

# THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOL. II.—No. 35.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1915.

PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

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

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

## MEETINGS LIST.

**Friday, Nov. 12th.**  
Piggott Street, 5 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier Miss Manicom.  
Beckton Rd., 5.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.  
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m. Miss Lynch, Mrs. Drake.  
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

**Saturday, Nov. 13th.**  
Morning Lane, 4 p.m., Mr. Mackinlay, Miss Beamish.  
Vernon Road, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.  
Bloomsbury, Theobald's Rd., 10 o'clock, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

**Sunday, Nov. 14th.**  
Victoria Park, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Bouvier.  
Bow Women's Hall, 7 p.m., Mrs. Walshe, Mr. A. A. Watts. Chair: Miss O'Callaghan.  
Copenhagen Place, 11.30 a.m., Miss Manicom, and others.  
Osborne St., 11.30 a.m., Miss Lynch, Mr. J. C. Rowe.

**Monday, Nov. 15th.**  
"Whitehouse," 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Beamish.  
Follett St., 4.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Manicom.

**Tuesday, Nov. 16th.**  
Clock Tower, Burdett Rd., 4.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.  
Poplar Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Mr. Sorensen, Mrs. Drake.  
Bow Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Manicom, Miss Lynch.  
175 Dalston Lane, 3 p.m., Miss Beamish, and others.

**Wednesday, Nov. 17th.**  
Chrip St., 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Manicom.  
53 St. Leonard Street, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Parsons.

**Thursday, Nov. 18th.**  
175 Dalston Lane, 8 p.m., Miss A. Haughton, B.A., Miss Beamish.  
124 Barking Rd., 3 p.m., Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Parsons.

**Friday, Nov. 19th.**  
Piggott St., 4.30 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Manicom.  
Beckton Rd., 4.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.  
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Ellen Smith, Mrs. Drake.  
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., "Parliament."

**Saturday, Nov. 20th.**  
Morning Lane, 4 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Miss Beamish.  
Vernon Rd., 3 p.m., Miss Lynch, and others.

**Sunday, Nov. 21st.**  
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Bouvier.  
Poplar Women's Hall, 7.30 p.m., Miss A. Haughton, B.A., Mr. Fred Hughes. Chair: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

## E. L. F. S. WANTS

MORE MEMBERS  
MORE PAPER SELLERS  
MORE COLLECTORS

Always attend the Meetings of the E.L.F.S.

Canning Town E.L.F.S. SOCIAL DENMARK ST. SCHOOLS,  
Denmark Street, Barking Road,  
SATURDAY, NOV. 27th, at 7 p.m.  
Tickets—THREEPENCE.

If you would like to be an M.P. for a night come to—  
**Parliamentary Debate,**  
Next Friday at 8 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.

FRIENDS SHOULD VISIT THE E.L.F.S.  
TOY STALLS 55 and 56, at the 11:15  
ENGLISH WOMAN'S EXHIBITION  
OF ARTS AND HANDICRAFTS,  
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER.  
OPEN WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th  
TO SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th,  
1915, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## WOMEN MUNITIONEERS.—The Fraud of Equal Pay.

The following particulars have just reached us from Birmingham:—

**KYNOCK'S, Ltd., Wilton, Birmingham.**

Bullet Shop—making "303" bullets for Government. Hours—8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Alternate shifts day and night. Six days a week.

### THREE PROCESSES.

(1) *Cases.*—Girls slip cases in holes on board (light work). Board holds 500. Paid 1d. for 2 boards = 1d. for 1,000. Young girls aged 15, 16 and 17 on this work.

The quickest worker on her best day earned 2s. 6½d. (no waiting). Average is about 10s. to 12s. a week on a "good" week.

(2) *Tips.*—Girls slip tips in cases (light work). Paid 1½d. for 1,000. Older girls on this, as it is better paid. The quickest worker on a very good day earned 3s. 4½d. (65 boards). Average for a good day = 2s. 3½d.

Often girls have to wait for materials, and on a poor week earn 7s.; to earn it they are obliged to put in 60 hours at the works. They cannot leave when there is nothing to do!

The "Boss" suggested dropping ½d. on 1,000 for each process, and the workers' cards were issued ½d., 1d., and 1½d. instead of 1d., 1½d., and 1½d. The girls waited from 7 till he came at 9 a.m. before they touched their work. They all "visited" him and refused to work at the price. The cards were changed, and prices remained the same.

### Workers' remarks.

(1) Wages earned are no better than before the War, though rates are the same, and the hours are longer (48 hours before War; 60 hours now). This is due to the number of hours wasted waiting for the material.

(2) More women are employed than are necessary. This keeps down wages, because the work, when it comes along, gets done quickly, and then they are all idle (and unpaid). However, it covers up the bad organisation elsewhere, because, though much work lies idle, owing to congestion between earlier processes, yet it gets finished to time by all these girls working at it when it does come up.



DR. ALETTA JACOBS.

Dr. JACOBS is the leader of the Dutch Women Suffragists, who are on the eve of victory. She is the Vice-Chairman of the Women's International Committee for Permanent Peace, and was one of the envoys to the rulers of the world from the Women's International Congress at the Hague.

(3) *Leads.*—Putting leads into cases; heavier and slower work than (1) and (2). Paid 1½d. for 1,000. (Older girls).

The quickest worker earned 3s. 9d. on a very good day, during which she was not kept waiting at all.

This would be at the rate of £1 2s. 6d. a week, if she could keep on all the time, which is impossible; the waiting is continual.

This worker on a "good" week earns 15s., but sometimes gets as little as 7s. through waiting!

### Notes on above.

War Bonus—6d. over 10s.  
9d. over 15s.  
1s. over £1.  
1s. 6d. over £1 5s.

15s. brings 6d., but 15s. 1d. brings 9d.  
Day rates in the shops are 3d. an hour = 15s. a week.

Where is Lloyd George's £1 a week?

**MORAL.**—A lot of girls are as cheap as a few, and much more useful.

(3) In spite of the supposed "plentiful work for women," many girls come all the way from Dudley, Old Hill, Blackheath, and Walsall. A girl (15 years' old) has to get up at 4.30 a.m., walk half-a-mile to the railway station, change trains, and then walk four miles to Kynock's.

Alternate weeks the women do night work without extra pay.

(4) Older women (many of whom are married) in other shops do not get better pay.

(5) One of the most experienced women, who has been over 20 years at Kynock's, says she has earned less since the war than she did before.

### A worker's suggestions.

"I think the girls should be put on day rates whilst waiting for the work. They are on the firm's premises and waiting their orders, and are paid nothing for this time.

"I believe that the girls could earn as much as they do now, and that the output would be as big, if they had an 8-hour day, if the work were organised better so that they need not wait about so much.

"The girls fall asleep at nights over their boards. The hours are far too long."

The above details were given me by workers at Kynock's in the shop named.

A. F. BODEN.

## WANTED, LLOYD GEORGE'S ANSWER.

There is a controversy in the *New Statesman* as to what Lloyd George's £1 a week promise means.

The *New Statesman* says that the £1 a week minimum and other recommendations concerning women munitioneers does not apply to the 1,000 "controlled establishments" which employ "all but one per cent. of the women."

"A Liberal" protests that—  
In view of what Mr. Lloyd George has said at the Trade Union Congress and elsewhere about the "nationalisation of the engineering industry and the responsibility of his department for wages and conditions, and his special pledge to the Congress about piece-work rates, one is surely justified in interpreting these words to apply to State-owned and State-controlled factories on the one hand, and uncontrolled private firms working only partly on munition work on the other. Any other interpretation, such as the one you adopt, would be to accuse the drafters of the prefatory note of a gross fraud on the public.

There is another reason why I cannot credit your reading of the note. If you were right, the Department's attitude, so far from marking a step in advance, would be most distinctly retrograde, because it would be an official disclaimer of any intention to enforce a Fair Wage clause for 99 per cent. of the women on Government work. The recommendations of the Committee, if they are anything at all, must surely be considered as fixing what is officially regarded as a fair rate of wages for women. I cannot believe that the Munitions Department intends to go back upon what has for long been an accepted principle in Government contracts.

The E.L.F.S. has written to ask Mr. Lloyd George what his promises mean, and to whom they are to apply, but we have received no answer!

## Where are the Government Contracts?

Last week we reported that a large number of skilled women employed on piece-work had been dismissed without warning from East London Clothing Factories, on the pretext that Government contracts had come to an end.

We now learn that women employed on leather work in Birmingham have had the same experience.

Why have the contracts come to an end?

Are contracts being placed in America because the money raised by the American loan must be spent there?

If so the American loan will prove disastrous to the workers of this country. They will be taxed to pay the interest and to repay the principle and at the same time may lose their employment because of it! Or is peace coming soon?

News is also brought to us that about 150 women fuse-makers were dismissed from Bryant and May's, in Bow, on November 3rd. The women were at first told that they would not be wanted for a day or two, but later it was said that the work might fall through altogether. The women asked for their discharge cards, without which munition workers cannot obtain employment, but all but two were refused. The Labour Exchanges refuse to register the women without the cards. Six Belgian women, who were discharged with the rest, were taken back.

One thousand, six hundred and seventy-nine factories have now been declared "controlled." Mr. Lloyd George's £1 a week does not apply to them!



