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THE VOTE  
Jan. 29, 1915.  
ONE PENNY

**WANTED: A THINKING DEPARTMENT.**

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE**

VOL. X. NO. 275.

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FRIDAY, JAN. 29, 1915.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

## PROTEST AGAINST INJUSTICE TO WOMEN.

### DEMONSTRATIONS IN LONDON, EDINBURGH & GLASGOW.

#### DEPUTATION TO THE WAR OFFICE.

A January demonstration in Trafalgar Square must needs run the risk of winter's vagaries, but though a day of snow, sleet and slush and another of fog were experienced in London on Friday and Saturday last, Sunday's weather was more kind. The day was grey and cold but fine, and the crowds which gathered to hear the speakers on three sides of the Nelson Column appeared to give but little heed to dull skies and chilly conditions. They were eager to hear what was being said, and were quick to appreciate and respond to the case for the women as presented from the plinth. This is not surprising seeing that a large number of soldiers mingled with the crowds and were vigorous in their protest against the insults heaped on soldiers' wives. Many Belgians, Americans and other visitors were interested spectators, and went away much impressed by the fearless speeches of the women and their male supporters. The banners of the Women's Freedom League, the United Suffragists, the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, and the Northern Men's Federation for Woman Suffrage were welcome spots of colour in the prevailing grey-ness. All the Societies were well represented and sent able speakers to add emphasis to the protest against illegal restrictions and penalties for women. Among them were—

were as follows:—

1. "That this meeting indignantly repudiates the slanderous aspersions cast by irresponsible and ill-informed persons on women of all classes, wives and dependents of men in His Majesty's Army and newly recruited forces, and strongly censures the Government for giving countenance to these slanders."
2. "That this meeting protests against all legislation by which soldiers' wives are insulted, restrictions are enforced against women only, and vice is regulated in a way that protects men only."
3. "That this meeting demands the enfranchisement of women without further delay."

Miss Anna Munro, who presided on the north side of the plinth, spoke of her recent experiences during a Suffrage campaign in the north of England, and said that she had evidence there that the pawnbrokers were complaining seriously that women, having more money to devote to their families, had not so much need to pawn their clothes or possessions.

Miss Boyle dealt trenchantly with the illegality of the Army Council's Order, and protested that it could not stand between Parliament and people; the allowances to soldiers' wives were granted by Parliament and could only be withdrawn if the recipient were, on conviction for an offence, sent to prison without the option of a fine. Women were setting an example and doing work in this time of national crisis as had never before been equalled; the soldiers were being almost clothed by women; the R.A.M.C. would have broken down but for the Red Cross, which was largely kept going by women. Women had not worked for recognition or reward, but they might at least have been spared insult when they were filling up the deficiencies of a Government run by men. They had no responsibility for the war or anything concerned with it, but they were abused and told how they ought to

Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mrs. Hunter, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Tanner, Rev. C. A. Wills, and Mr. George Lansbury. Mr. H. W. Nevinson was unable to keep his promise to speak through being on duty abroad as war correspondent.

Mr. Arnold Bennett, Mr. William Crooks, M.P., Mr. F. W. Jowett, M.P., and others sent messages of regret for absence, but expressing complete sympathy with the objects of the demonstration. The resolutions on which all the speeches were based

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behave. It would not help the men at the Front to fight better to know that their women at home were having a bad time—quite unnecessarily.

Miss Evelyn Sharp, in a speech which made a strong appeal by reason of its quiet force, said the chief difficulties had arisen because the country had refused to recognise women as citizens; no woman would have thought of calling the money paid to soldiers' wives "separation allowance"; it savoured of police courts and magistrates' orders. Only by the power of the vote would women be able to protect themselves against such insults.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst insisted that the nation could not call itself democratic when wives, mothers and sisters were left out of count in great decisions that had to be made. The police supervision order was a disgrace to the country. She protested against the rising prices; it is a case of women and children first—in feeling the pinch.

Mr. George Lansbury made a vigorous onslaught against the money-making in the crisis by a few rich monopolists at the expense of the poor. We are not in a state of siege, he declared; the seas are open; men are giving their lives every day so that we may be fed; the supplies have not failed. We are determined that the soldiers at the Front shall be decently cared for, but also that the people at home shall not be exploited.

Mrs. Hunter, of Preston, told the story of the indignation aroused among soldiers' wives and how they had organised, brought evidence, confronted the mayor, the corporation, and various societies with the injustice of the slander, with the result that the charge had been withdrawn. The drunken and neglectful women were not in Preston—but elsewhere.

Responding to calls for a speech, Mrs. Despard said how glad she was to find that men realised the injustice and insult that had been heaped upon women; no wrong done to women was without effect upon men. The demand was that the obnoxious order should be withdrawn; there was law enough in the country to punish offenders of either sex; there must be no more penalising of women; if restrictions were necessary at this time—and she did not wish to hamper the Government—they must apply equally to men and women; then there would be no complaint. The moral of the situation was to emphasise the continued and increasing need for the enfranchisement of women, giving them equal citizen rights and responsibilities with men.

When Mrs. Despard put the resolutions to the meeting they received enthusiastic support, and were carried by overwhelming majorities.

#### No Tramping on the Scots Thistle!

On Saturday afternoon a large crowd gathered around the platform at the Mound, on which were displayed the colours of the W.F.L., the United Suffragists, and the Northern Men's Federation. Despite the coldness of the afternoon, a large part of the audience stood throughout the meeting, and listened with the greatest interest to the excellent speeches of Miss A. B. Jack (chairman), Miss Eunice Murray, Mrs. Finlayson Gould (U.S.), and Councillors Barrie and Graham (N.M.F.). The resolutions, which were the same as those put in London, were carried; a very small number dissenting from the first resolution, following the lead of a member of the audience who asserted that the soldiers' wives he knew were not feeling any insult. As the Chairman pointed out, the authorities did not "tramp on the Scots thistle" to the extent of putting the War Office order into operation here, although we have reason to believe that the preliminary steps had been taken; hence, perhaps, the alleged lack of resentment. The Branch is very greatly indebted to Miss Murray for once again coming to speak on its behalf.

#### DEPUTATION TO THE WAR OFFICE.

The deputation to the War Office to ask for the unconditional withdrawal of the Army Circular regarding women was received by Mr. B. B. Cubbitt, assistant secretary, with the approval of Lord Kitchener, on Monday, January 25, at 3.30. It consisted of Mrs. Despard and Miss C. Nina Boyle (Women's Freedom League), Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett (Northern Men's Federation for Women Suffrage), Miss Sylvia Pankhurst (East London Federation of Suffragettes), Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck (United Suffragists), and Mrs. Hunter, of Preston.

Mrs. Despard, introducing the deputation, presented the resolutions passed at the public protest meetings in London, Edinburgh and Glasgow on January 23 and 24; she spoke of the uneasiness among soldiers owing to the treatment of their wives and its bad effect on recruiting. She repudiated, in the strongest terms, out of her own personal knowledge, the charges of drinking against soldiers' wives, declaring that there had never been such good purchases made by them of clothing, etc., for their children. The law as it stood was capable of dealing with offenders; the wives of soldiers and sailors should not be made a class apart.

Mrs. Arneliffe Sennett told of the growth in numbers, influence and active work of the Northern Men's Federation, and made a stern denunciation of the measures taken to regulate vice for the convenience of men. She said that the excessive drunkenness of men in many centres of recruiting was not only a menace to the community but also to the fitness of the new army. Mrs. Sennett drew a curious parallel between the relative values placed by the State on men and women. The soldier, at the rates of pay, food and keep allotted to him, minus the portion of his pay handed over to his wife, worked out at about 26s. a week; the woman, plus the allotment from her husband's pay, at 12s. 6d. a week. The figures, given in detail, were striking; and Mrs. Sennett pointed out that if the low standard of the Government were adopted by the country a very unjust and wrong state of affairs would be introduced.

Mrs. Hunter, whose protest at Preston was so effective, protested equally against the "benevolence" of the Home Office Circular as against the harshness of that of the Army Council. Soldiers' wives, she said, asked for the same treatment as other women, neither better nor worse; and she put in some valuable figures of constabulary returns recently published showing that there had been a decrease—not an increase—of drinking among the civil population since the outbreak of war.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst read an extract from the manual of instructions given to young soldiers, and pointed out that in connection with the subject of immoral relations no word of reprobation or of moral warning was recorded. They were merely told how best to avoid the physical dangers to themselves without the least consideration for injuries to women or an appeal to their better feelings. Miss Pankhurst also dealt with the rising prices of household commodities, and the consequently inadequate scale of the allowance to women which was fixed when provisions were cheaper. She gave some budgets of soldiers' wives showing that the deficit on bare necessities grew more and more formidable, and demanded a sliding scale upwards in allowances according to the rise in prices.

Miss Boyle pointed out that the deputation was in no sense anti-Government; on the contrary, it desired to prevent the Government from getting into a more and more difficult position. She dealt at some length with the illegal nature of the Army Council Circular, and pointed out that the Army Council was not a body that had power or authority to come between Parliament and the people, and

to withhold allowances granted by Parliament for any reason other than that allowed by law, viz., a conviction without the option of a fine. The Home Office had evidently found this out, and its sudden protective "benevolence" was just as much to avert from the Army Council the consequences of its own folly as to protect the women's allowances. Miss Boyle dealt with the situation created at Cardiff, Plymouth and other centres of military control, and asked for the unconditional withdrawal of the Army Council Circular, the withdrawal of the offensive decrees that women should not be served with drink after 6 p.m.; and also demanded that commanding officers should not be at liberty to deal in arbitrary fashion with the liberties of women. She spoke severely of the recent decrees that had had to be cancelled as illegal, and held that the spectacle of staff officers sitting in court-martial on street walkers was a scandalous stain on His Majesty's uniform.

Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, in giving the fullest support to all that had been urged devoted special attention to the efforts made to re-introduce legislation on the lines of the Contagious Diseases Acts. She pointed out that if immoral indulgence were "necessary" for men, the women set apart to supply the necessity should be honoured and protected. The very fact that it was impossible to honour or respect women of the class concerned showed how false was the plea of "necessity." As a soldier's daughter, a soldier's sister, and a soldier's mother, she protested against the constant attacks on women in the supposed interests of soldiers.

The deputation was most courteously received, and Mr. Cubbitt made careful note of the various points raised. He undertook to make inquiries and report to a "higher authority." His remark that the Order of the Army Council was not being enforced was met by the statement that its withdrawal alone would satisfy the deputation and those they represented. Restrictions were not objected to, but they must be equal for men and women.

#### THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

The High Commissioner for New Zealand has forwarded to us two large cases of clothes sent from that Dominion; they were part of a very large consignment sent to this country, and it was through the kindness of Miss Harriet Newcomb that we obtained this clothing. The P. and O. Office has advised us of the arrival of the eleven packages from South Australia sent to us through the kindness of Mrs. Jeanne Young, of Adelaide.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks clothes sent by Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Eastman and Mrs. Hope. Mrs. Esson, of the Women's Reform Club in Johannesburg, has sent clothing to this country, and we acknowledge with warmest thanks a parcel of very warm and serviceable garments.

#### A Whist Drive to Help the Corps.

We are indebted to Mrs. Cunningham for the hearty invitation which she most kindly extends to members and friends to the whist drive at her house, 45, Ashbourne-avenue, Golder's Green, on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 7.15 p.m. Tickets, including refreshments, 2s.; all proceeds will go to the Corps. From Golder's Green station take the Finchley tram to Ashbourne-avenue. In addition to an enjoyable evening, friends will have the satisfaction of helping the good work of the Corps.

#### Glasgow.

At our last meeting Miss Semple, owing to family reasons, was obliged to send in her resignation as joint secretary for the Glasgow Branch. Much regret was expressed by the members present. Miss McLelland has, we are glad to say, accepted the post. Mrs. Gentles and Mrs. Kelsall have also kindly agreed to help Miss Findley with the workrooms. At a meeting at which Miss Eunice Murray was the speaker £2 was collected for the Nine Elms Vegetarian Restaurant, the money to be spent in buying goods through the Merchandise Department, and £1 10s. was given to the London workrooms.

#### Women's Freedom League.

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Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

Next Wednesday afternoon we shall have the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Nevinson on "News of the War from First Hand Letters," when we hope to see a good rally of our members and friends. The chair will be taken by Miss F. A. Underwood, at 3.30 p.m. The following Wednesday we shall have Mr. John Scurr and Miss Boyle.

#### Discussion Meeting.

Friday evening, February 19, Mr. W. L. George has promised to open a discussion on "The Break-up of the Home" at the Suffrage Club, and the chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith. Admission will be by ticket only, the prices being 1/- (reserved), and 6d. (unreserved). These can now be obtained at the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street. After Mr. George's address, the subject will be thrown open to discussion, and all members of the audience will be invited to take part in it.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### MEMBERS' MONTHLY MEETING.

The next meeting will be held at the Office on Monday, February 8, at 8 p.m. The speakers will include Mrs. Tippett and Miss Boyle. The chair will be taken by Miss Adams. It is hoped that a good number of members from our London Branches will be present to hear about Mrs. Tippett's work at the Nine Elms Restaurant and the various activities of the League. Those of us who cannot give work can at least help by taking an interest in what the League is doing. Please do not forget to come early to visit the Literature and Merchandise Departments.

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FRIDAY, January 29th, 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.

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### WANTED:

#### A THINKING DEPARTMENT.

At such times of crisis as that through which our nation is passing, when moved by a latent dread of possible catastrophe, we look round and take stock of our resources, we find ourselves faced by some startling considerations. It may be said that this is not the moment to frighten either ourselves or others. It is our business as patriots to stand where we are, steady and united, to give full confidence to those in whose hands the government of the country rests, to keep up our courage always, and to present a smiling face to our adversaries.

That is to say, practically, what happens now or what may happen in the future is no affair of the little folk. Ours it is to drift with the stream, trying indeed to alleviate the sufferings of those who drift with us; but doing even this in submission to authority.

Of which we have to say first that nothing could be more unpatriotic. For the actual truth, vivid as light itself, is that, if we are rightly placed, the moment of crisis is the moment of revelation. Through its subversal of our ordinary standards of life, we are able to see the dangers that are constantly about us. "In vain is the net laid in the sight of any bird," said one of the Ancients. To see the danger should be to take such measures as may serve to prevent its recurrence.

In order to effect this, what is wanted? In a clever article, contributed a few days ago to the *Daily Chronicle*, Mr. H. G. Wells puts this very clearly indeed. Looking ahead; forethought; actually a Thinking Department—that, to-day, is our chief necessity. The "Wait and see" and "We shall muddle through somehow" attitude of the average male British politician must, if we are to survive as a nation, be supplanted by some hard, honest thinking.

Others have dealt with the preliminaries of this war, and shown how the nations blundered into it. Reams of paper are being filled with counsels to those upon whom it may fall by and by to dictate terms of peace to exhausted peoples. It is our own earnest hope that the blunders of the past which made the present war possible may not be repeated in the future. But what we want specially to point out here is that the want of foresight which has landed us in the apparent *impasse* of to-day has its counterpart in the whole of our economic and industrial history. Private persons, acting on a variety of motives, mostly self-interest, have been allowed by inert Governments and unawakened communities to take into their hands and manage after their own fashion, the great moulding forces of the peoples' lives. Those vast channels of distribution and transit, the railway systems, crippled at their very initiation by hideous jobbery; engineering; the manufacture of armaments; the growth of cities

which, developing at haphazard, have become marvels of grandeur in their rich quarters and ghastly mockeries of health and even decency in their poor quarters; the people's food supply; their armaments; their literature; all these, if such foresight had been used regarding them as a wise woman exercises in her own household, might have been blessings, instead of, as they so often have proved, curses to humanity.

As it is, in this poor simulacrum of freedom, which our male friends call democracy, every one of these departments is allowed to go on its own way unchecked, until a bold man or woman, here and there, calls attention to some crying abuse. There must, in fact, be a scandal, too gross to be explained away, before anything is done. Witness the present Home Secretary's futile attempts to deal with glaring cases of sweated women's industries, and the small fines imposed upon contractors who have been feeding our soldiers on rotten and adulterated food. The whole of the present efforts to repress our brave women, and to force them into a position of false dependence, arises from the same cause. In a gay and off-hand manner diverse authorities, military and civil, governed by fixed ideas, and not able to estimate the changes which have swept our society during the last memorable year, give out their orders. They know nothing practically about life of vast numbers of men and women in our country. They have not considered our conditions. Women are a sort of strange animal to them. It is man, in the unnatural camp-life—the fighting man—whom they believe they have to consider. Even thus they do ill in many cases, as we have abundant evidence to prove, while, in the opening days of the war, when men were enlisting in their thousands and territorials and reservists were being called to the colours, the condition of the women and their families in numbers of our great towns baffled description.

To what does all this point? Surely to a fact which neither our people nor their rulers have been able to grasp. If we are to have a strong nation, men and women able to answer at need to their country's call; if we are to build up out of the fine material in our hands a race worthy of our past traditions, we must give power into the hands of those who, having outgrown the childish attitude of taking things as they come and hoping for the best, will bend all their energies to the momentous task of reorganising the nation so completely that neither life nor the material necessary to sustain it in health and usefulness shall be wasted.

To-day we see, in imagination, the leaders of vast armies poring over their maps, receiving moment by moment messages from battle centres and making decisions, the full effect of which they cannot themselves gauge. If we were not sure that this tremendous responsibility rests upon those who, through years of ardent study and by slow gradation from post to post in a scientific service, had qualified themselves for their task, how could we bear the present strain? It is our confidence in the thinking power of our army that gives us hope. They may fail—all things are possible—but we believe they will not.

That is the army. And the nation? Are we as confident there? Alas! it is impossible to trace back the economic history of our country during the last few years without grave misgivings. Lawyers, with glib tongues and wily methods of obtaining their own ends, or those of their respective political parties, fill the House of Commons, and their great consideration appears to be to keep their own party in power, or, if it is out of power, to bring it in. Again and again those who are in the thick of the economic fight—that struggle for existence which haphazard politics has made so difficult—have come knocking at their door with messages. To those who should be their repre-

sentatives and their chiefs they have come—the women, the oppressed and terrified workers of both sexes. They have been treated, if they were men, with airs of benevolent neutrality—"My good friend, I will do personally what I can; but I fear you are asking the impossible"—if they were women with contempt and in some cases worse.

Meantime, in the clash and din of industrial warfare, there has been growing up a population, how vast we cannot yet estimate, unfit for the battle of life. We shall probably never know, for our astute rulers keep these facts to themselves, what an enormous number of men, willing and eager to enlist, have failed in the medical examination. Yet many of these came of stalwart ancestry. It is piteous; it makes one's heart ache to realise how much of life, of service, of joy in life, is wasted to the nation by this one great want: a Thinking Department. Acting alone, leaving women as helpers entirely out of count, men have failed completely to organise the nation on any systematic plan for the welfare of all—men, women and children. If this war, with its horrors, many of them due not so much to wickedness as to carelessness, forces home to us the need of organising fairly and justly the life of the nation and its material resources; if, when it is over, men and women standing together, will demand that the great body of the people—the industrial army—shall receive as much care, shall be directed with as deep and studied thought as the armies in the field, we shall have presently a Great Britain of which we can be justly proud.

C. DESPARD.

#### OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB WOMEN'S FIGHTING SPIRIT NEEDED.

It was an afternoon of good things on January 20, when the Rev. Mr. Piggott, whose splendid services to our Cause during the Teachers' Conference at Lowestoft last Easter are gratefully remembered, spoke on Women and War problems, and our always welcome member, Mrs. Mustard, brought to light important facts about the administration of National Relief Funds.

Mr. Piggott, who was welcomed by Mrs. Huntsman from the chair as an ardent supporter of the Woman's Suffrage Cause, created great amusement by saying that he had come to "rouse the devil." Although essentially an advocate of peace, Mr. Piggott represented himself as desiring nothing so much as to rouse the fighting spirit in women, because then they would use it to attack all the things that required destruction. His purpose was to state problems; in stating them he hoped to "rouse the devil" and leave the audience eager to fight!

The first problem put by Mr. Piggott was that Cabinets or Foreign Ministers make treaties and declare war without consulting the people. In this war, as in many other historic cases, a significant condition of industrial unrest had preceded the declaration of war, and the war when declared had delayed and disturbed the settlement of grave internal problems. He next dealt with the failure of the bureaucrats and the diplomats to establish anything in the nature of a lasting peace. Every treaty had been marred by an open score which invariably led to some fresh outbreak of the disease of war. Another problem was the question of liberty; Mr. Piggott roused the greatest enthusiasm by his appeal to women and by his denunciation of the spirit of compulsion among the citizens of any free country. He also strongly urged women not to allow themselves to be held back from setting forward what they thought should be the conditions of peace. Were they going to wait, he asked, until it was too late and leave the settlement as usual in the hands of "that gang of international liars and

diplomats," who had monopolised all power in the past, and the results of whose machinations had been so disastrous to peace? Mr. Piggott's remarkably thoughtful and inspiring address was received with the greatest enthusiasm by the audience.

Speaking on Women and the National Relief Fund, Mrs. Mustard drew attention to the fact that the fund included two parts: the Prince of Wales' Fund and the Queen's Work for Women Fund. The Central Committee was presided over by a member of the Cabinet, and the Woman's Committee was working in direct touch with it, and so the work of women received official recognition for the first time. The funds were being spent in giving doles to men and work to women. A man might receive up to 10s. per week whilst sitting at home; a woman would receive the same sum for forty hours' in the workroom. The Local Representative Committees, presided over by the Mayor, dealt with all cases helped by both funds. The Prince of Wales' Fund had reached 4½ millions, and one-third of this sum was already spent. The Queen's Fund had only reached one-eighth of a million, and was being spent in wages to women. Working in municipal affairs, where party politics were rife, convinced women that they must have political power before their needs would receive adequate attention. The Women's Freedom League had long demanded that nursing and expectant mothers should receive help when in need, and it was gratifying to know that at last the question was being considered by municipal authorities in conjunction with the National Relief Fund, but what the help would be was not yet quite clear.

It is to be hoped that schemes of work may be initiated for women other than needlework, which is one of the most sweated trades. Women have long demanded in vain other outlets for relief work, such as agriculture, poultry, and bee keeping, etc. We often hear that men on the farm colony have good opportunities of recuperation. Mrs. Mustard pertinently asked: "Is not this need of renewing health often found amongst our unemployed women?" To which the audience responded with cordial and complete agreement.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH AND N.E. CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser: Miss Alix M. Clark. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.

At Redcar on January 19 we were fortunate in having so charming a hostess as Mrs. Jobson at a most successful drawing-room meeting. Mrs. Fothergill presided, and Miss Munro's speech on the work of the League aroused great interest. During tea Miss Clark did a big sale in merchandise and *THE VOTE*, and Mrs. Jobson kindly gave £1 towards the expenses of the campaign.

The same evening the Co-operative Women of Middlesbrough gave a hearty reception to Miss Munro and Miss Clark. Mrs. Smith presided, and Miss Munro lectured on "Three Years in London Slumdom," and was cordially thanked. On January 20 there was the interesting incident of providing a complete outfit of clothes for seven little girls who needed them badly. Miss L. Mahony was as happy and delighted as the children, who belonged to her school. Later in the evening there was great enthusiasm, also a great crowd and a great concert at the "At Home," the last event of the campaign. Miss Munro's address on "Peace and War," and the musical programme, contributed by Miss Florrie Jones, Miss L. Bowen, Mr. Tom Morris and Mr. G. Rowlands, gave great satisfaction. Over 400 VOTES were sold during the week, and the Branch has largely increased its weekly order. It was with heartiest thanks that Middlesbrough took leave of Miss Munro and Miss Clark after the very successful campaign.

At West Hartlepool on January 22 good work was done. New subscribers to *THE VOTE* and members were enrolled, help promised for the Café Chantant, and orders taken for the Merchandise Department. Mrs. Beckitt and Mrs. Smelt sold *THE VOTE* outside the Trades Union meeting, and it is hoped to hold a successful campaign in the town. All friends wish Mrs. English a speedy recovery.

In Newcastle on January 23 *VOTE* selling was done, and with the help of Miss Elsie Hayton, of Middlesbrough, 200 copies were disposed of; the appreciation of the soldiers, of whom there are thousands in the town and neighbourhood, of the Freedom League's action on behalf of soldiers' wives, and of Miss Eunice Murray's last article in vindication of them, was very gratifying.

OUR TREASURY.

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

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Amount previously acknowledged	3279	11	3	
President's Birthday Fund.—				
Hampstead Branch	20	0	0	
Nottingham Branch	8	0		
Portsmouth Branch (additional)	1	10	0	
			21	18
			0	
	3301	9	3	

1915.  
Special Emergency War Fund.—

Miss Boyle	2	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray	2	0	0
Miss F. A. Underwood	2	0	0
"A Friend"	1	17	6
Mrs. Walter Carey	1	0	0
W. R. Snow, Esq.	1	0	0
Miss M. K. Trott	15	0	
Mrs. Mustard	10	0	
Miss Marguerite Sidley	10	0	
Miss E. Gore Brown	5	0	
Mrs. Huntsman	5	0	
Miss E. Clayton	4	0	
Miss B. Kent	4	0	
Miss N. Haffenden	2	0	
Mrs. Mallalae	2	0	
Mrs. Harbord	1	0	
Miss Harbord	1	0	
Miss Hurry	1	0	
Miss M. Morrison (per Glasgow Branch)	1	0	
Miss K. M. Wright	1	0	
Miss Howe	2	5	0
Bournemouth Branch	1	0	0
Hackney Branch	2	0	0
Hampstead Branch	2	0	0

Belgian Party. Host and Hostesses.—

Dr. Bourchier (additional)	1	0	0
Mrs. Fox Bourne	1	0	0
Frank Debenham, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. Arnold Brown	10	6	
Mrs. Knight	10	0	
H. B. Fox Bourne, Esq.	10	0	
Mrs. Saul Solomon	5	6	
Mrs. Cobden Sanderson	5	0	
Miss M. E. Wall	3	0	
Mrs. Robert Tornow	2	6	
Miss E. G. Wood	2	6	
Miss Bennett	2	0	
Miss F. A. Underwood	2	0	

For Christmas Tree.—

Dr. Knight	3	0	0
Mrs. Fisher	2	7	0
Mrs. Knight	1	0	0

For the Ballet, per Miss F. A. Underwood.—

Per Mrs. Snow	2	0	0
Mr. Busch-Michell	1	7	6
X.Y.Z.	1	6	0
Miss M. Lawson	1	1	0
A.B.C.	1	0	0
Miss Anderson	1	0	0
Mrs. Yeo	1	0	0
Mrs. Moscheles	10	6	
Mr. Pott	10	6	
Lady Treacher	10	6	
Miss Fox Bourne	10	0	
Mrs. Dawson	5	0	
Miss Kent	5	0	
Mrs. Russell	5	0	
Mrs. Tancred	5	0	
Mrs. Thomas	5	0	
Miss Gange	2	6	
Mrs. Hoare	2	6	
Miss Hunt	2	6	
Miss Lloyd	2	6	
Mrs. Carlton Smith	2	6	
Mrs. Stebbing	2	6	
Miss Williamson	2	6	
Mrs. Gush	2	0	
Misses Saunders	2	0	
Miss Tunbridge	2	0	
Miss Colman	1	0	
Miss Forbes Robertson	1	0	
Misses Sprentall	1	0	
Miss Hodge	1	0	
Miss Hymans de Tiel	1	0	

Per Mrs. Fisher.—

C.T.O., per Miss Jamieson	15	3	
Miss Anderson	10	0	
Hon. Mrs. Forbes	10	0	
Mrs. Letts	10	0	
Mrs. Brand	5	0	

For Refreshments, per Mrs. Fisher.—

Miss Anderson	10	0	
Hon. Mrs. Forbes	10	0	
Mrs. Terry	5	6	
Mrs. Catmur	5	0	
Mrs. O'Sullivan	5	0	
Mrs. Tritton	4	0	
Mrs. Sutcliffe	2	6	
Mrs. Thomson	2	6	
Miss Harrison	2	0	
Miss John	2	0	
Mrs. Pierotti	2	0	
Provisions sent by members	6	15	0
Provisions sent by firms, per			
Mrs. Hanscombe	5	0	2
Sale of Cakes, etc.	5	7	0
Teas, etc.	5	3	8
Christmas Presents Stall	4	4	1
Sale of Programmes	1	18	3
Cloak-room, per Miss H. C. Newcomb	10	6	

BRANCH NOTES.

**A New Branch at Golder's Green.**  
We are very glad to welcome a new Branch at Golder's Green; its successful and enthusiastic start, as the following account shows, augurs well for its future. On January 20 a drawing-room meeting was held at 13, Temple Fortune Court by kind permission of Miss Newcomb and Miss Hodge. The speakers were Mrs. Despard and Miss Underwood, Miss Hodge being in the chair. Mrs. Despard spoke of the Suffrage work done by the League and explained the methods of relieving distress organised by the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. Dealing with the war, she said she feared that if the nations did not watch the trend of events very closely they would find that instead of militarism being crushed more stringent measures might be adopted after the war, and it behoved every right-thinking person to join with the League in protesting against the insulting restrictions already placed upon women. Miss Underwood gave a short sketch of the policy and methods of the League, and spoke of the valiant way in which the Branches have co-operated in keeping the Suffrage flag flying. A resolution was passed that a Branch of the Women's Freedom League be formed in Golder's Green, Miss Hodge, of 13, Temple Fortune Court, kindly taking the post of temporary hon. secretary, and Mrs. Gerlach, of 6, Reynolds Close, that of treasurer. Nine members were made, a good collection was taken, and THE VOTE, merchandise and our literature had a good sale.

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**DRESSMAKER**

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3.—PUBLIC MEETING;** Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mrs. Nevinson, L.L.A., "News of the War from First Hand Letters," and others. **HAMPSTEAD BRANCH DRAWING-ROOM MEETING;** 33, Minster-rd., West Hampstead; 8 p.m.; by kind permission of Mrs. Copsey; speakers, Miss Underwood and Miss A. A. Smith. **MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING;** 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.; 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10.—PUBLIC MEETING;** Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speaker, Mr. John Scurr, and others.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15.—CLAPHAM; 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromell-rd.; Clapham Branch Meeting;** 8 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.—PUBLIC MEETING;** Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "New Values," and others.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19.—CROYDON, 32a, The Arcade, High-st.;** Public meeting; 3.30 p.m.; speaker, Miss Lakeman. **DISCUSSION MEETING;** Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st.; speaker, Mr. W. L. George; subject, "The Break-up of the Home"; 8 p.m.; chair, Miss A. A. Smith; admission 1/- (reserved seats), and 6d.; tickets from W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20.—N. KENSINGTON;** Baptist Ch., Cornwell-rd.; W.S.N.A.C. Jumble Sale; 2 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24.—PUBLIC MEETING;** Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mr. Laurence Housman, "Home Truths in War Time," and Miss Nina Boyle.

PROVINCES.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1.—MIDDLESBROUGH;** Suffrage Centre; 8 p.m.; Business meeting.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2.—READING;** Palmer Hall (Lodge Room); 6 p.m.; First Annual Business Meeting (members only). Social evening; 7.30 p.m.; members and friends; admission 6d.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2.—BOURNEMOUTH;** Sewing Party; at 234, Old Christchurch-rd.; 3 to 6 p.m.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8.—MIDDLESBROUGH;** Suffrage Centre; "At Home"; speaker, the Rev. T. C. Gobat, "Mrs. Warren's Profession."

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17.—MIDDLESBROUGH;** Suffrage Centre; Whist Drive; tickets 6d.

SCOTLAND.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29.—GLASGOW;** Philosophical Rooms, 207, Bath-st.; Protest meeting; 8 p.m.; speaker, Miss Boyle; chair, Miss Murray.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1.—PAISLEY;** Lesser Hall; Public meeting; 8 p.m.; speaker, Miss C. Nina Boyle; chair, Miss Eunice Hurray.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2.—EDINBURGH;** Oddfellows' Hall, Forrest-rd.; Public meeting; 8 p.m.; speakers, Miss C. Nina Boyle and Lady Ramsay; chair, the Rev. R. J. Drummond, D.D.; admission free; reserved seats 6d.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3.—DUNDEE;** "At Home"; Lamb's Hotel; 7.30 p.m.; to meet Miss Boyle.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4.—KILMARNOCK;** Miss Boyle.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31.—BRANESOME ADULT SCHOOL;** at 3 p.m.; Miss Katharine Trott.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY;** Fife Hall, Kingston; 7 p.m.; speaker, Miss Murray.

IMPORTANT.

TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.  
In this time of stress we are determined to keep our Suffrage Flag flying and our Flagstaff is—

"THE VOTE."

Week by week our organ makes known to the public our work for the great Cause for which we stand: the continued and pressing need for the enfranchisement of women. It tells also of the work of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, its varied and practical activities on behalf of the national need at the moment.

We, in company with all Press organs, especially propaganda papers, are suffering severely through the war. Our advertisement revenue is seriously diminished, as in this way big firms are effecting economies, and in the general financial stress the street sales of our paper have been hard hit.

We must face the situation and realise that the Flagstaff is necessary if the Flag is to be held aloft. Every member and sympathiser has a share in this responsibility.

We must have without delay a sum of £500

We made a definite appeal for donations and promises of regular subscriptions from pounds to pence; also for increased sales of the paper and support of our Merchandise Department which helps to support us.

A determined effort must be made if THE VOTE is to continue. In making this clear statement I rely on the co-operation of all who know the national importance of the Cause we have at heart. Cheques and postal orders may be made payable to me at 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A list of contributions will appear next week in THE VOTE. C. DESPARD, Editor.

TO HELP "THE VOTE."

	£	s. d.
Already acknowledged	115	0 0
Miss Tennant	10	0
Mrs. Walter Carey (last two weeks January)	2	0 0
Miss Bisdee	5	0
Mrs. M. Scott	2	0 0
Lady Treacher	1	1 0
Mrs. Hartley Withers	1	1 0
Mrs. Nidd	1	1 0
M.A.S.	5	0 0
Mrs. Grove (Quarterly donation)	12	0
Anonymous	2	6
Per Miss Eunice G. Murray:—		
Mrs. Brown	2	0 0
Mrs. Murray	10	0
Miss Allan	5	0
Miss E. Scrymgeour	5	0
Miss B. White	5	0
Miss Eunice G. Murray	5	0
Mrs. McLean	4	0
Mrs. Kelsall	2	6
Mrs. Wilson	2	0
Miss Steven	2	0
Mrs. McIntyre	2	0
Collection taken at Women's Freedom League Meeting, Glasgow	1	3 0
Collection taken at Women's Freedom League Meeting, Scottish Scattered members	1	5 0
Total	£135	3 0

Arthur's Stores, 120, Westbourne Grove, W. FOR GENERAL PROVISIONS AND HIGH-CLASS CONFECTIONERY.

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Best Household 30/-	Roaster Nuts .. 29/-
Special House .. 30/-	Large Kitchen .. 29/-
	Anthracite Nuts... 44/-
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341, Gray's Inn Road, King's Cross, W.C. Phone 3656 North.

ONE  
PENNY

# THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Branch Notes continued from page 482.

## Bournemouth.

At a Branch meeting held in the Freedom Hall on January 25 last, the much regretted resignation of Mrs. Lambert from the post of hon. secretary, which she has filled with such enthusiasm and competence, was considered. Ultimately Mrs. Hull and Mrs. Lambert agreed to become joint secretaries, activities under the new régime to commence on February 2 with a sewing meeting at 234, Old Christchurch-road, by kind permission of Mrs. Hull. These meetings will be held weekly from 3 to 6 p.m.; for place of meeting each week, members and friends please watch "Forthcoming Events." Contributions of money or materials, or of discarded clothing for alteration, will be gratefully received by the Secretaries. THE VOTE is now on sale regularly in the street; we are also glad to note that regular orders for it have been almost doubled of late. We hope to welcome Miss Eunice Murray in Bournemouth early in March; look out for further particulars!

## Cardiff.

A most successful whist drive was held on January 21 to raise money for a series of meetings for Miss Boyle in February. Many thanks are due to Madame Eva Trimorris, who very kindly lent her drawing-room for the occasion; also to members and friends who kindly contributed prizes and refreshments. The tables and chairs were lent by the I.L.P. A prize competition has also been arranged, the profits of which will go to the general funds. The competition closes Jan. 30. Tickets can be obtained from Miss Barrs, 5, Stacey-rd. More prizes are still needed, and will be gratefully received by Miss Barrs at above address. We also need a secretary to bring the work in Cardiff to a successful issue, as Mrs. Whale is obliged to give up owing to ill health. Will any friends able to undertake this work please give in their names either to the organiser or Mrs. Whale?

## Clapham

A Jumble Sale, the proceeds of which are to be equally divided between the Nine Elms Restaurant and the Women's Hospital at Bromley, will be held at Morris Hall, North-street, Clapham, Saturday, February 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. Saleable goods are urgently needed, and parcels can be sent to Miss Underwood, 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromells-road, Clapham Common, S.W. At a Branch meeting on January 25 Mrs. Tippett gave an instructive and interesting account of the work at Nine Elms Restaurant, and urgently appealed for more helpers, for local collections of broken bread, and for volunteers to run an evening social club at Nine Elms.

## Croydon—Offices, 32a, The Arcade, High Street.

By the end of the week—Saturday, January 16—all our material had been turned into children's garments, but owing to the welcome gift from Mrs. Abbott, of a good

## Islington Dental Surgery.

69, UPPER STREET, N.

## Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

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

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## SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Jan. 27, the Rev. C. Baumgarten, Miss Goddard. Admission free. Collection. Buy THE VOTE, 1d. weekly.

CIGARETTES FOR SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT.—SPECIAL PRICES, per 100:—Turkish, 5/-; Egyptian, 5/4; Virginia, 3/6; Russian, 4/-. All smaller quantities pro rata. Cheaper qualities obtained if desired.—W.F.L., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

parcel of dress material, we are able to continue the services of our needlewoman. On January 18 a sale of garments was held at the office.

## Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop.—90, Lothian Road.

A Branch meeting was held on January 20, when arrangements were made for Saturday's Protest Demonstration and for a public meeting to be addressed by Miss Boyle and by Lady Ramsay, author of "Everyday Life in Turkey." This meeting will be held in the Oddfellows' Hall on Tuesday, February 2. Admission will be free, but a number of reserved tickets at 6d. are on sale. The Rev. R. J. Drummond, D.D., Lothian-road Church, will take the chair.

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

The campaign of Miss Munro and Miss Clark had a very happy climax in the "At Home" on January 20. The enthusiastic and long-sustained applause with which everyone responded to Miss Munro's fine address on "Peace and War," and to the votes of thanks to Miss Munro and Miss Clark, were an unmistakable gauge of the warm appreciation that Middlesbrough has for them. Their work has attracted a great deal of attention to the Suffrage Centre, where old and new members turned up to welcome them. We thank Mrs. Barrett for the pretty frocks for girls. A successful whist drive was held in the Suffrage Centre on January 22.

## Paisley.

A public meeting will be held in the Lesser Central Hall on Monday, February 1, at 8 p.m. Speaker, Miss C. Nina Boyle. Chair, Miss Eunice Murray.

## Scottish Scattered Members

In a drawing-room lent by one of our members we had a successful meeting on January 19. Miss Eunice Murray gave a vigorous Suffrage speech and described the work of the Women's Freedom League and the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps. All present expressed their appreciation of the good work done by the League during the last few months, and repeated their determination to keep the flag flying. A collection of 35s. was taken in aid of THE VOTE fund.

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with hand or head need in their food the maximum of nourishment with the minimum of trouble. Send for our new list, with food tables, &c., post free on request from (Mention this paper.)

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

TEA.—Everyone appreciates a good Cup of Afternoon Tea. We now have a very special brand, fragrant and digestive. Price 1/7 a lb. Send for a trial 1/2-lb., which will be sent post free as an advertisement.—The Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

HASLUCK'S ACADEMY, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C. Elocution, Public Speaking, Acting, Stage and Ball-room Dancing, Singing. Evening Classes, from 7/6 per quarter. Day, £1/1/- Private Lessons, 3 for £1/1/- Call, write or phone (2833 Gerrard).—SAM L. HASLUCK, Director.