

THE VOTE,
NOVEMBER 24, 1916,
ONE PENNY.

Our Friends the "Anti's."

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, NOV. 24, 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.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WHY BRITISH WOMEN NEED THE VOTE NOW.
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C. N. Boyle.
C. Despard.
G. Colmore.

THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS AGAIN! ANSWER OF SUFFRAGE MEN.
NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION ON THE WAR PATH.
OUR "WEDNESDAYS." MEATLESS MEALS.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS. BRANCH NOTES, &c.

Why British Women

Need the Vote

NOW

BECAUSE a man-elected Parliament deliberately allows milk from tuberculous cows to be sold.

BECAUSE in Great Britain women, as a rule, receive only from one-half to two-thirds of the pay of men.

BECAUSE the age of consent is 16, and a clause excusing the seducer if he has reasonable cause to think the girl over 16 renders the law almost valueless.

WHERE WOMEN

VOTE

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

W.F.L. NINE ELMS SETTLEMENT "AT HOME," 2, CURTIS-STREET, 4 p.m. HERNE HILL AND NORWOOD BRANCH WHIST DRIVE at 69, Danecroft-road, S.E., 7 p.m. Tickets 1s.

Monday, December 4.—LETCHEWORTH W.F.L. MEETING, The Skittles Inn, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6.—"AT HOME," Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Esther Roper, "Women's Liberty in the Economic World," and Mrs. Mustard, "Every Fit Woman Needed." CLAPHAM BRANCH PUBLIC MEETING, Clapham Public Hall (Lower Hall), 7 p.m. Speakers: Mr. Laurence Housman on "Combined and Uncombined Womanhood," Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray. Chairman: Mrs. Samuel. London Branches Council Meeting, 144, High Holborn, 5.30 p.m.

Friday, December 8.—Lecture by Mrs. Despard on "East and West," to be followed by Questions and Discussion. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Chair: Mrs. Corner, 7 p.m. Tickets, 1s. and 6d. CROYDON BRANCH PUBLIC MEETING, 32A, The Arcade, High-street. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Nevinston.

Thursday, December 14.—Clapham Branch Meeting at 15, Clapham Mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 7 p.m.

Friday, December 15.—W.F.L. "At Home," Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6 p.m. Political speeches at 7 p.m. by Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Whetton, Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray. Refreshments can be obtained. Recital of Fairy Tales and Folk Songs, by Miss Raleigh and Miss Anne Squire at 1, Mount-street, Berkeley-square, W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Ronald McAllister). Tea, 4 p.m. Recital, 4.30. Arranged by Mrs. Corner for the Clapham Branch, W.F.L., in aid of the Nine Elms Settlement. A short speech by Mrs. Tippett on the work of the Settlement. Tickets 2s. 6d. each, from office.

THE MINERVA CAFÉ, 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.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 4d. meals, weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

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PROVINCES.

Monday, November 27.—MIDDLESBROUGH. "At Home," Suffrage Club, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Aldridge (other engagements permitting) on "Serbia."

Tuesday, November 28.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Sewing Party, Suffrage Club, 3 p.m.

Thursday, November 30.—IPSWICH. Sewing Meeting, 22, Queen-street, 3 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Saturday, December 16.—EDINBURGH. Christmas Sale.

Marching On.

There are now women's suffrage societies at Buxton, Chinley, Chapel-en-le-Frith, and Whaley Bridge.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

FOOD CONTROL.

An Order in Council published in the *London Gazette* (November 17), following Mr. Runciman's speech in the House of Commons on November 15, gives drastic powers to the Board of Trade in relation to the Control of the National Food Supply. The following are the important points:—

Producers, distributors, and retailers of articles of food scheduled under the Order are to be subject to the Defence of the Realm Act Regulations, in respect of compliance with the provisions governing the production, distribution, sale, and market prices of food.

The Board of Trade will have power to requisition food stocks at a price to be determined by an arbitrator.

Waste of food or unnecessary destruction will be an offence under the new Regulations.

The Board of Trade issued regulations on November 20:—

Milk prices cannot be raised above the price on November 15, 1916—that is, in London, from 5d. to 6d. per quart.

The use of war bread comes into force on Jan. 1.

Food Control: An Advisory Board of Women Wanted.

The following letter has been sent by the Women's Freedom League to the Prime Minister, the President of the Board of Trade, and the Press: 144, High Holborn, W.C., Nov. 20.

DEAR SIR,—The question of the appointment of a Food Controller is a most important one and concerns the women of the country in particular. The Women's Freedom League asks that this appointment may be given to a man whose understanding is deep enough to realise how vitally this question affects the women, and to welcome their co-operation in the performance of his duties; and we would urge that Lord Selborne be chosen as head of this new department. We feel that Lord Selborne's foresight has earned the confidence of the country, and that in strengthening his hand the Government would win the country's approval.

The Women's Freedom League also urges upon the Government the necessity of appointing an Advisory Board of women, the majority of whom should be middle-class and working-class housewives nominated by representative bodies of women. This Advisory Board of women should not necessarily be in the place of an Advisory Board of business men, on which a few women might, and should, be appointed, but should exist as a Board quite apart to advise on questions of domestic consumption and economy. We trust that the Government will adopt this suggestion as the only means of ensuring that the poorer housewives of the community are not too hardly dealt with in any regulations for reduction of consumption that may be necessary.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Political Truce.

The political truce (which does not exist and never has existed) is one of the happiest devices of the political mind. This ingenious invention has done dishonourable service ever since the outbreak of the war, and has been requisitioned in turn, and with the utmost impartiality, for Cabinet Ministers and peers of the realm, for Bishops and police-court magistrates, for Members of Parliament and tub-thumping open-air orators, and for Mrs. Humphry Ward. They are all, all honourable men (and women), and they all allude to the political truce with that seriousness that presumes a belief in its existence, either on their part or on the part of others less well informed. It is a painful consideration, to less

THEY SUPPORT US!

sophisticated protagonists, that this elegant fiction has no shadow of foundation. It is supposed, by those who so frequently appeal to it, to have in some noble, high-souled way eliminated from national politics all those base elements known as "controversial." But it is becoming more and more patent that nothing ranks as really "controversial" except it be in some way related to Women's Suffrage. Compulsion for military service, the Government of Ireland, conscientious objection, votes for seamen and soldiers, registration of voters, redistribution of seats, land taxes, round all these subjects heated controversy has raged and continues to rage; but they have never been eliminated from Parliamentary discussion and consideration. They may be introduced at any moment without one single member of the House being reminded of the political truce. The moment women suffragists lift their head or their voice, however, in the Press or in deputation, the "truce" is invoked to shame and silence them.

Our Friends the "Antis."

Few things do the suffrage movement so much good as an outbreak of activity on the part of the Antis. We welcome their reappearance with real joy. In a mournful manifesto, recently issued, they have been forced to acknowledge the change of thought that has come over many even pronounced opponents of women's suffrage in former days; but they cling pathetically to those two figments of a diseased imagination, the political truce and the need for our old friend the "mandate from the country." These are their last remaining bulwarks, and from behind them they cry aloud of the danger of adult suffrage with its majority of women, and pretend to believe that there is no possible position between that and the old Conciliation Bill. We can only hope for these poor befogged wanderers in a world too, too progressive, that the wind may be tempered to their shorn flanks, and that the dread horrors of women's suffrage will gradually appear, in the light of truth, as unreal as the truce they vainly invoke.

"Woman This and Woman That..."

It was "women, get away," at the beginning of the war; no matter what it was she wanted to do or achieve. It must be a humiliating experience for these nose-in-air gentlemen to have to condescend now to woo and wile back the women whom they were at such particular pains to snub and to assure of their superfluous condition. The R.A.M.C. is "encouraging" women doctors. Women cooks for the Army, once spurned, are demanded and facilities offered; women carpenters are to be trained for Army hut-building; women drivers are urgently needed for ambulance cars; women are wanted everywhere. The energy, waste, and time that would have been saved had they been given their rightful place at the start is, of course, incalculable; we can only hope that with the new food control arrangements the initial mistake will not be made of keeping women out until everything has gone wrong for want of their participation. It is woman's dreary job always to be called in to do the tinkering and the plastering and the healing of damage that need never have been caused; it is high time she refused her services altogether unless called in in time to prevent the evils she is always expected to cure. C. NINA BOYLE.

The Despard Arms.

There is more stoning of raisins, etc., to be done for the Christmas pudding orders; also some carpentering—shelves, etc., to be put up. Who will volunteer? One Christmas party for wounded soldiers has been arranged at the Despard Arms. Will any other friends follow suit and invite those who would appreciate hospitality of this kind? Our recreation room may be hired on moderate terms, and a substantial meal or light refreshments provided as desired. We are still waiting for a big map of the war zone to put up in the recreation room.

The Anti-Suffragists' Manifesto.

In view of the question of woman suffrage being considered by the Electoral Conference, the anti-suffragists have issued a manifesto announcing most strenuous opposition to the extension of political rights to women. They say there is nothing but votes for all women or for none. They declare that:

A large number of those who before the war were opposed to female suffrage, whilst fully recognising the very valuable services rendered by women during the present national crisis, are unable to admit that recent circumstances are of a nature to justify any serious modification of the conclusions at which they have previously arrived. Among others who have hitherto opposed woman suffrage, there are no doubt some—represented among the names given below—who are disposed to think that the experience gained during the war has introduced some new elements into the case which will require careful consideration.

We may, however, state with the utmost confidence that both sections of opinion are equally convinced that the present Parliament has no moral right to deal with the matter. It has to be remembered that the male electorate has never as yet pronounced any definite opinion upon it, and that as regards women there are a large number who do not wish for the vote, while others go so far as to protest very warmly against the burthen of voting being thrust upon them.

The manifesto is signed by 14 women and 19 men: Sarah Boyce, E. M. Burgwin, Beatrice Chamberlain, Flora Fardell, Lily Frere, M. E. Jersey, Margaret H. Macmillan, V. Montrose, Ellen F. Pinsent, Gladys Pott, Catherine E. Robson, Maud Tree, H. S. Wantage, Mary A. Ward; Bryce, Edward Clarke, H. Craik, James Crichton-Browne, Cromer, Curzon, A. V. Dicey, John Gretton, George Hamilton, H. Hensley Henson, Charles Hobhouse, W. W. Jackson, Rudyard Kipling, Loreburn, H. J. Mackinder, John Massie, Edward A. Mitchell Innes, John Murray, Wear-dale.

Reply of Men Suffragists.

A number of men, who demand votes for women, reply to the Anti-suffragists' manifesto as follows:

We have always recognised that there were serious objections to raising controversial questions during the war. At the same time, if the franchise of this country is to be remodelled on new principles, and a large number of male voters introduced who are not qualified under the existing laws, actually or potentially, we feel that it would be a very grave injustice to women that their case should not be considered at the same time.

There must not be a repetition of what has too frequently occurred in the past—namely, the application of a rule which enables the electoral interests of men to be considered while those of women are disregarded.

Robert Cecil, Selborne, Arthur Henderson, F. D. Acland, Lytton, A. F. London, J. Hereford, J. R. Roffen, Cowdray, C. N. Nicholson, J. R. Clynes, Leif Jones, C. Oxon, Willoughby de Broke, Farrer, James Yoxall, J. T. Agg-Gardner, T. Wing, J. Owen Jacobsen, J. H. Thomas, F. Bennett Goldney, H. Bentinck, J. King, Philip Snowden, Ernest Craig, J. Lichfield, E. Lincoln, J. Kensington, Courtney of Penwith, L. Worthington Evans, T. G. Tickers, W. C. Anderson, J. M. Hogge, Edward Goulding, F. Leverton Harris, Francis McLaren, Norval Helme, A. H. Marshall, E. T. John, Swire Smith, Arthur Sherwell, Rowland E. Prothero, A. W. Barton, C. E. Price, J. O'Grady.

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 24.

THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, November 24th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
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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.

WOMAN AND THE FOOD CRISIS.

No more vivid illustration of the truth—old as humanity, yet so meagrely acted upon—that what hurts one hurts all, could have been given than that embodied in the recent food debate in the House of Commons. Speaker after speaker, touching upon different points—agriculture, labour, transport, the exigencies of war and the respective merits of committees, commissions, or, quite frankly, a dictatorship based on the elastic Defence of the Realm Act—testified the same. There was no getting away from the great fact which, through this inhuman and revolting war, is being slowly realised. Every individual in every nation, and all the nations collectively, are bound together by the closest of lifelines.

We in Great Britain have not suffered from the horrors of invasion. Our homes, bereft as so many of them have been of those who were their joy and strength, have remained intact. Our boys at the Front and our brave and strong watchers out at sea have safeguarded us. We have lived as usual—indeed, we have lived as spendthrifts. Since the war began, and before the war, there has been waste of earth's products, exploitation of labour, reckless expenditure of life, and now, at last, it is coming home to us. "Business as usual" was the cry when the war opened. But business to-day is taking on a strangely new aspect. We are discovering that industry, if widely disturbed, cannot carry through its gigantic task. The flower of our manhood—skilled workers, agriculturists, labourers—are serving in our armies and navy. The women who have taken their places, the men who remain at work, and the military and naval forces must, if they are to prove themselves efficient, be properly fed, and that cannot be done at haphazard. Somewhere, somehow—questions as to which no clear answer has been given—there is such a leakage of life's necessities as must, if it goes much further, prove dangerous to the realm. Therefore, measures of organisation and restriction are acutely urgent.

Let it be clearly understood by us all—for this will help to open our eyes—that the debate was a men's debate. Nothing of a deeper or more vital importance to woman than this food question could possibly be discussed. It touches her on every side. Like the man-worker, whose place she is so largely

taking, she cannot perform her daily task unless she can obtain the material that is necessary to keep the life-fires burning. Unlike the man-worker, she does not go home, day by day, to find her meal ready for her. She has to buy, and generally to prepare, the food for herself and her family. If the money earned is not sufficient to purchase enough food of a good quality for all, she suffers primarily as the one who goes short, secondarily through anxiety for husband and children. None knows better than she does the results of low feeding. The sudden appearance of one of those many forms of disease that come from poverty of blood—husband or elder children unable to do their daily toll of work—with this the already insufficient income growing smaller, and her own health and strength ebbing dangerously. That is what high prices mean to woman, and that is why we hope her voice will be raised in urgent demand that measures more drastic than any proposed by Mr. Runciman may be taken before the winter with biting cold and cruelly dear firing is upon her.

"Mr. Runciman"—we quote from *The Daily News* of November 17—"holds the view that the Food Controller will not make food cheaper or more abundant." Then why are such tremendous powers to be given to him?

Sir Chiozza Money, on the other hand, told the House in his contribution to the debate that on the very first day of the war he wrote an article and gave it this title, "Mobilise the Daily Bread." "I wrote it," he went on, "because I was perfectly sure that ordinary commercial usages applied in war-time would undoubtedly raise the price of bread unless the Government intervened."

It is, no doubt, the dread of what might follow from interference with the simple policy of profit-making, that "works very curious ends in times of peace," which has made the Government so cautious.

We are glad to be able to report some straight and understanding words in Thursday's debate from Mr. Clynes, a Labour member. He is not tied and bound by convention, nor pledged to support certain vested interests, like some of his colleagues, and he spoke out plainly. Alluding to the contention that there has been an increase in the consumption of food by the workers, he said, "They are following more arduous labour and they are working overtime at night. These are conditions which make it physically necessary for them to consume more food." Again: "When we are in bed to-night by midnight there will be hundreds of thousands of women in different centres of this country beginning their work, and who will go on labouring until, say, six or seven o'clock in the morning. That condition in their case means that they have to obtain a supply of food better and more sustaining than the food to which they were accustomed in the life they formerly followed."

Further: "The wages of large numbers of women were fixed at a minimum of a pound a week more than a year ago. Praises have been heaped upon the women because of the quality of their work, the sacrifices they have made, and so on. We have found it difficult to give substance to these praises by securing for the women any slight advance in wages. It has been twelve months since that minimum—it has been a maximum in practice—has been fixed. Since then the cost of food has more than doubled."

We thank Mr. Clynes for his straightforward words, emphasizing as they do the importance of the food question to women; but this is only a single aspect of the subject. The debate bristles with points which affect them intimately. The declension of agriculture, the release of workers from

the Army, the shortage of labour, the taking over by the Government of such necessities of life as bread and milk, the future of industry—all these, touching as they do upon the home and the family, must have for mothers, wives and women-workers of all kinds, a special significance. And while this is going on outside, while millions of women, aye! and their men and children, are waiting, their lives very literally in the hands of a little knot of men in the House of Commons, who have shown, both by speech and action, how little they know of the real wants and feelings of the nation—another still smaller knot is discussing, as a sort of by-product of something much larger and more pressing, whether or no they shall recommend that woman be given the elementary right of citizenship, whether she is to be treated as an adult human being with experience and knowledge, or as a child to be praised to-day and snubbed to-morrow.

Surely, the contrast between what is and what might be will appeal with such force to every righteous man and righteous woman in the country that in a short time the universal demand will be: "Citizen-rights for all, men and women alike, so that together they may repair what the folly of the nations has destroyed—so that they may bring back peace and the possibility of fulness of life for all."

C. DESPARD.

PRESS COMMENTS

As Others See Us.

"Hot Stuff.—Small wonder that Mrs. Mustard was warmly supported at our Caxton Hall meeting.—*THE VOTE*."—*Punch*, November 18, 1916.

A Forecast.

"There appears to be little hope of the Speaker's Committee reaching an agreement on the question of the franchise. The differences of the members of the committee are too vital for that. Whether they will ever agree on the question of a special register for the next election is not yet certain, but it is unlikely that any agreement they may arrive at will go beyond that point. The plural voting problem, for instance, is a very thorny one, and involves the settlement of the over-representation of Ireland, and equal electoral districts."—*Sunday Chronicle*, November 19.

Business and Pleasure Vote.

"Slow but sure progress is being made by the Speaker's Committee on Electoral Reform. An agreement has been reached on the question of Plural Voting. The plural vote is to disappear, to be superseded by a dual vote where the voter has a separate residential and business qualification. The Committee will recommend that the qualifying period for a vote shall be reduced to six months, and that London shall be treated as one electoral unit."—*Daily Chronicle*, November 18.

"Rip Van Winkle."

"The Anti-Suffragists should surely clean their slate and restate their case. The chief of the old arguments—that women cannot serve the State as soldiers—has gone. . . . In the new world which is opening mere negation is worse than ineffectual; it is nonsense. It is like threatening prosecution for trespass after an earthquake."—*Daily News*, November 18.

Parliament Caa!

"It is a poor and shabby policy [to say this Parliament cannot enfranchise women], and we do not believe the country, whose feeling in this matter is generous, not mean, will sanction it. For let there be no mistake. This attack is meant to be deadly, and, under the thin plea of constitutional legalism, it is designed, and if successful will accomplish its design, to destroy all possibility of the enfranchisement of women for a generation. . . . If Parliament is competent to introduce manhood suffrage and to determine the redistribution of seats, it is competent also to enfranchise women. The women at least will be of that opinion, and they will see to it."—*Manchester Guardian*, November 18.

Urgent!

WILL THE HELPER, who inadvertently took an umbrella (with a hooked handle, silver cap, and tassels) not belonging to her from the stewards' room after the Jumble Sale at Tolmer's Institute last Saturday, kindly return it to Mrs. Fisher, at headquarters, 144, High Holborn?

THE BUXTERS.

Beatrice Buxter had always been in favour of votes for women. She had petitioned for the vote, she had walked in processions for the vote, she had worked for the vote. But Mr. Buxter and Mrs. Buxter and Tom Buxter and Gladys Buxter had always been against the vote and against Beatrice. And when the war broke out they all said, "Yah!"

They did not actually say the word, because they would have thought it vulgar to say such a word, especially Mr. and Mrs. Buxter; but they paraphrased it and said the paraphrases. Mr. Buxter said: "Women can't fight, so now you see." Mrs. Buxter said: "It's the soldiers we must look to, so now you see." Gladys said: "The idea of women in khaki. So now you see." And Tom said: "Where are the women now? So now you see." And Beatrice replied to them all with the well-known quotation from Shakespeare or somebody: "Wait and see."

So they waited, but it was an enormous time before they saw; not because there was nothing to see, but because they couldn't see it. They saw, of course, certain things; they couldn't help seeing them, because the things were under their noses, but they didn't see what the things meant. They saw, for instance, Beatrice going to the front to drive a motor ambulance; they couldn't help seeing that, because they all went to the station to see Beatrice off. And by and by Mr. and Mrs. Buxter and Tom Buxter saw Gladys working in munitions, and Gladys saw herself working; but they still in spirit said "Yah!" to the distant Beatrice because Beatrice and Gladys were still women, and they knew on the highest authority that no law can change the fact that men are men and women are women. And then Tom, who, of course, was in khaki, saw all sorts of girls walking about in khaki, and Mr. and Mrs. Buxter saw them too, and so did Gladys Buxter. And then Mrs. Buxter saw herself in a canteen, and the other three also saw her; and still they didn't see that there was anything to see. So now the whole family was at work, except Mr. Buxter, and Mr. Buxter every evening sat in an arm-chair and found fault with the Government and the War Office, and the Admiralty and the Generals, and the miners and the Irish, and the air service and the submariners, and then went to sleep; and he thought he was the most patriotic of them all.

This went on till one day Mr. Buxter began to rub his eyes. It was not in the evening before or after his sleep, but in the morning before and during and after his breakfast, and he rubbed his eyes because he couldn't believe what they read in the morning paper. For the paper said—it actually said—that it was the women of the nation who would enable the nation to win the war. It was in print, and Mr. Buxter believed in print. And then, in print and in khaki, and in munition overalls and in hospital caps and aprons, Mr. Buxter was made aware of women. They fell like an avalanche upon the consciousness of Mr. Buxter; they burst like a bomb on the consciousness of Tom Buxter; they glided like streams of water into the consciousnesses of Mrs. Buxter and Gladys. Mrs. Buxter and Gladys did not realise they were there until they felt a sort of cold dampness spreading itself throughout all their preconceived actions. Women were everywhere: at the front, in the hospitals and consulting rooms, on the land, in the munition factories, in police-courts, in public offices. Almost the only place where you could be sure of not finding women were the pulpits; the bishops had seen to that.

And then Beatrice came home for a rest. Tom was on leave, and Gladys Buxter had a Bank Holiday that knew not a bank, and Mrs. Buxter had an

off-day, and Mr. Buxter had a period of silent wakefulness.

Beatrice smiled at them all and said: "Well?" And Mr. Buxter and Mrs. Buxter and Tom Buxter and Gladys Buxter all said: "They ought to have it." G. COLMORE.

THE NORTHERN MEN ON THE WAR PATH.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage is keeping a watchful eye on events, and the General Executive Committee has sent a strongly worded letter to the Lord Chancellor with regard to the debate on Lord Salisbury's Register Bill, requesting him to make known their views to Lords Salisbury, Lansdowne, Crewe, Parmoor, and Peel, who took part in the debate. They point out that while the principle of votes for soldiers and sailors was freely discussed, the question above all other franchise questions most animating the mind of the country, viz., votes for women, was conspicuous by the manner in which hon. lords and hon. members avoided it, though it must be faced before a register acceptable to the country can be framed.

"The uncomfortable impression is getting abroad," they say, "that there is a Parliamentary Cabal against this inevitable reform, and that the leaders in Parliament are all playing into one another's hands over the question. The electors are now awake on the question of Women's Suffrage in its relation to Parliament. Parliament has raised the question of the franchise; it is for Parliament to face the consequences of its own action. It pleases opponents in both Houses to speak of Women's Suffrage as a 'controversial question,' but the question has ceased to be 'controversial' except in Parliament, where it is held up by a small but powerful minority and their Parliamentary supporters. The man in the street desires to see Women's Suffrage established without further delay. The position is too dangerous to be maintained, and the General Executive of the Northern Men's Federation desire to inform the House of Lords that the organisation will strenuously and publicly resist any Register Bill that does not place women on the Register on equal terms with men, and, if necessary, will come to London to make known their views to the public, for apart from the injustice of shutting women out of representative government, women have borne the calamities brought upon them with such fortitude, and have shouldered the burdens of the nation in such a spirit of patriotism, that the time is ripe for Parliament to set the seal of their political emancipation on them and remove them from the company of the 'criminals' and 'lunatics' and 'paupers' on the statute, with whom they are now registered as unfit for the exercise of the franchise."

The letter is signed by Hamilton Brown, J.P., Glasgow Town Councillor, General Executive Committee N.M.F.; R. Ferguson, hon. sec. Northern Men's Federation, Glasgow Centre; Councillor McMichael, J.P., Edinburgh Town Council; Alexander Orr, hon. treasurer N.M.F.; Jas. Brunton, Trustee, Edinburgh Trades Council; J. Wilson McLaren, N.M.F.; David Perry, J.P. (ex-Provost).

WHO ARE THE DRUNKARDS?

In *The Times* for November 20, is a most instructive chart showing the numbers of convictions for drunkenness against men and women, both separately and together, for each year since 1905. It is interesting to note that in 1913 (the year when there was the greatest number of convictions for drunkenness) 81,000 convictions were against men, and 26,000 were against women. Remembering the fact that there are about a million more women than men, this record shows that great credit is due to women, and that it is sheer hypocrisy in men to try and hide their own great sins by shouting about the far lesser ones of women. Even now, when so vast a proportion of the male population is under military instead of civil rule, the number of convictions against men for drunkenness far exceeds those against women; for the first nine months of this year there were 32,000 convictions against men and 15,000 against women, of whom the whole population is under civil rule.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS."

Speaking at the Caxton Hall, on November 15, on "Woman the Liberator," the Rev. Hugh Chapman said that the Woman's Movement was never more important or more needed than in the present crisis. Women's instinctive wish was to liberate. War brought out all the badness; one of the most ghastly things in the present war was the number of people who were making money out of it. We were also "up against" the drink evil, and the great evil of prostitution. Neither Parliament nor the Church could cope successfully with these evils. Women would have to do it—they were the best liberators, and his message to the women present was "Be free; don't sell your wings; wings have no price."

In thanking Mr. Chapman for his address, Mrs. Mustard pointed out that while women were unfranchised they were powerless to tackle these questions. Women must have the power that men had in the legislation of the country. Dealing with the question of "Population and Power," Mrs. Mustard said the Government was calling for men and yet more men. In England we had a decreasing birth-rate, and women had been blamed for this, but had not the Government something to do with it? How did it treat the children who were already here? Did it ensure that every child should be well fed, well clothed, well housed, and well educated? What did the Government do for the food of the nation? There was more adulteration, fewer inspectors, and the Pure Milk Act was held up. How did the nation treat its mothers? When the bread-winner died the woman had frequently to part with her children or go out to work and leave them to look after themselves. There was a great field for woman power, but not until women had the vote would they be free to deal with all these questions. Mrs. Despard, who presided, thanked both speakers warmly for their addresses.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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

At the Public Meeting, on November 17, an excellent address was given by Miss Lakeman on social conditions which obtain in the slums of London, especially in the northern districts, where she has seen and gained experience of life amongst the poorest, and pointed out the need of reconstruction, which should aim at the prevention of such ills. Miss Jacobs spoke a few words on the necessity of making the enfranchisement of women our chief aim, and appealed for support for the coming Fair. At the committee meeting which followed, it was decided to hold another public meeting before Christmas, and to arrange a Christmas social for the wives of soldiers and sailors. The committee also warmly appreciated the efforts of all who had made the recent whist-drive so great a success.

Glasgow Suffrage Shop, 212, Bath-street.

On November 18, a very successful "At Home" was held by the Dennistoun District in the Suffrage Rooms. Miss Shennan presided over a large attendance of members and friends. A very encouraging address was delivered by Miss Bessie Semple, and there was a good programme of music and recitations. Several of those present expressed their intention of joining the League. Last week Miss Murray addressed a meeting of the Glasgow Food Protection Association in the Public Hall, Partick, and Miss Buntin sold a large number of Votes at the entrance.

Ipswich.

We have held our Rummage Sale, and to the relief of both hon. treasurer and hon. secretary anxiety with regard to our rent is over for the time. We realise, however, that it will not be easy to keep going now that prices are so high, and we hope every member will do her best to help. We thank our many friends for their contributions to the sale:—Miss Roe, Mrs. Millano, Mrs. Joliff, Mrs. Garner, Mrs. Gintine and daughters, Mrs. Hossack, Miss Brett. Our very grateful thanks to our hon. treasurer, Miss Bobby, who kindly undertakes the tea arrangements at our weekly meetings and provides the milk. Owing to a fire next door our carpet has been damaged, and unfortunately we were not insured. Will anyone be kind enough to defray cost of cleaning? Our parcel for the Fair has been despatched. Next week we begin our hospital work again, and should be glad of more helpers. Mrs. Millano has some very good artichokes for sale for our benefit at moderate prices. Who will give orders for them?

Middlesbrough. Suffrage Rooms, 232a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

Miss Hodge delivered a most interesting lecture in the Suffrage Rooms, on November 13, on what the possession of the vote has accomplished in Australia. She has kindly promised to speak again in January on what women have done in other parts of the Empire. We hope that, as a result of Miss Hodge's lecture, greater interest will be taken in the town in the milk question, proper feeding and housing of prospective and nursing mothers, and better opportunities for physical and mental culture for children. All members must bring friends to hear Mrs. Aldridge on November 27. We hope to have a crowded room. Will they also remember the Cake and Candy Fair when making their Christmas fare? Please remember the Suffrage Shop when buying provisions for Christmas. You will not ask in vain for many things, and prices are the same as at any other store.

Portsmouth.

At the Public meeting, on November 13, Mrs. Tanner made an excellent speech, taking for her subject, "Woman: Man's Comrade or Competitor?" which greatly interested her audience. The resolution demanding that "No change in the franchise be made that does not include votes for women" was passed unanimously, and has been sent to the Speaker. All the letters to the Speaker and the President of the Local Government Board were signed and forwarded. Many thanks to the members who have so generously given of their time and money for making useful articles for the Green, White and Gold Fair. The work-parties will be continued during the winter, and will be announced in "Forthcoming Events."

Reading.

An enjoyable and successful whist-drive was held on November 16, in the Lodge Room, Palmer Hall. Warmest thanks are due to Mrs. Stanley Justins and Mrs. Corry, who undertook the whole arrangements for the evening. Prizes were given by Miss Anna Munro, Miss Ethel Gough, and Mrs. Penrose. Mrs. Justin acted as M.C. Several new members were made. Members will be glad to know our Rummage Sale resulted in a good sum, which was divided between the branch funds and the 50,000 Shilling Fund.

Swansea.

A Branch Meeting was held at Mrs. Hutton's, 9, Sketty-road, on November 15, when a display was held of the articles given by members for the Green, White and Gold Fair. Our best thanks are due to all who so kindly sent gifts. We are also grateful to Mrs. Ross, who has presented the branch with one hundredweight of potatoes, which have been sold for the benefit of the League. In the early part of next year we hope to be able to hold a jumble sale, so will all members kindly begin to collect and hoard up any kind of saleable goods?

Women's Freedom League Settlement,

1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

Very grateful acknowledgments to Miss Mamie Reid for three pretty coverlets for the Guest House; Mrs. H. Nelson Smith, bath-towels and pillow-cases; Mrs. Delbanco, materials for sweets; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Miss Rogers, jumble goods; Mrs. Williams, 10s. for Christmas treat; per Mrs. Despard, children's garments; Mrs. Brend, vests and stockings; Mrs. Clark, two overalls, a cake, and the price of making boys' knickers; H. S. L. Fry, Esq., 5s.; Mrs. John Russell, 5s.; Miss Ibbotson, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Lewis, 10s. and goods for the Fair; Miss Belle Lewis, 2s. 6d., and gifts for our stall; Mrs. Thomas, 5s.; Mrs. Walpole Latrobe, Tasmania, £1. We trust all readers who have not sent contributions for our stall at the Fair will come and buy cakes, chocolates and jams, children's clothing, etc. We also invite all our friends to an "At Home," for which Mrs. Despard is lending us her Club Room on December 2. We ask them to bring toys, sweets, mincemeat, crackers, oranges, or other small gifts for the Christmas treat which we hold before breaking up for the holidays.

W.F.L. Calendars and Christmas Cards.

It will be good news to many that the Women's Freedom League calendars for 1917 and Christmas and New Year cards are now ready. They are excellent propaganda, for they carry the cry, "Votes for Women," far and wide, and the fame of the League and the Leaguers. Those friends who are not able to come and buy their stock at the Fair can send their orders to the Literature Department, Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, London. Calendars, with a space for engagements for every day in the year, and a photograph of Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Miss Murray, Mrs. Mustard, and other members, 1s. 6d.; cards, with W.F.L. shield in green, white and gold, 1d. each. Special photographs of Mrs. Snow are now on sale, 1s. each, and will be valued by all who treasure her memory.

MISS BROUNEAU, though busy on the executive committee organising a grand matinée at Hammersmith Palace on December 7, on behalf of a Christmas treat for war orphans on December 21, has most kindly undertaken to bring twenty wounded soldiers each day to the W.F.L. Fair. Who will do likewise?

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 24.

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