

THE VOTE,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

# "The Acid-Drop Bonus."

P: Le CROISSETTE.

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, 1916.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

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

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## WOMEN PREACHERS AND 'MILLINERY'

By M. A. R. TUKER,

Author of "The Handbook to Christian and Ecclesiastical Rome."

When the Bishop of London invited women to preach in the churches during the "National Mission" he explained that they would not be able to do so from pulpit, lectern, or reading desk. Hence my title. For the straining after the very petty and ineffectual while barely permitting the great and spiritual is characteristic of that secular denial of spiritual functions to women which the Bishop of London tried to remedy. I have pointed out elsewhere that sex considerations take precedence of theological, and that even bishops are males first and bishops afterwards, so that customs are wrongly dubbed "Christian" tradition which are really masculine tradition; and the 'millinery' aspect of the present discussion about women preachers is a very good example. Whence does it come? The combination of callousness to spiritual issues and zeal for this 'millinery' aspect is nowhere to be found in what Matthew Arnold called the spirit and method of Jesus. Not one single word of such import, of such little import, ever escaped His lips, though the phenomenon reappears at once when Paul handles the relation of women to spiritual matters. He does not indeed propose that women should stand up in the pews to preach, for there were no pews then, but in 1 Cor.

xi. 5-10 he introduces not only the milliner but the barber.

When the eleven apostles completed their number—in entire ignorance of the proximate call to Paul who was never therefore one of the Twelve—they did so on the ground that it was necessary there should be the same number of witnesses to the life of their Master which he himself had chosen, but there is nothing at all to suggest that evangelization was thought of as confined to the Twelve. On the contrary, men who were not Apostles, like Barnabas, and not among the Twelve, like Paul, spent their lives in evangelization, and when deacons were appointed for the express purpose of "serving tables"—of Church administration—they at once took up the same work, preaching and evangelizing. Equally certain is it that in those first days women did the same. There is striking and decisive evidence of this in a phrase which escapes Paul, but which goes uncommented, as so much goes uncommented if it has to do with the life of women; a reason, were any fresh ones needed, why a woman's view of these questions has a special importance and has indeed become essential. When Paul, then, is trying to establish the custom that women should not speak at all in the Christian assembly

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he exclaims to women: "Come it" (the word "to you alone?" Something in the post-resurrection Church had brought an immense impetus to evangelization by women, and this is recorded in the cry: "Or came the word to you alone?" The fact that women preached and prophesied is amply proved by the many references in the New Testament to women prophets and women prophesying. The prophets of the early Church were its principal missionaries and preachers, doing work which was undertaken more than a thousand years later by the preaching friars, and in especial by the great preachers of the Dominican Order—the *Ordo Prædicatorum*—Catherine of Siena and Vincent Ferrer. The Churches were at first held together by the brief visits of itinerant "apostles," and were instructed and edified by the sojourning of "prophets." Prophecy in the apostolic Church meant preaching and interpreting. These activities were carried on without reference to the order of presbyters at all. The "apostles" named above were not among the Twelve, and the "prophets" were not what we now call priests. It is their work which explains the text, "You are built up upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets." The Church of the first centuries was in no doubt whatever as to the special part played by women preachers in this evangelization of Christendom. No attempt had then been made to limit evangelistic activity to the Apostles or to the male followers of the Lord; and so the traditions of the Gallican Church represent Martha and Mary preaching as well as Lazarus: Lazarus being called the first bishop of Marseilles, and Martha "the bishop of all the believers of that time"—*episcopa omnium credentium tunc temporis*—and her preaching at Avignon—whence later the exhortations of Catherine brought the reluctant Pope back to Rome—is duly recorded in one of the Gallican breviaries. As to Mary Magdalene, she is regarded as the Apostle of France; it is to her in chief that French tradition ascribes the conversion of "the eldest daughter of the Church."

**Orders of Women Clergy.**

Is there any real evidence that these first activities and earliest beliefs about the ministry of women were embodied in an order or orders of women clergy? Most certainly. No impartial person who reads the original New Testament reference to clergy in 1 Tim. iii. can in any way doubt that the writer had in mind groups of women and men who are distinguished from the laity, as the subject of *ordo*, orders: the bishop, the deacons, the women. This is the earliest clear and definite reference to classes set apart from the laity for the purpose of ruling and administering the Churches. But "if any man be contentious" he may learn from the two earliest allusions to the Christian ministry that women formed part of it from the very first. The earliest Christian mention of clergy in an inscription records not a man but a woman, the Widow Flavia Arcas—"peut-être," writes Duchesne, "la plus ancienne des inscriptions chrétiennes qui mentionne un membre du clergé." The first Gentile reference to the Christian ministry occurs in a letter of Pliny's to Trajan, and here again the two ministers mentioned are women.

**Women and Men Elders.**

Two clearly-marked classes of women were ordained in the early Church, corresponding to the two original classes recognised among men as *ordo*—presbyters and deacons, or, if we prefer it, elders and ministers. Although the word 'presbytera,' with other early forms of the same word denoting ruling-elders and presiding-elders, was commonly employed in the Eastern Churches, in the West,

and especially in Rome, the title *vidua*, widow, was used almost exclusively. This was the order established by Peter at Joppa, and I have always regarded the retention of the name in Rome as a link in the evidence for Peter's presence in the city. That in Rome the *vidua* was a ruling-elder may be gathered from three early sources. The writer of the "Shepherd" of Hermas orders two books of his teaching to be prepared, one of which is to be sent to Clement, the other to Graptè. Clement is the early Roman bishop co-worker of Apostles, Graptè is a woman. A little later the description in Timothy and Titus of what is required in the clergy makes the parallel between the *widow* and the *bishop* (1 Tim. v. 9-11, with 1 Tim. iii. 2-8; and Titus ii. 3, 4, with Titus i. 6-9). And lastly in the earliest of all accounts of the reconciliation of sinners the excommunicated penitent is described as brought in to the assembly of the faithful and prostrating "before the widows, before the priests," or the sentence may be equally well translated "before the women elders, before the men elders." So indubitable is this eldership of women that Martigny's comment on the monumental inscriptions is that the dignity of widows is described, "absolument comme pour les évêques et les prêtres." (To be continued.)

**Women and the National Mission.**

The Bishop of London has been making his voice heard at open-air meetings lately on behalf of the National Mission, and the Archbishop of Canterbury is to deliver the opening message at Westminster Abbey next Sunday afternoon. We still await any indication that Archbishops and Bishops are taking steps to put into effect the wise and far-sighted resolution passed by the Committee of the Central Council of the Mission, which deals with the Church's relation to current social movements. It runs as follows:—

This Council, recognising that the spiritual aims and ideals of the Woman's Movement, apart from the question of its particular political and other claims, are in harmony with the teaching of Christ and His Church as to the equality of men and women in the sight of God—equality in privilege, equality in calling, equality in opportunity of service; and anticipating the momentous problems in relation to this movement which will confront both Church and nation after the war, urges upon the Church, as part of its work in connection with the National Mission, the necessity of giving grave consideration to the spirit and aims of the Woman's Movement, as described in the above statement, in the light of the principles of Christianity; and, further, this Council urges upon the Church the importance of securing adequate representation of women upon its conferences, councils, and assemblies in relation both to the National Mission and also to the permanent work and mission of the Church.

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

We have received this week, per Mrs. Usher, another large sack of children's garments, in great variety and all beautifully made, from Australian suffragists, whose kindness we very warmly appreciate. We also thank Mrs. Heighway for 2s. 6d. for milk depot; Mrs. Delbanco, paper handkerchiefs and a cake; Mrs. Presbury, two knife-cleaners and bread; Mrs. Strange, a sack of apples; Mrs. A. Gascoigne and Mrs. Tarrant, flowers. The Nine Elms Troop of Boy Scouts, recruited from amongst our restaurant customers, has been restarted under Miss Lawrence and Miss Wearn as scout mistresses, and promises to provide the boys in their spare time with an outlet for their exuberant spirits, while helping to shape them into good citizens. They are already keeping order for us outside the restaurant during the dinner-hour. The treasurer, Miss Wearn, gratefully acknowledges the following donations towards the initial expenses of the troop:—Miss Riggall, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Clark, 2s. 6d.; per Miss Holmes, £1 2s. 6d., and 3s. from Mrs. Delbanco for three weeks' rent of playground. We are now most anxious to give the girls like opportunities, and should be glad to hear from any reader who would help to start a troop of Girl Guides in connection with the Settlement. There is fine human material to work on, and the girls would be every bit as keen as the boys. We should want uniforms, an organiser for the troop, and a small sum of money to start it; later it should, of course, be self-supporting.

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.  
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**DARE TO BE FREE.**

- Friday, September 29.—CROYDON, Sewing Meeting at Mrs. Foster's, The Whitehouse, Heathurst-road, Sanderstead, 3-5 p.m.
- Sunday, October 1.—HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), Open-air Meeting, 3 p.m. Mrs. Aldridge. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. —DRAMATIC RECITAL of Tennyson's "Becket" at the Bijou Theatre, Haslucks Academy, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, by Miss Clara Reed, 4 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Teas will be served in the Theatre from 3.15-3.50 at 6d. each. Tickets 2s. and 1s., from W.F.L. Office.
- Wednesday, October 4.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman, "Hate's Coming of Age," and Mrs. Despard. Chair: Mrs. E. M. Moore. Tea 4.30 (6d.).
- Thursday, October 5.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m.
- Saturday, October 7.—DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead-road, N.W., Jumble Sale, 2 p.m.
- Sunday, October 8.—HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), Open-air Meeting, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Mustard.
- Tuesday, October 10.—L.B.C. SEWING MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3-7 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 11.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Aldridge, "The Service of Serbian Women," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. Tea 4.30 (6d.).
- Thursday, October 12.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, at 46, Lynette-avenue (by kind permission of Mrs. Samuel), 7.30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 18.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., "The Right of the Soldier," and Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Corner. Tea 4.30 (6d.).
- Friday, October 20.—CAXTON HALL, Political Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Murray and others.
- Wednesday, October 25.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, "The Future of Women," and Miss F. A. Underwood. Tea 4.30 (6d.).
- Thursday, October 26.—L.B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 1.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, "Picking up the Pieces," and Mrs. Corner. Tea 4.30 (6d.).
- THE MINERVA CAFE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Open every day except Sunday to men and women. Vegetarian lunches from 12 to 2 p.m.; teas from 3 to 6 p.m. Smoking-room. The large room is available for meetings. Apply to Mrs. Fisher.
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**SIGNS OF THE TIMES.—II.**

Among the Committees formed to deal with the affairs of women—without their consent and co-operation—is the new Committee to inquire into the supply of nurses during the war. We are glad, but by no means surprised, to find that this piece of unparalleled impertinence has called forth an indignant rebuke and protest from organised nurses. A more impudent encroachment on their rights has seldom been attempted in all the long history of slights to which this, the paramount women's profession, has been subjected.

The Committee, as we reported last week, consists of four or five men—of whom one or two have been prominently and unpleasantly associated with the

opposition to the State registration of nurses—and one woman. This woman is not a professional nurse; she is Mrs. Furse, the Commandant-General of the Women's Voluntary Aid Department. The Matron-in-Chief of the Army Nurses, whose position would entitle her, one would think, to some say in the matter, has been passed over for this amateur; yet she has indubitably received far more applications from trained nurses than Mrs. Furse, whose province it is to deal with the volunteer, not the professional nurse. It will probably be said that the Matron-in-Chief has no time to spare for committee work, but we should imagine that she could spare quite as much time as Sir Frederick Treves, who, if he is to carry out satisfactorily even a part of the work he is already supposed to do—advising the Government, visiting the Front, helping to manage (or mismanage) the highly complicated Red Cross affairs, and consulting on the new medical board for exemptions from the Army—should surely have recommended that his place on the Committee be filled by someone with more leisure and more in touch with women's affairs.

The outbreak of indignation has been so great that already hasty explanations are being made that this Committee is only a nucleus, and that heads of Army nursing institutions are to be admitted also. But it is not enough to have heads of Army nursing institutions. The public should demand that the civilian institutions should also be represented, for the drain on the nursing supply has already caused serious trouble in many large London hospitals, while the position in small country places is little short of desperate.

Queues of wretched women and children, suffering from every form of illness, await treatment outside the hospitals. The lists can with difficulty be coped with. Sufferers are ejected from hospitals before they are fit to stand, to make way for others worse off. Wards are overcrowded and understaffed; children mixed up with grown-up people; semi-trained help, intermittent and often un dependable, is sought and gratefully accepted. And it is on these ill-tended and untended women and children that the "future of the race" depends!

With all this, the hospitals are being urged to devote more and more space to wounded soldiers and less and less to the civilian population. More and more doctors are called off for military purposes, and more and more of those left behind find themselves occupied with military cases in civilian hospitals. And while no one would for one moment complain were this necessary, it is a matter of urgency to discover what truth there is in the stories of military establishments (War Office and volunteer alike), with large staffs, being left empty and idle, while the accommodation provided by charitable contributions for the very poor is being monopolised by the War Office. We hear of 15,000 empty beds in France, and would like to know what the truth is. If Parliament will not wring the figures and facts out of the ineptitudes of the War Office and the Red Cross, then let a sufficient number of representative women on the new Committee set themselves to do so. There is no more important question for women than this. We do not wonder they have plotted to keep us off the Committee. C. NINA BOYLE.

**In Sympathy.**

The many friends of Miss Mary Sims, for years a keen and valued member of the Women's Freedom League (Tottenham Branch), will hear with regret of the sorrow she has sustained in the loss of her mother. Their sympathy and affection will go out to her in this time of grief.

WE REMIND OUR READERS of Miss Clara Reed's recital of "Becket" next Sunday at the Bijou Theatre, Bedford-street, Strand, at 4 p.m. It will be too good to miss.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1196.

## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, September 29th, 1916.

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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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## WAR DISCOVERIES.

We wonder if the real meaning of the tremendous revelations made through the war has dawned upon the people, or even upon the women of the woman's movement. If not a great opportunity will be lost to us.

Something that, a few years ago, we would have called a miracle has come about. Who in their wildest dreams could have imagined that Great Britain—a naval, but not a military power—would, in the course of a few months, have equipped an immense army, poured out munitions in bewildering profusion, provided her Allies with money and arms, commandeered a large proportion of skilled labour, and yet found herself able to pursue her ordinary life.

To appreciate the extraordinary nature of the situation we must give some facts. Every man who enters the Army and Navy, and every munition worker, is taken away from productive industry. Not only so; he is a heavy expense to the country. It has been computed that every fighting man costs the country for food, clothing, arms, transport, and family allowances no less than £300 a year. This, with the myriad other expenses that war entails, has been cheerfully borne by the country and, if we are to believe what we hear, the supply of labour, money, and fighting men is not slackening.

Again; we have discovered the real vitality—the possibilities for life and action—that our race possesses. In our last issue we referred to Dr. Newman's damaging statistics of the loss in life, happiness and life service that the nation sustains through her statesmen's niggardly treatment of the children who constitute her wealth. Evidence is not wanting that even those who have been stunted physically and mentally from infancy to adolescence, by deficiency of health-giving elements, have extraordinary recuperative power. There is that in them which responds to open air, good food, and the right sort of physical exercise. Somewhere in these anæmic bodies is lurking the ancestral fire—the man and woman racial force—that has moulded our nation. In any case the seeming miracle has been accomplished. We have it on good authority that "in whole battalions of Lancashire recruits the uniforms that were issued on enlistment have been exchanged since for larger ones"; and certainly no one who has, from time to time, visited the military camps, can have failed to notice the change in physique and bearing brought about by a few months of good food, open air life, and reasonable exercise.

Another of the war revelations is the possibility of organising labour for a common object. The shibboleth of the old economists was private enterprise.

As a result of this, huge monopolies have been built up, and when groups of men and women, more far-sighted than the multitude, have cried out to successive governments to protect the interests of men, women and children, and to safeguard the commodities that are necessary to their life and health, the answer has been "Hands off!" The liberty of the subject to exploit labour and produce for private ends is more important, it would seem than the life-blood of the people.

But now, using as their battle-cry, "The country is in danger," a Coalition Government has changed all this. It has commandeered factories, it has controlled labour, it has broken up monopolies; it has ridden rough-shod over all the sacred shibboleths of the old Politico-Economic School to which the members of the Government for the most part belong. The result is before us. The Army and Navy have been fully supplied with the material they require. Day after day, in this recent great offensive, ammunition of all kinds has been, with deadly result, thrown into the air, and day after day, by dint of skill, energy and speed, all organised towards a common end, the wastage has been made good.

Surely this is an indication of what well directed and practical organisation might effect for the nation.

There is very little doubt that, if the war is prolonged, there will be a further advance in this direction. Not only war material, but life material will have to be dealt with on a national basis. Is it possible that throughout this winter such necessities as bread, milk, coal and boot leather can go on rising in price, or even continue at the present level? The appointment of a committee on food prices shows the trend of popular feeling, which is always responded to, more or less sluggishly, by Governments that desire to continue in office.

No question is of deeper importance to women, yet on this committee one woman only is sitting. That the woman should be Mrs. Pember Reeves, whose remarkable book "Round about a Pound a Week" is in itself a revelation, is, however, a good sign.

The great war discovery is that Government can, and may, take up these questions, can force upon the capitalistic world the superlative claims of the common cause, upon those who control the destinies of the nation.

Another revelation of deep significance in a nation, one of whose popular songs is "Home, sweet home," is the fact that there is, and has been for some time, a house famine. Most of us have heard of the difficulties of mothers in working districts who find it necessary to seek a new home. "No children need apply" is only too often the condition, and we have known cases in which the mother, having been allowed to take possession, the children have been smuggled in one after the other secretly. Now at last we find members of the Government taking up this great question seriously. As usual, it is being looked at chiefly from the men's point of view. Not "What sort of 'pigsties' are these for the mothers of our gallant sons to inhabit?" but—we quote from the *Daily News*, of Saturday—"When the boys come home they will ask for a home and not for a hovel." Earnestly, we hope that they will. Meanwhile we, who have loved them from their infancy, ask: Why have so many of them been allowed to grow up in hovels?

It is at least to the good that this question of housing the people is being seriously considered. Twenty millions are asked for to carry out a building scheme. Mr. Long doubts whether it will be enough. Meantime it is urgent that organising work should be set on foot at once, so that on demobilisation of the Army the 300,000 builders who will be

released can be set to their own proper task without delay.

Such are some of the discoveries that have been made by politicians and statesmen since the war began. We believe that if women, who know and feel the people's needs as men cannot, had been long since allowed to take their rightful place in the counsels of the nation, it would not have required a long and cruel war to reveal to us the dangerous character of the quicksands on which our civilization is based. Meanwhile, the discoveries having been made, let us do our very utmost not to allow the nation to sleep again.

C. DESPARD.

## THE "ACID-DROP BONUS."

### An Insult to Postal Women.

In February, 1915, prices had reached 19 per cent. over pre-war level, and a demand for a war-bonus was met after some delay, by a grant of 1s. 6d. to women earning under £2 per week, and 1s. to those above that figure. The amounts awarded to the men were double. Since the granting of this war bonus prices have continued to rise, until to-day they are 65 per cent. above pre-war standard, and the hardship caused to the women of the postal service has been very great, as a large proportion of them have to exist on "Round about £1 a Week." The women's staff is young, compared with the male side, owing to the fact that a woman is compulsorily retired on marriage. Thus it comes about that although a maximum wage, say, of £2 a week, awaits them in the "dim and speculative future," yet an enormous number of women never attain it, partly on account of retirement on marriage, but also on account of the slow progression of increments—the time necessary to reach the maximum being about eighteen years. In these circumstances, and in view of enhanced prices, it was of urgent necessity that the girls should receive an addition to their normal wages; the supplement even of 1s. 6d. last year made an appreciable difference to them and to their parents, but the inflated prices of to-day render such a small rise totally inadequate.

In July last the National Joint Committee, representing many thousands of postal employes, men and women, made a further demand for an all-round rise of 5 per cent. The claim was moderate; it would not have eliminated all hardship, but to grant it would have tokened a desire on the part of the department to ameliorate conditions that were rapidly becoming unbearable; it would have been received by the staff as a modicum of justice.

The claim was met in the first place by the advice to buy "cheaper substitutes" in food; and now ultimately by an award of 6d. increase for women, and 1s. for men! The smallness of the amount has caused indignation and disgust, and is considered an insult to educated women. Had the claim been totally unfruitful there would not have been the sense of having been fooled that exists to-day. The fact of an award being made, however, admits the principle that the claim was irrefutable; but the paltriness of the sum granted shows a niggardly and parsimonious spirit in dealing with a loyal and hard-worked body of public servants.

Already mass meetings have been held with the object of securing arbitration and a reconsideration of rates of pay, which are sadly and admittedly depreciated. At these meetings the "Voice" says: "Tell them to keep it!" This is the first instinct; but on second thoughts it is realised that quite a number of useful things may be bought with the nimble sixpence. Amongst the girls in a certain large office it has already been christened the "Acid-drop bonus," and the "Peppermint allowance."

Postal employes need to have a very strong sense of humour; and it has been used on this occasion with great advantage; the spending of a whole extra sixpence each week is a matter of endless conjecture and of wondrous possibilities! Why, therefore, should we not sing?

There is another point worthy of notice. As a woman member of the Joint Committee pointed out, the only people excluded from voting are paupers, criminals, lunatics and women; but now the Government has gone a step further with the war bonus, and classed all the women with boys under 18 years of age, for the smaller allowance. So now we have in the same category paupers, criminals, lunatics, women, and boys under 18.

But let us not forget that the Postmaster-General has told the women how magnificently they are keeping the Post Office going. The mountain hath laboured and brought forth sixpence!

P. LE CROISSETTE.

## HOW MEN KEEP THEIR PROMISES.

### Glasgow Tramway Employees.

We are often told to trust men and all will be well. They will give us the vote; they will see that we get justice. We are to be patriotic, they will reward us. I fear our reward will be knowledge of work well done, nothing more substantial. There are now 1,385 women employed on the Glasgow cars, 150 of whom are drivers. They were engaged to do the same work as men, work the same hours, receive the same pay. Already men have cheated them. At a meeting held on Thursday, September 21, it was decided to give a bonus of 2s. to the men and 1s. to the women. Mr. John Mitchell moved as an amendment to the proposal that women should receive a bonus of 2s., the same as the men. Mr. Charlton seconded. Mr. Kirkland said that he was chairman of the Tramways Committee when it was agreed to employ women. It was distinctly understood at that time that they were to have the same conditions and wages as men. That was the understanding upon which they were employed. He held that women were entitled to the 2s. bonus as well as men. Mr. Montgomery pointed out that a number of other institutions paid men and women employees the same, but in the majority of cases the prevalent practice was not to give the bonus to women.

On a division, 32 voted for the amendment to give women the 2s. bonus, 32 for the minute to give women the 1s. bonus. The chairman then gave his casting vote in favour of the minute. The bonus will, therefore, be 2s. for men and 1s. for women. The decision of the Corporation differentiating in this way between men and women employees, is not calculated to make the women workers content and happy. It is to be hoped that the women will vigorously protest against this flagrant piece of injustice. Evidently Corporation pledges are no more binding than the promises profusely meted out by politicians, Cabinet Ministers, and Premiers. What employers all want is to get women to work and to underpay them. Women for their own sakes, and for the sake of the men at the front, should refuse to do men's work unless they are paid exactly the same wages as men. By undercutting men they are neither benefiting their own sex, nor yet the men whom they are releasing for active work.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

THE POWERFUL SERMON on "Women in the Church," which made a strong appeal for equality of opportunity in all spheres of life, preached by the Rev. Major Scott, M.A., and briefly reported in THE VOTE of September 15, is published in full in *The Croydon Times* of September 13, 1d.

## OUR OPEN COLUMN.

**\*\* Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.**

September 17, 1916.

Dear Editor,—I rejoice that you have opened your columns to a discussion on the suggested change of policy (advocated by Miss W. Holiday) in the terms of demand for the vote for women. This is, above all things, a period in the history of our agitation as women for equal political, social, and economic conditions, when it behoves us, as women, to take wide and human views on all questions. With regard to the question of suffrage agitation, I firmly believe that if sections of the agitators, such as the Women's Freedom League, and the Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U., which both hold wide and progressive views on social and economic questions, were to throw in their lot with the unprivileged and unfranchised male part of the population, the effect on the workers' propaganda for the enfranchisement of women as adult members of the race would be immediate and striking. I know that a majority of the members of the Women's Freedom League believe in the principle of adult suffrage, therefore I make no appeal in this brief letter for the principle. But I base my argument, as does Miss Holiday, on the obviously right *policy* at the present juncture of throwing all the weight of democratic men and women into the fight against the terrible reaction which is rising in ever higher waves as the State organised forces of industrial competition sweep away what were once the defences of organised labour. The workers have a majority at the polls, let us demand justice of that majority rather than of the truculent minority of lawyers, brewers, militarists, and exploiters, who, year in, year out, have jockeyed us whenever the question of women's enfranchisement has been brought before the House. Let us remember that the rule in politics is "nothing for nothing," therefore, as common-sense folk let our women's organisations "make a deal" with organised labour, just as Bismarck made a deal with Lassalle when manhood suffrage was conferred upon the German nation.—Yours faithfully,  
DORA B. MONTEFIORE.

Rocks Hall, Crowborough.

## Supply of Nurses Committee.

The following resolution was passed on September 21 by the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses:

Whereas, the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, composed of 4,000 certificated nurses, learned with the greatest indignation from the Press on Saturday, September 16, that a "Supply of Nurses Committee" had been appointed by the Secretary of State for War which did not include the name of one trained nurse; and whereas, on September 21 the nursing profession again, through the Press, learned that this deplorable omission is to be rectified by adding to the "Supply of Nurses Committee" representatives of the Army Nursing Boards and some of the large general hospitals; this meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses respectfully submits to the Secretary of State for War, that no Committee empowered to make recommendations on the economic condition of the nursing profession, and the supply of nursing labour, will satisfy trained nurses which does not include direct representatives of the interests of the workers themselves, in addition to the various organisations and persons which employ them. This meeting earnestly petitions the Secretary of State for War that the National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and the National Union of Trained Nurses, which together represent the organised opinion of some 10,000 certificated nurses, may be awarded representation on the "Supply of Nurses Committee." Signed on behalf of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses,  
ETHEL G. FENWICK (President).

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

## Green, White, and Gold Fair.

Special attention is called to the Old Curiosity and Comforts for War Sufferers stalls. For the former we are asking specially for old jewellery of any description—watches, chains, brooches, lockets; but any other "old curiosities" will be gratefully received. On the Comforts Stall we hope to have articles which will be acceptable to nurses, also gloves, mittens, mufflers, helmets, etc., for soldiers and sailors. The Fair Secretary will be glad to receive forms which were distributed at the return party, and also donations, which can be spent in buying goods wholesale. A. M.

## Mrs. Despard's Return Party.

There was a splendid rally of suffragists, of other societies besides the Women's Freedom League, and of friends from many parts of the country to greet Mrs. Despard at the Caxton Hall on September 22. The determined response to our President's appeal to her hearers to "live dangerously" argued well for enthusiastic suffrage work during the coming months. Courage that does not flinch would be necessary, she insisted, if the indictments of Sir George Newman on the waste of child life, and of the Bishop of London on a double standard of morality were to be met; but they could only be met by men and women working together in the coming reconstruction of national and international life. Miss Evelyn Sharpe's able and helpful speech left in our minds Carlyle's words: "A pause with a nation behind it is the greatest resistance of all," which she applied to the general feeling of the country towards woman suffrage, as the "Speaker's Phantom Conference" would discover if it emerged from present mystery to the reality of existence. The great guns of the war were bringing the end of the old world, and if something better were to be built up it must be done by men and women. Miss Anna Munro spoke of the encouraging results of the Aberystwyth campaign, pointing out that there was a wider-spread acceptance of the women's claims than ever before. Mrs. Despard expressed gratitude for herself as hostess and for the company to the able musicians who had "spoken so beautifully through their art"—Miss Madge Searle (piano), Monsieur de Sormus (violin), Mr. W. R. Jacob (songs), Mrs. Corner, who arranged the programme and sang delightfully, and to Miss Clara Reed and Mrs. Frank Mills for the dramatic scene from Stephen Phillips's "Ulysses"; to Mrs. Fisher and her excellent helpers with the refreshments, and also to the stewards, sincere thanks were given. The flowers presented to Mrs. Despard tokened something of the affection with which she is surrounded.

## Hyde Park Meeting.

We began autumn meetings at 3 p.m. last Sunday, when our van on the grass near the Marble Arch, with colours flying, was soon surrounded by an interested crowd. Mrs. Mustard, from the chair, insisted that in the Electoral Reform Bill women must be enfranchised on the same basis as men. Miss Munro is always a favourite speaker in the Park, and kept her audience deeply attentive whilst she outlined the urgent necessity of giving votes to women so that they may help in reconstructing social life after the war. Next week Mrs. Aldridge will speak on "How the Serbian Women are Running their Country," and the chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith. Members are urged to come early and help the platform by their presence.

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## RAISE THE FLAG HIGH.

Some time ago, foreseeing the need for instant activity which has now arisen, the Women's Freedom League started a special fund of 50,000 shillings to maintain our organisation in health and vigour.

We are thus to-day in a position to insist that there shall be

**No additional votes for men whilst every woman in the land is passed over.**

The last list shows that so far 11,875 shillings have come into the fund.

New friends and helpers are rising up all around us as they see the necessity for woman's co-operation in the State. To all these new friends, as well as to our old and tried supporters, we earnestly appeal to

**Send the rest of the 50,000 shillings.**

Every reader can send a shilling on seeing this; many can send twenty, a hundred, or more.

**Do not delay, but do it now.**

All contributions, big and little, will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London, W.C.

PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY FUND.  
FIFTH YEAR.

## Second List of Contributions.

BRANCHES.	£	s.	d.
Bournemouth (Second Instalment) ... ..	3	6	
Clapham (Second Instalment) ... ..	12	0	
Croydon (Second Instalment) ... ..	2	18	6
Highbury ... ..	1	13	0
Montgomery Boroughs (Second Instalment) ... ..	1	0	0
Portsmouth and Gosport (Second Instalment) ... ..	1	0	0
Scottish Scattered Members ... ..	20	0	0
Swansea ... ..	6	0	0
Anonymous ... ..	100	0	0
Miss J. L. Bunten ... ..	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Budd ... ..	2	0	0
Miss Fryer, per Clapham Branch ... ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Fyffe ... ..	1	0	0
The Hon. Mrs. Frederick Guest ... ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Hodges ... ..	1	0	0
Mrs. Unna ... ..	1	0	0
Per Miss Eunice Murray:—	s.	d.	
Mrs. Courage ... ..	2	6	
Mrs. Galbraith ... ..	2	6	
Mrs. Kennedy ... ..	2	6	
Miss Jean Martin ... ..	2	6	
Mrs. McIntyre ... ..	2	6	
Mrs. Coates, per Mrs. Schofield Coates ... ..	12	6	
Miss Margaret Hodge ... ..	10	0	
Miss Twoart ... ..	10	0	
Miss D. B. Allwork ... ..	6	0	
Mrs. Walter Carey (Collecting-box) ... ..	5	0	
Mrs. Imlach ... ..	5	0	
Mrs. Tanner ... ..	5	0	
Mrs. Thomson ... ..	2	6	
Miss Mabel Telling ... ..	1	6	
Miss Helen Colt ... ..	1	0	
Miss M. B. Murray ... ..	1	0	
Miss M. H. Saunders ... ..	1	0	
Tickets ... ..	16	0	
Collection ... ..	4	0	4
Cloak Room Takings ... ..	10	9	
Sale of Programmes ... ..	4	5	
	154	9	0
First Birthday List ... ..	257	6	6
	£411	15	6

## When the Vote is Won.

As many in our League are thinking about the reforms we should press for when our first object—equal citizen rights with men—is achieved, we are offering the "Open Column" of THE VOTE for suggestions and discussion on this subject. Suggestions will be considered by the National Executive Committee, and thrown into form for our next general conference. C. DESPARD.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1196.

## BRANCH NOTES

## Glasgow—Suffrage Shop, 212, Bath Street.

On Tuesday, Miss Murray and Miss Semple conducted a very successful meeting at Wellington-street. Though darkness closed in, the crowd waited and listened to Miss Murray, who was heard but not seen. Many Votes and pamphlets were sold. At Bridgeton Cross on Thursday Miss Shennan spoke to a large crowd, presided over by Miss Bunten. It is indeed pleasing to know that men and women in large numbers are being converted. They no longer see why women should be denied the vote, when it is right and just that they should have it.

The Glasgow Branch of the Woman's Suffrage National Aid Corps has appointed Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Bunten and Miss White delegates to a Joint Conference on (a) The Employment of Women; (b) The Employment of Disabled Soldiers, to be held in Glasgow on October 12 and 13 under the auspices of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades and the Scottish Christian Social Union. Fuller intimation regarding speakers, etc., will be given next week.

## Middlesbrough. Suffrage Club, 251a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-rd.

On October 9, Nurse Lea takes charge of the Suffrage Shop and rooms. An "At Home" is being held on that date, at which Mrs. Schofield Coates will give an address, and music will be provided by Mr. White (of Redcar) and party. Admission, one shilling. Refreshments will be served.

## Portsmouth.

The annual branch meeting was held on September 19 at 17, Lombard-street, by kind permission of Miss Mottershall. After the usual business the hon. secretary read a report of the year's work. During the year 14 members' meetings, 3 public meetings, 12 sewing meetings, 5 whist drives, 1 jumble sale and 1 café chantant have been held. The hon. treasurer's report was highly satisfactory, and showed that never since the formation of the branch had the subscription to the Birthday Fund been paid so promptly as this year. A further donation of £1 was voted to the Fifty Thousand Shilling Fund. Mrs. Whetton and Mrs. Speck were re-elected hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively. It was decided to hold members' meetings on the second Tuesday in each month and fortnightly sewing meetings to work for the Green, White and Gold Fair; to send letters to the local M.P.s asking for the enfranchisement of women now, and to organise a café chantant for November.

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

Owing to a large tea-party next Saturday we are postponing our jumble sale for a week, which will allow friends several days longer in which to gather together their "jumbles" and send them to us on or before Friday, October 6. The sale will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 7. We thank the friends who have offered to help with the sale, and shall be glad to receive more names. Who will volunteer for duty in the restaurant? We still have vacancies to fill up, especially Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and need "understudies" for the other days. We are most grateful to Mrs. Crosland Taylor for her very kind promise to fill some of our pressing needs, and for allowing us to make the purchases; to Mrs. Carey, for various useful additions to our equipment; to Mrs. Despard for substantial help in this matter; to Miss G. P. Harding for 5s. for new trays, and to Mr. H. Nelson Smith for more beds for our additional bedrooms, which we hope other friends will help us to furnish at once to meet pressing demands. Miss Vicary's tempting cooking is bringing in many customers.

Euston Theatre.  
DEMONSTRATION

Sunday, October 8th, 6 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

Robert Williams. Fred Bramley.  
Mrs. Barton. Sylvia Pankhurst.  
W. Carter. Harry Dubery.

**Come and demand a Vote for every man and woman!**

FRIDAY,  
SEPT. 29,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## The Justice of the Judges.

At Omagh Crown Sessions recently, a man was sentenced to three years' penal servitude for the larceny of a coat. On the same day, at Castlewellan, a man was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for kicking his wife and beating her on the head with an iron bar.

## For the Benefit of the League.

The last meeting of the Glasgow Council was followed by a Branch meeting. In the unavoidable absence of Miss Shennan, who was to have spoken on the Clyde Campaign, Miss Bunten gave the address. Miss Gentle's dancing class and Miss Bunten's elocution class will be resumed early in October. The proceeds will go to the funds of the Women's Freedom League. Intending pupils please enrol at 212, Bath-street.

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**A LARGE BARREL-SHAPED SKUNK MUFF**, £5, a bargain; Sealskin Muff and Tippet, 36s.; 6 yards Green Alpaca, double width, 10s. 11d.; Blouse Length, Blue Silk, 4s. 11d.; Three pretty inexpensive Blouses, Baby's Matinée Coat and Bonnet, 7s. 6d.; Old English Paste Brooch, 3s.; Hand-painted Porcelain Brooch, 4s. 6d., and a few other oddments.—Seen at "THE VOTE" Office or sent on approval if price deposited and postage paid one way.

**LADY'S BICYCLE**, in perfect condition. Must be sold. Accept 25s. Also perfectly new, very smart, White Leather Shoes (Manfield's make). Cost 16s., accept 6s. 6d. A bargain. To view at 5, Heathcote-street, Mecklenburgh-square.

All above articles can be seen at, or particulars obtained from the Secretary, "THE VOTE" Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

**PIANO-PLAYER** by the Simplex, with rolls. In perfect condition. £14. Can be seen any evening after 7.—EDWARDS, 1, Oxonian-street, Lordship-lane, East Dulwich.

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**PORCELAIN ENAMELLED BATH.**—Quote lowest price to Box 77, "THE VOTE" Office.

**NATURAL MUSQUASH COAT.** £4 4s. to £5 5s. offered.—Box 1, "THE VOTE" Office.

**MOTHER and DAUGHTER**, members of the W.F.L., require Bed-Sitting-room in W.C. district.—Apply L., c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

**A MEMBER** of the Women's Freedom League desires reliable Domestic Help. Good cook.—Apply C. S., c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

**THREE GOOD COATS AND SKIRTS**; waist 25in., skirt 41in.—Box 101, "THE VOTE" Office.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE** will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. October 4: Laurence Housman, Esq., "Hate's Coming of Age"; Mrs. Despard. Chairman: Mrs. E. M. Moore. 4.30. Tea, 6d.

**AT THE STRAND IMPERIAL HOTEL**, opposite Gaiety Theatre, Strand, London. Absolute Privacy, Quietude and Refinement. Ladies will find the freshest, warmest, daintiest, cosiest quarters. Sumptuous Bedroom, with h. and c. water fitted, Breakfast, Bath, Attendance and Lights, from 6s. En pension, 9s. For long stays, special terms. Finest English provisions.—MANAGERESS, 4788 Gerrard.

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