

THE VOTE,
JANUARY 12, 1917.
ONE PENNY.

DR. WINIFRED PATCH ON TAX RESISTANCE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JAN. 12, 1917.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECT: 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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WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Military Medal for Bravery in the Field.

Staff-Nurse Catherine M. Carruthers, Territorial Field Nursing Service, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. She is the first recipient of this honour.

Secretary to Adjutant-General.

Miss Catherine Bennett, who has been appointed secretary to General Macready, Adjutant-General, is the first woman to hold such a post at the War Office.

Work on the New Loan.

Women trained in banks are employed in the new loan offices in connection with the great War Loan of this week.

Railway Guards.

Women are now being employed as guards on some of the London Tubes.

In Charge of Electric Light Station.

A woman is now running the electric-light station at Bradninch, Devon.

Tribute to Lock Keepers.

Lord Desborough, at the meeting of the Thames Conservancy Board on January 8, said that the women lock keepers are giving "the utmost satisfaction." Out of 435 men on the staff at the outbreak of war 317 were eligible for military service, and the Board had claimed only 15 exemptions.

Probable Vice-President of National Union of Teachers.

In educational circles it is fully anticipated, says the *Daily Telegraph* (January 6), that the coming vice-president of the National Union of Teachers will be Miss E. S. Conway, now principal of the Tiber-street School, Liverpool. Automatically, this distinction leads on to the presidency, a position that has once before been filled by a lady with striking success in Miss Cleghorn a couple of years ago. Miss Conway, who is a native of Worcestershire, has had

extensive experience of teaching in the public elementary schools, having begun her career as pupil teacher at Upper Park-street, Liverpool, where she became assistant mistress, while later she was headmistress of a school in the poorest quarter of that town. Among the public duties that Miss Conway has filled have been that of membership of the Teachers' Registration Council, the presidency of the Lancashire County Association, and the presidency of the Headmistresses' Association.

Trousers, Not Skirts.

It is stated that the Government have decided that all women on war-work, where machinery is very close and crowded, be asked to adopt male attire during their working hours. This will apply to munition girls, dockyard girl employees and equipment factory hands. It is expected they will take to their new garb without demur. "Petticoat Government" will evidently soon be an out-of-date expression.

£1 Minimum Wage for Munition Workers.

Commenting on "the new charter" for women munition workers, Miss Mary Macarthur says (*Times*, January 5):—

"Even the comparatively munificent £1 for a 48-hours week, which I am informed is to apply from January 1 (although we have a written Ministerial pledge in our possession that it would date from November 15), is, after all, according to pre-war standards, worth about 13s. a week, and this for work formerly done by men and admittedly of vital importance to the nation.

"I shall be very much surprised to learn that anything like half the women at present engaged in Government work are deemed to come under Circular L.2. It will not be true to say that women and girls engaged on munition work are receiving a decent living wage until a minimum of at least 6d. an hour

is laid down for every woman to whom Section 7 (the leaving clause) of the Munitions of War Act applies. Of only a small minority is this true to-day."

Carrying On!

London should be grateful to Miss Lilian Baylis for the splendid national services she renders by carrying on at the "Old Vic." (nearly opposite Waterloo Station) and providing most excellent recreation for the modest outlay of 3d. to 2s. 8d. (including war tax): Shakespeare, or other classical plays, five times every week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings at 7.45; Wednesday and Thursday matinées at 2.45); opera on Thursdays and Saturdays at 7.45, and, on alternate Saturdays, a matinée at 2.30; and lantern lectures every Tuesday at 8 p.m. This week, in addition to an admirable production of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" admirably played, the "Old Vic." is indulging in "A New Cut Harlequinade: A Little Bit of Holiday Fluffery," written by two members of the dramatic company, Russell Thorndike and Geoffrey Wilkinson, in which they poke fun at the "Old Vic." Shakespeare, Bacon, Mr. Ben Greet, Miss Baylis, and others in the most diverting manner. Excellent enjoyment is assured in supporting this courageous woman's enterprise.

THE LABOUR CONFERENCE, MANCHESTER, JAN. 23-26.

Women's Freedom League Campaign.

Miss Alix M. Clark, as hon. organiser, and Miss Anna Munro, as principal speaker, have begun a vigorous suffrage campaign in Manchester, in view of the important Labour Conference to be held in the city on January 23-26. The Labour Party has a unique opportunity for pressing forward the claims of women to enfranchisement, long an accepted plank in its platform. The support of Labour made it possible for the new Prime Minister to form his Government; Labour has stronger representation and greater power in the Government than ever before; pressure brought to bear by Labour will have very great influence and effect. It is emphatically necessary that the dominant question of votes for women shall be to the forefront at the Conference, and all suffragists must make a point of rallying round their flag.

The unprotected position of the thousands of voteless women in industry is a source of weakness and danger; through the vote men have been able to improve and strengthen their position. Women must have the same protecting power of the vote; now is the time for men and women to stand together for the good of all.

The fixtures already arranged by Miss Clark and Miss Munro include drawing-room meetings in various parts of the city, beginning on Monday, January 15, and a public meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, at the Association Hall, Peter-street, at which Mrs. Despard, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Eunice Murray, and others will speak. For details see Forthcoming Events.

Will all our members and sympathisers in or near Manchester communicate at once with Miss Alix M. Clark, 122, Cecil-street, Whitworth Park, Manchester, and offer financial or personal service for the important work in hand?

The Suppression of Vice.

The proposals of the Hammersmith Borough Council with regard to the suppression of vice have received wide publicity in the Press. In our next issue we shall be able to give our readers Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson's opinion on the subject.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



DARE TO BE
FREE.

Saturday, January 13.—POLITICAL MEETING, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, Mrs. Corner, and Mrs. Tanner. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Tea can be obtained in the Café after the meeting.

Saturday, January 20.—Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. Pound Day and Concert, 4.30-7.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard will be present. (See page 79.)

Sunday, January 21.—MATINEE MUSICALE-DRAMATIQUE, Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., 3 p.m. Artistes: Madame Anna Carola (soprano) and Elsie Royya (costume recitals), assisted by Miss Phyllis Caspersz (violin). Arranged by London Branches Council, W.F.L. Tickets, 2s. (numbered and reserved) and 1s. (unreserved), from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Monday, January 22.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 7.30 p.m. Conference Business.

Wednesday, January 24.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard, "Daughters of the Empire." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Hall at 4.30 (6d.).

Friday, January 26.—RECITAL OF OLD SONGS AND SATIRES by Miss Holloway, and FAIRY TALES by Miss Raleigh. Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., 3 p.m. Tea 4.45. Tickets, 1s. (reserved) and 6d. (unreserved), from W.F.L. Office, CROYDON. Public meeting, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Corner, "The Lessons of History."

Wednesday, January 31.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., "The Right of the Soldier," and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. Corner. Admission free. Tea can be obtained in the Hall at 4.30 (6d.).

PROVINCES.

Monday, January 15.—MIDDLESBROUGH. "At Home," Suffrage Club, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge. Subject: "The Position of the Women of Canada and South Africa—A Suffrage Tour in Both These Countries." Music.

Wednesday, January 17.—SOUTHSEA. Work Party, 17, Lombard-street, 3 to 7 p.m.

Monday, January 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Club, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. John Scurr. Subject: "The Discovery of Woman."

MANCHESTER CAMPAIGN.

Monday, January 15.—Drawing-room Meeting at Bankfield, Roeback-lane, Manchester (by kind permission of Mrs. Milnes), at 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Subject: "Woman and Labour." Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Tuesday, January 16.—Drawing-room Meeting at 302, Upper Brook-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock (by kind permission of Mrs. McMurray), at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Neal.

Wednesday, January 17.—Drawing-room Meeting at 289, Stretford-road, Manchester (by kind permission of Mrs. Campbell), at 8.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

Thursday, January 25.—Public Meeting at The Association Hall, Peter-street, Manchester. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Anna Munro, Miss Eunice Murray, and others. Doors open 7 p.m. to commence 7.30.

THE MINERVA CAFE, 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.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 3d. 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, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Breakfasts from 7 a.m. Sundays, 4 to 9 p.m. Bedrooms for women at work.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Women and Re-construction.

It is hoped that a large number of members will come to the meeting next Saturday, January 13, at 3.30 p.m. in the Minerva Café (above these offices). Mrs. Despard will take the chair, Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson will speak on "Women in Industry," Mrs. Tanner and others will speak on different aspects of the suffrage question. It is hoped that members will come prepared with ideas and suggestions, so that we may have a good discussion. Women *must* realise now more than ever before the urgent need for them to take their part in the government of the country, and must insist that no attempt be made at reconstruction without their advice and assistance. If the nation at war *cannot* exist without their help, then they must demand that the nation at peace *shall* not exist without it.

Compulsory War Service for Women.

A certain section of the Press has been busy for some time with vague hints as to the possibility of, and the need for, conscription for women; sometimes it is even suggested that women want conscription. As the Women's Freedom League believes in preparation for any contingency that may arise, a leaflet has been issued on the subject, in which it is stated that while expressing no opinions as to the merits or demerits of compulsory service for men, the League will strongly oppose any consulsion for women so long as they remain unenfranchised. A few copies of this leaflet will be sent to branch secretaries, and extra copies for distribution at meetings, etc., will be supplied at a special price on application to Headquarters.

Picketing.

More picketers are needed every Wednesday and Thursday morning to stand outside the House of Commons while the Speaker's Conference is sitting. Will members do their best to help in this valuable work, so that the Women's Freedom League may be well represented on these occasions? Picketers leave this office at 10 o'clock sharp.

Deputation to the Prime Minister.

As nothing further has been received from Mr. Lloyd George since his acknowledgment of our letter asking for a deputation to be received, we have written again, urging him to receive us, and we hope soon to receive a favourable reply.

ANNE E. CORNER.

Electoral Reform Conference.

The following statement appeared in the Political Notes of *The Times* on January 10:—

"As several misleading accounts of the prospects of the Electoral Reform Conference have appeared

ON THE THRESHOLD OF VICTORY.

The New Year comes holding out victory in its hand. **It rests with us to take it.** We must win the vote this year. 1917 must be filled with redoubled enthusiasm and toil and sacrifice, for we are resolved that women shall be free citizens before its close. **Our determination will be unconquerable.** We must have money. We must complete the fifty thousand shilling fund; there are still 34,000 shillings to come. Please write for new collecting-cards for the Fund and **start work at once**, and send in contributions, large or small (but the larger the better), as often as possible.

Best wishes and grateful thanks to all our supporters in 1916. E. KNIGHT.

since the change of Government, it should be known that the members have decided to make an earnest attempt to present an agreed report before Parliament reassembles. The conference met yesterday, and will meet again to-day and to-morrow. The conference was undoubtedly placed in a temporary difficulty by the fall of Mr. Asquith's Government, from which it had received its mandate. Mr. Lloyd George, however, was most anxious that the members should continue, under the chairmanship of the Speaker, their efforts to secure an agreed settlement of the outstanding questions of registration, franchise, and redistribution, and the conference accepted this new mandate. It is understood that the prospects of a successful issue of the conference are hopeful. Lord Salisbury, Lord Finlay, Sir Frederick Banbury, and Colonel Craig have ceased to be members of the conference. Three of the vacant places have been taken by Mr. Stuart Wortley (now a peer), Mr. Touche, and Mr. Archdale."

SOME PRESS CUTTINGS.

The Weekly Dispatch, January 7, in discussing "War Measures for Peace Time," gives the following statements by notable people:—

Sir Robert Baden Powell.

"Women, having won their place in the country's work, can now keep it on their merits instead of clamouring for it."

There has always been plenty of work in the country for women—mostly unpaid or underpaid. What women have clamoured for is a proper recognition of that work, that it should be paid for at its proper value, and that it should be done under fair conditions. Men found that political power was the best safeguard for such interests. Would not Sir Robert agree that this safeguard should be given to women?

Sir William Dunn, Lord Mayor of London.

"I would give women a greater share in the affairs of the nation."

We heartily endorse this statement. The affairs of the nation—political, industrial, and social—are as much the business of women as of men.

Mrs. M. G. Fawcett, the Feminist.

One of the most important of war measures which ought to be retained after peace has been restored is the using of the industrial and professional capacities of women up to some approach of their natural powers.

Miss Betham-Edwards.

"Women should be trained to the priesthood in the Established as well as in the Free Churches."

We are of opinion that there should be equality for men and women in Church and State, and that the monopoly of power in either by one sex is bad for the community.

The Sunday Chronicle, January 7, in discussing extravagance in war-time, says:—

"A lady complains that most of the outcries about luxury and extravagance are directed against feminine luxury and extravagance. We inveigh, for example, against the women who throng the cake-shops, but are silent about the men who throng the tobacco-shops," and comments thus:—

"We spend annually in alcoholic refreshments £185,000,000, and blow away another £40,000,000 in smoke. These are both mainly the indulgence of men. And while that consumption is maintained we can scarcely have an effective case against woman's confectionery and scent."

READ

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BY

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THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, January 12th, 1917.

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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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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.

STATE SERVICE.

Amongst all the momentous changes which the war has brought and will bring into our national life there is none more momentous than the present complete, practical recognition of the co-operative principle. For generations—ever since the feudal system broke up—the industry necessary for the maintenance of life, the further industries whose object is to beautify life, and the meaner sort of industries—of which, alas, there are too many engaged only in providing luxuries for a certain small section of the community—have been carried on by units and groups who have organised trades and manufactures principally to enrich themselves.

Hence industry has been chaotic and, from the broad point of view, purposeless. We have never known what a united and organized State could do.

By slow and painful degrees, after many mistakes, we are finding this out. Who could have imagined two and a half years ago that there was so much surplus wealth, so much working strength, such well-nigh inexhaustible energy in the country? It is co-operative labour directed towards one object that has brought to pass this wonderful result; and had there been confidence on both sides, had the Government trusted the People and the People trusted the Government, we believe the results would have been still more amazing.

We cherish a hope that when the war is over, and the big problems it has created come to be faced, the principle of co-operation will be maintained. Possibly we shall find that this and only this will give us the guiding clue we need to enable us to steer clear of the difficulties attendant upon social settlement after the war.

One or two obvious facts stand out. If co-operation, it must be of all. Every adult sane man and woman must be bound in honour to give service to the State, not by compulsion, but by free recognition of what is right must each bring the offering of service.

Let us be fully understood. No woman—good, natural and unspoiled—objects to State service. We hear so much to-day of her special service that we forget sometimes how indispensable is the service

she has always been rendering. Nor does she object to her work being organised. With her intimate experience of home and family life she is fully aware of the importance of detail, and of division of labour in working towards a common end. But her life-knowledge, drawn from her own special work, tells of the importance of detail, and of division of labour from free labour; and that where slavishness comes in, honesty and love drop out. Why should not a slave shirk and scamp toil and live as easily as he can? There is no hope to keep his brain and heart alive.

Compulsion is being exercised on our brothers; by the arm of the law they are drawn from factory and field and workshop, and trained to fight. The word has gone round that unless, within a specified time, sufficient recruits for State service come forward, industrial conscription will take place. If this is indeed a necessity we regret it; but the whole of the political system through which such an outrage on liberty can be perpetrated was built by men; and from the trade unions and Labour Party, on the whole, no strong protest has yet been made.

What is to follow? The whisper "Possibly women" is in the air. They have been so adaptable, so docile, so patriotic. Do we not know the attributes? Have we not had them dinned into our ears since the memorable moment when the leaders of the nation realized that, unfit as women were for citizenship on account of their unfortunate sex, the men could not wage a huge war successfully without them. It has been woman, woman everywhere; and women have just gone on quietly with their work, glad and proud that they could render help to the country.

Free service they render now as they have always rendered, much of it unpaid, and much of a nature that no payment in money could fitly reward. And all this is well, for it knits women to the State and enhances their consciousness of citizenship.

So long ago as the year 1911, in a speech given at Bath, the present Prime Minister worked this all out. After speaking eloquently and with understanding of the immense services woman had rendered to the country, he said: "Give her the right of a share in the making and administering of the laws which affect not merely her own life, but what is nearer to her, the lives of her children."

That was straight talk, yet now in 1917, women being still without representation, there are those who would make her, as well as her brother, a labour-conscript.

It would be impossible to exaggerate the effect that an effort of the kind would produce, not only upon women, but upon the community at large. As things are, women are at liberty to give or to withhold their services, and thus have some power over working conditions and wages. As conscripts they will have to go where they are sent, and to accept the conditions and the rate of pay that the Government, through the Labour Controller, may choose to allot to them.

So far as the men are concerned, some discrimination may be shown. If they are too arbitrarily treated, though to-day they may set their teeth and bear it, to-morrow, when the time of reckoning comes, unless every one of them is relieved of his power to vote, there may come changes which will amount to revolution. In any case the rulers of to-day will have short shrift.

Women have no such court of appeal.

Then would come in the difficult question. Who are to be conscripted? The married woman, the mother, are these to be exempt? We imagine tribunals—will they be of matrons?—trying these cases. Probably the single women would protest.

They also may have home responsibilities, aged parents, little brothers and sisters. They, too, like some of the men, may have occupations—such as teaching, perhaps—that tribunals may not consider of national importance. We may hear, by and by, of fine infant school teachers being sent to farms to rear chickens and feed pigs and calves. And if women, who are only too ready to work for the State according to their power and ability, were to decline to serve as conscripts, how are they to be compelled?

We do not think the attempt will be made, but we do see that it bristles with difficulties.

Meanwhile, we trust that when the time comes to rebuild on better lines that which has been so ruthlessly destroyed, the lessons we have learned in our hours of peril will not be forgotten.

Co-operation, universal, freely rendered State Service, with representation of every section of the community, these are the lines on which we must build. Then may we hope for permanence.

We quote again from Mr. Lloyd George's remarkable speech at Bath in 1911. He was speaking of Woman's Suffrage as an international movement. "And when women get the vote, not merely here but on the Continent, I think you will find that the mothers of these great countries will see that the fields of Europe are not drenched with the blood of their sons."

Had the vote been given to women then in France, in Germany, in Great Britain and in Russia, would we have had the terrible war that is now devastating these countries?

That is a question we venture to put to the Prime Minister.

C. DESPARD.

TAX RESISTANCE.

Statement by Dr. Winifred S. Patch.

We call the attention of our readers to the important statement by our valiant member, Dr. Winifred S. Patch, with regard to her protest against the injustice of the State in taxing voteless women. Acting on the belief that it is "always the time," irrespective of such dire events as a European war, to stand for principle, Dr. Patch is determined to make a good fight and to show the authorities and the public that woman suffrage is a dominant national issue. We acclaim her courageous action and await the result with keen interest.

As certain of my suffragist friends, not Freedom Leaguers be it said, are inclined to think that my recent appearance in the Bankruptcy Court for unpaid taxes indicates a breach of the suffragist truce, I am very glad to be allowed by THE VOTE to explain the situation.

The action of the Inland Revenue authorities is not the result of any new step on my part, but is taken to recover taxes alleged to be accumulating since 1913. It appears that no steps for recovery can be taken after three years have elapsed, so that it was now or never with Somerset House when the writ was issued on May 5, 1916, summoning me to appear before the High Court of Justice. The curious thing is that though other tax resisters of equally long standing have also been served with writs and judgment obtained against them the matter has then been dropped and no further proceedings taken. It seems, however, that action through the Bankruptcy Court cannot be taken for a debt of less than £50. It may have been a mere coincidence that the calculation of the Inland Revenue authorities brought the amount assumed to be due in my case to £50 16s. 6d. just at the end of the three years, and that it then occurred to them that success in re-

covering the money might be achieved by a change of *venue* and procedure through the Bankruptcy Court. The suspicion, nevertheless, arises that a little cookery of accounts may have led to this desirable result. Probably my professional position may have had something to do with the fact that I was a selected victim, and my fear of being injured by bankruptcy proceedings counted on as a motive to induce me to surrender. Perhaps I may here say that so far the only trying feature has been the first public notice that a petition had been filed against me. Nothing could exceed the courtesy and consideration which I have received up to the present from the officials at Bankruptcy Buildings, at Carey-street, and in the public report of my meeting of creditors my position was made quite clear.

With regard to this last event I am hoping to get some further information. There was only one creditor—the Government. Can less than two constitute a meeting, and if there were no meeting can it still be assumed that a meeting took place and action be based upon it?

I should like to conclude by explaining why I decided to continue to refuse to pay taxes during the war when many good suffragists have decided otherwise. First, it seemed to me that our case was in no way different from that of the Nationalists. In their case the truce means no abatement of claim, no receding from positions previously maintained, but simply abstention from further action. Secondly, there has been, perhaps, no period in English history when the safeguarding of the Constitution has been more important. Lord Parmoor, in a speech at Huddersfield about three months ago, sufficiently important to be printed in pamphlet form, says:—

"I . . . hold the opinion that a constitution under which the morality and character of a people have been moulded should be the safeguard of national effort at a time of national stress. It is the fabric on which the continuity of the State depends."

He points out that the House of Commons, by extending its own life beyond its allotted maximum of five years, "ceased to have a representative character and became a statutory body," and he illustrates what is involved in the change by special reference to the question of taxation. The doctrine of no taxation without representation was

"the bedrock on which the popular party in the revolutionary era withstood the encroachments of the Stuart Kings." . . . "The imposition of hundreds of millions of taxation under present conditions vitiates the principle for which Hampden fought, and which has been regarded as an essential part of the Constitution."

Nevertheless, in the case of *men*, the Constitution has never been deliberately and ostensibly set aside, and even though the Habeas Corpus Act has been virtually suspended on the plea of military necessity, they can at the end of the war appeal for the restoration of their rights and liberties on constitutional grounds. The case of *women*, whose constitutional rights are not admitted, is far otherwise, and it appears to me all important at the present time to press for the recognition of those rights for women, which are the foundation of liberty for men.

WINIFRED S. PATCH, M.D., B.S.

FROM OTHER LANDS.

Sir Rabindrenath Tagore, Suffragist.

"I have myself written in favour of the amelioration of the condition of Eastern women," says the Indian poet, now lecturing in New York and expected in England in a short time. "As for the women voting—why not? Many men here vote who are not qualified. The women are quite as competent to pass opinions upon public questions."

Enlightenment in China.

Dr. Yamei Kin, head of the first woman's hospital in China, says that Chinese men are now insisting of their own accord on education for women. "Let the women learn, education is simply a preparation for a political life."

In one district where the people are very poor and grudge the expense of schoolhouses and teachers, they agreed to educate the girls and leave the boys alone, saying "the mothers will pass on education irrespective of sex, the fathers will never teach their daughters, and how can a country advance if her girls are not given advantage; it is more important to have well-educated mothers than fathers for the development of the nation."

The people of Canton recently voted a bond issue for the purpose of bringing spring water to the town. Women also are people in Canton when it comes to bond issues, and they proved they liked being people. The editor of one of Canton's weekly papers wrote: "Watching Canton's main street on Thursday one was almost persuaded that equal suffrage would be a good thing. The way the women voted was an education. Once convinced they were right they did not hesitate. The way the women of limited means voted was an education in itself. To many of them every cent counts, and yet almost to a woman they did not hesitate, but were willing to bind themselves to make personal sacrifices, many of them for the rest of their lifetime, in order that they and their friends and the village, might have good water. It was a wholesome object lesson."

Woman Suffrage in Mexican State.

According to information from Mexico, received in San Francisco by N. Gould Harrold, president of the Mexican Property Owners' Non-Intervention League, woman suffrage has recently been granted in the State of Yucatan. "This action," said Mr. Harrold, in an interview with a representative of *The Christian Science Monitor*, "which was taken by Governor-General Don Salvador Alvarado, of Yucatan, follows a woman's congress recently held at Merida, Yucatan, participated in by 3,000 women. Most of the members of his congress were women of the middle class, many of them were teachers in the public schools, and a few of them represented the old governing class. The area of Yucatan is 18,565 square miles, and its population in 1910 was 337,020."

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING.

Speaking recently at the Women's Institute on "The Prospects for Educated Women in Engineering," Lady Parsons said that "the output by women working the same machines as men, and under the same conditions, was greater than the output of men who had been working all their lives." We can only hope that their patriotism is not being exploited. At the outbreak of war agreements were arrived at between the employers, the trade unions, and the Government on the general principle that women "should be paid the same rate customarily paid for the job." In a lecture recently given to the Fabian Women's Group by Mrs. Drake, the lecturer pointed out the ease with which such an agreement could be evaded. "The employers," she said, "immediately found that the woman was not employed on a skilled man's job, or, if so, was not employed on the whole of his job, etc. And they decided that the rate paid was to be that customarily paid to women."

The position of women employed on semi-skilled men's jobs was worse; 3½d. an hour was the rate for the work of women, compared with 5½d. and 6½d. an hour for men. "The output of these women

was, on the whole, not less than that of the men. The average earnings of many women worked out at about 19s. a week for a 48-hours' week, including bonus, overtime, and night work. Since Circular L2 came into operation the rate has been raised to 4½d., and their earnings work out at a few shillings more." Mrs. Drake's facts corroborate Miss Macarthur's statement (page 73).

The women engaged in work which, before the war, was not customarily recognised as men's work (presumably the work of boys and women) started at 2½d an hour. In August or September of this year "a standard, not a minimum, rate was fixed of 4½d. an hour, with an extra ½d. for workers in danger sheds." Mrs. Drake concludes: "Thousands of women have been introduced since the war on work customarily done by men, only a minority have taken the place of fully-skilled men, the majority have replaced semi-skilled and unskilled men on light repetition work. In only a few cases do women receive the rate customarily paid for the job."

EDUCATIONISTS IN CONFERENCE.

Educationists were in conference in London last week, and discussed many important problems of the present and future. A very warm welcome was given to Dr. Fisher, as the new Minister for Education, and satisfaction expressed that this vital national question was under the direction of an experienced and alert man.

We are glad to note that Mr. A. H. D. Acland, presiding at a meeting of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Subjects, called on Lord Rhondda and Mr. Fisher to act drastically with regard to the health of the children. The neglect of some authorities was disastrous and through our national neglect we were losing and injuring thousands of lives which the nation sorely needed. He said that he had been "chairman of a Consultative Committee of the Board of Education which seven years ago presented a report on the subject of children under five, and, speaking broadly, neither the Board of Education nor the other authorities had made any serious attempt to carry out any of the recommendations then made."

While the "Wait and See" policy is followed the children suffer. Small wonder Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky pointed to the terrible physique of the children in our schools, and declared that it was apathy which had prevented the serious tackling of the question. Miss Beatrice de Norman urged the State provision of day nurseries.

Miss Turner, assistant L.C.C. inspector, addressing a meeting of the Froebel Society on "Problems arising out of women's work in boys' schools," said the woman teacher for boys had come to stay, and it was important to find the right type of woman. She must not be of a highly nervous type, but a woman of strong physique, athletic tastes, and a good sense of humour was likely to have a strong personal influence. In younger classes up to 11 years of age the woman, with her mother instinct, sympathy, and tact, had proved more successful than men. Dr. Percy Nunn, of the London Day Training College, said it was essential to have woman's influence as well as man's in boys' schools, and her presence did a great deal to raise the standard of instruction in certain subjects. It was quite possible to contemplate women heads of boys' schools. During the conference the subject of sex education received careful consideration, and there was an increasing support of co-education.

NEXT WEEK'S "VOTE": Special Labour Number for Manchester Labour Conference.

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			29 3 6
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Miss Forbes Robertson	1	0	0
Collections	1	9	6
Stall takings, United Suffragists' Bazaar	4	3	4
Share of ticket money, United Suffragists' Bazaar	7	1	0
Office Sales	2	5	1
<i>Branches—</i>			
Regent's Park (balance of Branch Funds) ...	7	0	0
			£1,729 4 2

TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS. Be always armed with a weapon ready for use— "THE VOTE."

It is an important weapon for WINNING our battle. Never be unarmed. Always have extra copies with which to arm new friends!

The Despard Arms, 125, Hampstead-road, N.W.

On Saturday, January 20, we shall have a Pound Day and Concert, 4.30—7.30 p.m. No tickets are required: entrance by a pound gift in money or in kind (any addition to our stores, including tea, coffee, cake, sugar, rice, dried fruit, peas, beans, lentils, eggs, matches, household and table linen, also a knife-machine, and an order for coal to our coal merchant) will be most acceptable. Tea will be served at the usual prices. Mrs. Corner has most kindly consented to sing, and Miss Julie Huntsman to recite. Mrs. Despard will be present. An immediate need is 50 yards of strong canvas to place between the mattresses and the wire springs of the beds. Who will join and help us in this way? Our best thanks to Mrs. Turner for two tablecloths.

"Woman Suffrage and Parliamentary Morals."

The important and valuable pamphlet with the above title, written by Mrs. Arcliffe Sennett, President of the Northern Men's Federation, issued as the manifesto of the Federation and signed by sixteen magistrates of Glasgow and six other prominent members of the Federation, should be in the hands of all who feel keenly the terrible revelations of the Commission on Venereal Diseases. A most useful feature of the pamphlet is the chronological record of the various Acts passed and Bills rejected by Parliament dealing with contagious diseases or amendment of criminal law—a list which reveals "the close connection between Parliamentary lack of morals and women's disfranchisement." The pamphlet also gives the dates of the Woman Suffrage Bills and other valuable information. A declaration of faith points to the political disability of woman and her forced subjection to laws unfitted to her status as a self-respecting human being as responsible for prostitution. The pamphlet may be obtained from the W.F.L. Headquarters, 144, High Holborn, W.C., one penny. We wish it a very wide circulation.

BRANCH NOTES.

Reading. An interesting meeting was held recently at 232, Wokingham-road, when Mrs. Sacret gave an address on Wilma Meikle's latest book, "Towards a Sane Feminism." A good discussion followed. It was much regretted that owing to the darkness and the slippery condition of the streets the attendance was rather small. Warm thanks were tendered to Mrs. Sacret for her address, also for her hospitality. At our public meeting the speakers will be Miss Eunice G. Murray and Miss Anna Munro. Particulars in next week's VOTE.

Portsmouth. The annual whist drive on December 30 was a great success both socially and financially. Our thanks are due to Miss Mottershall for the use of her rooms, to Miss Chipp, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Speck, and Mrs. Jago for the prizes, and to Mrs. Tremain, Miss Avery and Mrs. Whetton for the refreshments. Will members please begin to save everything saleable for the jumble sale to be held early in the spring?

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A Demonstration will be held in the **KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, LONDON.**

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Speakers—Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN SIMON, M.P., Mr. W. C. ANDERSON, M.P., Miss MARY MACARTHUR, Councillor MARGARET ASHTON, Mrs. BARTON.

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MISCELLANEOUS.—cont.

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