

THE VOTE,
Sept. 10th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

THAT NOTHING BE LOST. C. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 10, 1915

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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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION.

THE RIGHT TO WORK.

The posters of the *Daily Mail* proclaimed all over London last Saturday that "the women demanded national service." By this the editor intended the public to understand that all women were insisting that all men should at once take up arms in their defence. Suffragists have continually and rightly protested against the other sex prescribing their duties to them, for surely it is a gross impertinence for one sex to dictate to the other. This being so, it seems to us that for all women to urge that all men should take up arms is a proof of a curiously perverted and vicarious patriotism.

All those who really want to hear what is woman's true attitude to "national service," and what the term connotes to her, should come to the Women's National Service Organisation meeting on September 14, at the Kingsway Hall, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, who is herself the embodiment of selfless devotion to a noble Cause, will show how women demand the right to serve the nation, and how deeply they resent the old world idea that they are to suffer only while men may do active work for the salvation of their country. "Men must work and women must weep" is surely the cruellest sentence ever passed upon an oppressed sex, for work, hard and unremitting, is the only panacea for sorrow and anxiety.

The Women's National Service Organisation is exceedingly helpful in providing this panacea, for it is proving an "Open Sesame" to various occupations; it is interesting as well as pleasant to contrast the dejected and despondent looks of the applicants for work on their first visit with their bright and triumphant faces when they have obtained the coveted work. The office of the Organisation is in itself an effective mission centre for the Suffrage Movement. The competent women who direct the work inspire an immense confidence by their keen intelligence, lively sympathy and brisk business capacity. The applicants for work often have discovered by melancholy personal experience how their sex handicaps them in the working world, and the glad gratitude that they feel to these officials who have stretched out a helping hand to them, leads them to read the Suffrage papers and attend the Suffrage meetings. Indeed, the conversation with the applicants may be said to consist of homoeopathic doses of suffrage propaganda. Thus the official work of the National Service Organisation is keeping the Suffrage flag flying in the most effective way.

Two of the speakers at the meeting on September 14 are celebrated for their support of Woman Suffrage in the days when such championship involved ostracism and even martyrdom. The others are mainly concerned with the question of women's right to work and their claims as workers.

Suffragists have long maintained that the competent woman should obtain the same wages as the male expert, while the incompetent woman can only hope for the remuneration of the unskilled labourer. The quality of the work and not the sex of the worker should be the criterion for the remuneration.

In a remote part of the British Empire a medical post with a salary of £600 a year was offered to the successful candidate in a competitive examination. A woman obtained by far the highest

marks, and as she had only put an initial before her surname, her sex was a surprise to the hospital trustees when she presented herself for an interview. After a consultation with his colleagues, one of them remarked to her: "As you are a lady doctor, you will not require more than £400 a year." "Did you mark the papers according to the sex, or according to the ability of the candidates?" she asked. The trustees were logical enough to see the weakness of their own case, and consented at once to pay her the larger sum. This, however, was in a land where women have votes.

What is wanted, first and foremost, is to rid the world of sex prejudice; scepticism as to a woman's capacity to do a man's work, will disappear as mist before the sun, when many trained women workers have shown that they can compete with men in skill and in speed. In the middle of the nineteenth century the women, who in spite of ridicule and opprobrium went through the hard training necessary for a medical degree, were the great pioneers of the Suffrage Movement, and by proving their usefulness and independence at a critical crisis helped the Cause of the emancipation of their sex.

There is a danger that any political cry may become a substitute for thought, instead of an incentive to it. Women only demand the vote as a means to an end. The end is that complete living should be made as possible for one sex as for the other, and that by the removal of all restrictions, educational, professional, and industrial, woman should have a fair chance of proving her capacity, and an opportunity of showing that she, too, is indispensable to her generation and to posterity. Our medical women have done this, and even sex prejudiced papers like the *Times* are urging that woman's place is the surgery, not exclusively the "home" as formerly; medical women have served the Cause of their sex and of humanity effectually, even if they have never uttered one word in advocacy of votes for women.

The members of our great sisterhood all through the ages who worked with selfless devotion for the betterment of humanity were laying the foundation stones of our political emancipation, though they never advocated that Cause and were never to see the fruits of their labours, nor were they to have the inspiration and encouragement which comes from comradeship in a contest for a noble Cause.

MARGARET HODGE.

Glasgow Branch.

The Secretary of the Glasgow Branch of our Organisation writes:—

"Since the opening of the Glasgow Branch, the useful and far-reaching work of the National Service Organisation has been much appreciated. On all sides, employers have been eager and grateful to learn where they can obtain reliable and capable women at this time of stress, while the many women requiring work, and anxious to undertake that which will release a man, have one and all gratefully acknowledged the help and advice of the National Service Organisation. Already we have placed

a number of women in positions hitherto occupied by men. It will be interesting for our readers to learn that less making for the Government is at present being done by girls, and we recommend this as suitable work for the girl of good average education."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A.S. (Glasgow).—Yes. Heelmaking in one of the largest concerns in Scotland has been given over to girls.

JULIA.—There is a test, and you must be good at figures.

E.D.M.—A number of more women will probably be taken on in the next few months.

the moderate price of 4d. each.

Annual Conference.

This will be held at The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-st., Bloomsbury, W.C., at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 16, and the following afternoon we hope to hold a reception to our delegates at 144, High Holborn. F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

Owing to the time required to carry out the necessary cleaning and painting, etc., at our new premises, 123, Hampstead-road, near the London Hospital, and five minutes' walk from Maple's, the House-Warming and opening of the "Despard Arms" have been postponed to Saturday, September 25, and Tuesday, September 28, 7.30 to 10 p.m. We invite all interested to come and inspect the premises on these evenings. No tickets are necessary, but admission will be by a "pound" gift—money or kind. Mrs. Despard will be present on both evenings, and other friends are expected to take part in the proceedings; an interesting programme is being arranged. Gifts of furniture for the restaurant, club room, bed rooms, also useful crockery, cooking utensils, stationery, illustrated daily and weekly papers, games, music, etc., will be warmly appreciated and may now be sent to 123, Hampstead-road. Omnibuses Nos. 24, 27, 29, and several L.C.C. trams pass the door; Tottenham Court-road and Euston-road buses pass within five minutes' walk. Nearest stations: Warren-street, Euston, and Mornington-crescent, on the Hampstead Tube.

WAR GARDENING.

A COURSE OF SIX LECTURE-DEMONSTRATIONS IN PRACTICAL GARDENING

Intended to help those interested in making the most of their gardens this season, by

HELEN COLT

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Course Tickets 12/6, from Miss HELEN COLT, 9, Temple Fortune Lane, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Telephone Finchley 1262. Single Classes, 2/6.

WOMEN AND WAR TIME.

Woman Scientist and Explorer.

Miss Marie de Czaplicka, a young Polish scientist, is the first woman leader of a scientific research expedition. She came to England some time ago with a fine record from her own country, and studied at the London University (School of Economics) and at Somerville College, Oxford. Last year she was appointed by the University of Oxford leader of an anthropological expedition to Siberia. She returned to London a few days ago, after a most successful year's work, and the results of the expedition will be of great value to science.

The Civic Cross for War Service.

The Duchess of Vendome has received the Civic Cross of the First Class for civilians who have rendered great war service.

Women in the Fighting Lines.

1. RUSSIA.—A message to the *Journal* from Geneva, states that there is now in the civilian prisoners' camp at Ragnit, in Eastern Prussia, a woman who is wearing the uniform of a Russian soldier. She is the wife of a Russian officer, and states that she fought for five months by the side of her husband up to the moment when he was killed. She was then taken prisoner, and on account of her sex was placed in an internment camp.

2. CENTRAL AFRICA.—South-west of the railway, towards the frontier, in the Magadi district (south-west of Nairobi) an enemy patrol was accompanied by armed women. This body engaged in raiding, and demanded hut-tax in the region west of Lake Magadi.

Fascinating Tommy Atkins.

Two sisters described in the papers as "Gertrude and Frieda G." and a married woman, "Frau Helene F.," have been fined thirty shillings each in Berlin for flirting with British prisoners of war. The women were caught in the nefarious act of blowing kisses, waving handkerchiefs, and winking at a number of captured Tommies interned at a camp on the Berlin riverside near the suburb of Oberschonweide. The trio, it appears, hired a row-boat for the purpose and established amorous communication from a spot on the river adjacent to a point where the prisoners could easily be seen. A steam-boat load of patriots, catching the women in the midst of their flirtation, "shamed" them from the scene, whereupon the trio rowed to the opposite side of the river, where another camp of Englishmen is established. Here they were apprehended by the river police and placed under arrest. As a special punishment and warning to other "traitors," the authorities caused the announcement of the women's conviction and fine to be published in the district newspaper with mention of their full names and addresses.

American Women's Hospital.

The American Women's War Hospital at Oldway House, Paignton, will not be closed, nor will the continuity of the work be in any way interrupted by the decision of the American Red Cross to withdraw the nursing units which they have so generously supplied to all the belligerent countries since the beginning of hostilities. Two of these units have worked at Paignton for many months, and immediately on receiving an official intimation of their withdrawal, the American Women's War Relief Fund took the necessary steps with regard to their hospital. An American chief surgeon has been appointed, and, as heretofore, the staff will comprise both English and American sisters.

Railway Women.

As a result of negotiations between railway managers and the representatives of the National Union of Railwaymen, the managers have agreed that women employed on railways in the emergency, due to the war will be paid at the same rate of wages as men in the respective grades concerned. The concession has been extended to all English and Scottish railways.

Post Women in London.

Postwomen are now delivering letters from house to house in the Camberwell district. They have not yet received their uniforms, but they are already skilled in the subtleties of the profession.

Women Dispensers.

The War Office is now engaging women dispensers for the military hospitals. The qualifications required are membership of the Pharmaceutical Society, or the assistants' diploma of the Apothecaries' Society. The latter is the qualification usually held by women, who are being engaged only for the duration of the war, in order to permit of the male assistants being sent abroad. The pay is 6s. per day, Sundays included.

Park Keepers.

The Leeds Corporation is employing women as keepers in the city's park at Roundhay to replace men who have en-

INEXPENSIVE New Autumn Tailor-Mades.

During the Holiday Season we are offering a large variety of Autumn Tailor-Made Suits at quite exceptional prices. Recognising the spirit of simplicity and economy which is prevalent in all quarters at the present time, we have aimed at reducing prices without reducing quality. Despite the greatly increased cost of all woollens the material used in these garments, as well as their cut, finish and workmanship, is in no way inferior to the well-known standard of excellence associated with the name of this firm.

Street Suit (as sketch) in superfine quality Navy and Black soft Suiting Serge. Coat perfectly tailored and braided. Ample well-cut skirt.

Special Price £4.

Stocked in large sizes 10/6 extra.

Debenham & Freebody

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listed. The experiment is proving quite successful, and more women are likely to be employed in similar capacities if the occasion arises. The women commence work at 8 a.m., finish at 5 p.m., and are allowed an hour for dinner. Their wages average 16s. 6d. per week.

Fruit Pickers.

Worcestershire farmers were inclined at first to scorn the idea of women fruit-pickers, but one was found bold enough to try the experiment of employing them; his courage was rewarded; after a fortnight's experience of a band of women workers sent from Westfield College, London, he declared he had never had his fruit picked with such care and rapidity.

Horse Breaker and Riding Instructor.

Miss Muriel Jarcine, The Gables, Lockeridge, Marlborough, has broken in sixty-four horses for the Army Remount Department during the last ten months. She had the help of two boys, aged 13 and 14. Her rule is never to use the whip when breaking in a horse, maintaining that a half mad animal cannot understand why he is struck. She has been an expert horsewoman since she was a little girl, and at the age of eleven was earning £1 a week at the work of horse-breaking. She can manage the fiercest animals, and before she left school had mastered horses that men had failed to sit for five minutes.

Miss Eva Christy, of the Women Police Volunteers, who many years ago was the woman pioneer in riding schools, is engaged in instructing the recruits of a volunteer corps in the art of riding.

Woman Infirmary Doctor.

Whitechapel Guardians propose to employ a woman doctor for their infirmary.

A PENNY A DAY.

Many thanks to our members and friends who are busy putting by their extra penny a day for 100 days, to swell this year's Birthday Fund.

This is a way in which all can help during the holidays, and I should be glad of many more names to add to my list. E. KNIGHT.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., LTD.,
144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, Sept. 10th, 1915.

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

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
Telephone MUSEUM 1429.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents
and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

THAT NOTHING BE LOST.

It was said, after the miracle of the loaves. We use the word miracle though some have thought that in the ordinary sense of the word there was none. The Divine Master, with His gift of insight, knew what food resources there were in the wilderness, and he drew upon them so wisely that the few hoarders were impelled to give up their treasure for distribution. Miracle or not, there was an abundance of food for all that hungry crowd; and only when they had eaten and were filled did the order go forth: "Gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost."

We are no pessimists; far from it! We have an unconquerable belief, not only in the gallantry and endurance of our men at the Front, but in the courageous determination of our people at home and in the more than abundant resources of our country. We would hold it treason to think otherwise—worse than treason to depress others by cowardly fears of our own. None the less do we feel the dire necessity that is upon us to gather together and use to the utmost all the resources the country possesses.

The resources lie in money, in material and in labour; and each one of them to yield the greatest service must be organised. There can be no doubt, with our big incomes on the one hand and the open markets of the world on the other, the first two can easily be made to serve.

Given the third—labour—one of the great Divine forces of the world, and that without which both money and material would be useless, we cannot but ask: Is everything possible being done to secure its healthy vigorous action and to increase its output? So far as the men are concerned strong efforts are no doubt being made, although, as is usually the case, Governments and public departments only wake up slowly to the necessity for emergency measures. Had the initial outburst of general indignation against the wrongs inflicted upon an unoffending nation been wisely used; had the workers been convinced long ago that their country needed them and that they were asked to work not to increase the money power of the employing class, but to safeguard the interests and maintain the honour of their country, we should have heard far less of strikes and slackers. As it is, no one can study the provisions of the Munitions Act without feeling its one-sidedness. Here is a case that comes from Manchester. The facts have been stated in successive issues of the *Manchester Guardian*. Under Clause 7 of the Act, a munition worker in a controlled establishment must receive a certificate of discharge from his employer before he can be given work elsewhere. In case of wrong withholding of certificate, appeal may be made to the Munitions Tribunal.

On August 7 Messrs. Whitworth and Company dismissed over a hundred men from one of their departments. They had no notice and certificates of discharge were refused. The Union (Steel Smelters) protested, and the men were secured a week's notice, but certificates were still denied. Appeal was made to the Ministry of Munitions, but no notice was taken. A fortnight elapsed. The men were without wages. The firm had discharged them, and they could get no work from other employers because the firm forbade. It was only when strike papers were actually out that the dispute was referred to the Committee on Production. The comment in the *Nation* is as follows:—

"The object of this abuse is clear. A certain department in the works is under-employed, but has every prospect of being fully employed in a few weeks. What is more desirable than to keep a reserve of skilled labour ready without paying any wages during the waiting period?"

Yet, if a worker is accused of any offence, he is immediately hailed before a Tribunal and heavily fined. Is this the way to get the best results from labour? We hear that a great trade union leader has described the Munitions Act as "The Workers' Slavery Act." And we cannot wonder.

It is to be hoped that the hasty legislation—now made in Germany, but savouring of Prussian methods—will presently be amended.

Here, however, we are dealing chiefly with that great reserve force, which is, as yet, practically untapped—we mean the work of women.

There is no unreadiness on their part. National Service—a phrase which has been disgracefully narrowed down—is used by them with understanding. Can forced service, in any true sense, be called national? It is the service of slaves.

Women, even more than men, by reason of their motherhood, actual or potential, feel the blood of the race in their veins, the soul of the nation within them. There is amongst them enthusiasm, as of those bound on a great adventure—how often we have found this note in letters addressed to us!—there is energy; there are skill, patience, self-discipline, for, in our late campaigns, we have learned many things. Certainly here is a force out of which much might be wrought. This, on the one hand, and on the other the even more urgent cry for help. How are the two wants to meet? Talking, writing, processioning, banner waving, will not do it. That has been shown already; and the reason is obvious. All who know anything about the great Forces—physical, natural, mental, moral—are well aware that if they are to be of any use to the world they must be first understood; then organised and directed into the proper channels—in other words, harnessed for service. Take as an illustration electricity. It has always been in the world. It has been often dangerous and destructive. Scientists have discovered methods of harnessing it, and now in heating and lighting, and as a driving power, it is of inestimable benefit to humanity.

What, therefore, we are attempting is to understand, organise and direct the great accession of Labour Force which women are offering to the nation to-day. The business, begun like most valuable pieces of work in a very small way, is assuming larger and larger proportions, and now our organisation, having secured the sympathetic co-operation of some well-known and public-spirited men and women, is holding its initial meeting in the Kingsway Hall. All particulars are given in this issue. We believe it will be a meeting of extraordinary interest; and we feel sure that the members of our own League, who have always been keenly interested in women's work, will come in large numbers to the Hall and do everything that lies in their power to make the date and the object of the meeting known.

On that same evening Parliament, after its long holiday, is reassembling. We presume that one of its chief activities will be the voting of supplies for the war. They will be necessary. The insatiable monster that men by their mutual jealousies and mad struggles for domination have evoked must be fed. From three to four millions of accumulated treasure are being consumed every week. Yet this perhaps is the one hopeful outlook. One or two of the belligerent countries must break down presently under the awful strain. When treasure is used up; when labour can no longer be maintained; when the vast stores of material which are being wrought into death-dealing machines begin to be exhausted, that which means so much to us—the life of our men—may once more resume its character of sacredness. In the meantime, there is every hope that the distribution of wealth, the breaking up of big fortunes with the discovery which is being forced upon the nations that the labour force is all-important, and the further revelation of women's capacity and power for service, may effect great changes in our social life. It is on account of this that we never cease to urge women, while, to the best of their ability, taking their share of the burden which weighs down the nation, not for a single moment to forget that it is their special duty still to hold themselves together, still to reiterate their demand for representation in the councils of the country when matters of such deep moment to them are being decided that so, when this turmoil is over, they may help their brothers to build up a new and settled order.

C. DESPARD.

LEVELLING UP THE ARMY.

"MY BOOK." Sarah Robinson's work for the
Soldiers. 5/- net. Partridge, London.

Earlier in the year, I was permitted to sketch briefly in the columns of the *Vote*, the great work that Florence Nightingale was able to achieve in the re-organization and moralization of the British Army, in conjunction with her devoted friend, the Secretary for War, Sidney Herbert. Miss Nightingale possessed one of the great brains of the nineteenth century. She worked with, through, by any man that would work with her; it is not too much to say that every one of them, Secretaries of State, Viceroys, Governors, Commanders-in-Chief, was profoundly impressed by her extraordinary capacity. Her biographer, Sir E. T. Cook, declares that she was a born general. An able coadjutor, one of the greatest sanitarians of his day, Dr. Sutherland, after working for many years hand in hand with Miss Nightingale declared: "women can do what men would not do, and dare suffering knowingly where men would shrink."

Sarah Robinson, who was 81 on August 1, 1915, attacked the problem of the moralization of the Army from the ranks. It is noteworthy that both ladies were invalids. Florence Nightingale moved principalities and powers from a Mayfair bedroom. Sarah Robinson suffered from spinal disease which was expected to end her life at an early age. The devotion of both to the welfare of the British soldier sustained them, lengthened life, and permitted an extraordinary amount of extraordinary work to be done. In his "Foreword" to Miss Robinson's "Soldier's Friend,"† Lord Roberts declared that "most people know the high char-

† Long out of print and re-published in 1913.

acter and honourable reputation that the British soldier bears nowadays; but most people do not know to what an extent this is due to the devoted efforts of Miss Robinson and her fellow-workers." Women will do well to take note of this statement. The War Office has never liked reform or reformers. Lord Roberts himself was on more occasions than one slighted by this most bureaucratic of all our government departments. At the moment, it is resisting the reiterated cry to diminish the waste of food, to appoint women as inspectors and organizers to achieve this desirable end. It is interesting therefore to remember how a gang of male incompetents hated Florence Nightingale and would have gladly burned her at the stake if they only could have laid hands on her. The War Office and the Army owe much to women. Should the courage of the former ever be equal to calling women to help them run the commissariat more efficiently and economically, even *The Vote* will join the chorus of praise, and help to find the right women for the purpose.

Miss Robinson began her work in the Army by praying for some men in the 69th Regt. in Burma, in whom a friend was interested. She then corresponded with some of the men, and from this small seed has sprung the Soldiers' Institute at Portsmouth, and ninety others all over the world.

A Welsh maidservant the other day, watching the triumphant march past of a band of recruits for our two-million Army, remarked "People used to look low on a soldier." We know that the Duke of Wellington used to call his men "scum of the earth," "rabble," and so forth; nor did he ever make any attempt to raise them morally, limiting his activities to their drill, food, clothing and shelter. Long after Sarah Robinson began her work, the slights and insults put upon soldiers were almost incredible. They were refused admittance to respectable places of amusement; Miss Robinson and some soldiers were asked to leave the Liverpool St. refreshment room; they were even turned out of pews at church. Their presence was regarded as contamination, and certainly some of them did their best to live up to an extremely bad character. A number of our rulers regarded the Army as a species of moral sewer for the nation. Mr. Gladstone had no faith in women, or he would have enfranchised them in 1884; he expressed a doubt to Florence Nightingale whether "an Army could ever be made a moral institution." Miss Robinson had none, and the story of her wonderful work to achieve its moral rehabilitation is one that the world, Britain, the Church, the War Office, and women as a sex should never forget. She carried on a remarkable temperance work as the first step in her ladder of achievement; without it nothing could be done. Then she used religion as her great lever, coupled with an extraordinary hold that she exercised over the regard and affections of the men. They looked upon her as *theirs*, but not until they discovered that she was not hired by the War Office or any of 'Them as is Above' to improve either the soldiers of their morals. Miss Robinson is the soul of courage and candour, and makes no secret of how chary the men were at first of coming to listen to her addresses. When she travelled to a fresh place at the beginning of her work there was sometimes difficulty in inducing men to attend the first meeting, even one man. At a cavalry station

WOMEN and WORK PUBLIC MEETING

Women's Service Organisation.

KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, on Tuesday, September 14th, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:—The Right Hon. THE EARL OF DERBY. Mrs. PARKER (Earl Kitchener's Sister). Miss LENA ASHWELL.
Mr. BEN TILLET and others. Chairman: Mrs. DESPARD.

RESERVED SEATS—5/- 2/- 1/- and 6d. Tickets to be obtained from the Office, 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

she invited some troopers to a tea-party at her diggings. The response was none too eager until one young man declared he would go to "the old gal's tea-party for he liked her pluck;" nine accepted, and from such small beginnings sprang the devotion of a whole regiment to Miss Robinson. The 69th was moved near to her home in 1865 and old friends wrote her: "Let us remind you dear lady, that you are ours. We feel that we have a claim upon you, we would do anything for you, and sooner than lose your visit, we would willingly pay for the best room in the hotel if you will allow us." It was the men themselves who called her "The Soldiers' Friend." On one occasion a clergyman's wife spoke kindly and politely to three soldiers in a train. They insisted that she must be Miss Robinson because no lady ever spoke to soldiers, although it appeared that none of the four knew or had ever seen her.

To be concluded. C. S. BREMNER.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Antis and their Antics.

It does not appear to have struck the Press or the public yet that the great *Daily Mail* organised effort of women to obtain compulsory service for men has its purely comic side. It was the *Daily Mail*, if we are not mistaken, which embodied and published the view of certain anti-suffragists, that the vote for women was unthinkable, because by their votes women might be able to send men forth to war to take risks which no woman would be called on to face. How does the anti-war attitude square with this organised incitement to women to demand that willy-nilly men shall be forced to take those risks? It is a delicious situation, and raises the question, if the *Daily Mail* was such a false guide before the war as to make the whole question of women's rights depend on the question of men's safety, is it, can it be, a safe guide now, when it alters its position to suit its party intrigues? And there is yet another point. We cull the following precious extract from a column of high-browed *Daily Mail Kultur*:

To-morrow afternoon at 2.30 the doors of Queen's Hall, Langham-place, London, will open for a meeting such as London has never seen before. Three thousand women will be present, every one representing from one to twenty men who have served or are serving their country on sea or land. This great gathering will come together to voice the wish of the women of England that a fair and just system of service for all shall be at once set up in this country.

We would like to ask how it is that these women could suddenly become the "representatives" of men? By what system of representation? By what recognised authority? By what mandate? The *Daily Mail* does not explain. Nor does it, nor can it, explain why this comparatively small meeting (it was not even "packed," for seats were being freely offered to late comers at 3.30) should deserve more consideration, and obtain more response to the "wish" that was "voiced"; or be, in fact, more "the women of England," than those meetings of women which for year after year, week in week out, crowded out this same Queen's Hall, and the Steinway Hall, and Caxton Hall; also the London Opera House and the Albert Hall at intervals, in a demand for the enfranchisement of their own, not the compulsion of the other, sex. To that dignified and justifiable request the inspired organiser of the voice and wish of the women of England opposed sneers and taunts and lies. Now it is anxious to manipulate the force it once held so cheap. We should also like some enlightenment about "service for all." Is "all" men and women, or both? And if so, who is to decide what service women can best give—the representatives of men only? This raises a very troublesome point, and Lord Northcliffe would do well to approach it cautiously.

OUR TREASURY,

NATIONAL FUND.

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

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	1071	17	8			
Special Emergency War Fund:—						
"A Friend"	2	10	0			
Mrs. Walter Carey	1	0	0			
Mrs. Knight	1	0	0			
Miss Eunice Murray	1	0	0			
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0			
Miss E. Gore Browne			5	0		
Mrs. Sholl			5	0		
Mrs. Counter			3	0		
Miss Hurry			1	0		
Hornsey Branch			1	1	0	
Kensington Branch			2	6		
Middlesbrough Branch			1	15	0	
Mid-London Branch			7	0		
			10	9	6	
Mrs. Despard	20	0	0			
Organisers' Fund	4	0	0			
M. Felix de Bethune	1	0	0			
Captain Robin Catmur	1	0	0			
Miss Mary Maud			5	0		
Mrs. Mary T. Fausten			2	6		
Miss G. Hart			1	0		
Profit on "The Vote," per Miss Barrs			4	6		
" " per Miss Broughton			1	6		
Collection, per Miss Broughton			2	9		
Office Sales			3	6		
	£1,109	7	11			

The Old Oriental Insult!

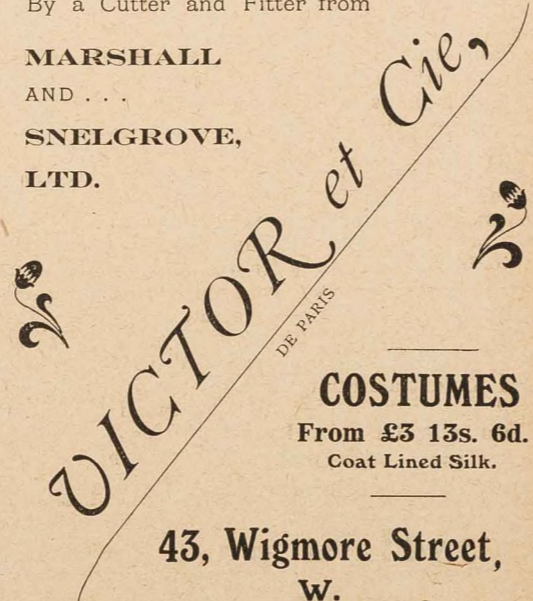
An unusual wedding incident is reported from Warminster, Wilts. At a wedding at the Minster the bridesmaids, upon arriving at the west door, were refused admittance because they were not wearing hats. Friends came to the assistance of the young ladies, lending them silk handkerchiefs, which they hurriedly tied over their heads. They were then permitted to enter the Minster a moment or two before the arrival of the bride. Whilst the service was in progress friends brought them hats, and the incident closed amid general merriment.

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



DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, September 10.—SOCIALS' COMMITTEE MEETING, at 144, High Holborn, 2.30 p.m.

Sunday, September 12.—HYDE PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 14.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANISATION Public Meeting, Kingsway Hall, 8 p.m. Speakers: Right Hon. The Earl of Derby, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mrs. Parker, Mr. Ben Tlett and others. Chairman: Mrs. Despard. Reserved Seat Tickets 5/-, 2/-, 1/- and 6d. from 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Tuesday, September 14.—POSTER PARADE, leave Office at 2.30 p.m.

Thursday, September 16.—MID-LONDON, Branch Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 7.30 p.m. Business: Amendments to Resolutions for Conference.

Friday, September 17.—CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell's-road, 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, September 23.—RICHMOND BRANCH, Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. O'Flaherty), at 47, Morley-road, Twickenham, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Tanner and Miss Underwood.

Saturday, September 25.—"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road (near London Temperance Hospital), House-warming, 7.30 to 10 p.m. Mrs. Despard will speak.

Tuesday, September 28.—"DESPARD ARMS," 123, Hampstead-road (near London Temperance Hospital), Opening by Mrs. Despard, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, September 29.—EAST LONDON, Branch Meeting, 56, Gore-road, South Hackney, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 6.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Boyle.

Wednesday, October 13.—PUBLIC MEETING, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "My Experiences as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded," and others.

Saturday, October 16.—WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE, Annual Conference, The Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C., 10 a.m.

SCOTLAND.

Thursday, September 23.—GLASGOW, Branch Meeting, 70, St. George's-road.

PROVINCES.

Tuesday, September 14.—LIVERPOOL, Social Evening (Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cousins), Clarion Café, 7.30 p.m. Chair: Mr. John Edwards.

MEMBERS' CLUB ROOM.

We now have a Members' Club Room at 144, High Holborn, which is in charge of Mrs. Fisher, who, with her helpers, will be pleased to serve members and friends with light refreshments or teas from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. any day in the week except, for the present, Saturdays and Sundays.

THE "EMILY DAVISON" LODGE will be FORMALLY OPENED on Wednesday, the 15th September, at 8 p.m. when Mrs. F. E. Smith will speak on "THE LIFE & WORK of EMILY DAVISON." (considered Astrologically) ADMISSION FREE. 144, High Holborn (entrance at back in Bury Street) London, W.C.

BRANCH NOTES.

Cardiff. A most successful Branch business meeting was held at the Welsh Industries on September 3. Mrs. Whale and Miss Watt having tendered their resignations as secretary and treasurer, new officials were appointed as follows:—Secretary, Miss Barrs, 1, Gordon-road; assistant secretary, Mrs. Garret, 10, Regina-terrace; literature secretary, Miss Jackson, 14, Pembroke-avenue; treasurer, Mrs. B. O. Davies, 9, Birthdir-street. Arrangements were made for forthcoming meetings. Mrs. Stevenson Howells gave a most interesting and inspiring address on "Women and Evolution." She pointed out the progress that women had made, and the need for them in the work of the nation, as well as in the home. She dealt with the necessary economic independence of women, their power to keep alive great ideals, and the justice of their demand for the vote in order to co-operate with men in the work of the world.

East London. At our last meeting, held at 56, Gore-road, South Hackney, by kind permission of Mrs. Shadbolt, it was decided to send a weekly parcel to one prisoner of war in Germany. Will all who were not present, but would care to join in this effort, please communicate with the hon. secretary, Miss Adams, 20, High-street, West Norwood? All members are reminded that articles and donations are needed for the Fancy Fair, which will soon be here. The next Branch meeting will be at 56, Gore-road, on September 29, at 6 p.m. Tickets for the Kingsway meeting can be obtained from Miss Adams.

Glasgow. Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's Road. The first meeting of the session was held on September 2, and the attendance was exceptionally large. Miss Murray gave a brief account of the summer's work, and made an earnest appeal for helpers to assist with the various sections of work to be done during the winter. Resolutions for the forthcoming conference were considered, and another Branch meeting will be held on Thursday September 23, for further discussion.

Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road. A business meeting was held on August 30 in the W.F.L. rooms. Miss W. M. Jones presided. Reports were given by the treasurer, assistant secretary, and shop secretary, and the syllabus of meetings for the forthcoming session was considered. On September 4 a very enjoyable whist drive was held at "Wynbury," Orchard-road, Linthorpe, by kind permission of Mrs. Smith. The weather was perfect, and we were able to be in the garden all the afternoon. Mrs. Thirkell and Mrs. Wilson very kindly gave prizes, and refreshments were given by Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Coates, Miss Winifred Jones, Mme. Belle Richardson, Mrs. Thirkell, Mrs. Mackereth, Miss Hawkins, Mrs. Rees and Miss Goddard. The highest praise is due to Miss Hawkins, who ably managed afternoon tea for the players with but very little assistance, and also to Mrs. Smith for her kind hospitality in lending her garden.

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FRIDAY,
SEPT. 10,
1915

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

NATIONAL REGISTRATION.

Members of the Women's Freedom League will not need to be reminded that by a vote taken in the Branches of the League, it was decided that resistance to the National Registration Act should not be adopted as the policy of the League. Members, however, being individually free to act as their principles dictate, were not personally bound by this decision; only, should they resist, their case could not be taken up officially by the League.

Since, however, resistance to Government without consent has been the constant tradition of our League, we have thought it of interest to our readers to give space in our columns for the protests which members and sympathisers have embarked on. Miss K. A. Raleigh heads the list, being the first to undergo prosecution; and she is followed by Mrs. Hutty, sentenced at Newcastle, for a resolute refusal to supply information on the ground that she had no vote, and was therefore not a citizen. A distress warrant was issued on account of the fine.

In this case, as in that of Miss Raleigh, on her return to her own home, the Town Clerk appears to desire not to have to proceed to extremities.

In alluding to this prosecution, the *Daily Mail* says:— "When Frederick George Higgs, a traveller, was fined £3 or twenty-eight days' imprisonment at Chester on Saturday for refusing to fill up his National Register form, it was stated that there were only two other cases of refusal in the kingdom. (25,000,000 forms were issued). In the *Daily Mail* of Saturday, the fining of a woman at Newcastle was reported. Who is the third offender?"

The *Daily Mail* is rather poorly served in the matter of information it appears. There will, we opine, be many applicants for the honour!

One of our members filled in her form as below:—

"The Government thinks women good enough to register for war service, but not as citizens!

Paying the same taxes as men.

Residence: Paid for by a woman.

Permanent Residence: A cottage, a ton of coals, and a loaf of bread cost a woman as much as a man.

If born abroad: Denied British citizenship though born in England.

Single, living on her own earnings, which, for purposes of taxation, are classed as unearned.

Dependants: An indefinite number through rates and taxes.

Householder, taxpayer, contributing towards pensions for men. Formerly sick nursing under Government and various hospitals. Received the thanks of Secretary of

State for War for service rendered in Egypt. Now insulted and annoyed by the impertinence of ignorant officials given a little brief authority.

Can ride and drive, one or a pair, gardening, willing to help thrash some of the loafers who sponge on women.

Was in the army on active service as a nursing sister. A voteless woman. Equal pay for equal work. Is the denial of citizenship to women indication of a high state of morals or selfishness on the part of men? "I go for all having a vote who help to support the State, by no means excluding the women." Abram Lincoln."

Another friend and staunch fighter writes from the "West Country":—

"In view of the need of national unity now, I have given the essential information required (nationality and name), but as a woman taxpayer, householder, landowner, and employer of labour *without a vote*, I protest strongly against enforced registration or coercion of any kind for women while the Government insists on keeping them politically helpless. It is not a fair or just thing to use coercion against those who have no voice in the nation's affairs. *Re* voluntary or skilled work question, I wrote that I did not offer voluntary work on an enforced register."

The proceedings in which Miss Boyle is involved, at Stratford, in connection with the Aliens Restriction Amendment Act, open up a new phase of the struggle to retain civil liberty against the growing encroachments of emergency laws and legal interpretations. The question of the very grave menace to public rights involved in the above Act and the National Registration Act will be dealt with next week.

"Amid Subdued Laughter."

In Georgia women are still referred to as "females" in connection with voting. A motion to table the Woman's Suffrage resolution was unanimously carried in the committee of the Senate amid "subdued laughter." These same senators, however, are not averse to receiving salaries which are paid out of the taxes levied on women. While ridiculing the idea of women making laws, they are quite complacent over such laws on their own statute books as ten years for the age of consent. One man in Georgia, however, is sympathetic. When the suffragists of Augusta, Ga., sent tax protests with their cheques, the tax collector wrote on the return vouchers "I am for votes for women." Some of the measures the Georgia suffragists are working for are: full suffrage for women, a compulsory education law, a bill to enable women to practice law, and a law to raise the age of protection for girls from ten to eighteen years.

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