

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor - - SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 48.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH, 1916.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

E.L.F.S. FIXTURES.

Friday, Feb. 18th.
Beckton Rd., 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Mr. Dunstan.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Drake.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

Saturday, Feb. 19th.
Grundy St., 3 p.m., Miss Rickards, Mrs. Drake.

Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Fairbairn Hall, 310 Barking Rd., 3 to 6 p.m., Children's Party.

Well St. & Morning Lane, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Sunday, Feb. 20th.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Osborne St., 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.

The Grove, Stratford, 12 noon, Mrs. Walker.

Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Miss Dorothy Matthew, Mr. C. H. Norman. Chair: Mrs. Drake.

Monday, Feb. 21st.
"Whitehouse," 4.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.

175 Dalston Lane, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.

Tuesday, Feb. 22nd.
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. McLeod, Miss Lynch.

Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mr. Bracher, Mrs. Drake.
Salmon Lane, 6.30 p.m., Miss Feek.

Wednesday, Feb. 23rd.
Chrisp St., 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
53 St. Leonard St., 3.30 p.m., Miss Smyth.

Thursday, Feb. 24th.
175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
55 Fife Rd., 3 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Miss S. Pankhurst.

Friday, Feb. 25th.
Kensington Town Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting.

Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Drake.

Saturday, Feb. 26th.
Grundy St., 11.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m., Miss Mary Richardson, Mrs. Drake.

Morpeth St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.

BOW BATHS, 3 to 7 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Sunday, Feb. 27th.
Special Self-Denial Meetings, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Miss Rickards, Mrs. Leigh Rothwell.

Special Self-Denial Meetings, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS—400 Old Ford Road, Bow and 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Dinners from 12 to 2 p.m.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, are still very urgent. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol?

We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Mothers and Children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Tuesdays 2 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Garments for our Clothing Stalls are much needed, and should be sent to the "Mother's Arms," 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

PUBLIC MEETING,
KENSINGTON TOWN HALL,
Friday, February 25th, 8 p.m.

Speakers:
Dr. SALEEBY
Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST
Mr. GEORGE LANSBURY

Chair:
Dr. BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY
ADMISSION FREE.

Reserved Seats - - - 2s. 6d., 1s., 6d.

SUNDAY MEETING,
February 20th, 7.30 p.m.
POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL,
20 Railway Street.

Speakers:
Miss DOROTHY MATTHEW,
Mr. C. H. NORMAN
on "Crimes of the Government."

Chair - - Mrs. DRAKE
Songs: Miss HELSBY.
Admission - - - 2d.

WOMEN'S LABOUR ON THE CLYDE.

MEN INSIST ON EQUAL WAGES.

By P. J. DOLLAN.

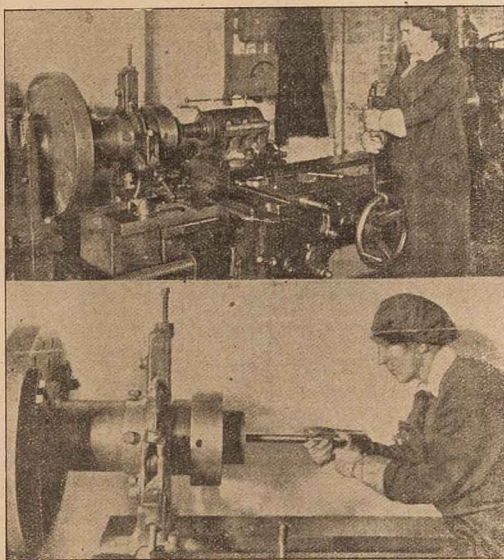
From the standpoint of women workers, the most significant incident that has occurred in the Clyde area during the war, has been the action of the Johnstone engineers in stopping work for five days in support of a demand that all women introduced to local engineering work under the "dilution of labour" scheme should receive the same minimum rates of wages as the men doing the same class of work. The Johnstone engineers favour the employment of women, provided they receive the same wages as the men, and as a consequence of their protest, the principle of "equal wages for equal work" is now to be considered by the Government Commissioners and employers and the trade unions in the Clyde area.

Moreover the Clyde Workers' Committee and the A.S.E. shop stewards have decided to make the principle of "equal pay for equal work" the basis of the scheme which they have agreed to submit to the Government Commissioners as the conditions under which they are prepared to accept and operate dilution of labour. This is an indication that the rank and file are prepared to work alongside the women as comrades—as equals—but that they are opposed to the employment of women if their employment is to be used by the employers for the dual purpose of augmenting profits and lowering wages. Whilst the men are adopting this encouraging attitude it can only be effective if the women, who are to make dilution of labour a success, co-operate with the men in demanding and establishing equal pay for equal work. According to the scheme put forward by the Clyde workers, the first condition of the operation of dilution is:—

" THAT THE INCOME OF THE NEW CLASS OF LABOUR BE FIXED, NOT ON THE SEX, PREVIOUS TRAINING, OR EXPERIENCE OF THE WORKER, BUT UPON THE AMOUNT OF WORK PERFORMED, BASED ON THE RATES PREVIOUSLY OBTAINING FOR THE PARTICULAR OPERATION."

The above condition has been accepted as part of an agreement, signed by the Government Commissioners, Sir William Beardmore, and the trade union shop stewards, which is to govern the employment of women and "unskilled" workers in Parkhead Forge, Glasgow, one of the largest munitions of war establishments in the country. In Parkhead Forge there are hundreds of women making shells, and their product, both as regards quantity and quality, compares well, I am reliably informed, with that of the men. In future these women are to receive the same wages as men when they become "efficient," until they become "efficient" each group of six women will be supervised by a male operator whose wages will be paid by the women. That is to say that six women in each group will receive in the learning period the trade union rates, minus the amount required to pay the wages of the skilled operator. After the skilled operator is dispensed with his wages are automatically added to those of the women whose labour he formerly supervised. Under this scheme the employers cannot benefit financially by the employment of women meantime.

(Continued on back page.)



BORING SIX-INCH SHELL.

LOCAL TRIBUNAL. Women Barred.

We learn that informing the Poplar Tribunal under the Military Service Act, the seven members of the Tribunal set up under the Derby Scheme were taken as the nucleus, and seven new members were appointed by the Borough Council. The Labour Party nominated Mr. George Lansbury, Mr. J. Banks, Mr. A. A. Watts, Mr. March and Mrs. Scurr. They also nominated, without her knowledge, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, but Miss Pankhurst wishes to make it clear that as she is opposed to conscription, and to the War, she objects to taking any part in administering the Military Service Act, and would have declined a seat on the Tribunal, had she been elected to it.

A majority of the Poplar Borough Council decided to refuse to put any women on the Tribunal, and refused also to elect any of the nominees of the Labour Party, except Mr. Banks and Mr. March, but they elected two other members of the Poplar Labour Party—Mr. C. Sumner and Mr. D. Adams.

RESIST CONSCRIPTION!

Men of military age who are determined to resist Conscription, have two courses open to them:—They may either ignore the Military Service Act altogether, or they may claim exemption and plead their case before the Tribunals set up under the Act.

If they decide on the latter course they should obtain an Exemption Form from the Clerk to the Local Tribunal, at the offices of the Local Authority, before March 1st. Whoever believes that all war is wrong,

or that this war is wrong, and whoever objects to Conscription, whether military or industrial, will, of course, claim absolute and complete exemption, and refuse any form of compulsory service, whether in regard to combatant or non-combatant work.

Objectors who decide to state their case before a Tribunal will, of course, make it clear that they do not intend to abide by its ruling, should it decide against them.

Those who are not exempted, or who are only partially exempted by the Local Tribunals, have the right to take their case to the Appeal Tribunal, and can insist upon doing so, but they must appeal within three days. The appeal must be written on a form obtained from the Clerk to the Local Tribunal, and must be sent to the Local Tribunal, whose duty it is to forward it to the Appeal Tribunal.

The National Council Against Conscription.

President: ROBERT SMILLIE
INVITES
1. THE AFFILIATION of all organisations opposed to Conscription.
2. IMMEDIATE OFFERS OF HELP in the work of advising applicants for exemption and of attending the courts to watch the administration of the Act by individuals and organisations in every part of Great Britain.
3. APPLICATIONS FOR ADVICE from all claiming exemptions of any kind who are not already in touch with similar organisations.

All communications should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
National Council Against Conscription,
18 Bride Lane, LONDON, E.C.

Those who attend at the East London Tribunals, in order to watch the interests of men refusing Military service, should communicate with us at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

OUR ADVERTISEMENT RATES.

Table with 2 columns: Advertisement type and Rate. Includes Per inch, Per column, Per half-column, Per page, Per half-page, Classified advertisements, and ten or more insertions.

All communications should be sent to the— ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, 400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E. Telephone EAST 1787.

AGENTS: INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGE SHOP, 5 Duke Street, Charing Cross, W.C. CITY AND SUBURBS PUBLISHING Co., 21 Brixton Churchyard, E.C. Messrs. HORACE MARSHALL & Co., Temple Avenue, E.C. HAMBROUGHS, 31 Old Bailey, E.C. A. RICHIE, Paulston Row, Gough Square, E.C. A. RAGGETT, Clark Street, Shoreditch, E. JOHN HAYWARD, Manchester, THE WHOLESALE SOCIETY, 10 Johnson Street, Bolton.

Can be obtained at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. SMITH & Sons & Messrs. WILKING & All Newspapers.

Annual Subscription: Post Free, 9s. 6d. Vol. II, No. 48—Sat., Feb. 19th, 1916.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the world's burdens. Why then, deny us the right to vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

LLOYD GEORGE "IN WONDERLAND."

The book on the employment of women in munition factories, which Mr. Lloyd George has issued, has been greatly boomed by the Press, but it is a very trivial document and bears a close resemblance to the catalogues which commercial firms issue to advertise their wares.

The questions of wages and working hours receive scant attention, the brief references made to them are intensely and perhaps intentionally misleading.

Accidents and prosecutions have brought to light the fact that certain firms have kept women and girls working for as long as from 25 to 37 hours at a stretch.

The Health of Munition Workers Committee, appointed by Mr. Lloyd George, has reported that men and women have been employed continuously for 90 hours a week, and that a 70 or 80 hour week is now the common rule.

The Committee recommends that the women's hours should be limited to 60 per week, exclusive of meal times; the men's to 65 to 67. The working hours of boys, the Committee suggests, should not be compulsorily limited, but "every effort should be made not to work boys under 16 more than 60 hours a week."

These are the hours recommended as an improvement on the present practice. Yet here is Mr. Lloyd George's book implying that munition factories usually employ their workers on three shifts of eight hours "with two breaks for meals, and an additional break of ten minutes in the middle of the long shift!"

Women's Wages.

The one reference made by Mr. Lloyd George's book to wages is as follows:—"The male operator is responsible for both machines and the total price paid for the production of the two lathes is the same as was originally paid when two men worked these two machines. The man gives the woman every possible assistance, and when the total earnings of the two machines are distributed, the division is such as to considerably increase the normal earnings of the male worker. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the amount paid for the work is not reduced in any way, so that the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Munitions with regard to the employment of women on work previously carried out by men are strictly adhered to."

The authorities have now deducted the allowances both for billeting and for fire and light.

2s. a Week and a Green Armband.

Extensive efforts are being made to draw women into agricultural employment; the Government is appealing for 400,000 women for the

general case, the workers at Beardmore's Parkhead Forge, Glasgow, would not at the present be endeavouring to wring from their employers the agreement to prevent the underpayment of women's labour, which is explained in the article on our front page by Councillor Dollan who has an intimate knowledge of the local conditions. As stated in that article, women munition workers in the Clyde area are usually paid less than 14s. a week.

In the Manchester munitions area the officials are still pleading vainly for a £1 a week minimum wage for the women workers. The Manchester Women's War Interests Committee states that the time rate for the majority of the adult women is 14s. a week. But this apparently includes overtime, for in a case we reported last week, the employer unblushingly stated that the wage of a woman munition worker was 10s. for a 50½ hour week.

The woman in question unsuccessfully appealed to the Tribunal for permission to leave her employment on the ground that the payment was insufficient, the Tribunal replying that she was getting a "fair wage."

In the Birmingham area, the Workers' Union has secured from the Midland Employers' Federation an agreement that women engaged on work, which prior to the war was done by men, shall receive the £1 a week minimum, but as all the work is differently sub-divided now, it is often impossible to discover the women who are doing precisely what men did before.

The agreement secures that other women employed in munition factories shall be paid as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Age, Time rate, s. d. Includes rows for 14 years, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.

If these rates are not higher than those previously earned, a War bonus is to be paid of 1s. a week to workers under 17 years, 1s. 6d. to those between 17 and 19, 2s. over 19.

These miserable rates are only secured in factories where the Workers' Union has a strong membership, and employers continually strive to evade the agreement.

In the London area it is well known that 3d. and 3d. an hour are the rates most commonly paid to women munition workers.

It is sometimes stated that though women may be sweated in the controlled factories, in the Government's own factories wages are high; but the Morning Post, of February 12th, published the reply of a woman worker in Woolwich Arsenal itself, who says:—"The statement that the women earn wages of 38s. and £2 a week is ludicrously untrue!"

But indeed the actual fact is all too glaringly apparent. Women have come into munition work in tremendous numbers and in the overwhelming majority of cases they are employed at sweated rates in what has been a hitherto well-paid trade.

The evil is not confined to munition work. Every day appear fresh instances of the gross exploitation of women's labour, both by the Government and by private employers.

Cutting Down the Nurses' Pay.

The Army Council engaged nurses to go to the front at £2 2s. a week—then cut the salary down by half. Now there is a further reduction. Nurses at the front whose salary is £40 a year have been paid:—

Table with 2 columns: Allowance and Conditions. Includes Field allowance 3s. per day, Billeting 2s. 3d., Fire and light 11d. in winter, Washing 1s. 6d. in summer.

The authorities have now deducted the allowances both for billeting and for fire and light.

Extensive efforts are being made to draw women into agricultural employment; the Government is appealing for 400,000 women for the

Dr. SCARLETT SINGE.

The report of the German Internment Camps by Dr. Ella Scarlett-Syngé, which we publish on page 427, shows us very clearly that the treatment of British men in Germany is immensely superior to that meted out in British prisons to British women, who were law breakers in order that they might become law makers.

It is interesting to note that even the paltry and restricted privileges under the so-called rule 243a, which the women prisoners secured by the terrible expedient of the hunger-strike, were granted only on the condition that the women agreed to perform the work which the authorities might direct.

According to the report of Dr. Syngé, the British prisoners, as a body, refuse to work, but they do not appear to lose privileges in consequence.

BACK TO THE LAND (?)

The suggestions for setting discharged soldiers and sailors on the land, put forward by the Committee appointed by the President of the Board of Agriculture, have a good deal to recommend them, but much depends upon the administration of the scheme.

Soldiers and sailors and their friends at home must be watchful that this scheme is not used as an excuse for withholding pensions to those whose physique has been broken down by war service, and who are thus unfitted for heavy manual labour or sustained work of any kind.

Care must be taken also to insure that the men are not offered merely a Hobson's choice, which will force them to come under the scheme whether they will or no, and that those who voluntarily come under the scheme have assured to them a comfortable livelihood, not a bare existence.

At the present time the lot of the small-holder is, as a rule, most unenviable, unless he or she has some other main means of livelihood. This is largely due to the exorbitantly high railway rates, because of which it is more costly to send produce from Essex to London than from France.

The original agricultural labourers, who are faced with the inrush of women's labour, have long struggled to climb above the lowest rung of the ladder of man's employment.

All these things should spur women on to renewed efforts towards emancipation. We shall always be but feeble tools in the hands of the exploiter till we are organised industrially and have won THE VOTE.

E. SYLVIA PANHURST.

IN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Asquith's speech on the opening of Parliament was exceedingly depressing. The one thing for which he told the people they must be grateful, is that the French Government has agreed to provide land for cemeteries for our men.

He also said that the war is costing more than £5,000,000 a day, that there is to be largely increased taxation, that imports are to be still further curtailed and that public expenditure is to be cut down.

In the House of Lords, Lord Crewe referred to the large use of "the woman power of the country" by the Ministry of Munitions and Lord Kitchener appealed to employers to dismiss more of the young men.

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, Chairman of the Joint War Committee, has initiated a scheme for a college of nursing on a voluntary basis, governed by a council of management nominated by the chairman and governors of hospitals, physicians and surgeons, principals of nurses' training schools, etc.

This Council of management is to nominate an examining board, arrange for a scheme for examinations and certificates of proficiency, and generally to regulate the nursing profession.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland is opposed to this scheme, and at a meeting on February 12th this Council unanimously adopted a resolution, moved by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, to the effect that only through an Act of Parliament providing for the State Registration of trained nurses by an elected body, on which the registered nurses themselves have direct and sufficient representation, can the profession of nursing be effectively and justly organised, and that a voluntary scheme, such as that proposed by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, is calculated to impede such legislation.

MILITARY ORDERS!

One of the E.L.F.S. members went to see her son at Chisleton Camp, Wilts. She arrived rather tired after the journey, having had to start very early, so when her son met her she went with him to a village cafe to get a cup of tea.

The Glasgow School Board has reprimanded Mr. James Maxton, M.A., assistant and school master, and chairman of the L.L.P. in Scotland, for going to the Bristol Congress without permission.

He is to be transferred to another school and will get no increase when salaries are next revised.

In reply to the impertinent statement by the Government that naturalised British subjects may make "representations" to the Aliens Advisory Committee, in lieu of obtaining a fair trial, which may be denied them under the Defence of the Realm Act, the Law Journal says:—"That, of course, is no equivalent to trial, even though a judge presides over the committee deputed to consider the 'representations' for all the elementary conditions of a trial are absent; there is no statement of the facts constituting the charge, no indication whatever of the evidence in support of it, no opportunity for the accused to examine witnesses or documents, no right even for him to appear before his accusers or the committee. The privilege of making 'representations' is in these circumstances no security; it is a mere mockery, for it imposes on the accused the impossible burden of proving a negative, and reverses entirely the regular course of justice. Parliament can never have intended to create such an unheard-of situation for any British subject, and it is the business of Parliament to redress so intolerable a grievance."

Mr. Arthur Zadig, a British subject, who was interned without trial, applied at the Court of Appeal for a revision of that sentence. The appeal was dismissed.

Mr. Asquith, when addressing an influential deputation on February 10th, which protested against closing the museums, said: "One speaker has referred to this economy as a 'fleabite.' I am not in the least moved by the 'fleabite.' You must economise where you can in every direction."

That is true; Cabinet Ministers' only advocate economies or "fleabites" which they do not feel.

IN SERVIA AND THE GERMAN INTERNMENT CAMPS.

BY DR. SCARLETT SINGE.

It is with the wish to bring home the truth as I saw it during the ten months I was with the Germans after their capture of Batocchina and the ten surrounding villages, of which I was Medical Officer of Health, that I am writing the following lines.

That Serbia is devastated to-day as the result of war—and relief work, chiefly in the way of food most necessary,—is a fact. The live stock has been paid for or requisition papers given, nothing was taken without the owners' permission, when the owners remained in possession.

No soldiers looted—but they were allowed to take a shirt or a pair of boots if the house was empty—and they required such things. Their conduct to the inhabitants could not have been better, and the people were rapidly returning to their homes when I left, upon hearing from those who remained behind that the soldiers were behaving themselves. All the hens and chickens rapidly vanished, and a serious point is the slaughter of draught oxen, but all was, as I said before, paid for in cash, or a requisition paper given.

What sometimes happened was, if an artillery column came along and saw a stack of hay in a deserted yard, it was taken if required, but if the owner were near by, he or she would be paid for it.

I knew of one case where the German captain was trying to find which column had taken a certain stack of hay, but the column had vanished, and so had the hay, while the owner was away. Some of my own things were taken in this manner, because I had not anything written on my door, and of course I was in the school house, where my patients were, all day. If a paper were put on the door nothing was touched.

The German Red Cross work is magnificent. The Stabsarzt (Army Doctor) asked my permission and put his wounded men in the school house, where mine were, and we all worked most amicably together, my stock of things were all but exhausted, but all their dressings were at my disposal.

They use paper, specially prepared and sterilized, instead of cotton wool. I noticed quite a waste of dressing material, by that I mean, much more was used than necessary.

As soon as the wounded, Germans and Serbians alike, had received first aid at Batocchina, they were placed in the serviceable field ambulances, drawn by two huge horses, and sent to Lapovo, for operation when necessary; from there they went by train to Austria and Germany, Serbians also. Some Serbian wounded hid themselves in a house and were very sorry when they missed being taken to Germany. I tried to get them fetched, but all the horses had gone, and there was no means of transport left for them; it was their

own fault and they recognised it too late.

I asked permission to go to Berlin and inspect prisoner of war camps there, representing that I had acted in a similar official capacity for the British Government in South Africa, and had since then taken a special degree in sanitation. This permission was granted and by a wonderful series of fortunate episodes, I crossed three hostile frontiers—Hungary, Austria and Germany, without a single official paper that was in order.

The Red Cross doctor at Lapovo gave me a piece of note paper passing me from one Red Cross doctor to the other, and so I reached Belgrade. At Belgrade I wrote to the Austrian General, who allowed the Hungarian police to give me a permit to travel. I found at Buda Pesth, however, that the woman at the ticket office would not let me buy my ticket on this permit, as my photograph was not on it, and the silly thing issued me the ticket upon my showing her my photo on the Canadian passport—I had all the luck!

None could believe in Berlin that I was British, and that I had got through. I believe they are still enquiring as to how it was achieved. Everywhere I said "I was an English doctor from Canada."

The important matter now is to get a Scientific Sanitary Commissioner going from each country to mutually inspect camps with a view towards improving the tone in the Press, and the general feeling of the nations towards each other, which can be done when each knows the truth as well as the lies.

In a few years time I foresee that we shall have the old and natural alliance with Germany back—the great sea power and the great land power—will guarantee sufficiently the peace of the world; and while it is too early to speak of that yet, still in the meantime we may, and can, respect one another.

Prisoners of War Camp at Göttingen.

The camp contains about 10,000 prisoners of war, of whom 1,000 are English, who are housed in 84 barracks, 30 metres long, and 10 metres wide, each containing 120 sleeping cots, all of which are clean, each man having a mattress, pillow and two woollen blankets. Another 6,000 prisoners of war are expected, and further barracks are being erected. All barracks are on solid brick foundations, having wooden floors, suitable ventilation, and are well trencned.

HOSPITAL.—The head surgeon, Dr. Schwartzener, has a wide reputation, and Dr. Riemann was very popular with the patients; 14 barracks were set apart for hospital and tubercular cases, which latter are isolated.

Every patient has his own basin and towel. A new operating room has just been completed, with bath room and anaesthetising room; floor of cement and well drained, well lighted, painted white; 308 patients were in the hospital—there is room for 520; isolation quarters are ready if needed. In 16 months there have been 16 deaths.

DISINFECTING BUILDING.—This and the laundry are the best features of the camp, for, although everything else is as it should be, and far better than it would have been right to expect, still, these two installations are absolute models. The disinfecting house contains three rooms, and is most ingeniously planned. It contains a Duisburg generator.

THE LAUNDRY.—Has cement-floored rooms for soiled linen, into which opens the wash-house proper, containing three large wash drums and two centrifugal machines, also having cement floor. Plenty of hot and cold water is at hand, and a third room containing a hot air drying chamber, having one partition for each barrack. A mangle was also in working order. Laundry is heated by radiator. Close by are 24 shower baths which can be used when desired.

WATER SUPPLY.—Taps and pumps from town water supply. An excellent feature are the cement floors round each pump, where the men can wash anything they wish on tables, and at all times they can fetch hot water.

SANITARY SYSTEM.—Water-borne system. To-day was freezing, and in consequence, the water was turned off, the building inspected, and while the pipe was being protected no nuisance obtains. The pumps outside were all wrapped in straw and worked well. Cement boxes at intervals for rubbish, and a separate box for empty tins.

RECREATIONS.—Well laid-out gardens everywhere. Pets allowed. Self-made musical instruments and a fair orchestra. The Russian Balalaika, a stringed instrument, is made in camp, and an artist played Russian national airs after the manner of a born musician.

THEATRE.—An excellent opera scene was being performed as we visited the theatre. There is plenty of room for exercise within the camp limits. But no football or tennis spaces.

JU-JITSU is taught, also boxing, and instruction in athletics in special barracks.

LIBRARY.—7,000 books in several languages, and much used harmoniums and pianos are in the camp.

SCHOOL.—Two barracks are available and used for instruction. Maps

were on the wall, and much advantage was taken of the courses offered, and lectures were attended. Count de Baumont, a celebrated painter from Paris, teaches his art to a class of students, and Monsieur Paillet, an advocate from Arres, gives instruction in various subjects, both these professors are prisoners of war.

Prof. Stange, of the University of Göttingen, directs all the instruction given in the camp. He is there each day, has his own office, gives lectures, and superintends the library.

Wittenberg bei Halle is Prisoner of War Camp.

Many of the parcels from England are shockingly packed—thin brown paper and poor string. Usually something is missing, and, indeed, it is a wonder many ever arrive at all. The French parcels are the only ones well packed, in small wooden boxes sewn up in canvas, and address well marked.

A questionable feature of all these camps consists in the large number of able-bodied unemployed Englishmen. Remuneration can be earned for work, and of this circumstance other nationalities take advantage. It was informed that the English prisoners of war will not consent to work, and I am unaware of the reasons for such a refusal.

In view of the grave difficulties which will arise from a large body of idle men, who have had everything provided for them during a considerable period of self-imposed unemployment, returning to their native land, and being thrown upon their own resources, this point is of great importance. It is a question, both social and economic, with which, in the future, we shall have considerable difficulty in coping.

Prisoners of War Camp Giessen, South Germany.

POST OFFICE AND PARCELS.—The best feature of this camp is the post office in charge of an officer, whose heart is in his endeavour to make a success of his work. He had a large building apart from the rest of the camp, where 80 trusted prisoners of war work; 84,000 parcels were dealt with in November. As we arrived, a huge auto came up, of which I wished I could have taken a photograph. It was stated that many parcels could not be delivered, as they were so carelessly repacked by the English censor, so as to be untraceable. I saw a tub full of such relics, and saw some arrive in which a damaged parcel had the name of owner could not be discerned upon it, or the whole of the paper wrapper was missing, or the paper arrived and the parcel did not.

The Camp of Ruhlleben.

The best feature of the camp is the school. This is in the upper floor of a large building, which is divided by canvas into many rooms. There are 1,400 scholars daily. All languages are taught, even Chinese. Many studied German, and prizes are given for the most proficient.

There is another building where cinematograph pictures are shown three times a day. The prisoners pay ten cents each, entrance fee, which goes towards the purchase of new films. I saw one amusing picture which everyone liked. Moving pictures have been taken of the life of Ruhlleben, and will be shown later. Nine tennis courts and very large football grounds.

CACTUSES.—There is a whole row of shops in which the prisoners of war practise their trade, as watch makers, boot makers, etc. The canteen was excellent; 2,000 eggs formerly were used daily, but they are now hard to obtain, and 1,200 are sold a week. Fruit can be bought for the same price as in town.

CATHEDRAL.—There is a cathedral, with a beautiful tapestry of the Madonna from Munich, and a wooden carving of the head of Christ, a work of one of the prisoners of war, which was of great artistic value. This Chapel should be better ventilated.

Mr. George Bernard Shaw has very kindly judged the children's reports of the Poplar Party.

The prize essay, together with Mr. Shaw's criticisms, will appear in our issue of next week. The prize-winner and other contributors will be presented with Mr. Shaw's autograph, corrections and criticisms.

The Dundee Branch of the No-Conscription Fellowship held a meeting on February 12th, in Albert Square, under the auspices of the Joint Committee formed to repeal the Military Service Act. The speakers were Councillor Brown, Mr. Donaldson, N.P., and R.P., Mr. Eddie, I.L.P., and others.

The Chairman said that the Government was looking for backbone in the nation, and that the vote of men of military age should prove that they possessed backbone by resisting the Act. Mr. Eddie said that he was proud to be one of the objectors who were called "conscientious objectors."

The Rev. Mr. G. J. G. was speaking of literature and a collection in aid of victimised men. There will be another meeting in Albert Square next Sunday at 2.30 p.m. Those who live in or near Dundee should make a point of being there! Mr. James Maxton, N.A.C., will be the speaker.

The Executive Committee of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks is moving a resolution at the Union's Annual Meeting at Cardiff next Easter, in favour of raising the school age for children to 16 years.

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AGENTS WANTED. WRITE FOR ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE. We should be glad to hear of friends going to Manitoba, Canada, in from six weeks to two months' time, who would be willing to take a little baby out with them. Deal with our Advertisers; They help the "Dreadnought."

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND—Mrs. Garner 1.0.0, Miss E. Gore Browne (monthly) 7.0, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Ball 5.0, Miss Ada Farmer 3.0, Miss Dale-Glossop 2.0. "DREADNOUGHT" FUND—Miss Ada Frisby 5.10, Ben Turner, Esq. 5.0, N. London M.P.U. 5.0, A friend from Kensal Rise 2.6. FOR MILK & GENERAL DISTRESS—Per Miss Stone Blackwell 28.2.8, Mrs. Mortimer 5.4.10, Miss Yeoman (5 weeks) 21.0.0, Miss A. S. Coombes 2.5.0, Mrs. Singer (5.6 weekly) 2.4.0, Miss Parry 2.0.0, E. Hughes, Esq. and friends 12.0, Miss Dreury (5.0 monthly) 10.0, Mrs. M. Floyd 10.0, Mrs. Empson (5.0 monthly) 10.0, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence 10.0, Mrs. Richmond (5.0 weekly) 10.0, Mrs. Singer 8.6, Miss Hilda Black 5.0, Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly) 5.0, per Mrs. T. C. Olorio 4.6, Rev. T. Gore Browne (monthly) 4.0, Mrs. M. Gillies 4.0, Miss Crab (monthly) 3.6, Mr. Stibel 3.0, Tina and Bella 2.6, Mrs. Simpson (weekly) 2.6, Miss M. Omond (weekly) 2.0, Mrs. Morris 2.0, Mrs. King per Mrs. Page 1.0, Anon 0.6. COLLECTIONS—Stocking Dept. L.S.A. 11.5.6, Toolroom L.S.A. 19.11, Bow Clinic 1.1.6, Miss Broadbent 14.7.5, Employees of Messrs. Ross, Ltd., per Mrs. Young 11.6, Bromley Clinic 10.10, Anon 10.5, Bromley Milk Collection 9.5, Bow Open-air Meetings 8.10, Miss Lynch 8.7.4, Women's Hall 5.6. CLOTHES—Mrs. Bentley (U.S.A.), Miss Handley (Natal), Mrs. Sell, Mrs. Bates (U.S.A.), Miss Wilson, Misses Hilday Gibson, Anon, Miss Dale-Glossop, Mrs. Brabner. PUSH CART—Mrs. Farnes. TEA—Mrs. Sald Brown. Canning Town Party—Mrs. Bullock.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION OF THE SUFFRAGETTES.

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"DREADNOUGHT" SALES:—

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Dreadnought sales week ending Feb. 19th—1,038. Miss O'Brien 230, Miss Lynch 215, Mrs. Holloway 200, Miss Bennett 110, Miss Smyth 66, Mrs. Savoy 48, Mrs. Farrall 40, Miss Sands 24, Mrs. Eglington 18, Miss King 20, Mrs. Pascoe 12. General Sales 55.

POPULAR.

Dreadnoughts sold week ending Feb. 12th—324. Miss Kiley 70, Miss Vine 55, Mrs. Shlette 52, Mrs. Rouncey 14.

BROMLEY.

Dreadnought sales, per Mrs. Payne—94.

LIMEHOUSE.

Mrs. Bird 122.

OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Public Halls Committee of the Poplar Borough Council has refused to let Bow Baths Hall for the E.L.F.S. Conference, on Sunday, on the plea that it is a political meeting.

The Conference has therefore been transferred to Saturday, February 26th, from 4 to 7, and 8 to 10 p.m. Tea at 400 Old Ford Rd. at 7.15 p.m.

There will be no General Meeting on Monday, February 21st.

AN INDIAN PLAY

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The British Government insists upon arming its merchantmen and the German Government insists on making war on armed merchantmen; and it is said that for this purpose Germany has now provided itself with a larger type of submarine, fitted with powerful guns. In the dispute between the belligerent Governments, the non-combatants are sacrificed!

"I am far from saying that Governments are necessarily a curse to those they govern, but woe to that nation which allows its Government to regulate from day to day, and youth to old age, its ideas and its intellectual developments. It is the glory of France and England that we allow a free career, not only to talents but to ideas, and in this the Press takes a leading part."—Mr. Herbert Samuel, Home Secretary, at the Savoy dinner to the French journalists. But why has the British cut off the "free career" of the ideas expressed by *The Worker*, *The Forward*, and other papers?

A MODEL LAUNDRY.—Family work a speciality. Dainty fabrics of every description treated with special care. Flannels and silks washed in distilled water. No chemicals used. Best labour only employed. Prompt collection; prompt delivery.—Bullens, Cressy House Laundry, Reynolds Road, Acton Green, W.

Continued from front page.

Hitherto the women, though organised, and active, were unable to establish the principle of equal pay for equal work, and it was only when the men became aware of the danger of a large incursion of cheap labour to their industry that they came to the assistance of the women by forcing the employers and the Government Commissioners to recognise the principle. This seems to indicate that men and women, where they are working together, must co-operate and work on a common platform for the realisation of their mutual objective and the removal of their common grievances. Men and women munition workers united, can achieve everything within reason for the immediate amelioration of their grievances.

The agreement reached at Parkhead Forge will further the co-operation of men and women workers, and in that way help to destroy that antagonism which capitalism fosters between the sexes by using the labour of women to cheapen the labour of men. Unfortunately other employers on the Clyde are still inclined to foster that antagonism as—except Parkhead Forge—employers, all of them, are refusing to observe the principle of equal pay for equal work. These exploiting employers admit that women are doing the same work as men and with equal success; but they refuse to pay them men's wages, thereby encouraging the belief of many trade unionists that "dilution of labour" is to be used to augment profits and dividends at the expense of wages.

Thus at one workshop in the Clyde area women munition workers, employed under the "dilution of labour" scheme, are receiving a maximum of 14s. as time rate for doing work done by men earning a minimum of 9d. per hour! The same disparity exists with regard to piece-rates and in the circumstances it is not surprising that 150 men were dismissed from the above workshop last week, and their places given to women. The men were classed as "semi-skilled" workers and were earning 8d. per hour: the women are to get 12s. to 14s. per week! These facts make it plain that some employers want dilution to lower wages and increase profits, and the male workers naturally object to any further dilution unless they receive a Government guarantee that equal pay for equal work will obtain wherever dilution of labour is introduced.

Now that the Clyde Workers' Committee and the A.S.E. shop stewards have definitely decided to enforce the equal pay for equal work principle, it behoves the women organisations in the Clyde area to encourage the women to demand equal wages also. Men and women must co-operate with each other on this question, and if they do co-operate their success is assured. This is the woman worker's opportunity, and she must not let it pass. Now is the time to establish economic equality for the men and women employed in the production and manufacture of munitions, and it will be the workers' own fault if they allow the chance of the century to pass without directing it towards the gain of their class.

FAVOURITISM.

The offices of the W.S.P.U. were raided on the 14th inst. Copies of *Britannia* were seized.

At a City meeting, at Cannon St. Hotel, Lord Devonport and Mr. Gibson Bowles made speeches condemning Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Grey, and Lloyd George; but here the Defence of the Realm Act has not been put in force.

What is sauce for the goose ought also to be sauce for the gander!

G.B.S. on "Wanted, a Coalition of the Intelligentsia," in the *New Statesman*, says: "We loathe war as an abomination forced on us by a crude and corrupt people long after we have outgrown it. Being unable to suppress it, we would like to obtain control of it sufficiently to dictate its aims and define its limits. But though we write the most intelligent, interesting and suggestive articles, we might as well discharge pop-guns."

WAGES OF MUNITIONEERS.

The *Times* states that there are at present three women to one man, and that there will shortly be five or six women to one man in munition factories.

This shows the paramount importance of securing that the woman worker shall be powerfully organised and adequately paid.

At Manchester, a woman munitioner got a discharge on the ground of illness due to her employment.

She had been in receipt of 10s. a week!

A woman munition worker at Woolwich, writing to the *Morning Post*, complains of working in a Government factory where there is no canteen, so that, on one occasion, when through lack of fuel there was no fire, they had to labour through the night without even a drink!

Women munitioners at Creed & Bille's, in Croydon, a controlled factory, get 10s. 5d. per week now, they previously received 8s.

Forewoman in charge of 57 workers, receives 12s. 6d. For work for which men received from £2 to £3, women get 12s. 6d.

Premium bonus system in force, mainly used for speeding up.

Well-to-do ladies earn as much as 35s., one has a husband in a bank, and a son who gives her an allowance.

The great drawback in allowing middle-class, well nurtured women to do this work is that they stand the strain better than their underfed sisters, and so out them from earning their living. Naturally the employer gains.

Woolwich Arsenal has about 10,000 boys working. A smart boy can earn from 30s. to £2 a week.

Conditions of work are trying; some leave home at 6.30 a.m., and do not get home till 9.30 p.m.

A further report of the Health of Munition Workers' Committee shows that highly skilled workers have worked as much as 90 hours a week, now 70 to 80 hours is more usual. Sixty-five hours a week is recommended as the maximum for adults, 60 for boys under 16.

The practice in certain districts of working from Friday morning, all through Friday night and until noon on Saturday should be discontinued.

The long hours spent on the journey each way in overcrowded trams or trains, the waiting and struggle for room are all condemned.

Family life is almost impossible, mothers and grown children make munitions, younger ones suffer neglect at home.

Beds are never empty, rooms never aired, the day and night shifts prevent this in overcrowded and poor districts.

IN FRANCE.

High profits are being made by the munition manufacturers. The Government pays 12 francs for the shell for the 75 inch gun, and the profit, according to M. Merheim of the French metal workers' federation, is 200 per cent.

Wages have gone down since the War by 40 per cent., whilst the cost of living has increased from 40 to 60 per cent. Mobilised men are paid less than non-mobilised men, and are sent to the front or punished by Court Martial if they complain. Non-mobilised men are earning 1s. an hour, working side by side with mobilised men paid only 5d. to 7d.

Children are employed on night work, and M. Merheim quotes a factory where the children are given black coffee with brandy in it, when they get sleepy at midnight.

In Paris, before the War, the normal wage of metal workers was 1 f. 30 c. (1s. 1d.) an hour. At the beginning of the war this was reduced to 75 centimes (7½d.) an hour. It is now from 50 to 70 centimes (5d. to 7d.). Some mobilised men, who are skilled mechanics, only get 65 centimes (6½d.) an hour. At the Renault motor factory, employing 8,000 workers, the majority of men get 7d., whilst "the exploitation of women and children surpasses anything that could be imagined."

At Bordeaux, 800 women making metal boxes are paid 2 francs (1s. 8d.) for a 10-hour day; a few earn as much as 3 francs. Their piece-work rates are one-third those of the men, though their output is equal.

At Castelsarrazin (Tarn-et-Garonne), at the works of the Société Française des Métaux, all ranks of workmen are treated as unskilled, and paid 3½d. an hour, and 2½d. a day war bonus. On certain machines four women paid 1 f. 75 c. a day were put to do the work of two men, who had been paid 5 f. 6 fcs. a day. Then the number of women was reduced to two, and finally to one.

Castellerault (Hante-Vienne), women earn 3 f. 80c. a day on time rates.

At Saint Juery, where the women's output equals that of the men, they cannot earn more than 3 francs (2s. 6d.) a day, whereas the men earn from 3.75 francs (3s. 1½d.) to 6 francs (5s.) daily. They finish work at about 4 a.m., and have only a few hours for sleep, as they have to get their household done.

A DOCTORED REPORT.

Messrs. J. T. Brownlie (Chairman of the A.S.E.), H. Duckham, D. J. Shackleton and Allan M. Smith, have been sent by the British Government to visit the French munition factories, and obediently following the wishes of the Government, they have produced a report in praise of the French workers' patriotism, in which they say that the men have "welcomed the introduction of women into the factories and are doing everything they can to instruct and co-operate with them in increasing the output of munitions." They also state that "no applications for general advances in wages have been made by the workpeople. . . . No trade union restrictions exist. . . . No limitation of profits exists and no question in this respect has been raised by the workpeople."

Instead of recording such a painful state of affairs with protest and regret, the four ex-trade union leaders put it forward as an evidence that the French workers "realise that they are at war," and as a reason why British workers should allow British capitalists to ride rough-shod over them.

It is important to note that Messrs. Brownlie, Duckham, Shackleton and Smith did not communicate with the French trade unionists, from whom they might have obtained reliable information.

Perhaps this is why they made the mistake of stating that "the same piece-work prices are paid to women as to men." The reports sent over by the French workers' own organisations show this statement to be untrue.

PUBLIC MEETING, LEAGUE OF RIGHTS

February 21st, at 8 p.m.

WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow

Speakers—SYLVIA PANKHURST, G. LANSBURY, Mrs. ADA THOMPSON, Mrs. CRESSALL, Mr. A. A. WATTS. ADMISSION FREE.

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