

THE VOTE
Feb. 5, 1915.
ONE PENNY

PATRIOTISM AND PRICES. C. S. BREMNER.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 1915.

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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THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE.

We are all proud of our Army in these days of its searching trial. Those who held it incapable of sustained effort, deficient in organisation, useless for purposes of invasion, and lacking in training and initiative, are glad to-day to own themselves wrong. Even those who most abhor war, and most earnestly deprecate such a form of arbitrament among nations, give the same ungrudging meed of praise and admiration for all that is being displayed of heroic endurance and self-abnegation on the stricken field, in the ghastly dug-out, on the dusty veld, in sweltering heat and deadly cold, wherever our trenches run and our far-flung battle lines extend. The Army is, in short, "our men." Each one of them is a familiar personality to some woman. Their achievements are a personal possession to us; their sufferings our grief, their ultimate triumph our only hope of comfort. It is when we come to those State embodiments of the Army, the War Office and its other self the Army Council—composed, beyond doubt, of good worthy souls like anyone else, some with ability and some without, but conglomerately unimaginative and un-understanding beyond the power of words to tell—that our quarrel begins.

The Army Council is a democratic ideal instituted to supersede that autocratic figure-head known in days gone by as the Commander-in-Chief. It was evolved out of the rather sordid squabbles that shrouded the close of the South African war, and was a sort of concession to those who demanded somebody's head. The Army Council, collectively, is the War Office; the War Office, resolved into its elements, becomes the Army Council. Two of the Council (which otherwise is composed of the heads of the Army administrative departments) are

civilians and take their respective places as Secretary and Under-Secretary of State for War in the House of Lords and the House of Commons. These two, and the great staff of "permanent officials," who have a vast accumulation of official information and crusted prejudice, are the people who really count. It is possible, however, that when these two civilian secretaries, who loom so large in the public eye, devolve into part of the Army Council instead of the Army's representatives in the Cabinet, they become of less importance; for, no matter how democratic or advanced or progressive or popular the Party and the Government they belong to may be, they have never succeeded in introducing a really popular or up-to-date system of management into the Army. They may clamour for estimates in the House of Commons, or solemnly foreshadow reforms with rolling phrase and stately significance "in another place"; but the Army administration remains what it has been within memory of living men, an archaic and impossible thing, unsuited to any but the worst of the Middle Ages and a danger to the life of the whole community.

It may be asked, what in the world has Army administration to do with women in general, and with Suffragists in particular? The answer is, that soldiers are a portion of the community, with wives and families, and relations of all sorts among the people. They are potential husbands and fathers if unmarried; they are consumers, clients, parents, criminals, complainants, debtors, creditors or what-not, according to their needs and actions, the same as the rest of us; but this is what no War Office administration, no Secretaries of State for War, no Commander-in-Chief or Adjutant-General has even

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been willing to recognise or provide for. And the failure or the refusal to do so has involved the community in such grievous ills as baffle the ability of those who contend with them and make any effort to remove them futile so long as the mediæval conditions under which soldiers are enrolled continue.

The soldier is, essentially, a young man. He has the usual instincts of young men; and if not in the Army, would do as most young men of the working and middle classes do, and take unto himself a wife so soon as his wages enabled him to support one. As a soldier, he may not marry unless he is one of the fortunate 5 per cent. who get permission to marry "on the strength." The other 95 per cent. either marry some poor soul for whom they cannot make any adequate provision, and whom they must sooner or later abandon as the regiment moves; or have their natural instincts perverted into the filthiest channels. Our garrison towns and training centres are a byword for immorality and for the class of women which congregates in them and makes a living from the soldiers; and in India the cantonment regulations for a supply of immoral women for the use of the troops are an ever-living reproach to the men who have administered our rule there and to the Flag they serve.

Some of the arrangements made during the present war appear so flagrantly foolish that it is difficult to think of them with patience. Men who had homes where they could live decently were bucketted away to distant parts of the country, where camps, knee-deep in mud and without the most elementary decencies of life, were the only accommodation provided; and while the War Office grappled with these difficulties women waited hopeless and starving for weeks for their allowances. Men who were billeted in quarters are being paid for at extravagant and senseless rates, which other women profit by, while their own wives and mothers are cut down to the barest need. Hospitals are filled up with cases of measles, pneumonia, influenza and other ailments, which would never have been contracted but for the silly camp system. And Army contractors have made unholy profits and robbed the nation wholesale, the taxes paid by women being part of the money involved in all this waste. Truly a sharp lesson as to man's inability to manage alone when his affairs or his work impinge, as they always must do, on those of the rest of the community.

When Mr. Gladstone substituted the territorial recruiting and designation system for the old regimental style it was practically an admission that the soldier was a member of the community and not a sort of State possession without other human interests. When Lord Haldane instituted the Territorial reserves he carried the idea one step further. The man belongs to his county and district, his home and his people; and local public opinion is a stronger factor than State suggestion. When, however, the Territorial forces were called out for active service, the first thing the Government did was to dislocate roughly the principle on which Territorial service was based. For their training, Territorials from the west were sent east, Territorials from the north sent south, and *vice versa*. The men, removed from the public opinion that would have kept them from various forms of ill-conduct, have made some of the training towns into plague-spots. Disease is spreading, immorality rife, drunkenness incessant. Removed from the neighbourhood of their own womenfolk, and sent to places whence the men belonging had been removed, every sort of confusion was carefully prepared and encouraged; and the consequences are a social problem, and social disasters of such magnitude that they will be felt and feared for years after the war.

It seems difficult to understand why, when thousands upon thousands of skilled labourers, unskilled labourers, factory girls, and school children attend at their place of business with the utmost regularity day after day and year after year without other compulsion than the need to earn their living, the soldier cannot be trusted to do the same and to live the ordinary life of the community without being treated as a mixture of wild beast and truant boy. We would like to see soldiers going to and from their duty like other men, their wives catering for them instead of contractors, and wages being paid to them on a scale rising from unskilled to skilled as they become useful and competent. Round the great garrison centres and training grounds clusters of dwellings could go up as when industrial activity attracts population; and in such a situation as the present the London recruit could be trained in and around London, and other recruits according to their districts; Territorials as much as possible detailed for service where their territory lies; camps used as little as possible for residence, and as many homes kept going under normal conditions as possible. Billetting (done with some attention to economic principles) is preferable to camp life; but the way in which the home has been neglected as the proper "base" for the soldier in training is an oversight which has had the most far-reaching and disastrous results. The waste of food through the "ration" system—which is only suited to active service—has been deplorable; and were we in real straits for the necessities of life, would have been one of the factors in bringing about such a state of things.

The ridiculous assumption that a soldier must live under Government control as a thing apart from the community is responsible for more vice, suffering and disease than any other single factor, always excepting the subjection of women. The present system must go, with its accompanying evils; and a citizen army, living in decent homes and drawing decent wages, must take its place—so long as civilisation remains so incomplete as to require armies at all! Only in this way shall we get at the root of the evils with which commanding officers, in various stages of fright and dismay, are now helplessly grappling. It is one thing more for women to fight for, so that with their votes they may have power to bring the cleansing stream of common-sense to bear on all these matters that are "no concern of women," but which mean, nevertheless, so much avoidable suffering and degradation within the community.

C. NINA BOYLE.

Mrs. DESPARD IN FRANCE.

Our President is now in France and is taking a message of sympathy, hope and good will from British women to the women of France. She has gone under the auspices of the International Brotherhood Council to cement the Entente Cordial between the women—especially the workers—of both nations. She will meet Woman Suffragists and speak on the imperative need, emphasised by war conditions, for the enfranchisement of women. Many meetings have been arranged for her in Paris; she will also speak at Boulogne and Rouen. We shall look forward with pleasure to welcoming Mrs. Despard on her return, and to hearing from her an account of her experiences. Meanwhile we heartily support her message of goodwill, and recognise the devotion of our French sisters in organising meetings in the face of great difficulties. Paris is still regarded administratively as in a state of siege, and therefore under military law.

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—6146 CITY.
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Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

HEADQUARTER NOTES.

Wednesday Afternoons at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly.

We have specially interesting speakers this month at our afternoon meetings. Next Wednesday they will be Mr. John Scurr and Miss Nina Boyle. On Feb. 17 the speaker will be Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., who has chosen as her subject "New Values"; and Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 24, Mr. Laurence Housmann has promised to give an address on "Home Truths in War Time." The chair on each occasion will be taken at 2.30.

Discussion Meeting.

As previously announced, Mr. W. L. George will open a discussion on "The Break-up of the Home" at the Suffrage Club, Friday evening, Feb. 19. The chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith at 8 p.m. Admission will be by ticket only, and as these are already selling rapidly readers who wish to be present and take part in the discussion are advised to get their tickets without delay from the W.F.L. office, 1, Robert-st., W.C., the prices being 1/- reserved and 6d. unreserved.

CAFÉ CHANTANT.

Will members and friends make special note of the place and date of our Café Chantant:—

CAXTON HALL,

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, and FRIDAY, MARCH 12.

Mrs. Fisher urgently appeals to every member to help her with the refreshments by sending either a contribution of money or cakes or anything suitable for tea and supper, so that no expense may be incurred for the refreshments. She also specially asks for a postcard giving particulars of what is promised.

All our members and Branches are also asked to furnish the stalls. There will be stalls for under-clothing, house and table linen, cushions, blouses, etc.; also for flowers, plants and vegetables—for which we particularly appeal to our country members—and a white elephant stall, etc. Further particulars next week.

For the necessary expenses of the gathering, the hon. treas. asks for special donations so that all the takings may be added to the funds of the League.

IN MEMORIAM.

Members will hear with sorrow of the death of Miss Jenkins, who had been actively associated with the Women's Freedom League for some years. For a time she organised the street sales of THE VOTE, and later on did good service in the Merchandise Department. She had been seriously ill for twelve months, and passed away last week. As a token of their sympathy, the League and the Minerva Publishing Company each sent a wreath for the funeral at Swansea on Jan. 30.

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WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

More Clothes from the Dominions Overseas.

We tender our grateful thanks to Mrs. Collins, of Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada, who has sent us a large bale of baby-clothes—nearly all perfectly new, worm and very pretty; also to Mrs. Ashburnham, of Bloemfontein, South Africa, through whom we have received another large case of mixed clothing—this is Mrs. Ashburnham's third gift.

Mrs. Jeanne Young's consignment of eleven packing cases and bales of clothing arrived on Monday from South Australia. Two cases had to be unpacked in the road, as they were too large to be carried upstairs. The garments are for men, women and children, and are in a great variety of sizes.

Sacks or Sacking Wanted!

It would be a great boon if we could get more sacks and sacking in which to send the clothes away. If anyone has sacks to spare we should be very glad if they could be sent to this office. Serious inconvenience has been caused through people not returning the sacks, as always requested, after receiving the clothes. Many reminders have had to be written this week asking for their return, and in some cases the clothes have not been acknowledged until an inquiry postcard has been sent. Apart from the want of thought, the result of such behaviour is a loss of time and delay in sending clothes to the different centres.

Jumble Sale.

The Hon. Mrs. Forbes is very kindly undertaking the entire organisation and management of a Jumble Sale on Saturday, Feb. 20, from 2.4 p.m., at the Baptist Church, Cornwall-rd. (out of Ladbroke-grove), N. Kensington. A special appeal is made for goods for the sale, which may be addressed to the Hon. Mrs. Forbes, c/o Mr. George Carter, 8, Chapel-rd., N. Kensington. Volunteers are urgently needed at the Baptist Church from 12 o'clock on Feb. 20. The proceeds will be given to the general funds of the Corps. Members and friends will welcome this opportunity of helping our work.

Nine Elms Vegetarian Restaurant.

Mrs. Tippet gratefully acknowledges:—Subscription 5/- and a supply of spices and arrowroot from Mrs. Delbanco; subscription 1/- and a flour bin from Mrs. Presbury. She will be very glad if any members or friends will send her (1, Everett-st., Nine Elms, London, S.W.) oven-cloths and dusters; a further supply of apples and vegetables would also be most acceptable.

A SUGGESTION.—Miss Winifred St. Clair, 16, Ryde Vale-rd., S.W., hon. treas. of the Clapham Branch, writes:—"The Branch was amused, interested, and not a little stirred by Mrs. Tippet's account of the work of the Restaurant, and felt the impulse to go and help at once. To some of us, this is a regretful impossibility. We have a member, however, for whom these hard times are extra hard; she has no work, and rent is owing. Could not some of us give what it would cost to tram fares to go to Nine Elms once or twice weekly and pay this brave little woman to work at the Restaurant? Mrs. Tippet wants help; our member wants work. Who will write to me?"

For the Brackenhill Hospital.

We acknowledge with sincere thanks £2 5s. collected by Miss Petty, to whom Mrs. Harvey wrote: "If you could only see and hear what the patients say, it would thank you more than any words of mine. We have to refuse so many; it is heartrending. We could fill a second house."

WHIST DRIVE.—Owing to the regretted illness of Mrs. Cunningham, the whist drive at her house at Golder's Green, arranged for Feb. 6, is cancelled. Mrs. Cunningham has our sympathy and best wishes for her speedy recovery.

Brighton and Hove.

I am glad to be able to report that our scheme of training women as nurse attendants has proved most successful; three of the women having been fortunate enough to get permanent work.

We have now two workrooms, one with eleven women, which is now full, and another to take eight, but where unfortunately we are only able to have three, owing to lack of funds, though there is a long waiting list of women and girls badly needing work.

We have now started a Purchasing Club, members paying in anything from 1d. to 1/- a week.

A most successful whist drive was held at the offices, 8, North-st., Quadrant, on Jan. 28. D. U. VINCENT, Sec.
(Continued on page 489.)

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO SUFFRAGISTS.
"ENGLISH MEDICAL WOMEN,"
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FRIDAY, February 5th, 1915.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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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PATRIOTISM AND PRICES.

Demand for Government Action.

In time of peace, patriotism can hardly be considered one of the prime virtues. In time of war, it immediately takes a high place, and rightly so. The civilisation under which we and our fathers have lived, developed and to a very various extent moulded, is next in importance to the family; some—General Bernhardt, for instance—consider it should take first place. Our country is placarded with urgent appeals to men between the ages of 19 and 38 to take their place in the fighting line. Young married men are stated to form a higher percentage in the great new levies than bachelors. Australians, Canadians, New Zealanders, can be seen passing through London by the thousand; of her own free will, Canada may vote twenty millions of money as a contribution to the war chest. If the suggestion bear fruit, she will offer as a free gift taxes which, more than a century ago, were the cause of war between Britain, which demanded them, and her young Colonists, who refused to pay them; they fought and won. Thoughtful men and women who hate war, who consider that the nations ought by now to have found some other means of settling their differences, are profoundly touched by the devotion of the British people to an ideal, by the faithfulness, sympathy, the filial piety of these strong young Colonies. It is a picture that goes far to mitigate the horror, the waste, the savagery of war.

The fresh links that are now forged, the old ones that are strengthened, convince us of the wisdom of the policy of giving freedom to our Colonies as their birthright that they may work out their salvation (the Latin word for health) in their own way. Women are glad to remember that social health in these new countries rests upon a better position for woman, in the home and out of it, in law and in social custom, than she enjoys in the motherland. We believe that the higher position of women in the Colonies is not unconnected with quick comprehension of the great issues at stake, with the ready determination of these young nations to play a part in the tremendous conflict now occupying the whole world as its stage. We rejoice to remember that in two of these countries men have acknowledged the citizenship of women, their right to make the best possible use of their lives. If Canada has not yet fallen into the line of enfranchisement, at least we may remember that when the Colonial Office urged her to accept the English Matrimonial Causes Act of 1858, her leading statesman, Sir John Macdonald, refused, and in point of fact rebuked the Mother Country for passing an Act so unjust and immoral. Nor must it be forgotten that woman

is the race. It may yet be found that these death-pangs, too horrible to permit the mind to linger on, are the birth throes of a great new era, one in which peace, justice, wisdom, shall have higher values than has yet been the case in any great civilisation. Long ago Count Oxenstiern observed: "Thou seest, my son, with how little wisdom the affairs of men are governed." Even unwise, folly, has its place in every community. Ever since the Great Industry possessed England, roughly speaking for 150 years, capital has been master, the worker has been servant, sometimes serf. Many years ago Mr. G. J. Holyoake, the great co-operator, pointed out that the true position is for the worker to hire capital, not for capital to hire him; nearly all our woes spring from a reversal of this principle, including the depressed position of woman and child labour.

It is a singular commentary on patriotism to observe the behaviour of certain great capitalised industries at the moment. All those who have read Mr. Norman Angell's able book "The Great Illusion" realise how intricate, delicate and widespread are the operations of capital, how minute its ramifications, how difficult, far-reaching, and at times incomprehensible to the lay mind, are its operations. We now know that all the financial, the capitalistic world was seriously shaken by tremors in mid-July before the declaration of war. What part should an immense industry, of infinite importance to Britain's welfare at all times, the shipping industry, play when nearly all Britain's energies are devoted to the great conflict of all times? The shareholders and directors of the great companies will not hesitate to call upon every man to fall in, to take his place in the fighting-line for the defence of home and country. It is perfectly easy to see that the Shipping Federation has also a great duty to the country, to limit freights and bring wheat and other commodities at the rate they obtained on the outbreak of war, or at some reasonable figure. Instead of that, freights have sprung up to five, six or more times what they were in July, and shipowners are making fortunes at the expense of consumers, more especially of the poorer part of the community. It is an aggravation of England's social sore, the unequal distribution of wealth. It makes the rich richer, the poor poorer. The quartern loaf has risen to 7½d., and in some parts to 8d. this week. Many poor homes have made tremendous sacrifices, the husband, father, son, brother, throwing up a job and going to the front. The family budget is often gravely reduced. High prices of the necessities of life are equivalent to a reduction of wages. At enormous cost in life and money, the British Navy is keeping the ocean ways open for commerce and the confiscation of contraband, and to what end? That shipowners and merchants may increase their gains at the expense of the people, more particularly of the poor. It is necessities, not luxuries, that have risen enormously in price. Scandinavian shipowners are conferring on the possibility of fixing maximum and minimum freight rates. It is not unlikely that if the conference fail, the Danish Government may alone take action.

Women are the chief retail buyers of the community and must narrowly watch the procedure of the British Government with regard to prices, what efforts it makes to secure the well-being of the workers, to protect them from the foxes and vultures who seek to prey on the nation in time of distress. Men are called on to lay down their lives for their country, and others who see their own advantage in high profits will not even sacrifice these during the war. It is practically certain that some of our own traders and manufacturers

find means of exporting wares to the enemy, and thus helping him to hold out, encouraging him to make Zeppelin and other murderous raids. How can such men, and the shareholders of concerns that rush up their profits in this flagrantly immoral fashion, face their fellows, still less urge other men to undergo the horrors of the trenches? The *Daily Chronicle* has well pointed out that if the Government levied a 50s. freight ton tax on wheat it would at least go into the Imperial Exchequer, and help to pay for the war. As it is, it goes into private individuals' pockets; it makes them wealthy without raising a finger; it increases the hardships and difficulties of the workers. The same with coal, which has sprung up to 32s. a ton, and may rise to 40s., so that poor homes are largely fireless, and some London schools are running with one daily attendance instead of two.

Parliament has not been sitting since the end of November, except that the House of Lords met a few times in January. It has thus practically abdicated its authority, and left the poor, and him, and her, that hath no helper, at the mercy of the shipowners, traders, manufacturers, some of whom sit in Parliament for the avowed and very evident purpose of protecting their own interests. More and more women must note that there are times in history when high prices are unmoral, immoral.

Government means organisation, control; if it abdicates its functions in difficult straits, it resembles a captain who retires to his berth when he ought to be on the bridge scanning the horizon, consulting his sextant, compass and chronometer. We ought not to have to tell Parliament how to do its duty; it should tell us how best to do ours, and many of the great corporations and industries that seem to be controlling it, how to do theirs. Parliament has lost in prestige during the last few years; every day that it has neglected its duty, it has lost more heavily.

Let every woman clearly understand the situation as stated by authorities on the subject. There is no sufficient justification for a rise in the price of the quartern loaf, because there is no real shortage in wheat. The British Navy has cleared the seas, kept open the trade routes at enormous cost in blood and treasure, a cost borne by the whole nation. The situation is used for the aggrandizement and enrichment of the shipowners. All sow, but it is they who reap pecuniary advantage, and that in the moment of their country's grave peril.

Parliament has met again this week. Women have questions to ask, but in their disfranchised condition they must trust to the chance of some disinterested member and supporter of the Woman Movement extracting what they wish to know. They are not worthy to pull the tail of the Parliamentary dog, only to pay it. We know the fate of the thousands of petitions women have presented is the waste paper basket, and unread. Petitions by the unrepresented on the subject of high prices will share that fate. It is worth noting that the Italian Government has this week taken measures to secure cheap bread. It has declared for free trade in wheat till the end of June, and a Royal Decree has reduced freights on the railways and in subsidised steamers. The British Parliament has taken much thought for the rich. Our demand is that it now think and act for the poor. C. S. BREMNER.

OUR "WEDNESDAYS" AT THE SUFFRAGE CLUB

To the regret of the audience, the Rev. C. Baumgarten was unable, owing to an attack of influenza, to fulfil his promise to speak on Jan. 27; a message of sympathy and good wishes for speedy recovery was sent to him with the hope that the "Wednesday" audience would not have to wait long before it could welcome him. Mrs. Tanner, at very short notice, most kindly promised to speak in Mr. Baumgarten's place. She gave a racy comment on the present situation, and showed how women are adversely affected by the rules and regulations of war conditions. She laid stress on the need for watchfulness, and for bringing the facts before Parliament. She commented

with humour and force upon Mrs. Humphrey Ward's latest book, which is concerned with the question of Woman Suffrage of which a reviewer in a leading daily wrote: "What a pity that one whose work has been so worthy, should have lapsed to this—this pitiful effort... another nail in the coffin of the 'Antis.'" Mrs. Tanner referred to the fact that Mrs. Ward published a pamphlet giving nine reasons why votes should be given to her son as candidate for Parliament, yet she denies to other women the necessary capacity to choose their representatives. Mrs. Tanner contended that if women were enfranchised there would not have been the confusion and scandals with regard to contracts and supplies which have now to be faced.

Miss Goddard won the interest and support of the audience by her simple and moving story of experiences with the caravan; her untiring zeal and unshaken courage in the face of difficulties, her sense of humour and persuasive reasoning not only brought success to the caravan tour along the Great North Road, but gained many friends for the next effort to be made, and good wishes for Miss Goddard in her work for the Woman's Cause.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE NATIONAL AID CORPS.

(Continued from page 487.)

Glasgow.

On Jan. 30 we held a social meeting for members and friends at 70, St. George's-rd. Miss Nina Boyle gave a short address, describing the activities of the Corps in England, and the work of the Women Volunteer Police, in which we were all deeply interested. A collection of £1 12s. was taken for Mrs. Harvey's hospital. The Glasgow workrooms acknowledge with thanks Mr. Temple's gift of felt, which is being made into slippers for the Red Cross nurses and patients.

Ipswich. Suffrage Shop.—22, Queen Street

Suffragists to the rescue again! When our Branch met on Jan. 23 for hospital work it was found that the depot which supplies hospital necessaries for use at home and abroad was very short of tow for splint padding. As the Ipswich Branch of the Woman Suffrage National Aid Corps, we undertook to "tease tow" for some weeks to supply the want. The tow has to be thoroughly cleaned and pulled; as it is monotonous work it is difficult to get it done properly. We worked hard, and when we returned the tow to the depot we were highly complimented on the way we had done the work. We shall be very glad of additional helpers, members or non-members.

WANTED: £500 FOR THE VOTE.

Our Thanks and "We Want More!"

MOOR PARK, CARDROSS.
Dear Fellow Members.—I should like, through the columns of THE VOTE, to thank the many kind friends who have responded so generously to the appeal I sent out asking for help towards the upkeep of our paper. From many I have received the most cordial letters, expressing sympathy with our effort, and saying how much they personally appreciate the good work done by THE VOTE. I have received 5/- from two soldiers from Bedford, saying "We have read THE VOTE with deep interest, and should like this small like this small contribution to be spent in sending your paper to other camps." From a reader in the Highlands I have received 7/-, and this she says "I am sending it all that I have been able to collect, as about here we are all poor, and since the war broke out money has been very scarce, but I had a meeting in my cottage, and we collected 7/- to help THE VOTE, as I know every little helps." Again thanking all who have already contributed, and assuring all who have not that we shall still be delighted to receive their contributions, I am, yours sincerely,
EUNICE G. MURRAY.

"TO HELP THE VOTE."

	January 30.	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	...	135	3	0
Mrs. Harrison	...	1	0	0
Miss Bright	...	10	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Forbes	...	1	4	0
Miss B. Kent (monthly)	...	2	6	0
Miss Steven (monthly)	...	4	0	0
Miss Dickie (monthly)	...	2	0	0
Miss L. Stewart (monthly)	...	1	0	0
Miss Barbour (monthly)	...	1	0	0
Miss Stevenson	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Sinclair (monthly)	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Comage	...	2	6	0
Mrs. Mackenzie	...	2	6	0
Miss McLelland	...	5	0	0
Mrs. McIntyre	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Turner	...	1	0	0
Two soldiers (Bedford)	...	5	0	0
Per Mrs. McLmes	...	7	0	0
Dr. Aimée Gibbs	...	10	6	0
An Edinburgh Member	...	10	6	0
Miss Bertram	...	1	0	0
Miss Lance	...	7	0	0
Mrs. Bryant	...	7	6	0
Total	...	£141	10	0

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	19	320	5	3301	9	3
<i>Branch Funds.</i>						
Bowes Park (Nov. and Dec.)	1	0	0			
Croydon (July-Dec.)	17	4	3			
Hackney (Oct.-Dec.)	13	14	1			
Herne Hill (Jan.-Dec.)	2	18	8			
Hornsey (July-Dec.)	1	1	0			
Mid-London (March-Dec.)	2	13	6			
Stamford Hill and Tottenham (Jan.-Dec.)	3	15	9			
Manchester District Council (July-Dec.)	18	2	7			
Anfield (May-Dec.)	2	13	1			
Bournemouth (July-Dec.)	12	7				
Chester (July-Dec.)	34	9	5			
Shop	28	6	1			
Work Exchange	7	10	0			
Grantham (Aug.-Dec.)	12	2				
West Hartlepool (Jan.-Dec.)	2	7	4			
Portsmouth and Gosport (July-Dec.)	8	18	4			
Reading (July-Dec.)	16	0				
Sheffield (Dec.)	2	2	4			
Southampton (July-Dec.)	1	19	11			
Waterloo (Jan.-Dec.)	14	2	7			
Scottish Council (July-Dec.)	82	2	11			
Cowdenbeath (Jan.-Dec.)	2	18	0			
Dundee (Jan.-Dec.)	22	9	3			
Dunfermline (July-Dec.)	11	8	0			
Edinburgh (Nov. and Dec.)	79	19	6			
Glasgow (July-Dec.)	140	9	8			
Brynmaur (July-Dec.)	7	8				
Swansea (July-Dec.)	9	14	0			
	£3814	19	2			

NORTH EASTERN CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser, Miss Alix M. Clark. Speaker, Miss Anna Munro.

On Jan. 28 Miss Anna Munro spoke on "Peace and War" at Miss Tuke's Woman's Club at Gateshead; Miss Tuke presided and about 80 women were present. As many of them have husbands or sons in the ranks, they evinced a very keen interest in the address. The meeting was a great success, and new members were enrolled.

Sunderland and South Shields were visited, and a meeting arranged for Feb. 2 at Mrs. Revel's house. At Jarrow on Jan. 30 Miss Munro and Miss Clark undertook a VOTE selling campaign, and in a short time disposed of more than 200.

The campaign throughout has been most successful, and it is encouraging to find that in the North-Eastern district, where the horrors of war have been felt, the Suffrage flag is kept flying and our flagstaff THE VOTE is eagerly bought and read. More than 1,000 have been sold during the last three weeks, Merchandise orders given, and promises made for the Café Chantant.

BRANCH NOTES.

Croydon—Offices 32a, The Arcade, High Street.

At a Branch meeting on Feb. 1 it was agreed to support the recommendations of the National Executive Committee. Miss Jessett kindly promised to receive gifts and promises of help for the Café Chantant, and to forward all goods to Headquarters. For our National Aid Corps work it was suggested that in addition to the Wednesday evening socials an afternoon should be devoted to work for the wives of the soldiers and sailors. About 120 garments have already been made for children, and more are in hand; parcels of boots have been sent to several elementary schools. The third whist drive of the season will be held on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. We thank Miss Tremlett for 10/- and Mrs. Ferguson for 2/6 towards material; also Mrs. Parker for a gift of boots and clothing, and 2/- for boot repairing.

Chester. Suffrage Shop—56, Werburgh Street.

Miss Nina Boyle had a very hearty welcome on Jan. 28, when she gave an interesting and vigorous lecture on "Women and the War" at the Freemason's Hall. The Mayor (Alderman J. M. Frost) presided and testified to the excellent work done by women in the crisis, emphasising specially the valuable services of the Chester Branch of the W.F.L. Miss Boyle pointed out that all the work of the League was done under the Suffrage banner; and the success attained was largely due to the experience gained in Suffrage organisations. Mr. H. F. Brown, proposing a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Miss Boyle, said he hoped that at the end of the war the Woman Suffrage struggle would also be ended, but he urged watchfulness, as grati-

tude quickly evaporated, and women were usually the sufferers. Mr. Crosland Taylor, seconding the votes of thanks, said women had thoroughly deserved their victory.

Dunfermline

An interesting debate was conducted in Bath-st. Church Hall on Jan. 27 on the question "Is the drink habit the chief cause of poverty?" Mrs. Beck, who presided, explained the objects of the W.F.L., and said that the debate was a slight departure from our ordinary course in touching on the drink question, but as women who had the welfare of the whole nation at heart we were always glad to discuss any question affecting the masses. Mrs. A. M. Watt upheld the affirmative and Mr. Wm. B. Campbell the negative. Many members of the audience took part in the discussion, one voicing the case of the voteless women who were paid sweated wages. A collection was taken on behalf of the local Red Cross Fund.

Glasgow.

The demonstration held at Bridgeton Cross on Jan. 22 was most successful, large crowds gathering to hear our speakers, Misses Semple and Shennan. The resolutions were carried with acclamation; THE VOTE and other literature sold well.

On Jan. 29 a public meeting was held in the Philosophical Hall, under the auspices of the W.F.L., the speaker being Miss C. Nina Boyle, and Miss Eunice Murray presiding. The audience was large and enthusiastic; they listened with the deepest pleasure to the speakers. Miss Murray, in introducing Miss Boyle, said the meeting was to protest against the threatened restrictions imposed upon women, against the slander directed against soldiers' wives and against the inadequate provision which was proposed for the soldiers' or sailors' widows. Miss Boyle delighted her hearers with her apt illustrations of male "impertinences." She said that to make use of the National Emergency Aid to hit at women and take away their liberties was hitting below the belt. She drew attention to men's methods by forming committees to govern women, and asked how they, in their ignorance, were capable of understanding the needs of women. She discussed the present situation, and with her apt quotations from the speeches of many statesmen, demonstrating how these gentlemen talk without knowledge. She appealed to women to keep the Suffrage flag flying, and to show the country that Votes for Women, now as formerly, was a live and vital question, and until it was settled satisfactorily our flag could not be hauled down. The audience were in complete accord with her, repeatedly and heartily applauding her speech. Miss Bunten, after questions had

(Continued on page 492.)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



Saturday, February 6.—CLAPHAM BRANCH JUMBLE SALE; MORRIS HALL, North-street; 3 p.m. WHIST DRIVE; 7 p.m.; 32a, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon.

Monday, February 8.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL MEETING; 6.30 p.m. MEMBERS' MEETING; W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi, W.C.; 8 p.m.; speakers, Miss Boyle and Mrs. Tippett; chair, Miss Adams.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Tuesday, February 9.—HAMSTEAD BRANCH MEETING; 22, Harley-rd., near Swiss Cottage; 8.15 p.m.; important business ("Despard Arms"); Golder's Green, Tuftnell Park Branches invited.

Wednesday, February 10.—PUBLIC MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mr. John Seurt and Miss Nina Boyle; chair, Mrs. Clark.

Monday, February 15.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING; 1, Imperial Mansions, Bromells-rd.; 8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17.—PUBLIC MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "New Values," and others.

Friday, February 19.—PUBLIC MEETING; 32a, The Arcade, High-st., Croydon; 3.30 p.m.; speaker, Miss Lakeman. DISCUSSION MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; speaker, Mr. W. L. George, subject "The Break-up of the Home"; 8 p.m.; chair, Miss A. A. Smith; admission 1/- (reserved seats) and 6d.; tickets from the W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-st., Adelphi.

Saturday, February 20.—W.S.N.A.C. JUMBLE SALE; N. Kensington Baptist Church, Cornwall-rd.; 2 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24.—PUBLIC MEETING; Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, W.; 3.30 p.m.; speakers, Mr. Laurence Housman, "Home Truths in War Time," and Miss Nina Boyle.

PROVINCES.

Monday, February 8.—MIDDLESBROUGH; Suffrage Centre; "At Home"; 8 p.m. Suffrage Centre; 8 p.m.; Mr. A. G. Wetterstrand, "The Practical Use of Health Foods."

Tuesday, February 9.—BOURNEMOUTH; Sewing Party, by kind invitation of Mrs. Hull, at 234, Old Christchurch-rd.; 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 10.—SOUTHSEA; Sewing Meeting; 17, Duncan-rd.; 3 to 7 p.m.; hostess, Mrs. Speck.

Monday, February 15.—MIDDLESBROUGH; Public Meeting; speaker, from Housing Council, on "The Housing Problem"; 8 p.m.

Tuesday, February 16.—SOUTHSEA; Members' Meeting; 17, Lombard-st., 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17.—MIDDLESBROUGH; Suffrage Centre; Whist Drive; tickets 6d.

Monday, February 22.—MIDDLESBROUGH; Public Meeting; 8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 24.—PORTSMOUTH; Public Meeting; Portsea Parish Institute; 8 p.m.; speaker, Mrs. Despard.

SCOTLAND.

Friday, February 5.—CARDROSS; Miss Nina Boyle.

Saturday, February 6.—GLASGOW; "At Home"; Suffrage Centre, 70, St. George's-rd.; Miss Nina Boyle.

Wednesday, February 10.—EDINBURGH; Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-rd.; Madame Mees (of Malines), a Belgian refugee, will recount her experiences; 8 p.m.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sunday, February 7.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY; Fife Hall, Kingston; 7 p.m.; speaker,

Wednesday, February 10.—UXBRIDGE; Franchise Socy.; 7.30 p.m.; Miss Underwood, "Freedom League Activities."

Sunday, February 14.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCY.; Fife Hall, Fife-rd., Kingston-on-Thames; 7 p.m.

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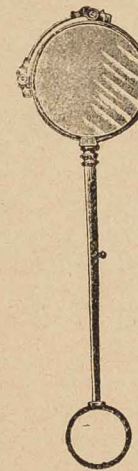
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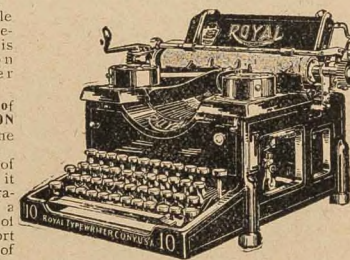
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ONE
PENNY

THE VOTE

WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

(Continued from page 490.)

been answered, proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers. A liberal collection was taken, and THE VOTE and other literature sold well.

Hampstead.

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 8.15 p.m., at 22, Harley-rd., near Swiss Cottage, to complete arrangements begun at the Branch meeting on Jan. 26 with regard to "The Despard Arms." Golder's Green and Tufnell Park Branches are earnestly requested to continue their co-operation by attending, and to bring friends likely to be interested in the scheme.

Ipswich

At our Branch meeting on Jan. 28 we began our hospital work—after a brief discussion on the first of the history lectures, "The Birth of an Empire," which we are attending—which consisted of "teazing tow." (See page 489.) As all lights have to be out or darkened after 5 p.m., our meetings for the present will be held every Thursday at 3.15 instead of 8 p.m.

Liverpool.

By the kind permission of the Deacons, a successful drawing-room meeting was held in the Minister's Vestry, Pembroke Chapel, Pembroke-place, on Jan. 25. The minister of the Church (Rev. Donald F. Fraser) presided. Miss Nina Boyle, who was to have been the speaker, was unable to be present owing to her attendance at the War Office, but a splendid substitute was found in Miss Janet Heyes, of Manchester, who, in a charming and excellent speech, outlined the work of the League since the outbreak of the war. At the close of her remarks, on the suggestion of the chairman, resolutions, the same as those put in London, were submitted and carried unanimously. THE VOTE and Suffrage literature sold well.

A very successful open-air meeting was held on the Exchange Fags on Tuesday at noon. No sooner had we unfurled our colours when a large crowd gathered around our platform and stood listening with keen interest to the inspiring and convincing speech of Miss Nina Boyle, who addressed the crowd for nearly an hour.

WAR

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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE hold PUBLIC MEETINGS at THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Feb. 10, Mr. John Scurr and Miss C. Nina Boyle. Admission free. Collection. Buy THE VOTE, 1d. weekly.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE announce a DISCUSSION MEETING at the Suffrage Club, 3, York-st., Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, on Friday, Feb. 19, at 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. W. L. George. Subject: "The Break-up of the Home." Discussion. Admission: 1/- (reserved) and 6d. Tickets from Women's Freedom League Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

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Middlesbrough. Suffrage Centre—231a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

On Jan. 25 Mrs. Schofield Coates presided at a meeting held in the Suffrage Centre, at which an address was given by Mr. A. G. Wetterstrand on the subject of "The Value of Health Foods." Mr. Wetterstrand is an ardent food reformer, and defended a vegetarian and fruitarian diet on grounds of physiology, health, economy and morality. Pythagoras, Zero, Diogenes, Plato, Plutarch, Shelley, Wordsworth, Sir Isaac Newton, Swedenborg, John Wesley, Francis Newman, General Booth, G. B. Shaw, and Mrs. Despard were cited by him as famous vegetarians. An interesting discussion followed. The Rev. T. C. Gobat is unfortunately unable to speak on Feb. 8, but Mr. Wetterstrand will kindly give a further lecture on "The Practical Use of Health Foods." The Clothing Committee desire to acknowledge a parcel of children's clothing from Mrs. Stedman. One hundred VOTES were sold at the week-end—those left from the Middlesbrough sales being sold in Bishop Auckland in Saturday by Miss Hayton, assisted by Miss A. L. Mahony, who have been greatly encouraged in the work by Miss Alix. M. Clark's help and enthusiasm.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A public meeting has been arranged at the Portsea Parish Institute for Feb. 24, at which Mrs. Despard will be the speaker. Members are urged to make this meeting widely known, so that a good audience may be secured for our President. It is proposed to hold a jumble sale very shortly. Will friends who have any saleable articles please leave them at Mrs. Speck's, 17, Duncan-rd., Southsea? For Branch and sewing meetings, see Forthcoming Events.

JUMBLE SALE.

The London Branches Council is holding its long postponed jumble sale on Saturday, Feb. 27. We want more things for it, especially men's and children's clothing; but articles of any description will be welcome. Parcels may be sent now to Mrs. Fisher, at 1, Robert-st., Adelphi.

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