

THE VOTE  
Jan. 8, 1915.  
ONE PENNY

WHAT LIES BEFORE US. C. DESPARD.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 272.

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1915.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

## PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.  
TRAFALGAR SQUARE PROTEST.  
WRIT AGAINST OUR SECRETARY.  
WHAT LIES BEFORE US. *Mrs. Despard.*

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.  
THE SLANDER AGAINST WOMEN: FACTS FROM SCOTLAND.  
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. *Mrs. Belmont.*  
OUR TREASURY.

## Trafalgar Square DEMONSTRATION

On Sunday, January 24, 1915, at 3 p.m.

## UNITED PROTEST AGAINST

INSULTS TO SOLDIERS' WIVES.  
THREATENED STATE CONTROL OF VICE.  
RESTRICTIONS ENFORCED AGAINST WOMEN ONLY.

INAUGURATED BY:—

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.  
THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS.  
EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF SUFFRAGETTES.  
NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

The Public is earnestly invited to attend and pass in overwhelming strength the Resolutions for the protection of the Wives of men at the Front, and for the removal of the degrading disabilities heaped on women at the present time.

**CAR & GENERAL**

INSURANCE CORPORATION LIMITED,

85 Pall Mall, LONDON, S.W. (33 Branches).



**NO EXCESS-NO EXTRA.**

TO COVER INSURED PRIVATE CARS VOLUNTARILY  
PLACED AT DISPOSAL OF

NAVAL, MILITARY OR POLICE AUTHORITIES.

KVINDELIG

## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

## The Colonel Cancels Cardiff Order.

Miss Nina Boyle is informed, in a letter from Colonel East, commanding the Severn Defences, that the order recently issued in Cardiff inflicting penalties on women at the discretion of the military authorities has been cancelled. Further information received at a later date is to the effect that the women detained for trial have been released. Whether this was the result of enforced medical examination, which declared them free from disease, or because the order was altogether *ultra vires* and impossible to enforce, we do not yet know.

## "Rats!"

By the courtesy of the South Hackney Coroner, who has now furnished us with the figures for which we asked him in relation to deaths from excessive drinking, we are able to publish the following most interesting table. It will be noted that the only time during which the number of women victims of intemperance exceeded that of men was last February and April. During September, October and November "high water mark" was reached, the superior sex easily maintaining its supremacy in this form of indulgence in spite of the handicap provided by the immense exodus of able-bodied men.

January 3rd, 1915.			
Deaths due to excessive drinking:—			
	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	4	1	5
February	1	3	4
March	1	1	2
April	2	4	6
May	3	2	5
June	3	1	4
July	3	1	4
August	2	1	3
September	6	3	9
October	8	6	14
November	3	2	5
December	1	1	2
	37	26	63

## For Men Only.

The New Year's Honours are freely dispensed, as usual, to men only. At this crisis in national life, when women are rendering most important and valuable service to the country, the Government still fails to give them the smallest reward. Not being the wealthy part of the community, women are unable to enrich the Party funds by large sums of money, and so they are beneath notice even when New Year's Honours are distributed. If good work for the country were the one qualification for the bestowal of worthy honours, women today more than ever deserve recognition, and Suffragists should be in the forefront. A few names out of many flash into the mind. We think of Mrs. Fawcett and the fine service rendered by her Union to those in dire need of help; of our President and her many sided work; of Sylvia Pankhurst and the constructive work done for women—and men—and especially babies in the East End; of Miss Lena Ashwell and all associated with her in the excellent work of the Women's Emergency Corps; of Miss Sheepshanks and Mrs. Stanton Coit in their indefatigable service to women of all nationalities plunged into hopelessness and misery through the war; of Miss Agnes Weston and her work for the sailors; of Miss Margaret Macmillan and her fight for the bodies and souls of the children; of Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and her Women's Hospital Corps at Wimereux, at long last recognised by the War Office; of Mrs. St. Clair Stobart and her hospital in Antwerp; of Lady Lugard and her work for the Belgian refugees. These and many other women have nobly earned recognition which, though long overdue, is still withheld by the men who govern us.

## Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.  
 Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.  
 President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT  
 Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.  
 Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.  
 Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.  
 Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

## AT HEADQUARTERS.

## Our Belgian Party.

A full account of this will appear in next week's VOTE, when we shall have a better opportunity of expressing our warmest thanks to the numerous friends who have so very kindly assisted us in this undertaking.

## Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club

We have a splendid list of speakers for this series of meetings, the first of which will take place next Wednesday, January 13, when we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Tanner at 3.30. The following Wednesday the Rev. W. Piggott will speak on "Women and Problems of the War." All friends are specially welcome at these meetings. F.A.U.

## POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

## The Trafalgar Square Demonstration.

The protest in which we are uniting with our fellow Suffragists on Trafalgar Square—the date of which has been altered from Saturday, January 23, to Sunday, January 24—is one which should appeal to whatever there is of chivalry in the heart of the London public. Women have borne with proud and patient dignity the heavy grief and loss inflicted on them by the war and the subsequent well-meant but ill-advised and impertinent inquisition into their affairs necessitated by the unpreparedness of the War Office for the problem of allowance and maintenance. But when to all this unpleasantness was added a foul cloud of slander, the position became unbearable. If those who prate so loudly of patriotism (that in many cases is all too newly found) would realise that to send knitted comforts and cigarettes to "gallant defenders of our country," while leaving those dependent on the fighting man without defence against odious calumny, is a very second-hand kind of patriotism and a very second-rate service to the sailor or soldier, we might hope to see some of the fashionable self-constituted friends of "Jack" and "Tommy" rally to our support. We do not fear but that the aforesaid "Jack" and "Tommy" will assess the service at its right value. We know that they are deeply concerned at the unfair attacks on their womenfolk; but attacks on women are in the main the affair of women. We therefore make it our business to roll in all and sundry to protest against these slanders and to demand their unconditional withdrawal; to demand that members of Parliament shall protect women from restrictions enforced against them only of all the community under the Defence of the Realm Act; and that the work of Josephine Butler shall not be undone by panic legislation in an emergency. By taking these lines, or by allowing them to be taken, the Government and the House of Commons practically gives its sanction to the slanders.

Resolutions embodying the above views, and calling for an emergency measure giving votes to women, will be put to the meeting.

Among the proposed speakers are Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Mustard, Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Ayrton Gould,

Mrs. Hunter, of Preston—who has already fought this campaign in her own neighbourhood—Mr. Nevinson, Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. John Scurr, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Drake, and the Rev. C. H. Davies, of Hereford.

Some members of Parliament have been asked to give their support to the meeting, and it is greatly to be hoped that practical evidence will be forthcoming that the representatives of the people disapprove of the treatment meted out to the women-people under the semi-military rule which has sprung up since August. So far as women are concerned, the restrictions provided by these military decrees are totally unnecessary and are only calculated to produce friction and ill-feeling.

## THE WRIT AGAINST OUR SECRETARY.

In the midst of her preparations for the Belgian Party a writ for the recovery of £11 13s. 4d. and costs (£1 6s. 8d.) for income tax on a fictitious income has been served by a Somerset House official on the Secretary of the Women's Freedom League. The pompous phraseology of this document is as follows:—

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.  
KING'S BENCH DIVISION  
(King's Remembrancer.)

George the Fifth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, to F. A. UNDERWOOD, Greeting. WE COMMAND and strictly enjoin you that within Fourteen days from the service of this Writ, inclusive of the day of such service, you cause an Appearance to be entered for you in the King's Bench Division of Our High Court of Justice, to answer us concerning certain Articles then and there on our behalf to be objected against you, and TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing we shall proceed thereon to Judgment and Execution. WITNESS the Right Honourable Richard Burdon, Viscount Haldane of Cloan, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain at Westminster, the First day of December in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

At the Suit of His Majesty's Attorney-General By Information.

This Writ is issued against you by Hugh Bertram Cox, the Solicitor of Inland Revenue, Somerset House, London.

For the recovery of £11 13s. 4d. for Duties due from you under the Statutes relating to the Income Tax.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your entering an Appearance according to the exigency of this Writ, an Information may be filed and Judgment signed thereon, and Execution issued on such Judgment together with Costs, at the expiration of Fourteen days from the day of signing such Judgment.

The costs of this Writ amount to £1 6s. 8d., which must be paid together with the Duties. N.B.—Appearance to be entered at the King's Remembrancer's Department, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London.

Miss Underwood has no intention of paying any part of this amount, and, if she is arrested, we rely on the co-operation of Branches up and down the country to hold meetings of protest and to raise a substantial sum for the funds of the League, so that

## COZEN'S Great Winter Sale NOW IN PROGRESS

is the biggest Economy Opportunity in the history of the House, trade conditions necessitating unprecedented reductions to ensure a thorough clearance of Winter stocks. All Post orders are attended to promptly and carefully.

Remnants every Wednesday at half marked prices.



All Goods New & in Reliable Qualities.



Merely two TYPICAL BARGAINS

**Corsets** in White and Dove Coutil. Faultless fit, perfect in cut, style and finish. Designed on the same lines as the most highly priced corsets. Usual price, 4/11½. Sale price **3/11½**

**"The Wonder."** Fashionable Blouse in dainty shades of Crêpe. The New collar lined white Crêpe; also Vest of White or Self colour. Colours: Ivory, Champagne, Sky, Pink, Apricot, Sake, Grey, Navy & Black. Worth 5/11. Special Sale Price **4/-**

Oddments at less than half price. Doors closed at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

**G. Cozens & Co. LTD.** HYDE PARK HOUSE, Edgware Road, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46 and 50. Marble Arch, W.

Also at 66 & 68, Seymour St. Tel. (2 lines) Paddington 5197.

we can strengthen throughout the country the resistance to taxation without representation which the Women's Freedom League inaugurated some years ago as a protest against the Government's unconditional action in levying taxes on unrepresented women.

Our countrymen are fighting abroad for the independence of Belgium; women are fighting at home for their own independence, and are as confident as their brothers of ultimate victory.

## A REGRETTED LOSS.

By the death of Mr. Percy Illingworth, P.C., Chief Liberal Whip, the Suffrage Cause has lost a good friend. It will be remembered that out of the four hundred new candidates who may be put forward in the Liberal interest, when contested elections are again the order of the day, only seventy-two are known to be opposed to Woman Suffrage. This fact roused the "Antis" of the Party to go on deputation to the Prime Minister to complain of what they regarded as the result of the strong Suffrage sympathy of the Chief Liberal Whip.

## Our Good Wishes for a Safe Return—

To Dr. Ross, the President of the Paisley Branch of the Women's Freedom League, who is one of the dozen Scottish members of the Hospital Unit, organised by the Scottish Federation of Women's Suffrage. The Unit has already left for the Continent.

To Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, who has taken a commission in the 8th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, which is likely to be sent abroad shortly. Mr. Mitchell will carry with him on active service abroad for his country the best wishes of the Women's Freedom League and other Suffrage Societies who have long valued his splendid active service for them at home.

# THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., LTD.,  
2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.  
FRIDAY, January 8th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

## EDITORIAL.

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

## SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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

## WHAT LIES BEFORE US

The festival of Christmas, clouded by sorrow and care, yet not without hope, and the first day of the New Year are over. With mingled feelings, trying with little success it may be to read the lessons of the old year, we have looked back; wish being father to thought, we have ventured to forecast the coming of peace with goodwill, and now it is our next business to look with steadfastness in front of us, and to trace out our own particular duty in the near future.

Those who have been following the activities of our League know that we are not of those who believe that the calamity which has fallen upon the nation should engross us to the complete exclusion of everything else; that injustice at home, bad social conditions, women's disabilities and women's dishonour should, for the time being, not be considered at all. We feel, on the contrary, that there was never a time in the whole of our nation's history when the necessity for vigilance to preserve what we have gained and courage to push on were more deeply needed than they are now. To forget or to ignore this is the greatest danger of the hour. Lazy drifting, surrendering ourselves to the current which may lead nations for generations to ineptitude and spiritual bankruptcy, must be fought at all hazards. This, as we conceive, is what lies before us first. Nothing—not even our ardent desire to see the war ended—must take precedence of it. To our young men, giving their lives on the battlefields of Europe; to the women and children of the belligerents whose sacrifice is that of crippled lives; to the nations as a whole, torn and devastated by triumphant militarism, we owe it as a sacred duty to stand firm.

Now, while it is still possible, let the women in our Movement, let the workers, men and women, make their demand. Now let them reject the counsels of those who would have them cry "Peace! Peace! when there is no Peace."

Granted! some may answer; but, practically, what is to be done? Were it not best to wait? We are seeking to help the helpless, to alleviate the pain of those who suffer, and to lighten heavy burdens. Surely this work of ours will be remembered. Surely when, after the war-fever is over, when the task of re-adjustment is being attempted, the women and the men workers, without whom the war could not have been carried through, will be given their just place in the social order!

We wish we could answer in the affirmative. These are strange times; and it may be that in some unreamt of way the voice of the wisdom will, when the need is greatest, make itself heard with power. We can only judge by what we see, and now, no one can gainsay the fact that non-combatants—women and workers—are in danger of serious cur-

tailment of liberty through the military spirit which, naturally in the circumstances, holds the nation in its grip.

For instance, we are frequently told that we must not criticise the Government. Its members have a hard task before them, and they are doing their best. What once we blamed we must be content to bless, else we shall be put down as unpatriotic. Then we may gather together in our numbers to persuade men to enlist. That is quite a proper thing for women to do. But when it is a question of those they leave behind them, we must trust a benevolent Government to do the right thing.

And so it comes about that while little is said anywhere about drinking and other and worse modes of amusing themselves amongst fighting men, women, lest they fall into similar offences, must be strictly watched and seriously admonished; and if any accredited guardian of public morals reports to his superiors that they have wandered from the straight path, their means of livelihood must be taken from them.

But the details of infamous order are known. We speak of it now as offering an illustration of the sort of practical work that is demanded from us at the present national crisis. Help? Yes; we have our Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps, but we have also our grand little fighting organisation—the Women's Freedom League. That lives still, and lives in vital action. Its officials and members are busy all over the country, watching, criticising, and, as has been proved, protesting effectively whenever, in their opinion, the occasion demands such action.

"If we must perish," cried one of the heroes of antiquity,

"We Thy Will obey.

Let us but perish in the light of day."

If efforts are made to degrade and enslave our women, we are determined that they shall know their danger.

An occasion for vigorous protest is at hand. Some of us are going on deputation to the War Office to demand justice for the wives and children of those who are fighting abroad for our national independence. In the men's name and in the name of their wives we demand that the obnoxious order which threatens the independence of the whole of the people shall be rescinded. We will take no denial. The deputation will be preceded by a mass meeting in Trafalgar Square; and we hope that similar demonstrations will be held all over the country.

We pray that there may be no slackness over the protest. There will not be if we read rightly the lessons of history.

The fine old Craft Guilds fell, or degenerated into dinner-eating, property-holding City Companies because the little brothers and sisters did not attend to their own business. So it has been again and again. The present war would never have been had the nations been alive to their own interests; had those who profess democracy attended to their duty. They allowed wily diplomatists, governed in some nations by a professional war caste, to plan and plot, to make treaties and unmake them, and the result is this horror, the magnitude of which appals the world. So it has been with ourselves, with the women, with the workers; opportunities have come to us and have passed us by, and now, once more the voice of the siren is in our ears, counselling submission. It will not prevail because a new consciousness has come to us. We begin to feel faintly the bond that ties us together. We know that what hurts and degrades one section of the community hurts and degrades all. Therefore every one of us will be on the alert to prevent dishonour touching any woman in the land.

In this spirit let us enter Trafalgar Square on January 24; we, the women, in our multitudes; let us call upon our brothers to join us there, and we know many will, for the Cause is theirs no less than ours; let us make our earnestness and determination felt, and there can be no doubt about the result.

The obnoxious order will be rescinded, and the authorities will be made to understand that the people of these islands, though more than ready to brave hardship and face danger for a Cause they believe to be just, are in no mood to allow their liberty to be infringed.

C. DESPARD.

## OUR TREASURY.

### NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

Amount previously acknowledged ... £ s. d.  
2976 16 2

*The League's Christmas Present.*

Goods sold at Eustace Miles	£15 14 0
Restaurant, Dec. 4	1 1 0
Gate Money	16 15 9
Goods sold at Office	8 6
Bournemouth Branch	19 6
Clapham Branch	1 6
Croydon Branch	1 0 0
Tottenham Branch	5 15 0
Miss Eunice Murray	1 0 0
Mrs. H. F. Brown	1 0 0
Mrs. Wright (per Miss Barrs)	6 0
Mrs. Walter Carey	2 6
Mrs. Glover (per Miss Barrs)	2 6
Miss Neal (per Miss Barrs)	2 6
Mrs. M. Sohn	2 0
Miss Jarret (per Miss Barrs)	2 0
Mrs. Soar (per Miss Barrs)	1 0
Mrs. Roberts (per Miss Barrs)	1 0
Mrs. Sharpe (per Miss Barrs)	1 0

44 14 9

### Special Emergency War Fund.

Miss Boyle	2 0 0
Miss F. A. Underwood	2 0 0
"A Friend"	1 5 0
Miss Eunice Murray	1 0 0
Miss M. K. Trott	15 0
Mrs. Fox Bourne	10 0
Miss A. Towler	6 0
Miss Fox Bourne	5 0
Miss Gore Browne	5 0
Miss M. Fox	5 0
Miss L. G. Fuller	5 0
Miss John	4 0
Miss Gundry	4 0
Miss M. Sims	3 0
Miss Galer	2 0
Mrs. E. T. Angold	2 0
Miss Copsey	2 0
Miss W. M. Spriggs	2 0
Miss Underwood	1 6
Miss D. Mitchell	1 0
Miss E. Coleman	1 0
Mrs. Harbord	1 0
Miss Harbord	1 0
Brighton and Hove Branch	15 0
Swansea Branch	1 10 0

12 9 6

### Belgian Hosts' and Hostesses' Fund.

Miss A. E. Gardner	13 0
Dr. Bourchier	5 0
Miss Olive Terry	5 0
Miss P. Le Croissette	3 0
Miss E. E. Gill	12 6
Mrs. Letts	6 0
Miss M. Smith	6 0
Miss M. Chick	5 0
Miss M. C. Clark	5 0
Miss C. E. Price	5 0
Mrs. C. Robinson	5 0
Mrs. Woodworth	3 6
Miss E. M. Baker	3 0
The Misses V. E. and L. Cummin	2 6
Miss E. J. Coning	2 6
Miss M. McIlquhan	2 0
Miss E. M. Evans	2 0
Mrs. M. A. Jones	2 0
Mr. and Mrs. Pigott	1 0
Miss R. A. Beach	1 0
Mrs. Taylor Brown	1 0
Miss E. Campbell	1 0
Mrs. Nicholls	1 0
Mrs. Sewell	1 0

1 6 0

Collections	1 1 7
Tickets	5 13 6
Office Sales	10
Branches—	
Chester (per Miss Munro)	9 0
Liverpool (per Miss Munro)	10 0
Waterloo (per Miss Andrews)	17 0
Branch Funds—	
Aintree (Jan. to June)	£8 15 8
Bowes Park (July to Oct.)	12 6
Chester (Work Exchange, Jan. to June)	3 0 0
Clapham (Sept. to Nov.)	2 7 5
Dunfermline (Jan. to June)	6 11 3
Edinburgh (July to Oct.)	189 17 3
Hackney (July to Sept.)	2 0 5
Hampstead (Jan. to Dec.)	1 11 5
Kensington (July to Dec.)	7 1 10
Lochgelly (Jan. to June)	1 19 2
Sheffield (July to Nov.)	8 4 0

232 0 11

£3279 11 3

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Limited."

To Branch Treasurers.—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treas.

## THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

### Clothes from Overseas.

We desire to express our most grateful thanks to all our good friends overseas who, through the untiring interest and energy of Miss Newcomb and Miss Hodge, have sent most welcome supplies of clothing for those in need.

Two cases of clothing have been received from Mrs. Cordy, Vice-President of the Women's Enfranchisement League in Maritzburg, and two more from Mrs. Ashburnham, President of the Women's Enfranchisement League in Bloemfontein. The cases contained garments for women and children, which are most serviceable, new and beautifully made. They have been sent in sackfuls to Mrs. Despard, Miss Maud, Mrs. Mackenzie for the Belgians in Northampton, Miss Sims for the Tottenham poor, Miss Tooke for Gateshead, Mrs. Mustard for the Hackney district, Miss Roles for the Poplar children. Packages of clothes have been sent to Mrs. Swift, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Pigney, Mdlle. Bary, Mrs. Wright, whose cases have been brought to our notice. The Women's Enfranchisement League of Somerset East has sent a case of clothes which has only just been received and the garments have not yet been sorted.

A letter was received before Christmas from Mrs. Jeanne Young, of Adelaide, advising us of the shipment of seven cases and four bales of clothes from the women of South Australia—all freight charges defrayed by the Government. These have not yet reached us. A parcel of babies' clothes was sent to the Office by Miss F. E. Adams, to whom we tender grateful thanks; they have been included in the sack of clothes sent to Tottenham, where baby garments are much in request. In many instances the clothes, when made by children, bear little messages or letters from the makers; in one or two cases a little doll has been attached to the hem of a skirt or to the pocket of a tunic. A letter from a little girl in reply to a note found on a dress we had given her was sent to the Office, and has been forwarded to South Africa.

We also send our grateful thanks to Mrs. H. G. Boswell, of Honolu, Hawaii, for the parcel of clothes which she has made and so kindly sent to us.

However many cases of clothes we receive, we can always dispose of them, and if the Branch secretaries of the League will continue to send in the names of local Care Committees who require garments for their districts, clothes will be despatched to where they were most needed.

A friend and member of the Corps wishes to give

a short sable coat to be sold in aid of our funds; anyone wishing for further particulars should apply to the General Secretary, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

#### Brackenhill Hospital.

Acting on the excellent suggestion of Miss Underwood, a Christmas "At Home" was held at Brackenhill Hospital, Bromley, Kent, on Dec. 20. Each guest was asked to bring a gift—a toy for a child, a garment for a woman, or a donation, large or small, in money. In this way the hospital received help at a season of the year when extra expenses would, naturally, have to be incurred in order to make everything as bright and jolly as possible for the patients. It also made the hospital more widely known, thus supplying, we trust, permanent assistance. Over £11 was given in money, as well as many useful presents.

A number of friends who were regrettably prevented from visiting Brackenhill, most kindly sent their gifts. It was with great pleasure that those who were able to bring their gifts were shown over the hospital and introduced to the patients, including the youngest—Henri Delcroix—then only nine days old. He is the second small refugee that has been born at Brackenhill.

The hospital sends its warmest thanks to the kind friends whose help was so welcome, also to Miss Underwood for her valuable suggestion, and the assistance given in carrying it out.

#### Nine Elms Vegetarian Restaurant.

Our sincere thanks are given to Miss Anderson, T. E. Cowell, Esq., and Mrs. Gambrell for their welcome donations; also to Miss E. K. Cunningham, Mrs. O'Callaghan and Mrs. H. M. Thomson for plum puddings and mincemeat, which have been much enjoyed.

We make a special appeal to our country members for apples—the more the better!—and marmalade. We shall be glad to receive any other gifts in money or in kind to help the restaurant; it is increasing its usefulness every day.

WANTED URGENTLY.—A HELPER on Tuesday every week, to arrive at 1, Everitt-st.—L.C.C. trams (No. 14), fare 1½d., from Charing Cross, pass the end of the street—to assist in serving the meals from 12-1.30, and, if she wishes, to share the same vegetarian meal with other helpers when the restaurant doors are shut. ISABEL TIPPETT.

#### Glasgow Workrooms.

Work is going on steadily in our workroom. We have just received a grant of Highland Tweeds from the Patriotic Society, which will be most valuable to us. Early next week we open our new room in Possil-road, where 40 women are to be employed. The room is to be run under the auspices of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, but the funds are being supplied by the Queen Mary Fund for Unemployed Women. We have had a great deal of correspondence upon the subject with the various committees responsible for administering the fund. At first we were told that we could have the money if we would drop our name; to which we replied that we were doing the work first and foremost because we were Suffragists. The upshot of the matter is that we retain our name and get the grant. Our deepest thanks are due to Miss Findley for the excellent service that she gives to our workrooms.

Our old Friends and Supporters,

**Messrs. A. & P. CUSHMAN,**  
Stick & Umbrella Manufacturers, &c.,

Beg to announce that they have removed from No. 1, Coventry Street, to

**35, LEICESTER SQUARE, W.C.**

(Under Dental Hospital).

## THE SLANDER ON SOLDIERS' WIVES.

Facts from the West of Scotland.

In Scotland, as in other parts of the kingdom, we have heard a great deal about drunkenness amongst the wives of soldiers. Letters have appeared in the Press indicating that these women were a particularly drunken set. The Press has pursued the theme, and leading articles have pointed the finger of scorn at the soldier's wife. In general, people shake their heads, and say: "Poor things; it is sad to think of the money being wasted in this way while the men are at the Front fighting for the country."

Now, what are the facts? From the *Glasgow Herald* of January 1, we learn that Glasgow has contributed 32,906 men to Lord Kitchener's Army, and, in addition, there are 9,000 Territorials, also 2,500 men serving in the Naval Brigade, making in all 44,406 men. To these figures must be added the men serving in the regular Army.

In another column of the paper we have more statistics which are specially interesting, as they deal with the number of soldiers' wives who have been convicted for drunkenness and child neglect in Glasgow since the war commenced five months ago.

*They number eight.* This seems, to reasonable and unprejudiced persons, a remarkably small number, especially when we bear in mind the further fact that a large percentage of men now serving in the Army are married. I have indeed seen it stated in several newspapers that 75 per cent. are married men.

Of these eight women, nearly all have been charged previously and sentenced for drunkenness, thus showing that the war has nothing to do with their offences. They are hardened offenders and are drinking now because they are habitual drunkards, not because they have a little extra money in their possession.

In the Vale of Leven recruiting has been particularly heavy. In one small town—Renton—which I visit in connection with The Soldiers' Association for Wives and Families, 500 men have enlisted and gone away. The chief constable there told me that amongst the wives left behind there was only one woman whom he could describe as a drunkard, and she was an old offender. Her father, mother and husband were also drunkards; love of drink was born and bred in her. Since the war began, I was told, she has been drinking less than usual as she is short of money and her husband is not there to encourage her in and share in her evil ways.

In spite of these figures—and many more of the same kind—the general impression prevails that the soldier is a fine fellow while his wife is a poor drunken creature. It is infamous that the Press, the Government and the public have so gratuitously slandered the women. No apology has been offered when it has been proved that the charge is false.

No one should be allowed to set the soldiers' wives apart as a separate class; they are a part of the general community. But if they are thus

Make the home bright by using  
**William CLARKE & SON'S**  
**COAL.**

LOWEST PRICES.

Silkstone .. 28/6	Best Nuts ... 26/-	Stove Coal ... 23/-
Best Household 27/-	Roaster Nuts ... 24/-	
Special House ... 26/6	Large Kitchen ... 23/6	Anthracite Nuts... 41/-
	Coke ... 13/- per Chaldron.	

341, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. Phone. 3656 North.

ticketed and set apart, statistics should be published showing their virtues as a thrifty, sober and respectable part of the nation. Many of them, instead of sitting down to bemoan their fate and their loneliness, set to work with anxious hearts and often with straightened means to do their best for their families. For one wife that wastes her money and neglects her children there are thousands who are wisely and judiciously laying it out and keeping their homes together in a manner that is as creditable as it is remarkable.

If we honour, for their bravery and heroism, the men who are away, we must equally honour the women at home who are making a plucky fight to do their share in the defence of the Empire.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

## BRANCH NOTES.

### Dunfermline

A special Branch meeting was held at 2, Kirkgate, on December 29, to consider correspondence from Headquarters and to discuss future work. The meeting recorded its complete agreement with proposals from the Executive. Our work for 1915 commences with a public debate to be held about January 20—exact date, hall, etc., will be published next week. We hope to see a very good turn out of members at this meeting, each of whom should try to bring at least three friends. Much at the present time is being required from everyone, but it is only by the united effort of all our members that we can keep our Woman Suffrage Cause, for which we stand, before the public eye. Our best thanks are due to Mrs. Swan for the splendid parcel of boys' clothing for a deserving family of young boys.

### Middlesbrough. 231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

On Dec. 29 the first of a series of whist drives, arranged to help to raise funds, was held in the Suffrage Centre and was very successful. During the week the shop has been open each evening for the sale of merchandise and literature. More volunteers are needed for this work, as we wish to open also in the afternoons very shortly. A gift of two chairs and a box of children's clothing have been received from Mrs. Bruce, the Mayoress of Middlesbrough, who was the first to visit and make a purchase in the shop on the day of its opening, and to wish us every success in our new undertaking. Another parcel of clothing has been received from the Misses Hood. The committee met on Saturday night and expressed their very great appreciation of the improvement in the downstairs room, the floor of which had been stained by Miss Clark, a Halifax member, who had devoted a day of her holiday to this laborious work. Meetings were arranged for Miss Munro and Miss Clark, to whose visit everyone is looking forward with very great pleasure.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

9, GRAFTON STREET, PICCADILLY, W.

FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

London Members (Resident within 15 miles of Charing Cross) per annum One Guinea Entrance Fee One Guinea.  
Country Members (England and Wales) per annum One Guinea (No Entrance Fee).  
Country Members (Ireland and Scotland) per annum 10s. 6d. (No Entrance Fee).  
Foreign Members (Resident abroad), per annum 10s. 6d. (No Entrance Fee).  
Valuable Lending and Reference Library for Members. English and Foreign Books dealing with every aspect of the Women's Movement. Non-members enrolled as Associates by paying 5/6 per annum. Luncheons, 1/- and 1/6. Dinners, 1/- and 1/6.  
All particulars—SECRETARY. Tel.: 3932 Mayfair.

## CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MONTHLY PAPER.

JANUARY, 1915.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

Leading Article: A Sorrowful Protest.  
The Case for Women's Suffrage:  
Women's Franchise and the Empire.

Helen B. Hanson, M.D.

The Ancient Office of Deaconess in the Past.

Annie Gilchrist.

Memos. from the Organizers:

- (1) With the Citizen's Committee in Birmingham.
- (2) The Mayoress of Swansea's War Garment Fund.
- (3) Women's War in Manchester.

Notes of the Times.

From the Branches.

OFFICES:

6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Thursday, January 7.—CAXTON HALL. W.F.L. Party to Belgian Refugees, 3.30-10 p.m. Christmas Tree, Buffet, Musical and Dramatic Entertainments; many other attractions. Admission 6d.

Sunday, January 10.—DRAWING-ROOM MEETING at 205, Maida Vale, W. Speaker: Miss Boyle. Hostess: Mrs. Aaron. 3.30.

Wednesday, January 13.—PUBLIC MEETING, 3, York-street, Jermyn-st., Speakers: Miss Boyle and Mr. H. W. Nevinson. Hostess: Mrs. Aaron. 3.30.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Tanner.

Wednesday, January 20.—DRAWING ROOM MEETING, 3.30. 13, Temple Fortune Court, Hampstead Garden Suburb. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Underwood. Hostess: Miss Newcomb. PUBLIC MEETING. The Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, 3.30. Speakers: The Rev. W. Piggott ("Women and Problems of the War") and others.

Wednesday, January 27.—PUBLIC MEETING. Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W., 3.30. Speakers: The Rev. C. Baumgarten ("Ideals of Social Government") and others. HAMPSTEAD BRANCH MEETING. 22, Harley-road (near Swiss Cottage). 8.15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3.—PUBLIC MEETING. Suffrage Club, 3, York-street, Jermyn-street, Piccadilly, W., 3.30. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A. ("News of the War from First Hand Letters") and others.

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

## PROVINCES.

Monday, January 11.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre. Business meeting, 8 p.m.

Thursday, January 14.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre. "At Home." Speakers: Miss Munro and Miss Clark. 8 p.m.

Friday, January 15.—REDCAR. Drawing-room meeting. BOURNEMOUTH. Freedom Hall. 8 p.m. Public meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. Hume.

Saturday, January 16.—SOUTHAMPTON. Social afternoon. Speaker: Mrs. Despard.

Monday, January 18.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre. Branch meeting. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro. 8 p.m.

Wednesday, January 20.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre. "At Home." Miss Munro and Miss Clark.

Thursday, January 21.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre. Whist drive. 7.30.

Monday, January 25.—MANCHESTER. Miss Nina Boyle.

Tuesday, January 26.—LIVERPOOL. Waterloo. Miss Nina Boyle.

Thursday, January 28.—CHESTER. Miss Nina Boyle on "Women and War."

Monday, February 1.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Suffrage Centre. 8 p.m. Business meeting.

Monday, February 8.—MIDDLESBROUGH. "At Home." Speaker: The Rev. T. C. Gobat.

## SCOTLAND.

Saturday, January 30.—GLASGOW. Miss Nina Boyle.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

Tuesday, January 12.—ST. PETER'S LITERARY AND DEBATING SOCIETY, St. Peter's Institute, Vincent-terrace, Colebrooke-row, N., 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle (W.F.L.), "Democratic Government—its Advantages and Disadvantages."

Thursday, January 21.—SOCIAL PROBLEM SOCIETY. East London College, Mile End-road. Miss Nina Boyle ("The Fool and his Folly"). 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 7.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Fife Hall, Kingston, 7 p.m. Speaker: Miss Murray.

## FREE CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

SERVICE AT WESTBOURNE PARK CHAPEL

(Near Westbourne Grove).

PREACHER:

**Rev. Dr. CLIFFORD, M.A.**

(President F.C.L.W.S.)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH,**

AT 7 P.M.

Subject—"WOMEN AND WAR."

SPECIAL PRAYERS AND HYMNS.

ONE  
PENNY

# THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## SUFFRAGE ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

By Mrs. OLIVER H. P. BELMONT.

Two more stars added to the equal Suffrage flag is the record made at the November elections. Four more United States senators added to our supporters in Washington as a result of victory in 1914. Twelve States in which women are eligible to vote for President of the American Republic.

Such progress made in a time of harrowing anxiety and gloom throughout the civilised world augurs well for the campaigns already launched in the various States whose electors will vote on the measure in November, 1915.

Nevada and Montana, the two successful States, have the distinction of winning through the work of the first campaigns ever held within their borders, both led by brilliant young college women with comparatively little experience in Suffrage circles.

Miss Anne Martin, President of the Nevada Equal Franchise Society, marshalled her forces with the precision and wisdom of an experienced general, and, by determination and self-sacrifice, working against tremendous obstacles, achieved a victory which compels admiration of the whole United States.

Miss Jeannette Rankin, the beautiful young President of the Montana Woman Suffrage Association, relinquished a salaried office to devote her services to the campaign in her home State, which is considered one of the most politically corrupt in the Union. The wonderful success which she accomplished marks the most significant gain in the history of our Movement.

In Arizona, Mrs. Munds, President of the Woman Suffrage Association, under whose leadership that Commonwealth was won for Suffrage two years ago,

was on November 3 elected a member of the State Senate, defeating her male opponent by 600 votes. She is the first woman to occupy this high office in Arizona.

In the State of Washington there was one county in which every woman candidate for office was elected. These included county assessor, county treasurer, county school superintendent, etc. A similar record was made in all the other Suffrage States where women candidates were in the race.

Two important conventions were held in November immediately following the general elections—that of the Southern States Woman Suffrage Conference, whose President is Miss Kate M. Gordon, of New Orleans; and the other the annual meeting of the National Woman Suffrage Association, at which Dr. Anna Howard Shaw was re-elected to the presidency, making her tenth year as leader of the national forces. Both organisations begin their new year's work with joy and renewed hope, and with full expectation of repeating this year's gains in the autumn of 1915.

Meanwhile we are all active in relief work and doing our utmost for the distressed people of the European nations. Suffragists are collecting money and supplies of every kind for the benefit of the war's victims, and we shall continue our efforts in this direction as long as it is necessary to do so. But it is this war that has brought home to American Suffragists, as nothing has ever done before, the great importance of the enfranchisement of women, and it is to this end we are determined to devote our energies, believing that thereby we shall be doing the world the greatest service of which it stands in need.

**Arthur's Stores,** 120, Westbourne Grove, W.

**FOR GENERAL PROVISIONS AND HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.**

*All cakes and pastries made of the finest ingredients by our own bakers.*

— TRIAL EARNESTLY SOLICITED. —

Our Motors deliver daily in the following neighbourhoods: Hampstead, Golder's Green, Hendon, Mill Hill, Garden City Hampstead, Cannon's Park, Putney, Barnes, Kew and Bedford Park.

Islington Dental Surgery.

60, 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 7/6.  
Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.  
Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door.  
**CONSULTATIONS FREE.** Telephone 3795 North.

**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."

**Holland House Laundry,**

BURMESTER ROAD, LOWER TOOTING.  
Mrs. PIPER, Proprietress. Telephone: Wimbledon 504.

**A FAMILY LAUNDRY, under Distinguished Patronage**

MY PRICES ARE MODERATE.

— Customers of over 20 years' standing. —

**SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.**

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE** hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speaker: Jan. 13, Mrs. Despard and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Tanner. Admission free. Collection. Buy THE VOTE, 1d. weekly.

**BOARD-RESIDENCE.**  
Rooms, Holiday Homes, &c.

**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.**

**TO LET.**

**FURNISHED BEDROOM;** breakfast, bath, and attendance; 18s per week.—Apply, after 1.30, 9, Museum Chambers, Bury-st., W.C.

**64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS AND HOW TO USE THEM,** free Send for one.—**TRIMNELL, The Herbalist, 144, Richmond-road, Cardiff. Estab. 1879.**