

C. DESPARD.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIV. No. 359.

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 1916.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

**OBJECTS:** To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

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## To the Men of Britain!

### AN APPEAL FOR THE VOTE.

BRITONS! We, too, are of the blood; one mother  
Bore us and you; one lofty name we bear.  
The thirst for freedom how shall any smother  
Who still breathe Britain's air?

SOLDIERS! no race of bondslaves ye defended:  
Stood we not with you, comrades in the fight?  
Have we not watched you, served you, soothed and  
tended,  
By dawn and noon and night?

SAILORS! who kept the sea-ways, not ye only  
Watched, where the great floods rose, the great  
storm's frown!  
Where'er ye sank, in those dark deeps and lonely,  
A woman's heart went down!

STATESMEN! who prove this day our worth, our  
fitness,  
Surely we also for our land have fought!

For her we wrought and wearied not—bear witness  
If well or ill we wrought!

WORKERS! who have the worker's shield and  
guerdon,  
Deny it not to us who share your toil!  
Shall Labour grudge to those who bear her burden  
Right to her hard-won spoil?

CHRISTIANS! are we not Christ's? To make  
earth holy  
We work, how oft, to see our work undone!  
Ah, help us! Would His kingdom come so slowly  
If ye and we were one?

MEN—brothers, sires and sons! of old 'twas written  
That where the Flag was, there should Freedom  
be:  
Fulfil at last that boast, strong sons of Britain,  
Making her daughters free!

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



#### DARE TO BE FREE.

Office. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Eunice G. Murray and Miss Evelyn Sharp.

Saturday, September 30.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W., Jumble Sale, 2 p.m.

Sunday, October 1.—HASLUCK'S ACADEMY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, Miss Clara Reed, Recital "Becket," 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4.—CAXTON HALL. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. E. M. Moore. 3.30 p.m.

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

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

Friday, October 20.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Murray and others.

Wednesday, October 25.—CAXTON HALL. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, on "The Future of Women." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. 3.30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1.—CAXTON HALL. Speaker: Mrs. Zangwill, "Picking up the Pieces." 3.30 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 4d. meals, weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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The discussion between the Editor and some of her colleagues on the manifesto in our issue of August 25 has taken place. The matter will be fully entered into at the September meeting of the National Executive Committee. In the meantime it was resolved not in the future to issue a statement of policy without consulting the Editor.

It was further resolved, pending the next committee meeting, not to criticise the action of other suffrage societies or oppose adult suffrage.

#### Women's Freedom League Settlement. 1, Everett St., Nine Elms, S.W.

Cordial thanks to Mrs. Giles for children's underclothing; Mrs. Miller, lavender and flowers; Mrs. Isobel Harvey, French beans; Mrs. Presbury, bread; Mrs. Vincent, flowers, and Mrs. Strange for paying postage on this and other parcels from her village; we were also very glad to receive a parcel of old clothing from an anonymous giver. Will our friends remember that our most pressing want at the moment is apples; we are sure some of them could spare us a few of the smaller ones when their crops are gathered in. We are expecting a new lot of guest children this week, and trust our helpers will all turn up soon, as it promises to be a busy season with us. We had sixty children dining here on Saturday, and only three people to serve them, which means a long wait for some. Hard luck when one has a young healthy appetite!

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## FOR THE BETTER GOVERNING OF THE COUNTRY.

### Some Suggestions for the Cabinet Committee.

London papers have announced that there is a Committee of the Cabinet, of which the Prime Minister is chairman, to consider and advise on the problems that will arise on conclusion of peace; that suggestions or other communications are desired and should be addressed to Mr. Vaughan Nash, at Downing-street. Many Freedom Leaguers will doubtless avail themselves of this unique opportunity for suggesting some improvement in the government of this country, a subject that has long and deeply interested them.

#### The Enfranchisement of Women.

Great Britain is in need of more seriousness in the work of reform. Her women require immediate enfranchisement, in order that their weight may be felt, and that they may assist to carry reforms that are urgent. We rejoice that the inexorable logic of facts and events has converted the Prime Minister, but we regret that one so highly placed has been in the rear of a great reform instead of the van. We, however, must remember that the conversion of one man does not spell enfranchisement; at a later date the convert might think it politic, necessary for State reasons, to torpedo the Bill. Such things have happened before. The history of New Zealand convinces persons of alert intelligence that the road to be traversed may be long and difficult.

#### National Housing and Health.

Lord Beaconsfield declared many years ago that health is the statesman's first duty. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain confessed that when he first heard this statement he made light of it, but added that in his riper years he regarded it as profoundly true. A great measure of housing is required in these islands, and it should be inaugurated as soon as peace is signed. Work will thus be found immediately for a considerable number of the vast disbanded army who must seek employment. Large numbers of landlords of working-class property should be compelled to rebuild, or to sell their interest to the local authorities, who should undertake the work. Rural districts are often worse off than cities; the housing of the agricultural classes is frequently scandalous. No house should be built without a bath, fixed basin, and, wherever possible, the provision of a garden should be compulsory. Legislation should make it clear that the housing of the people is the first duty of a local authority. At a meeting of the Historical Association at London University in January, 1916, one of the speakers, Dr. G. Parkin, declared that if twenty years ago England had begun to clear away her slums at a cost of £5,000,000 monthly, no enemy would have dared to attack her. The present appalling war is one of the fruits of misgovernment.

The health of the people demands that the manufacture and sale of drink be greatly restricted; that local option be established, along with Sunday closing. All advertisements referring to the sale of intoxicants should be very heavily taxed, nor should permission be given for the display of any advertisements connected with the drink trade on hoardings, public-houses, or public places of any description.

#### Pure Food.

The adulteration of food interferes seriously with public health. Those who commit this crime are not sufficiently punished. It might well be considered whether any firm or individual proved guilty of food adulteration should ever again be permitted

THEY SUPPORT US!

to manufacture or sell it after punishment of the offence has been meted out. Medical officers should employ women as well as men to be food inspectors. If this post be reserved for one sex only, then it should be reserved for women.

#### Women in Public Departments.

Women hold that all the great public departments should after the war be opened to them on the same terms as to men. The Home Office, the Board of Agriculture, the Board of Education, the Foreign Office, have relatively very few women in them. These departments suffer by being limited to one sex. Sir R. Morant, when Permanent Secretary to the Board of Education, declared that the whole of the teaching of cookery between 1875-1908 had to be written down a failure because men were inspecting it instead of women. Diplomacy and the consular offices themselves will profit by the presence of women and by the fact that they learn languages more speedily and thoroughly than do men. By slighting the capacity of the women of this country, by passing it over when it is a question of paid posts, the Government have themselves set a bad example, and employers of labour have followed it. They have engaged the services of Germans, who have supplanted them in their trade relationships, rather than of English women.

#### A Living Wage.

The Government should assume the position of a model employer of women's labour both as to pay, conditions, and permanency. It should fix a minimum wage for its women workers and stamp out all trades and employers that cannot pay it. The middleman and sweater should be unknown in Government employ. By refusing to establish a minimum wage sufficient to maintain a worker respectably, by tacit refusal to stamp out sweating and under-payment, by failure to set the best example as an employer of labour, women see some reason to hold the Government responsible for the existence of that terrible evil, prostitution, bringing in its train that scourge of the races, secret diseases. A Commission on its results is not sufficient; its causes must be laid bare. Freedom Leaguers would recall to the Cabinet the words of William Blake, as true to-day as when they were written:—

"The harlot's cry from street to street  
 Shall prove old England's winding-sheet."

It may be that prostitution cannot be stamped out; at least insufficient pay for honourable labour should not swell its ranks.

#### Land Reform.

A great measure of land reform has long been overdue. The latifundia were one of the causes of the downfall of the Roman Empire. Why should they succeed in Britain? The Duke of Sutherland owns estates that total 1,300,000 acres. The great Act of Quo Warrantis should be applied to all such monstrous aggregations of land and property. Such estates should be broken up, as they have been in France and in Denmark; the State should encourage the small farmer, not stamp him out of existence. Agricultural banks should be established to help him in his difficulties and to encourage him to buy his holding.

#### The Banking System.

The whole banking system of Great Britain exists to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. The very contrary should be the policy: to lessen the wealth of the wealthy, to increase that of the workers. A National Bank, more on the lines of the Bank of France, could be of some service.

C. S. BREMNER.

(To be concluded.)

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1172.

## MRS. MATTHEWS ON RELIEF WORK.

"Yis, miss, Bridget's out o' work again." "Since Easter?" "Oh, no, miss, she wint to the classes the gintleman started. About forty of the girls wint, miss, and they had a grand time. They had to do all sorts o' cooking. No, there was no picking or choosing among the girls, miss. They were just passed as out o' work by the Committee, an' given a card, an' sint to the class. Oh, yes, they liked it well. It was the finest gas stove ever you seen, and hot wather and everything handy, and no throuble in the world—not like our little fires. They learnt to clean up lovely and make bread; it would have done your heart good to taste it. Ye see, we can't make that sort o' bread at home, miss; there isn't any convanience for it but the open fire. No, miss, she couldn't thry any of the things she learnt to make either on the open fire." "Any of the girls gone to service?" "Well, there were four who said they'd like to go, but no ladies seemed to want them. There were forty where Bridget was, and about as many at the other place, but you know, miss, them girls won't ever go to service, an' the ladies wouldn't want them if they did, afther just three months. They don't learn enough in that time, with such a lot o' them for the teacher to get round, an' only at cooking. It must cost a lot o' money, miss, to keep that lovely stove goin', an' pay the lady that teaches and buys the stuff they cook. It seems a pity with nothing done afther all, as you might say, miss. Minnie's doing finely, miss, thank you. She's learning the knittin' at the ladies' workroom in Street. Seven shillings a week she's earnin', an' she's only a month at it, an' the ladies say that'll be there afther the war. Yis, it's the glove machine, miss. Minnie tells me she heard tell there was never any done in this country before. Some o' them ladies were in that place in Street the winther before last, miss, where they let the girls just cook their dinners on the fire and do their own mending. It was a pity that stopped, miss."

Mrs. Matthews did not know that the centre in Street, of whose methods she approved, ceased work because grants were refused by the Relief Committee. Yet the same committee, which includes one woman only among its members, financed the courses attended by Bridget and the others. The knitting-rooms, started by the Women's Central Committee, and now generously assisted by the National Relief Fund, employ 200 women and girls. Recently a contract for 1,000 pairs hand-knitted gloves, which otherwise would have gone out of Dublin, was taken by them. Bridget's seventy fellow-learners are now no better fitted for employment and no nearer obtaining it than they were three months ago. The money spent on the classes is gone—where all the wasted money goes.

Does not this look as if it would answer to allow women a share in spending relief money?

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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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

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## THE END—AND WHAT AFTER?

We seem, at the present moment, to be thinking in waves. They rise under the fierce lashing of emotion, travel on, break and are followed rapidly by others with often diametrically different emotional appeals, so that from one day to another we are at a loss to know whether, as a nation, we are rejoicing or mourning.

To-day it is a wave of elation. Victory indeed is not altogether in sight; but the coming in of Roumania, the apparently changed attitude of Greece, and the removal of the great German general who failed before Verdun have revived the Allies' hope of a speedy end to the war; and now even cautious observers are beginning to think that before autumn has closed peace negotiations may be on foot.

The elation is natural. Whatever politicians or professed militarists may feel, there is certainly no simple, ordinary human being either in the belligerent or neutral countries, who would not, to the heart's core, rejoice to know that brave young warriors in the field, watching hosts in their own lands or on the seas, and suffering women everywhere would be spared another winter of war. Many of us have been haunted all through the summer days with the vision of those months of darkness and despondency stretching out before us, so that the sweetest holiday-making has had behind it the sting of anticipated pain.

But neither now, when we venture to hope, nor then, when hostilities having actually ceased, the seas will be clear, and the produce markets open, must we allow our elation to veil from us the serious nature of the crisis that faces us. Whether the deep spiritual need will be answered, whether human force and wisdom will be forthcoming to meet the strain of events none can predict. What alone can be said with certainty is that a revision of our moral and political and social code will be necessary if we are to breast worthily the difficulties that lie ahead.

Our moral code! When we look back upon our commercial and industrial history, have we any reason to congratulate ourselves upon our virtue? Ever it has been the private individual, the strictly limited class, or, as in recent days, the syndicate that has had power to regulate the things which are essential to the life of the people. At the present moment, for instance, when it is decided by a Tribunal that a Post-office clerk, so essential in his work that exemption from military service has been granted to him, shall receive only the same pay as a soldier, the price of food is rising continually, and

those to whom the rise is due are immune, because there is no law to check them.

We do not deny that through such associations marvels have been achieved materially, but that which is of much more vital importance than any material achievement has gone to the wall. The few have had loaves and fishes, the multitude have hungered. Into politics, as into the whole of our social arrangements, the same root-idea has been carried; indeed, it is curious it has not been more widely noted that much of the present misery arises from moral obliquity.

We ask: What is to come after the war? Unless we can revise our moral standards, we shall find ourselves not where we were before it broke out, but in a much more hopeless position.

That, then, is the first step. Competition, as the law of our activities, must be replaced by co-operation; and, in order to effect this, we must trust one another. In industry, in commerce, in politics, in municipal administration, we must get hold of men and women, patriotic in the true sense of the word, and without axes of their own or of any special class to grind. They are to be found. That is one of the mighty revelations made by the war. Are the splendid women—teachers, administrators, head and hand workers—who have served the State so nobly in her hour of peril to be turned adrift as useless when the war is over? And the men—the hand-workers, through whose strenuous toil armies and navies have been equipped; the young men in the fighting line and on the floating monsters that hold their watch at sea, men who have had ample time to think in the intervals between fighting—cannot their patriotism, loyalty, and strength be used to build up a nation worthy of their sacrifice?

It cannot be impossible. Let us get spiritually clear, let us once and for all time resolve to be guided by righteousness, and the way to reconstruction will lie open.

We hear, meanwhile, with satisfaction, of efforts that are being made to unify the resources of the nation. There can be no doubt that through lack of opportunity we have allowed valuable force to run to waste. Especially brain force. Labour might be lessened, production might be increased, and the output in necessary manufactures quadrupled if manufacturers and agriculturists, working with and not against one another, would make use of all the help that science and applied mechanics could give them. A committee of the Privy Council for scientific and industrial research was formed some time ago, and its first annual report has just been issued. It is possible that a central bureau of research may be established. At present, however, the difficulty appears to be in persuading manufacturers and agriculturists to co-operate.

Another hopeful sign is a committee of the Board of Education to facilitate and encourage the instruction of boys and girls in modern languages and science. And this no doubt will tend to bring a different spirit into industry; but trade will not be reorganised on a wide and solid basis until we get rid of some of the old formulæ and traditions. Whatever may be professed, it is certainly true that here in Great Britain, individualism is the principle, and competition, with all its deplorable waste, is the machine—evil and soulless—through which individualism works. Before we can have that economy which production on a large scale brings, before we can make scientific research generally helpful, we must have what old religionists have called "a change of heart." In other words, enlargement of outlook: as individuals, as classes, as patriots, we must go out beyond our own little selfish

concerns; we must think imperially in the true sense of that much-abused word.

Here, undoubtedly, woman can help. She possesses in a supreme degree, through her very womanhood, command over two great primal forces. One is love, which can so completely conquer hate as to destroy even its hideous progeny, and which, if allowed free course, can bring about reconciliation between even the bitterest foes. "Hatred ceaseth not by hatred," said an old mystic, "but by love." The second force is the old mother-craft of building. Moulder of form life, builder of bodies, shall not the world-mother be allowed to take her share in building up those social organisms which her man-child through his recklessness has destroyed?

We believe she will, and, therefore, we look forward with hope and confidence.

C. DESPARD.

## WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

### How Far Will They Go?

The Southwark Diocesan Committee on Women's Work have established a scheme for training in church and social work, and a course has been arranged with the help of Dr. Nairne and other professors at King's College. The training will consist of lectures and private tuition in theology and social science, together with practical work, and will probably extend over three terms. The Bishop of Southwark will give his personal supervision and will grant certificates of fitness for work in the diocese to students who attain the requisite standard. The fee will be £3 a term, and arrangements could be made for those students desiring to live at the Talbot House or Lady Margaret Hall Settlements at a cost of £50 a year. The autumn term begins on October 3. Further particulars may be obtained from Miss J. M. Douglas, Talbot House Settlement, Addington-square, Camberwell, S.E.

### Wireless Operators.

The experiment, made early in the year by the Marconi Company, of training women as wireless operators is declared to be encouraging. Some of the pupils have already been drafted to stations where they are doing satisfactory work. A tendency to be too light in sending is expected to disappear with practice, and the testing of their full success is now being made. Till the results are known it is announced that the work of the school will be discontinued for the present after September 30, says a correspondent in *The Times* (September 5).

### The Trades Unions and Women.

The quarterly report of the Management Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions, in urging the necessity of arriving at an understanding in respect of women's trade organisation, says:—"The woman is in the factory, she is working the machine, she is welding and brazing, and she is doing these things in a manner which at present wins commendation from her employer and the factory inspector. She is doing these things at rates which are lower than men's rates. Is she to continue on this work? If so, is she to continue at lower rates? Or will the trade unions take the matter in hand and help her to organise? These are questions that should be answered now."

### Holiday Work as Hop-pickers.

The Women's National Land Service Corps, 50, Upper Baker-street, London, W., invite applications from holiday workers to join their parties of educated women for hop-picking in September. Full particulars on application.

## The Advantages of Being a Man.

The woman who for four years dressed and worked as a man and whose sex was only revealed when called to military service, declares that men are much better off than women in the industrial world, they are much less liable to annoyance, and it gave her "a sort of shiver" to think that sooner or later she would have to return to women's clothes. Her employer was astonished at her quickness in learning the printing trade and speedily made her foreman; experienced men were glad to consult her about their work.

### On the Clyde.

There are 14,000 women employed in 150 shipyards and works on the Clyde.

## THE LOOM OF THE STATE.

[With public attention largely focussed on the discussions of the Trade Union Conference, now taking place in Birmingham, the following article, which through the exigencies of space in war time has been waiting for a chance to appear in THE VOTE, will be read with interest.]

Dreams of Utopias, New Jerusalems and Cities of the Sun have ever floated before the vision of reformers of all ages. There are those who conceive of the Ideal State as built of "such stuff as dreams are made of," hitched to a star and buoyed up in mid-air by the strands of the rainbow. But, even to-day, while the world we fondly thought to be civilised is spinning downwards, losing itself in what Lord Morley has called "a saturnalia of perversity," it is wholesome to be reminded that the ideal state is not wholly an unsubstantial fabric of the future, but that, to some extent, it is in the course of realisation, though, alas, immeasurably retarded by the cataclysm which has overtaken the world.

"The Labour Year Book,"\* issued under the auspices of the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Executive of the Labour Party, and the Fabian Research Department, may be regarded as the Encyclopædia of the Labour World, recording the history of labour and progressive organisations and marking the level of progress to which the Modern State had reached when the war broke out. Reformers cannot but regard that high-water mark with apprehension and wonder whether it will stand at a higher or a lower level at the end of the war. However distant of realisation was the ideal of a State founded on Social Justice, yet a study of the Year Book shows that, precept upon precept, and line upon line, principles were being embodied in legislation and in administration, the full effect of which would be to bring nearer that Commonwealth, whose citizens would be free to devote their highest powers to the service of the community, receiving in return facilities enabling them to live full and developed human lives. Perhaps Mr. Bernard Shaw, who contributes a preface, is right when he says that we have moved farther than we realise. "Very few people," he says, "know how much has been done already; and we find well-meaning people spending no end of their time and slender means in agitating for laws that

\* "The Labour Year Book, 1916." Card covers, 1s.; cloth covers, 2s. 6d.; postage 4d. extra. (London: 1, Victoria-street, S.W.; Co-operative Printing Society, Ltd., Tudor-street, E.C.; and at Manchester and Newcastle.)



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already exist; founding schools to teach what is already better taught in the elementary school round the corner; and calling on Parliament to do things that the County Council or City Corporation has had power to do for the last fifty years."

Adequately to review this volume would be a herculean task. It is the work of numerous contributors—experts in their own line. It contains unlimited information on a mass of subjects. Do you want to know who is the Member of Parliament for Little Puddleton, or the name of the President of the Swiss Republic, or the number of persons insured under the National Health Insurance Act? The Labour Annual will tell you. Are you interested in factory legislation, or in the cost of living, or do you want to know how to set the law in action with regard to insanitary dwellings? All the information you require will be found in this wonderful volume.

Some idea of the scope of the book may be gleaned from an enumeration of the titles of the eight parts into which the book has been divided.

These are:—

"Labour and the War," "The Industrial Labour Movement," "The Political Labour Movement," "The Co-operative Movement," "The International Working-class Movement," "Imperial and National Government," "Local Government," "Social Insurance."

Special articles have also been written by Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mr. J. A. Hobson, Mr. Philip Snowden, Miss Catherine Marshall and others. Special mention may be made of the excellent bibliographies which are to be found throughout the book.

We are glad to find the Suffrage Societies in their right place among other progressive organisations, and we hope that there is now an end to the suspicion with which they were once looked upon in labour circles, as being "middle-class" or even "reactionary." In the section "Labour and the War," we are glad to find the Manifesto of the Women's Freedom League, issued last March on the occasion when the Government invited the voluntary registration of women willing to undertake paid work of any kind.

Miss Margaret Bondfield writes of "The Future of Women in Industry."

"There is," she says, "a fine brave social consciousness growing in our midst, manifested in all classes and in all sorts and conditions of people. That force will be irresistibly drawn to support the just demand of women workers for a decent standard of life."

We hope she is right. But it will depend largely on whether women are to have direct influence upon the government of the country. Miss Catherine Marshall rightly insists upon the value of the solidarity of women, if such solidarity could "be developed in such a way as to strengthen the movement towards internationalism, and, at the same time, to find some other way than class war for bringing about the changes necessary in our social structure." We have never indeed enjoyed peace. When the sword has been sheathed abroad, we have had internecine strife at home—strife between sections of the community, injustice and tyranny between man and man and between man and woman. Miss Marshall insists that women could do much "if we had the power which the vote brings."

Members of the League and others interested in social progress will do well to place this volume on their bookshelf. **E. M. N. C.**

Heard at a meeting on infant mortality:

Distinguished doctor: "And thus the child may be saved, and he may become a useful citizen of his town, and perhaps render invaluable service to his country." No girl babies needed, clearly. D. M.

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\*\* 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.

### WOMAN SUFFRAGE PROGRAMME.

DEAR EDITOR,—In the last issue Miss Winifred Holiday criticises the P. and M. Manifesto published the previous week, and though she does not say it in so many words, evidently considers that at the present time Women's Suffrage Societies may safely widen their programme and become Adult Suffragists.

Many members of the W.F.L. will, I am sure, dissent from that view and hold now, as always, that the first necessity is the removal of the sex barrier. Does Miss Holiday really believe that the demand for a service franchise does in the eyes of politicians carry with it an equivalent demand for women? Does she not know that Sir John Simon's three "links," if I may so paraphrase her sentence, have their parallels in the Agricultural Labourers' Bill, and that the women may again as easily as then be thrown overboard?

I should be glad to know what proof there is that larger views have been brought about by the changed conditions. Is it to be found in the resolution to be discussed at the Trade Union Congress that all licences granted to women conductors shall be for the period of the war only?

Is it in the attitude of the engineers to the women who by pressure of the nation's necessity have been forced into the workshops?

Is it amongst the railwaymen? With every organised society of men standing firm for the restoration of the *status quo ante*, what encouragement have we to believe that they or their representatives will grant us that symbol of equality which we have begged for so long?

I personally should like to believe that the struggle was at an end and the way clear, but I find no ground for such belief.

Therefore I appeal to the members of the W.F.L. to stand firm, and not, either as individuals or in our League, allow themselves to be lured from their object by the wanderings of a will o' the wisp.

Was it not the promise of a wider measure which torpedoed the Conciliation Bill? Is it necessary to remind the League what was the fate of that promised measure? Let us have votes for women first, and then those of us who desire it will have a potent weapon to wield for Adult Suffrage.

Yours truly,

96, Deansgate, Manchester. **M. I. NEAL.**

DEAR EDITOR,—I have been reading among other utterances Miss Winifred Holiday's letter in THE VOTE of September 1, and I cannot help wondering why so many people just now are anxious to reproach the W.F.L. for its attitude on Adult Suffrage. Speaking as an associate and supporter of the W.F.L. since its formation, I may say that I have never found more convinced and earnest Adult Suffragists than the W.F.L. members. It would be indeed ungenerous not to recognise that the one aim of the W.F.L. is to secure an absolute sex equality. It is, of course, quite another matter to expect this Suffrage body, which has been during the war the only consistent Suffrage organisation keeping Women's Suffrage to the fore, to sink now its distinctively Women's Suffrage propaganda for a vague "human service" cry. I may remark that I, as an active politician, see very few signs yet of any definite determination to do justice to women.

THEY SUPPORT US!

I distrust all this vague and confused emotionalism by which politicians are diplomatically dodging the whole question, and I cannot help seeing all round me a mass of average "man in the street" opinion which expresses fear and dislike that a measure of Adult Suffrage including women would mean, as Lords Curzon and Cromer point out, immediately putting on the register a majority of woman voters. Moreover, the Trades Unionist is keenly alive to the difficulties that may crop up at the end of the war over the problems attendant on the dislocation of women's labour. I think the great mass of opinion in the organised political parties is more concerned about the vote for our brave men and boys at the front than for the women and girls at home.

Taking, therefore, all things into consideration, the W.F.L. would surely be lacking in political capacity and intelligence if it deviated in any way from its distinctive claim for the equal recognition of women.—I am, etc., **C. COATES.**  
Wilstop House, Roman-road, Middlesbrough.

### The Aberystwyth Campaign.

We are now in the sixth week of our successful campaign, and the enthusiasm continues with all the earnestness which has been so prominent from the beginning. Miss Anna Munro at the nightly meetings is most cordially received by large and interested crowds. It is recognised that, although progress is being made day by day in the Suffrage cause, votes for women are not yet won, and now more than ever should the W.F.L. keep the flag flying until, as Miss Murray says in her article of last week, the enemy of prejudice and injustice is completely conquered.

THE VOTE continues to sell in large numbers. I should like more contributions from our friends and members so that the campaign may be entirely self-supporting. I acknowledge with best thanks: Mrs. Giles, 5s. 6d.; Anon., 2s.

**ALIX M. CLARK, (Hon. Organiser).**

Granville, North-parade, Aberystwyth.

### "Woman—The New Discovery."

Miss Eunice G. Murray's latest pamphlet, "Woman—The New Discovery," issued recently by the Women's Freedom League (Literature Department, 1d.), is already in its second edition. No wonder! It brings within the compass of a few pages contrasting statements of men about women before and after the declaration of war—"gentle creatures but weak, unfit for responsibility," etc., and "women are truly magnificent in mind and body as workers, organisers, thinkers," etc. The moral of the discovery, political and economic freedom for women, is driven home with Miss Murray's wonted skill and humour.

THE "ENGLISHWOMAN" EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster (close to Westminster Hospital), from Wednesday, November 15, to Saturday, November 25, 1916, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Exhibition aims at the support and extension of our home arts and industries, which will be an important national asset when the war is over, and it brings the workers into touch with the artistic and buying public. For particulars write to The Secretary, *The Englishwoman*, 11, Haymarket, London, S.W.

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### The Flag Flying in Glasgow.

Following the Clyde campaign, active propaganda work is being enthusiastically carried on in Glasgow. Miss Murray, with Miss Bunten, addressed a large crowd of men and women at Peel-street, Partick, where a good collection was taken and THE VOTE was sold. Miss Semple presided over a very large gathering at Bridgeton Cross last Monday, when Miss Murray "held" the crowd for an hour and a-half. She advocated Votes for Women on the same basis as they are now, or may be, granted to men. "That's sense noo!" came from a group of men who were attentive listeners. "Of course women will get the vote, for we want a change!" and "I'm shair they'll nae dae waur if nae better than men!" was the retort from another man. Every copy of THE VOTE was sold and many of Miss Murray's pamphlets. Should Mr. MacCallum-Scott, Member of Parliament for the constituency, find himself opposed by a woman he will run a risk. We are all glad to see Miss Semple once more in the field, as fresh and able as ever.

### Branch Notes.

#### Chester Suffrage Shop, 45 St. Werburgh Street.

A committee meeting was held at the shop on Monday last to discuss future plans. Mrs. H. Brown consented to become president again, having only resigned previously when she found she had too much to do at home, not through any lack of interest. She also offered to give a drawing-room meeting at her house later on. It was decided to ask those members who so successfully organised our last whist drive to undertake similar work during the winter and to arrange one when a speaker comes. It was decided that members be asked to provide handkerchiefs for a stall at the Green, White and Gold Fair. Other matters were discussed. The Barrel Organ Collection last month for prisoners of war amounted to £37 12s. 6d., taken one Saturday, being the largest collection yet made. Miss H. Brown, the organiser, has arranged to go out again on Saturday next.

#### Croydon Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

The next sewing meeting will be held on Friday, September 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. Will members who cannot attend be good enough to send a contribution towards paying for material? Useful articles made at these meetings are for sale at the Green, White and Gold Fair in November, or, if sold before, the profits will be for the benefit of the Fair. Members requiring copies of THE VOTE, or any literature, should call at the Office any Saturday morning from 11.30 to 12, when the Secretary will be pleased to see them.

#### Scottish Scattered.

Two excellent meetings have been held in Ayrshire. Miss Eunice Murray addressed large crowds. She was assisted by Mrs. Johnstone and Miss Mary McIntyre. The crowds agreed that had Mr. Asquith been in earnest in wishing the women well, he would have used this opportunity to enfranchise them, not to make vague promises, which he knows so well how to evade. The sales of literature were brisk. Over 10s. was taken for VOTES and pamphlets, the entire stock being sold out, and orders received for further supply. In spite of Mr. Asquith's pledge, the struggle before us will be keen. When the question comes to be discussed in the House of Commons, we shall find that opposition is still there; men's prejudices have been temporarily allayed, not permanently dispersed.

### The Despard Arms, 125, Hampstead-road, N.W.

In our new bright red and white paint we are now the most conspicuous building in the Hampstead-road; we expect to make a greater impression than before on the man and woman in the street. Last Sunday a soldier "scouting" for a good place to bring several chums with their wives, just arriving from Lancashire, spotted us, and in half an hour brought in his party triumphantly. We are still in urgent need of helpers every evening, 5.30 to 10. We can keep them busy serving teas, suppers, washing up, &c., and they will be heartily welcomed. Furniture for another bedroom (including two single beds) is a new and pressing need, which we hope will be met through the kindness of friends by September 20. Our best thanks to Mrs. Carey for the valued gift of a mattress and her other kindnesses.

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EXCHANGE, PAGE 1172.

FRIDAY,  
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