

THE VOTE,  
MARCH 10, 1916.  
ONE PENNY.

## THE DANGER AT HOME.

# THE VOTE

## THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

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FRIDAY, MAR. 10, 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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## POLITICAL NOTES.

### Recruiting Tribunals.

Another pledge has gone by the board, and the "widow's son" and the conscientious objector are finding scant mercy from the tribunals and the toadying Press. We thought the tribunals were appointed to judge impartially of the claims to exemption; but we hear from one chairman after another that their idea of their duty is to get men for the Army; in fact, a new form of compulsory recruiting. The tribunals are advised by military representatives, who, apparently with few exceptions, are the real arbiters of each man's destiny. How well chosen some of these officers are may be inferred from the fact that at Brentford the military representative and the tribunal agreed to give total exemption to a brewer (the man who does the brewing, not the owner of a brewery), because the employer said the brewery could not go on without him. Now, in another case, when an aged man set forth that but for the services of one young man the business on which he depended must inevitably go to pieces, he was told that he must not only prove that the man was essential to the business but that the business was useful to the country. *Was this rule applied in the case of the brewery?* At St. Albans an amazing statement was made concerning Lord Derby, when the first Whip of the Hertfordshire Hounds applied for total exemption. It was stated that his lordship had circularised all Masters of Foxhounds advising them to claim exemption for their huntsmen. The chairman said that this appeared to have been done, and that it was the "feeling of the country" that these men should be exempted. The military representative also was of that opinion; but the real "feeling of the country" was more properly voiced by the two women on the tribunal, who intervened so effectively that the man was marked for military service. When only sons and widows' sons and sole supports of little homes and of struggling businesses reared by patient toil

cannot be exempted, one feels that the brewer and the Whip need not be spared; and the ridiculous contention that the breed of horses for military purposes cannot be maintained without racing and hunting during war time is too silly for any but men to put forward.

### A Serious Position.

Hints have not been wanting for some time past that the medical service for the civilian population is likely to fail seriously; and when one considers the absorption by the military of a huge proportion of the civilian hospital accommodation—never adequate—it does not need elaboration to show that the need for good medical attendance in the poorer quarters will be more urgent and clamorous than ever before. Dr. Hector Munro has, therefore, done a great public service in pointing out the haphazard, reckless way in which medical service has been dealt with, a subject on which we propose to say more next week.

### Habeas Corpus.

The Home Secretary's "reassuring" statement on the question of British citizens deprived of the protection of *Habeas Corpus* would not reassure any body of citizens who were really concerned for the honour and the liberties of their land. It was an appeal to panic, and to panic only; and as such it succeeded, as any such appeal is fated to succeed, in these sensation-mongering days. What stood out clearly to the unbiassed mind was that there was quite enough evidence to convict of treason and dangerous conduct under the Defence of the Realm regulations, any one of these "typical cases" put forward by the Home Secretary in defence of his own action and that of the War Office, if only they had been arraigned with as little sympathy and as much severity, let us say, as the militant suffragettes. The Government has preferred to adopt the Transvaal method, incarceration and deportation for offences to which they were not prepared to put a



name; and the consequence is, that some of these people are enjoying the amenities of an internment camp instead of the penal servitude or hard labour they had qualified for, and which less fortunate persons have received. Under the circumstances one may be forgiven for wondering who they are.

#### The Act of 1870.

The above refers, of course, to those interned and untried persons who are wholly British, and who, at the end of the war will be released "without a stain on their character." It is impossible to imagine anything more really dangerous to the well-being of the State than this ingenious arrangement by which the guilty escape and the innocent are endangered. But there are other persons involved, to wit, naturalised aliens, and alien women married to British men. By the Act of 1870 naturalised aliens received all the rights of British subjects; but these have now been to a great extent withdrawn. The position, however, of the British wife of the alien man, created by this infamous Act, has not been altered. It would be just as easy to do her justice under the Defence of the Realm, as to do an injustice to the others; but to do justice to women is an impossibility to the House of Commons. Meanwhile it is comforting to learn from the Home Secretary that although several of the alien wives of British men who enjoyed full British rights—an insult to every British woman until her own right to have an alien mate stands as unchallenged as that of the British man—have had to be introduced to the Government hospitality of the internment camps, none of the outcast British women robbed of their birthright by an unjust statute, have shown themselves a danger to the land that has, nevertheless, treated them so scurvily.

#### Women on the Land.

That patriotism, not pay, is to be the reward of women who respond to the appeal to work on the land was abundantly evident at the meeting of the Women's National Land Service Corps at Grosvenor House, on March 6. Eightpence a day was mentioned as the wage, which the Corps would endeavour to double. A lady in the audience declared that she had employed women on her farms for some time with excellent results, and gave them 2s. 6d. for an eight-hour day. The Duke of Marlborough, who presided at the meeting, followed the example of Lord Selborne at Northampton a few days ago, and declared that women should not undertake the work unless they were adequately remunerated. Lord Milner, at the same meeting, said that women workers should be properly treated, and Mr. Walter Long, President of the Board of Trade, declared that the Government would do its share in this most important work, which is as "urgent as if the enemy were at our gates." We await with interest the action that should follow these declarations.

#### GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR: SEWING MEETINGS.

The first of the sewing meetings arranged by the London Branches Council will be held on Tuesday, March 14, from 3 to 7 p.m., at the Office. Mrs. Holmes, of the Hackney Branch, has kindly consented to take charge of the work, and we hope that many members and friends will take this opportunity of working for the Fair. Workers can bring their own material to be cut out by Mrs. Holmes, or they can do work supplied at the office. We hope that those who cannot stay to sew will at least call in next Tuesday to get work to do at home.

We shall be very grateful if friends will send gifts of materials or money to buy them to Mrs. Mustard, 49, Moresby-road, Upper Clapton, the hon. organiser to the Council. (Not to the Fair, as stated a fortnight ago.) The L.B.C. has given a first donation of 25s., but we hope that other donations from Branches and friends will soon be forthcoming. Can anyone lend a sewing machine? Materials will probably get dearer during the year, so it should be profitable to buy now. E. C.

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#### 50,000 SHILLINGS.

Best thanks to our valued friend, Mrs. Marion Holmes, for 20s., to Mrs. Fox Bourne for 40s., to Miss Fox Bourne for 10s., to the Mid-London Branch for 20s., the proceeds of self-denial week, to the London Branches Council for kindly promising 100s., and to the many kind helpers who have already contributed.

Also to Miss Bertram and Miss Booth Scott, of Penzance, for their generous promise of a lovely pearl and silver hand-made pendant, to an unknown supporter, who from Northampton sends a splendid pair of hand-sewn shoes, and to Montgomery Boroughs for supplying the cake and candy stall at the Rally.

All members with friends in Ireland are asked to help us by getting over supplies of shamrock, on which there will be a great run on March 17.

Gifts of cakes, marmalade, jams, flowers, etc., to be sold at the Rally, will be most welcome.

We have arranged that contributions to the Fund shall be personally presented to the President at the Rally. Bags will be provided, and I should like to see all contributors, whether they have already sent to me or not, before the meeting begins—from 6.30 to 7.0, at Caxton Hall. E. KNIGHT.

#### HEADQUARTERS NOTES.

##### Our Rally.

We urge our readers not only to come themselves but to bring as many friends as possible to the "Rally" at Caxton Hall, Friday evening, March 17. There will be a reception by Mrs. Despard, and a little music between 7 and 8 o'clock, after which we shall have short speeches by Miss Boyle and Miss Munro. Miss Julia Wood will present Branch Secretaries and others to Mrs. Despard, who will receive their contributions towards the 50,000 Shilling Fund, and short speeches by Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray will close the platform proceedings. In the hall itself refreshments will be served, and there will be a flower stall where shamrock will be on sale, to remind those present who do not happen to be Irish that the "Rally" takes place on St. Patrick's Day! There will also be a Cake and Candy Stall, supplied by our Montgomery Boroughs Branch, and Miss Clark urges our readers to remember that they can purchase their week-end cakes, confectionery, and apples from this stall. Tickets for the Rally are only 6d. each, and can be obtained beforehand from the W.F.L. Office, 144, High Holborn, W.C., or at Caxton Hall, on the evening of the 17th. *Bring as many people with you as you possibly can!*

##### Wednesday Afternoon Meetings.

Next Wednesday Miss Margaret Hodge will speak on "Lands Where British Women Vote." Miss Hodge, who was formerly Lecturer in History at the Maria Grey Training College, has voted four times in Australia, and as she has travelled in other countries where women are now politically enfranchised her lecture will be of very wide interest. That afternoon, too, we shall have the pleasure of welcoming Miss Anna Munro again to London. The chair will be taken by Miss Alix M. Clark at 3.30. The following Wednesday, March 22, the speakers will be Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle.

THEY SUPPORT US!

#### Sunday Afternoon Lectures.

Sunday afternoon, April 2, at 4 o'clock, Mrs. Despard will give a lecture at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on "Brotherhood—Theoretical and Practical," and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. This is a new lecture of our President's, and we hope to see the Bijou Theatre crowded. Tickets (which should be obtained beforehand) are now on sale at our Office at 2s. (reserved and numbered), and 1s. each.

Sunday afternoon, May 14, Miss Clara Reed will give a dramatic recital of Stephen Phillips' "Paolo and Francesca."

#### Southern Branches.

We hope all our friends in the South will support the following meetings: SOUTHAMPTON.—Wednesday, March 15: Morris Hall, 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray. BOURNEMOUTH.—Wednesday, March 15: Freedom Hall, Loughtonhurst, West Cliff Gardens, 7.45 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray; chair, Miss M. Ballard Dawson. PORTSMOUTH.—Thursday, March 16, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray; chair, Mrs. Whetton.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

#### THE DANGER AT HOME.

On March 2 appeared the final report of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases. The Commissioners comprised medical and lay members in about equal proportions, and included three women. Their painstaking labours have extended over nearly two and a half years; to the 85 witnesses called no fewer than 22,000 questions were put. The result was a very deep impression on the minds of the Commissioners of the extreme urgency of the subject, hence the publication of their report in the present crisis. The Commissioners found that statistics on the subject are particularly unreliable. They consider, however, that the diseases are much more prevalent in towns than country districts; that in large towns they affect one quarter of the population; that they are the cause of nearly half the cases of sterility and of half the cases of stillbirth, and of blindness in children; and are responsible for a large proportion of deafness, mental deficiency, and other diseases in young people.

The economic loss to the country is enormous, including loss of working power from illness, and the total incapacity so frequently following at early middle age. In the community at large the incidence of these diseases appears to be more or less stationary, but it is very different in the Army and Navy. Here systematic and energetic measures have within the last twenty years reduced the rate to one quarter, while other diseases have diminished by one half. Equal care given to the civilian population would doubtless show a corresponding benefit.

#### Now or Never.

It is certain that the return of millions of men, now with the Colours, to civilian life, will result in a vast increase in these diseases all over the country. Should we continue our favourite "Wait-and-see" procedure, the consequences will be an added curse to future generations.

The Commissioners press upon the country with all the earnestness at their command the imperative need to make comprehensive arrangements now to stay that avalanche of suffering, misery, and death which must inevitably swallow up innocent victims, even in remote country villages, unless we are ready armed against it.

These horrors are to a great extent unnecessary and preventable, but women will have to force the Government to take that action which *The Times* dismisses as "a little difficult."

Suffragists will be glad to recognise that the Com-

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missioners go out of their way to discourage any re-introduction of "Regulation" as a remedy.

The measures they recommend are:

##### (1) GENERAL.

Education in the moral and spiritual aspects of life and in hygiene for all young people; better housing conditions; measures conducive to the spread of temperance.

##### (2) INDIVIDUAL.

The provision of centres for treatment by the best and latest means in every locality, by special clinics and special wards in general hospitals; where possible, the treatment to be free to all, one quarter of the cost to be met by the rates, three-quarters by the Local Government Board.

Revision of the rules of approved societies which at present refuse early treatment.

Infection to be sufficient ground for divorce. Communications by a doctor made to parents, &c., with a view to prevention or postponement of marriage to be privileged.

Death certificates also to be confidential.

Advertisements of quack remedies to be prohibited.

Thirteen out of the fifteen Commissioners were in favour of compulsory detention of poor-law patients and of prisoners until free from infection.

It is the state of things described in this Report that has turned so many women into Suffragists, and its publication now makes them more insistent and impatient to take their share in the life of their nation, and to obtain that useful tool of Citizenship—the vote—without which their patriotism is so heavily handicapped. E. K.

Speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene (the title adopted by the British Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation on amalgamation last October with the Ladies' National Association for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice), Dr. J. Scott-Lidgett, a member of the Commission, expressed gratification that the report, to be issued, did not propose the revival of the Contagious Diseases Acts or any method which would put women in a position of inferiority, either in principle or practice.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 956.



## THE VOTE.

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### EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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## MOTHER OF NATIONS.

### II.—HER METHOD.

In our last issue we dealt with her object, which is not only the cessation of hostilities on such a truculent, uncertain laying down of arms as we have had in the past, but Peace—great, permanent, heroic, based on righteousness and established by general desire and consent. Following this up, we wish to indicate how so great a desire can be carried out. What is the Mother's Method? And, before we go any further, we must insist that this, which may seem to-day nothing less than a miracle, will not be wrought by any one section of the community. A broad democracy we must have—awakened, resolute, strong—not man alone, or woman alone, but the dual Humanity which Heaven has ordained. This, and this alone, will accomplish the great aim we have in view.

Woman's part! If we were asked what it is that stands in the way of such a mutual understanding between the nations as will ensure Peace, the answer would not be far to find. The initial difficulty lies in the fact that communities generally are animated by false ideals. That which arouses admiration, that which stimulates to desire and envy, may be summed up in one word—bigness: the big fortunes, the big material achievement, in building, in machines, in far-reaching inventions; the big conquests over men or nations; the big personalities. These are the things which are worshipped and sought after both by individuals and nations. And it is on this account that Physical Force has been exalted. It has given the material world into the grasp of greedy self-seekers. Obviously, while these ideals last we shall have no real or permanent Peace.

This must be woman's first work amongst the nations. The old ideals must pass: ideals, not new, for they have always been in the world, but new in that they have never strongly affected public life, must take the place of the old.

The ideal of service, "I was among you as one that served," said the Master Christ. The Mother has always served. She will demand that service, as service, to be recognised and honoured.

The ideal of compassion. Not to train up armies to destroy; not to make machines to help them in their deadly work; but armies to save: armies trained to seek out and kill at their source the evil things, such as the horrible plague born of selfishness and impurity that is ravaging the nations. Not to allow thousands of babes to die yearly, but to make

such conditions as will give them a chance to grow up beautiful and strong.

The ideal of justice which will not tolerate oppression either of an individual or a class, or a nation; but will use the strength of the strong as a buckler for the weak.

The ideal of character, which, when we have a true Democracy, will give us in places of power trained and experienced men and women with wisdom behind them, and the love of Humanity in their souls. For if we had perfectly straight persons on that side of public life which has to do with foreign affairs; if, in place of diplomatic notes and conversations between the few exalted persons who, with a strict regard for their own interests and those of the class to which they belong, rule our destinies, we had plain speaking, and that at present most uncommon thing, common sense, there would be no need for war.

Ideals of beauty and order. There is no woman, in any class of life, who must not have noticed and deplored the ugliness and haphazard of our modern material civilisation. Recklessness and waste everywhere. In manufacturing districts, where the wealth to be expended in fine mansions and elaborate gardens and travelling machines is heaped up, there is no beauty, no order. Workers' dwellings are plumped down in the midst of rubbish; children play about in mud and garbage; from the mining districts, where, before the coarse hand of civilisation touched them, there was the simple loveliness of nature, all beauty has fled.

When the woman-power, when the man and woman love-principle enters into the life of nations, they will be ashamed of such barbarities, and the practical vision of the Mother working out in vigorous action will do much to bring order out of chaos.

But how, it may be asked, is it to be done? If we look around us we shall see, perhaps, that the process has already begun. What women, brought up in ignorance of the cruel and ugly side of things, have seen in this time of crisis is bearing fruit in their lives. Sorrow and shame have brought revelation. They cannot be contented with things as they are. Slowly, steadily, a new public opinion is being formed. As it widens out in every direction, the nations will become ashamed of their recklessness and waste. The man-made, man-governed world will become intolerable. Selfishness, condoned now as human nature, will have to hide its head. Those who, for the sake of individual or class interests, would bolster up the old order will be scourged with public scorn.

To bring this about is woman's work.

It will not be done in a moment. Generations may yet have to pass before the hypnotized and betrayed Peoples will come to their senses; but that need not affect us in our work. For us there must be no slackening of effort, no pause. Emphatically it is the business of women—yes, and of men, with the love-principle behind them—to form within themselves and to diffuse abroad ideals of life and conduct in accordance with the religion so many of us profess.

Further—and here the practical common sense of woman will be of inestimable value to the State when her right to citizenship is acknowledged—she has a gift, often allowed to rust through disuse, which there can be little doubt harks from her motherhood. One of the strongest of her instincts is to shield her young from danger; hence her intuitive perception of the approach of what may hurt them. As Mother of Nations she will use again her gift of intuition, not only to defend herself and her children, but as a guardian power in the State.

When we consider these things we cannot but

feel that a force, not physical but spiritual, lies behind our movement. Moved by this, the Divine instinct that is making her ready for the motherhood of nations, woman is making her demands. She is refusing to submit to subjection. She is casting aside the ignominious fetters of ignorance and prejudice. Deeply aware of the truth that beautiful things can only grow in freedom, she is claiming the same opportunities as her brothers have had in the past; she is going out into a free land. That in the long last she will succeed, it would be impious to doubt; but if we would shorten the agony of the nations, if we would take our part in preparing the way for their Redeemer, we must, every one of us, be up and doing. C. DESPARD.

### AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN MELBOURNE (1913).

"It is a beautiful evening, calm and free;  
 The holy time is quiet as a nun  
 Breathless with adoration."

These wonderful lines came into my mind as I came out of the station of a suburb of Melbourne, where my friend, Miss Newcomb, and I were to hold a street meeting for the candidature of Miss Vida Goldstein for the Federal Parliament. The great, bright stars, and "the orbed maiden with white fire laden, whom mortals call the moon," looked down on us benignantly, although we were engaged upon a piece of work which would have surprised revolutionaries Shelley no less than conservative Wordsworth. Nature in this wonderful southern hemisphere is most beautiful at night. The fantastic gum trees wave their witch-like arms in the cool and gentle breeze, and the rich scent of sub-tropical plants makes an incense in the dim religious light of the evening skies. The moon is topsy-turvy too, the man in it stands on his head, so an unconventional or even a revolutionary speech under its aegis does not seem out of place. The audience, which collects with marvellous rapidity—indeed, it seems to spring from the soil as men did from the dragon's teeth—is kindly, polite, and, as a rule, exceedingly sympathetic. On this occasion I had no sooner mounted the orator's tribune (the inevitable soap-box, borrowed from a grocer, who was intensely interested in the innovation of women holding a street meeting), than a very large crowd appeared, in which men and boys predominated, though there was a goodly sprinkling of women. No need to bring forward the arguments—so frequently urged on and inadequately encountered by the members of a London crowd—in favour of Woman's Suffrage, for here were women voters all around me, none of whom looked any the less "womanly" because she had exercised her citizen rights. My speech was just like that uttered at every election for a male candidate, in that it took for granted that there would be no sort of objection to Miss Goldstein on the score of sex. It differed, however, from most political speeches in that it was entirely non-party, and dealt largely with questions of social reform. Miss Newcomb, in due course, also mounted the soap-box, and laid great stress on the absolute disinterestedness of the candidate. Never was there a more attentive audience, and the questions which followed the speeches showed the interest that had been aroused. "Equal pay for equal work" in every department was one of Miss Goldstein's war cries—and the majority of the men as well as the women saw the justice and the wisdom of this maxim. Papers were distributed after the meeting, and all were eager to have copies. One boy, whom I had passed over with the words, "You're too young to be a voter," held out his hand for a leaflet, saying, "May I have one for mother? She couldn't come to the last meeting, and she always reads all

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she can before she votes!" We had great difficulty in getting away from our interlocutors, even after we had closed the meeting, so many had questions to ask and difficulties to solve. Only one man alluded to the sex of the candidate, and he thought this was in her favour. "I would not only have women Members of Parliament, I would also have them judges and justices of the peace, and Cabinet Ministers," he said. Since then, for it was in 1913, women J.P.'s have been appointed—for progress marches on so fast in topsy-turvy land that what is an aspiration to-day becomes an accomplished fact to-morrow. We both immensely enjoyed our experience, which was repeated many times in the city of Melbourne itself, and always with increased pleasure.

### Our Mothers Vote, Why don't Yours?

The Australian cadets to-day who are travelling through Canada are carrying on a mission for Woman's Suffrage, as well as enjoying a pleasure trip. At the concerts they are holding they are displaying a banner, "Our mothers vote, why don't yours?" Thus the rising generation of boys is triumphantly vindicating and eagerly promulgating the policy of their fathers in enfranchising the women of the Commonwealth. MARGARET HODGE.

### A CHAMPION.

The Woman Suffrage Cause has lost a true champion through the death of Sir Robert Radford, well known and honoured in the West of England. In its fine tribute to him and his public work *The Western Daily Mercury*, Plymouth, says: "He was a Feminist. He had a great faith in the ability of women to take an equal place with men in the conduct of public affairs. He did not like the violence of the Suffragette movement, but it never shook his belief in the justice of the demand for women's enfranchisement."



**MISS BOYLE'S VISIT TO IRELAND.**

Half-way up one of the long Devonshire hills there is a little inn bearing the significant sign, "Rest and be Thankful." We in Belfast are not thinking of rest in our Suffrage work, but we are very thankful. We are thankful that the Suffrage movement is increasing in strength in our country, that the connection between this movement and the crying evils of starved schools, high infant mortality, under-payment, waste at home and abroad, is beginning to be understood. We are very earnestly grateful to the generous fellow-workers in England who lend us such a speaker as Miss Nina Boyle, with her deep knowledge of her subject, her wonderful power of rousing enthusiasm, and her tact in dealing with audiences of the most diverse character.

Miss Boyle spoke on ten different occasions during the week, principally on the present industrial and economic problems and Woman Suffrage. The meetings for working men, and the one for the members of the Textile Trades Union were especially interesting. The connection between political power and economic independence was brought out most clearly, and the urgent need for the enfranchisement of women in view of the present condition of the labour market. The difficulty in Belfast, as elsewhere, is the common failure to recognize that Woman Suffrage is fundamental, and without it other reforms are only partially effective. The meetings arranged for members of the Suffrage Society were most valuable in this respect, as no one present could fail to be impressed by the tale of wastage and loss of life incurred "for want of the women."

We owe to Miss Boyle a real deepening of Suffrage interest in Belfast. In later issues of THE VOTE I hope to give some details that will show how urgent is the need of women's help in the care of the babies and education of the children, and with what difficulty the most necessary reforms in these directions are obtained.

DORA MELLONE.

**OUR "WEDNESDAYS."**

Mrs. M. W. Nevinson's address last Wednesday afternoon on "Our Huge War Waste," at the time when important members of the British Government were discoursing at the Guildhall on "The Need for National Economy," gave one furiously to think. "There is no national economy in England," declared Mrs. Nevinson, and proceeded to give flagrant instances of the wastage of food in camps, and of petrol in official motors. All this could not possibly be counteracted by the petty economies which many people were practising in their homes. There was also much waste of ability in the country; no one encouraged the use of brains, and the Government was doing its best to deery education. There was a waste of woman's work and capabilities, and Mrs. Nevinson complained of the want of self-respect amongst women who threw away their abilities and their training to take on work for which they were in so many cases wholly unfitted and untrained.

Mrs. Mustard declared that the Government treated the people to a good deal of bluff, and she would like to see a more live spirit in the country to combat it. She pointed out that before the War nearly 5,000 children under 14 years of age were employed in mines, and great numbers of children under eleven years were in regular employment out of school hours. This was, indeed, national waste of the worst description. What we needed most of all was a better educated people, and to secure that we must educate public opinion on this subject. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

**GENEROUS OFFER TO "THE VOTE."**

We are most grateful to our unfailing friend, Mrs. Snow, for her immediate response to the offer of £50 to THE VOTE if nine others would give an equal amount. Mrs. Snow has promised £50, and expresses the hope that the remainder of the money will be quickly raised.

**"VOTE" SELLING.**

During the past fortnight the Montgomery Boroughs Branch have sold over 500 copies of the VOTE in the streets, in addition to the usual number which is always taken by sympathisers and members. Will other Branches organize street sales? Never in the history of the League was the need for our paper so urgent. Every effort must be made to keep it well before the public, and that can be done in no better way than by street sales. Miss Alix M. Clark, Hon. Head of the VOTE Sales department, will endeavour to visit some of the Branches during the next three months. Will Secretaries kindly communicate with her at once at Headquarters?

**A Good Example. Who Follows?**

A MEMBER WRITES: "I have thought of a plan to try and help the Nine Elms Restaurant and The Despard Arms, which would be more effective if several people would do it. I shall reserve a piece of garden for growing things that will be useful. It will have to be a small piece, but I shall do as much as I possibly can. Would it not be good if others would do the same?" Very!

**WOMEN IN WAR TIME.****The Lost "Anglia." Tribute to Nurses.**

The Army Orders for March contain the tribute of the Army Council to the R.A.M.C. and all who helped when the hospital ship *Anglia* was lost. Of the women it is said: "Through the courage and presence of mind of the matron, Mrs. Mitchell, and the devotion of the nursing sisters, most of the cot cases were evacuated from the ship. Nurse Edith Rodwell, member of the Women's Freedom League, would not leave her cot cases that could not be moved, and went down with them."

**Women Workers.**

In connection with the urgent appeal to employers by the Home Secretary and the President of the Board of Trade to utilise the work of women, an advisory committee has been appointed, on which four women serve: Miss A. M. Anderson, Principal Woman Inspector of Factories; Miss Hilda Cashmore, Miss F. H. Durham, and Miss Violet Markham. Mr. Cecil Harmsworth, M.P., is chairman.

**Women Omnibus Conductors.**

A large number of women will begin work next week as conductors on the London General omnibuses.

**Women Photographers.**

Major Rothschild, at the London City Military Service Tribunal, on March 2, said that women photographers were employed by the Admiralty to photograph new and important devices, machinery, etc.

**On Military Service Tribunal.**

Dr. Beatrice McGregor, the only woman on the Wimbledon Town Council, has been appointed a member of the local Compulsion Tribunal. After a prolonged discussion and strong opposition one woman was appointed on the Tottenham tribunal.

**Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.**

Miss Mary Proctor, daughter of Mr. Richard Proctor, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, which has recently decided to admit women as Fellows on the same terms as men.

THEY SUPPORT US!

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

Friday, March 10.—CROYDON "AT HOME," 32A, The Arcade, High-street, 3.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Hodge on "Women's Suffrage in Our Overseas Dominions."

Saturday, March 11.—L.B.C. DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 15, Clapham-mansions, Nightingale-lane, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Miss Nina Boyle on "Women's War-time Work," and Miss Hodge on "British Women in the Dominions Overseas." Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Hostess: Mrs. Corner. Tea, 4.30 p.m.

Monday, March 13.—BOWES PARK BRANCH MEETING, 59, Truro-road, Wood Green, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, March 13.—WHIST DRIVE, in aid of The Despard Arms, St. Gabriel's Hall, Cricklewood (near Willesden Green Station, Metropolitan Railway), 3-6.30 p.m. Tickets 2s., including tea.

Tuesday, March 14.—CLAPHAM BRANCH MEETING, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, S.W., 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 14.—SEWING MEETING for Green, White and Gold Fair, 144, High Holborn, 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Miss Margaret Hodge, "Lands Where British Women Vote," and Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark. Admission free. HAMPSTEAD BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING, The Despard Arms, 123, Hampstead-road, 5.30 p.m.

Thursday, March 16.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 6.30 p.m.

Friday, March 17.—ST. PATRICK'S DAY RALLY, CAXTON HALL, 7 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Miss Munro and Mrs. Julia Wood. Music. Refreshments. Tickets 6d. each, from W.F.L. Office.

Saturday, March 18.—CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High Street, 6.30 p.m. Whist Drive. Tickets 1s., including refreshments.

Wednesday, March 22.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Nina Boyle. Admission free.

Saturday, March 25.—HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB BRANCH DRAWING-ROOM MEETING, 45, Ashbourne-avenue, Hendon, N.W., 4 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Hodge.

Monday, March 27.—BOWES PARK PUBLIC MEETING, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray.

Wednesday, March 29.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mr. George Lansbury and Mrs. Mustard. Admission free.

Sunday, April 2.—LECTURE by Mrs. Despard on "Brotherhood—Theoretical and Practical," at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, 4 p.m. Chair: Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck. Tickets, 2s. and 1s. each, from W.F.L. Office.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and ½d. 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 (dinners and suppers from 6d.) and recreation. Week-days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m.

**PROVINCES.**

Monday, March 13.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Branch Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m.

Monday, March 13.—SALE. Meeting, Bankfield, Roebuck-lane, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 15.—SOUTHAMPTON. Public Meeting, Morris Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray.

PORTSMOUTH. Work-party, 17, Lombard-street, 3-7 p.m.

BOURNEMOUTH. Public Meeting, Freedom Hall, 7.45 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: M. Ballard Dawson.

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SEE OUR SALE AND

Thursday, March 16.—PORTSMOUTH. Public Meeting, Lower Hall, Portsea Parish Institute, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Tuesday, March 21.—IPSWICH. Miss Murray.

Monday, March 27.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Public Meeting, Suffrage Centre, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice G. Murray.

**OTHER SOCIETIES.**

Wednesday, March 15.—INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB, 8 p.m. "The Principles of a European Settlement," Professor L. T. Hobhouse.

Sunday, March 19.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Fife Hall, 7 p.m. Mrs. Tanner, "Woman as Patriot."

Sunday, March 26.—BLACKFRIARS' MISSION, Stamford-street, S.E., 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner on "Why Men Need Votes for Women."

**The Despard Arms.**

The cookery demonstration in the window on March 2 was very successful, and brought in many customers; other demonstrations will be arranged. Our recreation room, holding easily thirty people, is available for morning, afternoon, and occasional evening meetings on very moderate terms. Will some sympathiser give us a clock for the restaurant? Our small clock has had a series of accidents and the correct time is most important for those whose dinner-time is limited. Remember, please, our whist drive at St. Gabriel's Hall, Cricklewood, on March 13, 3-6.30 p.m. Tickets 2s., including tea.

UXBRIDGE SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.—Mrs. Cunningham's lecture on "Poland and Polish Celebrities," with unique lantern slides, gave great pleasure on March 6.

**THE EAST LONDON**

Federation of the Workers' Suffrage League (Late E.L.F.S.)

**PROCESSION TO HOLLOWAY To Cheer Mrs. Nellie Best in Prison.**

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Mar. 11th. Mrs. Despard - - "The Women of the Nation."

Mar. 18th. Henry Wilson - - "The New Craftsmanship."

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved Seats 2/6 and 1/-.

Apply to Booking Office, Langham Place, and to Social Re-construction Secretary, 19, Tavistock Square, W.C., from whom full particulars of further lectures of the series can be obtained.

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EXCHANGE, PAGE 956.



FRIDAY,  
MARCH 10,  
1916.

# THE VOTE

ONE  
PENNY  
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## BRANCH NOTES.

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

Will members please note? Wanted, goods for jumble sale, which should be sent to Secretary, 9, Morland-avenue, on or before March 25. A good audience should welcome Miss Margaret Hodge on March 10, as she will tell us of women's suffrage in our Overseas Dominions. A Whist Drive to help the 50,000 shilling fund to be held at the office on March 18. Tickets 1s., including refreshments.

### Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

At our Branch meeting on Feb. 22, Miss Eunice Murray gave a most inspiring account of the present position and its unique opportunities for women, provided they realise their own value and exercise constant vigilance. She also spoke of the work of the League and its needs. Miss McLachlan presided, and Miss Murray was very heartily thanked for her speech. The following week bad weather and the new lighting regulations combined to reduce the attendance, and it has accordingly been decided to postpone the remaining meetings. Further arrangements will be announced as soon as possible. Meanwhile members are reminded that a Sale of Work and a Jumble will be held soon, and that Miss Wood will gladly receive subscriptions to the 50,000 Shilling Fund, and to our own Rent Fund.

### Middlesbrough. The Suffrage Centre, 251a, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road.

On February 28 the Rev. T. C. Gobat gave a lecture on Ibsen's "Brand." In a splendid speech he brought the various acts of the play before the minds of his hearers, describing the sublime but mistaken sacrifice of Brand to duty, involving not only his own career, but the happiness of his wife, and causing the death of his child. Miss Winifred Jones presided, and an animated discussion followed the lecture. There will be a branch meeting on March 13, and on March 27 we shall have the pleasure of welcoming Miss Eunice Murray again to Middlesbrough. It is hoped that members and friends will do their utmost to make her meeting a great success.

### Rothsay.

A most successful public meeting was held here on February 25 in the Good Templars' Hall, when a large audience assembled, despite the enforced darkness, to welcome Miss Anna Munro after an absence of over three years. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. M. Dickie, B.D., a keen

supporter of Woman Suffrage. He spoke of the magnificent way in which women are answering their country's call to help in time of need, but he urged them to stick together for their own. Miss Munro was accorded a most cordial reception, and her very lucid and helpful lecture was heard with great attention and sympathy. She made an eloquent appeal for help to keep the flag flying and the course of real progress clear. A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by ex-Baillie E. R. MacMillan, was passed with enthusiasm. Suffrage literature was sold and a good collection taken, exclusive of a donation of ten shillings from Provost MacMillan, who was unavoidably unable to be present.

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

The Women's Freedom League Settlement has arranged for Vegetarian Cookery lessons at the Settlement, one guinea for six. Miss Cole, who has had many years' experience in demonstration, has kindly offered her services. We very much hope that some of our readers will avail themselves of this opportunity. All profits from these lessons will go to the upkeep of the Settlement. The Settlement pleads very earnestly this week for tables. Our dining-room will not hold the number of children clamouring for a meal between twelve and one. It is difficult—also heart-rending—to turn them away for want of space; with adequate equipment we could fit them into the downstairs restaurant. It is very cold, and sometimes very wet, for standing outside in the hope (often long deferred before realisation) that Billy Jones & Co. will finish their meal quickly. Best thanks to Miss Riggall for 1s.; Mrs. Roberts, apples; Mrs. Thomas, apples and butter; Mrs. Delbanco, soap and bread; Miss Kearton, cheese, butter, oranges, and clothing for jumble sale.

### THE SENTENCE ON MRS. NELLIE BEST.

There was a large and sympathetic meeting on Tower Hill on Sunday last, addressed by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Despard, Dr. Barbara Tehaikovsky, and others. Quotations from *The Law Journal* were given to the effect that in passing a sentence of six months' imprisonment on Mrs. Best for issuing a leaflet said to be prejudicial to enlistment, the magistrate had exceeded his powers. The resolution demanding her immediate release was passed with only one dissenter. There will be a demonstration outside Holloway Prison next Saturday at 4 p.m.

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THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will hold Public Meetings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, every Wednesday afternoon, at 3.30. March 15: Miss M. Hodge, "Lands Where British Women Vote"; Miss Anna Munro. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark.

MEMORIAL HALL, MANCHESTER, Tuesday, March 21, at 7.30 p.m. Unfamiliar works for one and two pianofortes, by Hope Squire and Frank Merrick. Tickets, 5s. (reserved), 2s. 6d., and 1s., from Messrs. Forsyth Bros., Ltd., 126, Deansgate, and at the door.

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