

THE COMMON CAUSE, JANUARY 26, 1911.

# The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

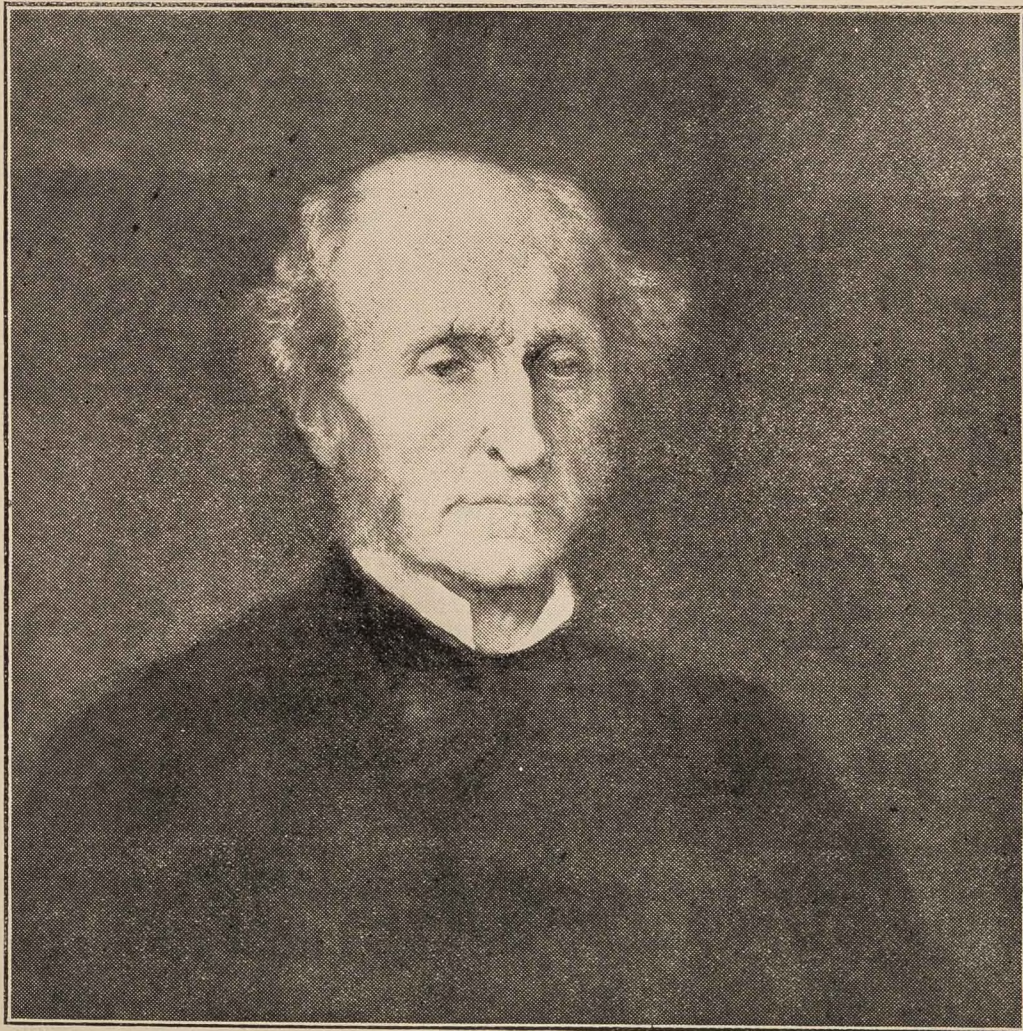
# Women's Suffrage

Societies.

Vol. II. No. 94. Registered as  
a Newspaper.

JANUARY 26, 1911.

ONE PENNY.



*From the portrait by G. F. Watts.*

*Photograph, Fred. Hollyer.*

## JOHN STUART MILL.

“Of all my recollections connected with the House of Commons, that of my having had the honour of being the first to make the claim of women to the Suffrage a Parliamentary question, is the most gratifying, as I believe it to have been the most important, public service that circumstances made it in my power to render.”

J. S. MILL, Avignon, 12th Dec., 1868.

## Notes and Comments.

## Voteless Women.

Forecasts proceed apace as to the probable order of events in the new Parliament, and various sections of the people are pressing their claim to be heard. The Women's Labour League opens its Conference at Leicester on January 31st, and will discuss resolutions urging that divorce and marriage laws should be made equal for men and women, rich and poor; that maintenance under separation orders should be payable through the court; that further provision should be made for the feeding and medical inspection of school children, and that necessitous widows and expectant mothers should be helped. The Executive has placed the following resolution upon the agenda:—"Since women feel it to be a great hardship and injustice that in a court of justice they should have to plead before men only, and since it is evident that the interests of women suffer from the want of comprehension or the prejudice of a male jury, this meeting urges upon the Government the need, in all cases where women are concerned, and especially in matrimonial cases, to have women upon the jury, and asks that they should be made eligible therefor."

Whatever the views of other sections of women may be as to the virtue or practicability of these recommendations, we feel it is enormously to the good that these questions should be thrashed out by the women most vitally concerned, and we hope it will not be long before they, with other women, will be able directly to influence the legislature.

## Enfranchised Men.

Meanwhile the Parliamentary Committee of the Trade Unions' Congress has asked to be received by the Prime Minister in order that they may lay before him the following resolution:—"This Congress reaffirms its previous opinion that Parliament cannot be considered really to represent the will of the people until the law has been altered to provide for (1) payment of members of the House of Commons and of official election expenses; (2) universal Adult Suffrage and the abolition of plural voting; (3) the closing of public-houses during the hours of polling, and in the case of a general election all elections to be held on one day."

We recommend our readers to watch and note who first get attended to: the men with votes or the women without votes.

## Selection.

The Anti-Suffrage Press was quite generous of its space to Women's Suffrage last week. Why? Is anything particular doing? No. But a prominent member of a militant society has resigned her membership and has written some caustic criticisms of the militant movement. So the "Times" and the "Morning Post" and others who could not find space to publish the resolution passed last November by the Australian Senate in favour of Women's Suffrage (at a moment when the "Times" itself said Mr. Asquith had made Women's Suffrage an issue at the general election), could devote generous space to what they hoped might prove damaging criticism. This gives us a fine foretaste, if we needed one, of the way in which our Press would instruct the electors if indeed the flagrant injustice of a referendum on the subject were seriously proposed.

As for Mrs. Billington Greig's criticisms, we hold she had the right of one who has worked to say what she thinks of the work, and as to the manner of them—every woman uses the manner she has. Suffragists are fairly tough people and will probably keep their heads. Mrs. Greig is a clever woman, and there is no reason why we should not learn what we can from her.

## Suggestion.

Under date "Friday" and with all the glory of being "From Our Own Correspondent," with two inches of headlines, including "Hysteria in Court," "German Suffragette's Trial for Alleged Murder," the "Daily

News" last week published some sensational stuff, which one would have supposed to be beneath it. But that is a matter for the editor's own conscience. What we complain of is the preposterous headlines. Why "Suffragette"? When a man is indicted do we see "Tariff Reformer Accused of Murder," or "Fraudulent Home Ruler"? Not a bit of it. The implication is (and is meant to be) that all "advanced" women are really suffering more or less from hysteria, and we make a present to our friends the Artists of this line, which is rapidly becoming what we expect of the "Daily News."

## Mrs. Bramwell Booth's Article.

Besides Mrs. Fyffe's letter, we have received others, one from a lady in Kensington, saying that the paper is not "fit reading for young men or girls or for the servants" and another from a lady in Shropshire saying "I was very glad to see Mrs. Bramwell Booth's article." We entirely repudiate our correspondent's suggestion that, in publishing a considered statement of a great and burning evil by a woman who has, like Mrs. Booth, earned the right to speak out, we are "doing harm in order that good may come." Our demand for the vote is based upon our knowledge of terrible evils and corruption and on our conviction that till women are given their rightful place, these evils will not sensibly diminish. If we speak of such evils only in vague and general terms, we are not understood by those who are not already fully informed and it is in the profound belief that if women knew they would no longer have patience with evil, that we hold it our duty to give plain and grave utterance to what we know.

We must respect other people's views, but it has always been a puzzle to understand why ladies who will leave their "young men and girls" and even their "servants" to read of nameless corruption, as long as it is contained in Hebrew history, will think it harmful that those same persons should know of the very dangers which beset their own path. We do not think that there is anything that can possibly be demoralising and we regard the austere indignation roused by these revelations as the most precious antidote to the bane of an ignorant and heartless jocosity in which many young men especially are reared.

## Madame Curie.

The election to the vacant seat in the French Academy of Sciences took place on Monday, when M. Branly was elected by 30 votes, Mme. Curie receiving 28. It is interesting to hear that M. Branly divided with M. Curie the Osiris prize of £4,000 for "the best work in science, art or literature."

## Canvass of York Women Ratepayers.

A correspondent writes that in the Bootham, Castle-gate and Guildhall Wards, 1,181 houses were visited; in these 247 were ill, dead or removed; 517 signed in favour of Women's Suffrage, 135 signed against and 282 were indifferent.

## An Interesting Appointment.

Dr. Helen M. Wodehouse, D. Phil. M.A., Assistant Lecturer in Mental and Moral Philosophy and Political Economy at the University of Birmingham, has been appointed external examiner by the Court of the University of Glasgow. She is known as the author of "The Logic of the Will" and "The Presentation of Reality" recently published by the Cambridge Press. This is the first time a woman has been appointed to one of these examinerships.

## Our Cartoon.

We give our readers this week, to contemplate, the face that veiled one of the purest and most ardent spirits ever seen on earth. It is not a bad test of our deeds and words sometimes to look at a face like this and ask "What would our friend have thought of what we do?"

## The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

Last week we gave some facts about the use the women had made of their votes in some of the States of America. This week we want to consider what they have been able to do in one of

## OUR OWN COLONIES

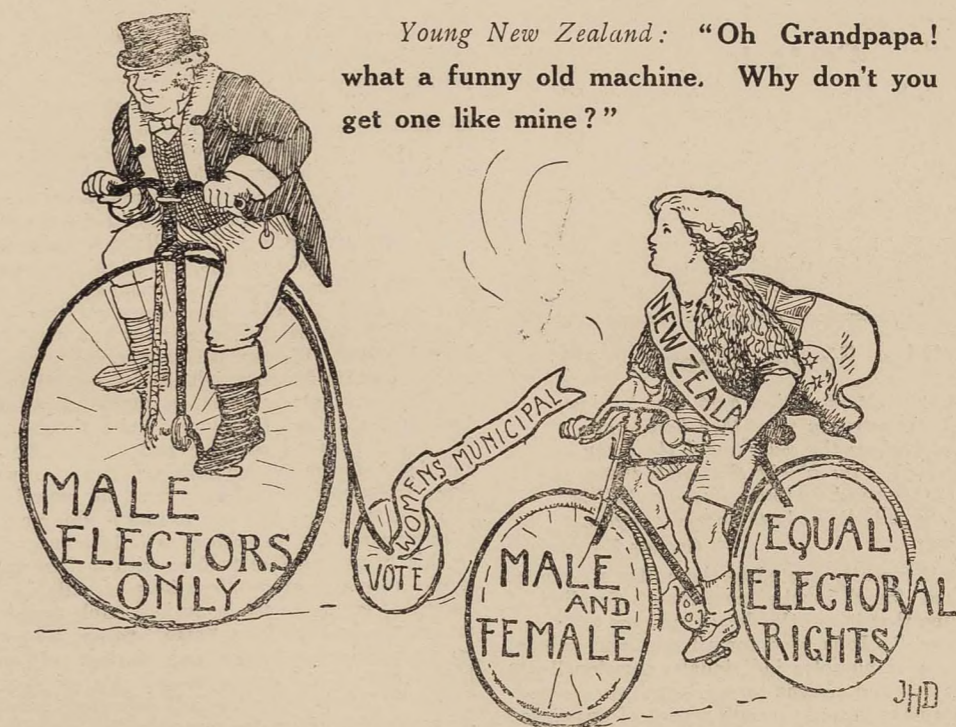
—New Zealand,—where they have had the vote for 17 YEARS.

In passing, just consider how absurd it is that a BRITISH WOMAN, still in British dominions, can pass over to New Zealand and become a full citizen with all the rights and privileges of citizenship; then return to

where women have votes, of every 1,000 babies only 75 die. Can we boast, then, that

## WE LOOK AFTER CHILDREN

so much better than our enfranchised sisters? "We seem," says Lady Stout, wife of the Governor of New Zealand, "to be able to get any measures we want through our vote." And amongst the measures they have got are: Equal divorce laws for men and women, EQUAL PAY FOR MEN AND WOMEN TEACHERS, a minimum wage in all trades (so that sweating has been abolished), Children's Court, a very strict INFANT LIFE PROTECTION



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England and be degraded to the level of criminals and lunatics, unfit to use a vote!

Many people will tell you that women would

## NEGLECT THEIR HOMES

if they had the vote, and that they would cease to care for their children. Some people even assert that they would not want to have children then. What has happened in New Zealand? Since women voted the birth-rate has been STEADILY GOING UP, and it is now HIGHER THAN IT IS IN ENGLAND. But, far more important, the rate of infantile mortality has been STEADILY GOING DOWN. In England, where women have no votes, of every 1,000 babies born, 147 die before they are a year old. In New Zealand,

ACT (which makes baby-farming almost impossible), and a Testator's Family Maintenance Act, which gives the judge power to upset a will which does not allow a sufficient share of an estate to the testator's wife and family.

It is strange that, with such evidence as is continually received from New Zealand and other countries of the great good which the women's vote has done, there should still be people here to prophesy all sorts of DISASTERS when women are enfranchised here.

## THE WEEK'S MOTTO.

"There are none so blind as those who won't see."

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday. THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in Britain or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	...	1 9
6 MONTHS	...	3 3
12 MONTHS	...	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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## The Single Heart.

*Sum up at night what thou hast done by day;  
And in the morning what thou hast to do.  
Dress and undress thy soul: mark the decay  
And growth of it: if with thy watch, that too  
Be down, then wind up both; since we shall be  
Most surely judged, make thy accounts agree.*

GEORGE HERBERT.

Mrs. Fawcett recently quoted to the writer a sentence which she had found in the memoirs of Caroline of Anspach, saying that it was the duty of princes to "make the whole go on." It is good for all men and women, whether princes or humbler individuals, occasionally to bring their words and actions to some such simple test. We Suffragists have passed through a year of unrelieved and incessant effort, which has left some broken in health though not in spirit, and has even taken toll of at least two lives. The effort has been made extraordinarily hard by the existence of a cruel press boycott which has ignored or belittled the immense work of education and organization done by all sections of Suffragists, so that they have been debarred from the publicity given to all other great movements affecting parties.

The immediate objective of all this toil and sacrifice has disappeared. The measure of compromise which all Women Suffragists, being agreed, were willing to accept in deference to the innumerable divisions of opinion among men, was wilfully and deliberately destroyed by the Government, and some cry, in their despair, "Now we know there is no way but that of revolt."

We do not believe it. We believe, on the contrary, that in spite of the incredibly mean tricks of our opponents and our pseudo-friends, and even partly because of them, our true object is nearer than it has ever been, and that it rests with us to show that unshakable tenacity of purpose which inevitably overcomes mere inertia and corruption.

But now it is not likely that in all this struggle Suffragists alone should have made no mistakes; should

always have done what was wisest and best; should have no lessons to learn from the experience of life and of men and women that the year has brought them. The word "criticism" has been so frequently abused that we are apt to forget how fruitful true criticism is. The critic is not the person who "finds fault." The critic is the person who understands, appreciates, estimates, and draws conclusions; it is indispensable that the critic should do two things: (1) Should care about the business, should love it and wish it well; and (2) should work and know. We suspect the advice of the enemy, we shrug our shoulders at the suggestions of the shirker or the novice. What, then, is our conclusion? That the most precious criticism must come from within our own ranks; that it should be welcomed and, where necessary, helped to become articulate and effective.

There is a saying which one often hears and which has a very ugly side to it. It runs, "Never explain. Never apologize." What there is of right in this refers to the egotistic itch from which some people suffer, to make what has been done a matter of personal praise or blame. Those who keep in mind the recommendation "to make the whole go on" will suppress any temptation to such waste of time and temper. But for the rest, how undemocratic, how arbitrary a device! A great democratic institution like the National Union, based on the principle of direct representation, acting in accordance with the will of the majority, determining policy by free discussion—how could it live a healthy life without explanation and criticism, without frank and courageous admission of mistakes, without mutual confidence and honesty? Our method in the country has been to take the people with us. Our method in the Union must be even more patiently and candidly to take as large a majority as possible with us, and to this end we members of the Union must welcome criticism and bend our minds to understand it, and in turn, ourselves, to criticize it.

Our Bill has been wrecked; our two candidates have been defeated. We can, it is true, point to compensatory successes which far outweigh the failures: the new House of Commons holds at least as many supporters as the last, and they are far more deeply pledged to action. Still, we have to consider and debate the policy of running independent candidates, and most of us feel that there are lessons to be learnt from our experiences here. It is not that anyone wants to find a whipping-boy; it is that we must find the causes of failure and avoid them.

This brings us face to face with a danger which we would have all our members keep steadily in view—the danger of trying to attain an impossible security. If we are on the lookout for a "safe" policy, we may as well go on petitioning to the end of time. It will do no harm, and it will do no good. No spirited action is "safe." Life is never "safe." We must take risks and venture much if we are to accomplish much, and to tie up a progressive policy like this with innumerable conditions is merely to adopt a rather cowardly and indirect way of abandoning it. By all means let us learn from our mistakes; by all means let us resolve not to repeat them; but let us remember that action may be effectively smothered by too many regulations, for it is impossible to foresee and provide for the many contingencies that may arise. If we can keep in mind that our object is to get in a friend or to strike a blow at an enemy, and that to accomplish this we must get votes (not merely make a demonstration), we shall do better if we can work unhampered by a cast-iron set of rules. A considerable amount of liberty is necessary for local development. There would be no surer way of fossilizing the Union than to increase without limit the number of things upon which we must all agree. In variety we have the surest way of using differing temperaments and aptitudes, and in decentralization we give to all parts of the kingdom scope for that local pride and local energy which make for efficiency and devotion.

We have before us a year which may be harder, which will certainly not be easier, than the past year. There are many sorts of people, and some like shouting and tumult and hot blood, and some prefer steady grind; there are even some, we believe, who enjoy committees

and the making and unmaking of constitutions. By all means let us use all sorts. Still, at one time or another we have, most of us, to do our share of the things we detest, and the sort of four-o'clock-in-the-morning courage which slogs away without intermittence, after failure, to make good mistakes and prepare for further and better organized action, is a variety of courage which hammers out a very fine temper in the end.

Revolution can be accomplished in a hurry. Not so reform. The changing of hearts is a bigger thing than the changing of a constitution, and we women set out—long, long years ago—to change the hearts of men towards us. To accomplish so vast a change we must indeed have ourselves a constant mind, a single heart. Insofar as we keep these, and remember that our aim is "to make the whole go on," will our conference be fruitful and our action steady.

## Wives and Mithers Maist Despairin'.

The January number of "The Twentieth Century" has the second instalment of Mrs. Martin's truly epoch-making article on "The Married Working Woman." So temperate, so cogent, so documenté a plea for the representation of the wife and mother must surely get the attention which it deserves. Having commented on the new interest in the rising generation which has been caused by the alarm about physical degeneration, the author writes:—

"The anxiety about the children's physique arises, no doubt, from different reasons in the case of different persons. The capitalist fears a decrease in his labour supply; the military authorities think of their recruits; the Socialists see an opportunity of organizing a millennium on their own pattern, with themselves as directors. Other folk merely obey the natural instinct to ward off immediate suffering from the innocent and helpless, without looking farther ahead. But the remedial schemes put forward all agree in this—that they absolutely ignore the opinions and experience of the one class in the nation which has first-hand knowledge of the matter in question."

She then proceeds to inquire what is the working-woman's opinion of a number of remedial measures either proposed or accomplished, and we sincerely hope that Mr. Samuel and Mr. Burns and Mr. George and our other philanthropic legislators bent on doing good—"in their own way"—may study and weigh these opinions. The provision of free meals, the teaching of domestic economy, the raising of the school age, taxation, school attendance and medical care, various provisions of the much-vaunted Children's Charter, and finally the married woman's right to work, are all passed in review, and some caustic phrases are to be found in the homely exposition. With regard to the feeding of school children, she shows how and why it is that the women look upon it with misgivings:—

"They are sincerely apprehensive of the demoralisation of the men if the responsibility of the children's food is lifted from the shoulders of the fathers. . . . The women realize how hard their husbands' lives are, and how many small easements could be secured with an extra half-crown as weekly pocket-money, and they know it is absurd to expect average husbands and fathers to resist the temptation of lessening the household's demands on their thinly lined pockets. No class in the nation could stand such a test, as the whole history of endowment shows. But the women, with good cause, dread any-

thing which weakens the link between the breadwinner and the home."

She points out, too, how the women recognize the danger to themselves in the temptation to secure an extra glass or two when they know the children will not directly suffer, and they dread, also, the interference between themselves and their children. Mrs. Martin finely says of the working-woman that "the feeling that she is the indispensable centre of her small world is, indeed, the joy and consolation of her life," and she adds later, "Their grievance is that parents, through the operation of causes beyond their own control, are so often deprived of the power of fulfilling their natural duties, and it is to this point that the women's political influence, if they had any, would be directed."

She shows how the teaching of cookery in the most economical schools requires a weekly expenditure of just over 2s. 9d. per head, and how such expenditure must be wholly out of the reach of a woman whose husband gives her as much as 22s. a week, if there are as many as four children; of course, it is common knowledge that thousands of women have to "do" on much less than that, and this ought to be considered by those who so light-heartedly speak of raising the age-limit for school children.

"Opponents of the extension of the franchise to working-women may be presented with the following admission: If these women had had the vote, the school age in London could not have been raised to fourteen without very important modifications of the scheme. A short calculation will show that, as regards hundreds of thousands of women, the compulsory keeping back for twelve months of each successive child from entering the labour market was practically an income-tax of from 20 to 25 per cent. levied on the bare subsistence income—a demand no enfranchised class would stand for a moment. The politician, the philanthropist, and the educationalist seized the opportunity of carrying a reform, urgently needed in the interests of the community, but wrung the greater part out of the flesh and blood of the mothers. Doubtless an apparently cheap bargain, but of the sort for which a nation pays dearly in the long-run. Healthy and happy homes cannot be built up on the physical and moral misery of the home-makers."

In such indirect taxation and in that other obvious taxation of the necessities of life, in the fearful extortions that are made by the enforcement of school attendance and medical attendance, it is always in practice the woman that pays, though the man is the parent before the law.

"The responsibility of the father, however, among large sections of the population, is a mere legal fiction, and the administrators of the Education Act seldom allude to it. They know the men are helpless, out at work from dawn to dark, and earning far too small wages to allow of their providing domestic assistance for their wives. Still, as it is the officials' business to insist on the children going to school, they have devised a fiction of their own. They assume that there is among the poor an endless supply of neighbours endowed with the loftiest altruism, who, without a fraction of pay, are always ready to neglect their own concerns in order to attend to a mother who is lying ill in bed, carry a baby to the hospital, or take charge of two or three troublesome children. To the everlasting credit of human nature this

assumption materializes in fact oftener than anyone could expect, but the injustice is glaring. What right has the Government of the country, in order to save the trouble and expense of making proper arrangements, to extort unpaid services from the poorest of the poor, by exploiting the pity which one downtrodden and harassed woman feels for another?"

We have heard a very young and cocksure Anti-Suffragist gentleman laugh derisively when a Suffrage speaker used the phrase "downtrodden women of England." We should very much like to put him through a course of district visiting with Mrs. Martin. She speaks burning words on the inhuman folly of attempting to meet by prohibition some of the undoubted evils of women's work outside the home. The proper course, she says, is "to deal appropriately and efficiently with the man, not to pile disqualifications on his unfortunate wife. It is, of course, contended that the loafer, and possibly the drunkard, would be driven to earn if his wife did not work. There is probably some truth in this; but to inflict a general disability on a whole class in order to meet the case of a small section of that class is surely a mark of careless and unintelligent law-making. Unfortunately, much of the legislation affecting women is of this character."

Mrs. Martin pours indignant scorn upon the plea that if women were withdrawn from the labour market the demand for men's labour would probably increase and wages rise.

"If anything could convert one to a demand for immediate Womanhood Suffrage, it is such an argument as this. In the case of the brewer and the landlord the greatest pains are taken that the public gain shall not be at the price of ruin to the individual, and every case of special hardship is carefully considered and met. But men, apparently, think it quite fair to say to gallant

souls like Mrs. W. (a woman whose husband had never given her more than 22s., and who had had nine children and had supplemented the wage by earning 12s. a week herself): 'If we keep you and your fellows off the labour market, we expect, though without much ground for our belief, that within a few years the wages of the men alone will be about equal to what you and they earn together now. You must, therefore, cheerfully consent to surrender your personal interests and see your own children grow up half-starved and badly cared for.' And this sacrifice of the individual is demanded by people who abhor the very name of Socialism!"

It is the opinion of this very able and experienced woman that the reforms working women would go for, had they the power, are mainly three: (1) The legal universal minimum or living wage (but she does not make clear whether this is to be based on the individual or on the average or the actual family); (2) State Insurance against Unemployment; and (3) Fair-rent courts. We are not sure how far she is right, but anyhow, she has established a big claim to be listened to as a sympathetic exponent of her fellows, and she concludes with these words, which we could wish might stick like burrs on the pillows of complacent legislators:—

"It is obvious, however, that the unfranchised condition of that part of the nation which has the keenest interest in the establishment of the 'Living Wage' theory is in itself an enormous obstacle. To do for the great body of workers what the trade unions have done for their members means alarming and antagonising numerous and powerful interests, and while women are politically helpless a reforming government could obtain no counter-balancing support. In the meantime, to try and achieve something of the desired ultimate result, at the cost of harrying and harassing a voteless and voiceless class, is apparently a temptation that neither Tory nor Liberal, Labour man nor Socialist, can withstand."

### NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**OBJECT:** To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

**METHODS:** (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

*Hon. Secretaries:* MISS EDITH DIMOCK. *President:* MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. *Hon. Treasurer:* MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).  
MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary). *Secretary:* MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. *Telephone:* 1960 Victoria.  
*Telegrams:* "Voiceless, London." *Offices:* Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

### Executive Committee.

Three more Societies have joined the Union since the Committee last met: Macclesfield, Oldham, and Ottery St. Mary.

Two more Federations are now in working order: The South Western Federation, which takes Devon and Cornwall for its area; Miss M. P. Willcocks, B.A., of 36, Powderham Crescent, Exeter, has consented to take the post of Hon. Secretary; and the South Wales and Monmouthshire Federation. This Federation comprises the counties of Glamorgan, Brecknock, Radnor, Cardigan, Carmarthen, and Pembrokeshire, in South Wales, and the county of Monmouth. The hon. secretary is Miss Janet Price, 159, Newport Road, Cardiff.

Our organiser, Mrs. Renton, is at work in the Horncastle Division of Lincolnshire. Captain Weigall, the Unionist candidate, is an out and out opponent of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Linfield, the Liberal, is in favour of Women's Suffrage, and this is no new conversion on his part.

The Committee are arranging to hold a large Public Meeting in London as soon as possible after Parliament

meets, and have asked the London Society to organise it. They hope the Societies will all co-operate as far as possible, and help to make it a great success.

EDITH DIMOCK.

### Horncastle By-election.

Captain WEIGALL (U.)  
Mr. LINFIELD (L.)

*N. U. Organiser*—Mrs. RENTON, 19, Mareham Street, Horncastle.

There is no National Union Society in the Constituency, therefore Mrs. Renton's preliminary work is directed chiefly to arousing interest in and support of Women's Suffrage in the locality, and she has addressed two large meetings with this end in view, and has met with considerable sympathy. The candidates have been interviewed, and Mr. Linfield has written that "he will not, if elected, vote against the Conciliation Committee's Bill; that he will support any amendment extending its scope; that he is in favour of Manhood and Womanhood Suffrage, and that if he is convinced that the Conciliation Bill will not retard these measures, he will support it."

### Foreign News.

#### Sweden.

Women have done excellent and most successful work in the recent elections of Town Councillors, with the gratifying result that thirty-five women have been chosen. Our correspondent has been able to ascertain that of these seventeen are teachers, three are shopkeepers, one is a telegraphist, one has a school for gardening, and seven are interested and employed in various branches of social work. Their ages vary between 31 and 69, and there are only seven married women. In one town a married couple were elected as councillors—the husband by the Conservatives and the wife by the Liberals! It seems hardly necessary to add that the majority of these new Town Councillors are more or less prominent members of their respective W.S.A.

#### Denmark.

We read in *Jus Suffragii* that on the 16th of December last a proposal for the reform of the constitution was presented to the "Folksting" (Lower House) by the Prime Minister himself. This Bill will grant the right to vote and eligibility for the Folksting to men and women over 25 years of age; and it will also remove the hindrance to women's eligibility as Crown-chosen members of the "Landsting" (Upper House). In presenting the Bill, the Prime Minister (Mr. Claus Berntsen) said: "The Bill does not propose a total reform of the constitution. The Government is of opinion that such reform will require two sessions, and that in that case the first part should naturally deal with the composition of the Folksting, by striving to form a representation resting on a larger basis, and giving a wider expression to the will of the people than is the case with the present Folksting. In accordance with this, the Bill advocates the vote for women as well as for men, and the reduction of the age limit to 25 years. As you know, our women have the same municipal rights as men; and as no doubt everybody will admit that the women's participating in the municipal elections has been of good influence on the Municipal Boards, it has been deemed wise to give women the same political rights also as men."

The Bill is not likely to cause any hot discussion in the Folksting, but the Landsting will no doubt fight against it, if not satisfied by guarantees for the adoption of proportional representation in the Folksting.

#### Italy.

The National Provisional Committee for Woman Suffrage in Italy has been very active since the beginning of last November, and has held four important meetings, in which a great many women took part. The advisability of propaganda by the publication and distribution of pamphlets and circulars was discussed, and amongst other things it was decided to hold the second national congress at Easter. The committee is also engaged in reminding commercial women to vote for the Trade Boards (the right to do so was granted them in March, 1910), and seeing to it that they register themselves correctly. For this purpose they are making announcements in the most widely read newspapers, and arranging meetings and lectures.

#### Switzerland.

The Cantonal Council of Zurich resolved, on a motion of a committee, that, in so far as the law admits of it, women should be eligible for all municipal offices and boards.

In the Great Council at Berne the Socialists moved that Municipal Councils should be granted the right of declaring women eligible for School and Charity Boards.

#### United States.

It is encouraging to hear that Vancouver has just extended the municipal franchise to married women, whereas previously

Captain Weigall has made no written statement, but has on two separate occasions declared himself utterly opposed to the principle of Women's Suffrage.

The date of the by-election will not be fixed until after the opening of Parliament, but before the strenuous work of the by-election proper begins there is need of much more help in the Constituency if the National Union is to be properly represented. Will members of the affiliated Societies, therefore, send any names and addresses of sympathisers in the vicinity to the Organiser in charge in order that she may obtain their assistance?  
T. G. WHITEHEAD.

Mrs. Renton writes: In working here the National Union is breaking new ground, consequently a great deal of prejudice against the movement exists, all Suffrage being labelled militant. I have called on a great many people; so far have enrolled four members only, but have got more promises. Both candidates have been interviewed. There is a strong Primrose League here which complicates matters, as, Captain Weigall's views being known, the members regard me with distinct suspicion. I addressed a meeting of the W.L.A. Committee which in Horncastle is not strong on Suffrage. I am sure some good was done; the prejudice against militant tactics is most strong, and by emphasising the constitutional nature of the N.U. I gained a sympathetic hearing. Last Thursday I addressed a meeting of the local debating society—a debate following. The opposition was poor, and the resolution was carried with a good majority. Nine copies of "The Common Cause" were sold. In a small country town of this kind people are not brought face to face with the need for the enfranchisement of women—women living in comfort look at the question from their own standpoint and say "Woman's place is the home," and "We don't believe in women taking men's places in the world, speaking in public," etc. If any reader knows of anyone living in the constituency who is likely to be in sympathy with us I should be most grateful for name and address.

### Federation Notes.

#### North-Western.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT WHITEHAVEN.

During the election an organization committee was formed in Whitehaven to start a local Women's Suffrage Society. The first meeting of the new Society was held on January 18th in the Masonic Hall. Miss C. E. Marshall (hon. organizing secretary, Keswick) was in the chair, and explained the constitution and policy of the National Union, and the North-Western Federation. It was decided that Whitehaven should start as a branch of the Keswick Society. Rules were drawn up and a committee of six was elected, with Mrs. Collis as chairman and Mr. W. H. Gass (Sunnyside, Whitehaven) as correspondent and treasurer *pro tem.* Propaganda work will be carried on during the winter, and a public meeting will be held in the spring.

### The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

President: The Bishop of Lincoln.

Hon. Sec.: Rev. C. Hinscliff.

Offices: 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

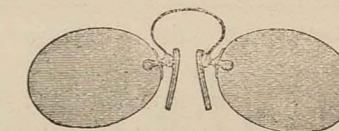
On Monday, January 30th, at 6 p.m., there will be evensong for members of the League at St. George's, Bloomsbury (Hart Street, W.C.), followed by an address at 6-30 by the Rev. H. E. Olivier, vicar of St. James's, Croydon. The annual public reception takes place the same evening at 8 p.m. at the Caxton House Restaurant, Tothill Street, Westminster (station, St. James's Park); tickets, 1s. each (including refreshments), should be applied for as soon as possible, and may be obtained from the offices, or from any of the branch secretaries. Speeches will begin at 9-30. Chairman, the Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G. Speakers, Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss Frances M. Stirling, and others.

Tickets (prices 1s. 6d. and 1s., reserved seats) can now be obtained for the Steinway Hall meeting on February 17th. Other meetings which will shortly be held are as follows:—Hampstead branch, 3, Belsize Avenue, February 3rd; public meeting at Hove, February 20th; drawing-room meeting of Richmond and Kew branch, Glengarriff, Richmond, February 21st; public meeting, Greenwich, March 6th.

### The Gymnastic Teachers' Suffrage Society.

The second annual meeting of the Gymnastic Teachers' Suffrage Society was held at St. Paul's School for Girls, Hammersmith, on January 13th, at which Mrs. Fawcett gave a most interesting address, giving a survey of the Suffrage movement for the past year. There was a large and enthusiastic meeting of the members.

### WHY WEAR HEAVY Eyeglasses & Spectacles?



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only widows and spinsters had it. This may be, indirectly, a result of the victory in Washington, which is just across the border.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst has just arrived in the States, and is booked to speak at a great many places.

### January Reviews.

The *National Review* for January contains an article on "The Health of the Nation," by Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, in which she advocates the adoption of the colony system as regards alcoholics and feeble-minded persons, with a view to the possible improvement of the former and the permanent segregation of the latter. She also suggests the establishment of a Central Bureau of Public Health, to prevent, among other things, the marriage of the unfit. In the same number "A Parent" writes on "Parents and Public Schools," with reference to a November article, "Our Public Schools," by "A Public School Boy," and a December one, "Our Public Schools: A Reply," by "An Undergraduate." These three articles together should be read and pondered on, as dealing with very grave moral issues which concern all parents.

The current *Westminster Review* contains an account of "The Béguinages of Ghent: The Story of an Interesting Order of Nuns" by Dr. E. S. Chesser. These Belgian women devote themselves to a religious life, while abstaining from perpetual vows; they live in a convent for six years, and after that may have a small separate house, should they so prefer. One of their chief arts is that of exquisite embroidery.

In the Independent Section of this Review appears "An Economic Criticism of Woman Suffrage," by C. H. Norman. The author takes the usual Anti-Suffrage point of view, and puts forward most of the usual fallacies. He urges incidentally the abolition of sweating, the improvement of divorce laws, and the furtherance of State-aided emigration; on the whole, he supports most reforms desired by women—so long as they are carried out by men. He attacks the proposal to endow motherhood, and puts forward some amazing economic inaccuracies.

In *The Nineteenth Century* Major Sir Edward Clayton writes on "The Home Secretary and Prison Reform," criticising Mr. Winston Churchill's proposals with sympathetic insight, based on his own long experience as an inspector of prisons. We allude elsewhere to the second article on "The Married Working Woman."

The *Review of Reviews* for January gives an account of "Our Lady Mayors: Aldeburgh, Brecon, Oldham"; and also deals with the views of Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Pankhurst, and Mrs. Despard on "The Women's Vote at the General Election."

In *The East and the West*, M. P. Western writes on the problem of female education in Northern India. He holds that general Indian opinion there is against the better education of women, but that the educated and more enlightened Hindu loyally demands a wife approximating more nearly to his own standard.

### Correspondence.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

#### TAX RESISTANCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—While agreeing with Miss Ursula Thompson that tax resistance is the repudiation of a debt due for various services, may I be allowed to point out that it is just because women have as much right as men to receive all these various services, one of which I take it is the right of being repre-

sented? For the salaries of Ministers and the upkeep of the Houses of Parliament are all paid from taxes to which women contribute on the same basis as men. Now, as women are unrepresented, it is not right that they should be charged at the same rate as men, and we have every constitutional right to refuse to pay the bill until we receive the complete amount of "various services" to which we are entitled.

I think the illustration given by Miss Thompson tells on the side of the tax resistor. The native servant attained his end of getting rid of the rats without breaking any code of his religion, and tax resisters hope to attain their end of forcing the Government to see that the full measure of the "various services" due to women is rendered, and then the bill will be paid. There is no law that can justly compel either men or women to pay for what they have not had.—Yours,  
M. FOLEY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—For the benefit of those of your readers who have been appointed as delegates to the National Union Conference, may I be allowed space to say something in support of the principle of tax resistance?

To the general reader, also, who has been thinking out the pros and cons of this subject, it may be interesting to have something tangible to weigh in the balance of opinion against the objections brought to bear by your correspondent from Penarth.

At the present critical moment in the history of our movement, every Suffragist is more alive than ever to the necessity of doing all in her power to force the attention of Government along the lines she herself approves. Each one must, therefore, exercise the particular power she happens to be possessed of in the same way as she has hitherto used her individual talents.

To the women taxpayers of the country belongs a certain power and responsibility which they should be willing to exercise for the benefit of their less fortunate sisters who daily suffer under existing conditions. A woman's place in politics at the present day is to work for women and for children, and to act and speak for those who cannot raise their own voices to protest against imposture and lack of opportunity to live decent lives.

Is, then, the woman who is possessed of wealth, and who pays taxes, justified in refusing to wield her own special weapon in so righteous a warfare? One has to remember how deep are the evils and how high is the standard we desire for our nation, before we can decide to make the rather disagreeable sacrifices which this form of protest involves.

The women who are refusing to pay imperial taxes have conscientious objections to allowing their money to be spent any longer without their consent and upon things of which they may entirely disapprove. It is particularly distasteful to women to have to pay the salaries of Cabinet Ministers and to contemplate paying members of Parliament, but it is a far more vital question when they realize that the Government conducts some of its operations by means of the sweated labour of their fellow-women. If they do not approve of that, they must protest against it by withholding their contribution as a matter of principle.

That the sum withheld will be inappreciable is quite apart from the question, and that "we shall pick the pocket of the Government," as has been suggested, is, to us, quite secondary to the value of tax resistance as Suffrage propaganda. We want our action to demonstrate to the voters of the country that it is the women who pay the piper that are demanding to call the tune; because, unfortunately, one still comes across many men and women unfamiliar with the history of the Women's Suffrage movement who imagine that "Votes for Women" is merely the war-cry of the young and irresponsible. Many of these would easily be won over if only the women taxpayers in the movement would combine on this great question of resistance, which is a perfectly dignified form of protest.

This argument in favour of tax resistance should appeal to the Penarth branch, because they said in their final letter: "Our weapon is public opinion." "No reform, no taxes," was the cry in 1832, and Lord Milton set the example of resistance in this direction by directing the tax-gatherer to

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### ELECTION POLICY.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Like several of your other correspondents, I have been wondering how Suffragists who helped in the elections where Suffrage candidates were run brought themselves to argue for men who, on every subject of importance save one, differed entirely from them. An ardent Unionist working hard for Home Rule, a convinced Liberal pressing the claims of Tariff Reform—it must have been a strange sight, and at the best not very convincing to the man with the vote. As a Suffragist, a reader of your paper, and member of your Society, may I express a hope that at the on-coming Council meeting the election policy of the N.U.W.S.S. will be altered. The result of the elections where Suffrage candidates were run has not been so satisfactory as to make it a tempting policy for the future, for though it does not show the Cause to be weak, it does prove that even where the elector is in favour of Women's Suffrage he is not prepared to put it before all other questions. And rightly so, I think, for though a great and pressing question it is not the *only* one, and it seems to me that to vote for a man whose principles (from the voter's point of view) are a real menace to the country, simply because he is in accord with him on this one point, savours of a lack of patriotism.

Would it not be a better policy to cease running Suffrage candidates, and instead to turn our attention to inducing the electors, before the next election, to petition their respective candidates to give Women's Suffrage a prominent place in their election campaign? This would be a policy that all members of your Society could approve, and in which Unionists and Liberals alike could help without doing violence to their political and patriotic conscience.—Yours,

UNIONIST SUFFRAGIST.

January 22nd, 1911.

[It is all a matter of relative importance. Suffragists who work for an independent Women's Suffrage candidate do put the enfranchisement of women "before all other questions." It is open to those who do not to work in other ways.—Ed. "C.C."]

### MRS. BRAMWELL BOOTH'S ARTICLE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—As one of the few sellers of "The Common Cause" in London, I wish to enter a strong protest against the increasing freedom with which the most unsavoury topics are discussed in its pages, culminating in the article by Mrs. Bramwell Booth in this week's number. I may be early Victorian, but I strongly object to selling indiscriminately in the streets a paper in which such subjects and kindred ones equally unpleasant, are dealt with without reserve—selling, perhaps, to other people's young daughters what I should not knowingly allow my own to read.

I have done my best, in season and out of season to promote the sale of "The Common Cause," and, as a keen Suffragist, it is with the very greatest regret that I feel bound to cease my efforts.

I am fully aware that the urgent need for the prevention of the terrible evils of immorality, and for the power to deal with those evils, is one of the strongest reasons for demanding that women should be enfranchised; but at the same time I cannot see the necessity for doing what is, in the opinion of many, harm to the younger ones amongst us by the free discussion of such subjects in a paper for general circulation

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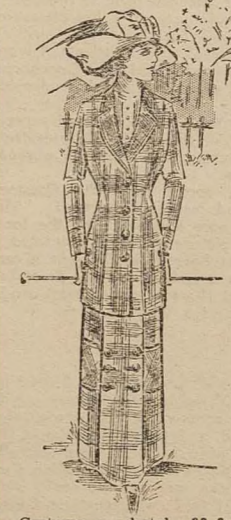
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call again and plainly intimating that his payment would be dependent on the course of public events. He justified his conduct in Parliament by asserting that occasions do arise when individuals are not bound to follow the strict letter of the law. The Reform Bill was passed.

In conclusion I will quote from a letter I have recently received from a well-known public man. "When constitutional methods of obtaining redress of grievances have failed, there is no better method known than the refusal to pay taxes. It has the advantage of being associated with the winning of freedom in the past, and, if sufficient women are found to feel and express that desire for recognition as citizens in this way, the plan must succeed again."—Yours,

MARGARET KINGTON PARKES,  
Secretary, Women's Tax Resistance League.  
10, Talbot House, 98, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

### INSULTING MOTHERHOOD.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I was sorry to find in the "Common Cause" of January 12, under the heading of "Insulting Motherhood," reference made to the recent Papal decree against mixed marriages. I have read in several newspapers of this same case—viz., of the Irish Catholic who deserted his Protestant wife; but no newspaper has mentioned the number of Catholic wives in England who have been deserted by Protestant husbands. In the case of a quarrel between a Protestant father and a Catholic mother as to the religion taught their children, is there not in this case also the mother's point of view, and is it not the law which gives the father the sole right to say what his children shall be taught that is insulting to her motherhood? What, then, has the Papal decree to do with this law? I should like to point out that the Papal decree applies to both Catholic men and women. The reason why the numerous disputes and quarrels in families which originate through them. In nearly all the cases of mixed marriages where the children are brought up as Catholics it is the woman who is the Catholic, and who insists upon her children being brought up in the faith that she believes to be right. If the "Common Cause" desires to draw our attention to the law which is insulting to motherhood and not to the Papal decree, why, then, mention the demonstration in Belfast on January 5, where the Rev. John Pollock simply spoke against the Papal decree, and did not mention any law of this country as being insulting to motherhood? Would it not be better to leave differences of religion, at least, out of the "Common Cause"?—Yours,

A CATHOLIC SUFFRAGIST.

[Our correspondent has misunderstood the paragraph to which she refers. The point made by us was precisely the point made by her—that it is the iniquitous law of the land which makes the father the sole parent, and we quoted the Rev. John Pollock precisely in order to complain that neither he nor any of the men who have been raising a hullabaloo over this case seemed to care about the insult to motherhood conveyed in the law of the land. We did not and we do not intend to import religious controversy into this paper.—Ed. "C.C."]

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—In your correspondence columns this week Mr. Anthony Wilson states:—

(1.) That references to Women's Suffrage in a certain candidate's speeches appeared to rouse little enthusiasm;  
(2.) That political organizations felt that the Women's Suffrage question could be ignored because Liberals worked for the Liberal and Conservatives for the Conservative in any case;

(3.) That in several divisions there was a deep-seated fear that Suffrage support, as such, would be actually injurious. As Mr. Wilson writes from the neighbourhood of Keswick I feel I ought to say, in justice to the Cumberland Women's Suffrage Societies, that the division in which he worked at the last election was not in Cumberland. Our experience in this county was more encouraging than Mr. Wilson's. I was present at candidates' meetings where references to Women's Suffrage were greeted with enthusiastic applause. In the constituencies where our societies had worked before the election (and where our condemnation of militancy was clearly understood) our help was welcomed; in one, at least, it was most eagerly sought for. Our members, with only one exception that I know of, staunchly refused to work for any candidate who did not give satisfactory pledges on the Women's Suffrage question, though in some cases the party pressure brought to bear upon them was considerable.

But all this only strengthens Mr. Wilson's case, because in the districts to which I refer our election work was organized on the lines which he advocates. The helpers we sent were always of the same party, as well as of the same Suffrage views, as the candidate they worked for, and so were able to fall in with the regular party organization and to give the kind of help most universally welcome—canvassing. The letters of Miss Dorothy Edwards last week, and of Mr. Rogers and Miss Royden this week, all emphasize the importance of this point, and show the strength gained by the Suffrage cause where it works in conjunction with, instead of in opposition to, the powerful forces of party feeling.—Yours,  
CATHERINE E. MARSHALL.

Hawes End, Keswick, Jan. 21st, 1911.

like "The Common Cause," in order that good may come.—Yours,

(Mrs.) HENRIETTA F. A. FYFFE.

[We refer to this letter in "Notes and Comments."—Ed. "C.C."]

**Work of Societies in the Union.**

**NORTH-EASTERN FEDERATION.**

We are glad to have Miss C. M. Gordon working once more amongst us, and the Federation promises to keep her very busy for some time to come. Next week we hope to launch South Shields as an affiliated Society with an excellent membership for one so young. Owing to "The Common Cause" printing a list of Federation secretaries, we are glad to report that an application has been received from Miss Robson, of Shildon, asking us to form a Society there. We find that much work has already been done by local people, and Miss Gordon has arranged to spend a week there in March in order to establish the Society on a firm basis. Miss Royden has promised to come to us towards the end of February, when we hope to arrange a series of meetings in Tynemouth, North Shields, and Hexham.

Sunderland is busy preparing for a meeting from which they hope for an increase in their membership.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Society, with great regret, reports the resignation of their hon. secretary, Miss Mein, owing to her prolonged absence from home. We are very grateful to her for all the valuable work she has done, not only in Newcastle, but throughout the Federation, and will be glad to welcome her back again. The office at 27, Ridley Place, Newcastle, is now open, with Miss M. M. Dickinson as office secretary, and is proving so useful that we wonder how we managed so long without one. It is entirely due to the success of our bazaar on December 1st, at which we realised £71, that we felt in a position to start an office. The walls are distempered an artistic shade of green, against which our red-and-white petition banners look particularly well.

A series of meetings have been arranged for Wednesday evenings during February. The speakers' class has now been formed into a discussion circle, with Miss Fenwick as secretary, and they will provide the subject for discussion each alternate Wednesday. We hope that all who wish to have practice in speaking will attend these meetings. For other meetings please refer to "Forthcoming Meetings." A large assorted stock of literature is kept at the office, also "The Common Cause," which is selling well.

A meeting was held at the Bridge End Assembly Rooms, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on December 7th. The Rev. E. Harris took the chair. Miss Mein and Mrs. Harrison Bell addressed the meeting.

The Gateshead Society performed Mrs. Hutchinson's play, "Hard Lines." Mr. Adamson and Miss Parkinson provided the musical programme. Miss Bury worked hard to make this meeting a success, and we feel that it has done much to strengthen our Society in Heaton.

On December 20th Miss Mein addressed a meeting at Humshaugh, and carried a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage.

**KENT FEDERATION.**

A meeting of the Kent Federation was held in Tonbridge on January 6th, with Miss Lucy Deane as president. Among other business it was announced that Mrs. Renton would shortly arrive to be the organiser in the Kentish area. An interesting account of the formation of a Suffrage Club at Tunbridge Wells was given by Mrs. Whitrow.

Just before Christmas in the village of Shoreham quite fresh ground was broken by Miss Dorothy Scott, an energetic member of the Sevenoaks Branch. The speakers secured were Mrs. Colly and Mr. Hineschiff, and they had an audience of 120, many of whom were young men. If they came to be unpleasant, they evidently changed their minds, and the policeman summoned from Sevenoaks to keep order had nothing to do. Mrs. Colly, an American, gave her experience of the working of the women's vote in American States. Twelve new members were gained.

At Westerham, also, the extension of the Suffrage to women is quite a new subject. It was presented to them at a big afternoon meeting, with the Lady Frances Balfour as speaker. This meeting has already been reported. This was followed by a smaller and more intimate evening meeting, when Mrs. Stanbury and Mr. Gugenheim kindly came down to speak. It was a bad night, but those present listened with great attention.

From Tunbridge Wells Miss Matthews reports their annual general meeting, held December 15th, when Mrs. Sarah Grand (president) and Miss Tindal acted as hostesses. During Mrs. Grand's absence abroad Miss Sargent will take her place.

During election week eleven dozen copies of "The Common Cause" were sold, and several thousand leaflets distributed. The shop was open, and the posters, which were alluded to by the local press as "another interesting election picture gallery," attracted a good many people. On polling day Miss Sargent kindly lent a carriage and a motor, which caused quite a sensation. It was decorated with the colours of the N.U.W.S.S. and those of the Liberal candidate, who had the support of the Tunbridge Wells Branch.

**WEST OF ENGLAND FEDERATION.**

The Bishopsworth section of the Bristol Branch, a most flourishing and go-ahead portion of the Society, held its first public meeting on January 4th. It took place under the auspices of the church, for the vicar, the Rev. G. H. Ford, presided, and Canon Talbot was the chief speaker. The aims and methods of our Union were carefully explained, and Mrs. Cross showed the fallacy of the contention that woman's only sphere is the home. At the conclusion, when a vote was taken, an overwhelming majority (31 to 2) was found in favour of some such measure as the Conciliation Bill. This section of our

Society shows much vitality; it has its own officers, Mrs. Pobjoy, Mrs. Priddle, and Mrs. O'Brien, who have worked assiduously to spread the truth about our movement in this out-lying village district. The result has been the successful gathering recorded above. Before very long Bishopsworth will be strong enough to stand alone and to affiliate separately with the Federation.

On January 9th Mrs. Cross responded to an invitation for a speaker from the Women's Co-operative Guild at Bedminster. This meeting was well attended, most interesting, and was followed by a discussion along the usual lines. These invitations from other associations willing to have our subject freely discussed before their members have been a marked and encouraging feature of the Bristol work during the winter.

Bristol's calendar of events for the rest of the winter and early spring includes three small debates and one large one, two drawing-room meetings, and five lectures on various topics, ranging from Browning to cooking. These are hopefully designed to bring grist into the Suffrage mill, while the working parties are to produce dainty trifles for a forthcoming "Forest of Trees," which in emulation of the Cardiff Society we intend to raise at the end of the year. There is nothing like "taking time by the forelock."

**CARDIFF.**

Our members' meetings are quite informal gatherings. Last Wednesday we were fortunate in having with us Mrs. Randall Vickers, of Bristol. Her evident sincerity, and her perfect common-sense, made the greatest impression on her hearers.

The Secretary's statement of the work done before Christmas was a revelation of the amount of propaganda of which the general public does not hear, owing to the silence of the daily press, not only in Cardiff, but throughout the land. To try and counteract that locally, the literary secretary is looking forward to Mrs. Swanwick's visit, when a special effort will be made to get "The Common Cause" more generally known. Among members, the number of subscribers to "The Common Cause" is steadily growing, six new ones having given in their names at the last meeting.

The list of speakers for the next four months includes Mrs. Swanwick—and an Anti-Suffragist—Miss Sterling, Miss Royden, and Mrs. Snowden.

**Other Societies.**

**THE IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.**

The annual report is just issued, and is an interesting document, giving a brief survey of the world's work in the enfranchisement of women. There are now three branches—in Dublin, Cork, and Limerick—and it is hoped soon to establish one in Waterford. In all these places it is the medical women who are the keenest Suffragists.



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**THE PROPOSED IRISH MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.**

At an adjourned meeting of the promoters of the formation of this Association, held at 35, Molesworth Street on Tuesday, 17th inst., Mr. T. J. Haslam in the chair, it was resolved by the unanimous vote of all present that the time has not yet arrived for the formation of such an Association in Ireland, and therefore that its establishment be postponed *sine die*.

**THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.**

The Actresses' Franchise League are holding their members' meeting at the New Reform Club, by kind permission of the secretary, on Friday, January 27th, at 3 o'clock.

The subject for debate is: "That Interest in Politics is not Injurious to Dramatic Art." Opener, Mrs. Pertwee. Answered by J. Anthony Ellis, Esq. Chair, Madame Beatrice Langley Tozer. A general discussion will follow.

These meetings are open to members of the Actresses' Franchise League and their friends. Tea, 3d. each, at the office of the Actresses' Franchise League (opposite the New Reform Club).

**CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST WOMEN'S FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION.**

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association (central offices, 48, Dover Street, Piccadilly) are holding their first big meeting this year at the Curzon Hotel, Curzon Street, Mayfair, on Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m., when Lady Rayleigh will be in the chair, and Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., will be the chief speaker. During the course of the afternoon Madame Teresa del Riego's song, "The Awakening," which has been written specially for the women's movement, will be sung.

The quarterly meeting of the Council of the Association will take place on February 21st.

**Our Advertisers.**

To go behind the scenes is supposed to be disenchanting when fairies have been on the stage, and there are only make-believe little girls behind, all over paint and spangles, but to go behind the scenes of a large business like Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's is to turn reality into a fairy tale. I watched the girls with deft fingers making pattern-cases, and I inquired concerning their welfare. I was told a young girl can make 25 in an hour, and she earns 16s. a week. The more skilled workers in the department can earn 28s. and 30s. a week. The room they are now working in is soon to be turned into a restaurant for the work girls and factory hands, where they will be able to have a good simple meal—hot roast mutton, with two vegetables, baked apple pudding or macaroni pudding, all for 4d.—whilst the little girls who bring something from home with them can have it cooked here. Left to themselves, many of these girls would spend that 4d. on lemonade and buns, not exactly the fare on which to do the arduous work required of them.

Something like twelve hundred women are employed at Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's, and the salaries they earn range from £50 a year to £750. There is only one boarding-house belonging to the firm, and that holds about 100 people, and is especially for a few of the workers in the mail order department who begin their day's work at 7 a.m.; otherwise the assistants all live out. Before entering the business, candidates are required to pass the doctor whose services the firm engages, and this brings each girl into touch with the hospital matron, who has her own rooms away from the shop, and who thus has endless opportunities for "mothering" all these hundreds of young people in a way that their own mothers could not. How much beloved she is I could guess from the way she was spoken of. "Oh, she's a dear!" was said of her by an official whose long experience has not shown him always the best side of women. When the girls are ill they still draw their full salary for a week or two, and half-salary if the case should be a long one. In many instances the full salary is paid for longer time, and if the illness is incurable, then a pension of £1 a week is paid for life—if the sufferer is one who has served the firm faithfully for a term of years. There is no hard-and-fast rule about the precise amount of that term; it is in the hands of men who are both just and kind. No difference has as yet been made in respect of old-age pensions; the matter has hardly come up, so far, but there seemed no intention of cutting off private pensions because of the Government pensions.

AGNES EVANS.

**Forthcoming Meetings.**

- JANUARY 26. Oldham—Co-operative Hall, King Street—Debate. 8.0
- Plymouth—Boys' Public School—Public Meeting—Mrs. Fewins. 8.0
- JANUARY 27. Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—35, Molesworth Street—"How the Poor Live"—Mrs. E. M. Smith. 8.0
- JANUARY 28. Birmingham—34, Harborne Road, Edgbaston—Debate—Miss Griffiths. 4.0
- Selby—Museum Hall—Mrs. Merivale-Mayer, Mrs. Hesketh. 7.30

- JANUARY 30. Bridlington—Temperance Hall—Miss Margaret Ashton. 8.0
- Wolverhampton—Saunders' Café, Chapel Ash—Mrs. Ring, Miss Elsie Beringer. 7.30
- S. Shields—Royal Hotel—Business Meeting—Miss Hardcastle (chair). 7.30
- JANUARY 31. Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, Town Hall Avenue—At Home—Mrs. Hood. 4.0
- Camberley—Drill Hall—Miss Edith Craig's Pioneer Players and Dr. Ethel Smyth (Mus. Doc.). 3.0
- Watford—Masonic Hall—Social Gathering. 3.0
- Bristol—111a, Whiteladies' Road—Lecture—Miss J. Baretti. 5.0
- FEBRUARY 1. Hull—17, Jameson Street—Annual Meeting. 8.0
- Newcastle—27, Ridley Place—"The Life of Mrs. Josephine Butler"—Mrs. Spence Watson. 7.30
- Limpfield—Mrs. R. E. Seyd's Drawing-room Meeting—Mrs. Auerbach. 4.0
- FEBRUARY 2. Leamington—Albert Hall—Franchise Club. 5.0
- Gloucester—Northgate Mansions—"How the Vote was Won." 7.30
- FEBRUARY 3. Wallasey and Wirral—Public Hall, West Kirby—Mrs. Alan Bright. 3.0
- Birmingham—10, Basy Row—Social Study Class. 5.30
- Cardiff—Cory Hall—Debate—Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Stewart. 7.45
- Penarth—Premier Restaurant—Mrs. Swanwick. 3.30
- Leeds—Stanningley—Miss Fielden. 8.0
- FEBRUARY 4. Carlisle—County Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mrs. Chance (chair). 8.0
- FEBRUARY 6. Sutton Coldfield—Allerton High School—Monthly Meeting. 3.30
- FEBRUARY 7. Shrewsbury—St. Alkmund's Schoolroom—Annual Meeting. 7.45
- Bournemouth—Assembly Rooms, Town Hall Avenue—Lecture—Mrs. Hamilton Grant. 4.0
- Bristol—1, The Paragon, Clifton—Working Party. 3.0
- Leeds—Mrs. Grant's At Home—Miss Fielden. 3.50
- FEBRUARY 8. Leeds—Mrs. Boothroyd's At Home—Miss Fielden. 4.0
- Hull—Lecture Hall, Kingston Square—Dramatic Performance. 3.45
- Croydon—Adult School Hall—At Home—Mrs. Auerbach. 4.0
- Newcastle—27, Ridley Place—Discussion. 7.0

**LONDON.**

- Jan. 28: Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Miss Chrystal Macmillan, Miss Abadam. 8.0
- Jan. 30: London Society, Y.M.C.A. Rooms, 17, Camden Road, Social Gathering, Mrs. Alan Bright, Miss Ruth Young. 7.45
- Jan. 31: Sydenham, Park Hall, Miss Abadam, Miss Green. 8.15
- Richmond, Basing House, Richmond (hostess, Dr. Russell Grant), Annual General Meeting, Mrs. Robie Uniacke. 3.15
- Feb. 1: Central Hackney, 144, Clapton Common, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Abadam. 3.0
- Epsom, Wilton House, Mrs. Hart Smith-Pearse's Drawing-room Meeting, lecture, "Miss Buss and Miss Beale," Miss Janet Thomson. 3.15
- Feb. 3: Sutton, Miss Close's Drawing-room Meeting, lecture, "Miss Buss and Miss Beale," Miss J. Thomson. 3.30
- Feb. 4: Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Debate, Miss Abadam, Mrs. Stewart. 8.0
- Feb. 6: S. Paddington, Ethical Hall, Bayswater, Miss E. A. Bompas, T. Hende, Esq. (chair). 8.30
- Feb. 8: Windsor, Albert Institute, Play and Concert. 8.0

**SCOTLAND.**

- Jan. 27: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, Miss K. Scott-Moncrieff. 4.30
- Jan. 30: St. Andrews, Mrs. Houston's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Lumsden. 5.0
- Feb. 3: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, "Is Our Demand Merely Political?" Mrs. Cumming-Craig. 4.30
- Edinburgh, Pipe Street Hall, Portobello, Miss Frances Parker. 8.0
- Feb. 8: Edinburgh, Mrs. White's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Alice Low. 4.0
- Feb. 10: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, Mrs. Malcolm Darling. 4.30
- Feb. 15: Edinburgh, Mrs. Melville's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Mair, Miss Alice Low.

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**FREE!**—Illustrated Sale Catalogue containing hundreds of Irish linen bargains, Damask supper-cloths, charming halletone spot design; 36 inches square; only 1s. 6d.; postage, 3d. Patterns free.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

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