

# THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

VOL. IV. No. 90.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

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## EDITORIAL.

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

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### Pardon and Reprieve.

It is with the utmost relief that we hear of the free pardon granted to Mrs. Proudlock, the Englishwoman in the Far East to whose case we referred last week. His Highness the Sultan of Selangor, C.M.G., in whose hands lay the fate of Mrs. Proudlock after sentence had been pronounced, has shown himself an Oriental potentate of discernment and understanding. He has rendered justice to a woman in dire need. All honour to him. Almost at the eleventh hour, Mary Ann Nash, to whom we also made reference last week, was reprieved, and the final tragedy in this sad village story is averted. So long as the woman lives there is always hope that further facts will prove the unsatisfactory character of the evidence on which she was condemned, and her innocence be vindicated.

### An Englishwoman in a Russian Prison.

In Parliament and beyond, the case of Miss Malecka is arousing a great outburst of indignation. That a British subject should remain in a Russian prison for three months without charge or trial is not only a serious danger, but reflects badly upon our Foreign Office. It is well known that the vague charge of "conspiring against the Government," so conveniently used by the Russian police authorities, frequently means nothing at all. Once the victim is safe in prison, the police may seek evidence to substantiate the charge, or they may completely forget the case. Not infrequently illness supervenes, sometimes death—so much the more convenient to the police, who need trouble themselves no more in the matter. The only grounds of complaint against Miss Malecka appear to be her popularity in Warsaw, where she went recently to earn her living by teaching English and music, and the finding of two proscribed books in her rooms, together with a MS., written by someone else, on a Polish political question. That sufficed; she was arrested. A woman of great charm and energy, well known in artistic

circles in London, Miss Malecka is finding the durenness of a Russian prison almost too much for her courageous spirit; she is seriously ill, and while the Foreign Office and the Russian Consul are considering whether she is legally a Russian subject, her illness may terminate fatally. Mr. Philip Morrell, Mr. Noel Buxton, Sir William Byles, and other Members of Parliament have raised a debate on the case, and are ready to raise a second. A strong public feeling should strengthen their hands in compelling the Foreign Office to show a determined attitude to Russia by demanding the formulation of the charge and a speedy trial. A weak policy only gives Russia the opportunity of vaunting her strength. This is a case in which women collectively should join hands in protest against delay.

### Turkey Ahead of England.

England's tradition, in relation to most reforms, has been to take the initiative and to lead other countries. In reforms where women are concerned, however, she is deplorably behind the times. Some of the laws which bear upon women—especially the married woman of this country—are feudal in their conception and when put into force are insulting to women's self-respect. When women obtain legislative representation it is safe to say that most of these laws will be modified and some of them swept off the Statute Book. In the meantime, it is curious to note that the countries of the East are sharing in the general awakening. Under Mohammedan law a husband is able to divorce his wife practically at will, but hitherto a wife has been able to divorce her husband only for some very unusual cause, such as his changing his religion; although with his consent she could buy her freedom as a slave could in America in the days of slavery. The Turkish parliament, however, has just passed a bill making unfaithfulness on the part of the husband a legal ground for divorce. A wife, in Turkey, therefore is now in a better position than a wife in our own country, for infidelity on the part of the husband in England forms no ground for divorce unless the wife can also prove desertion or extreme cruelty. If, as has been said, the progress and the standard of civilisation of a nation may be gauged by the position under the law which it gives its women, it looks as if Turkey, from a civilised point of view, may ere long be ahead of England.

### A Real Reform in the House of Lords.

Women occasionally occupy seats on the famous red benches of the House of Lords without fear of ejection. They are permitted to hear the Royal Assent given to Parliamentary Bills with antiquated ceremonial and in ancient French. When that Assent is given to the Conciliation Bill, we hope the Lords will be gallant enough to leave the women plenty of room. But an excellent reform of the House of Lords would be carried out if peeresses in their own rights enjoyed their full privileges. They are still summoned to attend a Coronation, and a writer in *The Yorkshire Daily Observer* points out that up to the time of Henry VIII., peeresses in their own right were entitled to the usual summons to the House of Lords. If some of them would assert their ancient right to legislate, we cordially agree that it would be difficult to see how the claim could be defeated.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### AT HEADQUARTERS.

Reception at Caxton Hall, Sunday, July 23, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The reception is in honour of Mrs. Sproson, and will follow almost immediately on her release after five weeks' imprisonment. We ask every member in London to realise that this is a special opportunity to show her appreciation of Mrs. Sproson's unflinching courage and untiring self-sacrifice for our Cause. Let the reception be as rousing and enthusiastic as we can make it! It is hoped that our President and all the N.E.C. members will be present.

### Gardenia Meetings.

Members are urged not to miss the opportunity of attending the two remaining discussion meetings at the "Gardenia": Wednesday evening, July 19, Mrs. How Martyn will lecture on "The Economic Status of Married Women," and July 26, Mrs. Drysdale will deal with "Emancipation and Motherhood." Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock.

### Insurance Bill Protest.

All Freedom Leaguers are invited to take part in the Insurance Bill Protest, Thursday, July 13, in Caxton Hall, Westminster. The speakers include the Earl of Lytton, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Mrs. How Martyn, and Miss Esther Roper. Admission is free. Reserved seats, 2s. 6d. and 1s. Chair will be taken by Miss Gore Booth at 8 p.m.

### Press Work.

Mrs. Harvey, Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent, has kindly consented to become honorary Head of Press Department for the Women's Freedom League. Will all members who find anything of interest to Suffragists in the daily or local Press kindly forward particulars to Mrs. Harvey?

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### TREASURER'S NOTE.

I am making a special announcement this week with regard to Mrs. Sproson's imprisonment. She was sentenced for two offences, one of four weeks and one of one week, and instead of allowing the two sentences to run concurrently, as is the almost invariable custom, the magistrate has sent her to prison for the full time. Tax-resistance now-a-days rarely ends in imprisonment, as most people who are in a position to refuse to pay a tax have some property which can be distrained on.

Mrs. Sproson is at present upholding our tradition of militancy in a practical manner. On the Sunday after her release, July 23, the National Executive Committee will hold a reception in the Caxton Hall in her honour, and I should like on that occasion to announce that the members of the W.F.L. have collected a substantial sum to be given to the general funds as a proof of their appreciation of her sacrifice. I have already one or two promises of a certain sum for every week of Mrs. Sproson's imprisonment, and am myself giving £5 for each week, and hope the idea will be immediately taken up. I want to receive the money or promises before the 23rd, but hope in any case that many sympathisers will come to the reception to present their gifts in person.

The League owes this recognition to Mrs. Sproson's devotion, for the thought of five weeks' imprisonment following on her previous imprisonment for the same offence must fill every true Suffragist, and more, every true woman, with indignation.

CONSTANCE TITE.

### RESOLUTION TO BE PUT AT MEETINGS.

"That this meeting accepts Mr. Asquith's statement as a pledge that full facilities will be granted for a Women's Suffrage Bill next Session, and calls upon (. . . local Member's name) to support the Bill in all its stages, so that women may be enfranchised next Session."

This resolution should be put at every meeting held by the League, and at meetings of other local associations.

Copies signed by the chairman should be sent to Mr. Asquith and to the local Member.

I shall be glad to hear from members and sympathisers who are willing to work in their own constituencies in order to bring pressure to bear on the private Member, whose importance at this juncture of the agitation was so ably pointed out by Mrs. Holmes last week. Remember, too, her motto: "Work—and yet again, work!"

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

### "GARDENIA" MEETING.

#### MISS NINA BOYLE ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE CONGRESS.

A large and enthusiastic audience assembled at the "Gardenia" last Wednesday evening to listen to Miss Nina Boyle's account of the recent International Suffrage Congress at Stockholm. She was introduced by Miss Tite, the Honorary Treasurer of the Women's Freedom League, who remarked that the foreign and colonial press had favourably noticed the recent Women's Procession, and one leading Italian paper had described it as "Womanhood on the March." Womanhood was on the march in every country nowadays, and the International Suffrage Alliance was its visible and outward sign.

Miss Nina Boyle, who was greeted with loud applause, said that the present was a period of great historic importance. Once women were enfranchised there could not again be such a struggle for freedom as women had carried for the past five years. The lecturer stated that the Alliance comprised delegates from twenty-four nations. Many interesting things were discussed in Congress. The Women's Procession aroused great enthusiasm, the fact that any member of the Alliance was taking part in this Procession was considered a sufficient excuse for absence. The closing speech of the President was marked by many references to it. There was a good deal of discussion about the methods used by Suffragists. The non-party policy and the anti-Government policy were debated at great length. Men delegates at the Congress were very active, and a Men's League for Woman's Suffrage had been formed in Germany to the great astonishment of German women. It was decided to hold the next Congress at Budapest, because the Hungarian Constitution would shortly be revised, and an effort would then be made to have women included. It was thought that possibly the presence of prominent Suffragists from all parts of the world might have some influence towards this end. Miss Boyle stated that in Austria it was not legal for women to join political societies, but the Suffrage League there calls itself the Ladies' Organisation, and apparently the police had not yet awakened to the fact that it took any interest in politics. Iceland had now granted women equal privileges with men in its University, and Miss Boyle hoped that it would not be long before women figured on Royal Lists of Honour. A great many possibly well-deserving, certainly highly paid people, some noodles and nobodies, had recently appeared on the Coronation List, and the lecturer considered it was a blot, almost an indelible blot, upon King George's Coronation that not one woman had been honoured. However, it might be hoped that the time was not very far distant when women's work for the country would be publicly and honourably recognised.

Miss Boyle bestowed the highest praise on the chairmanship of Mrs. Chapman Catt. Women had done well to

honour her the previous evening for the splendid way in which she had conducted the business of the Alliance. Everything had made for the success of the Congress. The municipal authorities had decorated the beautiful town of Stockholm in its honour, hotel proprietors had refused to charge for sleeping accommodation, everyone seemed only too willing to provide entertainment for the delegates, boats and trams had been chartered for them, and their excursion through the town reminded one of a royal progress. Everywhere great enthusiasm was evident. The lecturer said she could not express sufficient praise for the work of the Swedish girl students. Their stewarding had been perfect, and their time and energy had been given wholeheartedly to secure the comfort and enjoyment of the delegates. The Congress had been a success from start to finish; the next Congress would undoubtedly be a triumph.

An animated discussion followed, in which Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Drysdale (the W.F.L. fraternal delegate to Stockholm), Dr. Drysdale, Mrs. Holmes, a Swedish lady, and others took part.

### MRS. PEMBER REEVES ON THE INSURANCE BILL.

The Women's Freedom League sincerely appreciates the courtesy of Mrs. Pember Reeves in speaking at the "Gardenia" meeting on the position of women under the National Insurance Bill—a subject to which she has given careful study.

In the course of her important address Mrs. Pember Reeves showed that the chief defects of the Bill were due to want of knowledge of and sympathy with women's needs. The Bill is very hard on the poor worker; as the poor or badly-paid workers are mostly women, the women are the principal sufferers apart from cases in which to be a woman is in itself a specific disadvantage. A few extracts will convey to readers something of the force of Mrs. Reeves' criticism:—

"The Post-Office depositors will be those who live under conditions which make good health almost impossible." "For people who are earning 30s. a week it is an excellent scheme; for those who get less than 25s. it will be a great burden." "What is the average wage of the woman worker?" "It should be left to the mother to decide whether she should have an expensive doctor and nurse or more to eat." "The people who make these laws really don't know anything about the condition of people who earn £1 a week." Mrs. Pember Reeves, it may be added, has made a special study at first hand of those who live on £1 a week.

An interesting discussion followed, in which speakers equally well qualified to deal with other points took part, including Miss Gore-Booth, Miss Roper, Miss Anson, Miss Berry, and secretaries of Trades Unions and Friendly Societies, as well as some of our members. The enthusiasm of the meeting was well evidenced in the excellent collection taken, to the great gratification of the hon. treasurer.

### THE SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC SPEAKER.

It is not given to all speakers in public to deserve the American epithet—a spell-binder, that is, a speaker who keeps an audience spellbound. But those who would attain success in the difficult art of speaking in public will do well to read Mr. G. E. O'Dell's little book, entitled "Public Speaking and Chairmanship" (The "Clerk" Publishing Society, price 6d. net). It is a book for propagandists, and Mr. O'Dell writes from long personal experience. It will be remembered that he is a frequent speaker on the Woman's Suffrage platform. His book deals with such important questions as position of body, exercise of voice and mind, and knowledge of one's subject. Among the chapters may be found the following:—"On the Way of Saying Things," "On the Importance of the Audience," "On Being Interesting." In a chapter on "Training for Women," Mr. O'Dell bears testimony to the excellence of the Suffrage propaganda in requiring women to practice plain statement and argument, but he considers that woman will not come into her own as a public speaker "until this irritating conflict is over." Then her dramatic gifts and power of appeal will have freer play. The excellent little book also gives most useful information and suggestions as to chairmanship of meetings of all kinds, out of doors and indoors.

### MESSAGE FROM MRS. SPROSON.

In a letter to Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Sproson writes: "I am keeping very well, all things considered, both in health and spirits. I suffer most from sleeplessness. . . . I did want to send a message to our members through THE VOTE, but the best I could think of is the bit of doggerel enclosed:

#### TO MY COMRADES.

##### Dedicated to Charlotte Despard.

Are you ready, comrades all?  
Are you waking to the call?  
To win freedom there is suffering, woe and strife.  
But to faint at heat of day,  
Or to fail where duty lay,  
Is not worthy of the woman asking life.  
Our battle cry is onward,  
Never halting, turning rearward,  
But on towards the goal of woman's right.  
Might may crush us back with anger,  
Wrong may baffle us with rancour,  
But hope and courage stay us through the fight.  
For our mothers on before us,  
For our daughters near behind us,  
Strive, put the tyrant greed of power at bay.  
We shall win with faces forward  
And shout victory in the rearward,  
As we clear the last trench to our foes' dismay.

EMMA SPROSON."

H.M. Prison, Stafford. July 2, 1911.

### MME. CURIE'S ASSISTANT.

Mme. Curie, the most remarkable woman scientist, employs as an assistant a very bright young Norwegian, Miss Gledtisch, who has her B.S. and M.S. from the University of Christiania, of which she was the youngest woman to graduate. She passed her examinations with high honours, and took up the study of radio-activity. She contributed several papers on the subject which awakened such approval that, although much younger than the majority of the students she was appointed instructor in physics, one of the first women to hold that position in Norway.

Her independent research work was so good, however, that the Norwegian Government soon gave her a stipend with which to continue her studies on the Continent. As she had specialised in radio-activity, she naturally wrote to Mme. Curie who, after a rigid examination, admitted her to the laboratory, of which she is now practically the first assistant.

MRS. HARVEY wishes to acknowledge, through THE VOTE, the many kind and appreciative letters she has received anent the carriage display on the occasion of the great Procession.

## GRAND DEMONSTRATION

OF THE  
National Federation of Women Workers  
ON  
Women and the Insurance Bill,  
TRAFALGAR SQUARE,  
SATURDAY, JULY 15,  
4.30 p.m.

Amongst the speakers will be GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., GEORGE BARNES, M.P., and Women Workers representing over a dozen trades.



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## WOMEN UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL.

CONTINUED.—V.

### INSURANCE THROUGH THE POST OFFICE.

It is specially important that women should understand the conditions under which insurance is to be paid through the Post Office. Great numbers of women workers will drift into this class. They will not join a society in advance, and when told by their employer, perhaps after being out of work for a time, that they must pay this tax, they will simply obey and take their cards to the Post Office.

This scheme is not "insurance" at all, properly speaking, but only a sort of compulsory thrift at best, and only a tax on wages at worst, for which no interest is received, and nothing else unless a certain sum is paid in; nevertheless, no return of anything can be claimed, and anything standing to credit at death is forfeited. By "insurance" we all understand certain fixed benefits in stated circumstances for certain payments, but in this Post Office scheme the payee is only to receive benefits to the amount of the money paid in by her, with certain additions and deductions as follows:

The employer is responsible that the payments are made both by himself and his employee, but the insured person is responsible for obtaining the necessary card and producing it to the employer to be stamped. The employer will deduct the amount to be paid by the employee from the wages due to her, but is not allowed to deduct his own contribution, and any agreement for him to do so is null and void. He will, therefore, add his 3d. or required sum, and affix each week adhesive stamps of the total amount, to the card of each insured person, who will take it to the Post Office for cancellation. To the amount standing in the Post Office books to the name of each insured person the 2d. weekly given by Parliament is to be added.

After six months the deposit contributor can get medical benefit, but is not entitled to sickness benefit unless at least fifty-two weekly contributions have been paid by or in respect of her; sickness, disablement, or maternity benefits are only payable out of the money standing to the depositor's credit in the Post Office fund, and the right to any of these three benefits is suspended on this sum being exhausted. The right to medical and sanatorium benefit continues to the end of the then current year.

The sum standing to each deposit contributor is to be charged at the commencement of each year with "such sum as may be prescribed" for administration expenses incurred by the Local Health Committee, Parliamentary administration expenses, cost of medical benefit and cost of sanatorium benefit.

It is stated that the "prescribed" sum will be three-fourths of the Government 2d., so that the amount to provide for sickness, disablement and maternity benefit for each insured woman Post Office contributor is 6½d. weekly. If at any time the whole of this accumulation is drawn out, she can get no more sickness, disablement or maternity benefit until more money has been paid in and she has again a sum standing to her credit. As previously pointed out, this is not "insurance" at all. If at the end of the then current year she has still no funds and is yet not free from necessity for medical benefit, it is uncertain what is to happen. Apparently she is simply to be dropped by the doctor, and then will return to the hospital, where she probably goes now, and which costs her nothing now and will, as far as we know, cost her nothing then. It is clear that she has saved up her money for a doctor, spent it, and is now in exactly the same position as before this Bill, only poorer by the amount that has been compulsorily deducted from her wages. Likewise, if at the end of the year she were in a sanatorium, she would apparently have to leave. However, if she is a "good life," and does not need to draw on the funds accumulating to her name, she cannot draw on them for any reason whatever, and she leaves them to the Government at

her death for the benefit of the other Post Office depositors. It is not stated in the Bill that there will be two Post Office funds, one for men and one for women, but this must be insisted upon.

As the Post Office contributor can only draw on the funds she has herself accumulated, there is no mention of arrears, and it is not clear whether she is intended to benefit by the exemptions of two weeks before and four weeks after confinement; but she should certainly claim to have this period credited as fully paid up. If no account is to be taken of any arrears accruing during the first twelve months after the commencement of this Act, it is difficult to see why this should not also apply to Post Office contributors; but apparently it does not, as they can only draw out what they have put in, except for medical benefit.

The Bill is so faultily drawn that, hearing it has been three years in preparation by men experts who have every advantage, one is driven to ask if this is really the best they can do. It reminds me of a certain committee, of whom it was said they sat so long that when at last they produced their egg it was addled! The greatest omission in a so-called "National Insurance Bill" is the exclusion of the widow. No provision is made for the woman who, losing her husband, is left with children—often very young children—dependent upon her. The reason is that this Bill does not cover death insurance. The husband's insurance, 4d. per week, dies with him, and the widow is left—as before. There is nothing for her unless she gets employment in an insurable occupation, and then there is nothing for the children. The widow will do as she has done formerly—go to the hospital for herself and her children, but the tax will be deducted from her wages, and will simply reduce her earning capacity.

The second great fault is the omission of the poorest. Every reformer has for years been convinced that it is necessary to begin with "those at the bottom." They are all left out. The Bill may collect a tax from the earnings of the casual, intermittent, sweated woman-worker if she gets a little work at laundries, bottle-washing, fruit-picking, &c., but she will generally be "out of benefit" if she ever applies for it. Free medical treatment they already have, and, for them, will be very dearly paid on these terms.

Further, burial insurance is omitted. The poor will pay this, and it is a very great drain on them, often amounting to 6d. per week! It should have been included.

Careful study of the Bill leads to this question: "Was it devised with the intention of helping those who require help?"

While it is good that certain principles of the Bill are now recognised as matters for legislation, it is certain that this way of dealing with them can be improved upon. It may be that in our present disordered state of society, it is impossible to draw a Bill which is absolutely fair to everyone and every class; but it is beyond dispute that if the great organisations of women had been consulted, their wishes asked and their experience considered, a much fairer, more satisfactory scheme could have been prepared. LEAH ANSON.

### THE INSURANCE BILL IN PARLIAMENT.

The debates on the Insurance Bill this week are instructive, and would be amusing were the matter not so desperately vital. The main impression left is that men's principles and men's moral sense being weaker than women's, at any rate where women are concerned, it is most urgently necessary that women should be present in sufficient numbers to raise the moral tone of the assembly. Thus:—

It was clearly laid down, repeatedly and without contradiction, that the Bill as drawn is unfair. Now, for women that would be sufficient; if clearly demonstrated that certain proposals are unfair, their attention would be rivetted on those unfairnesses until remedied. Women would not (I am convinced) be content to say, "This is unfair," and to leave it unfair; therefore, unjust; therefore, a source of irritation, and a blot on good government; men, it seems, are so content.

One Member said, "A very uneasy feeling exists . . . as to the general treatment of women under the Bill. The scheme

adopted deals very harshly with women." Another, "It is important the committee should realise how unfair the whole scheme is to women," and again, "By this Bill all the advantage is given to the man, and you put the woman into a very inferior position."

A third, "It is hard that a woman who has been working and paying contributions, and then marries, should get no return."

A fourth, "We certainly do not want to have all the women of the country . . . in revolt." A fifth, "Take care . . . the women are not put in the back attic." And, finally, our old and tried friend, Mr. Keir Hardie delivers judgment, "If the women had a vote the same as the men have the Government would not dare to treat them in this way. No such Bill as this would be brought in."

The net result is up to now—nothing! The Bill stands, so far, as drawn, and the amendments to bring in married women, either compulsorily or voluntarily, to give them medical and sanatorium benefits if their husbands are insured, are at present rejected, but may be brought up again later under other clauses, or on the Bill being "re-committed," (parts completed again brought under consideration).

The actuarial information regarding women on which the Bill is founded is still "to be published," so that our representatives—beg pardon, the men's representatives—are now busily discussing proposals of which the most important basic foundations are still unknown. LEAH ANSON.

### DINNER TO MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

I had the pleasure and honour of being present at the dinner given last week by the N.U.W.S.S. to Mrs. Chapman Catt, Dr. Anna Shaw and Miss Vida Goldstein.

I cannot put into words how deeply it impressed me. Mrs. Fawcett opened the speaking by proposing the health of Mrs. Chapman Catt, and paying her a graceful and eloquent tribute. Specially she praised her chairmanship of the International Congresses.

Mrs. Chapman Catt followed. In a speech full of wisdom and experience, and deeply tinged with enthusiasm, she bore evidence to the strength of the women's movement in Great Britain, and to its effect on the nations of the world. Earnestly she sought to impress on the women of our country that with their power and privilege came responsibility. The note of the woman's movement in Britain was consecration. It could almost be said now that the first victory was won. That which should follow the victory was devotion to the great international movement for the uplifting of womanhood all over the world.

While we were feeling ourselves thrilled with the beauty and earnestness of this speech, Dr. Anna Shaw, in response to a toast proposed by Mr. Walter Maclaren and heartily received by us all, gave another address, delightful in its wit, wisdom and homely charm. That in it which pleased me most was her reference to the day—July 4, Independence Day in America—which was being celebrated with noise wherever American citizens came together. That contest was like the one we—the women—were waging now for representation. The victory of the men was being acclaimed with noise. Not so would we celebrate our victory. Rather with silence and a forceful determination to work, as we had never yet been able to do, for the defeat of wrong and evil, for the triumph of righteousness.

A short speech by Miss Vida Goldstein, in which she showed what the women's vote had done for Australia, brought this pleasant festivity to a close; and I do not think there was one amongst us who did not draw in a fresh stock of inspiration and courage from the speakers, or who did not leave the hall strengthened by the spirit of kinship which this joyful festival revealed. C. D.

### TAX RESISTANCE. GLASGOW.

Miss Bunten, the hon. treasurer of the Glasgow Branch of the Women's Freedom League, has had some pictures seized by the authorities in consequence of her refusal to pay taxes levied without her consent. The date of the sale is not yet fixed. A protest meeting will be held, at which Miss Munro will speak.

### ST. LEONARDS.

One of the most successful and effective Suffrage demonstrations ever held in St. Leonards was that arranged jointly by the Women's Tax Resistance League and the Hastings and St. Leonards Women's Suffrage Propaganda League, on Tuesday, July 4, on the occasion of the sale of some family silver which had been seized at the residence of Mrs. Darent Harrison for non-payment of Inhabited House Duty. Certainly the most striking feature of this protest was the fact that members of all societies in Hastings, St. Leonards, Bexhill and Winchelsea united in their effort to render the protest representative of all shades of Suffrage opinion. Flags, banners, pennons and regalia of many societies were seen in the procession. Not the least satisfactory feature was the courtesy and respect shown by the authorities, the general public, and the Press towards the demonstrators. The hearty response from the men to Mrs. Kineton Parkes's call for "three cheers for Mrs. Darent Harrison" at the close of the proceedings in the auction room, came as a surprise to the Suffragists themselves.



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### HOW TO HELP THE LEAGUE.

In devising ways of helping the League, how often we hear our members say, "I have no time." Now I have a superabundance of time. Why should I not place it at the disposal of those members who have not enough of their own? Surely this holiday time there are very busy house mothers and wives who want all sorts of things done; seaside apartments engaged, someone responsible left behind, servants interviewed, children met, shopping done. When I mentioned my idea to Miss Tite, by return of post came my first commission. In this case if the profit went to the League the pleasure was mine, for it was the congenial task of escorting a young Italian guest of hers to see the London sights. It was a great joy to me at the end of three days to hand a sum of money to the funds.

I do hope the members will keep me fully employed and that none will hesitate to ask me to do anything they have not time to do themselves: from buying an elephant to a mousetrap, meeting or escorting a friend from Siberia to Timbuctoo. If it is something quite impossible for me to do I can but refuse, but it will have to be very unreasonable for me to negative it. And for the terms, just out-of-pocket expenses and any donation to the League which they can afford. Even if small, I shall value it, as it will have brought us together for mutual help.

59, New-end, Hampstead.

MARIANNE C. HYDE.

A MEMORIAL to women, arranged by the Women's Franchise League of Indianapolis, will be a feature of the centennial celebration in Indiana. It will probably be an exhibit aiming to show what women in all parts of the country have accomplished. "The Women's Journal."

ONE OF THE MOST PRACTICAL WAYS of helping THE VOTE and thus helping the Cause, is to buy everything you require from VOTE advertisers. Food, clothing, laundry work, coal, furniture and many other essentials are represented in our advertising columns. Write for what you require.

### The International Suffrage Shop, 15, ADAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

#### A JUMBLE SALE

(Clothing, Typewriter, Cameras, Millinery, Autographs, & Articles of all kinds), Organised by Miss EDITH CRAIG.  
Will be held on **FRIDAY, July 14th**, from 3 p.m., and **SATURDAY, July 15th**, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Well-known Actresses have kindly consented to contribute and act as Sellers.

## THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss L. M. THOMPSON.  
Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,  
Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.

SATURDAY, July 15, 1911.

### PLEGDED.

It may not be amiss, while we are hearing, in various tones, some exultant and some doubtful, of what the Prime Minister has promised us, to consider with a little care the signification of a promise as a pledge.

To the ancients a sworn promise was so sacred that the man who had, ignorantly, sworn to his own hurt, was still held bound to the word he had given, and we have a reflection of this primitive feeling in every well-brought-up and properly conditioned child, to whom the promise of parent or teacher is like the word of God. "You said so, you promised you would," says the eager little voice; and we know, as we listen to it, that any breach of faith will not only be keenly resented, but severely judged.

It is true that statesmen and politicians have curious ways of interpreting their own utterances, and that there is such a thing as keeping a promise to the ear and breaking it to the sense. But we think that Mr. Asquith's promise is too direct and unequivocal to be open to such treatment; and that, if the present Government enters upon a new Session, facilities for the full consideration of our Bill will be given.

It is not, therefore, of the Government's promises I would speak. We must not, indeed, sleep or relax our efforts. By words, spoken and written, spread broadcast throughout the country, by determination, endurance and courage, we must continue the work we have begun. Our Procession, with the welcome given to it in the London streets, is one sign out of many that we have conquered the hostility of our brothers. We have now to win their joyous adherence. When that is done, no Government will be able to resist our demand.

And then —? Ah! the great world of action that lies sometimes behind these momentous "thens"!

The object of our heart's desire is in front of us. It has been eluding our grasp. We have pushed on, struggled, striven, never despaired. At last we touch, we hold it. What then? If we could but perceive the full significance of warfare such as ours, we should know that nothing is fought and agonised for without some mighty spiritual force being bound up in it.

The Titan, chained for ages to the rock of pain, seeks, with passion-inspired will, to break his bonds. Why? That he may enjoy the boon of long-delayed liberty, and live in gladness on the sweet earth? No, but rather that he may take upon himself another bondage, one for which the pain of the past has been a preparation. For the fetter-breaker is the earth-redeemer: out of his anguish new worlds are born.

I return to my question, What then? Surely, if the Government are pledged to us, we are still more deeply pledged, not to one another only, but to the world of suffering men and women. There are those who have called the woman's movement in our country narrow, who have professed themselves weary of the everlasting cry, "The Vote! The Vote!" For my own part, as I look back over our campaign, as I recall the speeches I have heard, as I review our literature, I wonder at the breadth of the movement and at all that it includes. And everywhere I recognise that we, the women of the country, like the Titan in his captivity, are pledged. To what are we pledged, and to whom?

First, to ourselves and to one another. Woman is recovering the royal gift of independence, which an old legend, with a great truth behind it, tells us she lost at the Fall. Never, having once regained it, must she return to the old subjection.

With independence comes responsibility. Woman has seen this, and she has pledged herself to use it for

her suffering and downtrodden sisters. It is sometimes forgotten, and by men as well as by women, that political does not always mean economic freedom. It is for the economic independence of every woman we are pledged to work. That her labour shall be recognised as equal in value with that of her brother, that special honour shall be given to her special God-given work, the bearing and rearing of children, with all the toil bound up in ministering to the life-needs of the community. It may take long to work out, for old prejudices die hard. That man's work is important and that woman's work is of little count has passed into an aphorism. Like many another illusion, it will pass away in the light of wisdom. It is a badge of slavery which we will wear no longer.

We are pledged to our brothers. In this long campaign we have been learning many things. We know that their methods are wrong. We have been present as observers in their electoral campaigns; we have heard their party cries; we have looked on, abashed for their sakes, at their party trickery. We are coming into politics pledged to make it at least a clean and a wholesome game.

We are pledged, with a bond that cannot be broken, to those of our brethren who, against terrible odds, are working for righteousness, for "deliverance of the captive, for opening the eyes of the blind." Many of them are with us. They know, and have declared openly, that this is no woman's battle alone, but that it is a battle in which men and women must stand together, each helping the other, so that at no distant time the women's movement must merge into the human movement.

We are pledged to the children, and in order that they may be truly served, we must return to natural relations.

Sometimes, looking back, I picture to myself the primitive woman of the old times, when humanity was in its childhood, the great mother guarding jealously the sacred flame of life that had been committed to her. And I think of man, the father, helping and honouring her—honouring her in nothing so much as in this, that in her the world of the future lives and moves.

To that we must return. The child movement, no less than the woman movement, demands it. Natural relations between man and woman, neither superiority nor inferiority, only difference of functions, with a common sense of responsibility towards that which belongs to both, the children of the nation—to this we are pledged.

As, looking forward into the future, I try to think it all out, there are moments when a cold thrill of fear passes over me. I enter into the cloud, and I tremble. Then, again, I remember what women have done and are doing, and I am full of hope. I know that the women to whom this new power is confided will use it well, that they will remember the pledges given in the days of their captivity, and that they will stand bravely and strongly by the side of those who are working for the better order.

As the subject is a large one, and as I have only been able to treat it generally in this article, I will take it up again in a later issue of THE VOTE.

C. DESPARD.

### WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN PERSIA.

According to a statement by the Paris *Croix*, the Persian women are at the bottom of a great revolutionary movement which has brought about a Constitution and other modern institutions within the realm of that famous Oriental empire, that have transformed Persia into a progressive, up-to-date, modern country within a decade.

Persian women, who up to a few years ago were slaves in the harems, are to-day leaders in the great Nationalist Party which has wrought these changes. They are not only good housewives, but they know something about political economy, and as patriots their equals cannot be found in any other country.

A WORD TO PROVINCIAL MEMBERS.—Shopping by post saves time and trouble. Please take this hint and buy your goods from VOTE advertisers.

## REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.—Continued.

After the more formal business on Monday the real work of the Congress started on Tuesday morning. For those of us who were not fortunate enough to be full delegates, and could only occupy seats towards the rear of the Congress Hall, the hearing of the speeches was fraught with very great difficulty. On Thursday Mrs. Chapman Catt, on her own responsibility as she said, made such drastic arrangements as to going in and out of the rooms, shifting of seats, etc., as ensured almost complete quiet for the rest of the Congress, to the great relief of the listeners and the benefit of the speakers.

I think it would be a good thing if all speakers who attend a Congress could be guaranteed to speak loudly and clearly enough to be heard in a hall containing five or six hundred people. Much that will no doubt prove to be of great use or interest to all countries when we come to read the report was almost useless to many of us from the fact of the speaker not being heard, or of reading the speech in a low voice and with the head bent over the paper. I hope one may be forgiven for making these comments, especially as one remembers, with keen pleasure the effect on us all of the speeches of a large proportion of the delegates.

The ring and conviction about such speeches as those of our Vice-President, Mrs. Chapman Catt, of her great countrywoman, Dr. Anna Shaw, of Dr. Anita Augspurg, of Germany, Rosika Schwimmer, of Hungary, Mrs. Philip Snowden, and Miss Nina Boyle were perhaps specially notable. Of course the necessary epitomised translation into the other two languages of the Congress rendered the whole business a little exhausting to all concerned, and the chiefs, both on the business and social side of the Congress, will be many weeks, one would think, recovering from the strain. It was debated privately whether it would not be better another time, should the Congress be again as big or bigger, to sectionise the work. A suggestion that we should adopt one language was also privately debated, and my proposal that English should be chosen was gravely seconded.

The Congress was always in arrears, and on Friday afternoon some of Tuesday's business still remained to be done, while one of the most important debates of the week took place on Saturday morning, and on the following Monday and Tuesday those of the Congress officials who remained had a good deal of important business still to finish.

Of the general debates the most important subjects probably were:—"What has Woman's Suffrage accomplished toward the improvement of the economic conditions of women?" and "What should be the relation of the Suffrage Movement to Political Parties in the unfranchised countries?"

To the first question the general report was to show that in Government offices especially, and often without any special intervention of the women, the wages between men and women tended to equalise. Miss Hodge, from Australia, told us that among waitresses too the minimum wage had been raised from ten shillings to twenty-five shillings per week.

On the second question a most animated debate arose, especially as many of the speakers confused party and political action. Many of them were of opinion that they could do more useful work for suffrage inside than outside the political parties. Others held that it was right to support the Labour Party because it was the only one which, as a party, had given strong support to the suffrage. A third opinion was that it was useless to support any one party, as the opposition of the remaining parties would put that one out of action immediately it attempted to bring forward a measure for suffrage.

Lady Dockrell (of the Irish Women's Suffrage National Union), while not objecting to the non-party policy, stated that it was impracticable under the

present conditions in Ireland, where party differences were so strong and so extreme as to make non-partisan action out of the question.

Dr. Anna Shaw brought the debate to a close by pointing out that it was special help to a party in its party aims that was so dangerous. It was one thing to work for suffrage within a party to which one already belonged, and another to identify the Suffrage Cause as a movement with that party. She said: "Some thirty years ago, when I was young and knew no better, I was led to make one speech in favour of a political party; but if the Lord grants me another thousand years, I'll never make another, at least, not till I have got my vote!" A thunder of applause, and an absolutely unanimous vote in favour of non-party action closed the debate.

The strenuous nature of the political and social sections of the Congress gave us little leisure for seeing national, municipal or private enterprises for the welfare of the Swedish people. One would have liked to stay another week or ten days to get an insight into the working of these problems of so great and vital interest to us all. But on Tuesday morning we were given the one opportunity possible to see the ordinary working of one of the schools, for they were closing that very day for the summer vacation. This was the Adolf Fredrik Primary School, and the visitors were allowed to see the children taking a lesson in the school kitchen, and to witness a display of gymnastics, both by some of the younger as well as some of the elder children. The building was magnificently equipped and the Swedish lady who conducted us told us that the Swedes spare nothing in their efforts for education, but that in this particular case the building itself was almost too extravagant. The education was free. There were beautiful baths at the school with arrangements for a sort of Turkish bath, as well as for swimming. For the gymnasium the small boys and girls had bare feet and legs, and only wore knickers and a jersey (supplied by their parents). Both with them and the elder girls one was struck with the character in their faces, and in most cases the physical development was superior to that of children of the same class in our towns. However, the problem of dealing with poor people as *individuals* cannot be so great in a city of 350,000 inhabitants as in a city like London with some 7,000,000! The food at these kitchens was bought and used by the children who cooked it, but special kitchens in the town provide free food for those who are qualified by extreme poverty to receive it. A representative committee watched over these arrangements.

We had an interesting private conversation also with a prominent elementary head teacher, who was striving to bring about a nearer approach to equality of wages for women teachers, post-office and railway clerks with those of men whose duties were exactly the same. She told us that up to about ten years ago the salaries for men and women teachers were the same throughout Sweden, and that in numbers the male teachers somewhat exceeded the women. Since that time, however, an arrangement has been made in Stockholm whereby the salaries of the male teachers increased more rapidly owing to the agitation caused by the increased cost of living, while women's wages remained behind those of the men, a fact which may be attributed to their unrepresented condition. But the sequel has been that whereas in the country parts of Sweden (where wages are still on an equality) the proportion of men and women teachers is about equal as formerly, in Stockholm the women teachers form about four-fifths of the total, showing the displacing effect of their cheaper labour.

To sum up: After all, the great use of these Congresses is more in the nature of a general international conversation than anything else. The exchange of ideas along

broader enfranchised lines than the purely political ones, the breaking down of international misunderstanding, the cultivation of wider sympathies, and of a still greater *esprit de corps*, and the mutual comfort and support of a so great and widely representative body of women mean, as a whole, much more to the members of a Congress than the individual speeches—helpful though these may be when considered afterwards in the quiet of one's own home and country.

I will only refer to my own speech to say that, as a representative of militantism in general, and of the Freedom League in particular, it was received with warm interest and applause. It was a pity that the exigencies of time forced the Fraternalists to reduce their speeches from ten to five minutes—a somewhat scanty allowance for a description of the special Freedom League work! However, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson was able to give details of one special branch of protest introduced by our Society.

The decision to hold the next International Congress at Budapest specially to appeal to us, for if ever there was a country where militant speech and enthusiasm prevailed, even if not militant action as yet, it is Hungary. Rosika Schwimmer and her loyal band have been able to inspire a body of men to form a Men's League (I heard it had already some 200 members), of whom Dr. Pataj came to Stockholm as representative.

Militantism has had a great work to perform during the last five years, and, as I told some of the delegates, it will perhaps be no longer needed, but that our swords are buckled on, and should treachery disappoint us of our aim so long worked for, we shall fight as we never fought before, so that it will be the last fight ever necessary. Active or passive militantism is the voteless woman's best friend, and it will be fortunate for other countries if, as they surmise, the example of the English women has been sufficient for the whole world, and that the legislators of those countries where women still await their enfranchisement will bestow it quickly when we have ours. And if the delay should come, let us hope that some form of militantism will be used as a prod to the slow-moving Governments, if not of the ultra-militant, at least of the passive resistance type, adopted and found so useful by the Women's Freedom League.

BESSIE DRYSDALE.

### SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 302, SAUCHIEHALL-STREET.  
Hon. Secretary: MISS MINA STEVEN.  
Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

### SCOTTISH COUNCIL.

#### West Coast Holiday Campaign.

On Saturday evening Miss Thompson, of Dunfermline, arrived with me at Rothesay to hold our summer campaign, but owing to persistent rain it was not until Wednesday afternoon that our first meeting was held. Since then every day, rain notwithstanding, at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., our crowd awaits us. A good hearing is accorded to us; many questions are asked and answered, while literature, badges and postcards find a ready and eager sale, especially among women. The campaign will be continued through July, helpers and speakers are urgently required, as vast throngs of people from all parts of Britain make holiday here.—ANNA MUNRO, 1, Mount Pleasant-road, Rothesay.

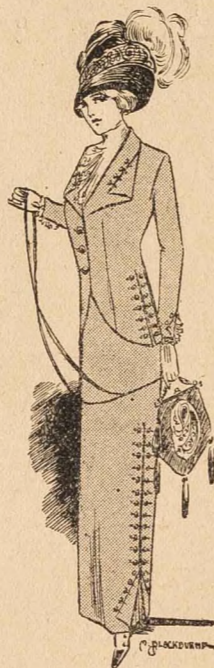
SUFFRAGE for women is bound to come. There are many arguments against it, but no reasons.—*William Dean Howells*.

"SIAM," writes Mrs. Hinchley, who has travelled in that country, "is the paradise of the happy male; while he is kite-flying or cock-fighting the woman buys, sells, works in garden and field, spins, weaves, and manages the theatres. 'Men are paddy, women hulled rice,' says the Siamese proverb."

CAN YOU SPARE ONE HOUR a week for the cause of Women's Freedom? If so, place your services at the disposal of Mrs. Snow (VOTE Sales Department), Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

DRESS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—Don't forget that there are several high-class firms advertising in THE VOTE who will be glad to supply you with all you require. Send for their illustrated catalogues.

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### BRANCH NOTES.

#### NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

West Hampstead and Cricklewood.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road.

A meeting was held on June 29, at which important business was discussed. It was arranged that open-air meetings should be held at 8.15 p.m. every Tuesday at Fortune Green in front of the drinking fountain. Several members agreed to try to sell copies of THE VOTE each week. An open-air meeting was held on Tuesday, July 4, at Fortune Green. Will members and readers kindly send to the above address anything they can spare for our Jumble Sale?

Herne Hill and Norwood.—Hon. Secretary: Miss B. SPENCER, 32, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.

On Sunday afternoon, July 2, a meeting was held in Brockwell Park, at which the speakers were Mrs. Bertram-Hobson, Miss Fennings, and Mrs. Clarkson Swann. At the close of the meeting Miss Fennings answered a number of questions, a collection was taken and copies of THE VOTE were sold. On Tuesday evening a committee meeting was held at 32, Geneva-road, when arrangements were made for future work and local meetings. We hope there will be a good attendance of members at the Demonstration to be held in Brockwell Park in support of the Conciliation Bill on Sunday afternoon, July 16, at 3 p.m., when Mrs. Tanner will speak for the Women's Freedom League, the Women's Social and Political Union, and the Independent Labour Party will also be represented.

Stamford Hill.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

Members are reminded that the meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 18, at Mrs. Cashmore's, 11, Rookwood-road, Clapton Common, commences at 3.30 p.m.

Wolverhampton.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CRESSWELL, 25, Rugby-street, Wolverhampton.

I came to Wolverhampton on Thursday afternoon and arranged for open-air meetings to be held nightly, if possible, till Mrs. Sproson is released. We had a very good meeting in the Market-place on Friday. Many questions were asked with reference to Mrs. Sproson's refusal to pay her dog license. Saturday's meeting was better still. Mr. Sproson took the chair. We had a good collection and sold copies of THE VOTE. I have called on a large number of sympathisers in the town, many of whom have promised to help in making the reception (which it is intended to hold when Mrs. Sproson is released) a success. The branch secretary and members have been most kind and helpful.—KATHLEEN TANNER.

Anerley and Crystal Palace.—Hon. Sec.: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road, Anerley.

A crowd assembled at the Tram Terminus last Monday to listen to Miss Law and Mr. Kennedy, who had most kindly come a long way to speak for us. Many copies of THE VOTE were sold, and we took a good collection. A Branch meeting was held at "The Hermitage" last Tuesday to discuss letters from headquarters, also a garden fete we are arranging for Tuesday, September 7. More help was promised by members for our open-air meetings.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon. Office: The Arcade, High-street, Croydon.

On Friday, July 7, Miss M. Pearson gave an interesting account of the discussion held at the "Gardenia" on the previous evening. On the 14th inst., at 5.30 p.m., we shall expect another member to report the next discussion, when our President will speak on "Clinics and Open-air Schools." We have welcomed many new members lately, and hope that every member will endeavour to introduce another new member before the holidays, so that we may be a strong Branch in numbers as well as enthusiasm. We hope to have some literature on sale this week at a reduced price.

Hackney.—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino Mansions, Dalston, N.E.

An invitation to the "garden meeting" on July 13, at 23, Terrace-road, South Hackney, is extended to all our neighbouring Branches. Each sympathiser is asked to bring at least one "anti" or "wobbler." More assistance is required for the shop. Will not anybody from amongst our large Hackney membership promise to keep shop a definite hour or two each week? One reliable hour would be more valuable than just promiscuous running-in. The shop has now been repainted, and presents a creditable appearance for the League; and we should like all members to show their appreciation thereof in the form of a donation.

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**Tottenham.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss M. A. Sims, 3, Elmhurst-road, Bruce Grove.

Reports of meetings held during month of June. Tottenham has been most fortunate in securing such eloquent speakers as Miss Sidley, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Mustard, and Mr. Reginald Pott for the open-air meetings which have been held weekly. Large audiences have been attracted and questions asked, with the result that many sympathisers have been added to the local list. Collections were taken, and many copies of THE VOTE were sold. The chair was taken by local members and the meetings were well advertised by Miss Eggett. Open-air meeting, Gas Offices, Tottenham, 8 p.m., every Thursday. July 13, speaker, Miss Turner. Branch meeting: Will members please remember Monday, July 17, at Mrs. Harbord's, 91, Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, 7.30 p.m.? Important business.

**Mid-London.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

We had a fine meeting last Sunday, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Mustard, and Miss Henderson being the speakers in Hyde-park. Dr. Drysdale is coming next Sunday. Will members please turn up in force on the 23rd? We want VOTE sellers at the Marble Arch, and other workers, so as to inform the public entering the park that Mrs. Sproson will be speaking, with others, there. Time, from noon to 2 p.m.

**SOUTH OF ENGLAND.**

**Eastbourne.**—An Appeal.

Mrs. Mustard is organising a Women's Freedom League campaign here at the end of this week. Will all our friends rally to her support so as to ensure its success? There will be splendid opportunities to sell THE VOTE, and to convince holiday makers that the Women's Freedom League is an active organisation.

**WALES AND MONMOUTH.**—Hon. Organiser: Mrs. CLEEVES, "Chez-Nous," Sketty, Glamorgan.

**Swansea.**—Hon. Organising Secretary: Miss H. DAVIES, B.A., Training College, Swansea. Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty.

Members of the Women's Freedom League who are also members of the National Union of Teachers had a most cheering experience on July 7. At a well-attended meeting of the local N.U.T. Association it was proposed by Miss Phipps, and seconded by Mr. Cooze, that the following resolution of the N.U.T. Executive be agreed to:—"That this Conference expresses its sympathy with those members of the National Union of Teachers who desire to possess the Parliamentary franchise, but because they are women, and for that reason alone, are by law debarred from it." Mr. Beynon then proposed the following amendment:—"This Conference believes that opposition to this long overdue reform is due to ignorance and prejudice, and urges the Government to give the vote forthwith to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men."

This was seconded by Mr. Allen, and supported by Mr. Esmond, B.Sc. Several others, both men and women, spoke in support. The amendment was then, with the consent of the mover and seconder, put as an addendum to the original proposition, and, being put to the vote, was carried unanimously.

**Correction.**—The entertainment in the College garden will take place on Thursday, July 20, at 5.30, and not on July 13, as previously arranged. Admission by silver collection.

**Montgomery.**

The inaugural meeting of the Montgomery Branch of the Women's Freedom League was held on Thursday, July 6, in the beautiful grounds of Crosswood, Welshpool, by the very kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Busch-Michell. Mrs. Scott, of Pennant Hall, was elected president; Mrs. Busch-Michell, vice-president; Mrs. Felix Jones, Llanyfyllin, hon. treasurer; and Miss Alex. Minnie Clark, hon. secretary.

Mrs. Despard, who came down to give the Branch a good send-off, spoke in her usual eloquent and inspiring way. It was the most delightful party possible away up in the hills of Mid-Wales, and the League offers its best thanks to our host and hostess. Meetings were also held in Newtown, Welshpool, and on Friday afternoon in Llanyfyllin, after which we had tea in

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our treasurer's (Mrs. Felix Jones) garden, where more members were enrolled. The Montgomery Branch starts with forty members. Enough praise cannot be given to Miss Clark for all the work she has done in these Boroughs, and to her energy we are indebted for this splendid Branch. Eighteen months ago our speakers had to go about under police protection, and Miss Clark had a brick thrown at her. Now THE COUNTY TIMES writes: "The admission of women to the Parliamentary franchise is one of the certainties of the near future. The women have had a stern fight for it, but it is a winning fight, and the male brutes might as well acknowledge it and give in handsomely. Upon no ground of reason or equity can the vote be denied them."

**LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.**—Hon. Organiser: MISS MANNING, B.A., Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Our excursion to Rhyl on Saturday resulted in three meetings and a good sale of VOTES. Mrs. Evans, of the Waterloo Branch, gave at the afternoon meeting a most interesting speech on Women's Suffrage and the child. Miss Manning also spoke. Miss Hordern and Miss Bowerbank worked hard all day at VOTE selling and collecting, and in the afternoon we were joined by Miss Timperley (of the Eccles Branch). Next Saturday meetings will be held at New Brighton and Waterloo, fare 3s. 4d.; workers leave Central Station at 9.30 a.m.

**Eccles.**—Secretary: MISS JANET HEYES, Newholme, Hazlehurst, Worsley.

A bright and business-like meeting was held on July 6, at Burgon's Hall, Monton, where, after an address by Miss Neal, we voted unanimously in the affirmative on the question submitted by the N.E.C. A statement of our views regarding the formation of a Manchester Branches Council was carefully drafted, and donations to the Branch Fund were gratefully acknowledged from Miss Geikes and Miss Coates. On Friday, on Roe Green, Mr. J. H. Hudson, M.A., prospective Parliamentary candidate for the I.L.P. in this division, urged attention to the women's cause upon his audience, and then offered the use of his platform to our secretary, who gave a short address. The officers are forwarding to every member a programme of our activities from now until the second week in October, so that everyone may keep suffrage dates free.

**Chester.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square, Chester.

On Coronation Day we hired a large boat and decorated it lavishly with our colours, including our new procession banner. The familiar ensign, "Votes for Women," in distinct green lettering on white, was greeted with cheers by the crowds on the Embankment. Festoons of green foliage, yellow and white

flowers, with coloured fairy lights, were shown to advantage on a background of ivy, stitched on green canvas. Valuable help was given by an invalid member, Mrs. Hindley, Mrs. Gordon, and the Misses Davies. Mr. Higgs kindly gave his services and rowed a party of us, including Mrs. and Miss Manning, to Eccleston, where we had tea, returning in time for the illuminations at 9 p.m. Mrs. Gordon, little Jean, and I sold VOTES on the Embankment on the second day of the river festivities, and heard many appreciative remarks in praise of our boat.

**OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.**

**The Church League for Woman's Suffrage.**—President: THE BISHOP OF LINCOLN. Offices: 11, St. Mark's-crescent, Regent's Park, London.

There will be a Woman's Suffrage Demonstration at Stratford-on-Avon during the Shakespeare week, at which the Church League will be represented. Paddington Branch meeting at 8, Warwick-avenue, by kind invitation of Mrs. Shewell Cooper, at 4.30 on Wednesday, July 19. The first Suffrage address at Plaistow will be on July 28. Speaker, Mrs. Mumford. Meeting at Hackney on July 31, at 8 p.m., at 88, Dalston-lane, by kind permission of Miss Barlow. Speaker, Mrs. Brookwell. Meeting of Regent's Park Branch at St. George's-terrace, on July 12 at 8.30 p.m. Speaker, the Rev. J. Baumgarten. Branches are being formed at (a) Winchester and (b) Basingstoke. Will intending members kindly send their names and addresses to (a) Miss A. E. Dumbleton, White Lodge, Winchester; (b) Mrs. Doman, Bramley Cottage, Winchester-road, Basingstoke?

**Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.**—Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss HATTY BAKER, 25, Hartington-villas, Hove. Press Secretary: Miss L. E. Turquand, 38, Wheathill-road, Anerley, S.E.

The East Ham secretary reports a branch meeting at Manor Park Baptist Tabernacle on July 3. The speakers were Miss Hessel, of Executive Committee F.C.L., and Mr. John Tree; Mrs. Baldock in chair. The sermon preached for F.C.L. at Bloomsbury Chapel by Rev. T. Phillips, B.A., is to be had in pamphlet form, price one penny. Some members suggest a F.C.L. Suffrage hymn. Will those feeling able to embody the Nonconformist contribution to the movement send verses to corresponding secretary?

**The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss KENDALL, 22, Wilberforce-road, Finsbury-park, N.

A most interesting drawing-room meeting was held by kind permission of Miss O. Sullivan on Thursday, July 6. Mr. Joseph Clayton spoke; also Dr. Esmond, M.P.; Miss Monica

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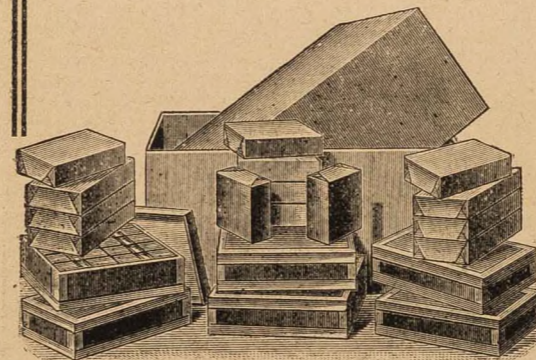
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

### LONDON.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

**Thurs., July 13.**—Caxton Hall, 8 p.m. **Joint Demonstration against Insurance Bill.** *Speakers:* Earl of Lytton, Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Miss Gore Booth, &c.  
 South Hackney, Gardenia Suffrage meeting, 23, Terrace-road, 5.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Mustard. *Chair:* Miss Rawlings. *Hostess:* Mrs. Catmur.  
 Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Miss Irene Miller.  
 Tottenham Gas Offices, 8 p.m. Miss Madge Turner.  
**Sun., July 16.**—Hyde Park, 12 noon. Dr. Drysdale. *Chair:* Miss Le Croisette.  
 Victoria Park, 3 p.m.  
 Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner.  
**Mon., July 17.**—Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 8 p.m. Mrs. Alice Toyne.  
**Tues., July 18.**—Stamford Hill Drawing-room meeting, 3.30 p.m., 11, Rookwood-road, Clapton Common. *Speaker:* Miss Madge Turner. *Hostess:* Mrs. Cashmore.  
 Hampstead Garden Suburb, 47, Rotherwick-road, at 3 p.m. Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Drysdale, Dr. Alice D. Vickery.  
 Public meeting, Lecture Room, Public Library, Lavender Hill, S.W., 8 p.m. "Women and the Proposed National Insurance Bill." Miss Leah Anson.  
 West Hampstead. W. Fortune Green Pump, 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Van Raalte, Mrs. Nourse.  
 Hampstead Heath, The Flagstaff, 7.30 p.m. Miss Irene Miller. *Chair:* Mrs. Hyde.  
**Wed., July 19.**—'Gardenia' Restaurant, 8 p.m. "Economic Status of Married Women." Mrs. How Martyn.  
**Thurs., July 20.**—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Miss Cuttridge, B.Sc.  
 Tottenham Gas Offices, 8 p.m.  
**Sun., July 23.**—Hyde Park, 12 noon. **Demonstration to Welcome Mrs. Sproson.** Mrs. Vulliamy, Miss Jack (Edinburgh), Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Manning (Manchester). Reception to Mrs. Sproson, Caxton Hall, 4 to 6 p.m.  
**Wed., July 26.**—'Gardenia' Restaurant, 8 p.m. "Emancipation and Motherhood." Mrs. Drysdale.  
**Sun., July 30.**—Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Nevinson. *Chair:* Miss Palmer.

### PROVINCES.

**Sat., July 15.**—Meeting, Crosby Shore, 7 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Manning, B.A., Nurse Woodall.  
**Wed., July 19.**—Easebourne Vicarage, Midhurst, Garden meeting, 3 p.m. Miss Alison Neilans.  
 Easebourne Village, 8 p.m. Miss Alison Neilans.  
**Thurs., July 27.**—Wellingborough. Mrs. How Martyn. Ipswich Garden meeting. Mrs. Vulliamy.  
 Hintlesham, Suffolk, by invitation of Miss Deane. *Speakers:* Mrs. Vulliamy, the Rev. Dr. Cobb. *Chair:* Miss Deane.  
**Mon., Sept., 25.**—Bournemouth: Lecture by Mrs. Despard at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, 8 p.m.

### OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

(Continued from page 155.)

Whately urged all Catholic men and women to join the Society and give it their moral support. Friends are asked to volunteer to lend their drawing-rooms for meetings after the holidays. Badges are on sale, price twopence; also pamphlets, "The Views of Cardinal Moran and the late Cardinal Vaughan on Woman Suffrage," published by N.U.W.S.S., price one penny.

#### The Actress's Franchise League.

At the Criterion meeting last Friday, at which Miss Compton presided, Mr. S. Parnell Kerr said that life at present was organised by man for man; women came in "somewhere, a little better than a dividend, a little dearer than a motor-car." The vote was the only symbol in Western life of civic freedom, and corresponded to the toga of the ancient Romans and the sacred thread of the Brahmins. It was time women had their share in this organisation. Mr. Kerr advised Suffragettes and "gists" to keep their eye on elected persons, especially those in Government offices, for on this depended the victory. Mrs. Zangwill, commenting on the Anti-Suffrage Petticoat Government grumble, said it was no worse than the Trouser Government. The ideal to be attained being the Divided Skirt Government. Again, women saw active service on the field of birth—a fight absolutely necessary for the defence of the Empire, for infantry was always the last defence—infantry in arms!

Lady Betty Balfour said that if the spirit of John Stuart Mill could have been conjured up to watch the Women's March on June 17, he would surely have supposed that only an old-fashioned Tory Government could be in power, instead of one pledged to reform. Mr. Walter Roch, M.P., discussing the future fortunes of the Conciliation Bill, urged Suffrage workers and speakers throughout the country to concentrate on the Bill and obtain direct support at all meetings for the Bill which

has been promoted. The conditions the Prime Minister had laid down were approved by a large majority in the House of Commons, backed by a strong driving force through the country. Every women's organisation must be drawn in besides new recruits from every class of the community.

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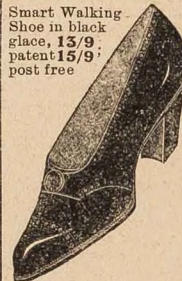
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