

# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Editor - - SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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## SELF DENIAL WEEK.

DEAR READERS,

From February 26th to March 5th, is Self Denial Week in the E.L.F.S. The Federation needs funds for every branch of its work. We have to press forward our claim for the vote and to carry on an active educational propaganda, increasing our membership and consolidating our forces. Tremendously important is the work of arousing women, everywhere to the need for putting an end to the grave social evils and injustices under which the peoples of the world are suffering to-day. No headway can be made without political and industrial power and organisation. No organisation can be built up without personal sacrifice and devotion to an ideal. The unorganised can always be safely set aside, their needs and rights are easily forgotten. As the War expenses increase, Government departments and Local Authorities grow harder and less human, and the woman who asks for a pension, allowance, or some other right, needs more and more an organisation of her own to help her and to fight for her. She, in her turn, must be ready to aid in building up the strength of the organisation for her own sake, and that of others. Therefore we members must all take our self-denial cards and do our best to collect funds for our Federation in Self-Denial Week.

From every part of the country working-class organisations write asking the E.L.F.S. to send speakers to their meetings. To answer this call, it is necessary that more of our women should fit themselves for the work and be enabled to do it.

The circulation of THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT is extending greatly, not merely in East London, but in the provinces also, indeed one of the great distributing agents is selling six times as many papers as he was a few months ago. THE DREADNOUGHT brings us in touch with a host of friends who write us most kindly letters, but the price of the paper on which our DREADNOUGHT is printed is constantly rising. We therefore appeal to our many friends to help us to bear the heavy financial burden.

Our clinics, cost-price restaurants, co-operative factory, and so on, all add to the Federation's financial anxieties and load of work, and though the members of the staff, both paid and unpaid, are too zealous to think of themselves, they are chronically overworked, and to lighten their labours we need both money and personal service. Hardly anyone is too busy to spare some time for helping, hardly anyone is too poor to give something, and we ask of all as much as they can afford.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

## TRIBUNALS and the CONSCRIPTS.

The merciless power of Conscription is now in force.

The War Office notices which are sent out ordering single men to present themselves for military service, announce that those who do not comply will be arrested as deserters, but make no allusion to certificates of exemption, and to the Tribunals before which men may plead their case.

Men who have been refused as medically unfit are receiving the Conscription notice notwithstanding. The *Times* states that the certificates are "actually being taken away from them and destroyed."

As the authorities do nothing to help and inform the conscientious objector, it is the more necessary that others should do so. But in the House of Commons on February 21st Major Newman complained of a post-card issued by the Fellowship of Reconciliation asking sympathisers to help conscientious objectors by being present at the sitting of the Local Tribunals.

Mr. Long replied that this had not come to his notice, but that "each case will have to be considered on its merits."

Such replies coming from Ministers generally portend the breaking of pledges. It had been promised that the Tribunals should be public.

Mr. Asquith on the second reading of the Military Service Bill, quoted the message Henry V. gave to his Lord Derby, "the most glorious of all British annals," it ran:—

"Go 'eruit me Cheshire and Lancashire And Derby hills that are so free; No married man or widow's son, No widow's curse shall go with me."

Among the pleas for exemption before the Military Service Tribunals were:—A clerk, the only son of a mother in ill-health—exemption refused. Clerk said it would kill his mother. Chairman remarked, "We are at War, and cannot take such cases into consideration."

A compositor, the sole support of his mother, applied for exemption at Twickenham. Application was refused.

A hay-trusser, who paid his mother 12s. a week, was told that she would be equally well off with her separation allowance.

We can tell another tale—the maximum of 12s. 6d. is rarely granted.

A young man who helped to support his orphan sweetheart:—"She threatens suicide" if he enlists. No exemption granted. Why cannot allowances equal to those paid to wives, be granted in such cases?

A temporary Post Office sorter, blind in one eye and partially so in the other, applied for exemption, as he was supporting his mother and three children. He was granted two month's extension, but not exempted.

A conscientious objector who appealed was told that as he had attested no exemption could be granted.

### IMPORTANT!

No man who offered for enlistment and was rejected after August 14th, 1915 can be compelled to serve. No further medical examination is necessary to avoid compulsion. If he has been so rejected he is outside the Act.

The Military authorities claim to refuse armlets to rejected men unless they hold Certificates of Rejection B 2505A, or B 2512A. Should such a man submit to further medical examination he will be treated as volunteering afresh, and if still unfit may be scheduled amongst those for clerical or other sedentary work.

If a man is outside the Military Service Act, but receives the yellow form W 3235, he should tell the recruiting officer that a mistake has been made.

The Rt. Hon. H. J. Tennant, Under Secretary of State for War, War Office, S.W., should be informed that these forms have been received, as he has promised to remedy such cases as far as possible.—Extract from Sir John Simon's letter to the *Daily Chronicle*.

### "HARBOURING" HER SON!

At Lancaster, on February 22nd, a poor mother was sentenced to a month's hard labour for "harbouring" her son who had deserted from the Army. The woman's home was raided and her son was found crouching between the rafters and the ceiling. There will be more cases like this now that Conscription has come.

Alfred Kitson of Hull, was on Feb. 22nd, sentenced to pay two guineas or undergo 29 days imprisonment for refusing to fill up a National Register Form.

### RENT ACT DEFIED!

Law Breaking by Barking and East Ham Landlords.

A number of Barking and East Ham landlords have raised their rents in defiance of the Rent Act, and a number of public-spirited Barking women, who are members of the Women's Labour League, have made it their business to explain the Rent Act to the tenants, and to advise them not to pay the increases which are being illegally demanded. The women have waited for the rent collectors and accompanied them on their rounds. The collectors have threatened the women with assault, and have told the tenants that the Act does not apply to the houses in which they are living, and that they will only get themselves into trouble by refusing to pay.

The illegal action of the landlords has been raised on the Town Council by some of the labour members, but the Council has decided that the matter only concerns the tenants, and that they must deal with it as best they can.

Arthur Blake.

Arthur Blake, of Blake's Clockhouse, East Street, Barking, and Faircroft Lodge, Longbridge Road, Barking, is one of the offending landlords. He is an ex-chairman of Barking Borough Council, and has been a bankrupt.

He owns Nos. 1 to 87, Kennedy Road, Barking, formerly rented at 8s., and has raised the rents to 8s. 6d. and 9s.; Blake also owns Nos. 1 to 87 in St. John's Road, Barking, where he has raised the rents. The rent of one of these houses which was 8s. 6d., was raised to 10s., when the tenancy was changed, but the tenant now refuses to pay the increase. The increases began in most of the houses twelve weeks ago, and all the tenants in Kennedy Road and St. John's Road have paid some weeks increase, but some now refuse. Blake has threatened that if the tenants do not pay the increased rent, he will force them to pay the rates, which have hitherto been paid by the landlord. This is illegal. The Rent Act expressly provides that if the landlord has hitherto paid the rates he must continue to do so.

### Eviction Threatened.

The rent of No. 36 St. John's Road, was 8s. 6d. a week. The present tenant was the lodger of the previous tenant's lodger until five weeks ago, when she took over the tenancy with Blake's consent. Blake has raised the rent of this house to 10s., though he has made no alterations or improvements. The new tenant continued tendering 8s. 6d. This was accepted, and a receipt was given, but not a rent book. The tenant has paid her rent regularly, but nevertheless Blake has illegally caused a notice to quit to be served upon her by Reid Taylor & Co., a firm of rent collectors and bailiffs of 47 High Street, Barking. The notice is dated February 21st, and orders the tenant to quit on February 28th. The tenant intends to take the case to Court and no doubt the women of the neighbourhood will be as ready to defend her as were the women of Govan and Partick when the Scotch landlords threatened to take similar action.

Thomas Young.

Another law-breaking landlord is Thomas Young, Cranbourn Road, Ilford. He owns twelve houses in St. Audrey's Road, Barking, the rents of which he has raised by 1s. a week. He also owns houses in Devon's

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Donations to be sent to Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Sec., Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

### E.L.F.S. FIXTURES.

Friday, Feb. 25th.  
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.

Kensington Town Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting.

Saturday, Feb. 26th.  
Grundy St., 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.  
BOW BATHS, 4 to 7 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Sunday, Feb. 27th.  
Special Self-Denial Meetings, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Grove, Stratford, 12 noon, Miss Somers, Mr. Brasher.

Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, Mrs. Bouvier.

Special Self-Denial Meeting, 3 p.m., Victoria Park, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and others.

Monday, Feb. 28th.  
Custom House, 5 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.

Tuesday, Feb. 29th.  
Grundy St., 11 a.m., Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.

Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Miss Lynch.

Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Drake.

Wednesday, March 1st.  
Copenhagen Place, 12.30 p.m., Miss M. Price.

The Dorset, Stratford, 1.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

73 Calderon Road, Leyton, Mrs. Bouvier.

53 St. Leonard St., 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker.

Chrisp St., 6.30 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Mrs. Drake.

Thursday, March 2nd.  
55 Fife Rd., 3.30 p.m., Tea Party.

Friday, March 3rd.  
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss M. Price, Mrs. Drake.

Beckton Rd., 6.30 p.m., Mr. Dunstan.

Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

Saturday, March 4th.  
Well St. & Morning Lane, 11 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.

Sunday, March 5th.  
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Drake.

Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Miss Vengerova on "The Russian Woman." Chair: Miss S. Pankhurst.

E.L.F.S. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH, BOW BATHS HALL, Roman Rd., 4 TO 7 P.M., 8 TO 10 P.M.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS—400 Old Ford Road, Bow and 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Dinners from 12 to 2 p.m.

### MOTHERS AND BABIES.

The calls on our four mother and baby centres, for milk, eggs, medicines, and doctoring and nursing care, are still very urgent. Will you help by sending us some money for this work?

Will you send us new laid eggs, arrowroot, barley, glaxo or virol? We want:—For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Mothers and Children should make a point of attending the weekly consultations with nurse and doctor at:—400 Old Ford Rd., Bow, Mondays 2.30 p.m.; 20 Railway St., Poplar, Tuesdays 3 p.m.; 53 St. Leonard's St., Tuesdays 2 p.m.; 55 Fife Rd., Canning Town, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.

Garmets for our Clothing Stalls are much needed, and should be sent to the "Mother's Arms," 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.





