious assets—the children, many of whom die in infancy while many more grow up weak or defective, and the land which might, were it properly cultivated, feed more than the population of these islands. Adult labour—the force, the energy, the productive power of men and women—is the third of our great assets; and this, as the fine efforts of the workers during the second year of war have been proving, has been miserably—we might even say criminally—wasted.

Is that fatal error of the past to be retrieved? The vision rises before us of what our world might be if the spirit of co-operation, to which undoubtedly we owe our recent military and naval successes, were brought to bear upon the reorganisation of industry that must follow the war. Skilled labour, willing labour, properly rewarded labour—given this with a directing force behind—able to turn each type and form of industry into its own proper channel; given also the hope and good fellowship that would come with the knowledge that the workers, as comrades, were making their own world more beautiful and productive, and the result would be undoubtedly such a society as the world has never seen. Ah! if it were possible to make our rulers perceive and know all that hangs upon their action during the interval that separates the second anniversary of the breaking out of war and the day that shall see its close!

Politically, we women are helpless. Our souls ache for the opportunity to be there at the time of crisis; with our feeling, our knowledge of the people's wants, and our experience as mothers and workers ready to be placed at the disposal of those in whose hands the destinies of the nation will lie. That may yet happen! It is not too late for Government to carry out a just measure of electoral reform. Meanwhile our part is to do what we can to awaken the people to a sense of the importance of the questions that face us.

The international war over, is it to be peace at home? Are we to have dull resignation to misery, breaking out, it may well be, into futile revolution,

or joyful economy of resources, rapid readjustment of labour, recognition on every side, not only of the valour of soldiers and sailors, but of the courage and endurance of women and girls and obscure workers who have freely given themselves to their country's call.

Let none say that things will settle themselves; that, after an interval, the discharged soldiers and war workers will be absorbed by the ordinary demands of labour. Haphazard in political economy has, we hope, seen its day. With untilled fields and felled forests, and slum-dwellings in town, and homeless agricultural labourers; with schools to be built and repaired, markets and gardens to be made; village-life to be vitalized, and homes worthy of the name to be formed throughout the land, who shall say that labour of all kinds and degrees is not needed?

The true after-war economy will be to make full use of the service then set free. We are glad to know that pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government in this direction; and it is our earnest hope that it may be effective. Our hope lies in the far more general recognition of national responsibility. With this, and with the unselfish, tireless efforts of men and women of good will, our nation may yet be redeemed.

C. DESPARD.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

"Christians, awake!"

The Bishop of London, in his half-hearted permission for "women messengers" to address gatherings (of women and girls only) in the Church of England, has roused the sleeping dogs with a vengeance. Mr. Athelstan Riley, whose hatred of women and their influence offends against his pleasant early-English name, is all pain and fury in his passionately prejudiced letter to the Archbishops. From it we cull the following gem:—

That women should speak in the church is in direct conflict with Holy Scripture, with the express injunctions of St. Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, and with the common order of the Catholic Church. If this innovation is to be imported into the methods of the National Mission, disaster must inevitably follow. Are the faithful expected to sit in their parish churches before women delivering their messages in dioceses unfortunat enough to have a bishop under feminist control?

Mr. Riley does not seem to have much faith in the faithful, or much piety—or charity—in his religion. He is the good old type of blustering, bullying Christian, full of the pride and intolerances which his Master denounced. We have never seen equalled for hypocrisy and that self-deception which he despises in suffragists, the astonishing peroration which *The Daily Graphic* prints in full:—

My Lord Archbishop, we may well stand aghast at the self-deception of these women. They talk of gaining equality with men, and it does not seem to have occurred to them that the "devout female sex" has for ever attained a dignity to which our sex can never aspire in that to a mere woman is afforded in heaven and on earth the highest worship and veneration a creature can receive. They will not stoop to copy the Mother of God, who by her obedience and her humility co-operated with her Maker in His scheme for the salvation of mankind, and who by her earthly self-effacement has set an example to all women whilst the world shall last. We know these things. How can we bring women who are now snatching at empty shadows which can never satisfy their higher nature to understand the real and surpassing dignity of their sex, all its beauty, all its glory? They refuse to be bound by the Divine laws which proclaim the diversities of gifts, of operations, of functions, and they do not scruple to lay sacrilegious hands upon the sacred Ark of God. What can we do to enlighten them? I suppose we must wait till their "spiritual awakening"—a doubtful phrase which may have a very sinister meaning—is past before they will listen to calm reasoning and the teaching of our Lord and His Apostles. Meanwhile we feel sure that your Graces will guard the Apostolic Faith and Discipline of which in this land you are, by Divine Providence, the ultimate and supreme protectors.

It does not occur to this blatant person that if all that stuff about dignity and worship were true, it would become his sex better to step down from their self-appointed pedestal and practise a little of that meekness which seems to them so admirable in us. And for sheer pagan effrontery we commend the utterance of one of Mr. Riley's supporters:—"Never mind whether women should preach or whether they shouldn't. The crux of the matter lies in the fact that people inside the Church hold diametrically opposed views on the subject, and that both sides are inclined to be bitter!" To our less enlightened or less Christian mind the crux would appear to be the question of whether it be right, not whether it be contentious. To perpetuate wrong for fear people should be offended by right seems an odd position for a Churchman, a Christian, and a supporter of the National Mission?

May they stand on a chair?

The Bishop has maintained the dignity of the male by stipulating that "women messengers" of spiritual doctrines shall not deliver their message from pulpit, lectern, or chancel steps. The gatherings, therefore, bid fair to resemble suffrage meetings—a result hardly anticipated. One does not know where or how the address can be delivered, unless shouted from the gallery or from a perch of vantage on a chair. Some enterprising lady may solve the difficulty by taking up her stand at the altar railings, and we really would like to see Mr. Athelstan Riley's letters then!

Equal rights.

The Women's Freedom League is asking for the inclusion of women on the Committee to consider the Education Problem, and on the local committees to deal with pensions; and is approaching the London County Council on its decision not to close the promenades of music-halls, but to exclude from them "undesirable women." Undesirable men may still be admitted. We would like to call the attention of all suffragists to this definite though belated vindication of the courageous and much-abused Mrs. Ormiston Chant. Many years ago this lady denounced the promenade and the characters it catered for, just as vigorously and with far more sincerity than bishops and editors are doing now; but for her pains she was nicknamed a "prude on the prowl," and laughed and jeered out of court. The number of young men and girls whose moral ruin lies at the door of Mrs. Chant's opponents is incalculable; disease and degradation untold are the fruit of music-hall mismanagement and of County Council laxity, which for years has winked at it. And now it is the "undesirable women" who alone are banned, not their partners and patrons, nor the manager who encouraged both, nor the councillors who licensed them and sneered at Mrs. Chant!

BRANCH NOTE.

Middlesbrough. Suffrage Centre, 251a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-rd.

A Branch meeting was held on July 31; Mrs. Mackereth presided. It was decided to help with contributions to the Green, White, and Gold Fair, and it was suggested that the members should meet at the Centre one afternoon to make small articles. Mrs. Wilson gave a report from the Tipperary Committee. Mrs. Larmour was elected as representative of the Branch at a conference to be held at Newcastle to discuss old-age pensions.



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CHILD LIFE.

Edinburgh Protection Scheme.

For many years the birth-rate in this country has steadily declined. It is still declining and, since the outbreak of war, the decline has become portentous. Simultaneously, infantile mortality in both England and Scotland has increased. No thoughtful person can view this state of affairs without apprehension. We are faced with a declining birth-rate, a staggering increase in infant mortality, and with the tremendous wastage of the war. Even without war the question was a serious one; with war, and its murderous inroads in the young and fit of all classes, it becomes a nightmare. How to save the young is the problem. In a Government composed of women as well as men we should, as a matter of course, have a Department devoting itself assiduously to such questions as housing, hygiene and food.

We note with much interest the comprehensive and drastic scheme that has been proposed in Edinburgh for the conservation of child life. The scheme has been proposed by Dr. Williamson, Medical Officer of Health, at the instigation of the Local Government Board. The scheme provides help and advice for expectant mothers. Women will be under supervision for a period before and after child-birth—beds and accommodation being provided for all mothers. The direct benefits will go wholly to the dwellers in slums. A woman doctor, at a salary of £500, is to be appointed, and a large staff of paid nurses and visitors, as well as voluntary workers, will be employed. The minimum cost of the scheme will be £6,000 per annum—nearly half of which the Local Government Board will pay. Two main centres for maternity and child welfare and eleven dispensaries are proposed. Every form of non-infectious disease will be treated, the necessary medicines being free to the poor. Students, nurses, and qualified midwives will assist in the work. It is also proposed to include sanatoria, and various institutions for the prevention of disease, day nurseries, open-air play centres, convalescent homes, schools for mothers, maternity and child clinics. Cooking instruction in the homes of the people will be continued, and the free feeding of nursing mothers and infants at the city's expense is also proposed. Children are to be visited periodically until they are five years old. The scheme has been brought up and is to be discussed and considered in September. It is to be hoped that a scheme, which has the welfare of Scotland's future citizens before it, will receive most careful and sympathetic attention. So far, the principal objection which has been raised is that of expense. It is urged that at a time like this, when every penny saved is a consideration, we are not justified in this large expenditure, especially as £6,000 is thought to be an under-estimate of the cost. On the other hand, we would ask: What is the good of saving money unless we have a population of healthy children who will form the next generation? Children are the pillars of our strength and greatness, and money spent on them is well spent.

A few people criticise the proposed £500 for the woman doctor, though I doubt if the same critics would grudge £500 spent upon a military doctor. They look upon £500 as an exorbitant sum, even though it is to be spent to save the soldier and the woman of the future. In spite of all the work done by women and the esteem in which we are told the nation holds them, the pay still offered them, if good, causes criticism; if poor, it is considered good enough. The Army, though well aware that the great Push was coming, is short of nurses for its

hospitals, and now, at the eleventh hour, frantically appeals to the V.A.D.'s, and sends out a distress signal to them. It needs them desperately. It offers them £20 a year, with £4 for uniform, paid quarterly, also an allowance for washing and board. Hitherto they have been of small account in the Army, but now we read "Women's patriotism must rise superior to any indignity, and though the pay is small they have their reward in serving the country." If they require to support themselves we may hope their patriotism will feed them in old age.

However, in spite of the criticisms, some of them just ones, brought against the Edinburgh scheme, we can only hope that it may be seriously considered, and that every effort will be made to do something to conserve the precious lives of our boys and girls. Money spent upon such a purpose cannot be wasted. To produce healthy, virile, and fit children is our greatest need to-day. We shall all watch what Edinburgh does with the deepest interest.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Women Preachers.

The Bishop of London announces in his *Diocesan Magazine* that he is prepared to allow addresses to be given by women in churches during and in connection with the National Call to Repentance and Hope, on the following conditions:—(1) They must only speak to women and girls; (2) they must, in all cases, have the permission of the Bishop and the full consent of the incumbent; and (3) they must not speak from the pulpit, lectern, or chancel steps.

A list of "Women Messengers" who have the Bishop's permission to give addresses in churches is being prepared.

Private Secretary to the War Minister.

Mr. Lloyd George, Secretary of State for War, has appointed Miss F. L. Stevenson to be one of his principal Private Secretaries. This is the first time a woman has been appointed Private Secretary to a Minister of the Crown.

Irishwoman in Serbian Regiment.

Miss Flora Sandes, an Irishwoman, who was in Serbia at the beginning of the war, served as a hospital nurse, and when the hospitals were closed, enlisted as a private in a Serbian regiment. After spending a holiday for two months in London she has now arrived at Toulon on her way to rejoin her regiment at Salonica with the rank of sergeant.

"Ring in the New."

The fifteen-year-old daughter of the Thetford Town Crier has been appointed to fulfil her father's duties during his absence in the Army. She is also to do bill-sticking.

Barred from Grocers' Union.

At the annual conference of the National Association of Grocers' Assistants, held in London on August 5, a resolution was carried by a large majority to withdraw the scale for the admission of women assistants as members on the ground that their membership would be an obstacle to the redemption of the pledges to reinstate assistants serving in the war. One member remarked that managers were "fed up" with women labour, and another that "to shut women out of the Association would be tantamount to suicide."

GRATEFUL THANKS TO MRS. CLARK for her most kind help in making a refreshing holiday possible.
A. A. S.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

THEY SUPPORT US!

RAISE THE FLAG HIGH.

Some months ago, foreseeing the need for instant activity which has now arisen, the Women's Freedom League started a special fund of 50,000 shillings to maintain our organisation in health and vigour.

We are thus to-day in a position to insist that there shall be

No additional votes for men whilst every woman in the land is passed over.

To-day's list shows that so far 11,875 shillings have come into the fund.

New friends and helpers are rising up all around us as they see the necessity for woman's co-operation in the State. To all these new friends, as well as to our old and tried supporters, we earnestly appeal to

Send the rest of the 50,000 shillings.

Every reader can send a shilling on seeing this; many can send twenty, a hundred or more.

Do not delay, but do it now.

All contributions, big and little, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.

"Wait and see," poor Asquith groans,

In every kind of trouble;

But Freedom Leaguers hate such moans:

'Be up and doing,' is what we say,

'Collecting 50,000 shillings by the way.'

FIFTY THOUSAND SHILLING FUND.

Third List of Contributions.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	306	16	0
Branches—			
Chester	10	0	0
East London	2	14	0
Edinburgh (additional)		5	0
Manchester (additional)	1	10	0
Waterloo (additional)	5	0	0
Anonymous	5	0	0
Mrs. Walter Carey	2	5	0
Mrs. Branch (sale of shoes)	1	11	0
Mrs. Darent Harrison	1	0	0
Mrs. Richmond		5	0
Miss M. Marshall		1	4
Miss G. L. Appleton		1	0
Mrs. Smith		1	0
	336	9	4
Birthday Fund, previously acknowledged	257	6	6
	£593	15	10

ABERYSTWYTH CAMPAIGN.

The campaign was opened on Saturday, July 29, when Miss Anna Munro spoke to an enthusiastic and attentive audience. On Monday we moved our pitch to a more favourable place, and Miss Munro spoke again to a crowded audience. Every night meetings have been held dealing with the various aspects of the Women's Movements, and the people are ready to accept the statement that true patriotism calls women together to demand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. On Saturday, August 5, Miss Dorothy Evans arrived in time to speak at the evening meeting, the chair was taken by Miss Munro, and Miss Evans held a large crowd, who listened with rapt attention to the fine speech she made on Votes for Women in the English Parliament, and on the recent agitation by Irishwomen for their inclusion in the temporary scheme for the self-government of Ireland. Miss Evans remains with us this week, and will speak twice each day with Miss Anna Munro, whose advent in Aberystwyth was warmly welcomed both by the visitors and residents.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1140.

Over 300 VOTES have been sold during the week, and I appeal to members and sympathisers to send me donations to carry this campaign to a successful end. The interests of women are being threatened and attacked, and if we are to overcome the enemy we must have the sinews of war. We are pointing out the urgent necessity of the Vote as a safeguard and protection.

I gratefully acknowledge Miss Lalla Thomas, Is.; Captain and Mrs. Giles, Is. 6d.; Mayor A., "to help the funds," 10s. I shall look forward to substantial help from the members and friends of the Woman's Movements and Women's Freedom League. ALIX M. CLARK (Hon. Organiser).
Granville, North Parade, Aberystwyth.

Women's Parliamentary Review.

Refreshments for Women.

Mr. Snowden asked the Prime Minister if two women named Mrs. Allen, a war widow, and Miss Dicks, have been dismissed from the shell-filling factory in Middlesex for having accepted a cup of tea during working hours; if he is aware that it was formerly the practice to allow the women twenty minutes in the morning and in the afternoon for refreshments, this practice being stopped by the new manager; and as under the present arrangements the women have in many cases to go seven hours without food, will he have an inquiry made into the provision for the welfare of the women workers at this place, and also into the complaints about the conduct of the new manager there?

Dr. Addison: I will make inquiries into this matter, and communicate the result to my hon. friend in due course.

Women's Shifts at Messrs. Vickers'.

Replying to Mr. Anderson's question about the substitution of two twelve-hour for the three eight-hour shifts formerly worked by the women workers at Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., at Erith, Dr. Addison said that "as a result of the inquiries it has been decided to retain the two-shift system, but to reduce the hours worked per week to fifty-seven for women on the day-shift and fifty-four for women on the night-shift. This involves a substantial reduction in the hours worked, and is well within the recommendations of the Health of Munition Workers' Committee."

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FRIDAY,
AUGUST 11,
1916.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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.

An Inevitable Development.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR EDITOR,—I have made a startling discovery. I am for once on the same side as Dean Inge, so either he is among the prophets or I am among the Antis, which heaven forefend! Our meeting-place is support of the proposal that pregnancy should be notifiable—the simple, logical consequence of the Notification of Births Act. An inevitable development of infant consultation centres has been the devotion of certain mornings or afternoons to ante-natal work, for it is quite obvious that, if we are really to “save the babies,” we must begin at the beginning. The post-natal work has been enormously helped by the existing Act. The proposed Act would give a great stimulus to the ante-natal side. When miscarriage has occurred as the result of venereal disease, subsequent children born alive are destined to be maimed and scarred by congenital syphilis unless vigorous medical treatment is undertaken as soon as conception is known to have occurred. When miscarriage is due to other causes, notification would bring to light many cases of evasion of regulations in dangerous trades, and would be another nail in the coffin of sweated women's work, which takes such heavy toll of adult and child life. Criminal abortion—often, in my experience, urged by husbands who do not want “any complications”—would also become much more difficult, and a practice responsible for much disease and many deaths not registered as to cause would be checked.

I need scarcely add that I look with grave suspicion on all new legislation affecting women, even such as would seem entirely benevolent in its intention, until they have got the vote. The Notification of Births Act is itself futile and vexatious in certain districts, and more knowledge is a dangerous thing with which to entrust a Government which

cannot be relied upon to pay due regard to the true interests of women. Nevertheless, when women have a voice in the Government and some control of its executive departments, I think a very large proportion would support a Bill for the notification of pregnancy and miscarriage for such reasons as I have outlined. It seems to me that only because it was mooted in connection with venereal diseases, to which a stigma—not necessarily just—is attached, can such a measure be looked upon as in any sense an insult to women. The father should, of course, be included in the record, and a special effort made to ascertain his identity in the case of unmarried women. This would remedy the grievous omission of the fathers of illegitimate children in the Registration of Births Act, and he would be discovered at a period when much might be gained therefrom. It is easy to damn any measure by dubbing it “inquisitorial,” but social science, like other science, must be based on facts, not on empty theories and opinions. Some day these facts will enable a genius to discover some great social law on which all future ameliorative action will be based. It is our part to pave the way by fearlessly getting at the truth of things in every direction to the best of our ability as individuals and the State. “The trothe shall the delivere—it is no drede.”
N. S. PATCH, M.D., B.S.

The Despard Arms.

“If we could only come here always!” With almost a sigh the happy children, who had just finished dinner, thus expressed their feelings to “Auntie.” “It's lovely in our Green Bower! We've heard of Green Bowers, and now we're in one!” They are school children who are fed during the holidays at the Despard Arms, and the novelty of meals out in the open-air delights them. It is a joy to see their happy faces and to know that Virginia creeper and a few plants can transform our yard into a Green Bower. Anyone may come and share that joy. The Green Bower is also available for teas, suppers, and smokes. Who will help us to provide for the days when the Green Bower will have vanished with summer time by giving us coal? We have a coal merchant who supplies us on favourable terms, and he will carry out anyone's orders!

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5. HANDSOME PURPLE FIGURED SILK OPERA WRAP, lined primrose satin. Worn few times. £2.
6. GREEN SILK FROCK. Present fashion. Waist 25in., skirt 34in. Worn few times.

All above articles can be seen in “THE VOTE” Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

EVERYBODY IS PLEASED with their recent purchases through our Sale and Exchange column, including white voile, silk, and crepe-de-chine gowns, etc. All who want good bargains, without delay, should write or call at “THE VOTE” Office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C., to see a charming Silk Evening Cloak, a Green Silk Frock, a Gentleman's Frock Coat and Vest, all excellent value.

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A MEMBER of the W.F.L. would be glad to assist a lady daily in her domestic duties.—Apply Mrs. L., c/o “THE VOTE” Office.

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