

THE VOTE,  
JULY 14, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

**HONESTY.** C. DESPARD.

# THE VOTE

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

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FRIDAY, JULY 14, 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.**

## BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.

In these days when the din of conflict shakes the world, when the ravages of destruction on every hand clamour expediently for immediate repair, it takes great concentration of purpose to hold to the long-sighted view and put in a few small unglamorous pegs towards construction and conservation. Only those accustomed to accomplishing the impossible would have attempted a serious conference against the cannonade of other calls, only those holding the ideals and trained in the invigorating school of woman suffrage would have carried it to success. Upon the invitation of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, representatives of fifteen Suffrage Societies of the United Kingdom met with women from the Overseas Dominions in the Great Central Hall, at Westminster, from July 5 to 7, inclusive.

"Loss of Nationality through marriage with an alien" was the first subject before the delegates, and was discussed by Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Mrs. Ford-Smith, Miss Nettlefold, and Mr. Laurence Housman. A resolution of protest was unanimously passed. A pleasant incident of the first day was congratulations to Canada for the enfranchisement of women in three of her states, proposed by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence. Another resolution recommended "that in order to prevent future wars an International Council, consisting of equal numbers of men and women, should be established to regulate all disputes between nations by means of reason instead of force." The Conference was of opinion that compulsory measures of legislation dealing with venereal disease aggravate rather than lessen the evil, and, while recognising the value of the report of the Royal Commission on this disease, deplored the absence of any allusion to the low political and economic status of women and the intimate connection of this fact with prostitution; and all women's organisations were recommended to insist that the whole question of this disease, as well as inequalities of administration of law in cases of sexual crime be thoroughly ventilated. Further protest was made against the persistent ignoring of questions of sex in the education of the young, and women's organisations were called upon to promote confidential and wholesome relations between parents and children and teachers on this subject. The industrial session was extremely alive, the dis-

cussion being opened both ably and interestingly by Miss Margaret Ashton, supported by Mrs. Salmond, Mrs. Walker, Miss Isitt, and Miss Anna Martin, who gave some illuminating facts on the "slave-wife" of the working man. The conference reaffirmed the principle of equal pay for equal work regardless of the sex of the worker, and demanded that a wife should be legally entitled to a share in her husband's property and income, and be given equal guardianship of her children.

The opinion of the Conference was against employing children under 14 as wage-earners, and it was urged that the working hours of young persons of either sex should be limited to six hours per day, that up to the age of 18 years attendance at classes for technical instruction should be compulsory, and should be during the hours for which they are paid by their employers. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Susan Lawrence were two of the speakers on this question. Pensions for widows were advocated. It is superfluous to mention that the enfranchisement of women was demanded and that the speakers from overseas gave overwhelming testimony to the reforms, particularly in the direction of mothercraft in its bigger, national sense, which have followed upon such enfranchisement in their respective states. In addition to those already mentioned the various questions were discussed by those of such practical experience as Dr. B. Tchaykovsky, Miss March, B.Sc., Miss A. Neilans, Miss Maud Royden, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Drake, Miss Abadam, and Mrs. Bouvier, while among those from overseas who were heard were Mrs. Sydney Herring (New South Wales), Miss L. Hornabrook (South Australia), Miss Margaret Hodge (New South Wales), Miss Isitt and Mrs. Bracher (New Zealand), Miss Britton and Mrs. Beamish Lane (South Africa). Mrs. Despard, in a short, inspiring address, brought the Conference to a close. During the meeting, Miss H. Newcomb, who, as Hon. Secretary of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, has worked so hard, was presented with a bouquet as an expression of affection and appreciation by her immediate associates in the work. A verbatim report of the proceedings was taken, which will be printed and put at the service of all the suffrage papers who desire fuller information.

S. M. F.



# Women's Freedom League.

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

### LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Tuesday, July 18.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL. Sewing Meeting at Headquarters, 3 to 7 p.m. SOCIALS COMMITTEE at 144, High Holborn, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Aldridge.

Wednesday, July 26.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m.

Friday, September 22.—CANTON HALL. Mrs. Despard's Return Party, from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Invitation cards from W.F.L. Office.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 4d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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

### PROVINCES.

Wednesday, July 19.—PORTSMOUTH. Work Party, 17, Lombard-street, 3-7 p.m.

N.B.—HEADQUARTERS OFFICE OUTING. The Office will be closed on Friday, July 14, at 2 p.m.

## IRISHWOMEN AND THE SETTLEMENT.

According to the latest information available at the time of writing, the provisional settlement of the Irish question is to be carried through. An Amending Bill is being drafted and will be introduced this week. Under its terms, as far as they are discoverable at present, there are to be no elections. The Irish members now serving at Westminster are to form the new Irish House of Commons, and there is to be a nominated Upper House or Senate. These conditions may, of course, be changed a dozen times before the Bill actually comes before the House, or be entirely transformed in its passage through the House; but these are the general suggestions as outlined in *The Westminster Gazette* of Friday last.

Now, what is the attitude of Irish suffragists to the measure? As members of non-party organisations we do not discuss the party questions involved; with those we, as suffragists, are not concerned, however keenly we may feel on the matter as individuals. Our point of view is simple. We assume, of course, that the final settlement of the Irish question, promised at the Imperial Conference, will include the enfranchisement of Irishwomen. This point need not be laboured. We assume that our political leaders of both parties meant what they said when they told us the war could not be won without our help, when they called for national war service from women, when they emphasised our share in the great national effort which was demanded from Ireland as from every other part of the British Empire. We will not suggest for a moment that our politicians will run away from their declarations when the time for fulfilment comes. We assume our party leaders are honest men, and therefore we take for granted that the final settlement of the Irish question will include the complete enfranchisement of Irishwomen.

With no other party aspect of the matter are we concerned. We only stress again the point that no such settlement can be final without this measure of reform. We would not even consider it necessary to argue the point; common honesty demands this, and we assume again that our leaders are sufficiently statesmen to possess this quality.

But there is another aspect of the matter. The Imperial Conference is a question of the future, of the near future, we most earnestly hope; but still, at best there will be a long interval before it can meet, and a longer one before its decisions can be embodied in legislative form. Meanwhile there is to be this provisional settlement—the settlement by consent. By consent of whom? The Prime Minister has referred to the sacrifices made by the Irish people. Does this term include Irishwomen, as well as Irishmen? It did when the leaders asked for service. Is the interpretation to be different when the question of recognition is under consideration? Much has been said of the right of one part of Ireland to self-government, of another part to choose under which form of government it will remain. Are not Irishwomen entitled to a share in this government? Again the point need not be laboured. The provisional settlement must include representation of Irishwomen as well as Irishmen. This is especially necessary when we remember the questions with which any government of Ireland will have to deal. There are the industrial problems, and the industries of Ireland are largely dependent on women's labour; there is the vital need of housing reform, so that the present population of under five millions may increase and multiply on its native soil. There is the education question, where reform is so urgently needed in order that Irish boys and girls may be fitted for the highly skilled industries which have the best prospect of success in a country without coal or iron. These are women's questions, and they cannot be postponed until after the war, but must be dealt with at once.

Further, the members of the new Irish Government will have an important share in the final settlement which is to be effected at the Imperial Conference. The Colonies are to be represented at this Conference, and the Irishwomen of Australia and New Zealand will have—and rightly have—their share in that reconstruction which is to follow the war. Is it conceivable that the Irishwomen in Ireland are meanwhile to have no share in the management of their own local affairs? The suggestion is too absurd for consideration. We demand, therefore, that any form of government shall include representation of Irishwomen.

If there are to be no elections, then among the nominated members must be included representative Irishwomen, and if there is to be an Upper House, formed wholly by nomination, a fair proportion of its members must be women. As apparently provision is to be made for joint sittings of both houses, this will secure for Irishwomen an effective voice in the urgent questions of infant welfare, education, housing and industrial organisation. Until such an effective share is ensured we can have no satisfactory settlement of the Irish question, and no hope that the vital interests of Ireland will be safeguarded in the future.

DORA MELLONE.

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Bowes Park	...	10	0	0
Bromley	...	7	6	0
Clapham	...	7	13	6
Chester	...	2	0	0
Croydon	...	5	0	0
Dundee	...	13	0	0
Edinburgh	...	1	0	0
Glasgow	...	8	12	0
Golder's Green	...	2	15	0
Hackney	...	3	12	0
Herne Hill and Norwood	...	2	11	0
Hornsey	...	3	3	0
Ipswich	...	3	0	0
Kilmarnock	...	10	0	0
Manchester	...	1	18	0
Middlesbrough	...	5	0	0
Mid-London	...	5	8	6
Montgomery Boroughs	...	10	15	6
Portsmouth and Gosport	...	5	0	0
Reading	...	1	0	0
Regent's Park	...	5	0	0
Sale	...	1	10	0
Sheffield	...	1	8	0
Southampton	...	1	0	0
Tottenham and Stamford Hill	...	2	5	0
Tufnell Park	...	1	13	0
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W. R. Snow, Esq. (by Mrs. Snow's wish)	...	50	0	0
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Mrs. Shuttleworth Boden	...	5	0	0
Mrs. E. D. Fox Bourne	...	5	0	0
Captain and Mrs. Walter Carey	...	5	0	0
Mrs. E. M. N. Clark	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Schofield Coates	...	5	0	0
Lady Cook	...	5	0	0
Dr. Knight	...	5	0	0
"M. A."	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Murray	...	5	0	0
Mrs. A. W. Thomson	...	5	0	0
Miss Edith Elphick (Collected)	...	3	10	0
Mrs. A. B. Jones	...	2	2	0
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Miss Petty (Collected)	...	1	0	0
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Mrs. Aaron	...	10	0	0
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Miss Ball	...	10	0	0
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Miss E. G. Wood (Collected)	...	7	6	0
Miss White	...	6	0	0
Mrs. Bennetton	...	5	0	0
Miss Bisdee	...	5	0	0
Miss M. Campbell	...	5	0	0
Miss R. Eamonsen	...	5	0	0
Miss Husband	...	5	0	0
"K. A. W. B. T."	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Elsie Langridge	...	5	0	0
Miss J. Maxwell	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Montefiore	...	5	0	0
Miss M. E. Penrose (Collected)	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Pick	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Thomson Price	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Salmon	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Sidley	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Fred Smith	...	5	0	0
Miss Steven	...	5	0	0
Miss V. T. Taylor (Collected)	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Percy Thompson	...	5	0	0
Rev. G. W. Thompson	...	5	0	0
Miss Wall	...	5	0	0
Miss E. A. Johnson	...	4	6	0
Mrs. Counter	...	4	0	0
Messrs. W. Speaight and Sons	...	4	0	0
Women's Freedom League Settlement	...	4	0	0
Miss Barnet	...	3	0	0
Mrs. Broadway	...	3	0	0
Miss M. E. Baker	...	2	6	0
Miss Elsie Biggar	...	2	6	0
Mrs. Coombe (Collected)	...	2	6	0
Miss Crocker	...	2	6	0
Miss Ivy Day	...	2	6	0
Miss Duckett	...	2	6	0
Miss Ada Dunkley	...	2	6	0
Hon. Mrs. Forbes (for flowers)	...	2	6	0
Dr. H. B. Hanson	...	2	6	0
Miss Hurry	...	2	6	0
Miss L. Hutchinson	...	2	6	0
Mrs. Grace Hyde	...	2	6	0
Miss Sherman	...	2	6	0
Miss Sidley	...	2	6	0
Mrs. Taylor Brown	...	2	0	0
Miss E. Campbell	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Dawson Clark	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Rosa French	...	2	0	0
Miss K. Holmes	...	2	0	0
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Mrs. A. M. C. Oxlin	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Stevenson Howell	...	2	0	0
Miss Watterson	...	2	0	0
"Woolwich"	...	2	0	0
Miss A. Rowell	...	1	6	0
Miss M. Hickman	...	1	0	0
Miss L. D. Knight	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Lapidus	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Sewell	...	1	0	0
Tickets	...	7	18	0
Collection	...	4	11	0
Flower Stall (per Mrs. Corner)	...	2	0	0
Strawberry and Cream Stall (per Miss Tooke)	...	1	0	0
Cloak-Room Takings	...	8	4	0
		257	6	6

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1108.



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, July 14th, 1916.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free. 6/6 per annum.  
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## HONESTY.

A document has just been issued to which, on account of its important bearing on the social and domestic life of the nation, we desire to draw the attention of our readers. It contains the Majority and Minority Reports of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Board of Agriculture to consider the settlement and employment on the land in England and Wales of discharged sailors and soldiers.

That such a committee should have been appointed is a salutary sign of the times. To some of us, indeed, it may seem tragic beyond expression that we should have been allowed to drift as we have done, that it should have required this great cataclysm of horror and misery to reveal the nation to itself—to show us that, inheritors of a rich and productive country and of a race which, in the past, has ever held its own, we have allowed our land to run to waste, hosts of our children to die in infancy and thousands of our people to deteriorate physically.

In the evidence brought before this committee we can trace some at least of the causes for this declension. Between 1871 and 1911 the male population increased by 67 per cent. During the same period the male agricultural population decreased by 16 per cent.; and farmers laid down more than three and a half millions of arable to grass-land, thereby dispensing with the work of over 100,000 men. The extended use of labour-saving machinery and cutting down the farm staff accounted for a similar reduction. In 1906 there was a slight improvement, but the tendency continued, and during the last ten years another million acres have been laid down in grass. In addition to this, we find that the bad housing conditions, the low wages, the tied cottage system, and the dullness of rural life caused the young and adventurous workers to seek their fortunes elsewhere.

These being the conditions, what are the results? First—and to women of vital importance—the health of the nation has suffered. In the early days of the war, when medical inspection was strict, thousands of young men were debarred from joining the colours on account of physical unfitness. Most of these were town-bred.

In the great conference of co-operative women, held lately in London, a resolution recommending day-nurseries for little children under school age was discussed. It was put back. The delegates, most of them from the provinces, judged that every mother ought to be provided with sufficient house and garden-room to enable her to keep her little ones at home. If, after the war, we are able to create

such conditions and to offer such inducements as will draw discharged soldiers and sailors and munition workers—men and women—to the country, such a state of things may be possible.

There is, however, another result of the present land system, which demands our serious consideration. The real interdependence of modern nations must be gauged by the fact that no nation entirely feeds itself. Imports form a large part of the life-material of every country, but none, we believe, are so largely dependent upon other lands for their staple commodity as Great Britain. Evidence has been given to the effect that we import four-fifths of our wheat, half our meat, and an enormous quantity of cheese, butter, fruit and eggs. It is easy to see not only that in time of war this economic dependence constitutes a great danger, but that circumstances might arise when it would result in unspeakable disaster.

Both Majority and Minority Reports insist that this is the moment to deal with these questions, that the opportunity which will be afforded by the conclusion of the war and the disbandment of our armies is unique in our history, and that measures should be pushed now through Parliament which will make readjustment of our economic life in these respects possible. The Minority Report is much more drastic in its recommendations than that of the Majority. This, however, is not the place to discuss them. The present House of Commons will be called upon presently to decide the course of action to be pursued. How strange and sad it seems that the women of this country, who have suffered and are suffering from the piteous mistakes of the past, and who yet, in the prevailing darkness, have held persistently to their demands for justice and to their ideals of a pure and wholesome life for the children and youth of the nation, should be allowed no voice in the momentous decisions that will be taken!

It is the same in Ireland. There, too, the opportunity is unique. A new era, as many hope and believe, is dawning for that land of many sorrows. Are the women to have no voice in its inauguration? In this issue an Irishwoman, well known in the Suffrage movement, presents the case for her fellow-countrywomen.

We are only too deeply conscious of the complexity of the issues that are before the country at this critical moment of her history, and we do not minimise its difficulties. It is through the policy of drifting that they have grown up; and why have we drifted? Because, as a nation, we have failed to see the way along which our social salvation is to be found. It is a simple way, although to the uninitiated it may seem rough and unattractive. Many are entering upon it now; but perseverance, energy and courage will be needed to follow it through. The first step along that path is mental and spiritual honesty; not to profess that which we are not prepared to maintain against all hazards. We profess democracy; that means full representation of every section, every class, every interest in the Government of the country. Most of us claim to be religious, however broad our interpretation of the word may be. There is no religion, there is no great morality that has not proclaimed as its initial principle the Brotherhood of the Human Race. Carry these honestly—a broad democracy and a true interpretation of religion—into politics, and the difficulties will melt away. And the result? It may not be immediately apparent, but it will arrive. Once more, as in days gone by, our country men and women will sow and reap, gathering abundant harvests from the land. Once more, the people's food being guarded from pollution, the nation will use in its purity the generous product of the earth.

Once more the nation's children, taken away from slum dwellings and factory smoke and evil-smelling streets, will grow up vigorous and beautiful.

These things can be if we believe in them, if we will them. But to bring them about the first step must be taken. We must be honest with ourselves and with one another.

C. DESPARD.

## MRS. DESPARD'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Once more Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party has come and gone, and was as great a success as ever. The evening of July 6 opened with the reception by Mrs. Despard, when many old and new members of the League gathered to wish our President many happy returns, and later to present to her the sums of money collected during the previous weeks. A short entertainment followed, which Miss M. Searle very kindly opened with a pianoforte solo. Miss Anne Squires's songs were much appreciated and received an encore, and the audience was delighted with two dances—a *pas de deux* by Miss Pulman and Miss E. Mitchell, and a Russian wedding dance by Misses Dettmar, Valerie, Pulman, and Mitchell. Mrs. Mustard then took the chair. In introducing the speakers, she said there was no need to apologise for mentioning Votes for Women at a time when all the papers were sounding the praises of women; but we were not content with this tardy acknowledgment in words of the services rendered by women to the nation; we wanted the practical acknowledgment of being put on the electoral roll.

Miss Munro sounded a note of warning. Some people, and even some Suffragists, said we should be doing other work now, as we could be certain of getting the vote after the war, but that was not her opinion; we must rather stick to our work of securing liberty and freedom for women.

Mrs. Tanner also laid emphasis on the same point. The condition of things in Europe to-day showed that the nations needed the help of their women. The responsibility for the war lay with the men, but they could not keep the suffering to themselves. There was a movement to enfranchise men of the Army and Navy as a reward for their services to the country, but women were asking for enfranchisement, not as a reward, but as an opportunity for rendering further service.

We were very fortunate in having Mrs. Zangwill to speak for us. She, like the other speakers, believed that it was quite wrong for us to sit with folded hands in the assurance that the vote would come, in spite of the recent discoveries of Mrs. Humphry Ward and Mr. Asquith with regard to women. Memories of politicians and the public are extremely short, and we must not forget that the numerical superiority of women was used as an argument against us. Women's place was no longer the home; women were out doing every possible kind of work, and yet she had not heard that the homes were suffering or that the socks had gone undarned. It all showed what a sad waste of energy there had been before. We read of the horrors of the trenches; we must not forget the awful sufferings of the other army, the army of hunted women and children of the war zones; and we must make up our minds that never again should women and children suffer as they are suffering to-day.

After Mrs. Zangwill's speech, the money collected for Mrs. Despard's Birthday Present, and to be added to the 50,000 Shilling Fund, was presented by representatives from the Branches—London and provincial.

In thanking the members and Branches, Mrs. Despard said she felt more grateful than she could express for the gifts presented this year, for she

knew what effort lay behind them. She would like specially to mention £100 sent by Mr. Snow (£50 for the Fund and £50 for THE VOTE), who said that in sending this contribution he was carrying out one of Mrs. Snow's last wishes, and the Nine Elms gift which had been got together in pennies and half-pennies. Mrs. Despard reiterated what the other speakers had said with regard to the necessity of continuing our efforts. She invited all those present and other London friends to a return party in the early autumn.

Miss Boyle hoped that since we had applauded all the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers we should now set to work to act upon them, and to live up to them. We must keep the movement strong and take advantage of the praises showered upon women to press our demands home. If we do this, if we are not led away by any new arguments, but stick to our old demands, those who say we shall get the vote at the end of the war may turn out to be true prophets.

The Socials Committee wishes to thank the speakers, hostesses, stewards, and those who contributed to the entertainment; also those who sent cakes or flowers, and those who helped with refreshments and prepared the flowers for the stall.

A. M.

## ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

TWO ROADS: INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT OR "MILITARISM." By H. E. Hyde. (P. S. King & Son, London. 1s. 3d. net.)

An interesting instance of the fact that to-day original thought does not come only from our universities is found in the recent publication of this book by Mr. H. E. Hyde, of New Zealand. It was while working on his sheep farm in Otago that Mr. Hyde thought out his scheme for ensuring the future peace of the world. He advocates the establishment of an international Parliament composed of representatives of all nations; a Law Court presided over by judges nominated and elected by this Parliament; and an international army strong enough to enforce the decisions of the judges. The function of this Parliament would be to make laws governing international affairs without interfering with national Parliaments; the judges would decide all international disputes brought before them, and, if necessary, enforce their decisions by means of the international army. The most important part of Mr. Hyde's scheme is that the international or central Parliament would have absolute control throughout the world over the manufacture of munitions of war; no individual nation would have the right to manufacture armaments, but would receive from the central Parliament only sufficient munitions to maintain peace within its own borders. Mr. Hyde considers that, if the Allies will adopt this plan as part of their peace terms, the German people will compel their military leaders to agree, and the war would soon cease. Either this, he says, or the military yoke fixed more firmly than ever before on the necks of every nation. As a patriotic New Zealander, Mr. Hyde asks: Will Great Britain lead the way in this great advance in the evolution of civilisation and the happiness of humanity?

L. E. BRACHER.

"THE LABOUR WOMAN," the official organ of the Women's Labour League and of the Women's International Council of Socialist and Labour Organisations (British Section), has been enlarged, and now costs one penny. It contains articles on matters of vital importance to working women, giving special attention to such questions as the care of maternity, education of children, rents and housing, pensions and homes for disabled soldiers and sailors and the aged, &c.; it also gives information about working women in other countries, and each number contains a story.



### W.F.L. POLITICAL AND MILITANT DEPARTMENT.

The following correspondence has passed between the Political and Militant Department and the Houses of Parliament:—

[COPY.]

July 6, 1916.

The Right Hon. J. W. Lowther, M.P.,  
Speaker's House,  
Palace of Westminster, S.W.

SIR,—I am instructed by my League to raise once more the question which has already been put to you of a Press representative in the gallery of the House of Commons. I understand that the space is very strictly limited, and that the vacancies are drawn for by ballot, and we have also been informed that no women representatives are admitted to the Press Gallery. This, on the face of it, places the women's Press at such a heavy disadvantage that we cannot seriously believe that the House of Commons will persist in that attitude at a time like the present, when it is being constantly urged on women that they should invade new spheres and fill new positions in the service of the country. It would be a poor thing that they should be encouraged to do this in giving services and should not be allowed to do it when it is a question of obtaining some advantage in return.

I have the honour, therefore, to ask that you will receive a deputation, or appoint an officer to receive it for you, of the women contributors to our weekly organ, THE VOTE, who will wait upon you in St. Stephen's Hall or elsewhere at any time that it may please you to appoint, and who will then be able to lay before you the strong reasons that induce them, at a time like the present, to demand this privilege at your hands.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) C. NINA BOYLE.

[COPY.]

House of Commons, July 7, 1916.

MADAM,—The Speaker has handed to me your letter of yesterday's date, and I am desired by him to say, in reply, that you are correct in understanding that the space in the Press Gallery of the House of Commons is very strictly limited. Your information, however, that vacancies are drawn for by ballot is incorrect.

The available space in the Gallery is already fully taxed, and, when filling any vacancy which may occur, the Speaker has to take into account the circulation of those London and provincial newspapers which are on the waiting-list. To that list THE VOTE has been added, as stated in my letter to you of April 1 last, and your further application on its behalf will not be overlooked.

The Speaker wishes me to add that he will not waste the time of a deputation, by the reception of which no useful purpose would, under the circumstances, be served.

I am, Madam,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Signed) COLIN KEPPEL (Vice-Admiral),  
Serjeant-at-Arms.

Miss C. Nina Boyle,  
Women's Freedom League.



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[COPY.]

July 6, 1916.

The Right Hon. Lord Buckmaster of Cheddington,  
House of Lords, S.W.

MY LORD,—I do not know whether I am directing my request to the right quarter in approaching you in regard to a Press representative in the House of Lords for the papers which represent the Woman's Suffrage Movement. I venture to ask, if I am in error in addressing you, that you will be so good as to refer my request to the right quarter.

At a time like the present, when so many grave issues are at stake, and when the affairs of the country are at a most dramatic crisis, it is of deep importance to the women who have organised themselves on political lines that they should know from personal experience what are the lines taken in debate on the various grave matters raised in both the Upper and the Lower Houses of Parliament. The weight given to specific speeches by the Press does not in any way represent the value of those speeches in the eyes of women, and it is of importance to us that we should be able to gauge accurately the feeling shown and the line taken by men whom we may or may not feel disposed to trust, according to the arguments and actions taken by them.

We feel that you will agree that at such a time, when we are being urged to take up every new form of activity and invade every fresh sphere of national action, that it would be ungracious in the extreme if all barriers and prejudices and privileges were held against us, and therefore we think that this would be a suitable time for the House of Lords to waive its high privilege and admit to its Press Gallery a woman representative of the woman's Press.

I beg, therefore, that you will be so kind as to consider this request favourably, or to forward it to the proper quarter if it should not have been addressed to you.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Lordship's obedient servant,  
(Signed) C. NINA BOYLE.

[COPY.]

House of Lords, S.W.

July 7, 1916.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Lord Chancellor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 6, asking that a woman Press representative should be admitted to the House of Lords.

His Lordship has no power in the matter, and I have, therefore, according to your request, forwarded your letter to Captain Butler, the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod and Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain.

I am, Madam,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) A. E. A. NAPIER.

Miss C. Nina Boyle.

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

Gratefully acknowledged:—Miss Riggall, 1s. and roses; Mrs. Blum, £1; Mrs. Gaster, £1; Mrs. Baerlein, 10s.; Mrs. Presbury, bread; Mrs. Yewens, roses; Mrs. Sharman, £1 1s.; Miss Michael, cakes; Miss Alix M. Clark, jam; Mrs. Clark, a ring for Jumble Sale.

Mrs. Tippett is holding a Jumble Sale on behalf of the Settlement early in August. The Sale will take place at her Suffolk home, where sales are always brisk. Contributions may be left at the Settlement or, better still, posted to Mrs. Isabel C. Tippett, Rosemary Cottage, Witherdon, Suffolk. It would be a good idea if members were to send her those old blouses and underwear, etc., which they put away last year and have not worn since. They would get rid of what they do not want. The Suffolk women would get what they do want, and so would the Settlement, which wants the money to buy the hundred and one things which are needed for the children. Socks, stockings and shoes for the children in the Guest House would be very useful.

#### The Clyde Campaign.

English, as well as Scotch suffragists, have a warm spot in their hearts for beautiful Rothesay, where, year after year, our speakers have been welcomed by large and attentive audiences. It is keeping up its reputation, and Miss Bunten writes that the Women's Freedom League is holding meetings every evening "to large and interested crowds." Miss Shannan is the speaker. Permission has been applied for to hold meetings at Largs and Dunoon.

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### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Speaking at Bedford Town Hall last Friday night, Mr. F. Kellaway, M.P., Parliamentary secretary to Dr. Addison, of the Ministry of Munitions, gave the following figures relative to the army of women-workers engaged in war industries:—

There were 184,000 women engaged in war industries in 1914. To-day there are 660,000. The total number of war workers in 1914 was 1,986,000; now it is 3,500,000.

Women are engaged on 471 different munition processes, including 19 operations in connection with aeroplane production, the manufacture of howitzer bombs, the making of shrapnel bullets, filling bombs with smoke, explosives, gas, and other lethal contents; 31 processes on the production of machine tools; six processes in connection with marine mines; and 31 processes in shipbuilding. Two-thirds of these operations had never been done by a woman previous to twelve months ago.

#### The Pale-faced Girl.

The Press teems with appreciation and adulation of the work of women in war time. *The Weekly Dispatch*, in particular, is eloquent on the services rendered by "the quiet and pale twenty-year-old girl who handles the fuse with exquisite skill." She and "the workman who has sweated the flesh from his bones in competition with the shell-maker of Krupp's" are the angels "all along that front where the fire and earthquake of our arsenals smote the German army." This eloquence is very touching, and we can only hope that the country which has discovered the value of their work in the era of destruction will recognise the worth of their powers of production when the dawn of peace calls for the expenditure of their vital efforts in the cause of reconstruction.

#### "She Likes Evidence."

We like the story of the Guardsman, who sent his wife the bullet which had been extracted from his body, saying as he did so, "She likes evidence." The little incident carries with it subtle suggestions which call up a picture of that domestic fireside. The Guardsman's wife so clearly preferred evidence to eloquence. We think, probably, that the women munition workers are of her opinion, and that they would prefer a more practical evidence of the public appreciation of their work than is afforded by the somewhat frothy eloquence of *The Weekly Dispatch*. In this connection we note that on July 6, in the House of Commons, Dr. Addison's attention was called to the fact that the day-work rating of a woman of twenty-five (at Woolwich Arsenal) on entry is 20s. per forty-eight hours, and for a man of the same age 31s. or more." Dr. Addison was, at the same time, asked whether he was aware that:

"Notwithstanding that both may be working on the same class of piece-work at the same rate of remuneration, and doing the same amount of work, the actual wage earned by the woman is substantially less than that of the man, owing to the overtime bonus in each case being calculated on the day-work rating?"

#### A Woman-forester.

For the first time in the University of London, a degree in forestry has been won by a woman.

#### No Houses.

One of the great problems of the War is the housing of the workers; the subject deserves the attention of women. In munition areas there is a dearth of dwellings, rents are high, accommodation poor, and the women have to bear the blame when their houses are dirty and ill-kept, although the best housewife could never make some of them attractive. The large schemes of housing now necessary should not be left in the hands of private speculators; they should be dealt with by public bodies, and women must see to it that a much higher standard of housing than the present is obtained.

#### Cleaning the World.

The Women's Freedom League were among the signatories to the following memorial, which was promoted by the Women's Municipal Party, and supported by various women's organisations and presented to the St. Pancras Borough Council. The following is a copy of the memorial:—

"We, the undersigned, beg to call your attention to the danger to public health likely to ensue, should the streets not be adequately watered during the coming hot weather. In view of the spread of infectious disease and eye-trouble caused by dust, we should like to suggest that to refrain from watering, especially in the more crowded and poorer districts, is no true economy, and that the streets of St. Pancras should be watered and cleansed as usual."

In reply, the hon. secretary of the Women's Municipal Party received a communication from the Town Clerk to the St. Pancras Borough Council stating that "the Council have decided to make financial provision for watering the streets of the borough during the summer as in normal times," and requesting that the decision of the Council should be made known to the signatories to the memorial. If other authorities, local and national, would act upon our suggestions with equal readiness, by the end of the century this world might be made fairly clean and habitable.

#### He Would Not Change Her for Any One of 12 Men.

Miss Binnie-Clarke, the organiser for women labour for Yorkshire, says she found one farmer left absolutely alone. He took on an Irishwoman. He found her splendid as a milker and equal to any man with a horse in the field. He would not change her for any one of twelve average men in the district.

#### Women as Engineers.

According to last Monday's *Times*, two of the directors of a well-known engineering controlled establishment have been so impressed by the work done by educated women that they are prepared to sink £40,000 in establishing a factory on the West Coast of Scotland to be worked entirely by women, under the control of a fully qualified woman engineer. They are to receive full training—£1 a week being paid to them during this period, and their wages are to depend upon the result of their success in competitive examinations. Only those will be accepted who show mechanical aptitude. The scheme is said to be a permanent business venture and not a temporary war development.

#### Combat "The Idea."

Speaking at a meeting of the Women Writers' Suffrage League recently, Mrs. Fawcett told of a noble Lord, conspicuous as an anti-suffragist, who declared at a public meeting that there was a general impression that woman's place is the home. "We must combat that idea," he said. "We must show them that they must come out of their homes and work for the nation!"

#### British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

Resolution passed unanimously at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, July 7, 1916, at a joint meeting of Suffrage Societies, under the auspices of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union:—

"That this meeting of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, supported by fifteen British Suffrage Societies, respectfully urges on the consideration of the Imperial Government the pressing need of the co-operation of women with men in the work of 'refashioning the fabric of the Empire,' and urges that the Vote be granted to the women of the United Kingdom without delay."

(Chairman) H. W. NEVINSON.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1108.



FRIDAY,  
JULY 14,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Clapham.

The annual meeting of this branch was held at 15, Clapham Mansions last Tuesday week, when Mrs. Corner and Miss Underwood were appointed Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, and Mrs. E. M. Moore was unanimously elected President of the branch. It was decided to hand over £7 10s. from the branch funds to Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund and to ask members to try to make this up to £10. Mrs. Corner reported that £2 from the profits of the recent whist drive had been given to the Despard Arms. In the early autumn we hope to arrange a big public meeting in the district.

### Ipswich.

The weekly meetings for hospital work still go on, and we are sending a box of hospital requisites to the First Aid Yeomanry Corps this week. We also still supply a good number of magazines and papers to the military hospital. We are having the meetings in the evening, but members are not attending well. The secretary has sent a letter to those who are constantly absent, asking them to do their bit for the suffrage by coming to the meetings whenever possible. We are sending £2 4s. to the Birthday Fund.

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

On July 5 a very successful garden-party took place at Wilstrop House, Roman-road, by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates, in aid of the Birthday Fund. Addresses were given by Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss Purvis, which, with games and some splendid gramophone records, kindly lent by Mr. Clayton, made the afternoon a most enjoyable one. We are pleased to announce the addition to the branch of five new members.

### Portsmouth.

A delightful afternoon was spent on Wednesday, July 5, when Mr. and Mrs. Sparkman entertained the members of the W.F.L. to tea at Swanwick. After a delicious strawberry tea, an hour or two was passed rambling round the garden and orchard, and before leaving a hearty vote of thanks was given to the host and hostess for their generous hospitality.

Gratefully acknowledged, 15s. (collected), Miss E. N. Parsons, for Birthday Fund.

Miss Lydia B. Conley, of Kansas City, a North American Indian of the Wyandotte tribe, which inhabited the Missouri River valley near Kansas City, was recently admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

Nurse Kathleen Cambridge, of the British Red Cross, who, since the outbreak of the war, has been nursing a Belgian Baroness at a château near Mons, has just returned to England. She was able to render assistance to the wounded after the battle and nursed British prisoners. She has helped to trace the missing and killed. She was a member of Nurse Edith Cavell's private nursing staff, and describes her as "a very noble woman, most just in all her dealings, and very good to the poor."

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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