

THE VOTE,  
JUNE 30, 1916  
ONE PENNY.

## INDUSTRIAL COMPULSION FOR WOMEN?

# THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 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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### HOW THE WOMEN HOLD SERBIA!

KOSSOVO DAY, JUNE 28.

"There resteth to Serbia a glory,  
A glory that shall not grow old;  
There remaineth to Serbia a story,  
A tale to be chanted and told!  
They are gone to their graves grim and gory,  
The beautiful, brave, and bold;  
But out of the darkness and desolation  
Of the mourning heart of a widow'd nation,  
Their memory waketh an exultation!

Yea, so long as a babe shall be born,  
Or there resteth a man in the land—  
So long as a blade of corn  
Shall be reap'd by a human hand—  
So long as the grass shall grow  
On the mighty plain of Kossovo—  
So long, so long, even so,  
Shall the glory of those remain  
Who this day in battle were slain."

*Translated, "OWEN MEREDITH."*

On the Plain of Kossovo, in the year 1389, a great battle was fought between the Serbians and the Turks. The Turks were sweeping forward into Europe, and the Serbs, under the leadership of Tsar Lazar, although outnumbered by three to one, valiantly fought to defend their homes against the on-coming foe. The rulers of both countries were slain. The battle was won by the Turks, and Serbia, then the most powerful nation in the Balkan Peninsula, passed under their dominion.

Through the long centuries that followed under Turkish rule, the memory of this defeat was kept alive in the hearts and minds of the Serbian people by "Kossovo Day," that the generations born in slavery might know that Serbia had once been free. Thus the Serbian men and women cherished within them the spirit of their nation, and, after five hundred years, by indomitable energy, unequalled bravery, and heavy sacrifice of life, gradually regained their independence. Eventually, in the recent Balkan War, they freed themselves completely from their Turkish conqueror, and in 1913 stood at last again as a nation before the world, looking to the time when all the people of their race would be united under the same rule.

Independence, so dearly purchased, was theirs for but a short time, for to-day their country is

again in alien hands. It is not the Turk now, but the Austrian who is in possession—not that Austria is stronger than Turkey, for alone she could not have invaded Serbia. Three times she tried and three times she failed, and it was only because Germany and Bulgaria came to her aid that the fourth attempt succeeded. Again, as on Kossovo Plain, Serbia has fought with three to one against her, but this time it has been three countries. Again she has been overpowered, and her men and boys, between the ages of fifteen and fifty, are in exile. Austria and Bulgaria are in possession and can wander from end to end of the land, but who can say Serbia is under their control, for

### Are not the Serbian Women Still There?

The women of Serbia, strong, capable, and courageous, represent the Serbian nation to-day; alone they are facing the invaders, while within them, as in the days of old, the spirit of independence burns in an unquenchable flame. Even in their sorrow and suffering Kossovo Day will be kept by them in Serbia as surely as by their exiled men far away.

For centuries the Serbian women have been cultivators of their soil; they are its chief food producers, and the regulation of its supply is thus in



their hands. They are, too, the guardians of the children, and will keep the spirit of freedom alive within them as they did in the days that are gone. Books may be destroyed by the enemy, but what power can destroy the unwritten ballads of a country passed down orally through the ages, which speak of its great and daring deeds for freedom? These deeds have been told in song and story from generation to generation, and peasant women and girls have contributed a great share to this epic of the Serbian people.

Serbia is invaded but not conquered. As a nation she will rise again, for the spirit of her people is

**In the Safe Keeping of her Women.**

England this week is joining the exiled Serbians in the celebration of Kossovo Day from June 28 to July 2. The dedicatory aspect of the festival has always been strongly emphasized, and in many churches and chapels throughout our land reference will be made next Sunday to Serbia's national festival and her great hope of future freedom.

The Women's Freedom League will take its part in showing sympathy with our brave Allies by making Kossovo Day the subject of the speeches at the Hyde Park meeting (near Marble Arch) next Sunday at noon. The speakers will be our President—Mrs. Despard—and Mrs. Aldridge, who has already done so much to arouse interest in the Serbian people, and who shared with them the hardships of their terrible retreat last winter.

Will members and friends show their interest by attending in large numbers?

**THE PRIME MINISTER AND WOMAN SUFFRAGE.**

The following reply was received on June 23 by Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Hon. Sec. of the Deputation Management Committee to the statement submitted to the Prime Minister which we published last week:—

Dear Madam,—I am desired by the Prime Minister to thank you for your courteous letter of June 15, and for the statement of the views of the proposed Suffrage Deputation which will receive Mr. Asquith's careful consideration. Mr. Asquith will certainly bear in mind the request contained in the latter part of your letter, but it would be premature for him to give any undertaking until the Government have made a statement with regard to their policy in the House of Commons. If after the statement has been made you still desire an interview, will you please write to me again? Yours faithfully,

(Signed), H. BONHAM CARTER.  
Mrs. B. A. Gould.

**British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union  
Second Biennial Conference, July 5th to 7th, 1916.**

Is it telepathy or is it a really active awakening of all women to the special need for co-operation at this present most critical moment in our history? All the correspondence that comes to the hon. secretary of this Union from all parts of the world is practically unanimous in its demand for information upon every one of the topics to be discussed at this coming Conference. This unanimity shows that subjects selected are of great topical interest as well as of permanent national importance. None of the problems can be solved satisfactorily until the women are enfranchised and have as potent a voice in legislation as men have, so the question of woman's suffrage is rightly placed as the first and last item on the programme of the conference.

MARGARET HODGE.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

**Women's Freedom League.**

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**FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.**

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

Sunday, July 2.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 12 noon. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Aldridge. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith.

Monday, July 3.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 4.—CLAPHAM BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING, 15, Clapham-mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 7.30.

Wednesday, July 5.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.

Thursday, July 6.—Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, Caxton Hall, 7 p.m. Songs, Dances, &c. Presentation of Birthday Gift to the League and Short Speeches by Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Miss Mumro, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Zangwill. Tickets 1s., from W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

Friday, July 7.—CROYDON, Sewing Meeting at Office, 3 p.m.

Saturday, July 8.—DESPARD ARMS. AFTERNOON SPORTS, 22, Harley-road, Hampstead. Friends 1s., including tea, 4 to 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 9.—HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Nevinson.

Wednesday, July 12.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 13.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19.—HYDE PARK (Marble Arch), 6 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 3d. meals; weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead Road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinner and suppers from 6d.) and recreation. Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

**PROVINCES.**

Wednesday, July 5.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Garden Party at Wilstrop House, Linthorpe (by kind permission of Mrs. Schofield Coates). Tickets 1s. 3 to 6.30 p.m.

**SCOTLAND.**

Saturday, July 1.—EDINBURGH. Summer Sale, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 3 p.m. Please note change of date.

N.B.—OFFICE OUTING. The Office will be closed on Friday, July 14, at 2 p.m.

**WANTED:**

**50,000** Shillings

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Regular Price, 98/6  
**SALE PRICE, 79/6**

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SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1092.



## THE VOTE.

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FRIDAY, June 30th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—  
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.  
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.  
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.  
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.  
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

### 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.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.  
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

## A NEW PHASE: THE DILEMMA.

There is trouble on the political horizon. The country is drifting: democracy is being undermined: a House of Commons that cannot be said, in any true sense, to represent the electorate, is passing laws, voting supplies, imposing taxes, and session after session prolonging its own existence. In ordinary times such a state of things could not continue to exist. The cry for a general election would long before this have become too urgent to be resisted; and the electorate would at least have had the satisfaction of knowing that it had expressed itself.

Many think that even at this juncture an appeal to the country would clear the air. But here the dilemma comes in. There seems at the present moment to be no machinery through which even the manhood of the country can express its will. Before that can be done the anomalies in franchise legislation, brought to light by the present exigency, must be removed.

How is that to be done? Apparently no Registration Bill that can be devised will meet the situation. The obstacles to the framing of such a measure are said to be insoluble. If our soldiers and sailors and munition workers are to have the right of voting there must be an extension of the franchise. And there leaps up the danger. The whole political world perceives—a step certainly in the right direction—that no such extension can take place without raising the thorny question of Woman's Suffrage.

That, we presume, is the "new phase" alluded to in a recent issue of *The Daily Chronicle*. "If the prospective Registration Bill proposes to enlarge the franchise as far as men are concerned, the question of Woman's Suffrage will have to be dealt with by the Government."

A mock election; no election; drifting, waiting for something to turn up; or, as we have suggested in our letter to Mr. Asquith, a free and frank facing of facts; the opportunity taken of passing through a non-party House of Commons a non-party measure, the effect of which would be to give political representation to those who are fighting, to those who are working, and to those upon whom, as it is now generally admitted, a large part of the labour, the sacrifice and the suffering brought about by the war has fallen. These are the alternatives. It is a pretty tangle, out of which one point stands out clear. Party politicians and their followers are afraid to give men more votes now without considering the position of women. Why? That takes us back to fundamentals. A certain class of men—happily, we believe, diminishing in number and influence—do not like to tackle the suffrage question, because for the first time in modern history they

have felt the power of woman. The old closely-hugged illusion is vanishing, and will presently drop out of sight. Woman is no longer the helpless darling, the obedient drudge, the dishonoured slave. She has recognised herself; she has realised her mission. She does not say now, as in the old days, "God is thy law, thou mine." She says: "We—you—I—through our mutual help and love, will build up the world on a new law—a law not of greed, not of class or national domination, but of righteousness."

Let this be admitted and we shall at once understand the reluctance, bordering, in some directions, on panic, that is being experienced by those who, through ignorance, or for selfish reasons, are doing everything in their power to bolster up the present order.

For what do these insistent demands of an unfranchised class mean? Nothing less than the march of democracy. It is true, indeed, that democracy, in its fullest aspect, is as yet an unknown quantity. Even in the past—in the days of the old republics—we find that behind the wholesome freedom of the citizen, there was the unwholesome taint of slavery, which gradually leavened the mass. The Greek republics crumbled, the Roman Empire fell, the South American States were conquered because slavery, like an evil virus, had impregnated the blood of the free. But it is to be noted that the Barons, in the feudal period, the burghers and the art and industrial guilds later; in our own times the mechanics and the unskilled and agricultural labourers have, as they obtained representation, gained a power to regulate their lives, and make their own terms with their employers that they did not possess before. Had they been sufficiently educated to bargain in life terms, as well as in trade terms, the whole history of the country might have been changed. We can have little doubt that their comparative failure has arisen from lack of power to determine values. Healthy conditions, both for women and men in the workshops; fair leisure, good and easily-accessible food markets; open spaces and proper educational and recreative advantages for the children; drastic treatment of inhuman landlords, and grasping employers: these are the life-values for which the great labour electorate, not yet, we believe, conscious of its own power, might have striven; and some of these things they might have gained.

It is because we believe that women, who have suffered so bitterly and so long from the subserviency of politicians to trade values, because the wives, the mothers, the workers, everywhere are beginning to estimate more truly the preciousness beyond price of joyous healthy human life, that we hope the Government will see its way to bringing forward soon, as a Government measure, the long-delayed reform which will give to women their opportunity. That, if they would see it, is the one and only way of meeting worthily the dilemma with which they are faced.

Under the heading "The Unionists and the Settlement," in the current issue of *The Nation*, we are asked to look forward to a period when "the governing sense of all the members of the Empire will be grouped together in a free association of heart, purpose, and intellect," and the writer proceeds to give the factors which must go to fashion such a unity. "The first is that the foundation must be a true democracy, a democracy of men and women. The second is that the claims of India must be reconciled with those of the Dominions. The third is the consent and co-operation of Ireland."

These are momentous words to which, if the Empire is to be saved, the Government would do well to give heed.

C. DESPARD.

## INDUSTRIAL COMPULSION FOR WOMEN?

A very interesting debate was held at the Minerva Café on June 23, when Miss Normanton, B.A., proposed "That Industrial Compulsion Should be Applied to Women." This resolution was opposed by Miss Margaret Hodge, Miss Marian Reeves being in the chair. In opening the debate, Miss Normanton said that her reasons for considering that Industrial Compulsion should be applied to women were three in number. First, that it was justifiable on the ground of general utility; we had embarked upon a war which we hoped to win, and we could do it most easily by regulating the labour of the country; and we must use the labour of the country to the best advantage. A walk down Oxford-street would show that there was no falling off in the supply of luxuries. With potatoes at threepence a pound and lettuces at twopence halfpenny, could we spare women to make motor goggles for little dogs? Of course, the Government could prohibit the manufacture of such articles, but that would be hard on the employees, who would be thrown out of work. It would be far simpler to take over all the women's labour and decide how many women should be sent to work on the land, for instance. Women have been asked to volunteer for work on the land, but have not come forward in sufficient numbers. Her second reason for desiring compulsion was that the women themselves would welcome it. Many were already asking for it, and would be only too pleased to get into a smart uniform. Thirdly, Miss Normanton said that since many women had welcomed conscription for men, they could not logically resist industrial conscription for themselves. Women sitting on the Tribunals had in many cases been as keen that the men should go as the military representative himself.

Miss Hodge, in opposing this resolution, quoted a saying of Sir John Elliot: "Through this small chink all our liberties may creep out." She thought that during the war quite enough of our liberties had crept out already. She did not consider that compulsion would bring such an increase in the amount of labour available for the land as Miss Normanton expected. If individual tastes were totally disregarded, good work was not obtained. A Government could not regulate labour satisfactorily, because it could not foresee what kind and what amount of labour would be required. People could not be taken from work which required one kind of talent and put to work requiring totally different abilities. A woman, for instance, skilled in making motor goggles for dogs would probably be entirely useless on the land. She believed, too, that there was no paucity of women for agricultural work.

With regard to her opponent's second argument, that compulsion would be welcomed by the women themselves, she could only say, "Poor women!" A great many women were only too docile, too ready to say, "Tell me what to do and I'll do it," too ready to shirk responsibility and thought for themselves. They were not seriously to blame for this; the blame must be laid on the country which kept them out of things and the lack of the right sort of education. This argument was akin to that of the slave-owners, who declared that slaves should not be freed because they liked being slaves. Slaves lose their appreciation of liberty, but freedom is bracing and responsibility is good. Compulsion is inexpedient, too, because it never gets the best work out of women or out of anyone else. At the time when men were forcibly taken into the Navy, it was true that some of our greatest victories

were won, but it was also true that afterwards there came reaction which resulted in the worst mutiny ever known in the Navy. Everyone gives his or her best work to a cause voluntarily engaged in, but compulsion weakens the moral fibre and opens the door to encroachments upon liberty.

After the opening speeches, many questions were asked and a most interesting discussion took place. The point that women are voteless, and that therefore it would be most tyrannical to conscribe them, was urged by several speakers, who would apparently consider it justifiable if women were enfranchised, but the majority opposed it altogether on humane grounds. Not a single member of the audience was found to defend compulsion, and on the vote being taken, after both speakers had replied, no one voted for the resolution. A. M.

## Mrs. Despard & Mr. Laurence Housman at Golder's Green.

The Golder's Green Branch of the Women's Freedom League was delighted to welcome Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman to its meeting on June 24. Mrs. Despard said that in the pressure of other things she feared that we had been forgetting what we were out for, but she thought we ought sometimes to pull ourselves up and recall it. Now that women were being praised on all sides and a sort of glamour cast over them, there were people who said that they had all they wanted without the suffrage. The question of registration and of an alteration in the franchise laws was being discussed and politicians were much perplexed; it seemed that they dare not face the question of women's suffrage. Their hesitation was based on fear—fear that they would lose their old power over women; but men and women are standing together now, and why should they not do so in times of peace, for their interests are really the same. Women are asking that in the right sense they shall belong to the country, but that will not be till they are represented in the councils of the nation. Now, more than ever before, must we keep the suffrage flag flying.

Mr. Housman said that at the present time the less one talked of votes, the more one talked of

## British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union.

### SECOND (Biennial) CONFERENCE, JULY 5th, 6th & 7th, 1916, CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.

#### July 5.—LOSS OF NATIONALITY THROUGH MARRIAGE. OVERSEAS SUFFRAGE MEETING.

Speakers: Mrs. Leathes, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, LL.B., Mrs. Ford-Smith, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Herring (N.S.W.) and others.

#### July 6.—SEX MORALITY AND SEX EDUCATION.

Speakers: Miss Neilans, Miss Royden, Miss Sharp, Mr. Maurice Gregory, Miss March, B.Sc., Dr. Tchaykovsky, Rev. Dr. Scott Lidgett, Miss Abadam.

#### 8 p.m.—AN EVENING ON INDIA. Lady Muir Mackenzie, Sir K. G. Gupta, K.C.S.I., Sir M. M. Bhowmaggree, K.C.I.E., Yusuf Ali, Esq., Syud Hossain, Esq.

#### July 7.—WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD.

Speakers: Mrs. Pember Reeves, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Despard, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Susan Lawrence, L.C.C., Mrs. Salmond, and others.

#### 7.30 p.m.—PUBLIC SUFFRAGE MEETING. WOMAN SUFFRAGE AND THE EMPIRE.

Particulars at the International Suffrage Shop, 5, Duke-street, Charing Cross.



suffrage. What he would call "the cut-in-half humanity" had brought Europe to the present state of things. The woman's movement was a movement for real democracy; women placed life values far above trade values. Let war be as righteous as possible, yet one could not deny that it is destructive of democratic government; war destroys more than unrighteous peace; it destroys life values. Trade interests keep their power to protect themselves even in time of war, but democracy and liberty go under; and war, too, makes ignoble behaviour; no one knows whom to trust. The value of production is much enhanced; the price of destructive material goes up 150-180 per cent.; we pay a high price for the shells destroyed, but we pay a low one for the life destroyed. Life is conscribed, but not industry; the organisation of the trade unions goes on, but there is no trade union wage for life. Man declared himself the protector of woman, but how had the married men protected their wives? By demanding loudly that the single men should go and fight for them.

If we apply war conditions to the suffrage question we shall find that the anti-suffrage arguments are absolutely bowled over. We were told that

women should not have a vote, because they could not fight, but no one suggested that if the married men did not fight they should be deprived of their vote. The Government decided that the clergy were not suited for war, but they were not to lose their votes. It was formerly said that woman's place was the home; now women were implored to come out and work. As Mrs. Despard had said, there was only one argument against the suffrage if you really came down to fundamentals, and that was the lessening of man's power over woman. Woman suffrage was going to diminish the power of the individual man over the individual woman, and of men as a class over women as a class; we were going to get a human Government. Self-government would be a fine thing for women. At Sing-Sing prison in America it had proved successful with the prisoners, and if self-government was good for criminals it certainly could not be bad for women.

Many thanks are due to the speakers and to Miss Hodge and Miss Newcomb for so kindly giving us the opportunity to hold the meeting, and to Miss Hodge for taking the chair. A collection was taken in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. A. M.

### THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.

This famous annual event will be held for the fifth time next Thursday, July 6, at the Caxton Hall, S.W. All members and friends will wish to be present and bring their gifts. Contributions to the Birthday Fund will be presented personally to

MRS. DESPARD.

All contributors are asked to be at the Hall at 6.30 p.m., to meet Dr. Knight and hear the arrangements. At 7 p.m., reception by the President. 7.45, songs by Miss Anne Squire and dances by Miss L. Pulman, Miss E. Mitchell, Miss Dettmar, and Miss M. Temple, all members of the Gymnastic Teachers' Institute.

At 8 p.m. presentation of the Birthday Gift, when we hope that a long line of donors will pass up the hall. Short speeches by Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Zangwill, Mrs. Schofield Coates, Mrs.

**MEET  
ME  
NEXT  
THURSDAY.**

Tanner, Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Anna Munro. It is hoped that our good friend, Mr. Harrison Hill, will again lend gaiety to the occasion. There will be a Cake and Candy Stall, organised by Montgomery Boroughs Branch. Please take special notice of Miss Clark's request for help and come prepared to make your housekeeping purchases for the following week. Contributions to our Flower Stall will also be most welcome. We hope our country members will strip their gardens for the sake of the Cause, and send us strawberries, other fruit, and eggs. Refreshments will be served during the evening.

Please send at once to headquarters for tickets, one shilling each, including refreshments.

**The Hall must be Full!**

### WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

#### Mayoress Motor Mechanic.

Miss Doris Pridmore, mayoress of Coventry, is now motor driver and mechanic to her uncle, the mayor, who is a bachelor. In addition to the various ways in which she helps him in his duties, she now takes the place of the mayoral chauffeur, who has joined the Army.

#### London Ambulance Service of Women.

The London Ambulance Service has inaugurated a station at Bloomsbury entirely staffed by women, who are all trained nurses. This is the first station in the country staffed by women.

#### "Storming" the Law Courts.

"Women clerks are to be seen everywhere now in the once man-owned precincts of the Temple and in the corridors and halls of the Law Courts," says *The Daily Express*, June 27. "Young girls can be seen each day issuing writs, filing affidavits, issuing subpoenas, and attending summonses. Yesterday in the Chancery Court an eminent barrister, whose clerk had been called up for service, was attended throughout the hearing of the case by the wife of that clerk, who has taken her husband's place."

#### Woman Clerk's Spirited Protest.

"A remarkable incident occurred in chambers recently," continues *The Express*. "The registrar was hearing pleadings in a divorce case, one side being represented by a male solicitor, and the other side by a woman solicitor's clerk. The solicitor explained to the registrar that the case was of a nature which made it unpleasant, if not impossible, to argue it in the presence of a woman. The solicitor's clerk protested. 'I look on myself as being as impersonal in this matter as a woman doctor,' she declared. 'I am simply here as a solicitor's clerk, and I am quite sexless so long as I am here.' The registrar, however, overruled her protest, and told her that she must send her principal to conduct the case, and adjourned the hearing until he could appear."

#### At Gas Works.

"In every department hitherto filled by men women are doing well," said the secretary of the South Metropolitan Gas Company to a representative of *The Daily Telegraph*. "They have shown that they have brains and know how to use them. The result is, a large number of women are employed in various directions. The woman lamplighter is one of the latest arrivals."

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

THEY SUPPORT US!

### A GENEROUS GIFT.

A lady who wishes to remain anonymous has sent to Mrs. Despard the generous gift of £50 for THE VOTE, in which she is much interested. The warmest thanks of the directors are given to her for her most welcome help, and they have much pleasure in counting it as the third donation of £50 towards nine required to enable them to claim the £50 promised some time ago on condition that nine similar amounts were received. Who will follow suit?

### Wanted, Cakes! Cakes!! Cakes!!!

Also sweets for the cake and candy stall at Mrs. Despard's Birthday Party, at the Caxton Hall, on July 6? I do not think it is too much to ask every member to bring one cake, if possible home-made, to swell the funds of our President's Birthday Gift. I shall be at the Hall to receive the cakes from 3.30 p.m.

ALIX M. CLARK.

### "Votes for Women" Cigarettes.

Readers will be interested in the excellent propaganda work which "Votes for Women" cigarettes are doing, as shown by the following quotations from letters I have received.

A sailor writes: "The 'Votes for Women' cigarettes are a great treat, the best we've ever smoked, and I and my chums would like to thank the Women's Freedom League for sending them." A soldier in France sends word that, "The parcel of 'cigs.' arrived safe and in good condition; they are far and away the best I have ever smoked. I can assure you I enjoy my smoke these days. One of my chums has had a few, and he likes them as much as I do." A pretty broad hint this! And a prisoner of war writes: "Thanks for the excellent smokes; motto and all are thoroughly appreciated. We prisoners send greetings to the suffragettes and thanks for their kind thought. Some of us wish we had helped them when they were in prison, but a good day is coming for them and us. We send our salutations to the Women's Freedom League. Long may it prosper!" I shall be very glad to hear from those who can help in carrying on this useful propaganda by means of "Votes for Women" cigarettes sent to our fighting men.

EUNICE G. MURRAY.

### Opening of the Minerva Café.

144, High Holborn.

Previous to the debate between Miss Normanton and Miss Hodge on June 23, Mrs. Despard formally opened the Minerva Café. She said she thought that those who were chiefly responsible for the management of the café, Mrs. Fisher and Miss White, were doing a splendid service to the League, and she could not sufficiently thank them for it; she wished them every success in their efforts and would do all in her power to aid them. Those London members who have not yet paid a visit to the Minerva Café are invited to do so as soon as possible. Dainty vegetarian lunches and afternoon teas at a very moderate price are served daily from 12 to 6 p.m., Saturdays 12 to 2 p.m.

### IN HYDE PARK.

Last Sunday in ideal weather a large crowd gathered in Hyde Park when, on the stroke of noon, the green, white and gold banner of the Women's Freedom League was unfurled near the Marble Arch. Attention and appreciation steadily grew during Mrs. Tanner's eloquent speech, and many Anzac soldiers came up to hear the praises of their own Antipodean homes when Miss Hodge spoke on the work of women in those lands where they were enfranchised. When the meeting was closed because of the lateness of the hour, the audience went away in what is, for the Cause, the most satisfactory of moods, for, like Oliver Twist, they were asking for more.

### BRANCH NOTES.

#### Anfield.

At our monthly meeting, which was held on June 16 and was fairly well attended, Miss Appleton opened a discussion on "How women can help our Empire." A good debate followed, in which many members joined. Mrs. Black presided.

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

Will members who have collecting cards for the 50,000 Shilling Fund please send to the treasurer, Miss Foster, or to the secretary, Mrs. Terry, their contributions on or before Tuesday, July 4, so that the second instalment from the branch may be sent in before the President's birthday party on July 6? On July 7 the next sewing meeting will be held at the office.

#### Reading.

Last week an interesting meeting was held, by kind invitation of Miss Olive Cobb, in the garden of Calthorpe, Redlands-road. In the absence, through illness, of Miss Anna Munro, the chair was admirably filled by Miss Eleanor Mardon. An address on "Industrial Compulsion for Women" was given by Miss Florence Underwood, followed by a general discussion, in which many members and friends joined. Miss Mardon cordially thanked Miss Underwood for her clear and lucid address. Mrs. Penrose expressed, on behalf of the branch, their appreciation of Miss Cobb's kindness. Thanks are due to the members who contributed cakes, flowers, eggs, and other articles to the stall, which was a great success; also to Miss K. Connolly for her delightful recitation. Two new members were made at this meeting.

#### Women's Freedom League Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

The following gifts are very gratefully acknowledged:—Mrs. Clark, buns and bread; Miss Riggall, 1s. and a jug; Miss Ibbotson and Miss M. Holmes, flowers; Mrs. Thomas, Devonshire cream; Mrs. A. Gascoigne and Mrs. Delbanco, clothing for jumble sale; Mrs. Pierotti, a splendid assortment of toys; Mrs. Harrison, boots and shoes; Letchworth Working Party, per Mrs. Harrison, clothing for Guest House; V. Mackenzie, Waltham Cross, rhubarb; Miss Sykes, buns; Mrs. Presbury, a cake; Mrs. Mapp, of Singleton, per Mrs. Giles, garden produce (with many thanks also to Mrs. Strange for paying carriage); some charming dolls and a fleecy dog from Dorothy Greaves, Gladys Greaves, and another little girl in the Transvaal (per Mrs. Usher); Mrs. Delbanco, a most decorative collecting-box, which ought to make our fortune at the At Home on Thursday, the 29th. We again thank Mr. Delbanco for his valuable help in turning rickety tables and stools into solid and useful restaurant furniture. We are now fully equipped in this way, and ready for a much larger number of guests; all that remains is to get the helpers to attend on them. One reader volunteered to give an hour weekly in response to our last appeal; could not half-a-dozen more fit in the dinner hour here from 12 to 1 one day a week? It goes quite smoothly with plenty of helpers, and is a lamentable scramble without.

### The Despard Arms.

123, Hampstead-road, N.W.

Our grateful thanks are given to Messrs. Mansell, Hunt, Catty and Co. for a bountiful supply of paper d'oyleys, tray and shelf papers, pie-dish collars, etc., etc., which will be most useful. Also to the Clapham Branch for £2 as a result of the Whist Drive. Will some kind friends each give us a ton of coal, or half a ton, so that we may stock our cellar for the winter? Come and join our Sports afternoon at 22, Harley-road, Hampstead (near Swiss Cottage), on Saturday, July 8, 4.7 p.m. Tickets, including tea, 1s. Delegates to the British Dominions Suffrage Union Conference will visit the Despard Arms on Tuesday, July 4, for tea.

We shall welcome all friends who can come to meet them.

WE HEAR WITH DEEP REGRET that Miss Alice Maclean, who was formerly a worker for the Women's Freedom League and latterly an organiser for the Workers' Union, was seriously injured in the recent fire at Lime-street Hotel, Liverpool, when some lives were lost. Miss Maclean will have the truest sympathy of her many friends and their sincere hopes for recovery. It is understood that she was sleeping in a room which could not be reached by the fire-escape. It will be within the memory of many that tragedies of lost lives have taken place through the same cause; it is imperative that the safety of men and women should no longer be endangered by such danger traps.

DR. J. FORT NEWTON, OF CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, U.S.A., to whose sermon "Jesus and Woman," we recently referred, begins next Sunday, July 2, a month's ministry at the City Temple. His visit is being looked forward to with hopeful expectation; suffragists will welcome the presence in London of so fearless a champion of the Cause.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1092.



FRIDAY,  
JUNE 30,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## The Service of "The Shield."

We called attention recently to the review form in which *The Shield* now appears (Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tothill-street, S.W. 6d. quarterly), edited by Dr. Helen Wilson and Miss Alison Neilans, and would point out that it is rendering valuable service in meeting the

demand for information on a great national danger, which has taken the place of the old fear of facts, since the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. In spite of the unanimity of the report against any form of regulation, the demand for it is perpetually being made by those who are ignorant of its failure in the past.

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## SALE AND EXCHANGE.

These advertisements are charged 1s. for each 24 words or less.

## FOR SALE.

**BARGAINS FOR BOY OF 14.**—Two pairs white Flannel Trousers, 5s. and 2s. 6d.; four white matt Tennis Shirts, 5s.; black cloth Jacket, 5s. Can be seen at Office.—Box 30, "THE VOTE" Office.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

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**THE HON. MRS. FORBES** wishes most highly to recommend MADAME LONSDALE, 14, Abingdon-road, High-street, Kensington, who sells very charming and inexpensive Blouses.

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