

THE VOTE.
OCTOBER 26, 1917
ONE PENNY.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL.

PROGRESS IN PARLIAMENT.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, OCT. 26, 1917

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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OUR ADMIRERS AT EAST ISLINGTON.

Three candidates, and all Votes for Women! All eager, open, avowed suffragists; all keen to ally themselves with our organisations, not merely to prevent us annoying them! What a change! Miss Alix M. Clark and Miss Dorothy Evans, Miss Boyle and Miss Murray all report varying degrees of enthusiasm and no snubs from the political sections carrying on the usual campaign of bluff, abuse, and self-glorification at East Islington.

At Mr. Smallwood's meeting last Saturday afternoon, the M.P. for North Durham was one of the speakers. As he sat down a lady rose and said she had just come from Tyneside, and her friends there were interested in the Representation of the People Bill, and especially in the Woman Suffrage Clause. Could he tell her whether the Government intended to carry this Bill through, or would they make the Irish dispute an excuse for shelving it? He replied that he could not answer for the Government, but he did know the mind of the House of Commons, and that they thought it would pass. The meeting applauded.

After Mr. Smallwood's speech, a gentleman asked him whether he would support the Representation of the People Bill, enfranchising women. He replied: "Certainly." A woman asked: "Further than that, will you press for the Bill to be carried through all its stages and not shelved?" He replied: "Both hands up!"

The alien question being discussed, a woman asked Mr. Smallwood to take up the case of women's nationality. A woman married to a foreigner loses British nationality, but a German woman married to an Englishman does not reap the benefits of British nationality now. He replied that he "would have to think over the question,"

The National Party had marshalled its big guns in support of Mr. Barnard, and Brigadier-General Page Croft himself has spoken at various meetings, sharing Miss Pankhurst's platform when he had none of his own, or when she was not occupying it herself in her interesting campaign against Mr. Asquith. At one of Mr. Barnard's meetings, Miss Boyle asked whether the candidate, if elected, would press for the passage into law this year of the Electoral Reform Bill. The reply "was in the affirmative," to quote the Parliamentarians; and the greatest enthusiasm was expressed in regard to votes for women. On the strength of the thanks tendered by Miss Boyle and her friends (Miss Murray and Miss Alix Clark) for the courteous reception of their question, the supporters of Mr. Barnard besought them to move the vote of thanks to General Page Croft and Sir Mervyn Manning Buller for speaking for Mr. Barnard; and were visibly disappointed when told how impossible this was!

Like Mr. Smallwood, Mr. Barnard and the luminaries of the National Party are "considering" whether they will support the right of married women to retain their own nationality. It seems a hard thing for even these impassioned new supporters to wring this concession from themselves.

Mr. Baker has been allowed no personal or individual existence in the constituency. He is known universally as "Pemberton-Billing's man." While licensed victuallers and Miss Pankhurst support the "National" candidate, the Vigilante relies on the advocates of reprisals. This party also has put in a claim for support from the suffragists, based on Mr. Pemberton-Billing's well-known though rather recently developed enthusiasm for our co-operation in Vigilance. It amounts to quite an *embarras de*

richesse, with all three candidates coquetting for our favour—a very different thing from the old days when candidates had but one supreme desire in connection with votes for women, which was, not to have anything to do with suffragists.

So East Islington affairs stand thus for us. Mr. Smallwood, Coalition, pledged to the Government and to the Bill—the “Government measure” so long desired and demanded by the Women’s Movement; Mr. Barnard, greatly desirous of our support, with a party resolution and policy of equal rights for women; Mr. Baker, asking us to work for him because of equal rights in his corps actually granted and enjoyed; and a vote given in the House by “P. B.” for the abolition of the impudent age limitation. How happy could we be with either, were t’other dear charmers away!

RESULT.	
E. Smallwood (Coalition)	2,709
E. Baker (“Vigilantes”)	1,532
E. B. Barnard (National Party)	513

Majority 1,177

Women’s Freedom League.

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IMPORTANT.—As THE VOTE goes to press on TUESDAYS, will contributors, Branch secretaries, and others kindly remember that all articles, notes, etc., must reach THE VOTE Office, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1, on MONDAYS? Tuesday morning’s post is reserved for late and urgent information.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Friday, October 26.—Croydon Sewing party meets at 32A, The Arcade, High-street, at 3 p.m. More workers are wanted.

Wednesday, October 31.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Abadam, on “The Feminist Revision of Theological Values,” and Miss Boyle. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard. Admission free. Tea 6d., if required.

Friday, November 9.—Croydon Public Meeting, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans, on “How Men Mind the Baby.”

Sunday, November 18.—Discussion Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Miss Rebecca West on “The Real Sources of the Inequality of the Sexes.” Tea 4.15 to 5 p.m. Lecture 5 p.m., admission by ticket only, prices 2s. 6d. and 1s., from W.F.L., 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1.—Green, White and Gold Fair, Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m.—9 p.m. To be opened on first day by Miss Lillah McCarthy—on second day by Miss Eva Moore.

PROVINCES.

Monday, October 29.—Middlesbrough, Suffrage Centre, 231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 31.—Middlesbrough, Suffrage Centre, Democratic Club, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 28.—Newcastle, Branch Meeting, by kind permission of Mrs. Anderson, at 129, Sandringham-road, South Gosforth, 7.30 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Wednesday, October 31.—Edinburgh, Branch Meeting, 13, S. Charlotte-street, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray.

Thursday, November 1.—Glasgow Branch Meeting, 212, Bath-street, 7.30 p.m. Housing Question.

Friday, November 9.—Glasgow, Miss Kate Evans’ Concert for the Funds, Central Halls, 7 p.m. Tickets, 2s. 4d., 1s. 3d., 8d.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THEY SUPPORT US.

We draw special attention to

Wednesday, October 31.—Public Meeting, Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Abadam, on “The Feminist Revision of Theological Values,” and Miss Boyle. Chairman: Mrs. Mustard.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

British Dominions Women’s Suffrage Union.—Saturday, October 27.—“Indian Tea,” at Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. N. C. Sen, on “The Education of Indian Women.”

North London Branch, National Secular Society.—Sunday, November 4.—Debate, St. Pancras Reform Club, Victoria-road, Kentish Town, 7.30. Subject: “Should an Industrial Conscript Scheme include Women?” Negative: Miss Dorothy Evans.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE BILL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Since the House reassembled last week a considerable amount of time has been devoted to the further consideration of the Representation of the People Bill in Committee. Ireland has bulked largely in the debates, and hot discussions have taken place on the Government’s decision to extend the scope of the recommendations of the Speaker’s Conference by including Ireland in the redistribution scheme. Two Irish Members, a Unionist, Capt. O’Neill, and a Nationalist, Mr. Seanlan, pointed out the injustice to Irish women if Ireland were cut out of the Bill.

Capt. O’Neill said: I personally was very glad to hear the Home Secretary say that the matter practically lay between two alternatives—either the extension to Ireland of this Bill in its entirety, including the redistribution Clauses, or else the cutting out of Ireland from the Bill altogether. I agree entirely with what hon. gentlemen below the gangway have said. I do not want Ireland cut out of this Bill. Those whom I represent do not want it cut out. Just think what it would mean if Ireland were cut out of the Bill. Ireland would lose the women’s vote, and, what personally appeals to me very much indeed, all the gallant soldiers of Ireland who are fighting would lose their vote, because the next General Election, of course, is bound to take place at a time when the armies of the Empire will be away from the United Kingdom. Therefore, the soldiers would lose the vote and the women would lose the vote, and all the other advantages—because I consider they are advantages—of this Bill would be withdrawn from the people of Ireland.

Mr. SCANLAN asked: “Can any right hon. or hon. gentlemen, representing Irish constituencies, take their courage in their hands and say in this House that an Ulster man, a Belfast man, an Ulster woman, or a Belfast woman, has not the same rights to the franchise as the Englishman or the Scotsman, or the English woman or the Scottish woman?”

No Differentiation.

Mr. Dickinson, in moving to omit the words “in the case of a woman claiming to be registered as a Parliamentary elector” said:

The proposal is that instead of merely obliging a woman to make a declaration that she has attained the legal age, we should make every claimant make such a statement. I am anxious not to accentuate the special position of women in this matter. It is quite true that a woman, in order to obtain the vote must be thirty years of age, but there is no particular reason why we should make her make the statement that she is thirty years of age, and not compel a man to make a declaration that he is twenty-one years of age. I think that it would be an advantage if in all claims of men or women the statement that the claimant has attained proper age were included. Therefore, if my amendment is adopted we shall not have the differentiation in the position of women in making every woman say she is thirty years of age, and in requiring no statement as to age from the man. But we shall also obtain, what we have never yet obtained, a statement that the man is of full age.

The amendment was accepted without discussion.

“Frightening Questions.”

Members of Parliament must be regarded as “extremely confused”—the term they applied to women voters—as to the attitude and temperament of women at the polls when they can spend time over such a discussion as the following:—

Sir G. Cave: I beg to move, in Part II., paragraph 3, to leave out the words “have you already voted more than once at this General Election?” and to insert instead thereof the words “voting in respect of her own or her husband’s local government qualification. Have you already voted at this General Election in respect of your own or your hus-

band’s local government qualification? (4) In the case of a woman voting in respect of a qualification other than her own or her husband’s local government qualification; have you already voted at this General Election in respect of a qualification other than your own or your husband’s local government qualification?”

This amendment is consequent upon the changes we have made in Clause 7. In that Clause we have provided that a woman shall not vote at a General Election for more than one constituency by virtue of her own or her husband’s local government qualification. Unless you put the question in this way you do not cover exactly the same ground as is covered by the provisions of the Clause.

Mr. Gulland: It is quite right that some question of this sort should be put. It is rather a complicated question to put to every woman when she comes up to vote. After all, her name is on the register, and I suppose that not one in fifty of the voters will know what this question means. She is on the register, she thinks she is entitled to vote. I am afraid that the effect on a woman, who will be quite sufficiently agitated when she comes to vote, will be enough to frighten her away altogether. I suggest that some simpler form of question should be put to her, requiring some simpler form of answer.

Sir C. Henry: May I put this to the Home Secretary? I understand he now proposes that the question should be asked of the woman: “Have you voted in respect of any qualification other than your own or your husband’s local government qualification?” If she says she has voted, what is her position?

Sir G. Cave: She cannot vote again.

Sir C. Henry: Then it comes to this, that with the exception of the university vote you can only have one vote.

Sir F. Banbury: It really means that if she has a vote and has exercised it, she must not exercise it again. She will be asked by the clerk “Have you voted in respect of your husband’s local government qualification?” She will at once suppose that the clerk is asking her if she is voting for her husband, if he is not there, and she may be deprived of the vote she ought to have. That will be the ordinary meaning she will place on the question. She will not understand all the intricacies of voting, and that she votes because her husband has a local government qualification. If it is put to her: “Have you voted already in respect of your husband’s qualification?” she will think she is being asked: “Have you voted for your husband?” What she will say I do not know, but she will be extremely confused. As my hon. friend opposite (Sir G. Younger) said, towards the close of an election very often a large number of people are at the poll, and if the registration clerk has to explain to every woman the precise meaning of the question it will take ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. In the meantime there will be a big crowd following her. Those behind will cry “Forward,” and those in front will cry “Back.” I hope that between now and Report the Government will consider whether they cannot devise some clearer and simpler question to put to a woman.

Sir G. Cave: I quite recognise that these are frightening questions, but clearly some questions will have to be put. I should like to see them simplified if possible. If my amendment is accepted we can afterwards see what can be done in that direction.

Amendment accepted.

To Be and Not to Be.

Mr. Bonar Law, Leader of the House, said that the life of the present Parliament would be prolonged. Also that it was proposed to proceed with the Criminal Law Amendment Bill if time permits.

The Education Bill, it was stated, cannot be passed this session owing to want of time.

An Immediate Result.

The Executive Committees of the Scottish Liberal Association and the Scottish Women’s Liberal Federation, in view of the women’s franchise and the redistribution proposals, which will affect Liberal organisations throughout Scotland when the Representation of the People Bill becomes law, met separately in Glasgow on Saturday. It was unanimously agreed by both executives to advise their respective central and local associations to co-operate in the formation of new associations composed of men and women, instead of maintaining separate organisations.

Good News from Canada.

Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister, states that the programme of the new Union Government of Canada includes the enfranchisement of all women.

W.F.L. POLITICAL RALLY: Oct. 19.

The Women’s Freedom League demonstrated to Parliament and the public that it was keenly on the alert with regard to the political situation by holding a Rally on October 19, at the Caxton Hall, three days after the opening of the new session. There was a good gathering last Friday evening at the Caxton Hall, the scene of many historic happenings in the Women’s fight for the franchise, and Miss Eunice G. Murray, who presided, declared that women members of Parliament would not only enliven its proceedings but insist on carrying through legislation which was of importance to the well-being of the community. She protested against statements by politicians designedly capable of two interpretations, and so leaving open a way of escape. A Scottish Member, formerly an anti, had declared that he would now do everything in his power to press forward the Representation of the People Bill. Women, she added, must be consulted on every question.

Miss Dorothy Evans made a stirring appeal to suffragists to “come out into the open!” “The measure of our enthusiasm,” she said, “is the measure of the politicians’ fear of betraying us.” She showed how much work there is to be done, and called for volunteers. The Hartlepool case was an instance of the continued interference with the liberties of women, and the value of women in the eyes of men could not be said to be very high when, as happened recently, a man was fined 10s. for knocking a woman down and £2 for refusing to pay a 1d. fare.

Miss Boyle, declaring that this is the day of new things, gave interesting and entertaining facts about the new National Party, as shown at an electioneering meeting in East Islington. The leaders of the party are determined to make a strong bid for the support of women, but so few were present that the suffragists were asked to move a vote of thanks to the speakers at the meeting! She protested against muddle-headed views and the waste of time and effort in Parliament on such discussions as that which had just taken place over the meaning of the words “to reside,” “contiguous,” etc. The so-called surplus women, she maintained, were not a problem, but a source of strength; they are the majority, the majority must say what it wills. Work is not a monopoly of sex or class; it is the right of every citizen. There can be no reconstruction which leaves women out; the great blessing which the country needs is a strong, free, and independent womanhood.

Mrs. Despard, who received a rousing reception after her long tour in the North, insisted that the great need of the moment was for women to see with their own eyes—not through the eyes of their husband, or a clergyman, doctor, or lawyer. Men praised women to-day because they had seen the national need and shown skill and devotion in helping, but the desire had always been in their hearts. She was glad that the Representation of the People Bill recognised women as the people; there could now be no retreat from that position. She hoped that the Women’s Freedom League would be the channel through which women’s service would flow out to the community by bringing more commonsense into the business of the country. To read the official reports of the debates in Parliament always made her long for the presence there of strong, able women who would tell men the facts and bring light to bear on great questions.

The following resolution was put to the meeting and passed unanimously:—

That this meeting views with satisfaction the steps taken by Parliament and the Government to deal with the question of electoral reform, including in the Bill a measure of votes for women; and calls upon the Government to place the Representation of the People Bill as an Act of Parliament on the Statute Book before the close of 1917.

SEE OUR SALE ANDEXCHANGE, PAGE 24.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, October 26th, 1917.

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EDITORIAL.

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

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AGENTS.

International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross, W.C.; Messrs. Horace Marshall and Co., Temple-avenue, E.C.; City and Suburban Publishing Company, St. Bride's Churchyard, E.C.; E. Marlborough, Old Bailey, E.C.; A. Ritchie, Pemberton-row, Gough-square, E.C.; Simpkin, Marshall and Co., Orange-street, Haymarket; John Heywood, Manchester. Can be obtained at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son and all newsagents.

THE PARLIAMENTARY PUDDLE.

There has been a good deal of splashing in the muddied waters of the Parliamentary goose-green this last week, and some exaggerated idea has been entertained of the importance of the disturbances. The Bill for the Representation of the People has been the reason of the agitation; and very naturally suffragists of all shades of opinion are extremely sensitive to details that may at any moment assume the magnitude of crises. We do not think, however, that the angry recriminations flung across the floor of the House on the subject of the redistribution of Irish seats have any real importance or are anything more than a zealous playing to the galleries by gentlemen of opposing views and uncertain tempers. The Irish Unionists, having finally abandoned their die-hard attitude and having accepted representation on the Convention with the avowed object of finding an acceptable form of Home Rule, consider themselves entitled to ask, in return, for the protection of some measure of redistribution. The Nationalists cannot honestly oppose this fairly reasonable request—seeing that no reduction of Irish representation is asked for—but appeal to the decision of the Speaker's Conference to show that the request, however reasonable, is an attack on the truce, and therefore a provocation to reprisals. Neither, however, really wish to have to face the obloquy of killing the Bill, or of shutting Ireland out of it; and the storm was in all respects one of puddles. Meanwhile, Sinn Fein agitates and harasses, in open scorn of the Government, the Ulster Union, and the Nationalists, harrying the flanks of all in turn, and professing to set up—in flattering imitation of Sir Edward Carson—a government of their own which shall have no connection with the firm over the way—nor even with any that may be set up at St. Stephen's Green.

The reality of the whole situation may be gauged by the statement of Sir George Cave, and of the

London Press, to the effect that it will not be of any consequence anyway, seeing that the Convention may, can, and probably will, alter everything with a stroke of the pen when they come to a decision. So they are all extremely happy, and extremely busy, doing things with the maximum of fuss and fervour that everyone knows will make very little difference in any fundamental respect; and the fun comes in with the "pretending," in the best and most highly approved Parliamentary manner, that it is all of the utmost urgency and importance.

The really important item is the debate on the conduct of the Government in Ireland, which is being carried on as we go to press. The motion for the adjournment, moved by Mr. Redmond, is in reality a vote of censure on the Government. The direct possibilities, suspected and unsuspected, always under a vote of censure. If the Government succeeds in tripping gaily past this very serious obstruction, it is probable that its further progress will be fairly easy, and it may continue its rather irresponsible course towards electoral reform and a General Election. The worst we have to fear is delay.

Delay may come either from the difficulties surrounding the Boundary Commissioners when they start on the redistribution of Irish constituencies—a job sufficiently difficult to last well over Christmas; or, more probably, from the House of Lords. The House of Lords would not, of course (unless entirely mad) throw out the Bill or any of its important clauses; but it will most likely play for delay, under the plea that many important safeguards, and many important interests also, have been neglected or superficially treated by the Commons. The protection of the dangerously imperilled British Constitution and other equally grave principles will probably be to the fore; and it is, therefore, quite on the cards that delay may be manipulated.

The House will be asked once more to prolong the life of this Parliament; and it is to be supposed that a further six months will be added to it. If one were treating of an assembly guided by reason and righteousness, one would feel sure in assuming that those six months would see the new electors safely on the register, and all things in readiness for an appeal to the great mass of the people who are paying for the war, working for the war, and making a continuation of the war to a successful conclusion a visible possibility. The House of Commons, and the Government being what they are, one can assume no such thing. Members will need a gentle jogging of their elbows; the Government will need reminding, the Home Secretary will need priming and even goading, from time to time. The price of victory, like that of freedom, is eternal vigilance. We cannot allow any gust of hopefulness to slacken our fire or cool our energy, or in any way to lessen our vigorous determination to keep the country and the Government alive to our expectations. C. NINA BOYLE.

The Woman's Movement in India.

In response to a desire on the part of many women from the Dominions of New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Canada, to meet their Indian sisters and to hear their views on our common needs and aspirations, the Executive Committee of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union proposes to arrange for a series of afternoon meetings, with short speeches, followed by tea and open discussion. The first of these gatherings will be held at the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., on Saturday, October 27, 3.30-6 p.m. Mrs. N. Chundra Sen, a Bengali and a poet, widely known for her excellent service to her country, will speak on "The Education of Women in India." The chair will be taken by Lady Muir Mackenzie, a strong suffragist, who, during her residence in India, took an active personal interest in all that made for the progress of Indian women. Admission 1s., including tea.

SAFE!

"Clause 31 was added to the Bill."

These few words, baldly summarising the outcome of the long party wrangle over redistribution, brought immense relief to the Irish suffragists who had been kept on the rack of uncertainty for so long. To the very end it seemed doubtful. The Unionist demand for redistribution, suddenly brought up again with renewed energy at the last moment, seemed to threaten very disastrous delay in the application of the Bill to Ireland, if not shipwreck of all our hopes. Exclusion of Ireland from the Bill until after that momentous General Election which will decide so much!—this was a prospect which struck dismay into the stoutest heart. How would the things fare that really mattered; the children, the waste in all directions, the organisation of industry, and the thousand other questions, if we were shut out from all share in the new Parliament (wherever it may meet!) which will have to deal with reconstruction in this country after the war?

Every effort was made in Ireland to avoid this disaster. The Joint Committee of Irish Suffrage Societies wrote and wired to the Unionist leaders and Sir George Cave, urging the danger of the situation if the Bill were tampered with or delayed; the Belfast Suffrage Society wrote and wired to the local M.P.'s, reminding them that the issue concerned men as well as women, and that disfranchisement of Irish soldiers and sailors who had voluntarily entered the Service would not be a wise step. Perhaps this last reminder was effectual. In any case the thing was done, the clause defining the application of the Bill to Ireland is through. In justice we should note the speeches of Captain O'Neill, Unionist M.P. for Mid-Antrim, who urged the claims of Irishwomen as well as of Irishmen, and of Mr. Scanlan, Nationalist M.P. for North Sligo, who also included women as well as men in his plea for immediate application of the Bill.

Now all our energies will be concentrated on organisation. If the women voters are to be simply swallowed up in the various political parties little will be effected. Nor shall we do much if we are to "pull all ways for Sunday," as an excited drover once described the proceedings of an unruly flock of sheep. We know what we want well enough, but the difficulty will be to hold the organisations together apart from the political issues which may continue to bulk largely in the public eye. We trust the tension will be relaxed, but it would be folly not to recognise how difficult the situation will be in face of the present strength of the Sinn Fein party. That party has had the political wisdom to adopt many of the planks in the feminist platform; many of its leaders, especially in the industrial centres, advocate such schemes as Mothers' Pensions, or, to take another instance, school feeding of children. Let us hope the other political parties will see the need for advance in this direction. We suffragists have no desire to go back on the bad old days. We are quite ready to forgive and forget, even those arguments of last week when we were urged—oh word loved of the politician!—"to wait," "for surely the need of redistribution was greater than that of enfranchisement!"

We can now see to it that fruits meet for repentance are brought forth, for now in these constituencies, where perhaps ten votes may turn the scale, the well organised women voters will matter. The rope is now to be put in our hands; we will see to it that a long pull, a strong pull, and above all, a pull all together, is given. "That's a country worth fighting for," said Cromwell, as he stood on a hill-top in Louth, looking over the fair country round Dundalk. Let us exorcise that old unhappy memory, and make of Ireland a country for which we can all live.

DORA MELLONE.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Zeppelin Commander Captured by a Woman.

Madame Dupont, wife of a farmer, captured the Commander and officers of the Zeppelin L.45, which came down near Lagagne, France.

Battle Heroine.

The political correspondent of *The Daily Mail* wrote on October 19, 1917: "The Prime Minister has been greatly impressed by the heroism, endurance, and defiance of danger displayed by women in their voluntary work, and they will be specially mentioned in the resolution of gratitude to the armies to be moved by him on Monday week. A case brought directly to his notice recently was that of a nurse who went under fire to the assistance of a fallen soldier, who could not be immediately removed from the battlefield in consequence of the nature of his wounds. She remained by his side for hours, tenderly relieving his sufferings. When the stretcher bearers arrived with special appliances for his removal she fainted, and it was found that she had been seriously wounded."

Nurse Buried with Military Honours.

Sister May Dickson, of the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Staff Reserve, who was invalided home to Sydney and died after the steamer reached Melbourne, was buried there on October 5 with full military honours. This is the first time in the history of Australia that a woman has been thus honoured. The scene at the interment was most impressive, says a Reuter cable.

Nurses' War Service

For three days three columns of *The Times* were devoted to the long list of nurses commended for their valuable services in connection with the war. The closely printed columns give an idea of the extent of the army of women engaged in the work of healing.

"Endell Street" in Bombay.

Dr. Garrett Anderson, C.B.E., in her address at the opening of the session of the London School of Medicine for Women, said that the Government of India had asked women graduates, former students of the school, to equip and manage one of the largest military hospitals in Bombay.

Wanted for Aircraft Depots.

In addition to the 10,000 women wanted at once for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps, the Government is calling for almost as many more to work in the aircraft depots at home and abroad. Every kind of mechanic, cleaner, and repairer is wanted to release men for other duties. There should be as good an opening for women in these new duties as they have found in the motoring trade.

On the Land.

At the Board of Agriculture test near Birmingham recently two hundred women of the Midlands took part. The work included ploughing by horse and tractor, hoeing, thatching, milking, etc. Sixty entered for the milking test; not one failed; two received full marks and 22 gained 90 per cent. The women were most successful, too, in the tests held at Oakham, Rutland, which would have tried much older farm hands, says *The Times*. "In one riding competition the entrants had to harness two horses in plough gear and, riding one and leading the other, go through a line of gates carrying a sack of chaff on the ridden horse. The winner went through with all the sang-froid of an old ploughman, and the big pair of horses knew that they had to behave. Other competitors had to harness a single-horse wagon and drive through a line of narrow gates. Many of them did this without once touching the posts." The farmers, hard to shake out of old habits, were enthusiastic in their comments, adds *The Times*, even with regard to what the women achieved with mechanical tractors.

Town Surveyor.

Miss Righton, of Disley, Cheshire, has been appointed acting surveyor to the Rural Council in the place of her brother, Lieut. Righton.

Delegate to Pensions Conference.

Miss Harper is the only woman delegate to the Allies' Pension Conference in London. She works with the United States Red Cross in France.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

On October 17 we had an interesting address on "Indian Education" by the Rev. W. C. Roberts, Rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury. Not long ago he and Mrs. Roberts visited India, and both did their share of teaching; the former in a college at Delhi, the principal of which was an Indian with Englishmen working under him, and the latter in a high-class Mohammedan school for girls. There was a great demand for education in India, both of boys and girls, said Mr. Roberts, and a growing demand for sympathetic women teachers for girls. In India there were two kinds of schools—Government schools and non-official schools—and the difference of tone in these schools was considerable. Education had often been retarded because it was official and organised, and there was too great a tendency to Anglicise it completely. Almost all the teaching was in English; there was a great deal of cramming and learning by heart; Shakespeare seemed to be the chief work studied, and there was little attempt to give the students a broader European education.

With regard to girls' education, early marriage was a great obstacle, but there was now a growing postponement of marriage and greater efforts on the part of both men and women for the higher education of girls.

A very interesting discussion followed this address. Miss Eunice Murray, from the chair, and Miss Boyle cordially thanked Mr. Roberts for coming to speak from the Women's Freedom League platform. It was specially gratifying to know that the successor to the late Rev. C. Warlow, whose memory all London Freedom Leaguers hold very dear, was a staunch supporter of the Women's Cause.

MISS EVELYN SHARP'S PROTEST.

Miss Sharp again appeared at the Bankruptcy Court last Tuesday morning. As she was not prepared on principle to provide the authorities with a statement of her affairs, the Registrar told her that the case would be adjourned *sine die*. Asked by Miss Sharp for the precise meaning of this statement, he explained that unless she was prepared to submit to the Court's ruling and supply a list of her assets and liabilities she would remain in her present position (that of an undischarged bankrupt, the authorities being allowed to intercept all her correspondence, while she herself was unable to make any business transaction) and it might also mean that the authorities would take further steps against her. Miss Sharp said that the authorities knew perfectly well that she had no liabilities except the amount claimed for her income-tax, which her conscience forbade her to pay while women remained without political representation in the country. She was not prepared to give a list of her assets to enable the authorities to collect the tax. She further inquired what had become of the furniture which had been seized from her rooms months ago, and where were her books which had been taken at the same time? Did the authorities propose to hold these for ever, without selling them or giving her a receipt for their value? The Registrar declared that he knew nothing about this matter and he could not discuss the matter of conscience in that Court. She was advised, how-

ever, to write to the official receiver, who might be able to tell her something about her furniture! In the meantime the authorities are evidently bent upon depriving her of her means of livelihood because of her adherence to her suffrage principles.

The Women's Freedom League extends its warmest sympathy to Miss Sharp, and strongly condemns this petty persecution of an unenfranchised woman by the authorities because she insists on upholding one of the basic principles of our Constitution—that taxation and representation go together.

Suffrage Work in London: Join In!

At the recent local Secretaries' Meeting it was decided to call members' meetings in the various London districts for the discussion of the position of the Representation of the People Bill in its different stages. The first of these meetings took place at the house of Mrs. Mustard, 49, Moresby-road, Hackney, last Sunday afternoon. Miss Dorothy Evans spoke. A collection was taken towards the political work of the League, and members promised gifts for the Hackney Stall at the Fair. The Herne Hill members' meeting will be held at Mrs. Presbury's house on Saturday, November 17. Will other districts follow suit? If each will send headquarters a donation as Hackney has done we shall be quite rich. Drawing-rooms in and around London in which meetings can be held—little or big—are needed. If you have such a room please write to Miss Dorothy Evans and offer it. Mrs. Hutt and Mrs. Stebbing have already kindly offered theirs, and meetings are being arranged.

Poster Parades in Parliament Square.

As the Members of Parliament assembled for the Autumn Session on October 16, they were hailed with the usual reminders of women's disfranchised state. The Square seemed full of flags of various colours—the green, white and gold shone out, and the familiar purple, white and green was proudly carried by members of the Independent W.S.P.U. The suffragettes of the W.S.P.U. carried suffrage posters, and our plucky brother, the M.P.U., was represented. Another parade took place last Tuesday, and volunteers are urged to send in their names to keep the flag flying outside the House until the Bill is safely through all its stages.

In Sympathy.

Those who shared the strenuous work of the Women's Freedom League in the early years of its existence will remember Miss Dorothy Spencer (Mrs. D. Hart), an Australian, as one of our energetic and enthusiastic organisers. We learn, with regret, that she was killed recently in a motor car accident in California. All who knew her will sympathise deeply with her husband and family in their tragic loss, and the League will always hold her able service in grateful remembrance.

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 93, Nine Elms-lane, S.W. 8. Hon. Sec. and Organiser: Miss Kathleen Holmes.

After months of unsuccessful effort to find a foster-parent good enough for our little guest "Bobby," the ideal mother presented herself last week, and took him to a country home, where the unwanted baby (his mother had deserted him) will get all the petting his temperament demands, and a good education and start in life as well. There will be seven children in the guest house next week, and we have had to refuse house room to ten others, so it looks as though we shall have to enlarge our premises again shortly. Grateful thanks to Miss Riggall for 3s. (three weeks); Miss M. Barber, £1; Mrs. Miller, 1s.; Mrs. Bull, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Brereton, 5s.; Mr. P. Davies, 2s.; Miss Wright, £2 10s.; Miss H. Fenning, 10s.; Anon, 2s.; Anon, £2 2s.; for milk depot, Mrs. Tritton, 6s.; and for gifts in kind from Mrs. Bennett, Miss Leech (apples), Sister Rosalind (pears), Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. and Miss Roberts. We are now anxiously awaiting promises of contributions for our stall at the Green, Gold and White Fair; windfall apples and pears are also most acceptable, no matter how badly bruised, for we use them up immediately on arrival.

The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W. 1.

The departure of a well-known Freedom Leaguer to take up important duty, after a stay of some weeks at The Despard Arms, leaves a large and comfortable bed-sitting-room at liberty. It is particularly suitable for two friends or for husband and wife; 13s. 6d. a week, including light and one scuttle of coal. Other accommodation for short or long periods can be had by arrangement with the Manageress. Bed and breakfast 2s. 6d. Meals in the restaurant as desired.

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NOT ENOUGH YET!

The list of contributions to the Political Fund is published herewith.

Many thanks to all who have so kindly helped us. A much larger sum is required to carry forward our big push to victory to win success by the end of this year.

We therefore call upon all readers who have not already joined in this Fund to send in their donations without delay and share in the gladness of the final triumph.

E. KNIGHT.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged, October, 1907, to December, 1916, £27,609 4s. 3d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged...	27	6	9
Special Emergency War Fund—			
"A Friend" ...	5	12	6
W. R. Snow, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Miss M. Fox ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Mallalue ...	1	0	0
Miss A. B. Spencer ...	1	0	0
Miss B. Kent ...	6	0	0
Mrs. Sholl ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Angold ...	3	0	0
Miss Hurry ...	3	0	0
Miss Bosley ...	2	0	0
Mrs. de Vismes ...	2	0	0
Tufnell Park Branch ...	8	0	0
Political Fund—			
C. Coates, Esq. ...	10	10	0
Mrs. Walter Carey ...	3	0	0
Miss Angus, per Mrs. Despard ...	2	0	0
Reginald Pott, Esq. ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Despard ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Cobden Sanderson ...	10	0	0
Miss B. Kent ...	10	0	0
Mrs. Mallalue ...	10	0	0
Mrs. Tritton ...	10	0	0
Mrs. Branch ...	5	0	0
Mrs. L. E. Kirkby ...	5	0	0
Miss Pleace ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Thomson-Price ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Tanner ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Wilkinson ...	5	0	0
Miss Edith Eagle ...	3	6	0
Mrs. Aaron ...	2	6	0
Miss Janet Bunten ...	2	6	0
Miss McLelland ...	2	6	0
Mrs. Soane ...	2	6	0
Miss Ada Dunkley (collected) ...	2	0	0
Mrs. E. Drival ...	2	0	0
"M. V. S." ...	2	0	0
Miss F. A. Underwood ...	2	0	0
Miss Bosley ...	1	0	0
H. G. Everett, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Miss Margaret Hodge ...	1	0	0
Mrs. de Vismes ...	1	0	0
Portsmouth Branch ...	2	0	0
Reading Branch ...	2	6	0
Southampton Branch ...	10	0	0
Political Rally Collection ...	4	16	9
Mrs. Walter Carey ...	30	14	9
Mrs. Schofield Coates ...	3	0	0
Miss Fryer ...	3	0	0
Mrs. Metge, per Miss A. M. Clark (Organisers' Fund) ...	2	0	0
Miss Eunice Murray ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Mary Brewer ...	1	1	0
Miss M. I. Saunders ...	10	0	0
Miss E. Steven ...	6	0	0
Miss M. Hargrave ...	5	0	0
Mrs. Alison ...	2	6	0
Miss A. L. Hindell ...	2	6	0
Miss M. H. Saunders ...	2	6	0
Miss Shaw ...	2	6	0
Miss E. Davies ...	2	0	0
Miss W. Gundry ...	1	0	0
Miss G. M. Lock ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Myers ...	1	0	0
Miss Gladys G. Pond ...	1	0	0
Collections ...	7	16	5
Collections, per Miss Dorothy Evans ...	18	17	2
Tickets ...	1	16	0
Office Sales ...	1	0	0
	£688	6	7

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

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 24.

GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD FAIR.

One of the attractions of the Fair will be "The Lady with a Hundred Pockets." Every member is asked to send something suitable to fill these pockets. We have been fortunate enough to get Miss Lillah McCarthy and Miss Eva Moore to open the Fair. The following societies have taken stalls:—The United Suffragists, the Independent W.S.P.U., the Free Church League for W.S., and the Nine Elms Settlement. Mrs. Thomson Price has very kindly promised to give her popular Psychic Delineations on the second day.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

On October 19 a tea party was held at the Office, to present Miss Foster, our ex-treasurer, with a token of appreciation on the occasion of her marriage. Mrs. Terry, in making the presentation, referred to the fact that Miss Foster had been a member of the Croydon Branch from its formation, and had done much valuable work. Although all regretted losing her, the love of freedom which bound them together would not be broken, and in handing Miss Foster a cake-stand she expressed the hearty good wishes of all members for her future happiness.

Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 13, South Charlotte Street.

We were fortunate in having Mrs. Despard to address us at the opening of what we hope will be an eventful session. Our President's words of encouragement were greatly appreciated by all present, and her hope that members of the League will work together in the future as in the past found unanimous response. Miss Munro presided over an audience which quite filled the room, and welcomed Mrs. Despard in the name of the Branch. Tea was served by Mrs. Jackson and her helpers, and a good collection was taken. Mrs. Somerville, Convener of the Edinburgh Health Visitors' Association, was the speaker at our first Branch Meeting. She stated in the clearest terms the problem that had called her Association into existence, its chief causes, and the steps being taken to cope with it. The Health Visitors she described as a great scouting force, the need for which is in no way lessened by the appointment of nurses under the new "Child Welfare" scheme. Mrs. Somerville answered many questions put to her at the close of her address—questions which were an evidence of the interest roused by her remarks. In conjunction with the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association and the Scottish Churches' League for Women's Suffrage, an open-air Demonstration was held at the Mound on Saturday. Councillor Bruce Lindsay presided, and a large audience listened attentively to excellent speeches from Miss A. B. Jack (W.F.L.), Mr. Fraser Cunningham (C.U.W.F.A.) and Mr. Rutherford Hill (S.C.L.W.S.), and passed unanimously a resolution expressing satisfaction that the Woman Suffrage Clause is part of the Representation of the People Bill, and calling upon the Government to pass the Bill into law without delay. The Vote and Miss Murray's new pamphlet sold well.

Kensington.

The "At Home" on Saturday was evidence of the pleasure felt by the members and friends at having Miss Boyle with us again, and the room was full of people eager to welcome and chat with her. During the afternoon she delighted us with reminiscences of her journey and experiences, and everyone wanted more, and would gladly have listened all the evening. Miss May Proctor and Mr. Threadgold added to the enjoyment with their songs, and the Branch is grateful to them, and to Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Dudderidge for playing.

Letchworth.

On October 11 Miss Boyle visited Letchworth, and it was a great pleasure to members and friends to welcome her back to this country. The afternoon meeting was held at the Skittles, and was well attended by a very interested and appreciative audience, who showed that they realised the importance of the subject, "The People's Bill." We always expect to learn from Miss Boyle's addresses, and we were pleased to have many important points in the Bill explained to us so fully and clearly that we shall be able to pass on the information to those unable to attend. We were cheered by a good collection. In the evening, in the Church Room, Commerce-avenue, Miss Boyle favoured us with her exceedingly interesting lecture on "A Modern View of Ancient Macedon," and for over an hour we travelled with her in that sad war-worn country, heard the pathetic stories of its sufferers and amusing anecdotes of its manners and customs. It was a great disappointment that the audience was small, but we were left with a determination to get up a really good meeting for her on a future occasion. Darkness and distance are difficulties which have to be overcome. Miss Ponter has very kindly undertaken to act as "Vote" secretary to the Branch.

FRIDAY,
OCT. 26,
1917.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

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FOR SALE—cont.

DOUBLE BEDSTEAD, with chain
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VELOUR COAT; suit tall lady;
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TWO NEW OSTRICH FEATHER
CAPES, navy and natural;
27s. 6d. each.

SILVER CHAIN PURSE, 2½oz.;
25s.

TWO SOUP LADLES and some
FORKS and SPOONS; cheap.

VERY SUPERIOR LONG SEAL
MUSQUASH FUR COAT, with
whole-skin black fox collar; 25 guineas.

GENTLEMAN'S REAL LEATHER,
SILVER-MOUNTED CIGAR-
ETTE CASE; best quality; 12s. 6d.

SUPERIOR NEW BEAR SET,
MUFF and STOLE; £7 10s.

SECONDHAND SET of SABLE
MINK COLLAR and MUFF;
28s. 6d.

NEW SAXE BLUE MOIRE SILK
UNDERSKIRT, 12s. 11d., and
satin-striped ditto, 7s. 11d.

EMBROIDERED BLACK SATIN
COAT, and HAT to match; suit
girl of 8 to 12 years; 17s. 6d.

PAIR GENTLEMAN'S SILVER-
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LECTURES.

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With special reference to economic
problems. Lecturer, Margaret Hodge.
Fifth Lecture, Monday, October 29, at
3 p.m. Tickets for Part I. (10 lectures),
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The Articles for Sale are on view at the Minerva Exchange, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, 10 to 6. Saturdays, 10 to 1.

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