

THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

GUARANTEED WEEKLY CIRCULATION—20,000 COPIES.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 5.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH, 1914.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Sunday, April 19th, 3 p.m.—Victoria Park.
 Monday, April 20th, 8 p.m.—Swiss Cottage, Hackney.
 8 p.m.—Priscilla Road—Mr. Jonning.
 Tuesday, April 21st, 8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall, —Miss Prankerd.
 8 p.m.—Dock Gates—Mrs. Duval.
 8 p.m.—Freemason's Road—Miss Townsend.
 8 p.m.—Burdett Road—Mrs. Walker.
 Wednesday, April 22nd, 8 p.m.—Chrisp Street—Mr. Jane.
 8 p.m.—Poplar Office, Members' Meeting—Miss Paterson.
 8 p.m.—Crowder's Hall—Mrs. Laski.
 Thursday, April 23rd, 3 p.m.—Members' Meeting, 28 Ford Road—Mrs. Gow.
 3 p.m.—Wilson Street and Salisbury Street—Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Schlette.
 8 p.m.—319 East India Dock Road—Miss Harley.
 8 p.m.—Knapp Road—Mrs. Walker.
 7 p.m.—Protest Meeting, Woodstock Road—Miss Paterson, Mr. Rettich, and others.
 8 p.m.—125 Barking Road—Miss Newcombe.
 Friday, April 24th, 8 p.m.—Beckton Road—Miss Townsend.
 8 p.m.—Piggott Street.
 8 p.m.—Ford Road.



PROCESSION TO WESTMISTER ABBEY.

phorically they hug, not only their chains, but their gaolers, and submissively they toil without reward or share in the direction of affairs. All over Ulster I have found women—usually of the "upper classes," it is true—giving up their common pleasures and amusements, their hunting, golf, tea-parties and dances, in order to attend ambulance classes, organise hospitals for imaginary wounded, and lay down depots for supplies that may never be consumed. It is the stupid goodheartedness of such women that delays the women's victory and exposes hundreds of other women to prison and suffering.

An Object Lesson for Militants.

On the various lessons of the Ulster problem others have spoken, and, indeed, it is obvious. That lesson is the old truth that men and politicians do not yield to reason, but do yield to passion, especially to passion expressed with uncomfortable violence. If Carson had not inspired Ulster to the point of militancy—if he had not instituted the Ulster Volunteers and raised them to be a dangerous force of 60,000 men at least, who would have heard of opposition to the Home Rule Bill? Who would have heard of the Government yielding concessions and whining for terms of peace?

The Volunteers struck terror into the hearts of Mr. Asquith and his Ministers. Those coward hearts thought themselves able to suppress women's claim for justice by coercion and torture, but when confronted by Carson and his Volunteers they quailed. They fell on their knees. They begged for mercy at almost any price. It is a lesson that will long be remembered. It is another nail in the coffin of the dastards who throughout the years of their foul misgovernment have persistently bullied the weak and fawned upon the powerful.

SELF DENIAL WEEK BADGES.

The East London Federation of the Suffragettes Self Denial Week, in aid of the campaign funds, will begin on May 1st. During that week purple, white, green and red badges are to be sold, and all supporters will be asked to buy and wear them. Friends are now asked to start making the badges, which may either be of ribbon or artificial flowers. It is too early yet to start making cakes to sell in Self Denial Week, but it is not too soon for making other useful things.

MISS SYLVIA PANKHURST

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst arrived at Vienna from London on Friday. She went on immediately to Buda-Pesth, where she will lecture on Wednesday on hunger strikes, forcible feeding, and the women's movement in England. Feminist societies are preparing a magnificent reception for her. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst returns to Vienna on Thursday. So far, permission for her to lecture has not been obtained from the police in Vienna, but there is no doubt that Miss Pankhurst will also lecture there. She will speak in English after her visit to Vienna.—*East End News*, April 14th.

On the ground that she has been "convicted" the Dresden police have forbidden a lecture which was to have been delivered by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

It is reported that while travelling in Austria Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has been robbed of £25.

WOMEN AND ULSTER (By HENRY W. NEVINSON, Belfast).

In Ulster the exclusion of women from citizenship is particularly unjust. Ask almost any Orangeman or Ulster Protestant why he objects to Home Rule and he is pretty sure to point to Ulster's prosperity on the one side and the general poverty of Nationalist Ireland on the other. That Ulster is rich and the three Nationalist provinces are poor seems to him quite sufficient reason for leaving things as they are.

But to whom is Ulster's prosperity due? It is due almost entirely to women.

Ulster grew rich on the linen industry. The atrocious English laws of the eighteenth century killed the woollen trade of Ireland—killed almost every form of manufacture. The English manufacturers were resolved to stamp out Irish competition, and they succeeded. Ireland was reduced to a mere supply depot for raw material. All hope of industrial prosperity seemed lost. But the climate favoured the growth of flax, and the manufacture of linen. That alone was left, and it was women—almost entirely women—who worked it. Till past the middle of the last century, the linen trade was not only the main but the sole source of Ulster's prosperity, and it was a woman's trade.

Then, because the men had nothing to do and their labour was cheap, the shipbuilding began in Belfast. That is a great industry now, but linen is still by far the greater throughout all the prosperous counties of Ulster, and linen depends on women's work just as much to-day as ever. It depends on women's work, and on children's work as well—a shameful thing, making a mockery of Ulster's pride in all her wealth.

Women Workers of Belfast.

But besides the women who toil in the weaving and spinning mills, an exceptional number of women and girls work for their living in Belfast. Stand in the principal street before breakfast, and you will see hundreds on hundreds of decently dressed girls and many older women hurrying to their work, and hardly a man among them. Most are employed in shops and offices. All are busy from morning till night. Outside the shipyards, one may say that by far the largest part of labour in Belfast, the richest city in Ireland, is women's work. And yet Sir Edward Carson and his followers, who are for ever boasting of Belfast's greatness, refuse the women the smallest voice in their "Provisional Government."

The Real "Exclusion."

The total population of Ulster is close upon 1,600,000 of all ages. Out of this number very nearly 605,000 are Protestants over sixteen. We may assume, therefore, that in Ulster there are at least 302,500 women over 16, and very nearly all of them are working women earning a living for themselves or their families, and having quite as much at "stake in the country" as the same number of men. Yet not a single one of these women is to be allowed to say under what kind of a government she wishes to live. If a Provisional Government is set up, no woman is to have the smallest voice in it. If the various counties are to decide by Referendum under which Parliament they will live, no woman will be allowed to say whether she wants to remain under England or to throw in her lot with her own countrymen down south. On these vital questions no woman has yet been consulted. It is assumed that they are of no consequence to women, or that woman is incapable of having an opinion on them. Woman is held cheap. Whether the counties are excluded or not, she is excluded. She is given away with a pound of politics.

Women and the Covenant.

But when it suits the politicians they implore her aid. The Irish question is one of the most difficult political problems in the world. It is the penalty we are paying for ancient crimes of oppression, persecution and greed. It is complicated by ancient animosities and hereditary feuds. Religion and race combine to prevent its solution. And yet, though women are not allowed to vote, they are called upon to take sides with a light heart. The question is one of extraordinary difficulty, but no one seems to doubt that women are quite capable of deciding upon it. Ulster women are invited, nay compelled, to sign the Covenant. What is more, even in

England there is a special Covenant for English women to sign. If there is one question more than another in modern politics upon which English women might be expected to hesitate before giving an opinion, it is the Irish question. It is much more difficult than any other point of Imperial affairs, and English women probably know less about it. Yet, though they may not vote, they are supposed to be quite capable of deciding the rights and wrongs of it in their own minds, and adding their signatures to the Unionist cause. Where, then, is the common argument, especially among Unionists, that women are unfit to vote on Imperial affairs? Where is Mrs. Humphry Ward? Is she standing at the places where the Women's Covenant lies for signature and driving women away?

"It's Woman this, and Woman that."

We are thankful to the Women's Covenant for undermining all the silly humbug about woman's incapacity for judgment on public affairs. If women can judge on the Irish question, my word! there is not much on which they could not judge. And in other ways the Ulster politicians are using women's services just as shamelessly as Liberals and Conservatives use them at elections for the dirtiest part of the political game. Here, in Belfast, there is an old Town Hall which the Carsonite Volunteers have taken as their headquarters. One set of rooms is set apart for the Ulster Women's Association, and women have flung themselves into the work of "Ministering Angels" with the unselfish devotion of which they are, unfortunately, so capable. Here was a crisis on which they might have bargained, just as the poor Liberal Women and Primrose Dames might bargain at elections. But they have not bargained. Meta-

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Z. P. EMERSON, Advertisement Manager.

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No. 5. Saturday, April 18th, 1914.

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

HOW DO THE WOMEN FARE.

Mr. NEVINSON's interesting article, which appears on another page, dwells on the fact that the riches of wealthy Ulster have been built upon the labour of women, and of children whose wages are needed to eke out their mother's scanty earnings.

A recent Board of Trade report on the earnings of textile workers, gave the average wage of adult women in the Belfast flax mills in the last week of September 1906, as 10s. 10d., but the return was made at a season of specially good trade. In 1907, Mrs. Martindale, the woman Factory Inspector for the district, made a special inquiry into the wages paid to women in flax scutch mills, and reported that: "women were usually paid a set wage of 1s. per day, or 5s. 6d. or 6s. a week. In some few cases the wages were 7s. and 8s. a week, while in one district they were as low as 3s. or 4s."

From such miserable earnings fines, varying from 3d. to 4s., are constantly being deducted for flaws in the work, which in many cases are unavoidable, and in many cases due to the poor quality of the material supplied by the manufacturer. The Truck Act is supposed to protect the worker from the imposition of excessive fines, but Ulster Millowners frequently evade the possibility of punishment by declaring that part of the wage is a bonus only to be paid for perfect work and absolute punctuality. Thus for some trifling flaw in work or for being a few moments late one morning, a worker may lose at one fell swoop 4s. or 5s. out of a

wage of 8s. or 9s. Women factory inspectors have for years past been calling attention to this abuse without result. Many complaints are made of the women being obliged, directly or indirectly, to buy goods from shops kept by millowners or their agents.

The sweating amongst women who live in the slums of Belfast and make up fancy linen goods for the Ulster manufacturers is appalling. One learns of them rising at five in the morning and working till eleven at night to earn 3s. 6d. a week to pay the rent. A penny an hour is said to be the ordinary rate of pay, and it is often less.

Dr. W. H. Baillie the Belfast Medical Officer of Health, reports cases of women embroidering 308 dots on a cushion for a penny, and 384 dots on a handkerchief for the same sum. Miss Martindale gives instances of women embroidering monograms on handkerchiefs at 8d. a dozen, half-a-dozen of which can be done in a day; of muslin bedspreads taking nearly a week to embroider and being paid for at the rate of 4s. each; of cosy covers, one and a half of which can be done in a day, being paid at the rate of 3d. each; and of 5s. being paid for ladies skirts, which take nine days to work. The rates of pay for hand knitted stockings are from 1s. 6d. per dozen, and it is said that the workers earn even less at this than at embroidery.

Mr. James Haslam tells of a woman supporting a sick husband and paying 2s. 9d. a week rent for two wretched little rooms, who for two days had been working every available moment on a tea cloth, for which she was to receive eightpence. The cloths that she was embroidering at this rate were to be sold at from 15s. to 20s. each. After the rent was paid this poor woman and her husband would have 1s. 11d. a week to live on. It is awful to know that men have grown rich on the wretchedness of such people! It is revolting to think that the unfortunate women who make the dainty hand embroidered linen work, for which high prices are charged in the big cities all over the world, are paid at such miserable rates!

The Congested District Board of Ireland is supposed to be a philanthropic institution for the benefit of poor Irish women. The people live in wretched one, two, or, at the most, three roomed hovels, of which the walls are a few stones piled together, the floor the bare earth, and the roof is of the rough cut sods. Often there is no other chimney than a hole in the roof. These houses the tenants build for themselves on the bit of land they rent, quarrying out even the stones for the walls, as best they may, from the hard mountain side.

When giving evidence before the Select Committee on Home Work, appointed to consider the question of Wages Boards, the report of which was published in 1908, Mr. Walker, the Industrial Adviser, and Inspector to the Congested Districts Board, stated that it would be impossible to apply to the Irish home workers any Act, under which ordinary standards of sanitation and cubic air space were enforced, because, if this were done, the vast majority of the dwellings would not be licensed. He said that it was common for twelve persons to be housed in a cubic air space of 1,000 feet, whereas 400 cubic feet is usually required for each person.

The Congested Districts Board set up classes in lace, embroidery, crochet, hand and machine knitting, paying the salaries of the teachers and the rent and heating of the school rooms, and selling knitting machines to the people at cost price on terms of payment repayable in three years. The teachers sell the work of the pupils and of those who have left the school, to manufacturers in Belfast.

Mr. Walker admitted that the women who do embroidery in Donegal earn from 3s. 6d. to 7s., or when the trade is specially good 8s. 6d. a week of 56 hours work. Lace and crochet are paid at much the same rates, and women in Donegal have often had to knit a dozen pairs of socks for 10s. These low prices Mr. Walker attributed to the fact that machinery works so fast. He said that the Irish women must turn out lace embroidery and stockings as fast as machinery can do. We all know that in the shops hand work cannot be got for the price of machine made goods, but the grasping Belfast manufacturers endeavour to pay no more. Mr. Walker showed specimens of Irish hand embroidered handkerchiefs for which the workers were paid 1s. 9d. per dozen, and Swiss machine made ones paid for at 1s. 10d. He observed that there was three times as much work on these particular Swiss handkerchiefs as on the Irish, but he also showed some on which the work was much alike, for which the workers were paid 2s. a dozen both for hand and machine work.

Mr. Walker also said that the Irish women who do draw linen work suffer from the competition of Tenerife and Japan, and that the freight charges from Tenerife to Belfast is 25s. a ton, and from Japan to Belfast 45s., whilst from Ballinrobe in Mayo to Belfast it is 42s. 9d., and from Ballintra in Donegal 42s. 6d.

The fact that the people live in miserable hovels is explained away by the statement that the open country is around them, but in the wet weather, which is so common in Ireland, and in the cold winter the women cannot sit outside at their lacemaking, ill clad as they are.

It is said that the Irish peasants can live on little, but Mr. Walker admitted that the children in the homes where the women do home work under the supervision of the Congested Districts Board are insufficiently fed; that in the winter no milk can be got for them, and that they live on dry bread and stewed tea. That because the children are kept at home to help their mothers and sisters with the homework, the proportion of illiteracy varies from 35 to 70 per cent., 50 to 65 per cent. being common.

And the people who live thus miserably on the verge of starvation are those who are supposed to be specially favoured by the patronage of rich people, which has erected for them the Congested District Boards! The poor women are taught their trades by the charity of the Board. But the rich merchants of Belfast are those who benefit!

Ireland has those who indeed to do for her women. The union with England has left them in a hapless plight! Can women hope more from Home Rule as administered by Mr. Redmond and his party? The fact that they deny a share of self government to women is an evil omen.

But what has the English Liberal Government that shouts for freedom for Ireland, done to prevent the under payment and degradation of women's labour in our own land? The sweating of women is everywhere around us. The one measure passed to cope with it—a measure not originally promoted by the Government—has been the Wages Board Act of 1909, which applies as yet to but few trades. Though 70 per cent of the persons affected by this Act are women and girls, women have but a small minority of representation on the Wages Boards. In the chain trades the time rates fixed for women are 2 1/2d an hour, for men 5d to 7d. In lace finishing they are 2 1/2d an hour for women. In the paper box trade in Great Britain 3d an hour for women 6d an hour for men. In the same trade in Ireland 2 1/2d for women 6d for men. In the tailoring trade in Great Britain 3 1/2d for women 6d for men.

Even these poor rates only apply to adults, who are experts in their trade. We hear much of the need for high remuneration for professional men, because of the years of training they have spent in qualifying.

In the chain trade both boys and girls, or men and women, as the case may be, must have served two years and be over 17 years of age before they can attain to the minimum rates. In lace finishing women learners over 18 must serve six months at 5s.

a week, and those who are less than 18 must serve two years at reduced rates, which rise from 5/- to 9/6 a week in the fourth six months.

In cardboard box making (Great Britain) female learners of 14 begin at 4/- a week and rise to 10/6 after four years. Learners under 17 begin at 4/6 and rise to 10/6 after three years and six months. Learners over 17 and under 20 begin at 5/- and get 10/6 after two years and six months. Learners over 20 begin at 6/- and rise to 10/6 after two years. Boys begin at 4/6 under 15 years and rise to 21/- at 21 years. The Irish rates are similar for women and rather lower for men.

In the tailoring trade girls of 14 begin at 3/- a week and rise to 12/6 after four years. Girls of 15 start at 3/8 and get 12/6 after three years. Girls of 16 start at 5/2 and get 12/6 after two years. Women learners over 21 start at 6/9 and get 12/6 after a year. Boys of 15 start at 4/2 and get 21/1 at 22 years.

These are the trades for which the Government is making special arrangements to prevent sweating. It is time indeed that women should have a share of Government power, in order that they may insist that all over the kingdom a higher value should be set upon their labour and a higher standard of comfort may be accorded as their right.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

PATCH-SHANEEN.

Shaneen and Maurya Prendergast live west in Carrinreagh, And they'd a cur-dog, cabbage plot, A goat, and cock of hay, He was five foot one or two, Hersell was four foot ten, And he went travelling asking meal Above through Carragh Glen, She'd pick her bag of carriage Or perries through the surf, Or lean an ass of Foxy Jim To fetch her creel of turf, Till on one windy Samhain night, When there's stir among the dead, He found her perished, stiff and stark, Beside him in the bed, And now when Shaneen travels far From Droum to Ballyhyre The women lay him sacks or straw, Beside the seal of fire, And when the grey cocks crow and lap And winds are in the sky, "O Maurya, Maurya, are you dead?" You'll hear Patch-Shaneen cry.

JOHN M. SYNGE.

MILITANCY IN IRELAND.

Miss Dorothy Evans and Miss Maud Muir, Suffragists, who were arrested on April 4th, attended Belfast Court for trial, but such noise was made that the women had to be ejected, and the proceedings were eventually adjourned. Miss Evans called for the arrest of Sir Edward Carson and other Ulster Unionist leaders. These men, she declared, were in possession of explosives and yet nothing was done to them.

When the Suffragist case at Belfast was resumed, both accused attempted to leave the court, and in the struggle with the police Miss Evans fainted, and Miss Muir threw a hand-bag in the direction of the magistrate. Both were remanded in custody and adopted the hunger and thirst strike, and were released unconditionally. They were too ill to appear at court on Tuesday. Miss Maud Muir proposes to take legal proceedings against the Belfast prison doctor in respect of an injury which she states he inflicted upon her.

Last Friday morning, "Orlands," a mansion overlooking Belfast Lough, was reduced to ruins. A daring attempt to destroy "Seaview House," Belfast, was made on Thursday, April 9th, but the caretaker extinguished the fire before serious damage was done.

Last Tuesday an attempt was made to fire Bangor Railway Station. Protests took place in many churches and restaurants, and M.P.s were heckled at meetings.

DESTRUCTION AT BRITISH MUSEUM.

A Suffragette named Maud Stewart attacked a glass case with a chopper at the British Museum, on April 9th. When charged at Bow Street, on the 11th, the damage was estimated at about £27. The trial could not proceed in the morning as the accused refused to listen to the prosecutor, and talked to prevent him being heard. In the afternoon she continued talking, and was held in the dock by two policemen. She stated that she did not consent to being tried while Mrs. Pankhurst and others were being tortured under the "Cat and Mouse" Act. Accused was committed for trial, and as she was removed from the dock a woman in the court called out: "Rebellion against tyranny is obedience to God."

NEWS OF PRISONERS.

Miss Small was released on Wednesday. Miss Mary Stewart was released on Wednesday afternoon. The release of Miss Kitty Marion is hourly expected; she is known to be very ill.

SCENES AT THE I.L.P. CONFERENCE.

On Saturday, April 11th, the Independent Labour Party began to hold its 21st Annual Conference at Bradford, under the Presidency of Mr. Keir Hardie.

The Chairman, in opening the Conference, was much interrupted by Suffragists, while he stated that the I.L.P. had pioneered progress in this country, had broken down barriers of class and sex, and was giving the lead to the women's movement, and other forces, but after 21 years' work they were only at the beginning. Other pertinent interruptions occurred at later stages in the proceedings.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., said he was gratified at being associated with the anniversary. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself for associating with the Liberal Government in their treatment of women," shouted a man from the gallery.

During discussion on the Parliamentary level of 1s. per member, a woman in the gallery objected to paying for Members of Parliament. She was ejected amid considerable uproar.

A second woman also objected. During the discussion it was stated that there was not a penny in hand for a general election, which might come in July.

The levy was agreed to. Philip Snowden stated that he disagreed with MacDonald. The policy of the Labour Party was little different from that of the Liberals. For four years they had given everything and had got nothing in return. The Irish Party treated them with contempt.

During a demonstration held in connection with the Conference, Ramsay MacDonald and Philip Snowden could not obtain a hearing, owing to Suffragist interruptions.

One lady was chained to her seat, and the meeting was stopped a long time while a crowbar was got and a portion of the seat wrenched off. The interrupter went away with the broken piece hanging to her by chains.

Snowden then said he would bring his remarks to a close, and did not speak again. When Ramsay MacDonald spoke pandemonium reigned. The audience paid no attention to him, and bags of flour which were thrown at him struck the pressman, who was covered from head to foot.

The Bradford resolution which was put to the Conference reads:—That Cabinet rule, which involves the suppression of the rights of the private member to any adequate voice in the policy of his party, and which implies the resignation of the Ministry and the dissolution of Parliament when proposals of the Cabinet are negative, besides making almost impossible the free consideration of proposals which have not received Cabinet hall mark, is inimical to the good government of the country; that, with a view to the ultimate break-up of this system, the Parliamentary Labour Party be asked to take no account of any such considerations, and to vote on all issues only in accordance with the principles for which the party stands.

By an overwhelming vote this resolution was carried, and, if acted upon by the Labour Party, would turn out the Government in a few days.

FALSE ALARM OF FIRE AT I.L.P. CONFERENCE.

While the Conference was discussing its political policy in camera, two fire engines dashed up to the hall and were getting ready for action when the firemen were informed that the alarm of fire was a bogus one. The event, following quickly on the interruptions and ejections at the Saturday and Sunday meetings, left little doubt that militant Suffragists were responsible.

SO LONG AGO AND MR. ASQUITH says it NOW!

"The increasing extent to which women are employed in the manufacturing towns may tend to alter their relative positions in society. A strike for wages is sometimes organised by female operatives. This year the card-strikes, in the neighbourhood of Sholes and Hightown, chiefly women, held a meeting to the number of 1,500, at Peep Green, at which it was determined not to set any more cards at less than a halfpenny per thousand. Alarmists may view these indications of female independence as menacing to established institutions, but the education of the lower orders."—From the Leeds Mercury, May 4th, 1833.

NATIONAL UNION OF TEACHERS CONFERENCE.

At Lowestoft, on April 13th, the Forty-fifth Annual Conference of the N.U.T. began.

In the course of his inaugural address the President, Mr. W. B. Steer, referred to the threatened death of teachers, largely owing to poor remuneration. The figures that he gave brought into prominence the inferior pay of women:—

There were 103 head masters who received more than £400, but 501 who received less than £100; there were 227 who received more than £350, but 2,153 received less than £120. Similarly there were 70

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head mistresses who received between £300 and £350 per year, there were three who received less than £50, and 1,162 who received less than £80. There were 275 head mistresses who received more than £250, but 2,876 who received less than £30. To this number he added the 4,496 certificated class masters who received less than £100 per year, and the 5,127 certificated class mistresses who received less than £70 a year. It would be obvious that there were at least 14,650 fully-qualified teachers who could not be said to be earning a living wage. The Board of Education and the local education authorities disclaimed responsibility.

At the session of the Conference on the 14th, the resolution on the salaries of class teachers in primary schools showed the same inequality between the pay of the men and women.

Equality Claimed. Miss A. Dawson (East Lambeth) proposed an amendment that the salaries of men and women teachers should be equal. She claimed that women teachers were every whit as good as the male teachers. Men and women paid the same contribution to the union, but when the strike took place in Herefordshire why did they not receive the same pay? (Hear, hear).

The vote was then taken by a show of hands, and the president declared that the amendment was "overwhelmingly lost."

A small body of women rose and demanded a division. The president explained that 50 would demand a division. Thereupon more than 50 ladies and about half a dozen men stood up. There were cries of "Why waste time?" but it was decided to take a poll which the "equality" amendment was defeated by 58,483 to 11,017.

A resolution expressing sympathy with the women members of the N.U.T., who desired the Parliamentary Franchise, was moved by Miss Claphorn. An amendment ruling out Women Suffrage from discussion was declared by the President carried, and later was to be put to a card vote.

W.S.P.U. MEETING.

A message from Lowestoft states:—Wonderful meeting, crowded and enthusiastic. Hippodrome surrounded by London detectives and police. Lights were flashed on the faces of the people as they entered. In spite of all precautions, Miss Annie Kenney appeared on the platform, and after a rousing speech left the hall in safety, with the aid of her bodyguard.

General Drummond also spoke. Lady Isabel Margesson, who presided, made the following statement:—"Mrs. Pankhurst has not yet recovered from the violence meted out to her when she was arrested at Glasgow and the effect of the subsequent hunger and thirst strike in prison."

"A journey to and from Scotland, which proved abortive owing to the unopposed election of the Prime Minister, has been a cause of severe fatigue and strain, unforeseen when the Lowestoft meeting was first arranged."

"Mrs. Pankhurst is particularly anxious to lead the deputation to the King on May 21st, and this would have been impossible had she incurred arrest and imprisonment this evening."

WOMEN TEACHERS AND THE VOTE.

The Women Teachers' Franchise Union held a public meeting at the Wesley Hall, Lowestoft on Saturday, 11th.

The chair was taken by Miss Agnes Dawson, the President of the W.T.F.U., and a London delegate, Dr. Barbara Thakovsky moved the resolution: "That this meeting of delegates of the N.U.T. and others desire to record its conviction that it is in the best interests of education that women be granted the Parliamentary Franchise." This was her conviction from her work in the schools of London as a medical officer. Mr. Laurence Housman seconded the resolution and compared the fire and zeal and desire for right social conditions of the Suffragists with the hypocrisy of the anti-Suffragists.

Miss Nancy Lightman, a London teacher and vice-president of the W.T.F.U., supported the resolution which was carried by the crowded meeting with only five men voting against it.

HERRING CURING CONDITIONS AT LOWESTOFT.

Sir A. Williamson has given notice of a question to the Secretary for Scotland asking him if he has received complaints regarding the conditions under which girls of Scotland carry on their occupation, especially during the herring-curing season at Lowestoft. The Associated Women's Friendly Society asserts that the excessive rate of sickness observed among its members is due to the conditions of employment and of the transit by sea where the accommodation is insufficient.

WOMEN PRAY IN CHURCH.

Suffragists were present in force at the service held in St. John's Church, Lowestoft, in connection with the conference of the National Union of Teachers, at which the Bishop of Norwich was preacher.

Women occupied two seats in the centre of the church, and when the collect was reached they rose in a body and recited "God save Emmeline Pankhurst," concluding with "Amen."

Amid excitement several who refused to be quiet were ejected, and one ran to the chancel where she knelt and prayed loudly. When the bishop ascended the pulpit to commence his sermon there were cries of "My Lord Bishop, will you protest against this torturing?" Protests were continued throughout the service.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

At a Conference of the Amalgamated Society of Telephone Employees, which concluded on Saturday, April 11th, H. Thomas (London) moved a resolution instructing the executive committee to endeavour to induce the P.M.G. to discontinue employing further female staff for clerical duties, unless paid at the same rate as the male staff. The resolution was carried.

Another resolution demanding the same maximum salary for female telephone operators as for male telephone operators was also proposed by Mr. Lloyd. This was also carried.

The resolution carried, demanding equal pay for men and women, proves that the men telephone workers have realised that, apart from the question of justice, unequal pay forces women into the position of blacklegs and is injurious to the interests of men as well as women.

At the Conference of Postal and Telegraph Clerks on April 15th, a resolution was carried demanding equal pay for men and women.

SHOP ASSISTANTS.

The Shop Assistants' Union concluded their Annual Delegate Meeting at Leicester. A resolution was adopted affirming that the true interests of the community could only be served by the direct Parliamentary representation of both sexes, and calling upon the Government to pass a measure granting universal adult suffrage.

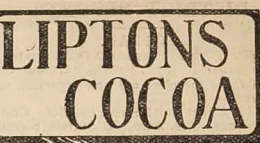
LETTER FROM A STRIKER.

Below is a letter from a member of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes who fought the women employed at "Johnny Walkers'" out on strike a few months ago, and won for them a number of improvements both in wages and conditions. She also demanded and obtained improvements for the men.

To the Editor of the Woman's Dreadnought. Dear Friend, It has just come to my knowledge that the young fellow working at "Johnny Walker's" has interrupted the E.L.F.S. meetings at Bow, saying I have been doing a man's work, which is a tissue of lies from beginning to end. This so-called man did not tell the audience that I was the means of getting him and the other men an increase in wages and a week's holiday on full pay, during the year. He never had the courage to come out on strike with us girls, but hung on to our apron strings, though he had been one of the first to agitate for a strike. I should like you to know that this Alf Russell was doing a girl's work at "Johnny Walkers'." He was not particular about taking her living from her. He also bragged about being a trade unionist, which he never was until the other part of the week. He told the audience that the man who used to sit in my place had a wife and five children, but that man sat at a corking machine, which has been moved to another part of the factory and the same man still works it. When I was face to face with him before the manager, Alf Russell denied saying things against me. I can assure you I am doing the same work as I was before I became the leader of the strike. Alf Russell said that I was doing corking but I am not; I simply put a small cork ring into the bottle neck, I defy anyone to say that I have sunk so low as to do even a boy's work, unless I should receive the same money as him. All this unpleasantness has arisen owing to the fact that I and other girls have kept in the National Federation of Women Workers, which helped to get us our rights, instead of joining another union. I close with best wishes, hoping that we shall soon win the Vote. Yours etc., ANNIE LAKE.

An Open Letter to Working Men.

35 FAIRFIELD ROAD, BOW, E. DEAR COMRADES, I wish to appeal to each one of my fellow workers to realise that this question of Votes for Women is not only a woman's movement, but is just as much a man's movement, and that it affects every working man in the country as much as it does every working woman. What is the use of our trade unions and strikes when we force women into the labour market to be the "Gang," and allow the capitalist to exploit women in competition against us, at about a quarter the wages we should be able to command? When your son leaves school and goes into the labour market he can earn from 6s. to 10s. per week, and can thus contribute a little towards the expenses of your home; but



1/4 lb for 4 1/2 WHY YOU SHOULD DRINK AND ENJOY LIPTONS COCOA BECAUSE The Quality is absolutely guaranteed. It possesses a delicious and distinctive flavour, which fully satisfies the palate. As a food beverage it is most nutritious and sustaining. The price is only 4 1/2d. per 1/4 lb. tin, half the usual charge for BEST COCOA. A FREE GIFT THIS PRESENTATION BOX of Finest Quality CHOCOLATES is GIVEN FREE In Exchange for the complete White and Gold Labels taken from 24 1/2 lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa. 12 1/2 lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa. 6 1/2 lb. Tins of Lipton's Cocoa. The Labels can be exchanged at any of our Branches.



when a girl starts out in life, what does she earn? Perhaps from 1s. to 3s. 6d. per week. That is no help to the father and mother, who have to provide a home and food for her; why should she not earn as much as her brother, and be able to assist her parents to the same extent? It means semi-starvation, and after marriage puny and delicate children. Do you know there are, to-day, in England, thousands of working women and girls whose wages do not average 7s. 6d. per week! And what is the result? There are more than 80,000 women getting their living on the London streets! But, comrades, think whose daughters they are. Yours! As these unfortunate are always recruited from our class.

That is the reason the Governments and employers do nothing to improve this state of affairs; therefore, I appeal to you as men and for the sake of your manhood, to come forward and alter these conditions yourselves, which you can do by forcing Parliament to, immediately, carry through a Woman's Suffrage Bill.

Buck up, mates, and fight for a better and brighter life for yourselves, and for your wives and children. Yours in the cause, ALBERT RETTICH.

MEN AND WOMEN JOIN THE PEOPLE'S ARMY.

All particulars— 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

POPLAR.

Office... 319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.
Organiser... MISS M. PATERSON.
Districts therefore are now organised as follows—

1. Upper North Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk Street. *Helpers*—Mrs. Neuss, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Skeet, Misses Lagsding, Mrs. Cresswell, Mrs. Cregan. No. of copies weekly—1,000.
2. Christ Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Pyffe, 37 Morris Rd. *Helpers*—Mrs. Unwin, Miss Edy, Miss Rutter. No. of Copies weekly—600.
3. Isle of Dogs. *Captain*—Mrs. Bird, 90 Suffolk Street. *Helper*—Mrs. Neuss. No. of Copies weekly—500.
4. Kerbey Street District. *Captain*—Mrs. Schlette, 128 Kerbey Street. No. of Copies weekly—400.
5. High Street District, Mrs. Walker, No. of Copies weekly—200.

There are, in addition, many hundreds of copies distributed each week by helpers who can only give odd time, in districts as yet without Captains.
Sales last week—75 copies.

At member's meeting on Wednesday, means for raising money in Self Denial Week were discussed. Several members promised to take collecting cards, to sell papers at Stations, to ask those to whom they distribute the paper free to pay for it that week. Members asked to help to make flowers to wear and sell.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser—Mrs. IVES,
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Dreadnoughts sold in shops and on pitches, for week ending April 10th—422. Members who have sold over 50 copies: Mrs. Burton, 284; Miss Cohen, 223; Mrs. Watkins, 167; Miss Hawkes, 130; Mrs. Moore, 108; Miss Neal, 65; Mrs. Mantle, 50; Miss Verham, 50; others, 237.

Members' Distribution Districts:—Mrs. Lansbury 500 copies; Mrs. Burton 500 copies; Mrs. Moore and Mrs. O'Connell 500 copies; Miss Boyce 500 copies; Mrs. Kelly 400 copies; Mrs. Bailey, Miss Hayday and Miss Verham 300 copies; Mrs. Weaver 200 copies; Mrs. Carlisle and Mrs. Watkins 200 copies each; Mrs. Mantle and Mrs. Clarke 200 copies each; Mrs. Knudson and Mrs. McCheque 200 copies each; Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Wilson 150 copies each; Mrs. Pascoe and Mr. Jouning (Edmonton) 100 each.

Interesting meeting held in Crowder's Hall on Wednesday, when Miss Joachim spoke, and Miss Petersen told the members about the conditions of the women in Denmark.

Members are asked to come forward to sell the paper at the Stations and outside Picture Palaces, also to prepare for Self Denial week.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec.—Mrs. DAISY PARSONS,
93 Ravenscroft Road.

A very successful "Dreadnought" captain's meeting was held at 94 Ravenscroft Road last Thursday. Miss Grimes is making herself responsible for the West Silver-town district (500 copies). Miss Penn and Miss Greenleaf arranged to go to the Strand with "Dreadnoughts" and Miss Daisy Legett is willing to sell outside a picture palace. Who will volunteer to go to Beckton Road corner every Sunday morning from 11.30 a.m. till 1 p.m.? This should be a very good pitch! Next indoor meeting Thursday, April 23rd; 187 *Dreadnoughts* were sold week ending April 10th.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

Hackney, Kingsland & Stoke Newington M.P.U.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Eric W. Roberts.
Acting Hon. Sec.: Mr. M. Myers,
6 Streety Buildings, Mount Street,
Bethnal Green.

Forty copies of *Woman's Dreadnought* sold. Excellent meetings held last week. Increase of membership. Financial assistance urgently needed.

Meetings throughout the week are as follows—

Sunday, April 19th—Ridley Road, Kingsland, 12 noon; Mrs. Davies, Mr. Eric Roberts, Mr. Allan Clark. Chair—Mr. Carwood.

Thursday, April 23rd—Boleyn Road, Kingsland, 8 p.m.; Mr. Eric W. Roberts, Mr. Gerald Rice-Oxley. Chair—Mr. W. Budd.

FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH!

A meeting of the Poplar Borough Council is to be held on Thursday next, April 23rd, at eight o'clock. The public is still excluded from the Council Chamber, and a protest meeting is therefore being held outside. It is hoped that every member will make a special effort to attend, bringing her friends, in order that the Councillors may realise that the people of Bow will not sit quiet under an attempt to deprive them of the use of their own halls.

Electors! The Councillors are your servants. Come on Thursday and show them that they must do your bidding.

THE MOVEMENT IN IRELAND.

By MRS. SHEEHY SKEFFINGTON.

Recent developments in Ulster having thrown the Home Rule Bill again into the melting-pot, the present situation is full of promise for Irish suffragists. In fact, if we succeed in following up our advantages, Ireland may be the first country in which Votes for Women is granted. Ireland (having a noble tradition of womanhood, as shown by the great freedom enjoyed by women under the ancient Irish civilization) has already led the way in other directions, such as the opening of the medical profession to women and the granting by Dublin University—alone among the older Universities—of equality to women students. The suffrage movement here has been gaining in strength enormously of late, and there are now over twenty-five active suffrage societies that have sprung up within the last six years, as well as an Irish suffragist weekly paper, *The Irish Citizen*. Suffragists are determined, now that the Government has accepted a "suggestion" stage for the Home Rule Bill, that either in the House of Commons or in the Committee stage in the House of Lords, the measure shall be so amended as to include Votes for Irishwomen on the basis of the Local Government register, that is to give the municipal electors the parliamentary vote. Mr. Redmond has repeatedly urged the success of the Local Government Act as an argument for Home Rule. Women having proved themselves efficient in local affairs, should not be denied the larger powers which that success has merited. Sir Edward Carson, having already said that he would concede Votes to Ulsterwomen under a Provisional Government, cannot logically oppose their claims, for Ulstermen at least have the protection of the vote. If Home Rule is a blessing, Irishwomen should share in its blessings, if an unmitigated evil, Irishwomen should have a voice in the matter. Now that the question of a Referendum for Ulster is mooted Irishwomen insist upon being consulted; if the Ulster counties are to be allowed to "contract out" of the bill, Ulsterwomen must have a similar right. Sir Edward Carson, to a recent deputation of a Northern Suffragist Society, promised to consider this point. After all, should there be civil war in Ireland it is on the women (Nationalist and Unionist) that the chief brunt will fall.

Irish suffragists are working hard to put these matters before Members of Parliament and the public by resolutions, by manifestoes, by interviews and deputations, at home and in Westminster, by all the usual constitutional weapons of persuasion. Should these fail—as fail they may—the Irish militants of the Irish Women's Franchise League, a strong and active body which has already made itself felt and feared on various occasions by party politicians, have other weapons, whose efficacy has been frequently proved in Ireland, from the days of Parnell and his obstructionists to the days of Sir Edward Carson and his Northern militants. Under Federalism, should that solution come, it is most important that Ireland should lead the way by insisting on Votes for Irishwomen, setting up an example for the other federal states to follow. If Ireland allows herself to be cut out in this respect, her example would set up a fatal precedent.

OUR VIEW.

It seems to us that in asking for votes on the basis of the Local Government Register, a smaller franchise than that extended to men for Parliamentary purposes, the Irish Women's Franchise League is making a grave mistake. Any property franchise, even though technically equal, must of necessity bear more heavily upon women than on men, because women earn smaller wages, because they are seldom property owners, and because as a rule it is the husband, and not the wife, who is the householder. To set up an added property barrier against women would therefore be especially unfair. There seems no doubt that Manhood Suffrage will be granted shortly, though men are not fighting and suffering for

the vote as women are. When that time comes we want Womanhood Suffrage also, and we believe that women should never, under any circumstances, ask for a smaller franchise than men have got.

We regret that we are unable to place even a small degree of confidence in the efficacy of the manifestoes, resolutions, interviews and deputations of which Mrs. Skeffington speaks. We hope that the mass of Irish women will not much longer rely on such patient and peaceful methods, but will break forth in the militancy for which the Irish people have so long been noted. Only by turbulence and unrest, we believe, can they bring the woman's claim to notice, amid the warfare of militant Ulster and Nationalist men.

The Editor of the *Woman's Dreadnought*.

CHILD LABOUR.

The *Irish Citizen* says of child labour in the Belfast flax mills:—"The children work in the wet spinning room, earning 5s. or 6s. a week, running straight out into the icy March wind from the hot, moist air of the mill, their little bare feet soaked in warm water on the streaming floor of the mill, straight on to the stone pavement. Naturally consumptive cases are frequent: in one girls' club, out of 60 girls, all of whom had been half-timers, two died in one year of consumption, and two others sickened of the same disease. Teachers, and all who are concerned in the care of children, have protested again and again that its effects are altogether evil, both as regards the physical and mental health of the children. Of the same 60 girls already referred to, 20 could only read from the second book used in school, and five could not read at all. The Belfast linen trade was scheduled under the Trades' Boards Act in August of last year. No machinery for enforcing the Act has yet been set up. Even when set up, it can hardly be sufficient to cope with this evil, since additional clauses are required in the Act to guard against the sweating of children, and to prevent the employment of tiny children to supplement the family earnings."

WINTER.

With Little Money in a Great City.

There's snow in every street
Where I go up and down,
And there's no woman, man, or dog
That knows me in the town.

I know each shop, and all
These Jews and Russian Poles,
For I go walking night and noon
To spare my sack of coals.

JOHN M. SVNGE.

This might well be the song of a penniless Irish emigrant in an American city, where exiles and refugees from all the poorer peoples of Europe congregate, and where the bitter cold forces whoever has no fire for the stove to keep moving or freeze to death.

A DOMESTIC SERVANTS' UNION.

Unions in England and Denmark compared.

The Domestic Servants' Trade Union of Copenhagen, Denmark, enforces a servants' contract, under which servants are entitled to two free evenings in each week, and to the afternoon after 2 p.m. on every second Sunday and every public holiday; also to eight days' holiday in the summer with payment of full wages, and, in addition, 1 kroner (about 1s. 1d.) a day, for "food money." The contract also limits the servant's daily hours to 10½, between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. After 7 p.m. regular duties are only to include the serving of one meal, the turning down of beds, placing of lights in bedrooms, and such preparations for the night. Servants asked to do washing, ironing and cleaning after 7 p.m. must be paid overtime, at the rate of 25 öre (about 3½d.) an hour.

The Copenhagen Servants' Union also fixes minimum wage rates. Servants under 18 pay to the Union 50 öre (about 2s. 2d.) per month. Servants over 18 pay 75 öre (about 9½d.).

Missresses who wish to engage servants through the Union's Em-

ployment Bureau pay 2 kroner (about 2s. 2d.) a year. They find it worth while to do so, because the standard of work amongst the Union's members is exceedingly high. The Union runs a training centre for its members at which they may obtain board, lodging and tuition for 10 kroner (about 10s. 10d.) per month.

In this country a body calling itself the "Employers' and Domestic Servants' Union," of which the secretary is Miss Allarton, 5 Waterloo Street, Birmingham, was advertised in most of the daily papers recently.

This organisation issues a form of contract, for which employers are charged 3d., and servants 1½d., and there is a membership fee of 2s. 6d. a year for employers, and 6d. for servants.

There appears to be absolutely no reason why domestic servants should either join the Union or become parties to its contract, for the sole object, both of the Society and the contract, is to protect the employers from being forced to pay the wages of servants who are receiving Sick Insurance Benefit.

Here is the form of contract:—

FORM OF CONTRACT ISSUED BY EMPLOYERS' & DOMESTIC SERVANTS' UNION.

Not available for Employers who insure their Servants under the provisions of Section 47 of the Act.

When a domestic servant is entitled to sickness benefit (whether this is paid directly to the sick person or in accordance with the provisions of Section 12), the employer shall undertake for a period, not exceeding five weeks out of every twelve months, to make up the sick pay under the Act to the servant's full ordinary wages.

If the difference between sick pay and full wages is paid by the employer for five consecutive weeks, the contract shall—in the absence of arrangements made to renew it—automatically terminate at the expiration of that period.

In those cases in which the amount of sick pay equals or exceeds the servant's full wages, the employer shall have no monetary responsibility in respect of any weeks during which the servant is in receipt of sick pay. (This clause relieves employers, whose wages to servants do not exceed 7s. 6d. per week, from monetary responsibilities—other than those imposed by the Insurance Act—in the case of sick servants.)

No monetary responsibility for the equivalent of board and lodgings, if not provided in the employer's house, shall be incurred by the employer for any weeks when sickness benefit is being received.

This form of contract defines the legal monetary liabilities of employers (members of this Association) under the National Health Insurance Act, but it is not intended by it to place any limit upon the freedom of employers to do more than is specified above, if they may so wish, for any individual servant.

The above liability shall not be binding upon an employer in the case of illness caused by misconduct, etc., such as has always been held to justify dismissal without a month's notice.

This form must be shown to domestic servants at the time of their engagement, and recognised as binding upon both parties to the contract, but it is not necessary for servants, engaged upon these terms, to become members of the Union.

We are informed by our lawyer that this contract, if signed by the employer and the servant, is legally binding, but that, in the ordinary course, an employer is bound to pay a domestic servant's wages when she is ill, even if she is in receipt of sick benefit under the Insurance Act. Therefore, no servant should sign the contract, unless she receives in return a guarantee of some special privilege or advantage, which shall make it seem to her worth while, to sign.

Servants who have already signed this contract should note that it cannot be made to apply to accidents. The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1896 gives employed persons the right to compensation for accidents, which arise in the course of their work, provided the accidents are not caused through their own wilful misconduct. Employed persons cannot lose this right to compensation for accident by signing any contract.

The London Juvenile Advisory Committee of the Board of Trade is considering the future of children on leaving school, boys being its chief concern. For girls, apart from domestic service, the Committee has few suggestions to offer beyond work for which an average of 10s. a week may be expected.

Send in your names to join the NO RENT STRIKE.