

# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

GUARANTEED WEEKLY CIRCULATION—20,000 COPIES.

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Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 23.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND, 1914.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd, Great Demonstration

At EAST INDIA DOCK GATES, Poplar,  
4 p.m.

Speakers:  
**Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST,**  
**JOSEPH CLAYTON,**  
**JOHN SCURR, Mrs. WALKER,**  
**Mrs. DRAKE and others.**

To demand that the Government shall control the food supplies in the interests of all, and give votes to women. To arrange for a deputation of working women to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George.

### THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, Aug. 23rd, 4 p.m.—Demonstration at East India Dock Gates.  
Monday, Aug 24th, 3 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Member's Meeting.  
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Speakers' Class.  
8 p.m.—Custom House, Freemason's Road—Mrs. Bouvier.  
8.30 p.m.—South Hackney, Swiss Cottage—Mrs. Walker.  
Tuesday, Aug. 25th, 2.30 p.m.—Hackney, 30 Churchill Road—Mrs. Walker & others.  
8 p.m.—Poplar, East India Dock Gates—Miss Peck.  
8 p.m.—Limehouse, Burdett Rd., and Coutts Rd.—Mrs. Walker.  
Wednesday, Aug. 26th, 8 p.m.—Poplar, 319 East India Dock Rd.—Miss Paterson.  
8 p.m.—Chrip St.—Mrs. Bouvier.  
Thursday, Aug. 27th, 3 p.m.—319 E. India Dock Rd., Poplar—Women's Meeting—Miss Paterson.  
8 p.m.—Canning Town, 124 Barking Rd.  
Friday, Aug. 28th, 8 p.m.—Canning Town, Beckton Rd.—Mrs. Walker.  
8 p.m.—Piggott St., Poplar.  
8 p.m.—The Women's Hall, Bow—Members' Meeting.

### EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Those who feel the importance of trying to provide work at adequate rates of payment, rather than to give doles of food or money to people who are in distress through the present war, are asked to aid the work of the E.L.F.S., and in particular to take note of the announcements of the Employment Bureau which will appear each week in the "Woman's Dreadnought."

Mention was made last week of brush makers and makers of bespoke boots and shoes thrown out of work. Orders have been received for two kinds of brushes; more orders are needed. This week the Bureau has on its books a crochet worker and several women who do plain sewing. Orders for crochet edgings, shawls, jerseys, etc., and for all sorts of plain sewing should be sent to Miss Maud Joachim, Secretary of the Bureau, at Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow, E. It is especially urged that those who wish to send clothes, etc., to our field-hospitals abroad, should help the women at home, also by paying for the same to be made instead of making them themselves. Working parties of well-to-do people who are doing work which might be given to genuine working women, must realise that they are taking the bread out of the mouths of those women whose regular employment is needlework, and that in seeking to alleviate distress abroad they increase it at home.

During the week we have received some orders from persons who wish to send brushes to the wounded soldiers. These we have been able to pass on to unemployed brush makers.

We have had some applications for domestic servants.  
A fur dresser applies for work. She can renovate fur coats and do general needlework.

Men and women french polishers and many tailoresses and sewing machinists have applied to us for work.



NEEDS FOR A HOUSING SCHEME IN BROMLEY, E.

We are keeping the Votes for Women flag flying.

### SPECIAL WOMEN'S MEETINGS

HELD AT  
30 CHURCHILL RD., HACKNEY,  
Tuesdays at 3.  
319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD,  
POPLAR, Weds. at 8. Thurs. at 3.  
124 BARKING ROAD,  
CANNING TOWN. Thursdays at 8.

### DISTRESS.

**Bow, Bromley & Poplar Distress Committee delays to act.**

The Poplar Distress Committee still delays to act. At the first meeting on Monday, August 17th, the only definite piece of work done, in spite of the urgent appeals for action by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Susan Lawrence and others, was, to form a General Purposes Sub-Committee to meet on Thursday the 20th, and to decide that the Distress Committee shall meet again on Monday, August 24th.

### Milk for Babies.

The Women's Emergency Corps are in the meantime sending milk to the E.L.F.S. headquarters, at the Women's Hall, Old Ford Road, Bow, and this is being distributed in cases of serious urgency.

**Many of the babies are ill and cannot digest the milk. White of egg beaten up in water is what they need and we should be grateful to friends who would send us gifts of eggs to be used for this purpose.**

### Advice in cases of illness.

We are arranging to have a nurse at the Women's Hall every day at 3 p.m., to give advice to the mothers.  
**All mothers will be welcomed to these consultations. Be sure to bring your own baby if it is ill.**

Miss Smith has kindly agreed to help in this way, but other volunteers are needed.

### TO PREVENT UNEMPLOYMENT.

Urge your local authorities to build new schools, almshouses, and hospitals, to pull down slums and build new workmen's cottages, and to undertake street improvements. Now is the time to do away with the defective old drainage system and to treat the sewage on the land where it can be turned to good use for agricultural purposes. Now is the time to start building a new water main or reservoir. Now is the time to get horse trams electrified or to have a new tramway opened. Additional parks and open spaces should be laid out now. Land should be developed and reclaimed. Those who are members of distress committees and local bodies should see to this.

The Government has suspended the delivery of express letters, yet this would provide employment for numbers of young people who are out of work. The Government ought immediately to re-open this department to find work for our boys and girls. If they will not do it themselves, let them give one of the women's organisations in each town facilities for running an express letter service. The profits after adequate wages had been paid to be handed over to the relief of distress.

The Government and the local governing bodies are making their men and women clerks work overtime. Women are working till 12 p.m., and sleeping all night at the War Office we are told. At the same time private firms have nothing for their clerks to do. Cannot the Government take on some of those who have been dismissed and stop all overtime?

Many teachers at present have classes of upwards of 70 children. See that this bad system is put an end to and additional teachers are employed. Some of those married women teachers whom the L.C.C. have dismissed may have husbands at the war. They should all be re-engaged now. If you want to give anything for the troops employ some workless woman to do it.

Don't set school children to work at sewing that should find bread for grown women. Try to induce the Government to allow Local Education Authorities to provide maintenance scholarships for girls and boys up to 16 or 17, and thus leave the labour market to other workers.

One way of relieving distress, if you can afford to do so, is to provide the money for maintenance scholarships on your own account.

### IMPERIALISM, AND THE PEOPLE'S FOOD.

Messrs. H. N. Bathgate & Co., wheat exporters, have sent an article to the *East End News* in which they say that apart from the war, the poor crops of spring wheat in Russia, Canada and America would permit of an allround advance in price of 4s. a quarter. The prohibition of the exportation of grain by Russia and other countries, because of the war, has "naturally caused an advance in Canada and America," say Messrs. Bathgate, wheat at Winnipeg being now 10s. a quarter more, than a month ago. However, as Canada and the U.S.A. have now a second crop of "unprecedented dimensions" and England also has a specially good crop, Messrs. Bathgate think that prices will fall a little during the next week or two.

All this sounds terribly sinister to those of us who realize that this rise in prices means starvation to poor people whose wages are falling to vanishing point just now. It is the duty of the Government to buy up stocks of necessaries and sell them to the people at normal prices, letting the State bear what loss there may be. But surely if Imperialism means anything, the traders in our Colonies, who are supposed to be patriots, should be induced to refrain from piling up profits at the expense of the mother country in this hour of her direst need!

### HAVE ENGLISH HENS GONE ON STRIKE?

A letter from the country tells us that small farmers have been obliged to charge more for their eggs, owing to the fact that the prices of the grain with which hens are fed has gone up, and is sometimes hard to get at any price. This shows the need for the Government to control the supply of grain. Our correspondent also tells us that people in a small way of business have difficulty in getting the grain carried, so many horses having been taken for the war. This she points out is a serious matter, as the supply of eggs largely depends on the enterprise of cottagers. We would draw attention to the fact that the amount of Maize or Indian Corn imported into this country last week was 1,007,200 cwt., as compared with 1,056,800 cwt., imported during the corresponding week last year (a difference of less than 5 per cent.), while for the importation of Wheat the figures are—1914: 2,265,700 cwt.; 1913: 2,511,500 cwt. (less than 4 per cent. difference); it is, therefore, not scarcity which is forcing up the price of grain, but the unscrupulous greed of wholesale traders. The only remedy is public control of the supply through the Government.

We present the following figures without comment to our readers.

Quantities of food-stuffs imported into the United Kingdom in the week ended August 15th, 1914, together with the quantities imported during the corresponding week of 1913 (from the *London Gazette*):—

	1913	1914
	cwts.	cwts.
Beef (fresh) ..	184,405	196,215
Beef (salted or preserved) ..	722	1,555
Bacon ..	105,645	66,890
Butter ..	92,160	43,042
Margarine ..	31,011	13,321
Cheese ..	84,045	72,014
Milk (condensed) ..	20,716	17,169
(preserved, other kinds) ..	171	390
Bananas (bunches) ..	202,163	290,300

### RISING PRICES.

Mrs. Parsons, of Canning Town, writes that Haricot Beans, which used to be 2½d. a quart, are now 4d.; White Flour, which was 2½d. and 3½d. a quarter, is now 3½d. and 3½d.

### A REBEL SONG.

Be not afraid, whate'er they say,  
Tyrant and priest, and threatening gun!  
Thy father for one inch of way  
Died—with his face towards the sun.  
Fear not their chains, my little child,  
None are so vile and strong as fear;  
Hope guards the prisoned eagle wild,  
Truth's voice from living tombs speaks clear.  
The vultures on the lion feed!  
But let this be thine inmost stay:  
There's heaven in hell for those who bleed  
To win an inch of Freedom's way.



DISTRICT REPORTS.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser (pro tem.)—Mrs. BOUVIER. 321 Roman Road, Bow, E. More helpers to sell at the stall in Roman Road wanted on Fridays, 6-11 p.m., and on Saturdays 11 a.m.-1 p.m., and 6-11 p.m. Many thanks to Miss Roach and Mrs. Savoy for good sale of Paper at the stall last week. Large and interested audience listened to Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walsh and Miss Paterson in Victoria Park on Sunday. The Paper sellers did a good trade and the collection amounted to 4s. 1d. The evening meeting in the Women's Hall started with the singing of "The Women's March" and "The Women's Marseillaise" by the Women's Choir. Both Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Bouvier, who was in the chair, urged those present to keep the "Votes for Women" flag flying and the Suffrage question well to the fore, while working in different ways to alleviate the distress caused by the war. Two new members were enrolled. Chalkers and bill distributors will be welcome on Friday and Saturday to advertise next Sunday's Demonstration. A thorough canvass of the district has been undertaken in order to facilitate the work of the Distress Committee, and members and friends are urged to help with this useful work, which gives such a splendid opportunity for enlisting new members. Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 14.—Central 280. Bow and Bromley 286. Mrs. Payne ... 85

DISTRIBUTED.

Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheyne, 350; Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Moore, 250; Mrs. Weaver, 200; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Husted, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Watkins, 200; Mrs. Clarke, 200; Mrs. Pascoe, 100; Mrs. Lake, 50.

POPULAR.

Office—319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD. Organiser—MISS MARY PHILLIPS. Several Poplar members have been suggested for work on the sub-committees for dealing with distress in the Borough. A good number of members promised to join the party for Lobbying on Tuesday next, August 25th, and canvassing parties were also made up. Miss Cross is selling papers on Sunday mornings at the Dock Gates. Miss Kettle started a pitch outside Poplar Station on Saturday morning, and Miss Smith distributed bills for Demonstration. Papers were sold at the East India Dock Road end of Chrisp Street, Saturday night, as well as at the Bromley end. Many more helpers wanted to work up sale. Mrs. Schlette took out a canvassing party on Friday afternoon. Members are asked to join these parties, which leave the office on Fridays and Saturdays at 3 p.m. All members are asked to do all they can in the short time left to make Sunday's Demonstration a success—by selling Papers, giving bills and chalking. The greater the Demonstration the more weight our demands will have. Miss Pankhurst will be at the meeting on Wednesday next (26th), which will be for members only. 152 Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 14. Miss Lagsding ... 50

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—MRS. DAISY FARNSON, 92 Ravenscroft Road. There was a good members' meeting on Thursday addressed by Miss Somers, and on Friday at Beckton Road. Several hundreds listened to Miss Paterson, and 37 Dreadnoughts were sold. A canvassing party starts from 124 Barking Road every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Members who can spare an hour are invited to do so. Miss Paterson and Mrs. Cook are in charge of party. 155 Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 14. Cannting Town. Dist. leader—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Tidmarsh, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Roper, and Mrs. Layton. Plaistow. Dist. leaders—Mrs. Hawkins, 29 Beaufoy Rd. Distributors—Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Cook. Custom House. Dist. leader—Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Rd. Distributors—Miss Cox and Mrs. Pullen. Tidal Basin. Dist. leader—Miss Penn, 10 Brent Rd. Distributor—Miss Greenleaf. Silvertown. Dist. leader—Miss G. Grimes, 27 Newland St. Distributors—Miss Nicholas, Miss Ivy Holt and friends.

HACKNEY.

Secretary—MISS YOUNG, 100 Greenwood Road, Dalston, N.E. Large and interested crowd at Swiss Cottage, Lauriston Road, on Monday evening. An encouraging feature at this place is the number of women who come regularly to listen. We had a good gathering of women at 30 Churchill Road on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Walker's speech being followed with great attention and sympathy. Please remember that women's meetings are held at 30 Churchill Road every Tuesday afternoon. These meetings are a great success, and we shall soon need a larger room. 40 Dreadnoughts sold last week.

THE LATEST PIECE OF EXTORTION.

The price of birth certificates has been raised from 3d. to 7d., which bears particularly hardly upon mothers now, when they are forced to have them before they can get the War Office grant. One woman we know had not got 7d. to pay with.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

E. LONDON MEN'S SOCIETY FOR W.S. Hon. Sec.—E. A. WATSON, 188 Devons Road, Bow, E. At a general meeting held on Friday, August 14th, in the Women's Hall, Old Ford, the following new officers were elected: President—Robert C. Lamond, Vice-President—E. Cash, Hon. Organiser—Rev. C. A. Wills, Hon. Sec.—E. A. Watson, Hon. Meetings Sec.—J. A. Kitchen, Hon. Minutes Sec.—J. B. Schnacke. R. S. P. U. Hon. Sec.—J. W. BONARIUS, 89 Wyke Road. Good meeting on Wednesday night at Ford Road, when Mr. Jane and Mr. Higgins spoke. Meetings will be held next Wednesday and Friday nights at the same place. Subject: "No Rent" Strike till food supplies are taken over and votes granted to women. Tickets for a Benefit Concert in aid of Comrade Wise, of the R.S.P.U. and Gas Workers' Union, may be had from any member of the R.S.P.U. We are holding a Social in the Women's Hall on Saturday, September 19th. 36 Dreadnoughts sold week ending Aug. 14.

Bryan the American Democratic Leader declares for Votes for Women.

WHEN WILL OUR GOVERNMENT FALL INTO LINE? William Jennings Bryan the leader of the Democratic Party, the man who in 1912 dictated the nomination of President Wilson, has come out for Votes for Women. He has announced that he will support the constitution and amendment for this purpose, which is to be decided next Autumn in his own State of Nebraska. He says:—

"I take my position. I shall support the amendment. I shall ask no political rights for myself that I am not willing to grant to my wife. "As man and woman are co-tenants of the earth and must work out their destiny together, the presumption is on the side of equality of treatment in all that pertains to their joint life and its opportunities. The burden of proof is on those who claim for one an advantage over the other in determining the conditions under which both shall live. This claim has not been established in the matter of suffrage. On the contrary, the objections raised to woman suffrage appear to me to be invalid, while the arguments advanced in support of the proposition are, in my judgment, convincing. "The first objection which I remember to have heard was that, as woman could not bear arms, she should not have a voice in deciding questions that might lead to war or in enacting laws that might require an army for their enforcement. This argument is seldom offered now, for the reason that, as civilization advances, laws are obeyed, because they are an expression of the public opinion, not merely because they have power and lead behind them. And as we look back over the past we may well wonder whether the peace movement would not have grown more rapidly than it has had woman, who suffers more than man from the results of war, been consulted before hostilities began. "Second—It is urged by some that woman's life is already full of care, and that the addition of suffrage would either overburden her or turn her attention away from the duties of the home. The answer made to this is that the exercise of the franchise might result in the change of thought and occupation that would relieve the monotony of woman's work and give restful variety to her activities. [Also by the exercise of the vote, women might effect a social reconstruction which would lessen their cares and anxieties. Ed.—WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.] And surely the home will not suffer if the mother, 'the child's first teacher,' is able to intelligently discuss with her family the science of government and the art of successfully administering it. "Third—Many well-meaning men and women affirm that suffrage would work a harm to woman by lessening the respect in which she is held. . . . This objection was once raised to the higher education of woman, but it is no longer heard. "May not the fears sincerely enter-

tained by opponents of woman suffrage be found to be as groundless as those that once forced the widow in eastern India to ascend the funeral pyre, or as those that now exclude Mohammedan women from the social benefits and responsibilities which the woman of the Christian world shares. "In the States that have adopted woman suffrage (and in the other nations that have adopted it) there is no agitation for a return to the system under which man has a monopoly of the right to vote? Is it not fair to assume that an effort would be made to correct the mistake if woman suffrage had really failed to give satisfaction to the people where it has been tried? "If one were in doubt as to which side of the controversy to take, he would be justified in giving weight to the fact that organization and enthusiasm are on the side of those who favour woman suffrage. Organization is an evidence of earnestness, as well as of a comprehension of the subject. "As for myself, I am in doubt as to my duty, but I desire to present the argument to which I give the greatest weight. Without minimising other arguments advanced in support of the extending of suffrage to woman, I place the emphasis upon the mother's right to a voice in moulding the environment which shall surround her children; an environment which operates powerfully in determining whether her offspring will crown her latter years with joy or bring down her grey hairs in sorrow to the grave. "The Creator has placed upon the mother a burden which she could not shift if she so desired, and He has given her the disposition to bear it. Her life trembles in the balance at the child's birth; her active years are given to the care and nurture of her children; her nerve force and vital energy are expended in their behalf; her exhaustless love is poured out upon them. Because the wealth of her existence is bestowed upon them, they are part of her very being—'where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' "The mother can justly claim the right to employ every weapon which can be made effective for the protection of those whose interest she guards and the ballot will put within her reach all the instrumentalities of government, including the police power. "Politics will not suffer by woman's entrance into it. If the political world has grown more pure in spite of evil influences that have operated to debase it, it will not be polluted by the presence and participation of woman. Neither should we doubt that woman can be trusted with the ballot. She has proven herself equal to every responsibility imposed upon her; she will not fail society in this emergency. Let her vote! And may that discernment which has, throughout the ages, ever enabled her to quickly grasp great truths,—made her 'the last at the cross and the first at the sepulcher'—so direct her in the discharge of her political duties as to add new glories to her and through her still further bless society." Speaker Clark who is also a prominent Democrat has stated that he too will support the suffrage amendment in his own State. Colonel Roosevelt, still perhaps the politician most in the American public eye and leader of the progressive Republicans, says:— "I have been interested, as you know, that the activities of men and women in politics shall not be separated in water-tight compartments. "I shall hope to see that constitutional convention provide for woman suffrage. At any rate, I feel that the Progressive Party should put up and should insist upon having among the candidates whom it favors a certain proportion of women." The fact that all American Political leaders are now, one after the other, declaring themselves to be suffragists, will hasten the coming of Votes to the Women of U. S. A. who have already secured them in eleven States. When will our English Liberal Government follow suit?

More Government Contractors.

The Daily Citizen reports that Messrs Warne and Co., india rubber makers of Barking and Government contractors are endeavouring to smash trade unionism amongst their employees. In March some of the women joined the National Federation of Women Workers and the firm came to an understanding that despite bad rubber the wages should not fall below 4s. a week. On August 17th, a notice was posted in the warphed that owing to the war the department would be closed, but, though piece workers were sent home, young girls and badly paid time workers were kept to do the work. The workers who had been suspended were then told that they must consider themselves dismissed, unless they signed a form pledging themselves not to belong to a Trade Union.

FORWARD CYMBIC SUFFRAGE UNION.

The F.C.S.U. has decided to continue propaganda work as usual, as far as possible, as Welsh women consider that the present time is most opportune for pointing out the need of the voice of women in the Government of all nations. The Sale of Work arranged to be held on October 23rd for the funds of the Union will still be held, but the whole of the proceeds will be given instead to the relief of Welsh families lessened through the war. Contributions of money, needlework, and curios will be gratefully received by Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, Hon. Organiser, F.C.S.U., 69 Wimpole Street, W.

The British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union (London address: 9 Grafton Street, W.) is appealing to women's organisations to send money and parcels of clothing for people in distress, and is arranging for co-ordination of the work.

The Women's Freedom League is directing its energies to obtaining representation for women on citizen committees, and also to the formation of women's police corps. They, like ourselves, realise the importance of keeping the Suffrage question well to the front at a time when the public mind is all too easily turned away from it.

An "Emergency Council of Irish Women Suffragists" has been formed in Dublin by Suffragists of all shades of opinion. Their secretary writes to the Freeman's Journal:— "While recognising the imperative necessity for organised remedial work, and while taking part therein we wish to emphasise our conviction that the claim for the enfranchisement of women must not be blotted out even at the present crisis. All the conditions which are the outcome of the present situation prove more than ever the absolute necessity for the enfranchisement of women."

A LETTER FROM MRS. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Although in times of peace women are ignored by the politicians of all parties, they are, nevertheless, expected, as a matter of course and without question, to make untold sacrifices whenever the follies or the crimes of male statecraft have plunged the nations into war. Women are denied all voice in deciding for peace or war, for arbitration or massacre; yet it is upon the women that most of the horrors and burdens of war inevitably fall.

Interested primarily in the welfare of the race, the guardians of civilisation, they recognise more clearly than men, who are easily blinded by war-passion, that war is an unmitigated evil, that womanhood, a passive participant, pays its bitter toll in rapine and destruction, in famine, in horrors unnamable, wherever the monster leaves its devastating track.

The sympathies of Suffragists, of all thinking women, go out in this hour to the stricken womanhood of Europe in every country that is the victim of war; women, like us, aliens in their own land, powerless to stem the tide of barbarism, yet compelled to sacrifice all they hold dear at the bidding of male autocrats and war-mongering bureaucracies. With them we hope and pray that sanity may shortly be restored, and the peace of Europe re-established before her civilisation suffers eclipse. We realise more acutely than ever our parlous state, deprived of all safeguards, yet forced to expiate the crimes of Governments which we are powerless to prevent.

We trust that women will lay to heart the moral of the present situation by insisting that their claims for citizenship shall be no longer swept aside. If we are good enough to help in emergencies like the present, let us see to it that those who now beg our assistance recognise our equal rights as human beings. We are good enough for all and every service and responsibility—till the war is over. When peace is restored we shall again be reminded of our inherent disabilities, we shall be told by carpet-warriors that because we do not fight we may not vote.

While Suffragists do not deny the usefulness of many such good works as are now enthusiastically recommended to women, they remember first of all that the chief duty is to their common womanhood. They have happily no responsibility for war and its bitter consequences, and they will permit nothing to divert their energies from the achievement of their purpose. The war makes it more than ever imperative that women should be given a voice in the councils of the nations, that they may exercise a salutary check upon male aggression and militarism.