

THE VOTE,  
FEBRUARY 25, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

**Marching On!** S. GERTRUDE FORD.

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE**

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FRIDAY, FEB. 25, 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 STORY OF A PIONEER: Dr. ANNA H. SHAW.

The autobiography of Dr. Anna Shaw will prove fascinating reading to all Suffragists. The book is written with liveliness and insight, and gives an interesting account of Dr. Shaw's life: long battles waged against conventionalism and prejudice, first against the idea of a woman appearing in the pulpit, and afterwards in the many suffrage campaigns in which she has worked. She was born in England on February 14, 1847, but sailed with her parents for the New World when she was four years old. The "John Jacob Westervelt," in which they sailed, encountered such a storm that she all but foundered, and had to put back to Queenstown, the nearest port. While there Dr. Shaw tells how she visited Spike Island and watched the convicts at work carrying pails of water from one side of the island to the other, only to empty them into the sea. This was called hard labour, but wasted labour would have been a more suitable term.

Before they had been many years in the States, her father was smitten with the desire to take up land. Accordingly he proceeded to the woods of Michigan, where he cleared a space, and took up a claim. Eighteen months later he sent for his wife and children. What a journey lay before them! After the railroad journey one hundred miles by wagon had to be traversed, riding through a dense and often trackless forest. The first day's journey saw less than eight miles of the road completed; the house at which they spent the night possessed neither flour nor food, so from their own stores packed in the lumber wagon they had to unpack the night's supplies. On, on through the forest, leaving civilization behind them, and at last their own home was sighted. Here is Miss Shaw's description of the home left to them by their father. "What we found waiting us were the four walls and the roof of a good-sized log house, standing in a small cleared strip of the wilderness, its doors and windows re-

presented by square holes, its floor a thing of the future, its whole effect achingly forlorn and desolate. I shall never forget the look on my mother's face, as she crossed the threshold and looked slowly round. Something within her seemed to give way, and she sank on the ground. For the first time in her life she had forgotten us. With daylight came renewed hope." Mr. Shaw had returned to town and left Anna, aged 12, her young sisters and brother, aged 8, in the care of a delicate wife, but they rose to the occasion. Anna and her brother dug a well, floored the house, made windows and doors, and laboured incessantly to make the house inhabitable. The walls were never clincked for lack of time, and the result was on many a morning they awoke coated with snow. Their father did not come near them for a year, and by the time he returned wonders had been wrought, Anna taking the lead in all improvements. Their two great menaces were wild animals and Indians. Animals they grew accustomed to, and after two nasty encounters with the Indians ceased to fear them. The nearest school was ten miles away, so schooling in their early days was denied them, but their father, though apparently indifferent to their bodily welfare, did not neglect their minds and sent them regularly magazines and books which they read and prized.

At thirteen years of age Anna went to school. She had already conceived the idea of becoming a preacher, and at this early age astonished her father by declaring, "Father, I am going to college," adding, "before I die I shall be worth ten thousand dollars." This to her was boundless wealth. So to school she went, and later on to college. There she came in contact with the Rev. Marian Thompson, a Universalist woman preacher, who stimulated her ambition and advised her to study. When Anna was invited to preach, her family were in despair, and with tears besought her to give up this un-

womanly occupation. Though sorry to displease her people, she was firm and refused to renounce her career, with the result that an estrangement followed lasting years. However, a preacher she was determined to be, and a preacher she became. Her student days were spent at Boston, Mass., where she worked hard, lived poorly, and struggled gallantly against abject poverty. An indomitable will helped her to overcome all difficulties. In October, 1878, she was offered and accepted the pastorate of a church at East Dennis, Cape Cod. Here she spent seven delightful and interesting years. The little church was in the hands of two warring factions, whose battles furnished a never ending source of interest in Cape Cod. In course of time she healed the divisions and peace was restored, but not until on three occasions she had tendered her resignation. Many a queer experience she had at East Dennis; for example, the quarrellers utilized the prayer meeting to ventilate their grievances; in prayer they voiced difficulties, calling loudly and urgently upon the Lord to pardon such and such a liar, mentioning the gentleman by name. By the time prayers were ended there were few untarnished reputations in the congregation.

All this time Miss Shaw, though a licensed preacher and a graduate of Boston Theological School, was not ordained, so that though she could perform the marriage service she could not baptize; she could bury the dead, but could not receive members into the Church. In 1880, at the New England Spring Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held at Boston, she applied with another woman, Miss Anna Oliver, for ordination. Immediately an uproar commenced, the Bishop refused to accept their names, and advised them to leave the church. Many arguments and discussion followed. Finally, Miss Shaw's case was reopened. Questions came like hailstones. "Paul said, 'Wives, obey your husbands,'" shouted an old parson. "Suppose your husband should refuse to allow you to preach? What then?" "In the first place," replied Miss Shaw, "Paul did not say so, but even had he done so, it does not concern me; I am a spinster." After much talk her partisans won the day, and by the end of the session, the Conference, by a large majority, voted to ordain her. The ordination service she describes as simple and beautiful.

In 1882 she entered Boston Medical School, and in 1885 became a fully fledged physician. It was during this time that her thoughts and interests turned definitely towards woman suffrage. In 1888 she became an intimate friend of Susan B. Anthony, and until the latter's death in 1906 they were rarely separated. Many a stiff campaign they fought together, many enthusiastic crowds they addressed, many disappointments, many victories they shared. In 1904 Dr. Shaw became President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and we can only hope Miss Shaw will live to see woman suffrage a reality from one end of the States to the other, that north, south, east, and west may unite in doing justice and honour to their women. E. G. M.

#### GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR, 1916.

The London Branches Council have arranged sewing meetings to be held fortnightly, on Tuesdays, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the office, 144, High Holborn, and we hope our members and friends will come and help to work for the Fair. Mrs. Holmes (Hackney Branch) has consented to take charge of the work. We shall be grateful if friends will send gifts of materials, or money to buy them, to the Hon. Organiser for the Fair, Mrs. Mustard, 49, Moresby-road, Upper Clapton. Date of first meeting will be given later.

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## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.  
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Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.  
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### FIFTY THOUSAND SHILLINGS.

I am very glad to know, from information received, that our friends are hard at work to pile up this Fund.

Only a few results of Self-Denial Week are yet to hand, including 100 shillings from the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, forty from Mrs. Walter Carey and ten from Miss Boyle.

Among early contributors this week to the 50,000 Shilling Fund are many old and welcome friends; Mrs. A. W. Thomson (200), Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (25), Mrs. Thomson, Miss M. Hodge and Miss Kent (20 each), and Miss Forbes Robertson (5). On sale for the Fund I have a very satisfactory and capacious black seal goat handbag, value 25s., kindly given by Miss Holmes. Best thanks to all helpers.

The Branch Secretaries last Saturday at their meeting here evolved many plans for the local raising of funds. Glasgow (Miss Bunten) has already sent in 70 shillings, and gallant little Wales (Montgomery Boroughs) made a beginning with 14. The Scottish Scattered Branch is busy holding a series of Drawing-room meetings to raise money for the Fund.

Collecting cards are now ready, please send at once and secure yours before they are all gone.

E. KNIGHT.

### HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

**Sunday Afternoon Lecture at the Bijou Theatre, 5, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.**

Next Sunday afternoon Miss Zabelle Boyajian will lecture on "Armenian Art and Literature." She is bringing illustrations of wonderful examples of Armenian Art, and we can promise all present an hour of delight and interest. The chair will be taken by the Hon. Mrs. Forbes at 4 o'clock. Tea (if desired) can be obtained in the Theatre from 3.15 to 3.50 at 6d. each. Tickets for the lecture may be had at 144, High Holborn, W.C., or at the doors on Sunday at 1s. (reserved), and 6d. (unreserved).

#### Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, we shall have the great pleasure of listening to Mrs. Nevinson on "Our Huge War Waste." This address will be given on the same afternoon as the addresses of distinguished Cabinet Ministers on the subject of War Economy. We have no hesitation in promising our audience more interesting facts and better practical suggestions than the audience to be addressed by our Cabinet Ministers. The chair will be taken at 3.30. The following Wednesday the speakers will be Mrs. Bracher on "Women and Land: Equal Terms with Men," and Miss Boyle, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Despard. The week after we are looking forward to another speech by Miss Margaret Hodge on "Lands where British Women Vote" and to having Miss Anna Munro with us again. The chair on this occasion will be taken by Miss Alix M. Clark.

THEY SUPPORT US!

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#### "Vote" Sales Department.

We are pleased to state that Miss Alix M. Clark has accepted the Honorary Headship of the VOTE Sales Department, and we make a strong appeal to all VOTE-sellers, past and present, to support her.

#### Letchworth Campaign.

In addition to organising our VOTE sales, Miss Clark has undertaken to run a suffrage campaign in Letchworth, with Miss Anna Munro as speaker, immediately following the campaign at Buxton during the N.U.T. Conference in Easter Week.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### CONFERENCE OF BRANCH SECRETARIES.

Last Saturday representatives from the following Branches, Aberdovey, Bowes Park, Brighton and Hove, Chester, Clapham, Croydon, Grays, Hackney, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Harrow, Herne Hill, Highbury, Hornsey, Ipswich, Kensington, Letchworth, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Mid-London, Montgomery Boroughs, Portsmouth, Richmond, Stamford Hill, Sheffield, Swansea and Tufnell Park, met at 144, High Holborn, to confer together, and with the members of our National Executive Committee, as to plans for getting in 50,000 shillings for the treasury, and, generally, for helping the work of the Women's Freedom League. The chair was taken by Dr. Knight, and a brief address was given by Mrs. Julia Wood, after which discussion became general, and many helpful suggestions were made by which it is hoped the Women's Freedom League will greatly benefit.

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#### W.F.L. Political Meeting.

The audience at our Political Meeting, Caxton Hall, on February 18, accorded an enthusiastic reception to all the speakers, who, in their turn, gave rousing addresses, which ought to have been heard by men and women in their thousands. Mrs. Tanner, from the chair, said that if there were a few level-headed women among His Majesty's advisers they would inspire greater confidence. Mrs. Mustard, among other important subjects, referred to the nurses returning home from active service broken in health, but little or nothing is done to help their recovery. She wished them to know that the Women's Freedom League stood by them. In a moving speech Mrs. Despard pointed out that the nation, as well as the home, needed its women housekeepers; and in the reconstructive, healing work which will have to be done women must be "mothers of the nations." The door to this service is through women's enfranchisement. Miss Boyle said it was good to have a grievance; it kept people alert; it was a mistake to think either sex could wield authority alone; men and women were needed to work together on equal terms. Mrs. Wood made an irresistible appeal for the £50,000 Fund, to which there was a good response. Money, she said, is the life-blood of any organisation, and it was of the utmost importance that the Freedom League should be in a strong position when the war is over.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, February 25th, 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.

Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

### "WOMEN WAR WINNERS."

Would the war be in a better state if the Cabinet had been composed of an equal number of men and women?

The question is being seriously discussed by many who have been amazed at the quick and splendid way in which women are taking to war life.

Putting aside the current gibe that there are several old women in the Government already, we are inclined to think that the quick wits and vigorous tongues of eleven practical ladies would have insisted that, out of the Twenty-two, there should be selected a real leader able and willing to say firmly "Yes" or "No," "Look ahead!" and "What about the weekly bills?"

Women know that if a house is to be well managed it must have at its head a mistress or a housekeeper.

They know, too, that if the mistress and the cook and all the maids and the house boy were allowed to order from shops indiscriminately ruin would soon come.

They know the truth of the saying: "Like mistress, like maid." A wealthy Cabinet that draws its full salary and spends it cannot expect a watching public to economise.

Woman's tongue is a sharp sword, and she takes care that it shall not rust. Would the Twenty-two be so fond of praising themselves and each other in public if a few home truths were regularly uttered by some shrewd feminine critics at those interminable and futile mutual admiration debates? Women, the practical-minded sex, not only talk but also act. If talk were shells the Twenty-two would have beaten the Germans months ago. Many men are writing to M.P.s about the war. The ladies can help by following suit. Nothing stimulates a man so quickly as feminine home truths. —*Daily Mail*, February 21.

### "We could not have done it better ourselves!"

The above, strange to relate, is not an extract from a Suffragist publication. It is not quoted from a Suffragist speech. It is a leading article from the inspired organ of Carmelite House last Monday. It is the "new theology," so to speak, of the Harmsworth Press. It is Lord Northcliffe's recantation.

First Mr. Bottomley; then Lord Northcliffe; with Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, of the Penny Dreadful of Printing House Square, doing a coquettish gavotte

with each in turn. We only require Mr. Garvin now, for a really effective *pas de quatre*. No performance could possess more entirely the true elements of the comic; the only pity is that there is none to educate the public in the truly comic character of its daily Press.

It would not be in accordance with facts to say we are glad of this tardy recognition of truth by these notorious publicists. Their praise or blame leaves us cold. We have long ceased to entertain anything but contempt for the unstable opinions set forth in the columns under their control. But we recognise their veering weathercock as showing which way the wind of public feeling is blowing, or which way the astute sensation-monger thinks it is likely to blow. We wish it could be made as plain to the public as it is to us that those who pose as guides and counsellors on important political and national problems must indeed be fallible, when mistakes and miscalculations of such criminal proportions can be made. If women should be in the Cabinet now, to curb the folly and the vanity of professional politicians, how is it Lord Northcliffe did not know it before? *We knew it*; but he would not allow us to say, without scorn and contradiction, what he now himself says in such flattering terms. Mr. Bottomley was all for a "business Government"; what kind of "business" would it have been, with the women, of whom he now thinks so highly, excluded? The one thing that is plain is that these sapient gentlemen do not understand "business" or business values. Lord Curzon expressed himself contemptuously on "the moral and mental stability of women"; what does he think of the moral and mental stability of his two supporters, the *Times* and the *Daily Mail*, both of which have made such surprising recantations on the subject of the much abused creature, Woman, and her capacity? We invite his opinion on this subject; perhaps, even at his own expense, Lord Northcliffe would oblige and say it for him.

C. NINA BOYLE.

### THE WOMAN'S CAUSE IS "MARCHING ON."

"For They are Jolly Good Fellows!"

A Montreal paper, giving an account of the enthusiasm which marked the final stage of the Manitoba Woman Suffrage Bill, by which women's political disabilities were unanimously abolished last month, calls attention to the fact that the Speaker, the Hon. J. B. Baird, accorded the privilege of seats on the floor of the House to a number of women members of the Executive of the Political Equality League. The Speaker, too, had had the honour of having presented the first Woman Suffrage petition to the House. After the Bill had been read a third time, the women rose in the galleries and sang "O Canada" with great heartiness. Then they sang "For They are Jolly Good Fellows"—referring to the members of the House. Not to be outdone, the members rose and replied in like manner.

### Coming Victories.

Mr. Walter Scott, Premier of Saskatchewan, announces that Woman Suffrage will be established in that province as it has been in Alberta and Manitoba.

### In Chili.

Chili needs a Married Woman's Property Act. A wife's property is under the control of her husband. Her wages may be collected by him, and the earnings of the children belong exclusively to the father. At the request of a group of Chilean women these unequal and arbitrary discriminations have been brought to the attention of the Senate of that country, and it is possible the civil code will be amended. In more than one of the Southern States of the United States identical conditions have not yet been eliminated.

## MARCHING ON!

The Woman's Cause is marching from victory to victory. Canada, India, Australia—all tell the same story. Eastern women are claiming the right to learn, Western women the right to work, side by side with their brother men.

Marching on through daughter nations: see Our Lady of the Snows  
Reach, through thorns that still beset it, up to Freedom's royal rose;  
See our Eastern sister climbing where the fruit of Wisdom grows!

Marching on, where Europe's legions form the van and lead the way,  
With the Morning Star for banner: to a lark's loud clarion they  
March where light breaks, where a rose breaks, and the dawn grows up to day.

Marching on! one force together, east and west and north and south,  
From the lands of waste and winter, from the desert lands of drouth;  
In our hearts a new hope thrilling, and a new song in our mouth!

Marching on! As streams commingling, so our wedded waters flow;  
Field on field we take and conquer, force on force we overthrow,  
And the world waits doubting, wondering where-into this Power shall grow.

Marching with Truth's sword, surrendered never yet, nor sacrificed;  
With the Red Cross shield—with Mercy still we keep our ancient tryst,  
With the watchword that is Justice, to the counter-sign of Christ!

Marching—but the woman's army not in hate its arms shall don;  
Marching—but in bloodless battle shall our peace, at last, be won.  
O, the World, the Race, the Future on our feet are marching on!

S. GERTRUDE FORD.

### In Yucatan.

The first woman's congress ever held in the Republic of Yucatan met at the end of January. From this congress Mexican women sent a request, by way of Andres Garcia, Mexican Consul at El Paso, Texas, to General Carranza asking for their enfranchisement. Their plea is based on the belief that the women of Mexico are equals of men in intelligence, and so entitled to hold office and vote. Mexican women went to war with their husbands. They shouldered guns, they ran the commissariat department. They discovered that voting takes no more muscle or endurance than fighting.

### In Denmark.

Women are taking courses of instruction previous to voting for the first time in the Parliamentary elections this year.

## SUFFRAGE IN IRELAND SINCE THE WAR.

When war came, in August of 1914, it brought with it, if not peace, at least a truce to us in Ireland. Until then the Suffragists, with their determined adherence to a non-party attitude, had met with the usual fate of such people in this country. We had been regarded by the Unionist as a more dangerous type of Nationalist, and by the Nationalist as a more subtle variety of Unionist.

As in England, Suffragists set themselves to do what they could under the war conditions. A Suffragists' Emergency Council was formed, which started toy-making in a relief workroom; they may be proud of the enterprise, for it has now blossomed into a commercial company, on a strictly business basis. The "Paddies" and "Colleens" made in the Dublin Toy Company's factory are dispatched to Italy, Spain, India, and the Argentine, and a courageous effort is being made to capture the home market. Much other good work was done by Irish Suffragists on which there is no space to dwell.

But we pride ourselves in Ireland that at no period did we allow Suffrage propaganda to be submerged under relief work. In a sense, Suffrage work in this country is easier than before the war. Many of the points then at issue—for example, the problems of wages—did not appeal in the least to an Irish country audience. What use telling them the average wage for women in Great Britain was 7s. a week, when that is considered a good wage in Dublin, and in Limerick as something above the average? Now it is different. Everyone is stirred by the story of work done by women in hospital or close behind the firing-line. Everyone can under-

stand the waste in the camps, the mischief wrought by overtime in munition factories. We can tell our audiences of actual work done by Suffragists, work that can be understood by all. We have to tell of the loss incurred by the Government's refusal of women's help, and how things have gone awry "for want of the women." Everywhere Irish people are willing to listen to the Suffrage case. We have proved by successful meetings in an entire country district such as Sligo, and in the great manufacturing centre of Belfast, that the cry, "We can't hold Suffrage meetings now," is entirely unfounded. We have a grave outlook to face. There is more than the European settlement ahead of us, and in that other settlement which, we all trust, will lay to rest for ever the spirit of disunion and strife in Ireland, Irish women must be included. To effect this will need hard work, but the work will be given.

I hope, in another issue of THE VOTE, to report what we are doing in Belfast to bring nearer that enfranchisement of Irish women for which we all long.

DORA MELLONE

(Hon. Organiser and Press Secretary, Belfast Suffrage Society).

## OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Presiding at Caxton Hall, on February 16, Mrs. Corner referred to the recent interview Mr. Walter Long had given to an American journalist, in which he stated that among the many reforms urgently needed after the war would be the better representation of the Overseas Dominions in our counsels. Mrs. Corner did not deny this, but she considered that the representation of the women of Great Britain in the counsels of the nation should certainly take precedence of the better representation of the Overseas Dominions, and she warmly congratulated the women in Manitoba on their complete political enfranchisement.

Miss Margaret Hodge gave a delightful address on "Canadian Women and the Suffrage." Nearly two years ago she had started on a mission to Canada to tell the men and women there how women had gained the right to vote and become Members of Parliament in Australia, where she herself had voted four times, and had been an ardent worker for Miss Vida Goldstein's candidature. On her way to Canada, Miss Hodge, wedged in between a comic recitation and a comic song, had advocated woman

suffrage on board ship. At New York she had addressed a public meeting and visited a Night Court. At Toronto, where there were eight suffrage societies, she had spoken on "Votes for Women" at a public luncheon of City men, and accepted an invitation of men ratepayers to address them on this subject. After speaking at thirty meetings in Toronto Miss Hodge proceeded to Fort William and Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, where she found the women most energetic in the Suffrage Cause. In concluding her lecture, Miss Hodge reminded her audience that women all over the world had been so long in subjection that masses of them had little desire for liberty, and she urged suffragists never to forget that Liberty is strenuous, and that to do really effective work in the world women must rely on their own judgment and must avoid the danger of slipping into other people's thoughts—the worst of all slavery.

Mrs. Tanner, referring to Mr. Walter Long's statement that women had come into their own as far as employment was concerned, pointed out that it was for women themselves to see that they came into their own as far as political power was concerned.

**Woman Suffrage in Glasgow.**

A public meeting was held in Glasgow on February 14. In spite of cold, snowy weather, a large and enthusiastic audience turned out to welcome Mrs. Despard and Miss Anna Munro. Miss Eunice Murray presided; she urged Suffragists to keep the flag flying, and not be lulled into forgetfulness by listening to the fulsome flattery showered upon women and their work to-day. The war had not changed women, though it had removed some of the prejudices that blinded men. Women had always been ready, and always would be, to help the nation. Miss Anna Munro, who was warmly received, spoke upon woman's work and woman's place in the State. She said both in war and peace the voice of woman must be heard.

Mrs. Despard, in a beautiful speech, traced woman's influence throughout the ages, and maintained that if the future is to be better than the past, woman as well as man must make laws and administer them. She besought Suffragists to be watchful and keep their eyes on the doings of politicians, pointing out the danger which would arise if Parliament passed a Bill, nominally for the registration of Parliamentary voters but really enfranchising practically all men. The enfranchisement of women would recede into the background. Both speakers won appreciation and enthusiasm, and each received a beautiful bouquet in the colours of the Women's Freedom League. A good collection was taken, new members enrolled, and other literature sold well.

**Miss Zabelle Boyajian.**

"Her infinite variety," is a true description of Miss Zabelle Boyajian, the Armenian lady who is to lecture for the Women's Freedom League at the Bijou Theatre next Sunday afternoon on the art and literature of her country. She is well qualified to speak on these subjects, for she is an artist of outstanding gifts; portraits, landscapes of her own and other lands, genre pictures testify to her skill, and she is the first Oriental woman to hold a successful exhibition of her pictures in London. As novelist she has also won fame, and readers will be interested to know that she escaped, in 1895, though by flight and through many dangers, the horrors of massacre which befel her people and her loved Armenian home at Kharput at the hands of the Turks, and found a safe refuge in England, the homeland of her mother. Miss Boyajian is a gifted linguist and a most welcome lecturer in Continental countries.

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**Miss Boyle's Visit to Ireland.**

Belfast Suffragists are looking forward to the week of March 1, when they are to have the great pleasure of a visit from Miss Nina Boyle, whose visit to Belfast is very fresh in their memory. Four public meetings have been arranged during the week, including one especially for working men, and another for the members of the Women's Textile Trades Union. The special purpose of the meetings is to emphasize the bearing of the Suffrage question on present-day economic and industrial problems.

D. M.

**From the National Executive Committee.**  
**Flowers for Mrs. Snow.**

At their last session the National Executive Council sent flowers to their honoured colleague, Mrs. Snow, with a message of affection and sympathy. A telephone message was received by them expressing Mrs. Snow's warm appreciation to the Committee for thinking of her in the midst of their press of business.

**To the Women of Manitoba.**

The Committee sent a message of hearty congratulation to the Women of Manitoba on the attainment of complete political enfranchisement.

**To Mrs. Schofield Coates.**

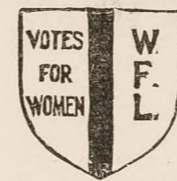
Also a message of congratulation to Mrs. Coates on the birth of a daughter—another little Suffragist welcomed for the Cause—and were glad to hear that both were making good progress.

**To Mrs. Scott.**

Also a message of sincere sympathy to Mrs. Scott, Pennant Hall, Abermule, president of the Montgomery Boroughs Branch of the Women's Freedom League, in her sorrow on account of the sudden death of her daughter, Lady Barry, Ockwell's Manor, Maidenhead.

THEY SUPPORT US!

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



**Friday, February 25.**—CROYDON "AT HOME," 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Corner.  
**Sunday, February 27.**—LECTURE on "Armenian Art and Literature," by Miss Zabelle Boyajian, at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C. Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Forbes. Tea, 3.15 to 3.50 p.m. Lecture, 4 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d., from W.F.L. Office.  
**Tuesday, February 29.**—WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m. CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 15, Clapham-mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 7 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 1.**—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Nevinson, "Our Huge War Waste," and others. Admission free.  
**Friday, March 3.**—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 9, Titchfield-terrace, North Gate, Regent's Park, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Tea.  
**Tuesday, March 7.**—SOCIAL COMMITTEE, 3 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 8.**—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Bracher on "Women and Land: Equal Terms with Men," and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Admission free.  
**Saturday, March 11.**—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 15, Clapham-mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, "Women's War-time Work." Hostess: Mrs. Corner. Tea, 4.30.  
**Monday, March 13.**—BOWES PARK BRANCH MEETING, 59, Truro-road, Wood Green, 7.30 p.m.  
**Wednesday, March 15.**—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Miss Margaret Hodge, "Lands where British Women Vote," and Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark. Admission free.  
**Friday, March 17.**—ST. PATRICK'S DAY RALLY, Caxton Hall, 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and ½d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.  
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**PROVINCES.**

**Monday, February 28.**—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting. W.F.L. Rooms, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Rev. T. C. Gobat. Subject: Ibsen's "Brand."  
**Thursday, March 9.**—READING. Branch Annual Meeting. Mixed Club, 52, Oxford-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.  
**Wednesday, March 15.**—SOUTHAMPTON. Public Meeting, Morris Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray.  
**Thursday, March 16.**—PORTSMOUTH. Public Meeting, Lower Hall, Portsea Parish Institute, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray.

**SCOTLAND.**

**Friday, February 25.**—ROTHESAY. Public Meeting, Good Templars' Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chairman: The Rev. J. M. Dickie, B.D. Supported by Ex-Baillies G. G. Hill and E. R. MacMillan.  
**Wednesday, March 1.**—EDINBURGH. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Discussion on "Future Suffrage Policy," to be opened by Miss Nannie Brown.

**IRELAND.**

February 26-March 4.—MEETINGS IN BELFAST. Miss Nina Boyle.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

**Wednesday, March 1.**—INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, 8 p.m. "A Woman's Experiences as a Painter," Mrs. Anna Airy, R.E., R.O.I. Chair: Lady Muir-Mackenzie.

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**TO OUR READERS.**

DEAR READERS,—Having taken over the work of hon. head of the VOTE Sales Department, at the request of the National Executive Committee, I make an urgent appeal to you to extend your VOTE sales in every Branch, and to organise bands of regular sellers. Everywhere I go in the country and in London—I may mention our political meeting last Friday—I hear nothing but warm appreciation for our gallant little paper, and we must make it more widely known. I make a few practical suggestions for increasing the sales:

1. Make a point of attending important meetings in your own town and neighbourhood; you will be surprised by the number you can sell.
2. Have a cry, such as: "Mrs. Despard's paper!" also the title of some article or paragraph in the paper; it has a wonderful effect.
3. Never go out without a few copies of the VOTE with you; in time you will find people will ask for them.
4. Never lose an opportunity of getting subscriptions for the VOTE (6s. 6d. annual, 3s. 3d. half-yearly, 1s. 8d. quarterly, post free).

Write your difficulties to me and together we will see if we cannot overcome them and so send up the circulation of our paper by leaps and bounds.

I have now twelve vacant pitches in London, for which I want sellers. Volunteers, please come forward—"the sooner the quicker!" as the Irishman says.—Yours, etc., ALIX M. CLARK.

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FRIDAY,  
FEB. 25,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Clapham.

A Branch meeting was held at the Imperial Mansions, Bromells-road, last Tuesday evening. Plans were discussed for holding a local public meeting in March, and a report was given by Mrs. Corner of the recent joint deputation of the Clapham Branches of the Women's Freedom League and Fabian Society to the Wandsworth Borough Council. Members are urged to attend our meeting to be held next Tuesday, February 29, at 15, Clapham Mansions, at 7 o'clock.

### Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

At the last weekly meeting Miss Margaret Drummond, M.A., gave a very interesting account of the Montessori System of Education, and told something of an experiment in the method carried on for a short time among poor children in Edinburgh. Another experiment, with children of school age, which is being carried on at present, was described by a lady in the audience, and several others took part in the discussion. We are much indebted to Miss Drummond for thus again showing her interest in our work. It was a very great pleasure, both to old friends and new, to listen to Miss Anna Munro's address on Saturday afternoon. She dealt convincingly with the present situation and the need for work—and consequently for money—if the Woman's Movement is to emerge triumphant from the present crisis. Violin solos by Mrs. Robertson, and Scottish recitations by Miss Marchbank, added to the enjoyment of those present, and Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Martin again served tea. Miss Wood's appeal for the 50,000 Shilling Fund, following on Miss Munro's address, had an immediate response of over 100 shillings, and she will be glad to receive further contributions to the Branch's donation to this fund. Please note that Mr. Young's Address has had to be postponed till March 22, and Miss Nannie Brown will open the discussion on March 1 at 8 p.m. Members are asked to bring ideas for future Suffrage work.

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

On February 14 Mr. Charles Coates gave a lecture in the Suffrage Centre on "Some Thoughts on Literature and Art in Relation to Life." He made a plea for realism as compared with the unreal and stilted type of writing in vogue in the early days of literature. Miss W. Jones presided, and an animated discussion took place. On February 28 we shall have the Rev. T. C. Gobat again with us, and it is hoped that all members and friends will take this opportunity of hearing his address on Ibsen's "Brand."

### Scottish Scattered.

Three drawing-room meetings have been held, at which Miss Eunice Murray was the speaker. Much interest was shown, and a splendid start was made for the 50,000 shilling scheme. The speaker emphasized the need for women Suffragists to be alert, and the audiences agreed that the Women's Freedom League had earned the gratitude of all women who love liberty. THE VOTE and pamphlets sold well.

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

Mrs. Tippett's grateful thanks are given to Miss Ibbotson for butter and crockery; Miss Riggall, ls. and sweets; Miss Baird, picture book; Mrs. Banyard, doll, picture books, and garments; Mrs. Roberts, a cake; Mrs. Harrison, clothing; Miss Kearton, oranges and cheese; Mrs. Bell, a hen. We are still in desperate need of sheets and towels and tea-cloths. Will our readers note that the marmalade season is at hand, and that it is many a long day since the Settlement enjoyed home-made marmalade? No hampers of garden produce have come our way lately—leeks, artichokes, carrots, turnips, onions, help to make delicious scup, and are at the same time so good for the children.

### The Despard Arms.

We thank very warmly our good friend Mrs. Snow for her sympathy and encouragement and a gift of £1; also Miss A. B. Jack, who visited us on her way to India some months ago, for £1 ls.; Miss A. Crompton for 10s.; Miss J. E. Barrow for 15s., for a three months' advertisement in the Tube (Warren-street). We are arranging cookery demonstrations and shall probably begin with scone making in the window next Saturday afternoon. So come to tea and enjoy the scones! On March 4 the Despard United Sports Club and friends will give a concert, and will welcome visitors (silver collection).

### "The Joan Danvers."

Readers are reminded that this excellent play, produced by Miss Horniman's Company at the Duke of York's Theatre (daily 2.45 and 8.40), ends this week; they should not miss seeing it.

### Hands Off!

For assaulting a postwoman at Highgate a man was sent to gaol last week for a month.

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**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE** will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30. March 1.—Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, on "Our Huge War Waste," and others. Chair: Miss Underwood.

**WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**—Lecture on Armenian Art and Literature by Miss Zabelle Boyajian, at the Bijou Theatre (Hasluck's Academy), on Sunday, February 27, 4 p.m. Tickets 1s. and 6d. Tea before lecture, 6d. Chair: The Hon. Mrs. Forbes.

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