

THE VOTE,
Nov. 19th, 1915.
ONE PENNY.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 371

(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, Nov. 19, 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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WHAT EDUCATION STANDS FOR.

"You cannot Rob a Child without Hurting the Nation."—Lord Shaftesbury.

In Mrs. Despard's leading article of a few weeks ago she made a noble appeal to save the children, and not to let our much talked of economies be shown only in the direction of robbing the children of their education. I, too, would like to emphasise this point, but not so much for the sake of the children, though I acknowledge their importance, as for the sake of the nation.

Personally, I find it hard to believe that wars will ever cease unless through better education and through uplifting the young. Education and more education, not less, is the hope of the future. If we study history, the melancholy conclusion is forced upon us that physical force has always prevailed; it has been the ultimate test, the last word; and unless we ourselves change, unless we teach our children new ideals they are likely to continue the test.

I do not believe that International law alone or nationalisation of armaments will help; all that will help us is by teaching new ideals and new conceptions to the young. If we learn to think justly, to teach justice, and to practice it, between sexes, classes and nations, peace will not be impossible; but we must begin by teaching the young. That our educational system needs revising and improving I do not deny but that it should be curtailed is monstrous. I believe, purely from an economical point of view, it would pay us rather to lengthen the school years than shorten them.

Children of the working class already leave school too early, just at the age when children of another class begin to benefit by what they are taught, and their minds unfold more rapidly and respond more promptly to the teacher than in earlier years. The problem of education is one we should set ourselves seriously to study. After the war, when peace is restored, will come the great testing time. The countries that will recuperate and recover rapidly are the ones that have well educated children coming on, healthy in body, strong in intellect, ready to build up and repair the shattered work and

trade of the world. Germany is our great rival in education; let us beat her. Long ago she realised the importance of education, her motto was "Die Zukunft wird der besten unterrichteten Nation gehören" (The Future will belong to the best educated nation). Since 1872 Germans have made enormous strides in education. Generally speaking, their school and curriculum resembled our own, but they were more thorough in their organisation. They did much for their crippled and mentally deficient children, and they were the pioneers in forest schools for sickly children, as they held that sun and air was of greater importance to the delicate child than costly buildings. Before the war, Germany was *par excellence* the land of continuation and special schools. The authorities did not believe in abandoning the children of fourteen years without guidance or assistance to determine their careers, so compulsory continuation classes were started in 1884. For every position in life, for every trade or calling, there was a prescribed course of preparation, a definite special training. It is owing to their thoroughness that the Germans have forged ahead, and it is because we must be prepared, not only to keep but to extend our trade, that I advocate no diminution in our school hours; rather let us have more facilities for learning, open up new branches, and employ the best teachers, so that our young people when they leave school may be properly equipped to take their places in the world. The start of the special education scheme in Germany dates from the period of inaction and prostration following the Napoleonic wars. After the defeat at Jena, King Frederick William exclaimed "Germany must regain by intellectual power what she has lost in material power." For this purpose it is my desire that everything possible may be done to extend and perfect the education of the people. Let us see to it that instead of depriving our children of their education we shall, if possible, perfect and improve it.

Little comparatively has so far been done for

girls; let us ask for them special training for trade or businesses, do not let us allow them to drift into the unskilled trades. If girls are now thoroughly trained in mercantile knowledge and are ready to take their places in offices and shops, when the war is over and when countries are once more thinking of commercial matters, they will then play an important part in building up and expanding our commerce. Future prosperity is for those who are prepared, who are organised and ready, who are intellectually trained and developed. Opportunities will be seized by those who have some special knowledge, and they only will be of value to the community, who have specialised in some particular way. If changes are to be made, let us have more education, not less, so that when the time comes, our boys and girls may be ready. But do not let

Women's Freedom League.

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HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

Our "Wednesdays."

Next Wednesday afternoon at St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. (entrance in Little Russell-street), the Rev. Charles Ord Warlow, rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury, will speak on "National Co-operation v. Private Competition." The second speaker will be Miss Nina Boyle and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Corner at 3.30. The subject of Mr. Warlow's address is of the greatest possible interest at the present moment, and we hope our readers will urge their friends to come to St. George's Vestry to discuss this matter next Wednesday. The following week, December 1, we shall have the pleasure of listening to Miss Helena Normanton, the title of whose address will be "The Paradoxes of the Balance of Power."

Our Green, White and Gold Fair.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Fair we are holding at Caxton Hall, Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27. On both days wounded soldiers will be our guests, and we rely on our friends to come and help us entertain them. We want more articles for our stalls for Sufferers in the War—for wounded soldiers and sailors, British prisoners of war, nurses in Serbia, and for Belgian, French, and Polish refugees. Mrs. Fisher will gratefully acknowledge all parcels addressed to this Office for these stalls or for others from which Christmas presents for friends can be purchased. An elaborate programme of musical and dramatic entertainments has been arranged by Mrs. Corner. We shall have a Grand Russian Concert; first rate artistes, whose names we shall announce in next week's issue of THE VOTE, will take part in the proceedings. Among the other attractions will be exhibitions of nursing, ju-jitsu, and dancing, psychic delineations, competitions, games, etc. Refreshments will be served in the large hall, where we shall have a Women's Orchestra. Tickets of admission can be obtained from our Office, at 144, High Holborn, or at the doors of Caxton Hall, the prices being 1s. before 5 p.m., after 5 p.m. 6d. The Fair will be open each day from 2.30 p.m. till 9 p.m.

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us forget that the system of our education and the ideas we teach can well be revised.

Materialistic prosperity is something, but it is not all. Materialistic prosperity unless it is properly safeguarded may spell national ruin. We must be ready to build up an international trade, we must be ready to plead for true international feeling, ready, wherever we send our young people, into whatever country they penetrate, to show that their education stands for justice and honesty, as well as learning, and that only by this form of education can nations understand each other. They must show that reason and education are against war, and that the future of the world depends upon good understanding, and that the keystone to understanding is education.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Appointments.

We are glad to state that Miss Hodge, who has done so much work for the Women's Suffrage Union, British Dominions Overseas, has kindly consented to become the honorary head of our Literature Department, and that Miss A. E. Jacob has most kindly undertaken the duties of the honorary head of our Merchandise Department during Mrs. Snow's absence. Readers will be cheered to learn that Mrs. Snow is much improved in health, and is looking forward to paying a visit to our Green, White, and Gold Fair. Her Merchandise Stall is well provided with a splendid assortment of goods.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Taking the King's Place.

Queen Mary has represented the King on several occasions since his unfortunate accident. A few days ago she conferred military decorations on Indian soldiers.

Lady Paget's Devotion.

Lady Paget refused to leave her post at the hospital at Uskub, despite the entreaties of her husband and friends, before the capture of the town by the Bulgarians. In recognition of her bravery, the retreating Serbians left 200 Austrian prisoners to act as attendants and servants in the hospital, as well as to protect her in the event of trouble with the Bulgarians, says an Exchange cable.

Munition Workers.

Women have been tried on work of which they have never before been thought capable—work requiring both strength and skill—and they have demonstrated, not their equality, but their superiority to men of the same class and standing. The same report comes from every quarter in which the experiment has been tried.—*Daily News* Special Correspondent November 16.

"Master" of Workhouse.

Mrs. J. Flint has been appointed master of the Constance-road, East Dulwich, Workhouse, in the place of her husband, thus setting him free for military service.

Milking School.

Lady Petre has started a milking school on her estate at Thorndon Park, Essex. It is to be open to school children, boys and girls, and any women who may like to learn.

Women Victims.

Women were in the majority of killed and injured by the Austrian aeroplane which dropped bombs on the market at Verona last Sunday morning.

THEY SUPPORT US!

MAN-MADE LAWS: A DISCOVERY.

A summer holiday; rooms in a country cottage; and an idle moment. I look about me for entertainment. I scan the book-shelf. Not much there—a Bible, a prayer book, a dictionary and—what is this? A "Prophetic Almanac or Messenger." "My husband finds it very useful in telling him about the weather," says my landlady. But I am not particularly interested just now in the weather. I turn the pages and come to:—

"Rules by which the Personal Estates of persons dying Intestate are Distributed."

Let me see what it says about that. I begin—

If the intestate dies leaving—

Wife only (being a wife myself, I pick out only those clauses dealing with the wife, as having most interest for me).

Wife only—Half to wife, half to Crown.

(With a note stating that since the Intestate's Estate Act, 1890, came into force, if under £500 the wife takes the whole, and if over, she still gets the £500, and an equal share of all beyond. Just think of it.!!)

Wife, child or children—One-third to wife, two-thirds to children, or their issue.

Wife and Father—Half to wife, half to father.

Wife and mother—Half to wife, half to mother.

Wife, brothers and sisters—Half to wife, half equally amongst brothers and sisters, whether of the whole-blood or half-blood, or their issue.

Wife, mother, nephew and nieces—Half to wife, one-fourth to mother, one-fourth to nephews and nieces.

And so it goes on. Six whole clauses in which the wife appears, and in every one of which, you will observe, care is taken that she shall at least have some small portion "all for her very own" as the children say. Her needs, of course, don't amount to a great deal, or should not, and even though the husband was earning good pay during his life-time and the greater part of his income dies with him, still, she has much to be thankful for. The crumbs doled out to her might so easily have been less, and it surely must be a comfort to her to feel that no one is left out; not even nephews and nieces!

And although, to her inferior intellect, it may seem to be going a little unnecessarily far a-field to call in the Crown to partake of the feast, she must admit there is no absolute reason why it too should not come in for some of the "pickings."

Anyway, the drawing-up of these laws must have cost the male minds engaged in the enterprise, much consideration and thought, and what carping female can complain that she has been forgotten? Personally I am filled with amazement. Goodness gracious! Have I been married these twenty years or more, and never known all this before! Is it too, an ignorance I should be ashamed to acknowledge? There are two other married women in my immediate neighbourhood, and to them I hasten, to communicate my discovery, and to compare notes. But they too, I find, are as ignorant of their good fortune as I myself was. Surely such a state of things ought not to be.

I return to the "Prophetic Almanac or Messenger" and settle myself for another twenty minutes, or may be, half-hour, in which to peruse the clauses dealing with the property of the wife, should she die intestate. Here we are:—

If the Intestate die leaving—

Husband— Whole to him.

I receive quite a shock! I take off my glasses! I put them on again! But without avail. They reveal nothing more than those three expressive words: "Whole to him." (The "Prophetic Almanac or Messenger" doesn't give the pronoun a capital, but I feel the need of one.) "Whole to Him." The ubiquitous nephews and nieces even are not in it.

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What can be the reason? There must be some explanation somewhere, if we only look for it. Let us take into consideration the time already spent in dealing with the wife's expectations. That indeed must have been considerable, and it is no doubt growing late. Perhaps the poor dears—I refer to the compilers—are getting tired and hungry, and their thoughts turn irresistibly homewards, to the good meals so carefully prepared for them by those faithful spouses for whom they have just now been providing so handsomely. With the gallantry of their sex, placing "ladies first," they have spent so long over their interests, that they have neither time nor energy for the consideration of their own. A brief and rapid statement is the only course. So there it stands. A monument of simplicity, truly worthy of the ponderous brain of man. Whole to Him! "Brevity," we are told, "is the soul of wit!" Could it be possible— But no, that *can* have nothing to do with it, for I feel convinced that nothing was further from the thoughts of these learned gentlemen than the idea of rendering themselves entertaining.

Be that as it may, the facts as they stand should surely be more generally known. No married woman should be kept in ignorance of what so nearly concerns her. I would advise that these clauses—nicely printed and neatly framed—should be hung in every married household from the very first, in order that the young wife should not only have, ever present with her, a realisation of the munificent provision made for her by the opposite sex as a whole—failing that of any having been made by her own particular Lord and Master—but that she should be imbued with a consciousness of her own inferiority and indebtedness, which consciousness should cause her to cultivate that spirit of meekness and humility which would enable her to ejaculate—in the language of the Old Testament:—

"Behold, I am thy Handmaiden. Do thou unto me as seemeth good to thee."

MARIAN OLIVER.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.
Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, November 19th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
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EDITORIAL.

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

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ON DOING WITHOUT.

The papers last week were full of little else but the extreme urgency of the economic situation. Sanguine people have believed that a brilliant victory in one of the great theatres of the present struggle would bring about the longed-for end. Pessimists have railed at the authorities for not sending at once every able-bodied man to the front. The traditional nation of shopkeepers and the desired nation of warriors have been sharply contrasted. Now, at least, the bare facts are before us, the country is being made to understand that if it is to have any real commanding and permanent success, there must be a complete face-about in many of its methods.

We may have thought that we could withdraw hosts of men from the ordinary national service: that by pulling a string here, borrowing there, putting on a pinch in another place, we could feed, clothe and equip these hosts, we could provide for the necessities of those whom they had maintained, and give help in money and munitions to our Allies without being seriously inconvenienced. The shock of awakening has come. An expenditure rising to the almost inconceivable total of five millions a day: and a credit, the method of raising which has to be found, that, huge as it is, will not take us over the coming winter: such is the situation with which we are faced. How is it to be met?

In all the recommendations and advices with which our papers are flooded, we find one recurrent note. If the war is to be ended successfully, if peace with honour is to be obtained, we must spend largely. That is inevitable. And in order to spend we must save. This is the cry of those who profess to know. "Save! Save!"; and it is echoed in every possible form. The only way in which we can save is by doing without some of the things that are not absolutely necessary to our existence. "We need," says a writer in the *Daily News*, "much more compulsion in the matter of economy and a stern restriction of unnecessary imports." Export trade must continue or we shall not be able to pay our way.

In this question of saving, a strong appeal is made to women. It is instructive to note how often in these days of urgency, the State has been obliged to call upon them. Quietly, without observation, they are always doing, in the way of economy, what to most men would be impossible. The mother in a working family, who plans out the expenditure of her husband's weekly wage, is scheming, not so much what she can get as what she can do without. The wife of the clerk, the

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shop assistant, the small working tradesman, has the same experience. Yet she has borne and reared—none but heaven and herself know how—the largest proportion of those who are to-day serving their country in the field. Through the high prices, not all caused by the war, of necessary commodities, the task of this heroic woman is harder than it ever was before. Literally, in thousands of cases, she cannot do without any of the things she now has. To economise on the children is a suicidal policy, especially at the present moment when the young life of the country is being dangerously depleted. The myriads of men and women who are working to equip the army and navy, and those other hosts, through whose labour the commerce of the country is carried on, must have what is necessary to fit them for their task. Their health and strength and efficiency for service are national assets of the highest importance.

We would go a step further. A little modicum of leisure, the enjoyment of beauty in art, and the recreation that comes of good fellowship is essential to the sane and well-ordered life of Humanity. The tragic history of asceticism proves that not even the highest souls can dispense with this.

What then can the nation do without? How is it to answer this insistent cry "Save and Give?"

We answer that many, especially in our Woman's Movement, are doing it already. Space would fail did we even attempt to enumerate the acts of sacrifice, the freewill surrender of life's superfluities that have been made within our own knowledge. We are deeply conscious, however, that neither from men nor women is the response so great as it should be.

We could do without the millionaire; and, indeed, appropriate, fairly proportioned taxation would soon reduce him to the level of the moderately rich. These last might be much more conscientious in the use of their resources. No doubt many of them are giving largely to Red Cross and other societies for service. That is well; but it is not enough. The big autumn and winter displays in West End shops prove clearly that there is still a market for thousands of *objets de luxe*, many of which are imports. Were there no demand for these, they would soon disappear and home-made articles would take their place.

We are compelled, unfortunately, to get much of our food supply from over the seas. With the exercise of foresight and wisdom it might come to pass that these would be our only serious imports.

We could easily do without much of the expensive red-tape-ism which so sorely cripples initiative. Further, we cannot veil from ourselves that there is still an appalling outlay on strong drink, not only amongst the poor, but amongst the rich. The nation could easily and profitably do without the drink indulgence; if every man or woman, who has been habituated to this indulgence, brought to the nation's treasury the saving effected by restriction, the total would be so great, we believe, that only a Chancellor of the Exchequer could deal with it.

In fine, there can be no more splendid exercise for us all, while this awful war lasts, than to consider not only what we can do, but what we can do without. C. DESPARD.

"Women's Day in Iceland."

On June 19, the King of Denmark signed the new constitution for Iceland, which enfranchises women. In July, a great demonstration at Reykjavik with procession, speeches and music took place to celebrate the event. It was the first women's procession ever seen in Iceland and carried the new Icelandic flag.

THEY SUPPORT US!

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

*** Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

Wanted a Re-Statement of Suffrage Demand.

To the Editor THE VOTE.

MADAM,—Attention has been called to the fact, known to experienced suffrage workers, that as soon as possible after peace is concluded an Electoral Registration Bill will be introduced by the Government which will practically give adult suffrage to the men of the United Kingdom. Women, serious about their political disfranchisement, should realise the absolute necessity of restating their demand in terms of modern thought and expression. *It is no longer, in the Twentieth Century, property that must be enfranchised, but the individual human being.* Men demanded, and they are about to receive, representation as human beings, who pay taxes, and take their share in the defence of the State. Will women continue to ask for less? Can we not get together among earnest suffragists a sufficient body of advanced opinion, which shall drop the old formulas of "property qualifications" and "Conciliation Bills," and shall, like the women of Finland did when they won their enfranchisement, demand the vote for every woman and every man? Our first step should be to call a conference of leaders from all the Suffrage and allied Societies, and at that conference we should do our utmost to obtain a solid vote for a united demand for women to be placed on the Registration Bill which the Government is to introduce at the close of the war. If ever clear thinking, decided action and solidarity among organised women were needed it is now. We have shown how, during a crisis in the history of our nation, women can organise, can work, can strengthen, can comfort, can die as do men. *We have proved ourselves.* We have, through sheer momentum of work and energy, crashed through the puny arguments of the anti-suffragists, and have proved our comradeship with men in work and in suffering. Let us not through backwardness in organised demand lose the beckoning opportunity. From the conference of leading suffragists should go forth a demand which no statesman or politician can refuse—the demand that the women of the country who have proved themselves comrades in the hour of danger, shall not be forgotten when that danger is past; but that the promised Government Registration Bill shall be a real and not a sham measure of Equal Suffrage.

DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

Tax Resistance and Votes for Women.

MADAM.—Since the outbreak of war, in accordance with the advice of the late committee of The Women's Tax Resistance League, and with my own ideas, I have promptly paid any taxes for which I have been assessed. I suppose that the majority of suffragist tax resisters—actuated by patriotic motives—have done the same, not because they have in any way changed their views regarding the unjustifiableness of arbitrary taxation, but for patriotic reasons—because they wished to contribute, in proportion to their incomes, to the expenses of the war. That, at any rate, was my idea, and I notified the authorities accordingly, leaving unpaid a small balance which represented "pre-war" income tax. I did this because it was the only way I could think of to show that I had not conceded the principle.

To-day I have been served with a writ, at the suit of His Majesty's Attorney General, for the recovery

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of this small pre-war balance. Not only so, but the Government has taken steps effectually to put an end to any form of tax resistance, on the part of salaried persons, in future. Their Finance (No. 3) Bill provides that—

"If any person fails to pay the amount of any income tax assessed and charged on him . . . within one month after a demand has been made for the tax . . . commissioners may cause notice to be served on any employer by whom the person from whom the tax is due is for the time being employed, setting out the said facts and directing that employer to pay over to the commissioners, as the remuneration of the person employed becomes due, such proportion of that remuneration (not exceeding one-quarter thereof) as may be required by the notice until the amount due is satisfied.

"The employer shall pay . . . any amount so directed to be paid, notwithstanding the provisions of any Act or any contract to the contrary, and that amount, if not paid, may be recovered as a debt due to His Majesty from the employer."

In this way has the Government taken advantage of a time of truce to deprive salaried suffragists of their only weapon of defence. Our action since the war, dictated by reasons of patriotism, has, as usual, been misunderstood by the authorities who have regarded it as an indication that we have conceded the principle for which we have been fighting so long.—Yours, etc.,

MARIE LAWSON.
17, Upper Bedford-place, W.C., Nov. 10, 1915.

"HEROD."

Everyone expected an interesting afternoon, but everyone was much more than interested; everyone was astonished and thrilled by the intensely dramatic rendering of Stephen Phillips' great work, "Herod," given by Miss Clara Reed at the Bijou Theatre last Sunday afternoon. The rapt attention of the audience throughout the three acts was the best possible tribute to Miss Reed's power, gifts, insight, and memory. It is no light task to undertake unaided to portray such different characters as Herod, power loving, Mariamne, devoted to husband and brother, Aristobulus, frank, confiding, Salome, jealous, unsparing, also Roman soldiers, courtiers, servants, etc., but Miss Reed's success, evident from the first, grew in intenseness as the play proceeded through tragic scenes to its climax when Herod's mind gives way on touching the cold form of the murdered Mariamne. Miss Helena Normanton, who presided, expressed the gratitude of the audience and of the League to the gifted member who so willingly gave of her best to help our Cause. Miss Frances Orme's violin solos, accompanied by Miss Ailsa Craig, given between the Acts, added to the interest of a memorable afternoon. Miss Reed will recite at the Green, White, and Gold Fair, and has most generously offered to give us another Sunday afternoon recital early in February of Ibsen's play, "The Pretenders."

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Presiding at our last Wednesday afternoon meeting, Mrs. Huntsman emphasised the need for keeping the Women's Freedom League together at the present time so as to be ready to make an effective demand for Woman Suffrage at the earliest possible moment. Before introducing Miss Margaret Douglas, Mrs. Huntsman urged that it was our duty to secure for the League during the coming year three times as many members as we have at present. Miss Douglas, who deprecated the fact that she was not a Bishop, a Labour M.P., or a distinguished person, gave a delightful account of her recent visit to France. France was in a most wonderful mood; it was true that everyone was in mourning, Paris was absolutely quiet, no colour was seen in the streets, no music was heard, and no one attempted to laugh in the restaurants; but everywhere it was manifest that there was a quiet confidence in the ultimate victory of the Allies, a determination on the part of the people never to give in but to endure till the victory was complete. "This was no new spirit," said Miss Douglas, "but the spirit of old France." This spirit prompted the farmers to sow seed on the edge of the trenches, the soldiers to fight with deathless courage, the French women to display wonderful resourcefulness and spontaneity and to work for their country without any fuss. Referring to the capabilities of Frenchwomen, the speaker declared that France was being run by its women at the present time, and they did just what they wanted. Women in France held a strong position; they were their husband's partners in business and held the purse strings. In France women are not enfranchised, but they had greater economic independence than in Britain. Miss Douglas pointed out that in France the proportion of wage earners is considerably less than in our own country, and that there is no poverty as we know it here. France is not so industrialised as we are, the mass of the people own some little piece of land; it is a country of small farms and small businesses. Miss Douglas considered that this resulted in a greater sense of security among the people. She thought it was not a good thing

for all women to become wage earners, but urged that they should try to become owners, and so gain more effective control.

POLICE WOMEN IN CALIFORNIA.

Miss Beatrice Kent, for many years a member of the Women's Freedom League, has written a most interesting account of the police women system at Los Angeles for the *British Journal of Nursing*. In that advanced city, not only are there women as police, but women as magistrates to try cases of women and children. No statements on sexual matters are allowed to be taken by men constables from women or girls; and there are other conditions whose admirable humanity and simplicity contrast sublimely with the clumsy and uncivilised procedure which we still tolerate. Miss Kent went to San Francisco last spring to represent, with Miss A. E. Hulme, the British Council of Nurses and the *British Journal of Nursing* at the International Council of Nurses held at the time of the Panama Exhibition. During her stay she has seen much of interest concerning women, and will have many things to tell on her return next month. A warm welcome awaits her.

"SALVATION NOW."

Mr. Laurence Housman writes to the Editor as follows:—"I gather from your notice of my lecture in your last issue that on one point I did not make myself quite plain. I am reported to have said that 'in each nation within the sphere of the war, whether beaten or victorious, were to proclaim their terms of peace, the moral effect would be so great that it might bring peace.' What I really said was that if we—the Allies—who say we have gone to war for the liberty and right of self-control of all nations, would announce that our terms of peace still and always would be the right of every race group within the sphere of operations to decide its own allegiance, whether it had been on our side or against us, whether it met defeat or victory, that such a pronouncement of our abiding policy might have a great effect in hastening peace. Instead of that, we offer Cyprus as a bribe, intend to carve up Macedonia not to suit the will of its populations but the greed of its neighbours, and make the reversion of the Greek populations of Asia Minor to Greece dependent upon her good behaviour to us. This is not the principle for which we are said to be fighting; it is the old 'spoils of the victors' doctrine over again. Out of that no lasting peace can come."

CHRISTMAS BOOKS AND 1916 CALENDAR.

A calendar for the New Year is indispensable. Our members and friends will be interested to hear that Miss Eunice G. Murray has compiled a 1916 calendar with quotations from THE VOTE. Many of its treasures of wit and wisdom are now presented in a new form, and make a striking appeal. The calendar is charmingly got up, with our motto "Dare To Be Free," and a picture of Miss Murray as frontispiece—all for 1s. There should be a big demand for the calendar, a most useful and enlightening gift. The Literature Department has an excellent selection of Christmas gift books dealing with subjects to suit everyone, including aeroplanes, war books, history, poetry, philosophy, fairy tales, and children's books in French and English. Members buying from the Department pay the same price as elsewhere, and at the same time help the funds of the League. Any book may be ordered through the Department.

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

DARE TO BE FREE

Friday, November 19.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 13, Temple Fortune-court, Golder's Green (by kind invitation of Miss Hodge), 3 p.m., to meet Miss Underwood.

Saturday, November 20.—CROYDON, Whist Drive, at W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, 6.30 p.m. WHIST DRIVE, 69, Danecroft-road, Herne-hill, S.E., in aid of Brackenhill Hospital, etc. Tickets, 1s. each. Play to commence at 7 p.m. prompt.

Sunday, November 21.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road. Concert, 7.30 p.m. Silver collection.

Tuesday, November 22.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL Meeting, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 23.—POSTER PARADE, leave Office at 2.15 p.m.

Wednesday, November 24.—PUBLIC MEETING, St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. (entrance in Little Russell-street), 3.30 p.m. Speakers: The Rev. C. Ord Warlow, on "National Co-operation v. Private Competition," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Corner.

Thursday, November 25.—POSTER PARADE, leave Office at 10.45 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, November 26th and 27th. Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, 2.30 p.m. Stalls. Women's Orchestra, Ju-jitsu, Exhibition Dancing, Musical and Dramatic Entertainments, Nursing Exhibitions, etc., etc. Tickets 1s. Ad. on: 1/- bef re 5 p.m.; after 5 p.m., 6d.

Wednesday, December 1.—PUBLIC MEETING, St. George's Vestry, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Helena Normanton, B.A., on "The Paradoxes of the Balance of Power," and others.

Thursday, December 2.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Saturday, December 4.—JUMBLE SALE, Tolmer's-square Institute, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, N.W., 2 p.m.

Friday, December 10.—"AT HOME," W.F.L. Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m.

NINE ELMS, VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT, 1, Everett-street, 1d. and 4d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Play Club.

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. Week-days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Friday, November 19.—ANFIELD, Branch Meeting, 139, Oakfield-road, Liverpool. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Saturday, November 20.—WEST HARTLEPOOL. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Monday, November 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Public Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle.

Thursday, November 25.—IPSWICH, Afternoon Meeting, 22, Queen-street.

Monday, November 29.—MIDDLESBROUGH, "At Home" (in aid of Children's Clothing Fund), W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30.—PORTSMOUTH, Café Chantant, Unitarian Schoolroom, High-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Tickets, 6d. each.

Monday, December 6.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Annual Business Meeting, W.F.L. Rooms, 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 7.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND

Friday, November 19.—EDINBURGH, Assembly Hall, The Mound, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: M. Vanderfelde, the Lord Advocate, and Miss Murray. Chair: Dr. Sarolea. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d., and 3d.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, November 21.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Adult School, N Ormesby, 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle.

Sunday, November 28.—BLACKFRIARS' MISSION & STAMFORD-STREET CHAPEL, Stamford-street, S.E. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, "Women's Work in War Time." SOUTH LONDON ETHICAL SOCIETY, Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, S.E., 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Boyle, on "Men and Manners."

N.B.—Will readers kindly send receipts or the amount of their purchases from our advertisers to the Advertisement Manager, "Vote" Office, 144, High Holborn? This courtesy helps her in her work and is much appreciated.

BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street

In connection with our "At Home" on November 12, Miss Jessett held a sale of home-made Cakes for the benefit of the Merchandise Department. The sale was so successful that the Branch funds and the National Aid Corps funds also benefited by a grant from Miss Jessett. Mrs. Nevinson spoke on "My Experiences, as a Masseuse amongst the Wounded," and, as always, the address was full of information and interest and greatly appreciated by the audience. Miss Bennett presided. The Whist Drive which is to be held for the benefit of our National Aid Corps work will begin at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday next, November 20. Will members who wish the Secretary to forward their goods for the Green, White, and Gold Fair kindly let her have them by November 25? We want the Croydon contribution to be good.

Dundee.

A Branch meeting was held in the Art Society's Rooms on October 11. Miss Husband presided. Resolutions adopted at the Conference were submitted, and correspondence from Headquarters. Miss Husband gave "Impressions of the Conference," which were very interesting to those who read only the very curtailed Press reports of the proceedings. Miss Husband emphasised the courage and helpfulness of the League's outlook at the present time, and its determined stand for woman suffrage amidst all the conflicting cries of the moment. The speaker was accorded the cordial thanks of those present. Feeling reference was made to the death of Miss A. P. Grant, who was one of our most active members, and one who, as a member of the Parish Council, was able to do much good work for the community. Much sympathy was expressed with her only sister, to whom the meeting decided to send a message of condolence. The next Branch meeting will be held on Thursday, December 2.

Herne Hill and Norwood

At the risk of being thought frivolous in war time, we have decided to hold a whist drive at 69, Danecroft-road, on November 20, the profits of which are to be divided between Mrs. Harvey's hospital at Bromley and our own funds. Most of the refreshments, prizes, etc., will be provided by the members of the Branch, and we hope that friends and sympathisers in the district will support our small effort, in order that a nice little sum may be secured for these two deserving objects. Tickets 1s. each, from Miss Spriggs at above address.

Ipswich

We held our Jumble Sale on November 11; the funeral, at the same time, of a well known citizen was largely attended, and affected the number of our purchasers, but we disposed of a good many things. We thank very warmly Mr. and Mrs. Osborne for allowing us the room at such moderate cost, and the latter for her kind help both morning and afternoon, also all friends who helped to price and sell the goods, and Mrs. Milano, Miss Howard, and Miss Brett, who sent welcome gifts, and Mrs. Huty for lavender bags for our hospital department. Kindly send gifts for the Green, White, and Gold Fair as soon as possible. Will any who have not paid subscriptions kindly do so?

Middlesbrough. W.F.L. Rooms—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

On November 1 a meeting was held in the W.F.L. Rooms at which the Rev. J. H. Smith gave an address on "The Mothers of the Race." He pointed out how in the past women had been kept in subjection, and showed how bad this had been for the race. Miss W. Jones made an excellent chairman, and an interesting discussion took place. A business meeting was held on November 8 at which Mrs. Rees was elected hon. secretary. There was a very large attendance of members, and our heartiest thanks are due to Miss Winifred Jones, who presided in a most tactful and kind manner.

The French Department of Agriculture recommends the Government to award special distinction and medals to the mothers and wives of mobilised men who have distinguished themselves particularly in agricultural work during the war.

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WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS

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A lecture has been arranged for November 25, at 8 p.m., in Charing Cross Halls, to raise funds for the continued support of the W.F.L. (Glasgow) Bed in the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia. It will be rendered particularly interesting and realistic by the lantern slides, which the lecturer, Miss Foggo, has newly to hand from the scenes of operations, and by the account of the personal experiences of Dr. Winifred Ross, of Royaumont, whom we are also to have the pleasure of hearing. Tickets, 1s. and 6d. each, can be had at 70, St. George's-road, or at the Hall on entering, and it is hoped that appreciation of the work of our own members and friends in the field and base hospitals will be shown by the numbers present. Parcels are being dispatched regularly to prisoners belonging to Scottish regiments. They are gratefully acknowledged by the men and their relatives who have felt it almost impossible to accord them any help. Miss Yuill will be glad to have further subscriptions or offers to "adopt" a prisoner.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT

Everitt Street, Nine Elms.

Mrs. Tippett gratefully acknowledges the following:—Miss Riggall, 1s.; Mrs. Delbanco, 3s. 6d. and a packet of spice; Miss Kearton, butter; Mrs.

Despard, a cot quilt; H. Tippett, Esq., apples and potatoes; P. H. Miller, Esq., apples and nuts; an anonymous gift of apples and pears; Mrs. Murray, 10s. for a kitchen table. Apples are still urgently needed, and a special appeal is made for pound gifts for the Freedom League Settlement Stall at our Green, White, and Gold Fair.

THE DESPARD ARMS.

Most of our beds are now occupied, but we are still in urgent need of two chests of drawers! Who will help us—and quickly? Our dinners (12-2 o'clock) attract men as well as women, and the fame of the Despard Arms is spreading far and wide. We make a strong appeal for regular helpers in the afternoons and evenings. Miss Barrow's talk last Sunday on "Sairey Gamp v. Florence Nightingale" was much enjoyed. Next Sunday, we shall have a concert. (Silver collection.) All are welcome.

JUMBLE SALE.

Are members remembering the Jumble Sale which is to be held by the London Branches Council on Saturday, December 4, at Tolmer's-square Institute, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road? Articles of any description are welcome—furniture, household utensils, carpet, and especially clothing; men's clothing and boots and shoes are always in great demand. Parcels may be sent now to Mrs. Fisher at The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road. Those who can help on the afternoon of December 4 are also requested to send their names to Mrs. Fisher. There cannot be too many helpers.

WOMEN AND PEACE.

At the well attended meeting organised by the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, held at Central Hall, Westminster, on November 12, the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That in the opinion of this meeting women have a right to be consulted, and have a voice in the determination of the conditions of peace."

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Vestry Hall, St. George's, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C. Entrance in Little Russell-st. (Near Holborn, British Museum and Tottenham Court-rd. Tube stations) every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30 p.m. Nov. 24. Speakers: The Rev. C. Ord Warlow, on "National Co-operation v. Private Competition," and Miss Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Corner.

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