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FRIDAY, JULY 28, 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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THE DOWNING STREET DISCORD.

The Happy Family at Downing-street has a fatal family likeness to the Amateur Orchestra of the song, of whom we used to be told that "they learnt no tunes, but each played his own." The result was "an amateur orchestral pandemonium," of first-class discord. The Cabinet of the Coalition pipes quite a number of tunes, all in the name of harmony: the result is that they have piped them harmony; the result is that they have piped them-selves into such a Parliamentary mess that the grand old Parliamentary hand, who conducts the Downing-street band, will be very clever indeed if he can discover any shreds of a melody in the general row. Two Government proposals of an important nature, both devised to silence or satisfy a clamant and disaffected section of the audience. have had to be abandoned. This is good neither

for the Government nor for the country. The registration trouble was the outcome of lazi-ness. The Government could not take the trouble to tell the House what the difficulties were. The matter was allowed to drag on until someone—to wit, one Sir Edward—said it was a public scandal. Mr. Asquith then turned nasty, and said the House could find out for itself what a job it was. After that it was the turn of the House to be nasty; and when the Home Secretary, with studied cynicism, practically told them, in a sarcastic and almost insolent speech, how clever they would be if they managed to find a way through the problems that

had puzzled their betters, he was put promptly in had puzzicet energy betters, he was put prompty in his place. Mr. Samuel must have been "sorry he spoke," and Mr. Asquith more sorry still. Sir Edward Carson called it "opera bouffe," and "humbugging the House."

Sir Edward Carson's passion for votes for men is in pleasing contrast to his callousness about votes for women. And the general tense desire to shout down women, whenever they are so unpatriotic as to demand the suffrage during the war, is in equally delicious contrast to the clamour to get something more for Ireland. Suffragists have just been sternly rebuked by Lord Cromer for making use of the emergency, and claiming votes on the strength of war service; but he does not rebuke Lord Wil-loughby de Broke and Sir Edward Carson for claiming the franchise for all men who fight! If the war service of men is to count for votes; if Home Rule is to be granted now, and not at the end of the war, because of the staunchness of the Irish regiments. both from North and South; then why may they not be claimed by women for the same reasons-war service and patriotism? It is not our claim; we stand for representation as the right of the people. But we object, just as we did in the days of milito the creed that anything is right to get tancy, something for men; it is only wrong when it is to get something for women.

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THE VOTE.

Women's Freedom League.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Necessity versus Prejudice. It will be remembered that, at the beginning of war, the help of women doctors was almost scornfully refused by the War Office. It is true that the Endell-street Military Hospital is staffed entirely by women and that the heads have the standing of officers in the R.A.M.C., but the great bulk of the really important work done by women doctors during the war has been done by them as volunteers in connection with Red Cross and other units. The War Office is now asking for their services, and forty have already been chosen, some of whom are to be sent to Malta, where there are important hospitals.

But, urgent as will be the need for doctors after the war, the Senate of Cambridge University has not seen fit to open the M.B. examinations to women, and, when this question was put to the vote of the Council of the Senate, it was urged that a question of principle was involved and that a large part of the University was not in residence. The question has been hung up until October, when it will again come up for discussion. A sense of the absurdity of depriving the sick and wounded in military hospitals of the services of a section of well-trained and qualified practitioners, some of whom have exceptionally high qualifications, has, after two years, become apparent even to the War Office. If a hidebound Government Department has been able to remove a long-standing prejudice, we can only hope that such a centre of Light and Learning as the University of Cambridge will no longer find it possible to exclude a body of students of whom the next generation will have need. As The Daily News savs :

It is obvious that the more doctors are now trained, men or women, the better from the national point of view, since the war has made, and will continue to make even after the war, the demand for doctors greater than the supply.

Giving and Taking Away.

Before leaving the Ministry of Munitions Mr. Lloyd George gave to women with his right hand while taking from them with his left. The Order issued on July 17 requires employers in controlled establishments to pay those women workers over 18 who are working on time rates the sum of 41d. an hour or 25s. a week. Unfortunately, the low rate of women's earnings in the past justifies the statement in The Times that these rates are "a notable advance on the usual pre-war reward of women's unskilled work," though it is to be remembered that 25s. a week at present prices is equivalent to no more than 16s. 8d. before the war. But by setting up a precise legal wage, Mr. Lloyd George has made it illegal for employers and contractors to pay either more or less than the prescribed remuneration. If it is a legal minimum wage, below which wages must not fall, it is at the same time a legal maximum, beyond which, except under special circumstances, wages must not rise. As The. New Statesman remarks :-

It (the Order) recalls, not the Trades Boards Act or the Standard Rates of Trade Unionism, which are always minima only, but the "servile" fixing of wages by the magistrates during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The economic and social effects of legally prescribed rates of wages are entirely different from those of legally prescribed minima. And the differences are all to the bad.

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FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1916.

Wanted : A Sense of Proportion.

Mr. Asquith is unable to promise the old-age pensioners any increase of their State pittance. An extra 2s. 6d. a week would, he said, cost five million pounds a year. Yet we are spending this sum every twenty hours that the war lasts. At the same time, milk in South-east London is said to have been raised in price to 6d. a quart, and the Board of Trade has given the coalowners a present of an extra 2s. 6d. a ton by allowing them to increase their pit price to 6s. 6d. per ton above the 1914 price. It is difficult to see how the old people's coal-boxes are to be filled this winter. We are glad to find that old-age pensioners may now earn as much as 30s. in urban and 20s. in rural districts. The former restriction on their earnings was a shortsighted policy and could not be defended on economic grounds.

Above the Battlefield.

Zeitschrift für Frauenstimmerecht, the German woman suffrage organ, has sent this message to the women of France:

We feel, think, and suffer like you, and swear that after this catastrophic war the women of all nations shall work unitedly to prevent for ever its recurrence.'

Highly Commended.

A man was granted exemption by the Henley Rural District Tribunal on the grounds that he was the father of fifteen children. The representative of the Board of Agriculture remarked that the man deserved not only exemption but high commendation.

We do not see why special commendation should be showered on either parent for happenings which they probably would have regarded as outside their own volition. At the same time, we wonder whether the special commendation of any public body was ever offered to the mother of the fifteen children on whom, presumably, the care of their upbringing has fallen.

Pure Folly.

The question of Votes for Women is being regarded more and more from the standpoint of expected gain to the community rather than as a concession to the just claims of women to direct Parliamentary representation. Votes will doubtless bless those who give as well as those who take, and in the hour of national trial it is perhaps in the hour of national that it is perhaps inevitable that the former aspect should be accentuated. Writing in *The Daily Dispatch* of Sunday last, Mr. J. M. Hogge, M.P., says:-

Sunday last, Mr. J. M. Hogge, M.P., says: — Wherever women are working and whatever they are doing, they are impressing the public mind with the ability, the thoroughness, and the efficiency of their work. To lose the interest of these zealous women in the days to come would be pure folly, and the only way to retain this interest in the great national movement is to give them the vote, which concession, I feel, is now bound to come. We are looking forward to a new patriotism, or rather an intensified patriotism, after the war. Women more than men can assist in that renaissance, and to leave them out of any new register would be to put a damper on their enthu-

men can assist in that renaissance, and to leave them out of any new register would be to put a damper on their enthu-siasm and induce in them the regrettable feeling that the nation was prepared to use them when their services were most necessary, valuable, and indispensable, and to side-track them with little show of gratitude and even less con-sideration when the need for those services had disappeared.

We confess to having already harboured that "regrettable feeling" for a considerable time.

North Wales Campaign. On Saturday, July 29, Miss Anna Munro will begin a campaign in Aberystwith. The first meeting will be held on the beach opposite the Queen's Hotel at 7 p.m., and all through August three meetings will be held there daily. On Saturday, August 5, Miss Dorothy Evans, of Shrewsbury, will visit us for a week. Miss Evans is well known in the Suffrage movement and her visit is looked forward to with great pleasure. Money is needed for this campaign, so will friends and sympathisers please send their donations to Alix M. Clark, "Granville," North-parade, Aberystwith, which will be the headquarters during our stay in Aberystwith.

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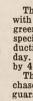
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AFTER WAR ECONOMY. 1.-EDUCATION.

At such a time as this, when sensationalism is in full swing, it is well now and then, even at the cost of a supreme effort, to look, if we can, below the surface excitements and to try to find out what is moving in the mind of the nation.

In one sense we are all pacificists now. The woman praying daily for the return of her sons, the workman and woman spending themselves in willing toil. risking calamitous nerve-strain and giving up holiday-time to bring the struggle more rapidly to an end, the soldier at the front and the sailor at his perilous watch are all thinking the same thought. When is it to be over? When will the bells ring out for Peace?

That is the universal desire, but with it comes another question. What will the Peace bring us? And now it is not easy to gauge the general feeling. It is noteworthy, however, that three subjects have been pressed with considerable urgency upon the Government-the future of the land, the future of education, and the future of labour. In consequence, no doubt, of this pressure, Governmental commissions have been, and are being, formed to suggest and bring before the country schemes of adjustment and reform.

It is a little remarkable that, while these subjects are being considered, war expenditure is rising to such an extent that another million a day is required to meet the military and naval outlay and to back up our Allies. It is typical of the sensational character of the times in which we live that Mr. McKenna's announcement was received in the House of Commons without any excitement. We think in millions and, by some mysterious means, which it is impossible for the uninitiated to fathom, the millions come. In the meantime the people are called upon to economise and to bring their savings to the help of their country.

With the people's response to that demand we are not concerned here, for we are convinced that the question of real and permanent importance to us. as women, is, How are we so to economise in the future as to be able to prevent the recurrence of the dangers that threaten us now?

First, we must guard much more carefully than we have done in the past the treasures committed to our keeping. Few will dispute that the most precious of these are the children. The welfare of the children should be the first care of the State. That the State, as it is constituted at the present moment, has not realised its responsibilities is only too evident from the late debate in the House of

Commons. The statement given by the President of the Board of Education was, from first to last to those who can see below the surface, apologetic. It is impossible not to see that while, before the war, a general reorganisation of our educational system was felt to be necessary, and had, in fact, been promised by the Government, since the war began there has been steady deterioration. It was stated by an eminent authority, Mr. Yoxall, that "a large part of the elementary education of this country is at present in ruins."

The Education Department," said Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, "is too much a University Department-admirable on paper-practically, defective. He went on to say, with perfect truth, "It is not enough to put down elementary schools on paperyou want to know your men and your children, the families from which they come, and, with that knowledge in your mind, set your Education Department in order." But does Mr. Ramsav MacDonald -do any but a sprinkling of members of Parliament-realise that the one person who can supply this practical knowledge is-woman?

It is sad to gather from this debate that, during the war and its false economies, our life-treasure has suffered diminution. Mr. Anderson quotes from the secretary of the Mansfield House Settlement, "Thousands of boys in London are exhausted physically after their day's work. They are getting no technical training and attending no evening classes. After the war we can look forward to a great outburst of hooliganism, for the labour market will be choked with boys, physically and morally damaged and without any training. The same thing is going on with the girls.'

Can we conceive a more fatal form of extravagance? Literally, by this blindness, we are cutting off supplies at their source.

We are glad to find attention being drawn to greatly improving education for our girls. Captain Bathurst relates how, struck by the success of the small-holding movement in Belgium, he set himself four years ago to discover the reason and he goes on, "It was not until I was brought into contact with the wives and daughters of these small holders. and eventually sought for it in the girls' schools, that I discovered the great secret of the enormous success of the small-holdings movement in Belgium."

We hope and trust that one of the after-war economies will be such a reorganisation of our elementary school system as will save, and not squander, the splendid human material that is continually passing through them.

If human life is our greatest treasure, the next undoubtedly is the land, from which all life draws its sustenance. In order to deal with that worthily. a drastic change in the laws that regulate the ownership of land will have to be made; and here comes in the importance of securing a true and wide national representation in Parliament; for that which affects the land affects us all. It is too late now for the lovers of the old order to say that this is no business of the State. When the railways, the drink traffic, and privately-owned manufacturing firms have been used, at the mandate of the State. for war purposes-that is to say, for the safety of the country-there can be no valid argument against setting on foot a scheme of national control over the land. It belongs to the State to say after the war what it has said during the war, and not only the people must be defended, the people must be fed, the people must be housed, the people must be employed. If that cannot be done without resumption by the nation of that which actually belongs to it, then, by legislative enactment, the representatives of the people must make good their claim.

So also with Labour, which, in the past, has been foolishly and inhumanly wasted. Of this, however, there is more to say than can be given in the present issue. As a form of after-war economy, we hope to deal with it later.

We are afraid it may be said that to place such vast powers in the hands of the State would be to crush the individual and to afford no room for personal initiative. The argument loses its force if we consider that the State is not merely the Government but actually-and as it will be when we have full and perfect representation-the People themselves collectively, each living and working for all and all for each. The picture of such a State was drawn long ago, in eloquent words, by the great teacher, Pythagoras, in a lecture he gave to the Greek colony of Naxos, whose citizens were gathered round him.

"Listen, my children, to what the State should be to the good citizen. It is more than father or mother; it is more than husband or wife: it is more than child or friend. The State is the father and mother of all, is the wife of the husband and the husband of the wife. The family is good, and good is the joy of the man in wife and in son. But greater is the State, which is the Protector of all, without which the home would be ravaged and destroyed. It is the State from which comes all that makes your life prosperous and gives you beauty and safety. Within the State are built up the arts, which make the difference between the barbarian and the man. If the brave man dies gladly for the hearthstone, far more gladly should he die for the State '

That was the great Greek teacher's ideal of the State; it was to be the father and mother of its citizens. May we, in the days that are to be, attain to it! C. DESPARD.

SCOTTISH WAR SAVING COM-MITTEE AND WOMEN.

A great wave of admiration for women and the work they have done since the outbreak of war has passed over the country-so we are constantly assured. Even Suffragists say to us : Why work for suffrage when it is practically won. Our reply is there is many a slip between the cup and the lip, and admiration and justice do not necessarily walk hand in hand. Lately in the Press sneering articles about women have appeared. They are "breaking down under the strain imposed upon them," or "their work wants thoroughness," or "men cannot save until women give up their extravagant habits. These articles, worthless in themselves, show us that our old enemies are not dead. and that men are as jealous as formerly of women. When a cry rings throughout the land for the enfranchisement of women, the Press will, as formerly, ignore the claims of the women.

After the South African War, one of the reasons brought against Home Rule for Ireland was that the Irish were not in earnest in their demand, as was evinced by the fact that during the war they had not held active propaganda meetings. "Had they cared for their cause they would never have lowered their flag for one minute, no matter what happened," said Mr. Chamberlain. In days to come the same taunt may be thrown at women. "They did not believe sufficiently in their cause to keep their flag flying." Let us who believe in our cause look to it that our flag keeps flying and that our demand for justice rings out in insistent tones.

A Glasgow evening paper published recently an article entitled "Women and Savings," in which

the writer complacently congratulated men on their thrifty habits and deplored the extravagances of women. It is a curious and notable fact that women are to blame for almost every example of extravagance in private life (as distinguished from War Office extravagance) that has been mentioned since the war began. "Drink," the article continues, is "man's one extravagance, and that he has submitted with scarce a murmur to increasing curtailment of drinking facilities "; this may be so, but in spite of the curtailment, the sale of drink is largely on the increase. According to this writer, practically all the other examples of extravagance are woman's domain : pianos, jewellery, furs, dress, etc. Against them we can place to men's account drink, smoking, supper parties, gambling, horse racing, joy-rides to horse racing, etc. Granting that women's fashions in dress have altered since the outbreak of war, who is to blame? Do not men boast that they design the dresses worn by women? It is great impudence on the part of men to discuss our clothes and the width of our skirts; we do not ask them to wear knickerbockers to save cloth, nor do we protest that a tail-coat is wasteful of cloth. We have our thoughts about their clothes, but we keep our thoughts to ourselves.

Reference is made in the article to great difference between private and public savings. Why should men be models of economy in private life and immediately develop wasteful habits when they serve in a public capacity? It is a matter of common knowledge that whenever women sit on public boards the expenditure is reduced, yet the writer implores Sir Charles Renshaw, head of the Scottish War Savings Committee, not to address himself to the Town Council, but to women. Personally, I feel most indignant over this committee; there are fifteen men upon it and only one woman-Miss Haldane, a woman universally admired, but in no way representative of the thrifty working woman. The appointments are made by Government, and I would urge Sir Charles Renshaw not to address his remarks to women, but to see that he gets as many women as men upon his committee. If this is done the committee may effect some practical results: if it be confined to men I fear its results will be negligible. Men cannot teach what they do not practise. It is preposterous for Mr. McKenna and other statesmen constantly to say that the war can only be won if women work and save and yet exclude women jealously from fair representation on committees and from all responsible posts.

Women's Freedom League Settlement.

The Residents are off for a well-earned holiday, having distributed the four guest children, whose mother is still in hospital, into suitable country homes. They return on August 28, and the Settlement will reopen on August 30. In the meantime letters for the hon. secretary should be addressed to Miss Holmes, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. She acknowledges with thanks: Miss Riggall, 1s.; Miss M. C. Reid, garden produce; Mrs. Walsoe, jumble goods and toys: Miss D. Kent 62 2s Mrs. Walsoe, jumble goods and toys; Miss D. Kent, £2 2s.

It ought to make us ponder the future. If now, when our praise is on all men's lips, we cannot secure recognition, how are we to achieve it when our day is over and men are back prepared to elbow us out of the positions we have painfully acquired? Let us who see the dangers keep awake, let us be watchful and ever ready to demand our rights. Above all, do not let us be lulled into false security by the words of men. When we see them prepared to battle for our rights, justice to women, we may perhaps slacken a little, but until then let us be vigilant, active and prepared at all times to set forth clearly our demands, and refuse to rest until sex disabilities are broken down.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

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A STRONG PROTEST.

A strong and definite protest must be entered against the attempt to present the recent procession of women as a suffragist effort. We do not know what warrant the promoters had for using the name of the W.S.P.U. in connection with it; neither is it our business. What is quite definite is that it had nothing whatever to do with suffrage; that its promoters have been at great pains for some time past to dissociate their activities from suffrage; and that the political aspirations announced on their banners and leaflets are part of a party programme to which suffragists, as suffragists, have not subscribed.

The procession-which was by no means the "monster" and the enthusiastic success that some parasitic journalists, who presumably did not see it, represented—has one aspect that lends itself to ribaldry. It halted in front of the War Office to receive the ecstatic smiles of the new Secretary for War. Mr. Lloyd George received a pretty severe roasting not so long ago for his conduct in connection with last year's procession, it remains to be divulged what is his part in this year's farce. It is indeed a remarkable spectacle to see his open patronage of those who have left no stone unturned to wreck his colleagues, Sir Edward Grey, Lord Kitchener, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Balfour, in the not too truthful attacks, for which the paper that published them was three times suppressed. If the country were not hypnotised by the trickery of politics, it would not tolerate the sight of a Ministry some of whose members give public encouragement to people whom the others prosecute and denounce. It requires a new Gilbert and Sullivan to do justice to the situation and to the extraordinary exploitation of the late Lord Kitchener, in a manner than which nothing could be devised more repugnant to that nobleman's known views and ideas. The whole thing is a medley, revolting alike to good breeding and common honesty.

C. NINA BOYLE.

WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY **REVIEW.**

After the gratuitous advertisement of Votes for Women by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons last week, and the comments on the subject in Parliament and the Press, it is useless for Anti-suffragists to proclaim that the cause of woman suffrage is dead.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES ON REGISTRATION AND ELECTION COMMITTEE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, WEDNESDAY, JULY 19.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Herbert Samuel).

(Mr. Herbert Samuel). But if you make special provision for the soldiers, the sailors, and the munition workers, the Committee will no doubt consider whether it is possible or desirable to avoid embarking Parliament on the great controversy of Woman Suffrage. There are, I know, some who lightly assume that some magic change has been worked by the war, and that a proposal which has hitherto evoked, not only enthusiastic curnort but also resolute appreciation we can now avect proposal which has hitherto evoked, not only enthusiastic support, but also resolute opposition, we can now expect will be agreed to almost with unanimity. If there are any who have such a thought I think the wish is father to that thought, and I have no doubt the Committee, when they come to investigate the matter, will find that, if the registra-tion or franchise proposals raise the question of Women Suffrage, both Houses of Parliament will be involved in a very bitter political controversy at the present time. Sir Edward Carson. The right has continue in a way containly which I

The right hon. gentleman, in a way certainly which I could not imitate, talked about raising the question of what is a munition worker, what is a woman, who is a woman, and should a woman have a vote, and all the rest of it. Let us leave all these terrible questions for the moment out of consideration. Let us not be frightened about them. I believe in giving the franchise to the soldiers and the sailors who are fighting our battles. That is the real property qualification.

. SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1916.

[The obvious comment is that if it had not been for the women and women's work, would the defence of property have been possible by these soldiers and sailors?]

Mr. Wardle.

THE VOTE.

I want to make an appeal to the Government to take a definite line, and I want to make an appeal to the House, on this occasion, that we should try and settle at this time many of these outstanding problems with regard to the franchise while there is a Coalition Government in power, while there is a so-called political truce—I will put it, a so-called political truce so-called political truce.

Mr. MacCullum Scott.

What is the register? What part does it play in our Con-stitution? The register is the very foundation of democratic government. It is the ark of the covenant in representative government, and, if we have no register, representative government, or democratic government, is a complete farce — a hollow sham and mockery. . . There is no one who denies that there are thousands of people in this country in the constituencies, who are disfranchised at present.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Anderson asked the Minister of Munitions whether the National Shell Factory, Newport, Monmouth, has given a week's notice to the whole of their women workers; and, if so, whether this has been done with the knowledge and consent of the Ministry of Munitions:

if so, whether this has been done with the knowledge and consent of the Ministry of Munitions: Mr. Rea: A week's notice was given to about 600 opera-tives in the factory referred to, with a view to facilitating certain special work required in the later stages of manufac-ture. Later it was found possible to make arrangements for carrying out this work without interfering with the ordinary work of the factory, and the notices only became operative in regard to 22 out of the 600 operatives concerned. Mr. Wing asked the President of the Board of Trade if he will take measures to limit the price of foodstuffs, as already applied to wool and other articles of use. The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt): Thisquestion is at present being examined by a Committee.<math>Mr. Lewis Haslam asked the President of the Board of Trade (1) whether he will take steps to stop entirely the importation of chemically bleached flour from the United States, the consumption of such flour being illegal in that country; if necessary, will he introduce a legislative measure to attain the object indicated; and (2) whether the experts engaged in connection with his Department have yet arrived at any definite conclusion as to the method which should be adopted to ensure that the public shall obtain the most wholesome and nutritious quality of bread and flour when demanded. The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. demanded

demanded. The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Long): My right hon, friend has asked me to reply to this and the following question. My predecessor in 1913 intro-duced a Bill with the object of enabling my Department to deal with the bleaching of flour and kindred questions. The Bill made no progress, however, and I do not think the present is a suitable time for initiating legislation on the subject

[These answers show how keenly our legislators are interested in matters of genuine national importance.

importance.] Mr. Bryce: It is now a great number of weeks since I called attention to the case of these poor women in the Cordite Factory at Woolwich. It was promised that in-vestigation should be made in regard to it. Cannot my right hon, friend say anything about it? Dr. Addison: There has been a full and detailed investiga-tion. I have told my hon, friend the result of it. Mr. L. Jones asked the Sceretary to the Treasury whether the Treasury have considered the recommendation of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service that specially quali-fied women should be eligible for appointment to administra-tive posts in the Board of Education, the Local Government Board, the Board of Trade, and certain other Government Departments; and whether they propose to take any action thereupon?

thereupon? M_{T} . $M_{CKinnon}$ Wood: The Treasury are in consultation with the heads of Departments in regard to the matter. M_{T} . Bryce asked the Minister of Munitions whether the system of six-day and seven-night shifts for women workers is still in force in the Cannon Cartridge Factory at Wool-wich; whether he has yet received the report of the com-mittee appointed to investigate the conditions of female labour at Woolwich; and, if so, whether he will lay it before the House? the House

Addison . The answer to the first part of the question Dr. Addison: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. I am not aware of any such committee as that referred to in the second part, so that the third part does not arise. The question of the hours of labour in the Cannon Cartridge Factory and at Woolwich generally is, as I have already stated, receiving most careful considera-tion with a view to making any necessary reductions.

THEY SUPPORT US!

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 1916.

VOTES

FOR

WOMEN

DARE TO BE

FREE.

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

Friday, July 28.—CROYDON, 32, The Arcade, High-street, Sewing Party Com-mittee Meeting, 4.30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1.—LONDON BRANCHES

THE VOTE.

COUNCIL. Sewing Meeting at Headquarters. 3 to 7 p.m.

Friday, September 22.—CAXTON HALL, Mrs. Despard's Return Party, from 7 to 9.30 p.m. Invitation cards from W.F.L. Office. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss E. Murray, Miss Evelyn Sharp and Mrs. E. Zangwill.

Sunday, October 1.—HASLUCK'S ACADEMY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, Miss Clara Reed, Recital "Becket," 4 p.m. Wednesday, October 4.—CAXTON HALL. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman and others. 3.30 p.m. Friday, October 20.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street,

Nine Elms, S.W. Closed until August 28. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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

OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged : October, 1907, to December, 1915, £25,531 19s. 2d.

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£284 18 4 Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank,

50,000 SHILLINGS. 38,718 STILL WANTED. "Oh Women of Great Britain,

Come forward in your might; Pay up your shillings merrily, For Victory is in sight."

Strand, W.C. 5th July, 1916. Sir,—I see that at the Guildford Assizes recently, in the case of a man from Croydon convicted of repeated criminal assaults on little boys, that you have inflicted a life sentence, and that you described the conduct leading to these offences as "criminal mania." I desire to ask whether, in the course of your judicial duties, in cases where men have been brought before you who have repeatedly inflicted their gross crimes on little girls, you have ever exercised your discretion to give a life sentence, for the criminal mania of which the victims are little girls inflicts far more serious moral and physical injury, than anything which can be inflicted on boys. I desire in this connection to call your attention to a letter in the *Sunday Times* for June 4 from Canon Newbolt, making an appeal for funds for *two rescue homes for children*. He com-ments on the appalling spread of corruption among little children from five to fifteen, and he attributes this to their "ignorance," and alludes to them as a "source of con-tamination."

tamination. It is impossible to hold guiltless the men who, in positions It is impossible to hold guiltless the men who, in positions such as yours, hold almost any crime more serious and punish it more heavily than sexual offences against children. I shall be glad to hear from you that the sentence I have referred to at the Guildford Assizes is the beginning of a more wholesome state of things, and that you will see to it that little girls as well as little boys are more adequately pro-tected from the criminal vices of men.—Faithfully yours, (Siened). C. Nus Boyte (Signed) C. NINA BOYLE.

(Signed) C. NINA BOYLE. [cory.] Royal Courts of Justice, 7th July, 1916. MADAM,—In answer to your letter of 5th July, in which you enquire whether I have ever passed a sentence of penal servitude for life on a man convicted of carnally knowing young girls, I beg to inform you that I have done so—and shall do so again should I be of opinion that the guilt of the convicted man renders the extreme numishment the proper convicted man renders the extreme punishment the proper

I am glad to say that it is not often my duty (as I humbly I am glad to say that it is not often my duty (as I humbly conceive it) to inflict such a sentence for any sexual or other offence. The case to which I refer is that of R. v. Sharmer, who was found guilty of carnally knowing a girl under 13 years of age and another girl aged between 13 and 16 years. He also pleaded guilty to another offence of the same kind. The trial took place at the Central Criminal Court, before me, on 25th November 1899.—I remain, Madam, your obedient servant, (Signed) CHARLES DARLING.

servant, Miss Nina Boyle.

Miss Nina Boyle. Hyde Park. Hyde Park is going strong! An excellent meeting was held on Wednesday, the 19th inst., when Mrs. Aldridge was the speaker. A large audience listened with great attention to the account of her experiences in Serbia, and evidently sympathised with that heroic people. Mrs. Aldridge described what the Serbian women are doing to hold their country for the future, and when she pointed the moral of "Votes for Women" there was not a dissentient voice. Another very good meeting took place last Sunday, when Miss Hodge gave a most interesting account of the way they manage things in Australia and New Zealand, where women have votes. She showed how helpful the women's vote is in promoting good laws for women, children, and labour generally. The audience listened with great appreciation to Miss Hodge's address, generally. The audience Miss Hodge's address,

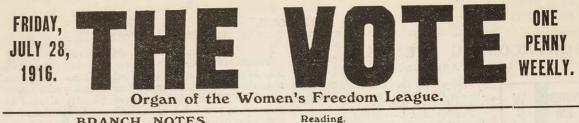
It is with very great regret that Suffragists have heard of the death, in Mesopotamia, of that staunch friend of Woman Suffrage, Sir Victor Horsley.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1124.

The following correspondence has taken place with Mr. Justice Darling. We would ask our readers to note the date-1899, exactly seventeen years agoon which he inflicted the severe penalty alluded to on ruffians convicted of inflicting a life-sentence of ignominy on girl-children. Meanwhile, owing to the extreme reluctance" of the Bench (to which Mr. Justice Darling alludes, apparently, with pride) to impose exemplary sentences, these crimes have increased at such an appalling rate as to become a public menace of the gravest kind. Viewed as agents to protect the public, by discouraging criminals from their objectionable indulgences, the women and children of this country may ask with some reason, What value do they get in return for the handsome salaries paid from the public purse to the gentlemen who discriminate so capriciously in the gravity of the offences brought before them?

Political and Militant.

The Hon. Sir C. J. Darling, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, W.C. 5th July, 1916. Sir,—I see that at the Guildford Assizes recently, in the



BRANCH NOTES.

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

Linthorpe rd. A branch meeting was held on July 10, with Mrs. Stones in the chair. A discussion on "Compulsion for Women" took place, and all members present were opposed to com-pulsion in any form being applied to women. Reports were given by the secretary, treasurer, and the delegate to the Tipperary Committee. Owing to Miss Goddard leaving the town, Mrs. Larmour was elected as how secretary.

Goddard leaving the town, Mrs. Datmout that the suffrage hon, secretary. On July 14 a farewell supper took place at the suffrage centre on the occasion of Miss Goddard's leaving for the South of England. On behalf of the members, Mrs. Schofield Coates made a presentation of a music-case and a Church Service, and spoke of the good work done by Miss Goddard in Middlesbrough. She also expressed the general regret of the branch in losing so valued a member and friend.

Reading. Reading members and friends had the great privilege on Wednesday last of again listening to Miss Nina Boyle. The chair was taken by Miss Anna Munro (Branch president), to whose unsparing efforts the success of the Reading Branch is due. Miss Boyle's brilliant address was followed with intense interest by her audience. At the close Mrs. Tregay proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Sacret for so kindly throwing open her house for the meeting.

Scottish Scattered.

Scottish Scattered. Votes for Women is being kept well to the fore. Several meetings have been held to protest against changes in registration, unless women are included. Vigorous opposi-tion to any talk of compulsion for voteless women has had much support, speakers being Miss McKinn and Miss Eunice Murray. Good collections have been taken, and much literature sold, and a special sum taken in each case for supplying literature for our troops.

