

THE VOTE,
AUGUST 25, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE: Latest Statements in
Parliament & the Press

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIV. No. 357.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

MESSAGE FROM THE BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMAN SUFFRAGE UNION.

THE SWINGING PENDULUM - - - - C. Nina Boyle.

FOOLS' PARADISES - - - - C. Despard.

PARLIAMENT AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE: SUMMARY OF DEBATES. MEN DEMAND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

W.F.L. (POLITICAL AND MILITANT DEPT.) STATEMENT.

THE SURRENDER OF THE BISHOPS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Missing Picture.

After keeping the public in suspense for more than a week, the Cabinet has decided not to be filmed. So Charlie Chaplin is safe. The popular presentment of the People's Chosen seems to have given rise to some ribaldry, and to have put the modest twenty-three to the blush. We shall look forward to the hardening process which the future is sure to effect, and we may yet see Mr. Asquith putting his signature to the Enfranchisement of Women, with Mr. McKenna and Lord Curzon leaning over his shoulder, for tuppence a time. In the meantime we are amused to note that when the notion was expected to "catch on" it was hinted that the idea was King George's; but when it was laughed out of court it was boldly stated to be the suggestion of a woman!

Hope and Repentance.

The Bishop of London has recanted, and is likely to have a sorry time of it in his penitential sheet and candle. His anxiety to divert the wrath of incensed congregations from his own shoulders, or from the shoulders of the egregious Mr. Athelstan Riley, to the shoulders of the devil who tempted them with a woman, is pathetic. We prefer the attitude

of the Bishop of Chelmsford, Dr. Ingram's partner in iniquity. This worthy gentleman has refrained from the open insubordination that disgraced the lesser clergy; but he has announced his intention to submit to Church rulings and traditions in a letter so full of biting sarcasm that we should think any skin less hefty than that of the Athelstan Rileys would be torn to tatters. It all promises badly for the National Mission of Hope and Repentance, which has been turned by fanatic prejudice and hate into a very different thing from the original intention. It is for the clergy now to repent before they are fit to conduct the Mission.

Women and Wages.

The war over wages for women still continues. There is a constant tendency to fix low and unequal rates; but we doubt if Mr. George, or any sweating employer has ever reached the sublime height of Beatrice Heron-Maxwell in *The Daily Mail* of August 16. From an article on "Women Librarians: A Profession that wants Recruits," we cull the following:—

Miss Marian Frost initiated with a handful of books and a couple of rooms what has developed now into a handsome building, with the largest library wholly staffed by women in England. She says that among

RōSROMA TEA

This is a blend of the highest class Darjeeling, with fine Indian Flowery Orange Pekoe.

ROBERT JACKSON & CO.,

THE FINEST QUALITY.
4s. 6d. per lb.

It is an exquisite afternoon tea, being absolutely free from suspicion of tannin; it is eminently suitable for invalids and dyspeptics, while its delicate aroma and perfect flavour commend it to all judges of fine tea.

By Appointment to
His Majesty the King.

**171 & 172, PICCADILLY,
London, W.**

HOUSEHOLD QUALITY.
2s. 9d. per lb.

is more economical than ordinary tea, as a much smaller quantity is required to give the best result.

Free Sample on application.

Sole Proprietors:

Phone:
Regent
1033.

candidates for vacancies "preference is given to those who have passed University Local Examinations, and possessing at least an elementary knowledge of Latin, French, and German."

The salaries are small—designedly so, because this raises the standard of the assistant—and commencing at £25 per annum rise to £160, the highest paid in this country to a fully qualified (woman) librarian.

Miss Frost says that "the right type of girl to take up library work is educated, well read, practical, capable and professionally trained." Also, that "the woman's official ideal should be absence of fuss and officiousness."

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

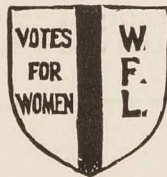
Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.
Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of "Vote" Sales Department—Miss ALIX M. CLARK.
Hon. Head of Literature Department—Miss MARGARET HODGE.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

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



Thursday, August 31.—144, HIGH HOLBORN, Social Committee, 2.30 p.m. LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 6 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 Eunice G. Murray and Miss Evelyn Sharp.

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 Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. E. M. Moore. 3.30 p.m.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Wednesday, October 11.—CAXTON HALL. Speaker: Mrs. Aldridge. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18.—CAXTON HALL. Speaker: Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., on "The Soldiers' Rights." 3.30 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Corner.

Friday, October 20.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting.

Wednesday, October 25.—CAXTON HALL. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinson, on "The Future of Women." 3.30 p.m.

PROVINCIAL.

ABERYSTWYTH CAMPAIGN.—Meetings on the North and South Beach each day at 11.30 a.m. and 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Alix M. Clark.

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.

The Hopeful Outlook.

The President of the Women's Freedom League has received the following letter from Miss Harriet C. Newcomb, hon. sec. of the British Dominions Woman's Suffrage Union:—

International Women's Franchise Club,
9, Grafton-street, W.

August 16, 1916.

DEAR MRS. DESPARD,—May I, on behalf of the Societies which form this Union, send you warmest congratulations on the turn in the Woman's Movement indicated by Mr. Asquith's speech on Monday night. It is indeed a matter for rejoicing that we have achieved this recognition of our claims, even though we know that it has been wrung from the Government. In every part of the Empire the women are rejoicing, and thousands are in thought sending you their heartfelt gratitude for the leadership you have given us these many years of struggle. Warmest thanks are due from us all to the Women's Freedom League for their share in keeping the flag flying during these sad, dark days of war.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

"Most important qualifications are good health, good temper, tact, perseverance, method, and a neat and business-like appearance."

The italics are ours, not Mrs. Heron-Maxwell's. We cannot too heartily commend the "uplift" entailed by earning £25 a year as the reward of a university education, and think this a really wonderful way of "raising the standard" of the woman librarian. It should secure many recruits.

THE SWINGING PENDULUM.

The pendulum of the suffrage clock still swings from side to side with alternating balance. One day Mr. Asquith, Mr. Gulland, and Mr. Long send it in the direction of the women; another, the opposing forces send it flying back with increased momentum. The excellent if somewhat insufferable effect produced by Mr. Asquith's graceful surrender, and the tolerant attitude of Mr. Long—said to be reflected also in the minds of Messrs. Chamberlain, McKenna, and Harcourt—is steadily being "torpedoed" by the old device of dragging in adult suffrage. As before, the attack comes from those who professed themselves our friends. But whereas the "friendship" and "sympathy" of Mr. Lloyd George left us cold, because unconvinced, we did believe in the convictions of Sir John Simon and Mr. Dickinson. If in the present favourable crisis, by too much zeal, they draw attention from the removal of the sex barrier to an entirely different proposition, the tragedy of 1911 and 1912 may be repeated in 1916.

Meanwhile the subject, thrown once more into the arena of debate, is provoking the old insults. The fulsome flattery is falling away, the carping criticism is on its way back. Mr. Sidney Webb has led the way, and *The Daily News* has godfathered the attack. Women, forsooth, cannot ever hope to claim justly the same wages as men. They cannot work so long; they cannot do so much; they cannot be counted on to stay; *they cannot or will not be employed at night!* Mr. Webb appears to be like the Bourbons; he learns nothing and forgets nothing. All the old exploded shibboleths unfor-gotten, unashamed; all the new knowledge and certainty undigested, rejected, ignored. We hope women will not imitate Mr. Webb and the Bourbons. We trust they will learn, *and remember.*

The suggestion, so pleasantly received by Mr. Asquith, that a representative committee should be formed to consider the whole question of the franchise, is a novel and an interesting one. *The Daily Mail* announces a conference in the recess in which representatives of suffrage societies will have a place. We are inclined to think that Mr. Asquith really may be wishing to refer the thorny question to such a conference, failing the Select Committee with which the House of Commons refused to oblige him. The spectacle of the mighty twenty-three in such unseemly haste to evade responsibility contrasts oddly with the autocratic insolence preceding it. Mr. Gulland's frank boast that the Prime Minister's change of mind had greatly altered the situation is a study in cool effrontery. The men who profess to believe in democracy have never yet let the cat so completely out of the bag. It was always pretended that the time was not ripe, or more important matters were afoot, or the country had not given a mandate. But now the truth is revealed in its nakedness; one man's prejudice stood between the country and the other men's principles; between the women of the race and their just rights. No Eastern potentate, no Kaiser, no Balkans princeling, has ever wielded more autocratic rule.

C. NINA BOYLE.

THEY SUPPORT US!

PARLIAMENT & WOMAN SUFFRAGE. House of Commons.

THE SPEAKER'S RULING.

The Speaker was asked by Sir Edward Carson on August 16 whether under the title of the Special Register Bill it would be possible to extend the franchise to soldiers and sailors. Sir John Simon asked whether women could be included.

The Speaker, in the course of his reply, said:

I do not think that an amendment to enfranchise soldiers and sailors and women and other classes of the community, which are not specially contained in this Bill, would be admissible in Committee. If accepted, the result would be that instead of the Bill being a Bill for setting up a special register, it would come out as a Bill adding large numbers, millions, to the franchise, and that, therefore, it ought to be really a Franchise Bill. On the other hand, a certain number of people who have no qualification are under this Bill to be admitted to the franchise, and if the House thinks fit, to enable others to be registered, I think the House might do it by means of an instruction. The proper course, therefore, if hon. Members wish to have soldiers and sailors as such, or women, qualified and introduced on the register, would be to move an instruction to that effect, and then the House will have a clear opportunity of deciding whether or not those classes are to be admitted. Having taken that decision, the admission could afterwards be made and the necessary provisions could be inserted in the Bill to enable those particular classes to appear on the register.

SIR E. CARSON.

As I have already said, I believe that the enfranchisement of soldiers stands upon a different basis from any other extension of the franchise. I do not believe that those who put forward the franchise for women do not themselves see the distinction. I cannot for a moment believe that they would think—and certainly I know that some of them do not think—that by opposing soldiers and sailors who are out in the trenches, going over the parapets and facing machine-guns their cause will be fostered or improved, or by saying in the middle of the war, "We will not allow these men to be enfranchised unless we are."

SIR J. SIMON.

There is to be a special edition of the register which is to come into operation in May, 1918, and will continue in operation until May, 1919. But, supposing that the war is concluded by our own victory before that time; supposing it is brought to a conclusion in the course of next year, surely you cannot, in common fairness, ask women suffragists to say, "Never mind, we accept the special register, from which we are excluded, on the ground that such subjects cannot be considered in time of war," and pass a Bill by which that special register may be the basis on which Parliament can be elected even as late as May, 1919?

MR. DICKINSON.

I believe that most people are anxious and willing to give the right of franchise to every man who has given a service to the country and a sacrifice to the country, and it is because we are willing to take that as a basis of electoral franchise that we at the present time who have stood up for women suffrage say that the same right must be conceded to women as is given to men. Women do not say, "Men shall not have the vote unless we have the vote." What they say is that if service and sacrifice of the individual is to be the basis of the franchise, that where service and sacrifice is shown to have been exhibited it should give the same right as it gives to men.

MR. PRINGLE.

I have in the past, on every occasion when I have an opportunity of voting on the question, voted against women suffrage. But I am inclined in this matter to follow the Prime Minister. I have not been so slavish in my adherence to him that on this occasion I can be accused of having determined my course owing to any particular partiality for the advice of my right hon. friend. It seems to me, however, that the arguments which he has put forward are of the very greatest weight. During this war we have brought into industry in this country women on a scale and to an extent which no one ever contemplated in the past. The women, in fact, are running the industry of the country for the first time, and that involves very serious problems in the period of reconstruction. I think they are problems which must be determined by Parliament, consequently problems in which I think the women have a right to be heard. At the end of the war you are going to bring back to industry a large number of men who have been taken from industry for fighting purposes. How are you going to adjust the rights and claims of the returning soldier with the rights and claims of the women, who for national purposes you have asked to go into industry during the war? I think that for the right adjustment of this question you require to give the women a vote in the election for the Parliament which will determine them. I think both ought to be consulted. That is why I think that both the soldiers and the sailors, on the one hand, and the women on the other, are entitled to be on the new register which is to elect the Parliament of reconstruction.

MR. LONG.

I do not think a distinction can be drawn between the enfranchisement of soldiers and sailors and women and other workers. If sacrifice is to be the basis of our franchise or of a special franchise, what of the women who in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and in the many other capacities, have taken as great risks and have made as great sacrifices as almost any of our soldiers?

MR. GWYNN.

There is the other great question of women suffrage. Let me say this, this question has been approached in terms of sacrifice. I would like to ask any soldiers here: Who is it that really makes the greater sacrifice—is it harder for the boy to go into the trenches or for his mother to let him go? Do you think you would have 5,000,000 voluntary recruits in this country if the women had held back their men? Do you think you can test this question as to whether women should have votes on the basis of whether they can make shells or do service like men? Women are entitled to the vote on their work as women, on the work they do in governing the house, in the education of children, and in their work of preparing men to go out and take their part in the trenches. That is why women deserve the vote.

MAJOR HUNT.

I think that, women having never had votes before, we must of necessity ask them to stand aside till the end of the war under the definite promise that there shall be a Women's Franchise Bill passed through Parliament as soon after the war as can be managed, and, at all events, at the first election after the war.

COMMANDER BELLAIRS.

I entirely disagree with the view that if you are going to give the vote to the soldiers and sailors you thereby drag in the question of women's suffrage as well.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1156.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.
 Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.
 FRIDAY, August 25th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
 To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
 To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
 To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote
 orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.
 Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.
 Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

EDITORIAL.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

FOOLS' PARADISES.

No one can have read attentively the remarkable debate on the second reading of the Special Register Bill without experiencing pity for the Cabinet and the House of Commons in view of the perplexing dilemma in which they find themselves. Our national form of Government is said to be democratic. We are a freedom-loving people; in the stately language of one of our poets we have been broadening out "from precedent to precedent." King, nobles, burghers, hand-workers, agricultural labourers have all had their moment of emancipation, when, as we may remember, floods of rhetoric have been poured out before the goddess of Liberty, whom we are supposed to worship. Comes along a tempest, such as that in the teeth of which we are moving, and we find out that, *au fond*, we are not a democracy at all; that, in fact, now, when it is more than ever necessary for the people to declare themselves, the Paradise of Liberty, in which, as their statesmen never tired of assuring them, they were living, has crumbled to pieces.

The naked truth is that, however fine their sentiments, however splendid their achievements, however firm their resolution to initiate such reforms as may eventually build up a juster and therefore securer social order, there is no way in which now or after the war the people can make themselves felt.

It may be said, "There is public opinion." Yes, we all know it is possible to affect that public opinion—which may be one of the reasons why clergy of the Church of England are so desperately afraid of women addressing congregations of men from their pulpits; but public opinion takes long to move, and, in the meantime, if the democracy is not awake and vigorous, the golden opportunity will be lost, and in the momentous five years immediately following the war, another Fool's Paradise, destined to even more tragic destruction, may be formed.

All this was apparent in last week's debate in the House of Commons. The particular Bill the members were discussing was torn to pieces shred by shred, until it occurred to one to wonder how anything so futile and ineffective could have been placed before a sensible body of men. It was only when it became evident that it was intended as a makeshift—a way of providing for an emergency which will probably never arise—that one could understand even the first reading being passed.

One point, however, is clear. The House, under its leader, Mr. Asquith, has fully conceded the principle of our right to representation. Many

speakers went further. They saw, as we do, that a continuance of the present state of things would be a scandal and a danger, and so far all is well. What concerns us, as women, workers and mothers, is to see that, without any further delay, substance and form shall be given to the sentiment of the House and the feeling in the country. In a word, some assurance must be given to us that business is meant. We have been too often cajoled with fair words not to be cautious. The issues before us are of so momentous a character that we cannot consent to a compromise. To quote from an illuminating article in *The Nation*—

Their (the women's) influence as prospective voters on members will begin to tell from the moment that their early emancipation is certain; but it will not tell if that must be postponed till the second election, five, six, or seven years ahead.

Various suggestions as to the method of effecting what is manifestly the desire of the nation have been put forward. Many think that a Select Committee of the House of Commons might be appointed to draft an Adult Suffrage Bill, and it is proposed by *The Nation*—

That the House might itself declare in the autumn by resolution that it desires to enfranchise women. It would thus have given its mandate to the Cabinet, and a Reform Bill, resting on the consent of all parties to the Coalition, might then be introduced early in the next session.

This is how it stands at the present moment, a position far more hopeful than it has ever been. But we must not follow the politicians and set up a Fool's Paradise. Neither to-day, nor even tomorrow, when the first of the barriers to our national effectiveness is overthrown, must we sit down idly and say, "We have done our work." On the contrary, opportunities for a far more perfect service than we have yet been able to render to our land are now opening before us. The prevalence of race-destroying disease; the unfitness of so many of our young men for military, naval, or, indeed, strenuous civil service; the miserable life-conditions of great masses of our people; the piteous waste of our national resources—the land and its products; the inefficiency of the laws that regulate labour—such thorny problems as these, with the necessary international settlement, it will be the duty of the first Peace Parliament to face. That it should owe its existence to an election based on franchise laws whose props and standards have hopelessly broken down and a makeshift register is unthinkable.

It is; in fact, a new electorate we need, and, happily, it can be found. When we say new it must be understood that we mean the coming in of new elements. For this new electorate will include the women who have borne bravely in these bitter days their share of sacrifice, soldiers and sailors and returned prisoners, young in years but old in experience, determined, as we know is the case with many of them, to create conditions which will render a recurrence of the present horrors impossible for the future, and unskilled workers, doing skilled work, yet still voteless. Such an electorate, chastened by sorrow and vividly alive to the importance of their duty, will not choose their representatives lightly. Neither party politicians nor glib orators nor business-as-usual profiteers will appeal to these reformed constituencies. They will demand true and stalwart men to speak and act in their name.

Pessimists may say, "That is all very fine in theory, but where are such men to be found?" We do not deny that the question presents difficulties, but we believe it will be in the future as it has been in the past. The Great Mother has her surprises. These days of crisis have proved that there is no failure in her heroic blood. Are we so stupid

as to imagine that while war can produce heroes peace is barren of resource? That would be to deny religion and to degrade humanity. Because we are certain that there are great ones—heroes of peace—in our land, and that we shall have the opportunity of helping to place in their hands the instruments they will need to build up, not a Fool's Paradise, but a big National Home, based on righteousness, we rejoice in the turn our movement has taken, and look forward with hope to the future.

C. DESPARD.

PARLIAMENT & WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The House of Lords.

On August 21 the House of Lords considered the Government's proposals. Lord Crewe said that nobody could dispute the reasonableness of the argument that if large additions were made in respect of war service to the franchise as it now existed, the claims of women ought to be reconsidered, whether Parliament chose or not to grant them; and, in reply to a question by Lord Cromer, added that he thought he could promise that women would not be introduced by the Government.

Lord Cromer said everyone recognised the splendid work that was being done by women in the prosecution of the war; but it would be a great mistake to suppose that it was being done only by suffragists. To his own knowledge many of the women workers were ardent anti-suffragists. He understood that some of those who before the war were opposed to female franchise had, on account of recent events, changed their minds, and were disposed to give women the vote. Even the Prime Minister, who was a staunch anti-suffragist, had very considerably modified his views. But there was a very considerable number of anti-suffragists who were by no means inclined to follow the Prime Minister's lead, and their objection to the extension of the franchise to women would probably be as strong after the war as it had been before. If the advocates of female franchise thought they were going to have "a walk over," they were labouring under a grave delusion. The anti-suffragists were, very properly, quiescent until the war was over, but they were unshaken in their determination to offer the strongest opposition to a measure which, in their opinion, would be highly detrimental to the highest interests of the country.

Lord Tenterden insisted that those who served their country in the war, whether women or men, had the best right to the franchise. He thought it would be as impossible to deny the vote to women who had worked for the country as to the men who had fought for it.

Lord Lansdowne declared that the Government proposed to leave the franchise alone, but to provide against the disfranchisement of men whose response to the call of their country would deprive them of their votes.

ELECTORAL REFORM CONFERENCE.

Replying on August 21 to Mr. Wardle and Sir J. Simon, who asked questions with reference to the suggestion made by the President of the Local Government Board for the setting up of a representative conference on electoral reform, Mr. Asquith said: I think that the suggestion made by my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board is a very valuable one, and I hope to be able to give effect to it, and that an indication of the procedure to be adopted may shortly be made.

Sir J. Simon asked if the Prime Minister would

consider the putting at the disposal of such a conference any legislative drafts that there might be for the extension of the franchise on wide lines which would prove suitable for such a conference to consider?—Mr. Asquith: Yes; as far as possible, certainly.

The Political Correspondent of *The Daily Mail*, writing on an "All Parties' Round Table Talk," says (August 22): "During the Parliamentary recess an important conference on electoral reform will be held under the auspices of the Government. It is being initiated by Mr. Walter Long, President of the Local Government Board, and rooms in the offices of that Board will be given for the sittings. Those present will include representatives of all political parties in the House of Commons, representatives of party organisations outside, of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Labour movement, and commerce. Four main subjects are to be discussed—registration, the franchise, redistribution, and amendments of the Ballot Act. If the conference comes to any conclusions and recommendations these will be presented to the House of Commons and embodied by the Government in a Bill to be introduced after the recess."

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

The Political and Militant Department of the Women's Freedom League has sent the following statement to the Press:—

While holding now, as in the past, that the present is the right time to press for votes for women until that measure of justice shall be won, and that war, even more than peace, has shown the extreme urgency of the need, the Women's Freedom League will not embark on any special campaign of protest against the Government's registration proposals provided that there is strict adherence to the understanding that "no fresh voters be admitted to the register, and that the basis of the franchise remain unaltered." Should any door be opened whereby men not already on the voters' roll, or qualified to be on it under the old terms, may secure representation, the Women's Freedom League will organise the most determined opposition.

In this decision the Women's Freedom League takes its stand on the same ground as the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, and the other societies who have never wavered in their demand for votes for women under the same qualifications as are or shall be required of men.

There could, however, be no more suitable opportunity for conceding the now entirely popular claim of the women of the country to enfranchisement, under a Coalition Government and with the question of the voters' roll prominently under consideration.

The Women's Freedom League holds it to be extremely regrettable that some suffrage societies should have allowed themselves to be drawn into the agitation for Adult Suffrage before the sex barrier has been removed for ever. Adult Suffrage involves asking for votes for more men, and therefore can form no part of the Women's Suffrage programme.



For Cleaning & Dyeing
 send to

Achille Serre Ltd.

Head Office: Hackney Wick, London.

MEN DEMAND VOTES FOR WOMEN.

The Chief Whip's Declaration.

The Northern men reappeared at Downing-street last Friday morning to present to the Prime Minister a petition from the Edinburgh and Leith voters on the question of the inclusion of women in any Registration or Franchise Bill. They were unsuccessful in seeing the Premier, but after some delay they were received by the Chief Whip, Mr. J. Gulland, M.P. The deputation, headed by Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett (founder and President of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage), included:

Mr. J. Campbell (President of the Edinburgh Trades Council), Mr. A. Smith (secretary of the Edinburgh Trades Council), Mr. Brunton (trustee of the Edinburgh Trades Council), Councillor Drummond (Loanhead, Edinburgh), Councillor Stewart (Glasgow), Bailie Hamilton Brown (ex-Chairman of the Labour Party in the Glasgow Town Council), Mr. Wilson McLaren (the Scottish author), Mr. Alexander Orr, and Mr. Robert Ferguson (of the Northern Men's Federation).

Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett pointed out that it was with the object of avoiding a dangerous agitation that they had come to point out the danger of ignoring women in any Registration or Franchise Bill which would dominate the next general election. Bailie Hamilton Brown stated that the Glasgow people were ready to give women the vote. As women were now engaged in doing men's work at the same wages as men they were entitled to the franchise.

Mr. Gulland informed the deputation that not only had they made out a clear case, but they had nothing to fear. A great advance had been made during the last month or two in regard to the question. Mr. Asquith's statement that he would no longer oppose the enfranchisement of women indicated a very great change in regard to the question, and it was only a matter of time when women would have the vote. He would do all he could personally as he had been a lifelong supporter of woman suffrage. He had great hopes that all difficulties would be overcome.

"Penance for the Past."

In a letter published in *The Manchester Guardian* on August 21, the deputation states certain facts which it desired to lay before the Prime Minister. If every man is to have a vote, every woman has an equal right to one.

If it should be said that the women's vote may preponderate by even one or two millions, we want publicly to register our faith in women, inasmuch as we do not believe such preponderance, which is, after all, only the mother spirit enfranchised, will injure the community; and we think that with women in the body politic many of the elements which have produced the wholesale depletion of men will be removed, and the question of equality in this matter automatically readjust itself. Women have suffered so long from a preponderance of seven million male votes against none at all for themselves that we fervently hope Parliament will not haggle over the question in a parochial spirit, but will give a good Imperial lead to the nation and do the just and equitable thing, if only as penance for the past.

Scotsman (London News), Aug. 17.

"I understand that the women's suffrage question was not the one on which Ministers were most acutely divided. Opinion on that subject has undergone a marked change. The Prime Minister indicated the other day that he no longer stands where he did. Mr. Harcourt, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. McKenna and Mr. Long, who shared his hostility to female enfranchisement, are believed to be, if not converted, at least in a mood in which conversion is possible. Indeed, Lord Curzon is understood to be the solitary stalwart against any concession to the women. The shifting of opinion among private members has, as I indicated the other night, been considerable. Several have openly avowed their change of view, and the advocates of women's suffrage may fairly regard their ideal as having reached a more favourable position than ever before."

The Outlook, Aug. 19.

"We can go so far with Mr. Asquith as to agree that the experiences of the war have put the question of the suffrage on quite another basis. For example, the argument

that women are not entitled to a vote inasmuch as they do not contribute to the defence of the realm has lost whatever force it may have possessed. No impartial mind could maintain that they have not shown all the qualities equipping them for the task of helping to select the nation's legislators."

The Referee (Vanoc), Aug. 20.

"Not one of us thinks as he thought in July, 1914. All my life I have been an opponent of women suffrage mainly because continuity of purpose was apparently impossible, from physical and mental reasons, to the other sex. I am now convinced by the war, after careful study of the facts, that continuity of purpose and labour is possible to so large a section of the other sex that it will be impossible to resist the demand of women for the suffrage after the war. Further, the folly, deceit, stupidity and waste during this war convinces me that in the hard times that are coming women's 'housekeeperly' virtues are necessary for the regeneration of England. What form this change should take cannot be settled during the war. But women have earned the right to be heard in the national councils. The part they have played in winning the war is their victory."

The Nation, Aug. 19.

"Only one force prevented the realisation of suffragist hopes somewhere between 1910 and 1913, and that force was Mr. Asquith's will. The concern with which suffragists scrutinise any partial and patchwork reform has nothing whatever to do with any lack of keenness over the soldiers' vote. We certainly should be the last to desire an aged electorate. The hope of a better future for the world rests with the young men who in all nations have experienced the devilry of war—with them and with women."

"The Prime Minister's choice of this argument [women's position in industry] for the enfranchisement of women, and the emphasis which he laid on it, must mean, as in logic it clearly does mean, that every effort will be made to enable women to vote at the next election. We anticipate the objection that even now some members of the Cabinet retain their old opinions. They are not indispensable. But while we hold that the Cabinet must assume responsibility for the Bill which enfranchises women, the initiative in settling the principle might very well be left to the House."

Observer, Aug. 20.

"If you enfranchise the sailors and soldiers, argued the Prime Minister, you must enfranchise the women, and that will rouse a controversy which will distract the attention of Ministers and Parliament from the conduct of the war. But the justice of the claim, both on behalf of the fighting men and of the working and suffering women is admitted, and, if justice is admitted, justice must be done. What is gained by postponing the season? The period of reconstruction will be not less busy than the period of the war, and the comparative unanimity which the war has brought with it will be lost in the recrudescence of questions which divide parties and classes. It is to deal with these questions that we want the fullest and strongest representation of the public mind and will that we can get."

THE SURRENDER OF THE BISHOPS.

The Bishop of London, returning from a visit to the Grand Fleet, discovering the bitter agitation against his limited sanction to "Women Messengers" to speak to women in churches, writes:—

Quite clearly this limited concession has been widely misunderstood. Nothing must be allowed to harm the Mission. The Devil is, no doubt, working for some way of doing it, and he must not be allowed to succeed.

Meantime, the Bishop has gone on holiday and is to consider the question on his return. Mr. Holford Knight has written strongly in favour of "Women Messengers," and declares the question is only in abeyance, not buried.

The Bishop of Chelmsford writes as follows in the course of a lengthy "explanation":—

Knowing, as the Bishop of London and I do, the real difficulties of parochial work and the frequent inadequacy and noise of many parochial buildings, we wished during the Mission to secure as far as possible a spirit of reverence begotten by such gatherings being held in the church, and that there, in the quiet of God's House, a woman should speak to her sisters of the love of their common Lord. I would ask anyone thoughtfully to consider whether this would have been accepted and blessed by the Lord of the Church Himself as He looked down at that gathering. . . .

Yet what is to be done? The natural man would say, "Resist the unfair agitation, largely begotten of ignorance and prejudice." But such a spirit would surely wreck the Mission, for no blessing could rest upon it conducted on such lines. I have therefore decided that during the Mission I shall not sanction any woman telling her sisters of the Saviour's love in any church in the diocese of Chelmsford.

RAISE THE FLAG HIGH.

Some months ago, foreseeing the need for instant activity which has now arisen, the Women's Freedom League started a special fund of 50,000 shillings to maintain our organisation in health and vigour.

We are thus to-day in a position to insist that there shall be

No additional votes for men whilst every woman in the land is passed over.

The last list shows that so far 11,875 shillings have come into the fund.

New friends and helpers are rising up all around us as they see the necessity for woman's co-operation in the State. To all these new friends, as well as to our old and tried supporters, we earnestly appeal to

Send the rest of the 50,000 shillings.

Every reader can send a shilling on seeing this; many can send twenty, a hundred, or more.

Do not delay, but do it now.

All contributions, big and little, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

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

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	25	531	19
50,000 Shilling Fund (including Birthday Fund, first instalment) previously acknowledged	5	15	10
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend"	2	10	0
Mrs. Knight	1	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray	1	0	0
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss M. Fox	13	0	
Miss E. E. Sale	2	6	
Clapham Branch	2	0	
Herne Hill and Norwood Branch	6	0	
Hornsey Branch	10	0	
Kensington Branch	10	6	
Mid-London Branch	1	8	6
Tottenham and Stamford Hill Branch	4	0	
Tufnell Park Branch	4	0	
Donations and collections, per Miss Clark (Buxton Campaign)	17	19	6
Mrs. I. James, per Miss Clark (Aberystwyth Campaign)	5	0	0
Donations and collections, per Miss Clark (Reading Campaign)	4	1	6
Mrs. Herbert Cohen	3	0	0
Women's International League (Suffrage Debate)	7	2	
Miss A. B. Spencer	3	0	
Tickets	2	7	6
Office Sales	3	0	
Branches (Capitation Fees)—			
Manchester	13	0	
Regent's Park	6		
	£921	19	10

The Hon. Treasurer would be glad to receive a note of Branch Funds, January to June, 1916, for inclusion in the Treasury list.

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

Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Carey for most useful additions to our furniture; to Mrs. West, Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire, for very welcome flowers; and to Dr. Knight, for much-appreciated gift of cooking utensils. We are still in need of coal for the winter, for which we shall be very glad to give the order to our coal merchant; also of offers of help for demonstration of gas-saving device. Come and see our toy window, with fascinating cats and rabbits, washable, 7d., 9d., and 2s.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1156.

Aberystwyth Campaign.

Enthusiasm, response, and sincerity have been the keynotes of the Aberystwyth campaign during the past week. The visit of Mr. Lloyd George to the National Eisteddfod and Mr. Asquith's statement in the House of Commons on the justice of women's claim to enfranchisement added fresh vigour and zest to the meetings. Miss Anna Munro has addressed six meetings during the week. The new political situation has been keenly discussed and criticised, but Miss Munro made it quite clear that, although the position of Woman's Suffrage had been made more hopeful through the Prime Minister's declaration, not until the vote was won for women would the Women's Freedom League slacken their energies. Her statement was received with applause and cheers. Special collections have been made in the streets in aid of the campaign, and in spite of other war collections the public gave most willingly to the Women's Freedom League; £6 was collected and over 1,100 copies of THE VOTE sold. Many people now take THE VOTE weekly; an old gentleman remarked that it was the only paper he read with any sense in it.

I gratefully acknowledge: Dr. Knight, £1; Capt. and Mrs. Giles, 4s. 6d. The campaign will be continued for another month. ALIX M. CLARK (Hon. Organiser).

Granville, North-parade, Aberystwyth.

Children and the War.

"Paterfamilias" writes to point out that a paragraph of his article on "Children and the War," as published in our issue of August 4, and dealing with the employment of school-children out of school hours, did not convey the fact as he put it, namely, "that in the inquiry there was quite 50 per cent. of boys in a large class working excessive hours, whilst in the corresponding class of girls there were only three working out of school hours, and these at most trifling work. Other inquiries have brought out the same fact, namely, that it is school-boy labour that is being exploited whilst girls are almost less occupied than before the war."

Branch Note.

Ipswich.

Our meetings have come to an end for the present, but will begin again the second or third week in September. We had a good number of members at our last meeting, and finished our supply of hospital requisites for Salonica. We hope to start work again with a social evening, and trust all members will do their best to help us to keep going during the coming winter by contributions and attending the meetings. We shall work for the "Green, Gold and White Fair" next. Remember, we are the only society in Ipswich to keep the suffrage flag flying.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton St., Piccadilly, W. FORMEN & WOMEN.
Subscription: One Guinea per annum from date of Entrance (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10/6).
Weekly LECTURES and MEETINGS.
VALUABLE LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARY of English and Foreign Books free to Members. Non-members, 5/6 per annum.
EXCELLENT Catering. Luncheons & Dinners from 1/-
All Particulars—Secretary. Tel.: MAYFAIR 3932.

The Lavender Laundry

The most delicate LACES, MUSLINS, LAWNS, SILKS, SHIRTS, COLLARS
Dressed in an altogether Superior Style Equal to New.

STRAFFORD RD., ACTON, W. Telephone: 822 Chiswick.
This Laundry is Governed Entirely by a Woman.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

THEY SUPPORT US!

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 25,
1916.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.



ELEGANT EYE-GLASSES

At Very Moderate Prices.

Mr. McCLEAN will be pleased to test the eyes of readers of this paper entirely free of charge and advise thereon. By our method of testing the sight and fitting the individual face, perfect satisfaction is assured, both with regard to sight and comfort in wear.

Gold-filled Spectacles and Pince-Nez from 5/- per pair.

We hold a large selection of LOUIS LORNETTES, as illustrated, latest designs, at 15/-.

A. E. McCLEAN,
Ophthalmic Optician,
37, ALDWYCH, W.C.
(Under the Waldorf Hotel.)

MADAME JARDINE

makes

Elegant and ::
Simple Gowns

From Three Guineas.

60, Dingwall Road,
CROYDON.

TOYE & CO.,

57, Theobald's Road,
London, W.C.,

Specialists in

BANNERS, REGALIA, BUTTONS, BADGES,
ROSETTES for every Society.

Designs and Estimates Free.

'Phone: 3820 Central. Established 1855. Wire: "Modifying, London."

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY,

69, UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

Mr. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.
Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by qualified Medical Man, Fee 7s. 6d.
Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.
Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door.
CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone: 3795 North.

Help BRITISH Industries by Drinking SALUTARIS WATER

WHOLESOME & DELICIOUS.

AERATED OR STILL.

Absolutely free from all impurities. Made with pure distilled water.
Salutaris Water, Ginger Ale, Ginger Beer, Lemonade and Orangelle
(thin slice of orange added makes delicious cup).

Very inexpensive.—Send p.c. for price list to:—

SALUTARIS WATER CO. Ltd., 236 Fulham Rd., London, S.W.

CLASSIFIED Advertisements are charged:—

1s. 3d. for the first 20 words or under,
6d. for every 12 ,, following.

FOR SALE.

HANDSOME PURPLE FIGURED SILK EVENING CLOAK, lined primrose satin. Worn few times. £2, or offer.

GOLD HEART-SHAPE LOCKET, set small diamond, and Rope Pattern Chain. 27s.

VERY PRETTY EVENING ZOUAVE. 7s. 6d.

WELLBANK COOKER, used twice. 7s.

12 APOSTLE TEASPOONS AND SUGAR TONGS in case. Silver, 30s.

ELECTRO-PLATED TABLE EGG BOILER (4 eggs). £1, or offer. Proceeds to go to "THE VOTE" Fund.

MOSS AGATE PENDANT AND TWO OLD SCOTCH BROOCHES in the old settings. 25s. the lot, or would separate.

DARK LILAC SILK SPORTS COAT; GREY FIGURED SILK DITTO. 12s. 11d. each.

All above articles can be seen at, or particulars obtained from the Secretary, "THE VOTE" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

WANTED.

LONG BLACK COAT for lady 5ft. 6in.; medium weight; suitable any occasion; moderate price.—Box 51, "THE VOTE" Office.

PASTE BUCKLE for neck-band.—Box 50, "THE VOTE" Office.

COLLOA, 5-6, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

Tailor-made

Raincoats,

Travelling Wraps,

and Costumes

at reasonable prices. Suitable for present and early Autumn wear.

A DIANTHA (see Mrs. Gilman's "What Diantha Did").—Freedom League member, officer's wife with young baby, requires Helper with up-to-date ideas to run small house, North England, winter months; required to take over the cooking, keep strict accounts; and share housework; soldier servant does all rough work; unable to offer large salary, but much free time, congenial atmosphere, and plenty of scope for propaganda work for keen suffragist.—Write MRS. WINIFRED GILES, Stone Cottage, Hengoed, near Oswestry.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AT THE STRAND IMPERIAL HOTEL, opposite Gaiety Theatre, Strand, London. Absolute Privacy, Quietude and Refinement. Ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters. Sumptuous Bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted, Breakfast, Bath, Attendance and Lights, from 5s. 6d. En pension, 9s. For long stays, special terms. Finest English provisions.—MANAGERESS, 4788 Gerrard.

THE HANDICRAFT AND POTTERY SHOP, 56, LYMINGTON-ROAD, FINCHLEY-ROAD, HAMPSTEAD.—Handweavings, Silks, Linens, Cottons, &c., Smocks, Homespun, Rugs, Laces, Jewellery, Metal Work, Baskets, Leather Work, Pottery, &c.

WANTED, a Lady, experienced in Canteen work, to assist in Y.M.C.A. Hut. Board and lodging; no salary.—Apply personally, LEADER, Y.M.C.A. Hut, Fulham Military Hospital, Hammersmith.

EARLY COPIES of "THE VOTE" for Sale. What offers? Also various pieces of crochet and embroidery.—Women's Freedom League, 22, Queen's-street, Ipswich.

64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM, free. Send for one.—TRIMMELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-rd., Cardiff. Est. 1879.

NEAR THE BRITISH MUSEUM

KINGSLEY HOTEL

Hart Street, Bloomsbury Square, LONDON

Well-appointed and commodious TEMPERANCE HOTEL. Passenger Lifts and Bathrooms on every floor, Lounges, and Spacious Dining, Drawing, Writing, Reading, Billiard and Smoking Rooms.

Perfect Sanitation, Fireproof Floors, Telephones, Night Porters.

Bedroom, Breakfast, Attendance & Bath, 6/6 per night per person.

Full Tariff and Testimonials on application. Tel.: Museum 1232. 2 lines.