

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 364.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1915.

Price 1d. Weekly (Post Free 1d.)



A. PATRIOT

MR. ASQUITH

When called upon to do something to stem the rise in food prices, or to stop the ejection by farmers of soldiers' wives from their homes

MR. ASQUITH

When called upon to consider the proposal to enfranchise every man of twenty-one who has enlisted in the Army or Navy

UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

3, Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, Regent 5150
Colours: Purple, White and Orange

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JOIN U.S.!

A membership form will be found on page 184 showing the aims and objects of the United Suffragists. This is no moment to sit on the fence, or to remain an onlooker while others do all the work. A well-known Anti-Suffragist, Mr. Holford Knight, has this week recanted in favour of granting votes to women because the war has made him see both the justice and the necessity of this course. There must be many others like him, as well as many who, before the war revealed to them the women's share in the burdens and the sufferings of citizenship, were indifferent but are no longer to the women's claim to the rights of citizenship. To all these, whether men or women, we appeal to do the honest and the helpful thing by becoming one of US without delay.

U.S. WOMEN'S CLUB
92, Borough Road, Southwark, S.E.

We have to thank many friends—both for personal help and for gifts to the club. Miss Mears, of North Shields, has sent us a sewing machine; Mrs. Ibbotson Hutt a gas stove; and Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck has given a much-needed tin case for the secretary's office. The

membership of the club is increasing steadily, and, judging by the remarks of those who use it, it is much appreciated. The following gifts will be welcomed at the Club: Tea, cake, butter, sugar, cocoa, coffee essence, biscuits, jam, marmalade.

THE CAMPAIGN
Indoor

- Tuesday, March 2; 8 p.m.—U.S. Women's Club.—Open Meeting.**—Speaker: Mrs. Drake (East London Federation).
- Thursday, March 4; 8 p.m.—Lecture.**—Athenaeum Hall, Glasgow. Mr. Henry W. Nevinson on "What War Means." Chair: Dr. Marion Gilchrist.
- Friday, March 5; 3.30 p.m.—Drawing-room Meeting.**—Walmer House, Aldridge, Walsall. Mr. John Scurr and others.
- Friday, March 5; 8 p.m.—Lecture.**—The Oak Hall, Princess Street, Edinburgh. Lecturer: Mr. H. W. Nevinson. Chair: Lady Ramsey.
- Friday, March 5; 8 p.m.—Public Meeting.**—Large Hall, Queen's College, Birmingham. Speaker: Mr. John Scurr. Chair: Miss Dorothy Evans.
- Saturday, March 6; 7.15 p.m.—Public Meeting.**—Co-operative Hall, Worcester. Speaker: Mr. John Scurr. Chair: Mr. E. Baldwyn.
- Wednesday, March 24—Public Meeting.**—The Library, Prince Arthur Road, Hampstead. Speaker: Miss Evelyn Sharp.

Outdoor Meetings

- Monday, March 1; 3 p.m.**—Corner Liverpool Street and Walworth Road. Mrs. Gregory.
- Friday, March 5; 8 p.m.**—Corner Liverpool Street and Walworth Road. Miss Fraser Smith.

BIRMINGHAM U.S.

Hon. Sec. Miss Margaret Haly, 19, New Street
A Members' Meeting was held in the office on Wednesday, 17th, when it was settled: (1) That a Members' Meeting should be held in 19, New Street, once a month. This, with the monthly Public Meeting, will make two meetings a month, one every fortnight. (2) That the Members' Meetings should be thrown open to friends and sympathisers. (3) The members present undertook to pay 6d. a week towards the office rent. Absent members, please note. The next Members' Meeting will be on March 17, at 8 p.m.
The bills for Mr. Scurr's meeting will be in the office on Wednesday, 24th. Will the bill distributors give all available time for the street distribution of these, and also of the leaflets "Why We Keep the Suffrage Flag Flying"? See "Campaign" for public meetings.
The Committee thank Mrs. Brewster for her gift of jam, which has sold well.
It has been decided that Walsall shall unite with the Birmingham U.S.

NEW BRANCHES
Manchester and Glasgow

Readers of VOTES FOR WOMEN and all sympathisers, both in Manchester and in Glasgow, are asked to send in their names at once to Mr. Charles Gray (Branches Organiser), at 3, Adam Street, Strand, W.C., with a view to becoming members and workers of the new U.S. branches about to be formed in these two cities.

"VOTES FOR WOMEN"
More Poster Inspectors!

We have great pleasure in announcing that we have received in two cases 25s. for the purpose of paying for the exposition of a VOTES FOR WOMEN poster for one year. Mrs. Raymond Prothero has kindly sent us this sum; while in the other case, Mrs. Roberts, of Southport, collected the amount from the following group of members:—Mrs. Greswell, Miss Henry, Mrs. Kay, Miss Phyllis Lovell, Mrs. Roberts, Miss Kate Ryley, Miss Williams. This is an admirable way of combining to pay for the upkeep of a poster, the showing of which on a railway bookstall or elsewhere is one of the most satisfactory ways of spreading the circulation and educating public opinion.
The following members have kindly under-

taken the important work of inspecting posters that are already paid for:—Miss Dorothy Gould and Mrs. Agnes Henry (London), Miss Florence Sinclair (Eastbourne), Mrs. Moore (Ramsgate), Mrs. Mary Evans (Sheffield), Mrs. Roberts (Southport).

Another Way of Helping

Another way of helping is to obtain new annual subscribers to the paper. The more annual subscribers we have on our list the easier it is for us to calculate our resources. We therefore call upon every reader of these words to cut out and fill in the subscription form on this page and forward it to us with 6s. 6d., without delay.

"WANTED, AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION"

Our recent appeal for a friendly reader to pay the subscription of a working woman who had to give up her VOTES FOR WOMEN owing to "bad times" has been answered. Another proof of comradeship!

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Owing to the curtailment of many of the train services on account of military exigencies,

DO YOU READ OUR PAPER REGULARLY?

If not, fill in this form and send it to the
Publisher of

VOTES FOR WOMEN, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

I wish to become a Subscriber to VOTES FOR WOMEN FOR

- 1 Year and enclose .. { 6/6
- 6 Months.. .. " " { 3/3
- 3 Months.. .. " " { 1/8

Name and Title.....

Address.....

it is possible that the delivery of VOTES FOR WOMEN outside London may be to some extent delayed in the immediate future.

A Correction

We regret that in acknowledging in our issue of last week the generous gift of foodstuffs sent to the U.S. Women's Club from our kinsfolk in Australia it was made to appear that Queensland is in Canada. But what is in a name when both countries represent many thousands of fellow Suffragists, anxious to help their sisters in the mother country at this hour of stress and anxiety?

BOOKS RECEIVED

- "Stories of the Kaiser and His Ancestors." By Clare Jerrold. (London: Stanley Paul. Price 2s. net.)
- "The Century Magazine." February. (New York. Price 35 cents.)
- "German Spies in England." By Wm. le Queux. (London: Stanley Paul. Price 1s. net.)
- "The Great Adventure." By A. Maude Royden. (London: Headley Bros. Price 2d.)
- "How the War Came." (London: I.L.P. Price 1d.)
- "Is Britain Blameless?" By A. Fenner Brockway. (London: I.L.P. Price 1d.)

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

After we go to press on Wednesday the debate on the second reading of the Bill to amend the Defence of the Realm Act will take place in the House of Commons. The main object of the Bill is to restore to British civilians the right to trial by the ordinary courts, and our chief concern with it here is to lay stress on the fact that by excluding aliens from the benefits of the Amending Bill all British wives of aliens will still be subject to trial by court-martial should they offend against any of the numerous provisions of the original Act. Is it too much to hope that steps will be taken before the Amending Bill becomes law to include these our actual countrywomen within its jurisdiction?

Stricken Women and Children

Truly, there should not be an Anti-Suffragist left among those who base their opposition to the woman's vote on the theory that men are the sole victims of war. In answer to a question in the House last Monday, the Prime Minister stated that the total number of women killed during the recent East Coast raid was thirty-nine, and of children thirty-nine also. The total number of women wounded in Hartlepool and Whitby was 133, and of children 177. The twelfth report of the Belgian Commission of Inquiry has just been issued, and reveals the same dreary story of suffering and death in these two non-combatant classes, with the horrors of rape and outrage added. We should say nothing of all this if women were on an equal footing with men in relation to the great issues of peace and war. But as long as they have no voice in either, the poignancy of the terrible price they pay when their country goes to war without their consent, or patches up an inconclusive peace without their consent, is increased tenfold.

A Trade Union for Soldiers' Wives

In view of the continued unsatisfactory nature of the way separation allowances are paid to the wives and families of soldiers and sailors—many representations were made in the House last week with reference to the delay in making these payments and their insufficiency owing to the increased cost of living—there is considerable interest attached to the announcement that a League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives has been formed to protect the interests of all wives, mothers and other relatives of soldiers and sailors, and to secure for them adequate separation allowances and pensions, to act on their behalf in all cases of neglect and delay, and generally to obtain an improvement in their conditions.

Mrs. Despard is President of the League, and Mrs. George Lansbury, Secretary—names that are in themselves a guarantee of efficiency; while two-thirds of the Committee consist of soldiers' and sailors' wives or other relatives. Judging by the success of the concerted protest made by the soldiers' wives of Preston against the circular placing them under police super-

vision, we hope for great results from this new organization. The Women's Local Government Society, we are glad to see, has petitioned Lord Kitchener for the withdrawal, in addition to the suspension, of the insulting circular in question.

Driven to Suicide

It is time indeed that soldiers' wives had their own Trade Union, if only for the protection of women like Mrs. Muriel Scott, who appeared in Hampstead Police Court last Saturday to answer to a charge of attempted suicide. She had lost her work through the war, and was told by the Royal Garrison Artillery Records Office that she was not entitled to a separation allowance because her husband, whom she had married off the strength, is quartered at Aden, which for the purposes of administering these payments, is situated in India! A statement was made in Court that the S.S.F.A. were arranging to get her into a home, and would afterwards send her to her parents in New Zealand. But why should this poor woman be first made an outcast and then separated—permanently, we should imagine, in view of the distance—from her husband? We could wish that those who talk of the sanctity of marriage, when payments to unmarried wives are in question, would concentrate their energies on making such stories as Mrs. Scott's impossible.

Food Prices and Women's Wages

It is all very well for members of Parliament to talk about a possible rise in wages as the natural way of meeting the actual rise in the

TO LONDON READERS.
COME TO-DAY
(Thursday, February 25, at 8 p.m.)
TO THE
KINGSWAY HALL

TO HEAR
MR. ISRAEL ZANGWILL, MRS. CAVENDISH BENTINCK, MRS. BEN WEBSTER, MR. H. W. MASSINGHAM, MRS. AGNES HARBEN, MR. H. W. NEVINSON, MISS EVELYN SHARP, MR. JOHN SCURR,
ON
WOMEN AND PEACE!
Admission, 2/6, 1/-, & 6d.

price of food. If those members were responsible to women their constituents could tell them, first, that prices rise suddenly and with terrible effect, while wages rise so gradually that the effect from week to week is hardly perceptible. (It is another case of the old proverb, "While the grass grows the steed starves.") And secondly, women constituents would ask what kind of increase in wages would meet the rising price of food in such cases of women's employment as the following: Making toothbrushes for the army, 5d. (formerly 4½d.) a dozen, which means a rate of 2½d. an hour; making shirts for the army at 3s. a dozen, which means a maximum of 3d. an hour, not reckoning the cotton, which the worker supplies; trouser finishing for the army at 2s. 9d. a dozen, less 1½d. for thread; this also works out at about 3d. an hour, and the Trade Board rate for tailoring is 3½d. When the purchasing power of a sovereign is admitted by members of Parliament to have sunk to 16s., or even 15s., what rise of wages do they propose for those sweated women who are working for the public service but have no voice whatever in public control?

Child Labour and Cheap Labour

In spite of the assurances given in the House of Commons by the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture that it is the policy of the Board to encourage the use of all forms of adult labour in preference to withdrawing children from school, the statistics collected by the Workers

National Committee, and quoted by Mrs. Florence E. Hobson in a letter to the Press, show that the evil of child labour in agriculture is already a fact. "Must we," she asks, "have a new army of agricultural child-martyrs to take their place beside the child-martyrs of industry, the story of whose sufferings is one of the blackest pages in our history?" The answer, to use a depressing Parliamentary formula, will continue to be in the affirmative, we fear, as long as women are denied their enfranchisement and the power to influence such vital questions as their own status in the labour market and the physical welfare of the coming generation.

Women Doctors and the War

When the horrors of the European war have become a nightmare of the past the splendid work done by women doctors at the front will long be remembered as one of the few inspiring incidents of this terrible period. At a meeting held in Sunderland House last week to promote the extension of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women, Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, K.C.B., spoke of the numbers of unsolicited letters he had received from Paris and Boulogne (Wimereux) stating that the work of our women doctors there was beyond all praise. So impressed had he been that he had asked two of them (Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson and Dr. Flora Murray) to come over here and take charge of a hospital of 500 beds, or, if they pleased, of a hospital of 1,000 beds. We understand that Dr. Garrett Anderson, who is an honoured Vice-President of the United Suffragists, is about to organize the work of a hospital of 520 beds for wounded soldiers in or near London, with a staff of eight women doctors. It is interesting to note in this connection that, according to *Jus Suffragii*—that admirable International Suffrage organ—the first woman army doctor in Germany has just been appointed in Dr. Elisabeth Reinecke, who has been given the charge of a military hospital.

International Women's Congress

An interesting women's meeting is to be held this (Friday) evening at Caxton Hall, Westminster, to consider the constitution and programme of the International Women's Congress, which will be held, probably towards the end of April, at the Hague. Some of the subjects on the programme are Protest against War; Arbitration and Conciliation; Women's Claim to Have a Voice in the Peace Settlement; the Subjection of Foreign Policy to Democratic Control, dependent upon the Equal Representation of Men and Women. The proposed Congress is the outcome of a meeting of representative women, both from neutral and belligerent nations, which took place at Amsterdam on February 12 and 13, as the result of a growing feeling among women that problems arising out of the present war and the peace settlement that is to follow should be faced and discussed by them. Miss Chrystal Macmillan is temporary Honorary Secretary for Great Britain, and all women interested are invited to attend the meeting in the Caxton Hall.

Items of Interest

We draw attention to the account given on page 182 of the remarkable Suffrage successes recently won in America. The most important aspect of the matter is that for the first time the Legislatures of two Southern States have voted by large majorities to submit the Suffrage amendment to the referendum of the voters.
On Wednesday morning the Crimean Memorial was unveiled at Waterloo Place. We should feel the occasion of a European war to be a fitting one on which to honour the memory of "The Lady of the Lamp" had it not been also chosen by the Red Cross Society as a suitable moment for reducing the salaries of nurses serving at the front by 50 per cent.
In a letter to the *Manchester Guardian* the Rev. Spencer Elliott, Diocesan Minister, says: "We are failing to learn the lessons of the war if we do not see in it an urgent call to set our own house in order." United Suffragists are of the same opinion.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

4-7, RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET

Telegraphic Address:—Votfowom, Fleet, London. Telephone:—Holborn 5880 (2 lines).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1915.

WHAT WE MEAN BY PEACE

In the House of Commons, on Thursday last week, Lord Charles Beresford asked the Prime Minister whether he would consider the desirability of arranging that every man who has volunteered for the war shall be entitled at the age of twenty-one to a Parliamentary vote during his lifetime, irrespective of other qualifications. Mr. Terrell, M.P., went further, and suggested that those men who, not being unfit for service, have failed thus to recognise their duty to the country shall be disfranchised. The Prime Minister said in his reply that both suggestions "will be duly considered."

Suffragists have no cause to attach undue importance to any assurance of Mr. Asquith's with regard to the consideration of a franchise proposal. We have not forgotten the fate of a Suffrage Bill that depended for its passage into law upon a pledge made by him that was to be kept "both in the letter and the spirit." Nor is it any immediate concern of ours upon what particular qualification the franchise for men shall be based. But we cannot overlook the significance of the Prime Minister's acquiescence in the suggestion that a suffrage proposal, which, if adopted, will revolutionise the whole principle and meaning of the franchise law in this country, shall be "considered" at a moment when, to quote from his own speech of February 3, "six millions of men in arms are fighting one another to the death." He has in fact eaten the words of his statement made on the re-assembling of Parliament, that no controversial matter can be discussed during the present Session, a statement held by many to preclude the possibility of the introduction of a Woman Suffrage measure as long as the European conflict endures. No one can possibly maintain that a militarist proposal to base the rights of citizenship upon a man's fitness and willingness to enter the Army or Navy is a non-contentious proposal. Beside it, our own modest claim, that advantage be taken of the Party truce to enfranchise women on a non-party basis, by the simple removal of the sex disqualification, assumes a non-contentious aspect of milk-white mildness.

But, it may be urged, although the only political objection to our demand has thus been swept away by the Prime Minister's answer to Lord Charles Beresford and Mr. Terrell, is it in any sense a practicable demand to make at such a time as this? We have no hesitation in saying that war time, far from being unfavourable to the settlement of the problems of peace, is the psychological moment for dealing with such problems. War—it is its one good point—is so overwhelming in its hideousness that it chastens while it tears men's hearts; while it hounds men on to destroy one another on the battlefield, it draws them together at home and heals their ancient differences as if by magic. An extension of freedom to women, the suggestion of which would have roused a scream of controversy in the stormy domestic period of peace that preceded the war, has already been made in the scientific world and has been greeted with scarcely a comment except the favourable ones of the feminist Press. What has been done by the Royal Astronomical Society can be done by the nation, as represented by the Government, and with far more reason; for surely, never have women shown more clearly than now

their share in the nation's sufferings and their right to a share in its choice of government. Mr. Holford Knight, hitherto a determined opponent of women's enfranchisement and, we believe, the first to organise opinion against it by founding an Anti-Suffrage Society, has just confessed as much in a frank and courageous letter written to the Nation, in which he says:—

In my view, this horrible war destroys the grounds on which Liberals have resisted the inclusion of women in the electorate. At the close of the war there is bound to be a shifting of electoral issues to industrial, economic, and domestic questions, in which women will be not only directly interested but actively participant in their settlement. . . . No class of the community on which such a judgment can be given ought to be excluded from the electorate by Liberal votes.

But it is not mainly on account of what will follow after peace is declared that we consider our demand for women's enfranchisement an expedient one to make while war is still going on. When Mr. Runciman observed in the House of Commons last week—he was speaking of Socialist proposals, but his remark would refer equally to any effort to reform existing evils—that it is useless to attempt "to bring about a millennium in the middle of a great war," he showed still less vision than we have learnt to expect even from the speeches made in that reactionary Chamber. He ignored, to begin with, that much greater war which never ends, in which women, unlike the men reformers whom Mr. Runciman was specially addressing, fight with no hope of victory because they are deprived of the weapon of the vote. His words, if applied by us to our own case, would have ignored the fact that, while in war time women are expected to call a truce in their struggle for political liberty, the Government is apparently expected to call no truce in its perpetual encroachments upon those few liberties that women already possess. We need not recall here the shameful way in which soldiers' and sailors' wives have been subjected to the spying of the police, or in which the most defenceless women of the community have been court-martialled and illegally imprisoned, or the attempts to render Josephine Butler's life-work abortive by tentative proposals for reviving the State Regulation of Vice. If the middle of a great war is not the moment to try to establish the millennium, it is emphatically the moment at which we are called upon to fight more strenuously than ever before for the retention of those liberties we had innocently thought unassailable.

Mr. Runciman in his uninspired remark ignored, however, a much wider issue than any immediate one brought about by the military exigencies of the moment. In recognising the tragedy of countries laid waste and human life sacrificed, he overlooked the greater tragedy that would be involved in the cessation of all effort on the part of non-combatants to avert the awful results of war. First among non-combatants we unhesitatingly place those who still keep the Suffrage Flag flying; and it is a matter for rejoicing among the angels, not for jesting on the Front Bench, that we have among us any who go on hoping to establish the millennium now because it is never so much needed as in the middle of a great war. In the midst of the great orgy of death and destruction the world has ever seen, our only sustaining thought is our hope of a future so unlike the past, that the past, please God, can never be born again; a future in which Peace shall mean Peace, and not merely the convalescence of War. That is the future to which all eyes, those of the Government, we make no doubt, as well as ours, are directed; without its vision at this terrible time of crisis we should surely die. But it is a vision hopeless of realisation unless, when the peace settlement comes, women have secured the right to have an equal voice with men in that settlement. Therefore, inspired by a great hope, and backed by a reasonable and practical demand, we call upon the Prime Minister, before he "considers" fancy franchise proposals for men, to bring in a Government measure granting to women the rights that have been so long and unjustly withheld from them.

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES Criminal Assault

The Kent Messenger and Maidstone Telegraph (February 20) reports case of a married soldier charged, before Mr. Justice Ridley at the Kent Assizes, with criminally assaulting a girl of 17 in a lane. The jury found him guilty of indecent assault. Sentence: Twelve months' hard labour.

Assault on a Woman

The Sheffield Daily Telegraph (October 22) reports case of a miner charged at the West Riding Quarter Sessions, before Mr. G. B. C. Yarborough, with unlawfully wounding a woman who was nursing a baby. He threatened and pushed her, and tried to cut her throat with a razor. In defending herself she received several cuts on her hands. Sentence: Bound over in £5 for six months.

Gross Cruelty to Dog

The Gloucester Journal (January 30) reports case of a collier summoned at Littledean Petty Sessions, before Messrs. J. Penberthy (chairman) Owen Staley, and John Cooksey, for cruelly ill-treating and beating a dog, breaking its hip and badly bruising it. Sentence: Fined 10s. and 14s. costs.

AN IMPROVEMENT

It is our unhappy duty so often to record cases of gross leniency shown by Judges to men convicted of offences against girls and young children that we have real satisfaction in being able to refer to at least two recent instances in the Courts, showing that at last some improvement is being effected in this direction. The first parallel given in our table of punishments above shows, it is true, the greater importance attached to the desertion of a soldier than to a soldier's assault upon a young girl; but in this case Mr. Justice Ridley is not to blame for the lesser sentence which is the maximum for the offence in question. Nor was it his doing that the jury altered the charge to the milder one, for he stated that he did not believe a word of the prisoner's story. But the comparison still holds good, for it shows how much more possible it is under our present system to give a severe sentence for an offence involving the loss of a man's service in the army than for an offence involving a serious injury, physical and moral, to a girl of 17. That it is not only possible, but usual, to punish offences of any kind against property more severely than those committed against the person our readers already know well, and we show it again in the further comparisons given in the above table.

Another Instance

The second instance to which we have referred, of a slight improvement in the standard of sentences given in our Courts, occurred at the recent Herefordshire Assizes. Mr. Justice Avory, summing up in a case of alleged indecent assault on a little girl of 11, discarded the usual suggestion that the child did anything in the way of an invitation, pointed out that 13 was the age of consent in a case of indecent assault, and said that if the defendant had not been interrupted in time he would have probably committed the more serious offence and made himself liable to penal servitude for life. The Judge also pointed out that to say the prisoner was drunk was no answer to the charge. The jury at once returned a verdict of guilty, and a sentence of eighteen months' hard labour was passed. If more of our administrators of justice took this strong line about gross offences of this kind it would have a real effect on public opinion, and, we firmly believe, on the number of such crimes committed.

MRS. DAVIS' PROTEST

We commented last week on the courageous protest made by Mrs. Davis (wife of the Rev. Herbert Davis,

HEAVY SENTENCES Escaping from Prison

The Daily Mail (February 17) reports case of a soldier, a gunner, found guilty at a Belfast court-martial of escaping while undergoing imprisonment for desertion and fraudulent enlistment. Sentence: Three years' penal servitude and to be discharged from Army.

Stealing Barley

The Daily Mail (February 10) reports case of a maltster indicted at the Essex Assizes for stealing barley, and of a constructor indicted for receiving it, knowing it to have been stolen. There was a previous conviction against the former for arson. Sentence: The maltster to five years' penal servitude, and the constructor to nine months' hard labour.

Loitering

The Morning Advertiser (February 6) reports case of a bookmaker's clerk brought up for sentence before Mr. Allan Lawrie at London Sessions for loitering in Oxford Street with intent to commit a felony. He pleaded that he could get no work. Sentence: Nine months' hard labour.

WOMEN POLICE

We are informed that Miss Nina Boyle is now Chief of the Women Police Volunteers. The work of the Corps proceeds on the following lines: (1) To keep a uniformed woman on duty in every park, garden, and common throughout the London area during the summer months; and (2) To have an officer on duty in every police-court all the year round. The Corps has abandoned all emergency work, in connection with military centres or elsewhere, in favour of concentrating on work in connection with the criminal courts, a form of activity with which we, who have so often shown in these columns the evil effects of the absence of women from such places, have every sympathy.

A special section for the protection of animals is in process of formation, and women wishing to join the Corps should apply to its headquarters at 136, St. Stephen's House, Westminster Embankment, S.W.

COMING EVENTS

The Women's Freedom League will hold a meeting at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, on Wednesday, March 3, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Lady Muir Mackenzie on "The British Women's Hospital Unit for Serbia," and Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Jacobs.

The Forward Cymric Suffrage Union will hold a sale at 33, Morpeth Mansions, Westminster, on Tuesday, March 23, from 2.30 to 7 p.m. Entrance free. Tea 6d.

A FORTHCOMING BOOK

An interesting publication, "Ecce Mater," by M. A. R. Toker (an occasional contributor to VOTES FOR WOMEN), is announced to appear shortly. Although planned and written with no thought of the European war, afterwards to break out, the book deals with the failure of civilisation embodied in the Prussian doctrine of "might is right," shows that this is the doctrine that has always been preached by Europe to women, and

restrictive order, referring to women only, with regard to the serving of intoxicating drinks. And all because, since the last annual licensing meeting, an increase of nineteen women had been shown in convictions for drunkenness, while there was a decrease of sixty-one men! Leaving aside the fact that the absence of a large number of men through enlistment probably accounted for the figures in question, these worthy keepers of the souls of our soldiers' wives—for they hinted that the separation allowance was at the bottom of the alarming increase—did not even consider the fact that the number of convictions during the year still showed 314 men as against only 120 women. Yet it seems to them a fair thing to propose to make restrictive orders for women and not for men! Happily, they were unable to do so because the Home Secretary seems to have replied to their application for his consent, that the Intoxicating Liquor (Temporary Restrictions) Act did not allow a restrictive order applied to females alone. It is, perhaps, a sign of grace in Mr. McKenna that he did not point out that there are other ways of taking away the woman's right to drink without touching the man's, as shown in the "agreement" come to in the London Metropolitan district, to refuse drink to women before 11.30 a.m., and in many military orders of a similar character issued against women in different military centres. But the point we wish immediately to emphasize is that while men drunkards still preponderate everywhere over women drunkards, the slightest increase in the number of the latter sets everybody preaching, and all agog to punish what is, at worst, still the vastly more temperate sex.

"I protested against the sentence passed upon Lucy Carter not because I look upon her terrible deed as right, but because it is so utterly unjust to punish the woman only in a case like this and not the man, who is morally just as guilty and yet is not recognised by the law as such in any way. It is well known by mothers—not equally so by men, though doctors apparently admit it—that very often at such a critical time, when a woman is overcome by pain and mental anguish, coupled (as in this case) with absence of all decent comfort, she may be quite irresponsible for her actions, and has very often in her misery, despair, and cowardly desertion been guilty of very unnatural crimes.

"I maintain that never will justice be shown to my sex (especially to my poorer sisters) till qualified women are allowed to fill positions in our Courts equally with men, to form half the jury, and to act as magistrates and judges. The woman's point of view must be expressed in order to get that justice which all pure-minded men as well as women desire to prevail, and this can be done in no other way than the one I have already stated. A great deal of the illegitimacy which much exists would disappear as a matter of course if bastard children (as in Norway, where women are enfranchised) were made by law to be named after the father instead of the mother, if the father were made to support the child equally with his legitimate children, and in every way were to be recognised publicly as father. I think most people would agree that these urgent reforms would be for the good of 'fallen' men equally with their victims, 'fallen' women.

"I must here explain that I had to take the unusual course of speaking in a court of justice (but after the case was closed) because I, with so many other women, desire to mend our shameful laws, and not from any disrespect for the office of the Judge."

Some more fine reviews of "THE SUFFRAGE AND LORD LAXTON."

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The WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE announce a CAFÉ CHANTANT at CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER (Nearest Station: St. James's Park, District Railway). THURSDAY & FRIDAY, March 11 & 12, 1915. From 3.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. Admission (including Tea), 1/-, before 6 o'clock. Admission only, after 6 o'clock, 6d. Men in uniform half-price.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds public meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, each Wednesday afternoon at 5.30. Speakers, March 3, Lady Muir Mackenzie, "British Women's Hospital Unit for Serbia," Miss Anna Munro. Chair, Miss Jacobs. Admissions free.

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