

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

GUARANTEED WEEKLY CIRCULATION—20,000 COPIES.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 19.

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH, 1914.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

PUBLIC MEETING
DEVONSHIRE HALL, Mare St., Hackney,
Tuesday, July 28th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:
SYLVIA PANKHURST, GEORGE LANSBURY,
MRS. SCURR, MRS. WALKER.
Chair: Mrs. HAVERFIELD.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, July 26th—Members' Outing—
Brakes leave 321 Roman Rd., Bow, 9 a.m.
Monday, July 27th, 3 p.m.—Women's Hall,
Bow—Members' meeting.
8 p.m.—Women's Hall, Bow.—Speakers'
Class—Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.
8 p.m.—"Peacock," Freemason's Rd.,
Canning Town—Miss Hicks.
8.30 p.m.—Swiss Cottage, South Hackney
—Mrs. Walker.
Tuesday, July 28th, 8 p.m.—Devonshire
Hall, Hackney, N.E.—Miss Sylvia
Pankhurst, Mr. G. Lansbury and
others.
8 p.m.—East India Dock Gates, Poplar.
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and
Coutts Rd.—Miss Smyth.
Wednesday, July 29th, 8 p.m.—319 East
India Dock Rd.—Miss Jacob.
8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall, 173 Bow Rd.—
Mrs. Laski.
8 p.m.—Christ St. & Charles St., Bromley
—Mrs. Walker.
Thursday, July 30th, 3 p.m.—319 East India
Dock Rd., Poplar—Women's Meeting.
2.30 p.m.—Deacon's Vestry, Burdett Rd.,
Limehouse—Women's Meeting.
8 p.m.—24 Barking Rd., Canning Town.
8 p.m.—Woodstock Road, Poplar—Mrs.
Walker.
Friday, July 31st, 8 p.m.—Beckton Rd.,
Canning Town.
8 p.m.—Piggott Street, Poplar—Miss
Frankerd.
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Mem-
bers' meeting.
There will be no meeting in the
Women's Hall on Sunday, August 2nd,
but there will be on August 6th.

THIS TREACHEROUS GOVERNMENT.

McKENNA & PRISON TORTURE. THE EVIL IS GROWING.

Even the Liberal *Manchester*
Guardian says:—

"Why, we may well ask once more, should forcible feeding be retained at all? It does not vindicate the law. . . . it does not deter from the commission of crime in anything like the same degree as, by the feeling it rouses, it incites to it. It is . . . a form of torture, and torture is no longer accepted as tolerable expedient by the English criminal law, or the criminal law of any civilised country. The utmost which it can effect, if resisted, is to postpone by a few days the

certified insane and removed to Buckinghamshire County Asylum, where he now is. Sir Victor Horsley Dr. McIntosh and Dr. Haden Guest have seen the man and report that he is perfectly sane.

One of the W.S.P.U. prisoners has reported the case of a poor woman prisoner whom she met in Holloway and who told her that having lost her husband and little child she was so much overwhelmed with grief that she attempted suicide. She

GOVERNMENT ATTACKS BISHOP'S BILL.

The Government is determined to destroy the Bishop of London's Bill for the protection of children and young girls. The Bishop's first clause:—

raises from 13 to 16 the age at which the consent of a young person of either sex is a defence to a charge of indecent assault.

The clause as it stands is too weak for us, for we consider that, just as the property of a young man or woman is at present protected until he or she is 21, so it is even more necessary to protect a girl against criminal outrage till she is of full age. But for the Government the clause is too strong, Lord Haldane, the Lord Chancellor, has moved, on behalf of the Government, and carried in the House of Lords, a number of amendments.

Firstly, these amendments make it impossible to make the clause apply to a boy under 16 years of age.

We are quite prepared to agree that a boy of 16 should not be treated in such cases as though he were a man, and to agree with the Bishop of London that cases in which both children are under 18 should be dealt with under the Children's Act, but we cannot assent to the view that indecent assaults are not offences if committed by boys under 16.

Lord Haldane's second amendment will make it possible for a man to evade punishment for an indecent assault upon a girl between 13 and 16 years of age, if he had "reasonable cause to believe that she was over 16, and if he can prove that she was 14 or more."

The effect of this amendment is to provide that the age of consent shall only be raised by one year, for any man who has assaulted a child can say, as such men always do at present, that he *thought* she was 16, and, as everyone knows, a little girl, afterwards brought into court in trouble, looks older than she is.

Lord Haldane's amendments also draw a distinction between an act of gross indecency and an indecent assault—a new distinction—we do not know what it means. With the Bishop, we protest that the term is "rather vague." Lord Haldane's amendments provide that "an act of gross indecency" against a little girl of 13 shall be punished with *not more than six months' imprisonment with hard labour*. For an "indecent assault," which is supposed to be a lesser offence, the punishment is not stipulated.

Lord Haldane recommended his amendment by such callous and nonsensical remarks as: "In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a young fellow is solicited by a young temptress." The amendments were carried by 52 to 12.

All this is enough to make every mother of little girls rise up in revolt, especially when we are reading such appeals as that of Mr. Cree, of the Church House, Westminster, for a new maternity rescue home for little girls under 14. There are already many of these homes, and many of their inmates are no more than ten years of age!

Is it to stop the protection of little girls that the Government refuses to give votes to their mothers?



THE OVERSEAS VISITORS AT THE E.L.F.S. STALL.

CANVASSERS WANTED.

All members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes are urged to realise the very great urgency of canvassing to secure new members of the E.L.F.S., more readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT, and the names of fresh volunteers who will promise to join the "No Rent" strike when it is declared. It is by individual talks with the people of our district that we can turn opponents into sympathisers, luke warm sympathisers into hard-working friends, and comrades in the movement. The enthusiasm which is aroused at our big meetings and demonstrations is only too liable to evaporate, unless it is followed up by a systematic canvass. Therefore, canvassing forms a most necessary part of our work. Regular working parties for canvassing, DREADNOUGHT selling, and working are being organised on Tuesday afternoons, from 321 Roman Road, Bow, and 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar; but canvassing should be going on every day of the week. Those wishing to help in this direction should call either at 321 Roman Road, Bow, or at 319 East India Dock Road, Poplar.

OUR PAPER.

Week by week the production of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is a serious drain on our funds. It is impossible to make a new paper self-supporting all at once. We ask all readers to help us at this critical time by subscribing as largely as they can towards the upkeep of the paper, and we appeal to all members and friends to sell as many copies of the paper as they can week by week. A friend has given 5s. towards the 30s. necessary to pay for a poster at a Tube Station, who will send another subscription to add to this?

We have decided to start graduation badges for DREADNOUGHT sellers. Everyone who has sold 1,000 DREADNOUGHTS will be entitled to receive a badge, to which a stripe will be added for every additional 1,000 sold. These badges will be ready shortly.

release of the prisoner. . . . In a very short time the resisting prisoner would die unless released. So long as there was no power of re-arrest after release, there was some excuse for prolonging to the utmost the time during which it was possible to continue the period of imprisonment. But after that power was conferred by a special Act of Parliament this excuse disappeared. . . . The continuance of forcible feeding under these circumstances is, we believe, a public mischief and a blot on the administration of justice."

So far from forcible feeding being abolished by the passage of the Cat and Mouse Act, the evil practice is growing. Of the thirteen Suffragist prisoners now being forcibly fed, some are convicted of window breaking only, and some are first offenders. Yet Mr. McKenna said on April 2nd, 1913, when the Cat and Mouse Act was under discussion:—

"I assure the House that it would not be my intention to use forcible feeding in the case of ordinary offences such as I have in mind at the present time—window breaking, obstruction, and so forth—but only in the case of repeated offences and real danger to the public."

The forcible feeding of window breakers and first offenders is therefore a distinct breach of faith.

Forcible feeding has now become an established practice in our prisons and is not confined to Suffragists. A man named Harry Humphreys, who considered that he had been unjustly sentenced by Justice Avory, adopted a hunger strike as a protest, and was forcibly fed 237 times. He was then warned that if he did not eat he would be removed to a lunatic asylum, and, as he still refused, was

sentenced to one year's imprisonment and feeling this punishment to be grossly unjust, she hunger struck. She was forcibly fed for five weeks and then told that she would be certified insane and kept in a lunatic asylum all her life if she did not submit. A similar story has also been told to another W.S.P.U. prisoner by another woman in Holloway.

Miss Underwood, a member of the Women's Freedom League, reports that the members of that organisation who were arrested for a Police Court protest and remanded to Holloway prison on Monday July 13th, say that in the cells in which they were confined were great blood stains. When taken back to prison next day they asked, before entering their appointed cells, whether there were bloodstains in them, and one of the wardresses made the significant reply: "No there is not a blood stain in it. There has been no forcible feeding in this cell." Every man who has voted to keep in power the present Government should indeed remember that he shares the responsibility for what is going on in the nation's prisons!

In reply to the protest against forcible feeding addressed to him by the Free Church Ministers, Mr. Asquith has written objecting to the statement contained in the protest, that Mr. McKenna has defended forcible feeding, not only as a means of detaining people in prison, but also

(continued on page 75)

NEARLY 90 YEARS' REPUTATION.



Neave's Food

Used in Rearing the Royal Children of Russia and thousands of all classes, testify to its excellent virtues. For instance: Mrs. Kain, 8, Rockingham Road, Doncaster, writes:—
"DR.—ADVISED ME TO GIVE MY TWIN BOYS OF SIX WEEKS OLD YOUR 'NEAVE'S FOOD.' I have never lost a night's rest, and they have cut their teeth without any trouble. Your Food also does away with all need of medicine and colic oil."—Aug. 22, 1912.
"Hints about Baby" sent free. Sample for 2d. postage money for the publication of 'FOOD' by NEAVE & CO., Fordingbridge, England.

ensures healthy happy children, stamina to invalids, and robust old age by its bone and body-building qualities. Specially recommended by "The Lancet," "British Medical Journal," Sir Chas. A. Cameron, C.B., M.D., Medical Officer of Health and Analyst for Dublin, etc., and other famous Authorities.

Our strike visitors from E. Back's Asbestos Factory, particulars of whose very low wages and hard conditions we gave last week, are still holding out. Councillor Partridge of 223 Old Ford Road, Bow, the Secretary of the Strike Funds, appeals for help in money or kind to give the strikers one meal each day, as many of them are in need of food. The strikers have asked Miss Sylvia Pankhurst to be their Treasurer.

ADVERTISE IN OUR PAPER.

Deal with our Advertisers. HERE IS OUR ADVERTISEMENT PRICE LIST—

Charges per inch: Front Page, Back Page, Other Pages. Charges per column: Front Page, Back Page, Other Pages. Charges per page and half-page: Front Page, Back Page, Other Pages.

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The Woman's Dreadnought.

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Annual Subscription: Post free, 4s. 6d. No. 19.—Saturday, July 25th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

WILL THE KING CALL A CONFERENCE ON 'VOTES FOR WOMEN'?

During the last week the newspapers have been striving to beat up excitement on the Irish situation, and Parliament has been busily engaged in discussing it.

On Monday the Times announced that the King had called a conference at Buckingham Palace at which Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George were to represent the Government, Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Bonar Law the Opposition, Mr. Redmond and Mr. Dillon the Nationalists, and Sir Edward Carson and Captain Craig the Ulster Unionists.

In St. James' Park on Wednesday, members of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes attended outside the Palace with copies of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT for sale and posters inscribed, "The King must call a conference on Votes for Women."

The women were several times sent away by the police and were eventually prevented from returning.

When the King met the eight members of the conference at 11.30 he said that his intervention at this moment might be regarded as a new departure, but that the exceptional circumstances justified his action.

The "Cry of civil war," he declared, "is on the lips of the most responsible and sober-minded of my people," but added that it was unthinkable to him that the country should be brought to the brink of fratricidal strife upon issues which were apparently capable of adjustment.

"Gentlemen," he said, "you represent in one form or another the vast majority of my subjects at home." From this particular statement we must dissent emphatically, for none of the eight representatives at the conference can be said to represent the women of the country, who form the majority of the population.

The King concluded by saying "your responsibilities are indeed great; the time is short; you will, I know, employ it to the fullest advantage, and be patient, earnest and conciliatory in view of the magnitude of the interests at stake. I pray that God in His infinite wisdom may guide your deliberations so that they may result in the joy of peace and honourable settlement."

The Times, one of the principal fomenters of the Ulster trouble, stated on July 20th, that "the whole dispute now centres in the two counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone." The whole population of men, women and children in these two counties amounts

only to 61,836,—just about equal to the number of Suffragists who marched from the Embankment to the Albert Hall to show their adherence to the cause of women's enfranchisement on 18 June, 1910.

It is well that we should consider the number of people affected by the Ulster situation. The entire population of Ulster is 1,581,696; the non-Catholic population, who are the people in whose interests the King is now supposed to be intervening, number 890,800. But these figures include men, women and children, and the men voters are the only people of whom the Government of this country take cognisance.

The anti-Home Rule electorate of Ulster numbers only 141,506.

So long ago as 9th May, 1906, a deputation of Suffragists waited upon Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, and six of the women who were present represented organisations numbering in the aggregate 250,530 women.

Three other societies were represented whose numbers were not recorded, namely: The National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, whose membership is to-day, I believe, upwards of 60,000; The Lancashire and Cheshire Textile and other Workers, and the Women's Social and Political Union, which, though a comparatively small society in 1906, has now grown very large.

Since that time 51 other women's Suffrage societies have sprung into being.

The Ulster Unionists are numerically as nothing compared with the ardent Suffragists in this country to-day. The whole population of Ireland, including men, women and children, is only 4,390,219, whilst the women of England alone number upwards of 13,000,000.

These facts are not sufficiently understood. The threatened warfare in Ulster is infinitely less serious than the suffering which women are undergoing both directly and indirectly as a result of their exclusion from the Parliamentary franchise throughout the whole of Great Britain to-day.

Though we agree that men will show little appreciation of the value of representative government and of the sacredness of popular liberties if they tamely allow the functions of Parliament to be snatched away by the King and Cabinet in deciding this Ulster business, we, as voteless women, deprived of popular representation, have abundant cause to call upon the King to command that a conference to consider the Suffrage question shall be immediately set up, as Parliament has shown itself too careless and indifferent to give votes to women after our 50 years of work and struggle.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

HOW TO FORCE MR. ASQUITH'S HAND.

In reply to Mrs. Schnacke's letter (which we print on column 4, page 74), we must remember that no great reform has ever been won without risk and suffering.

But let us compare the position of say three to four thousand "No Vote, No Rent" strikers with that of a solitary militant, who goes with her hatchet to smash a picture in the National Gallery or to turn down a mansion.

Night after night, through all sorts of weather, the militant may go about her task, carrying heavy loads of materials, forced to tax her strength and endurance to the uttermost by tramping many miles over little known roads, and perhaps through fields and hedges to escape detection, knowing that though she may accomplish her task this one night, she may have even come away free, she will be caught sooner or later, always expecting to be seized by the heavy and brutal hand of the law.

When at length she is caught, she must face a trial in which she knows that the prejudice against her is stronger than that which any ordinary criminal has to meet.

Her righteous motive will only serve for her the infliction of a heavier punishment. Even before conviction, and whilst the trial is going on, she will adopt the hunger strike, partly in a desperate attempt to escape years of stagnation in prison, but more largely as a protest against the refusal of Votes to Women, and in the hope of being able to make her way out to continue the fight for freedom for other women. Even before her trial

is over she will be forced to undergo the painful and ignominious torture of forcible feeding, her resistance to which will only serve to increase her sufferings.

When at last the continued forcible feeding (or, if she is too ill to be forcibly fed, her long abstinence from food and water) has reduced her to a point of weakness, at which her life is veritably in danger, she is released for a short term, usually a week, all too short a time to restore her to any measure of health.

Perhaps she is dragged back at the end of her short license, or, if she is fortunate, she escapes from the detectives who stand outside the house where she has taken refuge, and goes about the country in disguise.

As soon as she is well enough, she returns again to the awful militant task which has brought her to this pass, until she is again trapped.

What a life of lonely torture and effort is this which she has undertaken in the hope of securing freedom for other women, and improved conditions for the people of this country! And all the torture which she and her companions suffer is capable of achieving less than could be done by the determined refusal of several thousand people to pay their rent until women are given votes.

Mrs. Schnacke says that she fears that when the "No Vote, No Rent" strike is started, landlords will ask the employers of labour to dismiss those of their work-people who have joined the "No Rent" strike.

It is possible that the landlords may make this a request, but it is more than probable that the employers of labour will refuse to do so.

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really serious situation. As soon as a large number of people show that they intend to take decisive action, the justice of their demands is conceded without a single blow being struck.

What has happened in regard to the Ulster militants has proved this very clearly. The Carsonites are prepared to fight if they do not get their own way, and though, perhaps, they cannot beat the Government troops, they are certainly strong enough to cause very serious trouble.

Therefore, they have won concession after concession from the Government, and now the King is calling a conference in order that the Government may have an excuse for making still further concessions.

What can be done by the Ulster militants surely we in East London can do to secure for women political freedom and a voice in the making of the conditions under which they live!

Surely we can act as boldly as men and women are continually doing in the industrial world! Hardly a day goes by without its strike, the workers in some factory or other having ceased work to demand an increase in wages, a reduction in hours, or the abolition of some form of injustice.

Many times the workpeople strike to secure some paltry increase of 1d. or 1d. an hour, or to protest against an injustice done to one of their comrades.

Surely we should be able to realise that to prevent an injustice to every woman in the country, a "No Rent" strike is worth while! Surely we should be prepared to take a risk, which, after all, is a smaller one than that faced by the strikers in other trade disputes, in order to win for the mothers of the country the only power to take collective action which is open to the millions of toilers in our homes, who are not paid for their work, and, therefore, cannot join a trade union.

Names for the "No Rent" strike are coming in, but we want them to come in faster still. The Irish question will soon be settled, and before the politicians have time to persuade the public that the presence of some other great problem excuses them from doing anything for us, we women must insist that the question of our enfranchisement shall be dealt with straight away.

Mr. Asquith has sent us another vague reply, but we can force his hand as we did when he refused to receive our deputation.

Every reader of this paper who has not signed the form which appears below, should do so at once, and send it to the office of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

I promise to join the "No Vote, No Rent" Strike.

Name..... Address.....

Mrs. SCHNACKE'S LETTER.

DEAR MISS PANKHURST,

When you will spare me a little of your valuable time to read my letter. I am a member of the E.L.F.S. I have thought deeply on the subject of No Rent, No Rent Strike, and I am going to point out to you a few things that perhaps in your great desire to uplift us wretched slaves you may have overlooked.

First of all most of the landlords ask the name of the firm or place of employment of the husband as a sort of a guarantee of ability to pay the rent. I am afraid that when no rent was forthcoming the landlord would apply to the capitalist nigger drivers, to order their employees to pay their rent or take the sack, and unfortunately they poor know only too well what that word means to us and our dear ones.

Then again where that was not practicable, on account of casual labour, we should find ourselves confronted with the police and soldiers, or perhaps both. We should find some old fashioned piece of lumber (called law) up against us whereby the Government intend to do it to put our rubbish, for that is all they would call it, our homes after many years of toil, in some disused field where it would prove a very pleasant pastime to some hired hoodlums to play football with. We should be told such and such a thing is not legal, but unfortunately you and many more brave ones know to your sorrow that the powers that be—those that are law makers are law breakers. If you could get sufficient numbers of people to make the strike effective, there would be no necessity for a "No Rent" strike because the time would be ripe for giving the vote itself! There is much truth in this, and it is almost certain that when we can announce that three or four thousand persons are prepared to refuse to pay their rent until women have got the vote, the Government will see that the moment has come when women's enfranchisement must be granted without further delay. Governments always give way when faced with a

large number of people show that they intend to take decisive action, the justice of their demands is conceded without a single blow being struck.

What has happened in regard to the Ulster militants has proved this very clearly. The Carsonites are prepared to fight if they do not get their own way, and though, perhaps, they cannot beat the Government troops, they are certainly strong enough to cause very serious trouble.

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Then again where that was not practicable, on account of casual labour, we should find ourselves confronted with the police and soldiers, or perhaps both. We should find some old fashioned piece of lumber (called law) up against us whereby the Government intend to do it to put our rubbish, for that is all they would call it, our homes after many years of toil, in some disused field where it would prove a very pleasant pastime to some hired hoodlums to play football with. We should be told such and such a thing is not legal, but unfortunately you and many more brave ones know to your sorrow that the powers that be—those that are law makers are law breakers. If you could get sufficient numbers of people to make the strike effective, there would be no necessity for a "No Rent" strike because the time would be ripe for giving the vote itself! There is much truth in this, and it is almost certain that when we can announce that three or four thousand persons are prepared to refuse to pay their rent until women have got the vote, the Government will see that the moment has come when women's enfranchisement must be granted without further delay. Governments always give way when faced with a

large number of people show that they intend to take decisive action, the justice of their demands is conceded without a single blow being struck.

What has happened in regard to the Ulster militants has proved this very clearly. The Carsonites are prepared to fight if they do not get their own way, and though, perhaps, they cannot beat the Government troops, they are certainly strong enough to cause very serious trouble.

Therefore, they have won concession after concession from the Government, and now the King is calling a conference in order that the Government may have an excuse for making still further concessions.

What can be done by the Ulster militants surely we in East London can do to secure for women political freedom and a voice in the making of the conditions under which they live!

Surely we can act as boldly as men and women are continually doing in the industrial world! Hardly a day goes by without its strike, the workers in some factory or other having ceased work to demand an increase in wages, a reduction in hours, or the abolition of some form of injustice.

Many times the workpeople strike to secure some paltry increase of 1d. or 1d. an hour, or to protest against an injustice done to one of their comrades.

Surely we should be able to realise that to prevent an injustice to every woman in the country, a "No Rent" strike is worth while! Surely we should be prepared to take a risk, which, after all, is a smaller one than that faced by the strikers in other trade disputes, in order to win for the mothers of the country the only power to take collective action which is open to the millions of toilers in our homes, who are not paid for their work, and, therefore, cannot join a trade union.

Names for the "No Rent" strike are coming in, but we want them to come in faster still. The Irish question will soon be settled, and before the politicians have time to persuade the public that the presence of some other great problem excuses them from doing anything for us, we women must insist that the question of our enfranchisement shall be dealt with straight away.

Mr. Asquith has sent us another vague reply, but we can force his hand as we did when he refused to receive our deputation.

Every reader of this paper who has not signed the form which appears below, should do so at once, and send it to the office of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

I promise to join the "No Vote, No Rent" Strike.

Name..... Address.....

Mrs. SCHNACKE'S LETTER.

DEAR MISS PANKHURST,

When you will spare me a little of your valuable time to read my letter. I am a member of the E.L.F.S. I have thought deeply on the subject of No Rent, No Rent Strike, and I am going to point out to you a few things that perhaps in your great desire to uplift us wretched slaves you may have overlooked.

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CABINET MINISTERS MIGHT LEARN FROM MRS. TERRY.

At Sigismund St., Greenwich, lives Mrs. Terry, the mother of 21 children, all but two of whom are living. Her husband earned 15s. a week when she married him. They lived in the country then, and he earned no more till they came to London when they had already seven children. Even now Mr. Terry only gets 27s. working as a carman from 4.30 a.m. till 9 p.m.

A representative of the Daily News interviewed Mrs. Terry a few days ago and reported her as persistently cheerful and contented, though she had never had a holiday. Even the Daily News reporter, who declared that this hard-working woman was always smiling, admitted that she said: "If I see the boots wearing out, it breaks my heart, because I cannot mend them like the clothes."

Mrs. Bird, a working woman of Poplar, who is the mother of six children, went to see Mrs. Terry the other day, and tells us that the latter is "absolutely disgusted with the housing conditions," and that she considers that "the rent charged to poor people is a robbery for the accommodation provided."

Mrs. Terry pays 9s. a week for a house of six small rooms and a tiny yard, surrounded by dirty black boards, above which nothing is to be seen but dingy factories for making lamp black, cement, and dog biscuits.

In spite of having borne and reared her enormous family, Mrs. Terry has been a wage-earner all her life. When she was first married and lived in the country she worked at fruit and hop picking, and since she came to London she has done charring, washing, and nursing. Home where she has been staying, on a stretcher. She was accompanied by several nurses and a crowd of about 1,000 people, including several clergymen and doctors, had assembled. Chief Inspector O'Brien and Inspector Parker sprang into the ambulance immediately after Mrs. Pankhurst had been carried to the box seat and ordered the driver to proceed to Holloway. Mrs. Pankhurst was released two days later on a four days' leave of absence, for which £2,000 had been raised at the W.S.P.U. meeting.

Mrs. Pankhurst, who was arrested outside Lincoln's Inn House on July 8th, was released in a very serious condition of health on Saturday, 11th. Her license was carefully timed by Mr. McKenna to expire on July 15th, in order that she might not be present at the W.S.P.U. meeting at Holland Park Skating Rink the following night. At 8 o'clock on the 16th, she was carried out to the Nursing Home where she has been staying, on a stretcher. She was accompanied by several nurses and a crowd of about 1,000 people, including several clergymen and doctors, had assembled. Chief Inspector O'Brien and Inspector Parker sprang into the ambulance immediately after Mrs. Pankhurst had been carried to the box seat and ordered the driver to proceed to Holloway. Mrs. Pankhurst was released two days later on a four days' leave of absence, for which £2,000 had been raised at the W.S.P.U. meeting.

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DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. Ives,
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Good meetings in and out-doors during past week. Mrs. Jumble Sale at Crowder's Hall was a great success; £4 9s. 11d. was realised, and small sums are still coming in. Many thanks to members who came to help, also to those who so willingly helped at the stall and cart, both of which were very successful. A very busy week, ending with a crowded meeting at the Women's Hall, on Sunday night, with two overflow meetings, when we had Mrs. Walker and all the strike people from Back's works, a splendid entertainment preceding the speeches.

The sale of *Dreadnoughts* is steadily increasing, but we want to make it self-supporting. Let us use every effort in our power to send up the sales, and show the world what the women of the East End of London can do when they make up their minds! Those away on holiday can take a large number away with them—a dozen only costs 6d.—and either sell them again or give them away to advertise them. Let them leave one in tram, bus, or train, whenever they travel, and the sales will soon go up. Come along members, let us beat the record, we can if we like to try!

Dreadnoughts sold week ending July 17th
Central 554. Bow and Bromley 542.

Mrs. Connell—160
Miss Marks—201
Distributed—Mrs. Burton 500; Mrs. Connell 250; Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne 350; Mrs. Savoy 250; Mrs. Weaver 200; Mrs. Clarke 200; Mrs. Husted 200; Mrs. Mantle 200; Mrs. Hope 200; Mrs. Watkins 200; Miss Paterson 200; Mrs. Pascoe 100; Mrs. Castile 200; Mrs. Lake 50.

POPLAR.

Organiser—MISS MARY PATERSON.
Office—319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.

A number of Poplar members went up to Holloway to meet Mrs. Walker, and joined her at breakfast at the Women's Hall. She was welcomed in Poplar at the Sunday evening meeting, and in Bow at St. Saviour's Hall. Thanks to Miss Hicks, Aberfeldy Street, for tarts for tea at Thursday's meeting, and to Mrs. Neuss for tea and sugar for forthcoming weeks. We are glad to know that Mrs. Unwin has returned home from hospital, and that she introduced the *Dreadnought* to nurses and patients while there. A good contingent from Poplar will be at the Outing on Sunday, July 26th. Will all members please remember that their holiday will give them a splendid opportunity for making the *Dreadnought* more widely known. Every member must take copies away with her for sale or distribution.

Dreadnought sales during week ending July 17th—142.

The Misses Lagsding—50.

DISTRIBUTED.

Upper North St. Dist. Captain, Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk St. *Helpers*, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cressell, Mrs. Organ, 1, 500.
Chrip St. Dist. Captain, Mrs. Fyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helper*, Miss Edy—400.
Kerby St. Dist. Captain, Mrs. Schlette, 128 Kerby St. *Helper*, Mrs. Churcher—200.
Burdett Rd. Dist. Mrs. Walker and Miss Lloyd—300.
Mrs. Hicks, 36 Aberfeldy St.—200.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

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

At the reception held at 400 Old Ford Road on the 8th, our member, Mrs. Pullen, won a large basket of fruit in a raffle, and sold it for 7s. 6d., and the buyer presented it to Miss Pankhurst. Splendid meeting held on Thursday, July 16th, when members wished Miss Paterson and Miss Hicks many happy returns of the day. We were surprised to see Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Payne walk in. The members are thanked who helped to make the evening a success, either by singing, playing, or washing up. Will members all make an effort to spread the *Dreadnought* by taking copies away with them on their holidays, and selling or distributing them.

103 *Dreadnoughts* sold week ending July 17
Canning Town. Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Tidmarsh, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Parker.
Plaitow. Dist. leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Rd. Distributors—Miss Putt, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Lawrence.
Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chautaur Rd. Distributor—Miss Cox and Miss Pullen.

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

HACKNEY.

Secretary—MISS YOUNG,
Cromwell House, Greenwood Road,
Dalston, N.E.

Exceptionally good meeting at Swiss Cottage, Laureson Road, on Monday night, the speaker being much applauded. 30 *Dreadnoughts* sold. We are looking forward to the Devonshire Hall meeting on Tuesday, July 28th. Women's meetings will in future be held regularly on Tuesday afternoons, beginning August 4th, at 31 Churchill Road, Hackney.

ADVERTISE IN OUR PAPER.

WHY should people deal with you rather than go elsewhere? Because you have something better or cheaper than others have. But the public cannot know this unless you tell them.

The best way to tell them is by an advertisement in the—
WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT has a circulation of 20,000 copies weekly and is read all over Bow, Poplar and Canning Town, as well as in more remote districts.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is read by women who are the world's buyers.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT makes a special appeal to its readers to deal with its advertisers. For every one who is prejudiced against our advertisers, twenty will be prejudiced in their favour, because the people who are opposed to the movement won't read the paper.

The WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is delivered from house to house every week all over your district. This alone makes it your best advertising medium in all East London.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S.
Hon. Organiser: Rev. C. A. WELLS, B.A.,
188 Devon Road, Bow, E.

We still need a greater number of members to attend and help keep order in Hyde Park, and prevent meetings being broken up as happened last Sunday.

Excellent meetings were held during the previous week. The speakers at Victoria Park next Sunday will be the Rev. C. A. Wells, Mr. Clark and Mr. Joining—Chair: Mr. J. A. Kitchen—12 noon.

We still need more members, applications should be sent to the Organiser. We are getting some badges made. Members desiring same should send 3d. to cover cost and postage.

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following—Mrs. Meinertzhagen £3, Mrs. Sudd-Brown £2, Mr. H. D. Harben £2. We hope to take permanent offices shortly.

Speakers wanted for open-air meetings, please send list of vacant dates. Expenses will be paid.

R. S. P. U.

Hon. Sec.—MR. J. BONARIES,
Dreadnoughts sold 100.

The ending meaning this week is in connection with Back's Strikers. Outing to Hastings on Sunday last was a success, and Hastings is painted with "R.S.P.U. London" and "Votes for all women" from the door-step of Hastings' Castle to the carriage door.

The R.S.P.U. is holding a Social in the Woman's Hall, on Saturday, August 1st, at 8 p.m. Admission by Programme 3d.

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN SWEDEN.

On July 2nd, a deputation of Suffragists waited on the Swedish Premier to present a petition signed by 350,000 women over 18 years of age. The largest petition for men's suffrage ever presented in Sweden was in 1907, when signatures numbered 360,000, as 60,000 of the signatures to that petition were those of women it will be seen that more women had petitioned for enfranchisement than men.

A Women's Suffrage Bill was first introduced into the Swedish Parliament 30 years ago, and since then 27 Bills have been introduced, three of them having passed through the House of Commons. The Swedish Women's Suffrage Society has 17,000 members, the entire population of Sweden being only about five millions.

IN DENMARK.

The Danish Lower House of Parliament decided to include women in the new Constitution Bill by a majority of 102 votes to 6. The Constitution Bill was rejected by the Upper House, and fresh elections were necessitated. The progressive parties, who were responsible for the Bill, were returned by a large majority in the Upper House as well as in the Lower. Votes for Danish women are, therefore, expected very soon.

MORE AMERICAN SUCCESSES.

Ohio is one of the American States where, by means of what is called the "Initiative," a law may be passed by a Referendum vote of the electors, without passing through the legislature, if a sufficient number of voters will petition for it. 104,000 electors in Ohio have now petitioned that Votes for Women shall be placed before the electorate, and the question will, therefore, be submitted to the voters in November. This is said to be the largest Initiative petition ever secured in the world.

The Louisiana House of Representatives has carried a Votes for Women amendment by 61 votes to 30.

In the State of Nevada, where Votes for Women is to be submitted to the electorate in the autumn, all the labour organisations have come out in support of it.

A deputation, representing a million members of the General Federation of American Women's Clubs, interviewed President Wilson, to demand Votes for Women, on June 30th.

In the House of Commons on July 15th, Lord Newton said that the Suffragists had been exasperated by the dishonest juggling by which the Government had turned the Reform Bill into that Party measure, the Plural Voting Bill. The Government was responsible for turning Suffragettes into "wild women."

OUR LITTLE GIRLS ARE IN DANGER.

On July 10th three cases of indecent assault upon little girls were tried at the Dublin City Sessions. Herbert Jones, a married man of 33, was charged with having assaulted a girl of eight years in a garden at the back of his house. The child told her story intelligently and distinctly, and was subjected to vigorous cross-examination. Her evidence was supported by the wife of a well-known Dublin journalist, who witnessed what took place from her window. The jury found a verdict of guilty and recommended the prisoner to the clemency of the court. The case was adjourned, and the next day the Rev. Lewis Crosby appealed to the Recorder for lenient treatment for the prisoner. A sentence of six weeks imprisonment with hard labour was imposed. The girl in this case was the daughter of an employer of labour.

Thomas Madden, of no fixed abode, who worked as a blackleg in a recent lock-out, was charged with assaulting a little girl of less than 8 years, the daughter of a poor workman. He had infected the child with venereal disease. Prisoner pleaded not guilty and was discharged, the Recorder informing the child's father that no permanent injury had been done to her. Immediately afterwards a young woman, holding a baby in her arms, rose in the gallery of the court and said: "I may go to the Workhouse now," she concluded, bursting into tears, and was led out of the court, weeping bitterly.

Patrick Lynch, who was said to be the son of respectable parents, was charged with an indecent assault on a girl of 16 in the gallery of a theatre. He was found guilty and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. The Recorder said that he was "a respectable but coarse-minded man." It is noticeable that the man Thomas Madden, who had committed the worst offence of these three, was the man discharged, the excuse being that the little girl whom he had injured was too young to give evidence, though no one appears to have doubted the facts. This was probably in part due to the fact that her father was poor and without influence.

But each of these three cases clearly illustrates the outrageous fact that for some venereal disease, or other offence against property, a man or woman may receive a heavy sentence, whilst grossly indecent assaults against little girls are treated with excessive leniency.

A Dublin Trades' Council passed a resolution protesting against the acquittal of Madden, and has forwarded this to the Labour Party and the Irish Party, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Chief Commissioner of Police and Archbishop Walsh.

A deputation representing 24 Vigilance Associations waited on Mr. Ellis Griffith at the Home Office on Thursday, July 16th, to press for the appointment of policewomen with the full and complete status of police officers and power of arrest. A second deputation from the Criminal Law Amendment Committee asked that every local authority should be obliged to appoint two women constables.

It was urged that policewomen would be able to give better advice and protection to women than men constables, that women ought to take the depositions of women and children in all cases involving immorality, and that the presence of policewomen would make for the improvement and safety of parks and open spaces, where children are only too frequently exposed to grave danger from loafing boys, showing their immorality by women and that women officials should be present in dance halls and cinema shows.

Mr. Ellis Griffith returned a non-committal reply, suggesting many difficulties, but refusing to put the minds of the deputation before the Home Secretary. He said: "It is a very moot point, and a difficult one in law, as to whether women can be appointed constables at the present time. I think the more strongly expressed opinion is that they cannot. If that is so, we must legislate, and legislation is not easy in these days."

Women are non-voters, and difficulties are always put in the way of legislating for things that non-voters want. Our little girls will never receive adequate protection until women secure the vote.

CALL NO MAN MASTER.

The other day when pilgrims were visiting Abdul Baha at Acca, one man approached him, and was about to kiss his feet, but he restrained him, saying that kissing the hands, the feet, kneeling, and bowing are strictly forbidden in the Bahai Dispensation, and that these outward manners are injurious to the nobility and majestic grandeur of the soul. They pollute the minds, degrade the loftiness of characters, and debase the beauty of human nature. Miss Mary Blomfield's mother and friends, who thought it necessary to repudiate her action recently, when she bowed to the King on behalf of the women, will take comfort from the above, as they are close followers of Abdul Baha!

ABOUT THE DUSTBIN.

Dr. Smith, the Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth, urges that to prevent the high death rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, especially amongst infants, dustbins should be emptied every day. He points out that the dustbins swarm with house-flies and that these are a serious cause of infection.

Housewives in the Borough of Poplar, who are only provided by the Borough Council with small dust pails without lids, which are emptied but once or twice a week, should make an urgent protest.

The Domestic Servant Problem.

By JESSIE STEPHEN.

Much has been written about the shortcomings of domestic servants—some of it real, most of it imaginary. Every newspaper and periodical you take up nowadays contains a column or two about the scarcity of domestic servants. Of course, there is a reason for this scarcity and employers know it. Conditions of labour remain much as they were 50 years ago, and no one cares if they continue so till doomsday.

It is to remedy the evils of the present system that the Domestic Workers' Union was formed over three years ago. This is the first genuine trade union for domestic servants, although unions of parasitic variety have existed for years. The first members had a hard struggle to keep their end up, and had to share the expenses of organisation. This in itself was a great drawback, because servants, taking them in general, are very inadequately paid. However, if funds were few, enthusiasm was great, and to such good tune that in a few months they had enrolled over 100 members. Unless the reader has worked among domestics she cannot understand how much labour this entailed. I, myself, for instance, have spent twelve months trying to convert one single girl, dropping in on her when I knew she would be in the mood for a chat. To me, at times, it seemed a sheer waste of time, but I persevered, and perseverance conquered in the end. Some girls see reason in five minutes, others in as many months. That by the way, however, the Union has gone from small things to larger things, and now proposes opening two houses this year as hostels and training centres for domestic servants, one in Glasgow and one in London. In this connection an appeal has been issued for the collection of the necessary funds. Through these hostels the Union hopes greatly to improve conditions, although they have a very modest little programme at present, which includes the following demands:—

- (1) 5s. per week minimum wage.
- (2) Half day once a week.
- (3) Compulsory character note.
- (4) 14 days' holiday once a year on full wages.
- (5) Good and nourishing food. And last but not least—
- (6) Sanitary bedrooms.

To many workers the above demands may seem trivial, but I can say from experience that if we get one half of them granted—which we will very shortly—domestic service will become a much more congenial occupation for girls, and we shall hear less nonsense talked about domestic servants being ignorant and other stale witticisms which daily appear in the newspapers. We are out with the rest of the working women to fight for our rights, and will not rest content till we have made a vast improvement on our present conditions.

For the benefit of interested readers I may say that a postcard sent to the Secretary, at 66 Queen's Road, Bayswater, or 28 Raeberry Street, Glasgow, Scotland, will bring full information as to objects of Union and fees.

We should like to call the attention of the Domestic Workers' Union to the contract enforced by the Servant Girls' Union of Copenhagen, Denmark. This provides for two free evenings in each week and every other Sunday and public holiday, after 2 p.m. It limits the working hours to 10½ between 6 in the morning and 9 at night, and provides that after 7 p.m., the servant may not be asked to do more than serve one meal, and to perform such tasks as turning down beds and placing lights in bedrooms. If servants are asked to do such things as washing, ironing and cleaning, after 7 p.m., they must be paid overtime, of 35 öre, (about 3½d.) an hour. The holiday fixed by this contract is only eight days in the summer, but it provides for payment of full wages and in addition 1s. 1d. a day for food money.

EX-INSPECTOR SYME'S CASE.

No one will take it as any proof of the incorruptibility of our police force that Mr. Syme was found guilty of criminal libel against Sir Edward Henry. A single man has obviously no chance of impartial judgment in a court where his judges are, especially amongst infants, dustbins should be emptied every day. He points out that the dustbins swarm with house-flies and that these are a serious cause of infection.