

THE VOTE,
Oct. 30, 1914.
ONE PENNY

FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 262.

[Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.]

FRIDAY, OCT. 30, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

The Prime Minister and "The Vote."

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION.

In the continued agitation against the possible revival of the Contagious Diseases Acts, the Prime Minister has officially pointed to THE VOTE as his spokesman.

Acknowledging a resolution from the Middlesbrough and District Women's Council protesting against any return to the obnoxious Acts, his Secretary wrote as follows:—

You can read full particulars of the PRIME MINISTER'S position on the question in "THE VOTE."

We welcome this official recognition of our Organ. Still more shall we welcome an announcement by the Prime Minister of the immediate introduction of a Government measure for Woman Suffrage—thus giving women the weapon with which they can effectively fight injustice.

THE SITUATION AT PLYMOUTH.

A deputation, consisting of Miss Boyle and Mrs. Leigh Bothwell of the Freedom League, Miss Hatty Baker of the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, and Mrs. Fewins of the Women's Co-operative Guild, waited on the Mayor of Plymouth last week to discuss with him the question of the Watch Committee's recent action in regard to the C.D. Acts. The Mayor received the deputation with great cordiality, and an hour's interview ensued. His Worship considered that the matter was already dead, but promised to notify the deputation should there be any question of reviving it in November, when the Council meets.

During the course of the interview, it transpired that by the order of the General Officer commanding in the Plymouth district, licensed houses were forbidden to serve women after 6 p.m., men being able to be served until 9 p.m., when the public-

houses closed. This seemed to Miss Boyle to be perilously near the danger mark of special legislation penalising women. She therefore called on General Penton, who stated that to the best of his understanding of the powers vested in him under the Emergency Act passed recently, he had full authority to deal with the situation, if he saw fit, in a drastic manner. He declined to withdraw the obnoxious order, but discussed the points of the position very fully and with the utmost patience and courtesy.

Under the circumstances, it is impossible not to consider the situation one of great gravity for women, and the Women's Freedom League will endeavour to obtain a further assurance from the Prime Minister. Feeling at Plymouth is warmly roused already, and sympathetic support is pouring in from all over the country.

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ON THE WAR PATH

British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union is co-operating with the Women's Freedom League and other Suffrage Societies in protesting against the possibility of re-introducing the Contagious Diseases Acts. Many of the members of the Women's Political Association Overseas are mothers of the young soldiers now arriving for the defence of the Empire, and are unanimous in condemning any attempt to legalise vice.

Irish Women's Franchise League (Dublin) passed the following resolution, with one dissentient, at its meeting on October 20:—

"That this meeting views with horror and indignation the suggested re-introduction of the Contagious Diseases Acts into these countries, and pledges itself to use every effort (re-inforced if necessary by militant action) to defeat any attempts to apply these Acts to Ireland. That we call upon the Irish Members of Parliament, without distinction of party, to resist this infamous outrage upon womanhood."

A copy of this resolution has been sent to the Lord Lieutenant, Hon. Augustine Birrell, Sir Edward Carson, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. Wm. O'Brien, and to the chairman of the Plymouth Town Council.

Women's Freedom League.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Discussion Meeting

To-night (Friday) we shall hold our second meeting at the Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly), when Mrs. Marion Cunningham will speak on "Flashes from the French Frontier." Mrs. Cunningham has recently returned from France, which fact will lend an added interest to her lecture. The chair will be taken at 8 o'clock by Miss A. A. Smith. Discussion is invited; admission is free, but a few reserved tickets can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office, or at the doors, at 1s. each.

Wednesday Afternoon at The Suffrage Club

Next Wednesday afternoon we shall have the great pleasure of listening to Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, who will speak on "The Responsibilities of Women"; and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Despard. Will friends kindly come early to this meeting so that we can begin punctually at 3.30?

Members' Meeting

Monday evening, November 9, we shall hold another members' meeting. Will members kindly keep this date free?

Christmas Presents Sale

We have decided to accept the invitation kindly given us by the United Suffragists to take stalls at the Christmas Fair they are arranging at Eustace Miles Restaurant, Friday, December 4. Gifts for these stalls can now be received at this Office, and will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary of the Social Committee. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Do YOU UNDERSTAND? If not, read "Sweated Women Workers and the Vote," by Isabel C. Tippet. Price 1d., post free 1½d. Just out.—Apply, Literature Department, W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

ENTHUSIASTIC PUBLIC MEETING.

Sympathy and enthusiasm marked the first public meeting in London of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. A large audience gathered at the Portman Rooms last Tuesday evening to hear of the plans and achievements of the Corps. The very fact that it works definitely and openly under the woman suffrage banner—its members being patriots because they are Suffragists and Suffragists because they are patriots, as Miss Boyle aptly put it—has proved throughout the length and breadth of the land to be an excellent way of making the true meaning of the Woman's Movement more widely understood. "By holding the Suffrage flag high," said Miss Lind-af-Hageby, from the chair, "we are doing the greatest service to the nation; the freedom of women lies at the basis of all social evolution." Heroic deeds, she said at the opening of an eloquent and earnest speech, are not only done on the battlefield; they are done by women who are nursing the wounded, but they are also done by women facing the economic crisis at home. Men are now calling for and welcoming the services of women. Declaring that the Corps stood for service, she outlined the varied work it is doing in London and throughout the country—definite effort to clothe the poorest children of the elementary schools hygienically and artistically; and in so doing giving work to women thrown out of employment through the war; providing meals for nursing and expectant mothers; opening also cheap restaurants where vegetarian meals are supplied for 3d. and 1d.; a toy-making centre in South Hackney; service on Care Committees; a hospital for women and children turned out of, or unable to enter, hospitals owing to the need of the beds for wounded soldiers; as well as other work carried on by the Branches. The war, added Miss Lind, has brought us face to face with something like an earthquake; there is destruction of so much that had been built up by humanitarian effort, but new virtues were being shown. There was a spirit of service and self-sacrifice, less of luxury and selfish pleasure, less contempt for differences of class, education, appearance; but there would be a terrible legacy of hate. "I believe humanity is moving towards brotherhood, and that women will greatly help in its accomplishment. Nationality is essential just as individuality is, but it must not be used for fostering hatred; the nations must be brought together in harmony, seeing the best in each, and not endeavouring simply to injure the other."

Mrs. Despard, who was received with affectionate enthusiasm, said that, being used to fighting, we still took our part in the national crisis as workers and fighters—fighters for those who suffered most in the war, the women and children. Speaking of the excellent results of the meals for mothers, the cheap restaurants, and her desire to make them centres of brightness and comfort, she declared she wanted a "public house" of her own, which should take away the reproach of the name. She described the scheme of reform of children's clothing which

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she is endeavouring to carry out by the aid of the Corps, telling also how high is the proportion of accidents to girls through burns, owing to layers of petticoats, as compared with boys; she urged the audience to examine the complete sets of clothes on view, made at the workrooms, 21, Edgware Road, under the direction of Mrs. Arthur and Miss Constance Maud. She spoke also of the scheme for a bakery managed entirely by women, and pointed out how the making of good bread and suitable clothes for little girls would be permanent benefits to the nation. She gave a graphic description of the way in which Mrs. Harvey has turned her house at Bromley into a hospital for women and children unable to stay in the public hospitals, and said that amid such surroundings recovery should be certain. Appealing for financial support for the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, in order that the many schemes of service may be extended, she added: "Let our nation, now suffering so much, be glad of us!"

A warm welcome was given to Miss Ethel Arnold—a well-known lecturer in America and as keen a Suffragist as her sister, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, is an "Anti"—who spoke for the first time at a Women's Freedom League gathering, and, in return, she gave the audience a finely impressive speech. She pointed out that on the declaration of war the Woman Suffrage Societies had responded magnificently to the call of patriotism, but in helping the nation's need they had not ceased to care profoundly for the enfranchisement of women. They were practising President Wilson's policy with regard to Mexico of "Watchful Waiting," and were quick to note the fact that every Cabinet Minister and other public men were declaring that the war was against the fendish principle that Might is Right. She quoted with splendid effect Mr. G. W. E. Russell's recent article in the "Daily News," in which he insisted that after the war "our present liberties must be preserved and extended in quarters where hitherto they have not operated." "We want no better slogan for Woman Suffrage," was her comment. She maintained that if women had had the vote years ago this awful war would not have taken place. A German general had announced to women that they should be grateful for the protection afforded them by their men folk; their duty was to stay at home—and weep. "Then we demand to know what we are weeping for?" replied Miss Arnold. We must never lose our sense of proportion so far as to believe that war gives us the true values of life. Speaking of the fear of the Germans that their culture would be obliterated by the lower civilisation of the Slav, Miss Arnold declared that she did not share it, but considered that if the artistic output in recent years were compared that of Russia was far greater than that of Germany, for the latter had devoted her energies, not to enriching European life, but to devising engines of destruction. Miss Arnold made a deeply moving appeal on behalf of the Belgians, as did all the speakers. She said that the problem of dealing with the homeless and scourged people was beyond the scope of individual effort; it teamed with economic difficulties. The Government had declared amid tumultuous applause in the House of Commons that it would undertake the work, but except for putting the Alexandra Palace, Earl's Court, and similar places at the disposal of the refugees, it had looked to individuals to do the rest. A committee should be established of Belgian and British men and women, not only to feed and clothe and house the homeless, but give them something to occupy their minds. "The place of Belgium on the roll of honour is immortal. She stayed the devastating rush of the Germans and so saved the civilisation of Europe. When the Allies march through the destroyed works of Krupp let us see that a Belgian regiment is in the van!"



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Miss Arnold paid a fine tribute to the dauntless, indomitable King, and maintained that never had there been so kingly a democrat or so democratic a king. "So far as we can see," she said in conclusion, "we must be determined that the sword shall not be sheathed until Belgium is restored to her people and the German devastation made good."

After Dr. Houston Collison had delighted the audience with some of his inimitable Irish stories, musical sketches, and songs, Miss Nina Boyle, supporting the previous speakers, dealt particularly with the need for police women, and how it is being met, and then gave a detailed account of her recent visit to Plymouth with regard to the Watch Committee's proposal to revive the C.D. Acts. She found that the Mayor desired to hush up the story for Plymouth's sake, and that the General in command of the Fortress of Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse, frankly considered that the Emergency Act gave him powers to deal as he saw fit with women and civilian men in the town. At a meeting in Plymouth a strong resolution was passed urging the need for the immediate appointment of police-women, trained and competent to fulfil their duty. She concluded with an earnest appeal to all present to study politics as a subject demanding the serious attention of women as well as men, for through politics the history of our nation and conditions of life are being made.

BELGIUM'S SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM

To have spent three years in Belgium and part of the time at the University of Louvain was an excellent recommendation for Prior McNabb's scholarly and appealing lecture on Belgium, given under the auspices of the Catholic Women's Woman Suffrage Society at the Kensington Town Hall, on October 27. The large audience listened with keenest interest to the Prior's vivid comparison by word and lantern slide between Bernhardt's doctrines and their realisation in the stricken land. The collection was given to Queen Mary's Fund for Women's Work.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.,
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
FRIDAY October, 30th, 1914.

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EDITORIAL.

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FOR LIBERTY AND LIFE.

To the heaped-up horrors which have accompanied the war another has been added. Belgium, only a few weeks ago a free and independent nation, has been overrun and is being treated as a German province. Through the sufferings of Belgium—overcome in spite of her gallant resistance, but, as the Kaiser's gang are beginning to find out, not yet subdued—we are given an example of what the anti-suffragist doctrine—dominance of physical force—will bring when followed out to its logical conclusion.

One of the last fiats sent out from Prussian headquarters is that all able-bodied Belgium men shall, under pain of death for disobedience, help to dig trenches, and do other military work against their own countrymen, or else be sent to Germany to do servile work there. In answer to this monstrous injustice the Belgian Government being unable at the present moment to protect unarmed citizens, has ordered the young and middle-aged men, irrespective of their families, to leave the country.

And here a word of explanation is necessary. Some of us have been surprised to see so many men apparently young and strong amongst the refugees.

A number of these, we hear, are ready to serve in the army, and did actually offer themselves, but, owing to the impossibility of training and equipment, they could not be accepted. Instead, therefore, of joining their comrades in the field and fighting their country's ruthless foe, they are eating out their hearts in idleness here.

It is of this enforced idleness we desire to speak.

We believe that the costly sacrifice Belgium has made is being recognized. Not for her own life and liberty alone; but for the liberty, without which, to men and women of independent spirit, life would not be worth living, of the whole of Europe she is fighting. It is dread of the foreign yoke and of a repetition of the horrors which have disgraced the German name, that has caused the flight of these unhappy people—home-lovers all of them—from their own country. That they will be repatriated, that every sort of compensation which can be imagined, short of the precious lives that have been lost, and the priceless monuments that have been destroyed, will be given to Belgium, we do most earnestly believe. But, meanwhile—what is to be done? The war is not over. If this were a flight of distressed people, craving shelter and food for a brief period, the problem would be easy enough. Indeed, one might say it is already met. Every true heart in the three kingdoms is, at this moment, beating high with indignation on the one hand, with a compassion which is almost intolerable on the other. Our own League is taking its part. Wherever we have representatives, work for the

refugees is being gallantly carried forward. Men, women, even little children, are bringing their offerings of money and service. We have seen in Edinburgh sacks heaped high with garments of every size and description, some newly made, some carefully repaired in a work-room on the League's premises: the workers being women thrown out of employment by the war. These sacks were labelled, some Amsterdam, some London. The same sort of work is being carried on in Glasgow. In both cities and also in Dunfermline, large meetings have been held, and the sale of flowers and flags in the streets has brought in a considerable amount of money. Meanwhile houses have been offered in many parts of the country and food and equipment have been given lavishly.

This is all excellent; and we rejoice that it should be so. But we venture to point out, a problem so vast as that which faces us is not to be solved by mere enthusiasm and benevolence, however splendid these may be. Foresight, wisdom, understanding the real needs of these unfortunate people who have sought our protection, must be brought to bear upon our action now, if our well-meant efforts are not to end in positive failure. And first, it must be remembered that although the Allies appear to be holding their own, the war is not over. The bulk of Germany's great army is fighting in France. Inch by inch it is being pushed back. If the retreat goes on—and we cannot doubt that it will—the whole of that vast army will be thrown back into Belgium, now a German province, with deep trenches, with fortresses strengthened, with every point of vantage adapted to the use of the retreating army.

Is it possible that the process can be anything but long? We may be mistaken; but surely it is well, and even if the best may be, to prepare for the worst.

This is the problem. There is enthusiasm now; but when the strain is long drawn out, work based on emotion is bound to slacken. Forethought is necessary. How will things look six or twelve months hence—the war going on, our people becoming poorer, and the host of fugitives still with us? If things go on as they are now, if nothing is done for these people on their own lines, we prophesy disaster.

Therefore, we say let wisdom, forethought and common sense speak now, before it is too late. We are sheltering and feeding some of the most industrious people in the world. In and before their terrible fight, images of horror which will never die away have been implanted in their souls. To brood is to go mad, and, in cases of which we have heard, madness has already come.

What they need is work; not hopeless, grinding toil, but work that has in it the element of hope. Schemes could be devised which would not interfere in the least with the industries of this country. As a preliminary, why should not a council be formed out of the wisest men and women who have come over to our shores? These would advise about the measures to be taken. Enlistment first, with Belgian officers to train recruits, and special arrangements for their equipment. Industry next. Food and clothes and boots and shelter are necessary for these people. Let them be placed in conditions which will enable them to work for one another. As regards the cultivation of the land, we, in Great Britain, could learn much from our Belgian guests. There are some beautiful arts peculiar to Belgium, such as the making of certain kinds of lace. Could not wealthy people, who can afford to wait for their money, direct the organisation of factories, in which the arts belonging to their country could be carried on and taught by Belgian workers? We acknowledge that pouring money and personal work

into refugee helpers' societies would be much easier at the moment, and much more popular. The question is—which way of facing the problem will be the most useful, which will help permanently? We have no hesitation in answering the question. If we are reasonable people, if we have profited from the awful lesson of the war, while hoping and believing the best, we must be prepared for the worst. The stay of our present guests may be prolonged. We have no desire to hurry them away. Then, in heaven's name, let us give them not life only, but liberty, freedom to act, freedom to hope, an honoured place as citizens amongst friends and fellow-workers.

C. DESPARD.

WOMAN, THE PEACEMAKER.

Nature and circumstances have combined to make woman an ardent lover of peace. Through her great function of maternity, life and its fostering has been woman's chief care for countless generations; it follows then that she must be the enemy of war which calls for the sacrifice of human life. Woman is the guardian of civilisation, and war has no place in a civilised world.

Woman, too, has most to lose by the fostering of the spirit of militarism. It is significant that soon after the outbreak of war we had the proposal of the Plymouth Watch Committee to apply for the re-enactment of those iniquitous Acts, for the expunging of which from our Statute Book Josephine Butler and other brave women devoted nearly twenty years of earnest, self-sacrificing, and courageous effort. *Those laws must never, will never, be re-enacted in England.* Where there was one Josephine Butler forty years ago there would arise one thousand, nay ten thousand, to-day on any attempt to enslave British women by undoing her great work. Woman, by her very nature, as guardian of the home, as priestess of the hearth, is opposed to war; but, cruel and barbarous as war is, a dishonourable peace is still worse. When we heard that the Kaiser was willing to call the war a draw women said there must be no talk of peace till the Allies were in a position to insist that the fullest possible reparation should be made to Belgium for all she has suffered.

Women, through not being represented in the Councils of the State, are denied all voice in deciding for peace or war, for arbitration or for massacre, yet the horrors and burdens of war fall on women as heavily as on men. This does not imply any belittling of the part that men are playing to-day. We pay the warmest tribute of admiration to the courage, the devotion and the self-sacrifice of our men, knowing that besides attacks, desperate and death dealing, of the enemy, they have to endure cold and exposure from long marches and the risk of disease, which is almost inseparable from the conditions under which a long campaign is carried on.

It was really woman who made civilisation possible. Her passionate desire to tend and nourish her offspring led her to build the first rude shelters, to make the first crude attempts at agriculture, to tame and domesticate animals, etc. To-day women see all they most cherish and revere subjected to irreparable injury. It is against the insanity of war that woman rebels. We feel very strongly that as men have kept the management of national affairs in their own hands they ought certainly to have evolved some better mode of settling international differences than the very crude and barbarous one of war. At this stage of our civilisation war is an anachronism. It belongs to a cruder and more primitive state of society.

As usual, at a time of national crisis, women are giving their help—not in the work of destruction,

but of construction. They are helping to nurse back the wounded to health and strength; they are holding the homes of the nation together; they are endeavouring to remedy the dislocation of industry caused by the terrific struggle; and, most important of all, they are caring for the nation's children so that a strong, healthy race may take the place of those who may fall in the war.

All this is nothing new. It is nothing new for women to make sacrifices. We have done that for countless ages. What *is* new is the spirit which is inspiring women to-day. That spirit is entirely new, because women are awake, women are conscious in a way they never were before. Women are making sacrifices to-day, but they know full well that the need for those sacrifices ought never to have arisen, would never have arisen, if the peoples of Europe had been alive to their own interests.

Women have often been told by anti-Suffragists that they have no creative power, that they have produced no great paintings or works of art. Men and women themselves are our masterpieces, and it is because we value those works of our's so much that we say they must not be shattered and mutilated on the battlefields. At the outbreak of the war the women of the United States organised a great procession of protest, which was doubly impressive from the very absence of the usual accessories. They marched through the streets of New York dressed in black to mark their grief and horror for the sufferings of Europe and "Man's inhumanity to Man." Women to-day feel more keenly than ever how intolerable it is that we have no voice in the Councils of the State. We know our influence would be a great safeguard of peace, and in continuing our demand for the rights of citizenship we can emphasise the truth of the noble words written, I think, by Mrs. Despard: "There is no glory in shooting and scourging humanity. The nation is really great that has done away with strife, hatred and privilege, and set all people—men and women—in the way of a spacious and splendid evolution." K. S. TANNER.

Mrs. Tanner's address at our Wednesday gathering at the Suffrage Club, of which the above is a summary, was warmly received by the audience. Miss Anna Munro also spoke, and Miss Underwood, who presided, read out the letter she had received from Somerset House giving her "one more chance" to pay income tax on an income which the authorities imagine she possesses, and her definite refusal to take advantage of their offer!

The latter ran as follows:—
I am in receipt of your letter, Folio 772/1914 Taxes of the 5th inst., regarding the account which you assume you have outstanding against me in respect of Income Tax for an imaginary income for the year 1913-14. So long as women have no representation in the government of their country I shall refuse to give any information as to the amount or source of any money I may have, or to pay any tax on any income you may assume that I have.

The Women's Freedom League, of which I have the honour to be the Secretary, has, as you probably know, organised the Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps, and we are doing everything in our power to relieve civilian distress caused by the dislocation of trade owing to the present war. I am giving all the time I can afford to the work of the Women's Freedom League and all the money I can spare to its funds, because, as an ordinary member of that body, I have an equal control with others in its expenditure. Under the circumstances, therefore, I should be glad if you would take any steps that you propose to take quickly, as this persistent correspondence over a matter in which we seem to be in complete disagreement is becoming a little tiresome.

P.S.—I enclose a circular of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps.

A WOMAN SUFFRAGE SERMON.—All honour to the Rev. A. Graham-Barton, of Kingsgate Baptist Church, Southampton-row, for the vigorous sermon he preached last Sunday evening, under the auspices of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, on women's claims to recognition in the national life, demanding for them equal rights as well as responsibilities with men, equal pay for equal work, and equal moral laws for both sexes. May there be many more such sermons preached.

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THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Readers are reminded that such cases as those in the following appalling list, heard before a judge and jury, are very rarely included in the newspaper reports. They will thus realise the importance of the work undertaken by the Women's Freedom League in having them watched and brought to the knowledge of the public. As our space is so curtailed and as Mrs. Watson can only be in one place at once, we cannot always give the many cases of injury to women dealt with by magistrates in Police Courts; they can usually be found in the Sunday papers.

At the Criminal Courts

Old Bailey.

Before Mr. Justice RENTOUL.
JOSEPH HEAD, 48, music master, was charged with indecently assaulting two little girls. The evidence showed that he assaulted his pupils at almost every lesson. There were six children whose ages ranged from 9 to 14 years, and one of them gave evidence of indecencies occurring two years previously. Mr. Rentoul, in passing sentence, said he could not bind over the prisoner, "as it would never do for it to go out to the public." (I was the only reporter in court). Defending counsel begged for leniency "as the acts were not serious." *Three months second division.*

MORRIS GOLDSTEIN, 32, indicted for attempting to procure Ray Walker, 16, to become a prostitute. The girl said prisoner told her he was her uncle and took her away to his "aunt's." In the night he violently and indecently assaulted her; when her screams brought help he pretended it was a "man and wife" row. After this he asked her to go on the streets for him, but she refused. She had no food, no money, and prisoner paid for her lodgings. About a week later he entered her room and again assaulted her. The next morning she went away, but subsequently saw prisoner and asked him for money to replace her hat, which he had destroyed. He told a policeman she was annoying him; both were taken into custody. The story, as told in court, is an answer to those who say that procurers do not often ruin unwilling victims and afterwards hold that fact over their heads to force them on the streets. Mr. Rentoul said, "If a woman is a prostitute she is practically committing slow suicide, and a man who forces her on the streets is committing slow murder. A vast number of cases of prostitution are never brought into court or proved when brought," he added. Prisoner was found guilty. There was a long list of previous convictions, three for living on immoral earnings of women. "If a man stole a shilling he could be given five years; unfortunately I cannot give you more than two years."

PERCY FARRELL, 25, was charged before Mr. Justice Rowlatt with committing rape on a girl aged 15. On September 20 of last year prisoner attacked the girl in the street, dragged her by the throat to a lonely field, and there assaulted her. He attempted the same offence on another girl, but her mother arrived in time to prevent him. This case was not gone into. He ran away and the police could not find him for a year. *Eighteen months' hard labour.*

ROBERT HANISTOCK, 35, a stockbroker and a married man, was charged before the Common Sergeant with indecently assaulting his typist, Evelyn Smith, 18. There were three assaults complained of, the most serious occurring on August 27. All the afternoon the girl was struggling to keep her employer at bay, and the scene was witnessed by two tailors in a workroom opposite. These men threw buttons at Hanistock's window, and eventually stopped him. The defence, as usual, was that the girl consented.

FREDERICK MALLET, 34, was also charged, separately, with assaulting the same girl on the same afternoon. The evidence was that Mallet came in during the afternoon, and the girl appealed to him for protection. He ordered his friend out of the office and assaulted her himself. She became unconscious in consequence of the continual struggle. Both men were found guilty, and each received *nine months' hard labour.*

Clerkenwell Sessions

JAMES HOGATE was charged with indecently assaulting Frances Villiers, a married woman, in a picture palace. Mrs. Villiers had her two children with her, but she followed him out and slapped his face repeatedly, and a porter took them to the police station. There had been many complaints of indecency in this theatre. Mr. Laurie said "These offences in picture palaces are very frequent, and unfortunately the culprits are not sufficiently frequently brought to justice." *Six months' hard labour.*

Middlesex Sessions, Guildhall.

ALBERT NOSWORTHY, 16, and ALFRED HUDSON, 17, were charged with indecently assaulting Ada Prudence. She was sitting in a field reading and was spoken to by prisoners. Hudson said that Nosworthy suggested he should assault the girl and steal her bag while Hudson kept watch. This was done, but the girl's cries attracted help. *Nosworthy Six months' hard labour; Hudson Three months.*

HENRY PRATT, 29, a soldier, was charged with indecently assaulting a married woman, Annie Wilkinson, on September 29. Prisoner was acquainted with her husband, and went to visit her, and, being drunk, assaulted her. Mr. Neild, the chairman, said on condition that he drank no intoxicating liquor for two years he would be *bound over.*

HARRY TONER, 47, was charged with indecently assaulting his two daughters, Irene, 16, and Ruby, 10, on various occasions. Irene said her mother was often ill and in hospital. On September 12, while her mother was away, her father came into her bed and tried to assault her. She got away into another room, and prisoner is said to have assaulted his other daughter, who was left with him. Irene found a key and locked herself in, but missed it some days after; her father again came in and assaulted her. A third time he assaulted her and then her sister, but she escaped after locking her father in the room. The fourth time she barricaded the door with a chest of drawers, but at midnight he burst it open and she got away in the confusion. She spent over an hour hiding in the coal-cellar in the garden, having on only her night-dress, and then knocked up her next-door neighbour, and both went to the police. Ruby said her father had twice interfered with her. A detective spoke of the broken door. Prisoner said his daughter was dirty, lazy and a liar—the child had six children and a house to look after! A rescue worker was called by the prosecution to say Irene's clothes were dirty. The jury said there was *not sufficient evidence to convict!* One hopes the demands of the war will soon render a jury of men only an impossible luxury!
EDITH M. WATSON.

In Regent's Park

Last Sunday the Mid-London Branch held its weekly meeting in Regent's Park. Mrs. Tanner gave an interesting address dealing with "Woman's Movement in Relation to the War." The audience was most appreciative and subscribed £1 0s. 6d. to our National Aid Corps.

In Brockwell Park

Miss Anna Munro was the speaker in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning last, when in spite of the unsettled weather a good audience listened attentively to her eloquent and forceful address on the urgent necessity of Votes for Women. Miss Winifred St. Clair took the chair.

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DARE TO BE FREE.

MEETING, Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Piccadilly), 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Flora Annie Steel. "The Responsibilities of Women." Chair, Mrs. Despard. Admission free.

Sunday, November 8.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 3 p.m.

Monday, November 9.—MEMBERS' MEETING, W.F.L. Office (1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.), 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street), 3.30. Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., and others. Admission free.

Friday, November 13.—CROYDON, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. E. M. Moore.

Wednesday, November 18.—PUBLIC MEETING, Suffrage Club (3, York-street, Jermyn-street, W.), 3.30. Mr. George Lansbury and others.

PROVINCES.

Friday, October 30.—NOTTINGHAM. Calvert's Café, 6.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro.

Tuesday, November 3.—HOVE. 8, San Remo. Sewing Party, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4.—PORTSMOUTH, 17, Lombard-street, Work Party, 3 p.m. Members' Meeting 7.30.

Thursday, November 5.—HOVE. "Nürnberg," Palmeira Avenue. "At Home" to members and friends to meet Miss Nina Boyle. Hostess: Mrs. Budd. Tea at 5 p.m.

Friday, November 6.—SOUTHWICK. "Rosemary," The Green. Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Miss Pullar), 3 p.m. Chair, Miss Hare. Speaker, Miss C. Nina Boyle. Subject: "Women in War Time." Hove, Town Hall, Banqueting Room. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Chair, Miss Katharine Trott. Speakers: Miss C. Nina Boyle on "Women's Position in War Time," and "Women Police," and Miss Hare on "Women's Suffrage National Aid Corps." Admission free. Reserved seats 1/-, tickets from 8, San Remo, Hove and W.F.L. Committee members.

SCOTLAND.

Monday, November 9.—GLASGOW. The Athenæum. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury ("Women and the War"), and Councillor Graham (Edinburgh). Chair, Miss Shennan.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, November 1.—MANCHESTER, Gresham-street, Brotherhood Meeting, 11 a.m. Speaker, Miss Constance Andrews. Subject, "War from a Woman's Point of View."

Wednesday, November 4.—EAST LONDON COLLEGE, Mile End-road, E. Speaker, Miss Nina Boyle. Subject, "Women in War Time." 5.15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11.—N. ORMSBY. Women's Co-operative Guild. Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker, Mrs. Schofield Coates (W.F.L.).

MRS. DESPARD IN SCOTLAND,

Edinburgh.

Thursday's meeting in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund was one of the most successful ever organised by the Women's Freedom League in Edinburgh. The large U.F. Assembly Hall, kindly lent us for the occasion, was crowded, and the greatest interest and enthusiasm were evoked by the appeals voiced by Dr. Sarolea and Mrs. Despard. Professor Lodge presided, and votes of thanks were moved by Bishop Walpole and Councillor Crawford. The collection amounted to over £56, and we shall have a substantial sum to hand over to the Fund. We have to thank all the stewards, members of the Branch and of the Northern Men's Federation, for valuable assistance, and the Misses Ireland for their most effective decoration of the hall. Mrs. Thomson, Miss Berta Ireland, Mrs. Crabbe, and others did much to make the meeting known by street-selling and distributing bills. We would specially like to express the great pleasure of the branch in having with us once again Mrs. Despard, who had not previously been north since her illness. H. McL.

Dunfermline

Under the auspices of this branch a very successful public meeting was held in the Masonic Hall on October 23, to raise funds for Belgian relief. A large and appreciative audience was addressed by Mrs. Despard, who was sup-

ported on the platform by Sir Wm. and Lady Robertson, Miss Sara Munro, Dr. A. Lees Bell and Mrs. Beck. Sir Wm. Robertson, who presided, denounced the German invasion of Belgium as probably the greatest crime perpetrated in modern history. He appealed to all present to extend their sympathy to a brave and suffering people, and as far as possible to see their wrongs redressed. "She is a good woman; no one could be anything else than good who comes much in contact with her." Such was the comment of one woman in the hall when Mrs. Despard had delivered her splendid address and appeal to the people of Dunfermline to help the gallant little people of Belgium. She urged that the Belgians be given employment, and showed what members of the Women's Freedom League—who were Suffragists now, as ever—were doing in their various towns to help. Mr. Beck proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Despard, which was supported by Dr. Bell. A collection amounting to the gratifying sum of £6 5s. 7d. was taken. M.H.

BRANCH NOTES.

Clapham.

On October 19 members and friends spent a delightful evening at 46, Lynette-avenue; Miss Anna Munro made a rousing speech on the work and aims of the Women's Freedom League, and many questions were asked by members of the audience. Songs, charmingly rendered by Mrs. Fox, added to the pleasure of those present. New members were secured for the Branch; a good collection was taken. THE VOTE and W.F.L. merchandise were sold. The proceedings concluded with a warm vote of thanks to our hostess and chairman, Mrs. Samuel.

Croydon—Office: 32a, The Arcade.

At our Branch meeting on October 19 it was decided:—(1) to start "Women's Social Evenings," to be held at the office once a week, for the benefit of those whose husbands are on "active service"; (2) to employ a needlewoman in making children's garments, under the direction of Miss Albright, who has kindly consented to cut out material and superintend this department; (3) that profits from our first whist drive be sent as a contribution to Mrs. Harvey's hospital. At our Friday afternoon meeting on October 23, Miss Anna Munro gave an excellent address on "The Position of Women in War Time." All agreed with her that the Suffrage flag must be kept flying. Miss Bennett presided, and Miss M. Stericker acted as hostess for Miss L. Denham. WANTED.—1, goods for jumble sale; 2, children's left-off boots and shoes; which will be repaired and distributed to necessitous children through the local branch of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps; 3, material for children's garments.

Tufnell Park

The Branch wishes to send wollen vests and jackets for the month-old babies of Belgian refugees leaving the Infirmary at Edmonton. They are urgently needed, and would be thankfully received by the Branch Secretary, Miss Jane Barrow, 202, Brecknock-road, N.

SCOTLAND.

Glasgow. Suffrage Shop.—70, St. George's Road

A very successful and well attended meeting was held in Charing Cross Halls on October 23. Sir Edward Parrott, LL.D., gave a lecture on "The War," illustrated by cinematograph; John Mann, Esq., in the chair. The proceeds, by agreement with the lecturer, are to be used for our workrooms, the articles made to be given to the Belgian Refugees Relief Committee. A very large donation will be the result of the meeting. A parcel of 30 pairs of "Fearnought" gloves was sent off this week. Through the efforts of Miss McCallum and Mrs. Sinclair, who have been very successful in interesting others in this branch of our work, this will probably be our weekly output for some time. Each pair costs about 4s. 6d. to make, and the samples in our window are rousing a large amount of interest.

Miss A. Broughton addressed a successful open-air meeting on October 22, at Govan Cross, and another last Saturday afternoon at Paisley. On both occasions the VOTE sold well, under the superintendence of Miss Cheyne.

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