

THE VOTE,
NOVEMBER 17, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

SCOTTISH WOMEN ON THE LAND.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, NOV. 17, 1916.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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SCOTTISH WOMEN ON THE LAND - -	Eunice G. Murray.	GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR, NOVEMBER 24 AND 25.

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AT 3 P.M.

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Friday, November 17.—PUBLIC-MEETING at 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Lakeman. Croydon Branch Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.

Saturday, November 18.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL, Jumble Sale, Tolmer's-square Institute, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, N.W., 3 p.m.

Sunday, November 19.—Open-Air Meeting, Hyde Park (near Marble Arch), 3 p.m. (weather permitting).

Tuesday, November 21.—"At Home," 7, East Bank, Stamford-hill (by kind permission of Mrs. Thomson). Tea, 4 p.m. Speeches by Mrs. Mustard and others, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, November 22.—"AT HOME," Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Cameron Grant, on "The Fleishpots of Egypt," and Mrs. Mustard, "Women's Patriotic Work." Chair: Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. Admission free. Tea can be obtained at 4.30 p.m. (6d.).

Friday and Saturday, November 24 and 25.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m.—9.30 p.m. Admission 1s. 2d. After 5 p.m. 7d. (including tax).

Wednesday, November 29.—"AT HOME," Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Zabelle Boyajian, "Women of the Near East," and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. Admission Free. Tea, 4.30 (6d.).

Wednesday, December 6.—"AT HOME," Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Esther Roper, "Women's Liberty in the Economic World," and Mrs. Mustard, "Every Fit Woman Needed." CLAPHAM BRANCH PUBLIC MEETING, Clapham Public Hall (Lower Hall), 7 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman on "Combined and Uncombined Womanhood," and Mrs. Despard. Chairman: Mrs. Samuel. London Branches Council Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 5.30 p.m.

Friday, December 8.—Lecture by Mrs. Despard on "East and West," to be followed by Questions and Discussion. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Chair: Mrs. Corner, 7 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d.

Thursday, December 14.—Clapham Branch Meeting at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 7 p.m.

Friday, December 15.—W.F.L. "At Home," Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m. Political speeches at 7 p.m. by Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray. Refreshments can be obtained.

THE MINERVA CAFÉ, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Open every day except Sunday to men and women. Vegetarian lunches from 12 to 2 p.m.; teas from 3 to 6 p.m. Smoking-room. The large room is available for meetings. Apply to Mrs. Fisher.

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PROVINCES.

Friday, November 17.—READING. Whist Drive, Lodge Room, Palmer Hall, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 6d. each from Mrs. Penrose, 100, Hamilton-road.

Monday, November 20.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Business Meeting, Suffrage Club.

Tuesday, November 21.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Sewing Party, Suffrage Club, 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 23.—IPSWICH. Sewing Meeting, 22, Queen-street, 3 p.m.

Monday, November 27.—MIDDLESBROUGH. "At Home," Suffrage Club, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Aldridge (other engagements permitting) on "Serbia."

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, November 18.—GLASGOW. "At Home," Suffrage Shop, 212, Bath Road, 3.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 16.—EDINBURGH. Christmas Sale.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Now that a Parliamentary Conference dealing with Electoral Reform is sitting—without a single representative of Women's Suffrage Societies included—it is of very great importance to take stock of our position and prospects at the moment. A section of the Press, and some politicians are urgently demanding a vote for every sailor and soldier; another party in the country, supported by some suffragists, are asking for adult suffrage, while everybody appears to be conscious that some changes in the existing franchise are impending. The magnitude of the issues at stake, as far, at least, as women are concerned, confronts us with a situation which requires the utmost preparedness and strength on the part of those who desire, and have worked for, the removal of sex disability in politics.

In the first place our position as women has been marvellously altered through the war. For the first time in our history the work of women has been publicly recognised as of imperative and national importance. The old shibboleth of "Woman and the home" has been exchanged for an invitation to women to come to the aid of the Government and the nation in public life and industrial labour. Had woman accepted as axiomatic the old estimate of her true function and place the workshops and the munition factories would have fared badly. Are we, then, to accept the conferring of citizenship upon women as a corollary and as a practical sequence to the commendation which greets the performance of women war-workers on every side? "Women are winning the war in the munition sheds" is a compliment calculated to set the pulse of womankind tingling with renewed hope that their age-long claims for justice will now assuredly be met with compliance.

But do the glowing tributes heard so freely since the war pressed women into the service of the country reveal a change of heart in the politician, the Press, or the average man? If they do, if they are a genuine expression of opinion as to the worth and the value of women's place in the life of the nation, and not a mere expedient to spur women to further efforts, then our cause is surely won. If men are as grateful as they profess to be, and as sincere as they say they are, in praising the help which women have given in these awful times of stress and peril, then the advent of a champion in the lists to insist upon the inclusion of women in the new electorate is an absolute certainty. Our long struggle in this case is ended. The conscience, the heart, the gratitude of our manhood will demand and secure political equality for the women who so loyally have stood by them in an equality of sacrifice and service during this great war. The men in the trenches have never asked for a vote, and their sex is under no legal disabilities and grievances. Yet a champion has arisen to claim it for them. If there is an inherent right to a vote because of merit, and because of national gratitude, the women are safe. We await the advent of another Sir Edward Carson to plead our cause as eloquently and as persistently as the Unionist leader has pleaded "for every man who carries a gun."

But if men's praise does not betoken a change of heart, and has behind it no well-defined and strong convictions as to women's rights as a human being, what then? A most serious obstacle to our enfranchisement is this unstable quality in men. As long as they have everything to gain and nothing to lose (as under present circumstances) men are very willing to admit the power and capacity of women. But when those same qualities are employed to further women's own interests the tune is changed. Suppose every woman munition worker stopped work to-

morrow, refusing to resume till the vote was given her, cannot we imagine how the evening editions would lose their dulcet note of flattery and emit a veritable howl of execration! It is with this curious inconstancy, this mental instability of the male, that we must always reckon, and in reckoning, beware!

Failing, therefore, despite the orgy of eulogy, in which the male world has been indulging respecting women's assistance in war, a self-appointed male protagonist, let us briefly glance in the cold light of reason or of past experience at our present position, and our present need.

We want, it seems to me, in this critical time of franchise adjustment, two things—concentration and union. Naturally enough under the dark cloud of war our thoughts and energies have been diverted into various channels. Instead of the clear trumpet call, "Votes for Women," of pre-war days, there are confused cries and strange voices in the air, and our magical oneness of purpose has faltered in an atmosphere of conflict and of loss. We must recapture this singleness of aim and this unity of purpose if we would succeed. We must drop every other interest or concern or undertaking to concentrate the accumulated wealth of our resources and our enthusiasms upon the obtaining of the vote now. Let us have a great rally of our forces and our organisations in some grand central conference, where every individual member can dedicate herself afresh to the woman's cause, and every atom of our strength and influence and resolution can be utilised to accomplish our desire. Let there be emblazoned upon every woman's heart and banner the word which, like faith, removes mountains in the path of reform, and transforms the bleak plains of endeavour into the shining heights of achievement; that word is—Union. Without union in our ranks, without a disappearance of those catchwords, and artificial barriers and differences which have sprung up in Suffragedom, we shall not win. It seems strange to emphasize the need of union at this epoch, when its imperative necessity in national preservation has crystallised into a daily litany. Yet consolidation in the women's ranks seems the one thing lacking in an otherwise irresistible demand.

L. A. M. PRIESTLEY (Mrs. George McCracken).

ELECTORAL REFORM.

On November 14, the Marquess of Salisbury informed the House of Lords that he would not that day proceed with his Parliamentary Register and Elections (War Facilities) Bill as consultation with the Government was going on.

The Marquess of Lansdowne said that a wider controversy had arisen out of the proposal, not contained in either this Bill or the Government's Bill, that the franchise should be bestowed on soldiers and sailors generally, and probably next Tuesday would be the earliest day on which the other House would have an opportunity of discussing the subject.

Lord Salisbury has put down the Committee stage of his Bill for November 23.

Middlesex Liberals and Electoral Reform

The Middlesex County Liberal Conference, at a meeting at the National Liberal Club on November 13, passed a resolution to the effect that no measure of electoral reform will be acceptable unless it provides for adult suffrage on a simple residential qualification of three months, the abolition of plural votes, and payment of returning officers' expenses out of public funds.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Girl Farmers of Sandringham.

His Majesty the King has personally thanked the three London girls who are looking after the cattle on his Sandringham estate.

Heroic Motor Drivers.

The Press Association special correspondent, in a message from Salonika, says:—"It is only right to pay a tribute to the bravery and devotion of the chauffeurs of the Scottish Women's Hospital attached to the Serbian Army, who take the ambulances as far as the cars can go along precipitous paths in order to meet the wounded, and are constantly risking life and limb in this dangerous work, which requires skill as well as nerve. Yet young girls perform the journey sometimes twice daily, and often have to spend the night on the mountain side, as breakdowns are, unfortunately, too frequent in such bad country."

"Women Munitioners: Machine Shop Marvels—Battleship Builders."

Under this heading *The Daily Telegraph*, in its "Engineering Notes," calls attention to the Board of Trade statement that, taking the industries of the country as a whole, since the war began women have displaced men to the extent of 766,000, and in a short time the number will almost certainly reach a million. Munition factories absorb the greater proportion, one, which produces 9.2 inch shells, is entirely staffed by women; there are 46,000 on transport work, and 71,000 in arsenals and dockyards. A well-known engineer states that, given two more years of war, he could build a battleship from keel to aerial entirely by woman labour.

Carpenters for Hut-building in France.

Numbers of women are now being trained as carpenters to assist in Government contract work. A representative of Messrs. Tarrant, Government contractors, of Byfleet (Surrey), last Saturday secured temporary exemption at the local tribunal for an employee who was engaged in instructing women in carpentry. The Government, he said, had given him permission to send to France as many women carpenters as he could get, and he hoped to train two or three hundred. A start had been made with four women, and fifteen others were due to begin at once, having been secured through the Labour Exchanges. They were hoping to train the women in such work as the construction of huts. In France many women—French and Belgian—were satisfactorily undertaking this work.

Surgeon for Italian Army.

Filomena Corvini has been appointed surgeon to the 9th Army Corps for service at the front.

Woman Member of Congress in U.S.A.

According to cabled news Montana has had the honour of electing the first woman to Congress, Miss Jeannette Rankin, a Republican. A further cable casts some doubt on Miss Rankin's success and foreshadows a recount.

CONGRATULATIONS TO—

THE LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL, for their excellent record of practical suffrage work during the year; the At Home at Nine Elms Settlement, realising nearly £10; very successful drawing-room meetings in various parts of London; Hyde Park meetings on Sundays, from May to July; sewing meetings at Headquarters; a jumble sale; also providing chairmen, stewards, and other help at various meetings, an organiser for the Fair; and a donation of 100 shillings to the 50,000 Shilling Fund. More power to them.

MISS ZABELLE BOYAJIAN on the interest aroused by her exhibition of her beautiful pictures, illustrating "Armenian Legends and Poetry," at the Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond-street. We hope to see the pictures at the Fair next week.

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SEE OUR SALE AND

EXCHANGE, PAGE 16.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, November 17th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
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To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.

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

EDITORIAL.

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

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AGENTS.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross, W.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall and Co., Temple-avenue, E.C.; City and Suburban Publishing Company, St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; E. Marlborough, Old Bailey, E.C.; A. Ritchie, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Orange-street, Haymarket; John Heywood, Manchester. Can be obtained at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son and all newsagents.

A DEADLY DANGER.

The march of popular education has given to the people who toil and starve a number of joys, advantages, and resources which in less fortunate days were entirely denied them. None but the irreconcilable reactionary would deprive the masses of the increased opportunity for enjoyment which even the poor modicum of teaching granted by a stingy State provides; while of the great middle-class community it would not be too much to say that their pleasures would be doctored by half were their educational advantages withdrawn. Yet, as in the case of every step in progress, these popular boons have a corresponding burden. Every advance has its disadvantage. When mankind took to walking upright, it sacrificed speed; when the public learned to read and write, it made, and placed itself at the mercy of, the daily press.

There is a long and heavy indictment piling up against the press. To ignorance and prejudice, folly and hysteria, it makes a constant appeal. No circumstance is too sacred, no condition too tragic, for its exploitation; and while we cannot but be grateful for its real and valued services in keeping us in touch with each other and with the world beyond our individual ken, its benefits must not blind us to its grievous demerits. It is not too much to say, to-day, that the nation is in thrall to the press.

We are concerned, as members of the body politic who are bound to suffer if evil conditions be established, with any and every manifestation of the huge power swayed by owners and business managers (rather than editors) of the great press organs. But as suffragists we are concerned more intimately with the record of the press in regard to women. The unreal and fulsome praise spattered over women since the outbreak of war has not erased from our minds the brutal attacks and comments of the militant suffragist period, during which no misrepresentation was too gross, no abuse too grotesque, to find place in the daily newspapers. We recall the glee with which journals and journalists, with a hypocrisy reminiscent of that famous pair, "The Walrus and the Carpenter," chronicled the increase of drunkenness among women which had not taken place, and the arrival of innumerable war babies who have never had existence.

We have looked on with contempt while British men allowed it to be screamed to the world that the manhood of Britain was mainly composed of "slackers and shirkers"; it is no concern of ours, as suffragists, what men choose to say or allow to be said of each other. But now that the period of silly, senseless, indiscriminating flattery is over, the press is turning on women again with bared fangs. It has suddenly discovered that there are women who are doing nothing in the way of national work. It demands compulsion; compulsion for voteless women, at the hands of the governing class, enfranchised men.

The press would be shocked if it were asked to advocate slavery. It would associate the term with coloured men, and would be very severe on any such suggestion. Compulsion for voteless women, no matter how willing and patriotic, would in effect be nothing short of slavery. The women themselves would have no power to control the machinery which ruled them; not one of the governing class would be responsible to any body of women; no system or scheme exists by which women could appeal from any regulation or condition or law, seeing that during the suffrage agitation they were virtually stripped of all right of appeal, petition, or interview. The prospect of having all the vagaries of the recruiting campaign and the tribunal appeals, with the added helplessness of disfranchisement, inflicted on women by the apparently mentally-deficient persons entrusted with official place and power, is a nightmare not to be contemplated calmly.

It may not come amiss to recapitulate some of the blunders officialdom and semi-officialdom have committed in regard to women. Women doctors were informed war was no place for them. Women volunteers were referred to Labour Exchanges, instead of being recruited, and badged and classified. Women nurses are paid, in Army and Red Cross work, less than the orderlies they have to supervise. The organisations dealing with women which have been patronised by Government approval have, in almost every case, *not* been the self-governing, representative ones, but more remarkable for society influence than popular control. Women of education have been appealed to to do the work of the uneducated labourers; and every offer to take on new work, or to undertake something for which women were particularly fitted (such as cooking and catering in camps, etc.), was met at first with snubs and discouragement. Having successfully damped down enthusiasm and cooled off ardour, the press is now backing up officialdom with a cold douche of reproach. The workers whose offers were not accepted are accused of slacking; the women who were told that their sphere was the home and their only duty to "charm," are ordered to hoe potatoes and spread manure. And now a threat to have this done under compulsion is put to the ill-informed public. Compulsion for the voteless is bad, but compulsion at the request of the press is an outrage not to be borne.

In common fairness, then, let Parliament turn its attention at once to the enfranchisement of women, of whose services the nation stands in such urgent need.

C. NINA BOYLE.

Wisdom from the West.

Life and Labour, the monthly organ of the National Women's Trade Union League of America, publishes as the frontispiece of its November issue, just to hand, a portrait of Miss Hannah L. Wessling, the chief bread baker of the Department of Agriculture. When will Britain appoint a woman to a similar official position?

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Manifesto of Women's Societies.

As the outcome of a conference called by the Women's Freedom League, the enclosed statement has been signed by the sixteen societies whose names appear at its foot and sent to the Government and the Press:—

We, the undersigned, representing Women's Societies which in the aggregate reach a membership of many thousands of women, feel that in this crisis it is our duty to our country to make public the women's point of view upon the whole question of venereal disease.

Individual women, however distinguished, can only voice individual opinions, and have no authority to speak for their sisters.

Women have for many years taken a vital interest in this question and have bestowed much thought and effort upon it.

We rejoice that at last the Government has recognised that vigorous remedies must at once be applied to this canker of the State.

We must, however, draw attention to the very dangerous nature of some of the proposed measures.

The immediate introduction of compulsory notification and compulsory treatment is being demanded by a small number of individual men and women. To this we are strenuously opposed.

We also strongly oppose all proposals for compulsory detention in either Poor Law institutions or prisons of persons suffering from these diseases; and condemn the suggestion that prisoners should, without their consent, be compelled to submit to such medical examination as, outside prison, would constitute a criminal assault.

These measures, though technically applying to both men and women, could not in practice be equally applied, and would bring with them all the worst evils of the wicked and discredited Contagious Diseases Acts, and upon the women most of their hardships and injustices would fall.

We are also convinced that increased severity in the penalising of prostitutes will be useless in lessening immorality.

Energy must not be wasted in these unprofitable channels. Against the disease already existing the only really valuable weapon is the provision of easily accessible treatment for all persons affected. This, we hope, will soon be established.

The prevention of these diseases in the future we hold to be the most important question of all. Directly or indirectly it is so intimately bound up with the question of immorality that any efforts to solve the one while ignoring the other are doomed to failure.

There are now so many young girls being led into a life of immorality, even, it is affirmed, at the age of fifteen, that it is evident that the law protecting girls up to the age of sixteen is not being enforced. We demand that it should be stringently enforced, and that the age of consent should be raised to eighteen.

We demand also that solicitation shall be made an equal offence in men and women, from whom an equal moral standard ought to be demanded.

We urge, further, with the greatest conviction, that until women are enfranchised this great problem will never be solved. In all legislative and administrative reforms the help, knowledge, and experience of both sexes are absolutely essential, and we demand the enfranchisement of women without delay.

With regard to the difficulty said to be encountered in and around the camps, we point out that in many cases the presence of regiments of good standing has, in the opinion of residents, raised the moral standard of the neighbourhood, and it is only where discipline has been notoriously lax that there has been serious cause for complaint. We feel justified, therefore, in demanding that the military and naval authorities should be held responsible for the conduct of their men, and should uphold the honour of the Army and Navy by enforcing everywhere the same discipline which has already given us the right to be proud of His Majesty's Forces.

(Signed) MAY WHITTY (Chairman, Actresses' Franchise League).

MARGARET E. BUCHANAN (President, Association of Women Pharmacists).

DORA MELLONE (Belfast Suffrage Society).

HARRIET C. NEWCOMB (Hon. Sec. British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union).

FLORENCE G. JONES (Hon. Sec. Forward Cymric Suffrage Union).

JANE E. STRICKLAND (Chairman, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage).

KATHERINE W. LINDSAY (Secretary, Glasgow Society for Women's Suffrage).

I. E. HARRISON (Hon. Sec. Hastings and St. Leonard's Women's Suffrage Propaganda League).

DOROTHEA ROCK (Independent W.S.P.U.).

L. O. KINGSTON (Hon. Sec. Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation).

GWYNNETH E. CHAPMAN (League of Justice).

M. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT (President, Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage).

HELEN EASTON WADDELL (Western Vice-President, Scottish Women's Liberal Federation).

ROSE LAMARTINE YATES (Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.).

C. DESPARD (President, Women's Freedom League).

H. M. SWANWICK (Chairman, Women's International League).

The Home Secretary and the President of the Local Government Board are being asked to receive combined deputations from the above societies. All women's societies in agreement with the above statement are invited to communicate with the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

SCOTTISH WOMEN ON THE LAND.

"Every woman who goes upon the land serves her country as effectually as the man in the trenches."

—THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

What is to happen to the farmer after the November term is a question anxiously asked by farmers when they meet. More and more men are being claimed to serve the country in the Army, and the question confronting the farmer is a serious one. Already a considerable number of women are working on the land. At Kilmarnock, under the auspices of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, women are now receiving training of from two to four weeks. Practical instruction in general farm work is given. Maintenance is provided. The housing question often presents great difficulties, for the girl who for the first time undertakes work on the land will not live as agricultural labourers have been obliged to live. In one part of Inverness-shire four women have solved the problem by taking up their abode in a caravan. On a farm near Dalkeith, where in ordinary times four or five Irishmen were employed, four girls have been at work since the beginning of July, hoeing potatoes and turnips and doing various duties, including hay-making. They have given entire satisfaction, and their employment has enabled the farmer to do with fewer men. These girls have the use of an empty cottage, and do their own cooking, washing, &c.

Women have been found a great success in forestry work, and many are coming forward for that special branch of agricultural life. Women have volunteered for potato-lifting in October. This work was formerly done by Irishmen, but Scottish people will willingly dispense with their services this year. In the north, women are also ploughing and harvesting. In Fife and Ayrshire women are working at smithies, shoeing horses and mending tools. A few women are sheep-shearing, and on some estates women are taking the entire care of horses and stock.

In practically every county in Scotland there is now a Woman's Committee for War Agricultural Workers. A voluntary registrar is usually appointed. The chief object of these committees is to mobilise women for work on the land, and to encourage people to cultivate the land and increase the nation's food supply. Women receive the fortnight or month's training at Kilmarnock, and are then fitted to take up work. The wages average 12s. to 15s. weekly, plus lodgings, coal, light, and sometimes a hot mid-day meal. Many of the women like the work and find it healthier and more restful than that of the factory or shop in which they had previously worked. As far as the nation is concerned, there is no more patriotic work than working on the land. The shortage of milk and food for the nation is a serious one, and one that should be

grappled with at once. An urgent and immediate need is for well-trained women to take up work on the land and to see that the women working there get good wages and work under proper conditions. If they succeed in this they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing work quite as important as shell-making.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

MR. W. L. GEORGE ON "THE WAR AND WOMAN."

Speaking on "The Change in Woman's Nature Since the War," on November 9, at the Minerva Café, Mr. W. L. George took the view that there is no present, but the past dipping into the future—for the effects of the war were still making themselves felt. He looked into the past, and lo, the woman of the 17th and 18th centuries was stodgy. By 1830 she had become respectable, and even took a bath. To-day she is beginning to show promise, and is almost intoxicated by new ideas. The influences at work are pain, patriotic exaltation, and labour. Those whose sufferings are lasting in their effect will find themselves isolated by the want of sympathy in the rising generation. People will have become accustomed and hardened to suffering caused by loss of money and loss of liberty. The war has given a new impetus to religious sentiment as opposed to the old religious forms; woman has been a great support of the Church, but she has been too self-sacrificing. In the opening of the labour market woman has faced the opposition of the trade unions, which feared her as a notorious "blackleg"; she has partly overcome her lamentable ignorance caused by lack of training, but she will have to fight again at the end of the war with the return of the men and the beginning of the "speeding-up" campaign. She must take heed of the warning "Hang together; if you don't, you'll hang separately." Political experience, which had been invaluable to man, would help women also. Women, he added, should see a wider field than their country offered—their first duty as women is to womankind. Mrs. Mustard presided, and a short discussion followed, in which Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Tanner, and others took part.

Have You Sent Your Gifts and Purchased Your Tickets for the GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR?

Particulars of the Fair appear on another page. In addition to all the other attractions, Mrs. Despard has very kindly reserved these two days, so that she can be present. It would be a great help if members would take their tickets in advance. Will all branches and members who are sending contributions please dispatch them early next week, so that they arrive at 144, High Holborn, before Thursday, the 23rd?

Stallholders:—

General—Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Oliver.
White—Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Whetton.
Olde Curiosity Shoppe—Mrs. Abbot and Mrs. Gush.
Toy—Mrs. Mockford, Mrs. Lindus, and Mrs. Aaron.
London Branches Council—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Mustard.
Literature—Miss Hodge, the Hon. Mrs. Forbes.
Home-made Provisions—Mrs. Catmur, Mrs. Terry, Miss Triplett, Mrs. Thomson.
Comforts for Sufferers in the War—Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. and Miss Lovelace.
Vote (in memory of Mrs. Snow)—Miss Snow, Miss Smith, Miss Jacob, and Mrs. Tritton.
Handkerchief—Miss Sidley.
Montgomery Boroughs—Miss Clark.
Other Societies taking part:—Friends of Armenia, W.F.L. Nine Elms Settlement, Independent W.S.P.U., Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U., Women's Market Garden Supply, United Suffragists, Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.

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** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

A CAMPAIGN IN MILITARY AND MUNITION CENTRES.

DEAR EDITOR,—I am delighted to see that Miss Murray, on behalf of the National Executive Committee, has seen fit to make an appeal for funds for an immediate big campaign.

May I emphasise that this campaign should be chiefly directed at military and munition centres, starting RIGHT NOW, and that it should have a definite object—namely, the signing of a petition to be laid before the Electoral Reform Conference; the forming of new branches should be a minor consideration. If we want to get at the Conference, this campaign is vitally urgent; and we have no time to wait for funds to be collected. Surely the League can find someone from amongst its efficient organisers who is able and willing to GIVE her time and energy for this work, once the necessary expenses are provided. All that then is needed is for members in or near the various centres to come forward with offers of hospitality or to ask friends to give a hand; by this means a large part of the expense will be cut down. I feel sure that collections taken on the spot will more than cover sundry expenses. Let us not forget that £2 and a type-writer was the foundation of the W.S.P.U. Enthusiasm will earn its own support.

Our 5,000 members must come forward to help in this campaign with VOTE-selling, canvassing and advertising, etc., in relays at the various centres. The ONLY real war-work for keen suffragists is to be out protecting the interests of their fellow-women war-workers, and this campaign is the only way to do it at all effectively. We want the vote, and we want it NOW. "Suffrage is dead!" cries the Anti and the indifferent. Freedom Leaguers, get a move on, and show them there's something doing and something big! WINIFRED GILES.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Miss Margaret Hodge's address on "How Anti-Suffragists are made in the Nursery" was full of humour gilding the pill of serious purpose, and proving an able ally for the suffrage cause. She declared that small boys imbibe the spirit of superiority in the nursery, and that nursery rhymes teach them to look down on girls; this attitude of mind grows, and the man considers the woman altogether his inferior. Miss Hodge defined Jill as an early suffragette; she and Jack suffered the same disaster, but while Jack had his head bandaged, Jill was whipped for laughing. Violence is inculcated as the only remedy for wrong-doing or difference of opinion, as shown in "Taffy was a Welshman," and "The old man who would not say his prayers." "Little Bo-Peep" stood out in pleasing contrast to "Little Boy Blue" she was determined to find her sheep and match their tails; he did

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BRANCH NOTES.

Clapham.

A members' meeting was held at 15, Clapham Mansions, on November 8. Arrangements were made for members to distribute locally handbills for the public meeting to be held at Clapham Hall, Wednesday evening, December 6, when the speakers will be Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman on "Combined and Uncombined Womanhood," the chair to be taken at 7 o'clock by Mrs. Samuel. Promises were received for stewarding at the London Branches Council's Jumble Sale, and at the Green, White and Gold Fair. It was also decided that, instead of a whist drive, the branch should run an entertainment, arranged by Mrs. Corner, at 1, Mount-street, Berkeley-square, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister), Friday afternoon, December 15, the proceeds to go to the Women's Freedom League Settlement at Nine Elms. The next branch meeting will be held at 15, Clapham Mansions, Tuesday, November 21, at 7 p.m., to which members are urged to bring contributions in money or in kind for the Green, White and Gold Fair, and donations towards the expenses of the meeting at Clapham Hall, December 6.

Croydon. Office: 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

A very successful whist drive was held on November 11. The committee heartily thank Mr. and Mrs. Cox for holding it at their house, and doing so much to give everyone a most enjoyable evening. The hon. secretary hopes that everyone will remember that the Green, White and Gold Fair will be held next week, on November 24 and 25, and trust that all members and friends will send a gift for the provision stall. She will forward all contributions to the Caxton Hall, and will be glad to receive them on or before November 22.

Glasgow Suffrage Shop, 212, Bath-street.

The members of Dennistoun, Townhead, and Springburn will be "At Home" at above address on Saturday, November 18, at 3.30 p.m. Members and friends of the League are cordially invited to be present.

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

The Fair is drawing near, and more contributions are urgently needed. Please send yours at once. We should like best all kinds of provisions, but any other saleable gifts will be gratefully received. Many thanks to Mrs. Delbanco for an American cloth cover for kitchen-table; to Mr. Delbanco for making a very workmanlike boot and shoe cupboard for the Guest House, and for various other carpentering jobs; Mrs. Geo. Young, knickers; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Miss Eunice Murray, sheets, bath-towels, shoes, tooth-brushes, washing-gloves, &c.; Miss Alexander, chrysanthemums; Mrs. Clark, tooth-brushes, bibs, and a cake.

The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W.

We have crystallised our needs into one—a big one! We must have, as soon as possible, a voluntary worker who, in return for board and lodging (if necessary), will help Miss Vicary, the manageress, in the general work of the Despard Arms, and probably give special attention to the house, which includes the bedrooms, recreation, rest rooms, etc. Apply by letter, or personally, to Miss Vicary at any time. Mrs. Aldridge's second visit and talk about her experiences in Serbia was keenly appreciated by wounded soldiers and others last Saturday afternoon.


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nothing but cry. The Queen who ate bread and honey while the King counted his coin is regarded as greedy, but she only reflected the spirit of the age which kept woman so busy with her duties as hostess, carving at great banquets, etc., that she had to get a snack beforehand. Violantry in the pantry was really suffering from hunger, not greediness, when she attacked the mutton-bone; girls were required to have delicate appetites in public, so had to make up in private. Little Miss Muffin, too, was only living up to the correct standard expected of a woman—to be frightened, or faint on any provocation—when she ran away from the spider. Miss Hodge protested against the ridiculing of old women: Mother Hubbard, the Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe, the old woman sweeping the cobwebs from the sky. The world to-day needs the women to sweep away the cobwebs of war, political cabals, profiteering, food adulteration, etc., so that it can see the eternal blue of the sky. Only one nursery rhyme exalts girls above boys: "What are little girls made of?" History, said Miss Hodge, has been written by men, with most of the women left out; yet women have been heroic empire builders, as the records of early colonists show.

Miss Mary Murray's excellent speech on the different ways in which the Woman Suffrage Movement has educated women was strong and clear; she mentioned the spirit of independence, co-operation, truthfulness and clearness of expression, thoroughness. Women so often had only been given the odds and ends of work to do; nothing to make them think of great principles. The Women's Freedom League, she maintained, deserved to be honoured as a character former. Both speakers were warmly thanked by Miss Underwood from the chair, and the audience testified keen appreciation.

Curtailing Public Liberties.

The following letter has been sent to the Chairman of the London County Council, Spring Gardens, S.W., with regard to the Council's refusal of permits for the sale of literature in its parks and open spaces:—

November 13, 1916.

Dear Sir,—In connection with the decision of the Parks Committee to refuse permits for the sale of literature in parks and open spaces in and around London, the Women's Freedom League desires to issue an emphatic protest against this decision. For several years we have sold our paper, THE VOTE, and suffrage pamphlets at the meetings we have held at these places, chiefly on Sundays. Our literature has been sent to the chief officer of the Parks Committee, and sanctioned by him before the permit was given for its sale, which has served us as excellent propaganda for our cause. If there is anything in our paper or pamphlets to which the Parks Committee takes exception, we are quite prepared to take the consequences of that objection in the usual legal way, but we are not prepared to have the right of sale of literature taken from us without a strong protest. I send you, under separate cover, a copy of our paper, THE VOTE, which we sold in Brockwell Park yesterday. We hope that the members of the London County Council will to-morrow reconsider the decision previously arrived at, so that the fact that they are exploiting the war to undermine the liberties of the British people may not be registered against them.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
FLORENCE A. UNDERWOOD.

Last Sunday afternoon a strong protest was made in Brockwell Park by Miss Underwood, and ready sympathy was shown. She and Miss Sprigg sold THE VOTE, despite the L.C.C. decision.

A NEW SUFFRAGE CLUB FOR MEN AND WOMEN has been opened at the Onward-buildings, Deansgate, Manchester. There are to be fortnightly lectures and discussions on the suffrage question and other subjects relating to women. It is hoped soon to secure suitable premises. The chairman is Mrs. Williamson Forrester, the vice-chairman Dr. Herbert, and the secretary Miss Altaras. At the opening meeting Dr. Herbert presided, and a discussion on "Divorce" was opened by the Rev. Francis Wood.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 16.

FRIDAY,
NOV. 17,
1916.

THE VOTE

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM
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ings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster,
every Wednesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.
Nov. 22nd, Mr. Cameron Grant on
"The Fleishpots of Egypt," and Mrs.
Mustard on "Women's Patriotic
Work." Chair, Mrs. Cobden Sander-
son. Tea 4.30; 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS.—cont.

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