

THE VOTE

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

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PRINCE OF WALES RELIEF FUND and SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' DEPENDANTS IN GLASGOW.

How is the Prince of Wales' Relief Fund administered? Who appointed the Committee? Do the Committee give any public statement as to how the funds are disbursed? These are some of the questions which are being asked by many people to-day. In Glasgow much indignation is felt by the conduct of the Central Committee in London; they have refused to accede to the request of the Glasgow people to return to them sufficient money to pay the rents of the soldiers' dependants, or rather to pay the 9,000 rents of 4s. and under, which they had undertaken to do.

At the outbreak of the war, the Glasgow Soldiers' and Sailors' Association appealed to the public to contribute to its funds, with the object of gathering in sufficient money to pay rents and supplement Government allowances when they were inadequate to keep the household together. At the same time the Prince of Wales' Fund was appealing for subscriptions for national relief. On August 10 the two funds were amalgamated, thus making only one public appeal necessary and preventing over-lapping. In the *Times* (London), August 14, we read:—

"It is officially stated that the fund will assist in providing for the wives and families of the soldiers and sailors and Territorials on active service, according to the scale of relief, authorised by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association, due regard being had to claims arising from industrial distress. The scale of relief adopted will relate to the need of the applicants and their dependants, and not to their previous income or other circumstances."

The proper interpretation of this statement was considered to be that the needs of wives and dependants of soldiers and sailors would form a valid claim on the fund. This was not, however, the opinion of the London Central Committee. Glasgow has contributed more per head to the National Relief Fund than any other centre, yet now, when it applies for money to protect the homes of its soldiers' dependants, it is told that no more money is to be forthcoming. Glasgow has contributed £243,000 to the fund; £130,000 has been returned to the city, and has been disbursed by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association. The Association is now left without funds, hence, under compulsion, it has had to issue a notice that no more rents are to be paid, and has to say: "In good faith we made the promise to the wives and dependants of soldiers and sailors, and these promises we are unfortunately now unable to fulfil."

It is a monstrous state of affairs that the National

Relief Fund in London should benefit to the extent of almost £113,000 while our soldiers' dependants for whom the money was intended are being evicted from their homes, or allowed to starve or seek shelter in the poorhouse. We are told "the money must not be wasted now; that it must be saved to cope with the possible unemployment that may result after the war." But we protest with all our might. Why should money be hoarded up that was contributed gladly for the object of helping the wives and children, the mothers and sisters, of the men who have responded to the call of duty, who have in many cases given up lucrative posts in order to serve their country? We let our men go in the belief that their homes would be kept for them, and that their dependants would be cared for, and it will be a scandal if they come home to find their homes broken up or reduced to a single room. It is impossible for many women to pay rents out of the meagre allowances they are getting, especially rents in a large and expensive town, and already we hear of large numbers turned out of their homes. The Glasgow men and women who have subscribed to the fund under the impression that it would come back to Glasgow, should insist upon justice being done. We have every right to know who administers the fund, and should like to ask how many women are on the Committee and who elected them. Are they representative of a democratic association, or are they women known only in the world of fashion? What are their claims for public service? There are to-day two classes of women who are suffering most severely: the wives with their bare 12s. 6d. a week, and the widowed mothers whose sons were their sole support. It is impossible for these women to pay rents and buy the necessaries of life. Money contributed by the public for this purpose should be freely spent, unless the Government does as it should, and so increases the dependants' allowances that supplementary help is unnecessary. Until this is done, money raised by the public to ease the women's lot should so be spent. When it is exhausted people will give again and yet again, but their generosity will die a natural death if they know their money is being hoarded, not spent. Let all women unite in fighting the battle for our soldiers' and sailors' dependants and see that some satisfaction is got for them out of the London Central Committee.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

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SEFFORDEN

Women's Freedom League.

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HEADQUARTER NOTES.

London Meetings.

Next Wednesday afternoon, April 28, at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Piccadilly, W., we shall have the pleasure of listening to Miss Margaret Douglas, on "The Real Issue," and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Huntsman at 3.30. The following Wednesday the speakers will be Mrs. Nevinson, on "Women and Brute Force," and Mrs. Tanner. Mrs. E. M. N. Clark will take the chair.

Discussion Meeting.

All readers who wish to attend the discussion to be opened by Mr. W. L. George at the Suffrage Club on "Woman and the Arts," Friday evening, April 30, should secure their tickets from our office at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., at once, the prices being 1s. (numbered and reserved) and 6d. (unreserved). Those present will be invited to take part in the discussion following the lecture, which, as is always the case when Mr. George is the speaker, will be bristling with contentious matter.

Florence Nightingale Commemoration Meeting.

This meeting, which is to be held at Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand (near the Temple Station), Wednesday evening, May 12, will be of special interest in view of the slight cast upon the memory of Florence Nightingale by the authorities who allowed her statue to be unveiled recently by a couple of workmen early one morning when no one was present, and of the fact that while the Government is asking for war service from women, the Women's Freedom League is demanding the proper recognition of women's work by the Government. All Suffragists are cordially invited to be present at this meeting. The chair will be taken at 8 p.m., and the names of the chairman and speakers will appear in next week's VOTE. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE: "THE MOST IMPORTANT THING."

So large a company gathered at the Suffrage Club last Sunday afternoon to welcome the Rev. Hatty Baker, who was paying one of her rather rare visits to London, that the room was crowded to its utmost limits, and some friends were unable to gain admission. Miss Baker is an outstanding personality; she has broken down the sex barrier in an unusual direction—the Ministry—and it goes without saying that the Women's Freedom League is glad to honour a woman who has won a notable victory for equality of opportunity and service for both sexes. Miss Baker spoke on "The War and After," and began by referring to Ibsen's words which she had quoted on the occasion of her last visit to us about 18 months ago:—"There will be great changes in the future, and the results of these changes lie largely in the hands of the women and the workers." Great changes have come, greater than we had thought possible.

When the war is over women will have to have to face far greater problems and remove greater evils than ever before. "We shall not be able to do this difficult work satisfactorily," said Miss Baker, "without the help of the parliamentary

vote. Let us see to it that we do not allow our demand for the vote to be pushed out of the way by anything else; the need for it will be greater than ever. There will be a tremendous increase in the number of women workers, and a strong feeling in favour of equal pay for equal work must be created. Women are being pressed into service in a remarkable way, not because of any recognition of their value but in order to release more men for the front. The Government is very complacent to-day towards women, but we do not hear any news of their willingness to give that for which women have been asking for so long. Will they give us citizen rights as well as responsibilities when the war is over? We shall probably be told that women worked very well during the war without the vote, and that no useful purpose can be served by granting it. Neither will any sense of gratitude cause them to give it to us. Governments are proverbially forgetful; I do not trust any Government, and I am inclined to think that the better we work now the more our opponents will say "You see you do not need the vote!" Woman Suffrage is the most important thing in our lives, but some are so anxious to help in the urgent need of the crisis that they are inclined to overlook the importance of the vote. Because we have to consider how best we can safeguard and forward the interests of women and girls in the future, let us continue our demand for Woman Suffrage, for equal pay for equal work, and for equal opportunity for men and women."

Miss A. B. Jack, of Edinburgh, who presided, told of her desire to enter a pulpit, but expressed her keen regret that although Scotland has led the way in many reforms, women are still without a voice in Church administration. Miss Jack's appeal to the audience to keep up her reputation as a Scotswoman resulted in an excellent collection.

A WEEK OF CONFERENCES.

During last week the Women's Freedom League was not only represented at the Conference called by the Board of Trade, but at two other gatherings of lesser import. One was a "National Conference of Women" to secure the basis of a permanent peace—an event which, according to the chairman, was instituted at the suggestion of the Union of Democratic Control; and the other was a "National Conference of Women" called at the instance of the War Workers Emergency Committee (a representative body of the Male Trades' Unions). At neither of these Conferences were the interests of women made the first consideration, even by women Suffragists.

In discussing resolutions for "the basis of a permanent peace" an unaccountable omission must be noted. There was no resolution demanding that the voice and views of women should be heard in the Peace Settlement. The resolution that "Democratic control" must mean and include women as well as men was coldly treated by the gathering, discussion being discouraged; and the voting, "as a matter of course," was hurried over as if the enfranchisement of women were already a *fait accompli*. And in the discussion of the resolution in Mrs. Despard's name, to the effect that there should be no transference of territory without the wishes of the inhabitants being considered—on which Mrs. Despard spoke in beautiful and touching phrases—there was a marked disinclination to deal with the point of how the wishes of the women inhabitants were to be obtained.

Miss Tanner and Miss Boyle were the W.F.L. delegates. On the final resolution, that those who agreed with the spirit of the Conference should

join the Union of Democratic Control and work for its objects, one of the delegates asked two questions: If Democratic Control of Governments was to be achieved, what active and immediate steps did the Union of Democratic Control mean to take to secure the first preliminary to its object—the enfranchisement of women; and if the enfranchisement of women was, as it must be, the preliminary to Democratic Control, why could not women work for it in the Suffrage Unions, and not by joining a new society? No satisfactory answer was given to either question.

Mrs. Tanner, Miss Jack and Miss Boyle were the W.F.L. delegates to the other National Conference, to discuss War Service for Women. Present were many representatives of men's unions; and one cannot but wonder at and admire the breezy optimism which carries on the women trades union organisers, in the face of so much scarcely veiled hostility from their so-called "comrades." An important clause of the first resolution, which was eventually carried, enjoined that women volunteering for war service should join "an appropriate Trades Union," and that membership of a Union should be made a condition of war service. A plain-spoken statement from Miss Boyle that (a) the trades union man had always penalised the woman worker, and that the very word trade union was a menace to her; and (b) that the trade union was a costly and antiquated weapon and would be better replaced by the political union, was badly received. The resolution demanding the rights of citizenship for women, and so calling on the Government to grant *universal Suffrage*, was amended to "Women's Suffrage" by the W.F.L., but was lost. This amendment was moved by Mrs. Tanner in a studiously moderate speech, in which she put forward the various cogent reasons why, as a matter of justice, the request should be for "Women's," not "Universal" Suffrage; but she was called to order by the chairman (Miss Mary MacArthur), who, for some reason not explained, decided that her remarks were irrelevant.

C. NINA BOYLE.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1914, £23,135 5s. 7d

Amount previously acknowledged	£	s.	d.	Total
Special Emergency War Fund.—				382 17 6
Miss Eunice Murray	5	0	0	
"A Friend"	1	17	6	
Mrs. Knight	1	0	0	
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0	
Miss M. K. Trott	15	0		
Mrs. Fox Bourne	10	0		
Miss Fox Bourne	5	0		
Miss E. Gore Browne	5	0		
Miss B. Kent	4	0		
The Misses Allen	2	6		
Mrs. Sholl	2	6		
Miss F. M. Stephen	2	6		
Mrs. Mallalue	2	0		
Mrs. Rothwell	2	0		
Mrs. Angold	1	6		
Miss Hurry	1	0		
Dr. B. P. Lindup	1	0		
Bowes Park Branch	3	0		
Clapham Branch	6	0		
Herne Hill Branch	2	0		
Kensington Branch	4	0		
Mid-London Branch	12	6		
Hornsey Branch	2	0		
Tufnell Park Branch	6	0		
				13 7 0

Café Chantant.—	£	s.	d.	Total
Mrs. Harbord, per Mrs. Fisher (for Refreshments)	1	0		
Rent of Stalls—				
United Suffragists	7	6		
Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps	7	6		
Sale of Goods	15	6		
				1 11 6



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Trafalgar Square Demonstration.—	£	s.	d.	Total
United Suffragists	4	8	10	
Anonymous	10	0	0	
H. F. Brown, Esq.	5	0	0	
Mrs. E. Zangwill	5	0	0	
Miss Jack	3	4	0	
Mrs. H. Cohen	3	3	0	
Mrs. Walter Carey	3	0	0	
Miss H. Fryer	2	2	0	
Miss K. A. Raleigh	2	2	0	
Mrs. Sholl	1	1	0	
Miss B. Kent	1	0	0	
Mrs. Cobden Sanderson	1	0	0	
Miss Sherwood	1	0	0	
Miss E. G. Sherwood	1	0	0	
Miss M. E. Wall	1	0	0	
H. S. L. Fry, Esq.	10	0		
Miss E. M. Harvey	10	0		
Mrs. L. Heath	10	0		
Miss M. I. Saunders	10	0		
Miss Jessie Maxwell	6	6		
Mrs. Casper, per Mrs. Schofield Coates	5	0		
Miss M. Campbell	5	0		
Mrs. Beatrice Gilbert	5	0		
Mrs. Graves	5	0		
The Misses Sprentall	5	0		
Mrs. Winterne	5	0		
Miss Duckett	2	6		
Mrs. Marshall	2	6		
Mrs. McPherson (per Miss E. Murray)	2	6		
Miss E. D. Smith	2	6		
Mrs. Aaron	2	0		
Miss G. M. Telling	1	0		
Miss A. Hight	1	0		
Tickets	1	0		
Collections	1	8	5	
(per Miss Eunice Murray)	6	2	6	
Office Sales	2	0		
Branches.—				
Manchester	14	8		
Capitation Fees.—				
Edinburgh	2	10	0	
Sheffield	4	6		
				£457 9 9

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EDITORIAL.

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

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"NOT THE TIME"?

In our last issue we dealt with the new Patriotism—that which, we hope, in the days that are to be, will bind the nations together, instead of dividing them, as, in the past, has too often been the case with the old Patriotism. Not "my own country right or wrong"; but my own country, true to her great task of reconciliation, intent ever on human progress, preserving intact, for the dear love of the race, her share in the nation's heritage—that should be our watchword.

Specially, we think, should this be the watchword of women, who need now more than ever before to think definitely and to act consistently.

There can be no doubt that strong efforts are being made to capture our positions, to put us back where we were twenty years ago. It is well, therefore, that we should safeguard ourselves against illusions. The most plausible arguments are used. Appeal is made to our deepest feelings. "Is this the time," we are asked, "when the country is in danger, to indulge in controversy? When the trouble is over, when our enemies are completely crushed, when terms of peace are being discussed, and the reconstruction of European society is in question, the women may speak. There is even a chance that they will be heard. Now is not the time."

That objection has been heard before. What does it come to?

These are the facts. Women—some of the most intelligent and far-sighted in Europe—seeing with deep sorrow and keen indignation the ravages that are being wrought by this cruel war, are asking the combatants, on both sides, "publicly to define the terms on which they are willing to make peace." They are themselves putting forward, as they have every right to do, the principles on which alone, as they believe, a lasting Peace can be based. They ask that the pitiable makeshifts of treaties that only bind the signatories so long as they choose to be bound, and wholesale transference of provinces from one Government to another, without the consent of their inhabitants, shall be replaced by such international control as shall secure the rights of nationalities; and that disputes shall be settled not by the uncertain and costly arbitrament of war but by arbitration and conciliation. They are asserting at the same time that upon women as well as men the responsibility of future wars will rest, and demanding that in order fully to carry out the duty laid upon them they shall have in every European country equal political rights with men. To that future democracy they claim (and not, as now to groups of individuals, representing parti-

cular interests) shall the control of international politics be given. Further they desire to call attention to the fact, so often forgotten, that normally and abnormally and in all sorts of unspeakable ways, women and their children suffer cruelly in war time. Therefore, the question of Peace or War concerns them deeply.

This, in brief, is the substance of the resolutions that will be brought before the Women's Congress at The Hague. It is strange that to this simple and dignified programme, this effort to straighten out the tangled skein of European politics, there should be any objection whatever. We were ourselves surprised when we heard of the criticism in the Press and by individuals; we have tried to sum up the arguments of the objections and to see if there is any validity in them.

The first is the usual one. Vaguely put, it has been hard-worked. Naturally, we are told, you desire peace—we all do; but there is no use in even thinking of peace at this stage. We must make our enemy fear us. We must force him to understand that he will presently be entirely in our power. Only then will he listen to terms.

That is what is being said on both sides. "This is not the time." To speak of peace terms now, they tell us, would be a sign of weakness. Granted, if we show ourselves ready to give up anything we set out to win. Looking back to the speeches of Mr. Asquith and other Cabinet Ministers at the beginning of the war, we get a perfectly definite idea of that for which our men were asked to fight, and our women to suffer. No benefit to ourselves; no enlargement of our borders; no crippling of other nations; but justice for the wronged; compensation so far as it can be given to the nations that have suffered; a restoration to all of their national rights; and above all—Mr. Asquith set special emphasis upon this—the establishment for all time of righteousness in international relations. We do not know whether these are still the objects of diplomatists, or whether something unknown to the nations has slipped in. So far as we, women, are concerned, these and these alone, enunciated as they have been from every political and recruiting platform in the country, are the principles we desire to see embodied in the peace terms to be set forward. And surely for this, as for the political emancipation of women and the many other measures we have been demanding for years, *the time is now*.

There are other objections. One ridiculous journalist premised that the women engaged in this effort for peace are those who have given no hostages of heir own, who have neither husbands, nor sons, nor brothers, at the front. What can he mean? Why, if he had the faintest gleam of insight, he would know that it is just those who have given and are giving of their dearest to this struggle, to whom the desire for peace, which will make such awful sacrifices unnecessary, appeals the most strongly. Minimise the sacrifices of those who are fighting for righteousness and liberty? A thousand times, no. Anyone who looks dispassionately into the demands we are making will see at once that our burning desire is to make those sacrifices effective. Let them not strive and suffer; let them not die in vain—these brave men and women on whom the full brunt of the agony has fallen! Rather, through their anguish and our own patient determination, let us break down at last the barriers that divide the nations, and enter upon the new era of mutual understanding and goodwill.

Finally, the derisive sneer "Peace at any price people" is thrown out; and excellent persons, even in the Woman's Movement shake their heads and say "Why not leave this delicate and difficult question to those who know something about it?"

To which we answer again: "Look at our programme!" Is the doing of justice, the redressing of wrongs, the introduction of a new principle of righteousness into European politics, the establishment of guarantees against such horrors as those of the last nine months a small price to ask? Is it

not rather precisely that for which our soldiers are told they are fighting? That, in any case, is the women's claim, and we rejoice to know that women of all nations are with us in our demand.

C. DESPARD.

THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM ACTS AND THE LIBERTY OF THE SUBJECT.

By Helena Normanton, B.A.

When a Woman may be British and Foreign.

Bearing in mind the unfortunate record of Martial Law in our history, it is not surprising that such distinguished legalists as Lords Parmoor and Bryce should have raised their voice to urge the restoration of our old law. They did so in the House of Lords, and as a result the Solicitor-General on February 24 last, introduced a Defence of the Realm Amendment Bill, which is the Act under which we now live. It partially restores the liberty of the subject by giving British subjects the right to claim trial by jury under certain conditions. A remarkable point has been conceded to women in this connection, for a British woman married to an alien is to count as British for the purpose of claiming right to trial by jury. This makes an extraordinary tangle certainly. A woman born in Dorsetshire and married to an Austrian is a British subject if arrested under the Defence of the Realm Amendment Act, and an Austrian subject for everything else! In other words, she may be an Austrian subject and a British subject at the same time. Women have here a strong lever to use when agitating for the retention after marriage of their complete nationality by birth.

One most objectionable feature of our present House of Commons, namely, the tone of the average M.P., came out very strikingly in the discussions on this Act. Whereas in the Lords (with the exception of Lord Newton) there was a dignified recognition of the value of our venerable constitutional rights, the Commons showed—with a few honourable exceptions—an ignorance in some cases amounting almost to contempt. "I am inclined to share the view held by the noble Lord (Lord Robert Cecil) that juries are not always immaculate bodies before whom you can try cases." "I am afraid I am not quite so devoted a worshipper of trial by jury as some hon. Members opposite."

Well, women Suffragists are not devoted worshippers of such "immaculate bodies" either, but sex-biased as juries are, and panic-stricken as they may become, they are at least a slight improvement upon Martial Law, or what the average British judges would be if untrammelled by their homely common-sense, and comparative freedom from social bias and prejudice, as one may see by the sickening and snobbish apologies recently poured from the Bench upon Lady Ida Sitwell, when sentenced for her "heartless and cruel" fraud. The careful medical examination made upon her before bestowing upon her a nominal sentence of three months will not lightly be forgotten, when one remembers that unfortunate social inferior of hers, Julia Decies, who was sentenced to seven years without the slightest judicial pity for the fact that she was an expectant mother.

Unsatisfactory as the jury system may be, we need to be very much more on with the new love for Martial Law before we are off with the old for the Common Law of the Land; at any rate, while we are still uninvaded. If Trial by Jury be slow the remedy is to make legal procedure more rapid, not to abolish the jury.

The Ideal and the Real.

Another noteworthy feature of the debate was the zeal shown by those financially and otherwise interested in the Press, that upon it the Bill should not press too hard. Newspaper proprietors do not like being censored too heavily or with any lack of impartiality. May we remind these uneasy sufferers that women struggling for liberty did not like that tacit, undiscoverable Censor who never found room for accurate accounts of Suffrage work in any newspaper, and who, in a juster community, would deserve a good deal of the blame for the later and more reckless phases of militancy. The *Times*, on March 6, laid down a noble rule for the Press. "A great newspaper cannot possibly limit its survey to those occurrences of which it approves. . . . The *Times* . . . has never allowed its views to affect its presentment of news . . ." said its leading article. How many Suffragists would endorse this handsome testimonial from the *Times* to the *Times*, we wonder? All tyranny comes round eventually to the tyrant—that is the cold comfort we must offer to the rest of the Press. They formerly censored Suffrage news; the Government now censors their news. They did not present the full Suffrage case to the public. They may not now present the full war case.

The obvious morals to be drawn from the whole code of Defence of the Realm Acts seem to be three in number.

The fact is that our legislators in the Commons are not much in love with Liberty. It used to be the Prussian who was said to love Liberty about as much as he did his grandmother. Necessity, who knows mainly the law that is martial, seems to be the new passion. Therefore, we must all, men and women, keep a vigilant lookout in case of any other new invasion of old rights. We are supposed to be at war for the sake of Liberty and Democracy. It would ill become us to slay those goddesses openly on the domestic hearthstone. But perhaps our members, having so consistently denied women's claim to freedom, and having so apathetically yielded up to the Cabinet the few remaining rights of the private member, do not like to seem hypocritical. Having derided constitutional rights for women as a mere will o' the wisp does not make it easier for them to fight for their retention by men. Nevertheless, they should so fight.

The second fact is that, poor as has been its general record for progress, the House of Lords has been more awake than has the House of Commons. To think that a Labour Member should be driven to confess:—

"We have to look more to the other place for upholding the rights that come down to us by many precedents than we have been able to look to His Majesty's Government for the maintenance of them. I doubt whether this Bill would have seen the light of day if it had not been for certain individuals whom irreverent people would call old Tory Peers. . . . I am bound to say I would much rather have heard from the Front Bench here references to the fabric of personal liberty, for example, quoted from one of the noble Lords, and would much rather have heard some references to the wholesale sweeping away of rights which Lord Halsbury greatly deprecated. I take my share in the blame!"

The widest moral of all is that warfare, being a thing of physical force, wars ever against spiritual force, and in the long run is incompatible with Liberty. In order to strengthen our hands against Prussia's tyranny we must divest ourselves of our own ancient liberties. If the Germans had made a successful raid and the Kaiser had ruled in London, our rights could not have been more quickly abolished than they were last August. But because no immediate cruelties accompanied this abolition of the Constitution, few cared about it. A most unfortunate precedent has been set, and we must take care it is not lightly repeated. But the way in which we had to put aside our own liberties in order to war for Liberty is an illuminating comment on the very nature of war.

Let Women Control the Catering and Cooking.

The last Defence of the Realm Act conferred great powers on the Government for the control of the manufacture of armaments, which together with the agreements made with the Trade Unions, constitutes an immense invasion of the realm of economic privilege. Men are to waive their right to strike, manufacturers their right to an unlimited profit. The fraudulent contractor, however, is apparently to retain his power to supply putrid meat, checked only by such nominal fines as that £50 recently imposed upon a London firm for so doing. Sir Henry Craik's very desirable amendment on the subject was ruled out of order by the chairman. Women should certainly make their voices heard on this subject. The recent Conference of the National Federation of Women Teachers passed a resolution demanding that the catering and cooking for the soldiers should be placed under the control of our teachers of domestic science. The women of the country should back up this demand and insist that the men's health is of far greater concern to the nation than the private contractors' right to make fortunes.

The Watchword: Eternal Vigilance.

Women who intend to enter industries in order to free men for military service will note that the Aberdeen brushmakers went on strike immediately female labour was introduced. It therefore seems desirable that the Government should consider whether women's right to enter industries at the Government's own invitation should not be protected by a prohibition of strikes due to such entry. This would in logical fairness entail that the Government should protect both men and women by statutory equality of payment for equal work.

This Government has proved itself ready to assume more power than any other in the whole of our history. Part of that power it has found it advisable to lay down again, for it infringed unnecessarily upon the Constitution. It will probably find it an imperious necessity to take to itself yet more power in the sphere of labour and the organisation of industry. Women should therefore, even now be considering what legislative enactments are necessary for their due protection and that of their menfolk in the wide world of industry, and should view with the most serious attention whatever the Government may propose to do. Its record is not so good that either men or women should repose in it any blind confidence. Eternal vigilance is again the watchword.

WANTED.—The urgent and immediate need of the Political and Militant Department is a typewriter. If any member can give a machine in good working order she will be giving enormous assistance to the work of the League. The official character of much of the work of the Political and Militant Department renders a first class typewriter an absolute necessity.

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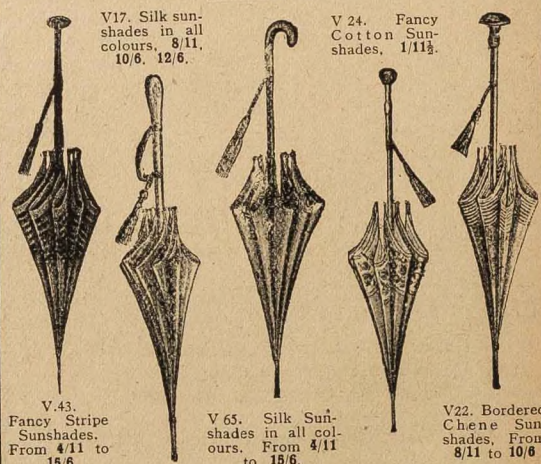
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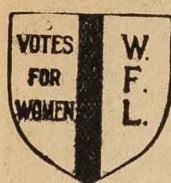
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Friday, April 23.—PUBLIC MEETING, 32a, The Arcade, High-st., Croydon, 3.30; speaker: Mrs. Gaskell. HACKNEY BATHS, 7.30 p.m.; speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Wednesday, April 28.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30; speaker: Miss Margaret Douglas, "The Real Issue," and Miss Nina Boyle; chair: Mrs. Huntsman.

DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, April 30.—DISCUSSION MEETING, The Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 8 p.m. Mr. W. L. George; subject, "Woman and the Arts." Admission by ticket, 1s. (numbered and reserved). Also a few 6d. tickets.

Wednesday, May 5.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3.30. Mrs. Nevins, L.L.A., "Women and Brute Force," and Mrs. Tanner; chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

Thursday, May 6.—BOWES PARK DRAWING-ROOM MEETING at Mrs. Schofield's, "Ulrum," 8, The Lodge Drive, Palmer's Green, 7.30; speaker: Mrs. Tanner.

Wednesday, May 12.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3.30. Mrs. Ackroyd, "Russia and her People," and others.

Wednesday, May 12.—FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE Commemoration Meeting, Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, 8 p.m. Particulars later.

Friday, May 14.—TOMBOLA, Caxton Hall, 7.30 p.m.; tickets 2s. each.

Wednesday, May 19.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., St. James's, S.W., 3.30; speakers: Mrs. Geo. Lansbury and others.

PROVINCES.

Friday, April 23.—MANCHESTER, Open-air Meeting, Sidney-st., 7 p.m.; speaker: Miss Ada Broughton; chair: Miss Janet Heyes.

Saturday, April 24.—CHESTER, Meeting, 13, Abbey-sq., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Trott.

Monday, April 26.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.; speaker: Miss Cook, "Rabindranath Tagore."

Tuesday, April 27.—GROVESEND, Public Meeting, The Presbyterian Schoolroom, 8.15 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle, "Women and War"; chair: The Rev. Paiton Shinton.

Wednesday, April 28.—PORTSMOUTH, Afternoon Whist Drive, Unitarian Schoolroom, High-st., 3 p.m.; tickets 1s.

Thursday, April 29.—LIVERPOOL, "At Home," Admiral Hall, Admiral-st., 8 p.m.; speaker: Miss Ada Broughton; chair: Mrs. Campbell.

Wednesday, May 5.—SOUTHSEA, Sewing Meeting, 89, Festing-grove, 3 p.m.; hostess: Mrs. Whetton.

Monday, May 10.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, The Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m.; speaker: Madame Malmberg, "Women in Finland."

Wednesday, May 12.—LIVERPOOL, Mrs. Despard. Particulars later.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, April 25.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Fife Hall, 7 p.m.; Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, "The War of Steel and Gold."

TO "VOTE"-SELLERS.

The National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League gives its heartiest thanks to Miss Ashley, Miss Barrow, Miss Berkeley Smith, Mrs. Fisher, Miss Isaac, Miss A. E. Jacob, Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Le Maistre for their kind service in selling our paper, THE VOTE, at public meetings during the last three weeks. Will other volunteers for VOTE selling send in their names at once to Miss Underwood, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi?

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OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Mrs. Marion Holmes had a very cordial reception on rising to speak at the Suffrage Club on April 14. Beginning with some sayings of politicians she quoted Mr. Asquith's phrase: "No price is too high when honour and freedom are at stake," and deplored the fact that he had not thought of that sentiment when women were putting up a fight for their political freedom. People nowadays heard a good deal about a "scrap of paper" which concerned a treaty with Belgium, but women remembered the Conciliation Bill and the treachery of British politicians in regard to it. Mrs. Holmes said that the war had turned many things topsy turvy, but she urged women to keep a clear outlook on things in general, and especially on the position of women, and not to lose their heads. Men took curious views in war time; on one occasion they issued an order that women were not to come to pray in St. Paul's Cathedral; on another engineered an agitation in the country against women getting drunk!

Speaking on "The Bureaucratic Expert as Freedom's Foe," the Rev. W. Piggott declared that the Woman's Movement stood for positive freedom, for power to do as well as the mere passing of restraint. It was creative, enriching, distinctive, therefore, the old idea of women being "God's afterthought—gone wrong" must go. Mr. Piggott considered that women's position had suffered from three classes of expert—the religious, medical and political. All these formed strong bureaucracies and all ruled out a large share of vital questions with the warning "Hush! This is not a matter for the laity!" To re-shape the world we wanted freedom, freedom to hear and to do, freedom for man and woman, freedom as citizens and reformers. The chair was taken by Miss A. A. Smith, who reminded the audience that Mr. Piggott had taken an active part in Mrs. Montefiore's tax-resistance siege about ten years ago.

BRANCH NOTES.

Anfield (Liverpool).

Our usual monthly meeting was held on Friday, April 16. There was a good attendance, and Miss Burgon most ably presided. Mrs. Wokes, of Sunnyside, gave a splendid lecture of "The Social Evil; its Cause, Effects and Cure." Mrs. Black opened the excellent discussion which followed. Mrs. McCombie suggested that a monster petition advocating the raising of the age of consent to 21 years should be signed and forwarded to the Bishop of London, who is endeavouring to raise the age from 16 to 18. A resolution to this effect, proposed by Mrs. McCombie and seconded by Miss Davey, was unanimously carried. It will be sent to the Liverpool Council of the Women's Freedom League for its careful consideration.

Cardiff.

Miss Anna Munro gave a splendid address and elicited the greatest admiration from the I.L.P. men and women at the Ruskin Institute on Sunday, April 11. Her subject was the work being done by women for the good of the nation. Mr. Garret, who presided, expressed his appreciation of women's work, and was warmly supported in the

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discussion that followed the address. The attitude of the Women's Freedom League with regard to the war service for women, and the principle of equal pay for equal work, so that women should not be made compulsory blacklegs, was admirably received. **THE VOTE** and merchandise sold well, and Miss Anna Munro received an enthusiastic invitation to speak again from the I.L.P. platform next time she was in the district.

We are indebted to Mrs. Whale, our hon. sec., for the splendid drawing-room meeting which was held at her house, 33, Stacey-rd., on April 12. Miss Barrs presided for Miss Anna Munro, who made an excellent speech on "Poetry and the Women's Movement," which was much appreciated by those present. Four new members were enrolled. In the evening Miss Anna Munro gave a very enlightening address to the members of the Railway Women's Union on the "Social Evil." She also explained the position of the Women's Freedom League and the work it had taken up during the present crisis. Two new members joined, and Mrs. Curtis proposed that the merchandise of the W.F.L. should be on sale at the Branch meetings of the Railway Women's Union, which were held fortnightly, in order to help **THE VOTE**. The proposal was seconded by Mrs. Evans. Mrs. Turner, who was admirable in the chair, urged all who believed in the principle of Woman Suffrage to join the Women's Freedom League without delay.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.

At the committee meeting on April 12, Miss Jessetts' scheme, to compile a set of tested cookery recipes, was warmly approved; it is hoped that all Branches will strongly support this scheme. A whist drive was arranged for May 8. A competition tea and sale of home-made cakes and preserves will be held on May 21. On April 23 our next afternoon meeting will take place, when Mrs. E. G. Gaskell will speak on "Women in the Coming Problems."

Glasgow Suffrage Shop: 70, 1st George's Road.

Members will be glad to know that the whist drive on

March 24 was very successful. All the ticket money has now come in, and, after expenses are paid, there will be nearly £10 to hand to the treasurer. There will be a jumble sale early in May, arranged by the Dennistoun District, and we hope all members will help by sending goods. We remind members that tea, soap and books are sold here, and that by buying these goods from the Women's Freedom League they will help the funds.

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

Our meeting on April 12 was well attended, and the Rev. T. C. Gobat, in his paper on "Mrs. Warren's Profession," pointed out that the economic dependence of women is mainly responsible for the white slave traffic, and that the Woman's Movement rested on the conviction that their economic independence could only be obtained through political independence. A message of congratulation was sent from the meeting to Mrs. Morris (née Nelson), who has been a member of the Branch since its inauguration in 1905, on the birth of a daughter; the best wishes of the Branch were also sent to Miss Sachse, who has left Middlesbrough this week for Java, and to her sister, who is to reside in Darlington, together with our regrets at losing two such helpful members. We shall be glad to know of anyone who can take charge in the shop on Wednesday afternoons.

Paisley.

A Branch meeting will be held in the classroom, Central Halls, on Friday, April 23, at 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Mary Shennan.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

An afternoon whist drive has been arranged for Wednesday, April 23, at 3 p.m., at the Unitarian Schoolroom (which has been kindly lent for the occasion), High-street. Tickets 1s. each. The sewing meetings will be resumed on Wednesday, May 5, at 3 p.m., at 89, Festing-grove. Please watch Forthcoming Events for future meetings.

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at **THE SUFFRAGE CLUB**, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: April 28, Miss Margaret Douglas: "The Real Issue," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Huntsman.

WOMEN WRITERS' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE MEETING, Thursday, April 29, 3.30 p.m., 16, John Street, Adelphi. "War Service for Women." Speakers: Miss Ruth Young, Dr. Marion Phillips, Mrs. Marion Holmes. Chair: Mrs. Tooley. Tea, 6d.

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