

# The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

# Women's Suffrage

Societies.

Vol. II. No. 84. Registered as  
a Newspaper.

NOVEMBER 17, 1910.

ONE PENNY.



A Vision of Fair Ladies, as seen by the Anti-Suffrage Press.

- First Fair One: "A vote? How silly! I can twist any voter round my little finger!"  
Second Fair One: "Oh, please *do* tell me! What *is* a vote?"  
Third Fair One: "What does she mean by talking about *women's* wages, when the far more serious question of *men's* wages is still unsettled?"  
Fourth Fair One: "Why add to women's burdens the intolerable burden of the vote?"  
Fifth Fair One: "Those dreadful women! I must call Archie to protect me!"  
Sixth Fair One: "Most unwomanly. Why, women couldn't even *walk* to the poll!"

## The News of the Week.

### An Early Dissolution.

On the 10th November the Conference on the Constitutional question broke up, without arriving at an agreement and without making any disclosures. Parliament meets on the 15th, and it is expected that an early dissolution will follow. To the spectator it seems a shameful waste of the nation's time and money that another general election should have to be fought on the same issue as the last, and we cannot congratulate our politicians on their businesslike or statesmanlike qualities.

### The "Times" Woman's Supplement.

We have received a considerable number of letters expressing indignation or irritation at the puerility of the "Woman's Supplement" of the "Times." But this seems to us to be wasted emotion, for the supplement is obviously merely a trade affair, and is in the main so arranged as to suit advertisers. It has no other significance that we can see, although here and there, as in Professor Murray's article in the first number, and a beautiful poem last week by F. Tennyson Jesse, a piece of real literature strays in.

We think both the advertisers and the "Times" are making a mistake in not keeping a little more abreast with women's thought; but in the end it is they who will lose.

### Suffrage Week in the Papers.

Londoners who take their news from their papers would hardly be aware of what was going on under their noses. Again the papers have decided that the things they do not like shall not happen, and the two great meetings in the Albert Hall, to say nothing of the countless other demonstrations all over the country in support of the Conciliation Bill, were passed over with the briefest notice or in total silence. We cannot remember any other question which has filled the Albert Hall twice in three days. Yet the "Westminster Gazette" gave just one inch to the Saturday meeting, the "Daily News" gave three inches, the "Morning Leader" nearly five, while the "Times" actually nearly attained seven! "The columns of the public press," says Mrs. Humphry Ward, "are always open to women." Yet we know of letters, pithy and signed by women of worth, which have been declined this week because they were in support of the Conciliation Bill. Twaddle about weddings and dresses from Paris made up the contribution of this number of the "Westminster Gazette" to the "interests of women." These upright editors will, we suppose, proceed to say the question was "not before the country."

### Leeds Again.

Miss I. O. Ford vaingloriously boasts that the Leeds Midland Railway Station allowed the Albert Hall poster to be put up "in a flaming position where all can see it!" Well—and we dare say so have other folks—only we haven't heard of them.

The Leeds Trades Council has renewed its resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill, and so have the National Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers.

### Anti-Suffrage in West Herts.

Mr. Arnold Ward was deeply hurt lately because Lord Robert Cecil spoke in favour of Women's Suffrage at Watford, which is in Mr. Ward's constituency, and Mr. Ward rebuked Lord Robert, more in sorrow than in anger. Now he has announced that he is about to hold a public meeting under the auspices of the Anti-Suffrage League, at which a "reasonable time will be allowed for questions at the close of the speeches." The West Herts Suffrage Society thinks this almost too good to be true, and so do we. We have never witnessed but one really public Anti-Suffrage meeting, and that passed a Suffrage resolution.

### Plebiscite, or Intimidation?

The Anti-Suffragists are pursuing their canvass, and in Oxford they are boasting of the answers to the inquiry, "Do you wish women to have a vote for Parliament?"

But now it appears that many of those who put "No" to this, took the question to mean "all women," and they were in favour of "duly qualified women" only having the vote. Mrs. Bertrand Russell also says that she has seen a covering letter to such an inquiry saying that "Lady — (whose tenants many of these voters are) was against the Suffrage, but that she wished to know the views of her neighbours on the subject." The views of her neighbours will doubtless tend to be in accordance with those of the great lady.

We shall be glad of any further particulars which our friends will send us of this sort of plebiscite.

### The Uselessness of Canvassing.

Another thing the Anti-Suffragists would do well to abandon is the canvass from house to house. Since some Suffragists covered the very same ground as they and found diametrically opposite results, we have come to the conclusion that canvasses of this sort are really valueless. You can make a canvass prove anything you like: it all depends on the canvasser. So it does not in the least dismay us when we hear that the women of Torquay and Southampton and North Berks have "declared" against Women's Suffrage. We'd be bound they would be just as ready to "declare" in favour, if handled in the same style.

### Ignorance and Infant Blindness.

A series of most instructive figures was given in a letter by Dr. John Wharton to the "Manchester Guardian" of November 9th. In it he states that although ophthalmia of the new-born was recognized in 1807, it was only in 1883 that preventive treatment was discovered. In one great blind institute alone in 1882 there were 7,470 cases treated, out of which 138 infants lost one eye and 88 lost both. The Midwives Act, passed in 1902, came into force in 1905, and in 1906 out of 792 cases only five lost both eyes. In 1894 this disease accounted for 35 per cent. of the inmates of the asylum, and in 1906 only 4 per cent. Now is it likely that, if women had not been wilfully kept in crass ignorance and degraded helplessness, they would not have found a way of hurrying up Parliament a little so that it need not have taken nearly twenty years before it was made illegal for babies to be made blind from birth in this unnecessary and wholesale manner? It is a common trick to scold women for not knowing what they are never taught. It would be wiser to drop scolding and spend a little of the nation's money on teaching and on paying for inspection.

### The Mother's Point of View.

An admirable letter in support of Women's Suffrage from the mother's point of view was published in the "Daily News" last week. It was signed by nine ladies well known for their work for social betterment.

### A Prior Claim.

The National Liberal Federation, which is to meet in Hull on November 24th and 25th, is actually proposing that a measure of Electoral Reform, in which there is no mention of Women's Suffrage, but which among other things provides for the payment of Members, shall be passed before the next General Election. But we have a prior claim, and if there is to be any tinkering with the machinery of elections, they must reckon with the women.

### Conservative Ladies.

A witty and admirable letter, the text of which was published in the "Times" of November 8th, has been sent by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association to all Conservative Members who voted for the Second Reading. They remark that "the British Constitution is stuck full of the thin ends of wedges, which do no harm because the common-sense of the community refuses to drive them further," and they conclude: "Well, gentlemen, it rests with you now to carry into effect what you have admitted ought to be done. We will not accept the interpretation that some of our opponents put upon your action—that you wish to deceive us, are telling lies, in fact. We refuse this explanation, for you are honourable men, and what you say you mean. And so we confidently commit our cause to your hands."

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

Men and women, rich and poor, young and old, Conservatives, Liberals, and Socialists, can all do battle for the COMMON CAUSE of the freeing and uplifting of women by removing from them the stigma of inferiority placed on them by their exclusion from political rights and duties.

Between 20 and 30 thousand men and women, of every class, and every shade of thought, are banded together in the great NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES, which consists of over 200 separate Societies in different parts of the Kingdom. Every week more men and women join it—every week new Societies are formed. And every week their hope and their enthusiasm grow, for they know that their demand of votes for DULY QUALIFIED WOMEN is just and reasonable, and they are convinced that justice cannot long be delayed. Members of these Societies work in orderly and peaceful ways only. They are engaged now in holding meetings all over the country in support of the "CONCILIATION BILL" now before Parliament, which would give votes to women who pay rates and taxes.

This Bill, in July last, passed the second reading by a majority of 110, and only TIME is now wanted in order that the Bill may be passed into law.

### A WEEK!

Is a week of Parliamentary time too high a price to pay for the enfranchisement of a million women, and the consequent raising of the status of every woman in the land? To say that it is, is an intolerable insult to women.

### LUNATICS, IDIOTS, AND—MAYORS?

Probably we are all struck this week by the absurdity of the exclusion of women from the franchise more than by any other aspect of the question. For we are called upon to welcome two new women mayors—women, on whom their respective towns have chosen to confer the highest honour to which a citizen can attain. They have been chosen out, above all the men, to represent their towns in this great Coronation year—throughout the year they will conduct all the meetings of the Council—their will be the casting vote on all municipal questions—through them will go up the recommendations to Parliament which the Councils see fit to make,—and yet, incredible as it may seem, these very women are classed under the law with lunatics and idiots, as being people constitutionally unfit to exercise the Parliamentary vote.

### FIT FOR WHAT?

What are women, then, fit for, we ask? They are considered fit, we see, to be Mayors. They are fit to be Town and County Councillors, they are fit to be Guardians, they are fit to vote for the men and women who shall fill all these offices. They are fit to be doctors, and a woman doctor, as a registered medical practitioner, is considered capable of judging whether a man is fit to vote. For she can give the certificate of insanity which deprives him of his vote, and she can give the certificate of returned sanity which gives his vote back to him.

Women are also considered fit to train up the future citizens—boys as well as girls,—for not only all the mothers, but three-quarters of the teachers in our elementary schools, are women.

### WHAT'S IN A PARLIAMENTARY VOTE,

then, that makes the woman, fit to perform all these other duties, incapable of exercising a Parliamentary vote properly?

### MEN ARE STRONGER THAN WOMEN,

we are told. What has that to do with it? How much strength does it require to put a cross on a bit of paper? "I do not come out of the polling-booth," said Lord Hugh Cecil, "mopping my brow, and saying 'this is no woman's work!'"

But Mrs. Humphry Ward says that it is because being stronger, he could enforce his will, that the man has a vote. "A vote," she says, "is the equivalent of so much coercive power." That is strange—for some men have twenty votes. Is it because they are twenty times as strong as the men with one?

No—if we really believed that government should be by force—"that they should take who have the power, and they should keep who can,"—why should we bother with votes at all? Are not votes the symbols of government by consent, which is surely a higher state of civilisation than government by force?

Is not one of the chief aims of civilisation to

### PROTECT THE WEAK?

Then, if women are weaker, they need the protection of the Parliamentary vote even more than the men do. In a race, do you

### HANDICAP THE SLOWER RUNNER?

No, you handicap the swifter, and so try to equalise the chances as far as you are able. Why, then, if women are handicapped by nature, handicap them still more by excluding them from political power?

### IS IT REASONABLE, AND IS IT FAIR?

If not, support the Conciliation Bill which will give to some of the women who most need it, the women who are fighting the battle of life alone, or with others dependent upon them, power to make their voices heard.

Demand that the Government shall, if it cannot itself shoulder the measure, at least stand aside and let the House of Commons work its will.

### THE WEEK'S STORY.

(Dedicated to the Prime Minister.)

An American hunter was once out hunting grizzly bears, and it happened that he got into great straits, for a huge bear which he was pursuing turned and pursued him, and in trying to escape from it he dropped his gun. He found momentary shelter behind a tree, but unfortunately his gun was out of reach. And then, feeling his circumstances desperate, the bear approaching, the gun unattainable, he put up a short prayer. "O Lord!" he said, "Help me to kill this bear! But, if you can't help me, don't help the bear, but stand by and see fair-play."

### THE WEEK'S MOTTO.

Right is might.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in England 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 Double Standard in Politics.

"Having in vain used every endeavour through conciliatory methods to win equal political rights for all Britons, we are now driven to fight for fair play in our native land. We repudiate the claim put forward by 600 Tory peers that they were born to control the destinies of 45 millions of their fellow-citizens and to trample upon their wishes for the good government of their country."

(Mr. Lloyd George to the "Yorkshire Observer.")

In these terms does Mr. Lloyd George "sound the charge," and we hope that Suffragists will not soon let him hear the last of it. We are to understand, it seems, that Mr. George has really been using conciliatory methods in his endeavour to win equal political rights for all Britons. But Mr. George, more than any man living, has laboured to destroy the spirit of conciliation in which the latest Bill for the enfranchisement of women was drafted, and there is only one conclusion to be drawn: that woman, having been denied the name of Man (*homo*, not *vir*), being adjudged by our law to be neither parent, nor person, is now offered the crowning insult by the most "nationalist" of politicians, of having no nation; women born within the four seas of these islands are not Britons, for were they so, they would have had the inestimable privilege of the conciliatory methods of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

They would also then have had this same doughty champion entering the field to demand for them fair play. It is fair play only for which the women have asked and are asking. It might have been supposed that a man who has always professed to desire the enfranchisement of women would, "as and when occasion offered," have done something to press it forward within

the Cabinet; but we did not demand that of Mr. George. It might have been expected that a man so ardent for conciliation would have gone the length of voting for the only Bill which had a chance of becoming law; but we do not even make his defection in the division lobby the cause of our great indictment of Mr. George. The sin of which he is guilty is that he did not use his influence in the Cabinet to secure fair play for our Bill. Let him vote as he pleases and reconcile his vote with his conscience if he can. It was sheer cowardice to refuse the House the opportunity of recording its vote. The Bill would have passed—it would pass now—if the Government would have given time. The most extravagant estimate puts the time required for the remaining stages at twelve days. The House rose last summer on August 3rd. It is notorious that for weeks before that, time was being flagrantly wasted. When appeals are made to women in the coming election for their help and devotion, let them remember to ask Members of Parliament how it was that they could not give a week or two of their holidays for the sake of the women. Mr. Asquith refused fair play; he is an Anti-Suffragist, and we expect such refusal from him; but he would have yielded to pressure within the Cabinet, and the men who refused to press the women's claim can no longer be considered the friends of women.

Mr. Lloyd George is very indignant with Peers who claim that birth has given them control; but what has he to say of the peerage which all men arrogate to themselves as above all women? He does not attempt to justify that. He does not claim that men are better, wiser, more patriotic than women. He does not think that men understand the affairs of women better than women themselves. He holds that we shall never have good laws for housing and temperance and social reform and all that deals with woman and woman's sphere and the future of the race, until women share with men the control of the "destinies of 45 millions of their fellow citizens," and yet he is prepared to continue to trample upon their wishes by doing good "in his own way" instead of giving them fair play to say what is their way.

The double standard! It meets us at every turn! It is the barrier to all progress. Fair play, self government, representation—all these are good for men and men alone. "We will admit with our lips, we Demagogues, to please and flatter the women and keep them in leash, that we think them good for women too, but—there are other things nearer to our hearts!" Well, there is nothing on earth nearer to the hearts of Women Suffragists. In the tumult and the shouting that are now upon us, let them not think that men, struggling over the apportionment of power among themselves—the balance of Peers and Commons, the representation of (male) labour, the devolution of Governmental functions—will remember to think of those who are utterly powerless. If we could hope that men would always remember the women, if we could see that men would ever understand the women, we should not need the vote so much.

When men think themselves injured and break out into riot and bloodshed and cruelty to innocent beasts as a protest, the Home Secretary assures them that their "best friends" will do all in their power to redress their grievances. Months and months after the last trifling outbreak of almost harmless violence on the part of Women Suffragists, Mr. Churchill is still to be found babbling about the misguided action of a few women which entirely prevents him from helping all women. It is farcical, and nothing but the trusted prejudices of the ages prevents these otherwise intelligent men from seeing how puerile they are in their conventions.

In this, they no doubt reflect the unreflecting mass of conventional opinion. And we, who have no direct power and can only work through opinion, much of it conventional and unreflecting to a deplorable degree, must use our forces so as best to drive and keep that opinion where we would have it. We have at present all right on our side, and a heavy balance of wrong on the other. Men in party strife are not fair, and we should be foolish to reckon on fairness. What women must steadfastly strive for is, to make themselves formidable and dangerous to their opponents, to keep their question prominently in the forefront of the issue (for assuredly

they can hope for little help from the men's Press and the men's leaders) and to give no shadow of excuse for evasion to those who eagerly watch for it, while they are ready with lip-service and professions of friendship.

## Oldham's Lady Mayor.

We all know that Oldham has elected Mrs. Councillor Lees as its Mayor, but only those who have been lately in Oldham can fully realize the popularity of the appointment. The passionate devotion and reverence felt for her by the people of Oldham must be something quite unique. "Love" isn't a strong enough word," they say, and all they seem able to express is the inadequacy of any expression to give the least measure of her goodness and kindness.

The ceremony of her installation is a scene which will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. A small room is usually all that is required on these occasions, but this time it was the big Town Hall, and it was crowded long before the time announced. Behind the seats people stood, packed like sardines, and they seemed to be clinging like flies round the walls. The nomination and election take place before the future Mayor enters, and a rather regrettable scene of party bickering and recrimination was witnessed. But it was almost worth it for the contrast, when, with the woman-Mayor, harmony seemed to enter—and abide. The tall dignified figure entered, with the calm, beautiful, humorous face, crowned with white hair, upon which the black velvet bonnet was a graceful substitute for the ugly three-cornered hat which the Mayor usually wears. Her entrance was the signal for an outburst of extraordinary enthusiasm. All sprang to their feet, waving hats and handkerchiefs, clapping, shouting, cheering. It seemed as if they would never have done. The robe and chains were donned, and Mrs. Lees rose to speak. Again the applause was deafening. Then she thanked her colleagues for the honour they had done her with a delightful little allusion to those who disapproved of the election of a woman. "They have a perfect right to their opinion, and they also have a perfect right to change that opinion!" But nothing short of a full report of her speech, with notes on local history and affairs, could do justice to its aptness and humour. Suffice it to say that the Town Hall echoed with delighted laughter, and the Mayor seemed to be enjoying herself as much as anyone! Again, when her speech ended, the whole audience rose to their feet to cheer and applaud. Words are very inadequate. There was a beauty in the spirit of the whole thing which must be felt to be understood. One can only say that she seemed like the mother of a great family, before whom her children rise up and call her blessed.



MRS. LEES, OF OLDHAM.

From a block lent by "The Daily News." Photo., Lafayette.

## Two Men in the Street.

A few days ago I met a young journalist, who is on the staff of a widely read newspaper—a paper that appears to me to combine some of the worst features of commercialism with unscrupulous political partisanship. He justified its methods with amusing candour. In the first place, he said, it was a commercial venture, and to make it a commercial success was the principal aim of its proprietors. It gave the public what the public wanted. While it might occasionally garnish news, it never knowingly falsified it; and if its headlines were sensational and its articles highly seasoned, the blame lay with the public that demanded such stuff. The wide circulation of the paper was a proof that it supplied a public want. In the second place, it was a party organ, and, as such, was justified in taking every means, short of deliberate falsehood, to forward the principles it professed. The rules of the political game were not clearly defined. Everything was fair in love and war and politics; and if, in the furtherance of a great cause, some things were done that had an ugly look, there was this excuse—that the other side did worse. His paper was only fighting opponents with their own weapons.

Incidentally the subject of Women's Suffrage was broached. My young journalist did not profess much interest in it, but he ventured the opinion that women neither required the vote nor were fitted to use it, and he thought their demand for enfranchisement at once absurd and immoral.

While I listened to these strange views, so ingeniously expressed, I was reminded of a conversation that I once had with another and very different kind of man. It was at a street-corner meeting last winter. The man persistently interrupted the speakers with references to the ballot-box incident at Bermondsey. He was apparently under the impression that Mrs. Chaplin had purposely injured Mr. Thorley's eye, and he kept up a running fire of interruptions with this as the refrain. So annoying did he become that I took him aside, told him how the accident happened, and asked him if he still believed that it was intentional. He admitted he did not. At the same time, he expressed the opinion that, as it was the direct consequence of Mrs. Chaplin's illegal attempt to destroy the voting papers, she had been very lightly dealt with. Indeed, he thought that both she and Miss Nielans should have been given six months' imprisonment for that offence alone.

The man spoke with such indignation of the crime of breaking the civil law that I thought he might have an equally strong feeling with regard to breaches of the moral law. I therefore called his attention to the war of abuse, misrepresentation and falsehood that was being waged by the Press of the two great political parties, and asked him if he did not think this infinitely more reprehensible than anything the Suffragettes had done. His reply was suggestive. He did not care, he said, what lies people told, or what reputations were ruined by false statements; but for breaches of the peace, such as the Suffragettes had sometimes caused, and for such heinous offences as Mrs. Chaplin and Miss Nielans had been guilty of—particularly if they resulted in bodily injury—exemplary punishment should be meted out. I cannot remember all he said, but he made the significant remark that breaches of the law were doubly criminal if committed by women. Women were not voters; they were unfit to be voters; they were, so to speak, political outcasts; and they committed an offence against nature and decency when they attempted to alter this state of affairs. If in the attempt they broke the law, their punishment should be all the more severe. As to the insults to which, I pointed out, women of the different societies were subjected, the personal injuries they received at the hands of roughs when speaking in public, and the brutal violence with which they were thrown out of Liberal meetings—well, it served them right.

While there was a marked difference between the tone of the journalist and that of the man at the street corner, the two had this in common—they both looked with indifference upon the political turpitude of men, and

with something like horror on the political aspirations of women. Such an attitude is not uncommon, and the daily Press and party organizations are together largely responsible for it. Consider what happened last winter. For some months the nation lived in a welter of lies. Party spirit ran riot. The general election was fought with even more than the usual bitterness and unfairness. Party organizations issued misleading posters and lying leaflets, and spread false reports about their opponents. Newspapers misrepresented their opinions, published garbled accounts of their meetings, and vilified their character. Some of the daily papers threw away even the semblance of fair play. So long as they could serve the party to which they belonged they cared not what calumnies they published. The moral law with them was in abeyance. They showed that they recognized its existence only by proclaiming the dishonesty of their opponents. Yet this tainted Press, which apparently stuck at nothing, so far as the moral law is concerned, raised a shout of indignation at any breach of the civil law, or even of a police regulation, if committed by Suffragettes.

Since the death of the late King there has been a better tone in the Press. There has been less vilifying of opponents, less garbling of their speeches, less misrepresentation of their actions. With rumours, however, of a general election at an early date, newspapers and politicians are getting restive, and signs are not wanting that forebode another campaign of mendacity. The Suffrage Societies can hardly hope to escape. They will be the object of unscrupulous denunciation, both by open enemies and false friends. By their support of the Conciliation Bill they have already incurred the displeasure of Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Lloyd George, and those Radicals who put the imaginary interests of the Liberal party before Liberal principles; and as they press, at all costs, their demand for a third reading of the Bill next session, they will incur the further wrath of those baser Radicals, and will probably be abused and misrepresented by the less reputable of the party newspapers.

J. Y. KENNEDY.

## Deputation to the Foreign Secretary.

### BERWICK WOMEN.

A deputation of Women Suffragists from the Berwick Division (the constituency represented by Sir Edward Grey) waited upon the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Office on November 12th to ask his assistance in passing the Conciliation Bill through Parliament. The deputation consisted of four ladies. They were Mrs. Gillies, Mrs. Constable, and Mrs. Stewart, of the Women's Social and Political Union, and Mrs. Redpath, of the Women's Liberal Association.

Mrs. REDPATH, as one of the Liberal women who had worked for Sir Edward Grey, said it was women who kept a constituency alive when things were flat and dull between elections. The Government's refusal to give facilities for the Bill would mean a great loss to the Liberal party.

### A LONG FIGHT.

SIR EDWARD GREY said that the members of the deputation had spoken so reasonably and effectively on the general question that he was more than ever sorry he could not give a satisfactory answer to their request for further facilities this session. It was physically impossible for the House of Commons to give the necessary time this year for the complete passage of a Woman Suffrage Bill. It might make great progress if referred to a Standing Committee; but the House had decided that the Bill was too important and must be considered in Committee of the whole; and he thought that would be the decision of any House of Commons. There was a misconception at the bottom of the idea that a Bill making such a very great change could be got through in a few days. The Bill of 1884 introduced no new principle; it was a mere extension of the Bill establishing

Household Suffrage in 1867. Woman Suffrage raised a great question of principle on which there was the keenest division of opinion. Any Woman Suffrage Bill would meet the strongest opposition from a formidable minority of the House; the fight would be very long and very severe, and the passage of such a Bill would take not days but weeks. Numbers of people—he did not share their view—thought such a change would be the end of everything. By no use of the guillotine and closure which the House would sanction could the Bill possibly be got through in a few days. The Government had not vetoed the Bill; they had simply not been able to find facilities for it. If the House really thought the demand practicable and reasonable, it could refuse to go on with Government business and give time to this Bill. The Government could not veto anything the House was really anxious to deal with immediately. No pledge had been given to deal with the problems raised by the Osborne judgment this session.

### GROWING EXASPERATION.

He could quite understand the growing exasperation when the House passed Bills on second reading by large majorities and made no further progress with them. The Prime Minister had given a pledge in the last Parliament that an opportunity would be given for dealing with Woman Suffrage next time a Reform Bill was introduced; but with the conflict with the Lords over the Budget had brought that Parliament to a quick end, and there had been no Reform Bill. As to facilities next year, he could promise nothing on the Government's behalf. He did not see how the Government could make any promises as to next year's business. They had first to decide how to meet the political situation resulting from the break up of the Conference.

### FACILITIES NEXT YEAR.

His personal opinion was that facilities ought to be given next year for the proper discussion and further progress of the Bill if the House of Commons remained of the same opinion. One way of securing this would be for the Government to deal with the necessary business of the House of Commons and such Government business as they thought they could pass in the time, and then leave the House quite free to say whether it would continue to sit in order to deal with a Woman Suffrage Bill. One thing was clear—the Bill must be so drawn as to be open to amendment. For his own part, he could not believe that all the strictures passed upon the Conciliation Bill as an undemocratic measure were justified. He was impressed with the fact that the Labour party brought the Bill forward, and he was convinced that it was a democratic measure, which was likely to be of great advantage to women, especially to those who had to work for their own livelihood.

### GREAT PROGRESS MADE.

He thought that Woman Suffrage had made more progress than the deputation realised. Its opponents, and perhaps even some who voted for it, had never before treated it so seriously as in the last debate. It was certain now that no great Reform Bill could be discussed without the House of Commons having an opportunity of dealing with Woman Suffrage; and the opinion of the House seriously given this year had established a forcible claim that the House if it so desired should have an opportunity of taking the Bill to Committee and considering in what form Woman Suffrage should be passed into law. The arguments in its favour were increasing. Hardly anyone now argued that public life was a rough sphere not suited for women. They were being more and more invited and encouraged to take part in politics and elections, in every kind of public work; and it was impossible that this should continue without recognition that there should not be a sex bar keeping women entirely outside the vote. The common-sense and logical feeling of the country—though logic did not decide everything—must cause increasing pressure for the removal of that bar. He thought the question had this year made progress which ought to be felt even by those who were naturally disappointed by the immediate prospect.

### NEXT SESSION.

The deputation questioned Sir Edward Grey closely in the endeavour to extract a pledge from him, and while refusing to pledge himself he said *it was his desire* that facilities should, if possible, be given for the Bill next session.

### Bangor City Council.

On October 29th a circular letter was sent to each member of the City Council by the Bangor W.S.S. inviting attention to the Women's Suffrage movement and support for the Conciliation Bill.

On November 7th another letter was addressed to the Town Clerk and to each member of the Council enclosing a pamphlet explaining the Bill and drawing attention to the action of other Town Councils. The members of the Council were seen individually, and the question of the Conciliation Bill was fully discussed with each. The result of this work was that on November 9th the City Council suspended their Standing Orders on a matter of urgency and passed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of the City Council of Bangor approves of the Conciliation Bill, and urges the Government to give facilities at an early date for its passage into law."

### Bangor Women's Liberal Association.

On November 10th a meeting of the Bangor Women's Liberal Association was held. Amongst others, Mrs. Price White, Hon. Sec. of the Bangor Branch N.U.W.S.S., addressed the meeting.

Two resolutions were carried unanimously—the first, in terms similar to that passed by the City Council the previous day. The second resolution urged Mr. Lloyd George to reconsider his attitude with regard to the Conciliation Bill.

### Conference of Liberal Women Suffragists at Carlisle.

The North-Western Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies organized a Conference of Liberal Women Suffragists at Carlisle on October 29th, to discuss the present situation with regard to the Conciliation Bill. All the Women's Liberal Associations in Carlisle and North Cumberland were invited to send delegates, and to consider a proposal to send a joint deputation to Mr. Denman and Mr. Geoffrey Howard, the Members for those two constituencies.

The following resolutions were passed by the Conference:—

*Resolution I.*, moved by Miss A. M. Royden, seconded by Mrs. Frank Marshall:—

This Conference of Liberal Women Suffragists is of opinion:—

## 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 DEMOCK.  
MISS BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

*President:*

MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

*Secretary:* MISS T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

MISS BERTHA MASON (Pro Tem.).

Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

### Executive Committee.

The week is over; but not, we feel sure, the results of the unwearying labour that has been put into it. Our reception on Wednesday was crowded to overflowing, and we heartily thank all our friends who came to it. We hope, after Christmas, to have them every week.

(1) That the exclusion of all women from the Parliamentary Franchise is a grave injustice, and a violation of the first principles of Liberalism;

(2) That whereas this injustice has been repeatedly admitted by the House of Commons during the last forty years, the time is ripe for dealing with the question, and the present truce in party controversy provides a unique opportunity for doing so;

(3) That in view of the Prime Minister's declaration that Women's Suffrage can never be brought forward as a Government measure by either the Liberal or the Conservative party, the only kind of Bill which has a chance of passing into law is a non-party measure;

(4) That as a compromise framed on non-party lines to obtain the maximum of support and the minimum of opposition in the present House of Commons, the Conciliation Bill is the best practicable solution of the question yet proposed;

(5) That a refusal on the part of the Cabinet to give time for the further stages of a Bill supported by so large a majority would be to flout the "will of the People as expressed by their elected representatives," and to ignore the responsibility imposed on them by the retention of the Bill in Committee of the whole House.

[The whole of this resolution was carried unanimously.]

*Resolution II.*, moved by Miss Newling (Hon. Sec. Keswick Women's Liberal Association), seconded by Miss Knight (Hon. Sec. Keswick Women's Suffrage Association):—

That the following clause be added as a rider to the above resolution:—

(6) That Liberal women should work only for those Liberal Members who gave the Bill loyal support in all its stages; and, in the event of the Government refusing adequate facilities for the remaining stages of the Bill, should confine themselves to Suffrage work until the vote be won.

[The first part of this resolution was carried by a majority of 14 votes to 3, one member not voting. The second part was carried by a majority of 10 votes to 7, one member not voting.]

*Resolution III.*, moved by Miss Bendelack, seconded by Miss Knight:—

That Mr. Geoffrey Howard and Mr. Denman be asked to receive a deputation of representatives of the Women's Liberal Associations in their constituencies, and of the Liberal members of the North-Western Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies, to lay before them the views of this Conference on this question.

[Carried unanimously.]

It was decided to send copies of these resolutions to all the Members of Parliament in the area of the North-Western Federation of Women's Suffrage Societies, the four party leaders in the House of Commons, the Chief Liberal Whip, and the Agent for the North-Western Liberal Federation.

We had many messages of goodwill for our Albert Hall meeting, and none more touching than that received from the Moscow Branch of the Russian League for Women's Rights, which I give in full:—

"We, your Russian sisters, we want you to know how deeply we feel for you at this moment, especially when your most just claims are going to be submitted

before the English Parliament. We want you to know how we admire your courage and energy in your fight for woman rights and justice. Your cause is our cause as well. Your victory shall help the women all over the world in their struggle for liberty. May the right cause triumph at once!

"The Moscow Branch of the Russian League for Women's Rights.  
"Moscow, 5th November, 1910."

I know we shall be voicing the wish of all our Societies in sending our Russian sisters a most grateful letter of thanks in reply. Other messages came from the two Lady Mayors, Mrs. Lees of Oldham and Miss Morgan of Brecon; and many messages of regret from Members of Parliament that they were unable to be present, and reaffirming their support of the Conciliation Bill. Amongst these were the Hon. E. S. Montagu, M.P., Under Secretary of State for India, who said: "I am, as you know, a supporter of the Conciliation Bill"; Mr. Joseph King, M.P., "Wishing the cause of Women's Suffrage a speedy and complete victory"; Mr. John D. Hope, M.P., enclosing a cheque for £50; Sir J. Rolleston, M.P., saying "I am speaking on the 8th and 16th, and so am doing what I can to advance the cause"; Mr. J. Pointer, M.P., "With best wishes for successful meeting"; Mr. Charles Leach, M.P., saying "I trust you may have all the success you desire"; Mr. G. J. Benham, M.P., saying "My support of the Conciliation Bill will be continued"; Mr. Charles E. Price, M.P.; Mr. Walter Hudson, M.P., saying "I can assure you of my continued support to the Bill in the House of Commons"; Mr. H. J. Glanville, M.P., expressing himself as "heartily in sympathy" with us; Mr. William Redmond, M.P.; Mr. George N. Barnes, M.P., saying "Be assured of my best wishes for the meeting and for the woman's cause"; Sir Thomas Barclay, M.P., wishing "All success to the meeting and to the cause it is called to promote"; Mr. David Shackleton, M.P.; and last, but not least, our tried friend, Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., wishing us all success, and reminding us that "the position of the women's question is more hopeful and also more perilous at the present moment than it has been since 1867." There was also a most kind message from the Master of the Temple and Mrs. Woods, who had hoped to be present, and many others too numerous to mention.

The platform was thoroughly representative. Besides the speakers and several Members of Parliament, representatives from the following Societies were there:—The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and London Society for Women's Suffrage; the Women's Freedom League; the Men's League for Women's Suffrage; the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association; the Liberal Forward Suffrage Union; the Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Society; the Church League for Women's Suffrage; the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage; the Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union; the New Constitutional Women's Suffrage Society; the Younger Suffragists; the National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society; the Actresses' Franchise League; the Artists' Suffrage League; the Suffrage Atelier; the Women Writers' Suffrage League; the Women's Group of Fabians; the Tax Resistance League; the Gymnastic Teachers Women's Suffrage Association; and also a large number of representatives of organised bodies of working women. These filled the orchestra, and there were in addition several large groups of them in other parts of the Hall. We know that many of them came at the cost of considerable fatigue and trouble, and we can only thank them for it. One could not help noticing how tired some of them looked, and it brought home the truth of what Mrs. Swanwick said in a letter in the "Manchester Guardian" a week or two ago—the pity of it that women should have to go through so much before men will believe that they are really in earnest in this matter.

As you all know, the resolution calling on the Government to grant facilities for the carrying into law this

session of the Conciliation Bill was carried in this vast audience with only one dissident.

Most grateful thanks are due to many helpers for their ungrudging labours during the whole week. It seems difficult to pick out one or two where so many gave of their best; but I saw Miss Lowndes and Miss Forbes toiling as if for dear life over the decorations in the Albert Hall; and the stewards worked splendidly under the management of Miss Elinor Rendel. I hope these ladies will forgive me for mentioning them in particular; but it does hearten one up so to see people working as they did.

EDITH DIMOCK.

### Treasurer's Notes.

We have entered on our new financial year, and our hearts are gladdened by the receipt of £50 from Mr. J. D. Hope, Member of Parliament for West Fife. Mr. Hope was not able to be present at the United Mass Meeting in the Albert Hall on Saturday last, but sent with a letter of regret this substantial proof of his practical and sympathetic support of the Women's Suffrage cause. This gift is specially welcome just now, coming as it does on the eve—so far as we can see—of a speedy dissolution of Parliament and a general election. Will our affiliated societies and friends remember that a "fighting fund" for the election must be raised, and at once, and will they begin now to get the Members of Parliament in their localities and other friends to follow the splendid example of Mr. John Dean Hope? It is better to make the effort now before Parliament is actually dissolved. Later on men will be too busy with their party election work to help to find a fighting fund for the women. Appeal now—at once—without loss of time.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS.

November 4th to November 12th, 1910.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions:—			
Miss D. M. Goldring .....	0	1	0
Miss Henrietta Moro .....	0	2	6
Mrs. T. Gordon Murray .....	0	1	0
Mrs. Reeve .....	0	1	0
Miss L. M. Walden .....	0	1	0
Miss L. A. Bailey .....	0	1	0
Mrs. Edith Hinchley .....	0	2	6
Mrs. Kate Robbins .....	0	1	0
Miss Margaret Deards .....	0	1	0
Miss Mary Thomson Saint .....	0	10	0
Donations:—			
Mr. John D. Hope, M.P. ....	50	0	0
Mrs. Oakley (Suffrage Week) ..	5	0	0
Gloucester W.S.S. (Albert Hall Meeting) ..	0	10	0
Election Fund:—			
Salisbury W.S.S. (Thank Offering, per Mrs. Fawcett) .....	1	1	0
	£57	13	0

#### MILLION SHILLING FUND.

	s.	d.
Already acknowledged .....	1,833	9
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson (halfpenny savings) .....	5	0
Miss Millicent Edwards (profits on sale of jam) .....	3	0
	1,841	9

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

### The Political Situation.

The postponement of any definite statement until Friday leaves us still on tenterhooks as to the immediate future. It is best to be prepared for anything.

### The Common Cause.

#### SHARES.

There are still some shares to be taken up, and we shall be glad if friends will send for application forms to the Secretary, "Common Cause" Publishing Co., 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, at once, so that we may have our capital in hand and business cares out of the way before the tremendous pressure of the General Election is upon us all.

#### DONATIONS.

We have this week received £7 in donations to the paper. This is a form of help for which we are very grateful, for it allows of our making a special feature of some number, or of increasing the pages. This week, for instance, we are able to print four extra pages in consequence of this donation. We tremble to think what would have happened to us without it, for even with it we have many columns of overset matter.

#### LONDON SELLERS.

We wish to tender our hearty thanks to the twelve noble ladies of the London Society who sold all Saturday afternoon in Trafalgar Square and went on to sell all the evening in the Albert Hall. Also to those who sold at the Industrial Women's meeting and in the street at the procession of the Church League.

The addition to the name on our title-page has met with universal approval, and we hope before long to have double-crown bills in the colours, which shall also tell the same tale and advertise both the Union and its organ in the streets and at shops.

### Joint Mass Meeting in the Albert Hall

#### AN IMPRESSION.

No less than fifteen Suffrage Societies united to make that brave show on the 12th. I use the word "brave" deliberately. It was the last gathering of a long week entirely devoted to Suffrage. Many meetings had been held, many speeches made. The average woman must have become a little tired of turning out night after night in the wet—it seemed always wet—to attend meetings in distant parts of London, and who that can does not escape from town for the week-end? Therefore to see the Albert Hall so well filled on Saturday night was encouraging, and may be well described as a "brave" show. Once more women poured through the long subway from South Kensington to the Albert Hall. The railway official on duty in that dim place took a fatherly interest in us all, and asked if the meeting had been "a good one." Casual men passing along the subway were evidently struck by the number of women afoot, and asked in the station the meaning of that crowd. One sees in the future the day when such a question will need no asking. The decorations were wisely and well arranged. The Artists' Suffrage League had concentrated its efforts upon the platform, and the effect was very good. Chrysanthemums, white and gold and brown, with arum lilies and autumn green, made a charming front screen; flags and banners and draperies turned a somewhat sombre platform into a place of gaiety; and the colours of the Union—red, white, and green—came out well in the general scheme. Most effective was the long line, stretching away on either side of the organ, made up of dull red banners arranged to touch each other, bearing on them in big white letters the number of voters who had signed the women's petition: "3,000 men of Crewe," "2,444 men of Carlisle," and so on; and at the end the grand total—290,000. Round the various tiers in the body of the hall banners were hung in groups—they have become familiar to us in the processions—"Elizabeth Fry," "Black Agnes of Dunbar," and one very expressive of the changed attitude of women, "Non Angeli, Sed Angli." The keynote of the meeting was "Fortitude." The mental atmosphere was curiously calm and dignified. The Union does not hold "popular" meetings, it ignores scenic effects, it is restrained and resolved. There were no "dance programmes" on the seats, the collection was made almost unnoticed, and this same fine restraint improved the speeches, through all of which one could still hear the note of loyal combination for the general cause, the sinking of individual preferences for the common good, which will follow the passing of the Conciliation Bill. Mr. Brailsford received a deserved ovation, and all his points were taken and approved. It seems to me, looking back over the week, that each individual member of every Suffrage Society whatsoever must have gained much during these days—fresh vigour, renewed enthusiasm, high endeavour and

resolve to be at least one of the women who shall count, whose value shall be felt directly or indirectly in the future.

AGNES EVANS.

#### THE SPEECHES.

Mrs. FAWCETT, in the chair, called on Miss Frances Sterling to read the letters of regret from sympathisers unable to be present.

Mrs. Fawcett said: "This meeting has been convened by fifteen different Suffrage Societies, which have agreed to sink all minor differences in this great united effort for our cause. What we have to do is to impress on the so-called representative Chamber of the Houses of Parliament that it is not really representative, and that there can be no real democracy while half the population is excluded from representation. Mrs. Fawcett then referred to Mr. Birrell's remark that in regard to Women's Suffrage the time for shuffling and delay had gone by. In our eyes there never has been a time for shuffling and delay. But we have met with them, and shall meet with them again. We can meet them without fear, since we are perfectly united and perfectly determined. We are going on with this fight till we bring it through to victory.

Mrs. Fawcett then dealt with the means by which victory was to be obtained. She said that she could not of course speak for the other societies, but what the National Union had determined to do was to run Women's Suffrage candidates. She called on the party women to come out of their parties and work for Suffrage only. The parties had used women and would do nothing for them in return. Dealing with the fallacy of the theory that physical force should control the world, Mrs. Fawcett showed the feebleness of physical force against a movement such as ours. "We are on the verge of fulfilment; we believe that victory is in sight."

Mr. BRAILSFORD, who was received with immense enthusiasm, said that for one brief happy moment, when he opened the morning paper, he had thought that he would have to congratulate this meeting on victory already achieved. Seeing the name of Mr. Lloyd George under the words, "A ringing appeal to the democracy" and "the rights of the people," he thought for one moment that the resolution of the Welsh women had had its effect, and that Mr. Lloyd George was about to consider really the rights of the people. "But I forgot, you are not the people; you are not citizens; your birth-right as Englishwomen, as Scotchwomen, as Irishwomen is denied. You are Helots. But your time is at hand. There is in the Mahometan Calendar a time called 'The Night of Power.' This expression always reminds me of a general election. Your 'Night of Power' is at hand. Appeals will come to you from the parties, to give your time, your strength, your enthusiasm to their service. When these appeals come, remember how time was denied to you. Remember how this Government refused you even three or four days of time that it could well spare. Three or four days would have been enough to pass the Conciliation Bill through its Committee stage. The Reform Bill of 1884 was a Bill of eleven clauses, very technical and very difficult. Its shortest clause was longer than the whole Conciliation Bill. It took nine days to pass through the Committee stage. Three or four days would have been enough for us. Remember this when you are asked for your time! In this coming general election, whatever men are talking about, whatever cries are sounding round you, let your voice be heard only in the one cry, 'Votes for Women!'"

Mrs. DESPARD, representing the Women's Freedom League, was introduced by Mrs. Fawcett as one who can "wage a gallant war, And give the peace of Eden." In seconding the resolution, she said that when the present unseemly strife was over we should remember with deep gratitude those who were our friends in the hour of darkness. This is a time of peril as well as a time of hope. "And what is the peril going to do for us, my sisters, my brothers? It must draw us closer together, since we have a common aim and a common danger threatens. The old order is changing, giving place to the new, and it will be a grievous thing for the race if women are not represented in the new order. We must consider the race—our patriotism ought to consist in

the determination to have a fine race. Behind this movement of ours there is a great driving force of economic pressure. When we consider the false conception of morality, which is eating out the heart of society, when we consider such evils as infant mortality, we women are actuated by a divine discontent. We must be represented in the Councils of the nation. We are only just beginning to realize our humanity. Humanity is dual. The rising tide in the hearts of men that is changing the face of the world is also in the hearts of women. There is nothing in the hearts of men which is not in the hearts of women. The political situation is difficult, but we do not, cannot, despair. We will go forward, my sisters and brothers, working to bring to pass the things that are really great."

Mr. SIDNEY GOLDMAN, M.P., representing the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, dealt with the change in industrial conditions which made it absolutely necessary that women should have votes. Women are told by Anti-Suffragists to remain in the home, but they have been driven out of the home into the factory by man-made laws, and they should not now be denied the protection that men demand for themselves—the protection of the vote. The State has need of the services of women. We have come to a time of great changes. The course the nation is to take can only be satisfactorily decided by a completely representative body of electors.

Mrs. F. T. SWANWICK, representing the N.U.W.S.S., said she was proud to come from the North of England, but that if she had not come from Manchester the place she would next have preferred to come from was Wales. The action of the Welsh Liberal Women had acted as a splendid tonic. Once she had felt that she might never live to have a vote; she did not feel that now. Not long ago she had had a note from Mrs. Elmy, who said she hoped to live to see Women's Suffrage passed into law. "And so say we all." We must toil on with patience, with fortitude, and with wisdom. There are two kinds of patience—the wrong kind which sits down under evil and bears to see others unhappy, and the right kind which thinks no work too hard, no tedium too great to bear if it can right the wrong and relieve the suffering. This is the patience we must have, not the patience which means that your soul is dead and breeds corruption, but "the patience that means fortitude." Speaking of the different kinds of fortitude necessary to Suffragists, Mrs. Swanwick said, "Do not let your enemies provoke you to do what you do not in your hearts think right. You can do better than die for the cause—you can live for it. There are many over-worked, downtrodden, sweated women who cannot speak for themselves. 'We few, we happy few, we little band of brothers,' must speak for them. It is not our rights we claim; it is Right, God's right and the world's, the woman's right to protect the helpless and downtrodden, and all that are desolate and oppressed."

Sir ALFRED MOND, M.P., said he brought a message of sympathy from 1,500 Welsh Liberal Women in his constituency. He dealt wittily with the objections to Women's Suffrage, "as antiquated as a blunderbuss, and as remote from the present as a neolithic man," and with the things that women were and were not allowed to

do in politics. He said the Bill must be forced on, since it was a good Bill, a Bill conciliating many diverse opinions and divergent interests. The objections to it were unreal and were made by people who were determined to object to any Suffrage Bill whatever. The movement, he said, was going on, and would not stop till it had attained its object.

Sir JOHN COCKBURN, representing the Men's League and South Australia, the first of the Australian States to give the franchise to women, said victory was already sure; it was only a question whether it was to be gained to-day or to-morrow. "We have been threatened with the extinction of chivalry. What can be said of the chivalry which forces women to enter the industrial arena without the protection that men have demanded for themselves—the protection of the vote? The Men's League consists of a body of men who are determined to use their own votes to gain this protection for women." Sir John then referred to the results of the grant of the franchise to women in Australia, which he said had falsified every prediction of evil. He closed by saying that since this was an age of unrest women should be allowed to move on with the other forces of order, and not be driven by obstruction and infamous injustice on to the side of disorder.

Miss REDDISH, representing the National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society, expressed her pleasure at hearing that the National Union had determined to run Suffrage candidates. She drew some interesting parallels from the history of the movement for the political representation of labour, and showed that working men had found that organization was no good without the vote. Working women wanted the vote for the same reasons.

Archdeacon ESCREET then spoke on behalf of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, and the Hon. Mrs. BERTRAND RUSSELL, on behalf of the Liberal Forward Suffrage Union. The last speaker's remarks aroused some dissent, as she said that Liberal women could gain the Suffrage by remaining in their party. The audience felt that this could only succeed if they would work for Suffrage *only*, as the Welsh women have now decided to do.

The resolution was carried with one dissentient, and amidst great enthusiasm.

B. O'MALLEY.

### Federation Notes.

#### North-Eastern.

##### DEPUTATION FROM SUNDERLAND SOCIETY.

Mr. James Knott, M.P., consented to receive a small deputation from the Sunderland Society. He was waited on at Milburn House, Newcastle, on November 11th, by Mrs. Walford Common, Mrs. Jupp, Mrs. Mundella, and Mrs. Rudd. Mr. Knott received the deputation very courteously. He expressed himself in favour of the movement, and said he had voted for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. He would commit himself no further, however, and declined to say whether he would press for further facilities or not. Mr. Snowden's statistics had alarmed him into thinking the Bill a Socialistic measure, and it was not possible in half an hour's discussion to disabuse his mind of that idea.

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#### Manchester and District.

##### A NEW SOCIETY IN OLDHAM.

The day before the installation of its lady Mayor, Oldham inaugurated a Women's Suffrage Society. A great meeting was held in the Unity Hall, the Mayor-elect being in the chair, and Mrs. Fawcett and Miss Robertson the speakers, and, largely owing to the most efficient stewarding of local ladies, assisted by those stalwarts, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, the names of more than 100 new members were secured. Ten dozen "Common Causes" went no way at all, and Mr. Brailford's pamphlet, and Lady Chance's sold by the score. Two most energetic and able secretaries, Mrs. Bridge and Mrs. Siddell have consented to act, and Miss Rowntree has kindly expressed her willingness to be treasurer. The first "Members' Meeting" will be held on Monday, November 21st, at 7.30 p.m., in the music room at Werneth Park, by kind permission of the Mayor.

The previous Thursday Miss Robertson, by invitation, addressed the Liberal women, who are particularly staunch for the Suffrage in Oldham. Twenty-six of them joined the Suffrage Society that afternoon, and nine others gave donations towards the carrying on of the work.

The co-operative women also kindly permitted Miss Robertson to speak for a few minutes at their meeting that night, and explain the objects and methods of our Society.

Two open-air meetings were also held by Miss Robertson outside big works in the town, Miss Marjory Lees taking the chair at one and Dr. Olive Claydon at the other. Mrs. Siddall and Mrs. Griffiths also gave valuable help. Both were magnificent meetings. After the last, one of the policemen said: "It's been a beautiful meeting! There wasn't a discordant note from beginning to end!"

We have no fears for the future of the Oldham Society. It will be one of the strongest and most progressive in the Union. Our heartiest good wishes go with it.

#### Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.

##### SPECIAL EFFORT WEEK AT CROYDON.

The Croydon Society, having joined the S.S. and H. Federation, has profited by a twelve days' visit of Miss Barbara Duncan, its organizer. With its big population and huge area, Croydon is a difficult place to work, and Miss Duncan has done much to infuse fresh vigour and enthusiasm by her visits into the varying districts of this unwieldy borough.

A meeting was held at the Whitgift Schoolhouse, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Andrew, wife of the headmaster, and the chair was taken by Mrs. Wyke-Bayliss, wife of one of the assistant masters.

On Friday, November 4th, a meeting for nurses was held by the kind invitation of Mrs. Richards, wife of one of the leading doctors of the town, and the chair was taken by Dr. Mary Macdougall.

On Monday, the 7th, two meetings were held—one at Sanderstead at the house of Mrs. R. Wilkinson, a member of the local Suffrage Committee, and an ardent Liberal, when Miss Duncan spoke on "Women's Suffrage up to Date"; and the other at the Adult School Hall, for shop assistants, when nearly 100 assembled to enjoy the music and tea provided for them by Mrs. T. Crosfield, and so much interest was shown that this is to be followed by a similar meeting at the hostess's house on Monday night to hear Miss Duncan again.

On Tuesday, the 8th a number of leaders met at the G.F.S. Clubroom to hear Miss Duncan and Miss Clark, headmistress of Croyhamurst School, and fourteen new members joined, all of whom were engaged in education work. The chair was taken by Miss L. F. Morland, who was for many years a member of the Croydon School Board and Education Committee of the Town Council.

On Wednesday, the 9th, Mrs. Moore, of Dornton Road, held a small party to hear a speech by Miss Duncan, and Mrs. R. Wilkinson took the chair.

The special effort terminated by a public meeting on Thursday, 10th, when Miss F. Sterling, Mr. R. L. Cholmeley, and Miss Duncan spoke. The chair was to have been taken by Major Fox, J.P., recently Mayor of the town, but serious illness having prevented his arrival, it was taken at very short notice by Mr. Howard Houlder, also a member of the Town Council. Heavy rain affected the attendance, but a keen interest was shown in the speeches, and an excellent collection was the result.

A most representative body of men and women, including Captain Carpenter, D.S.O., Rev. H. E. and Mrs. Oliver, Rev. T. C. Dale, Mr. and Mrs. T. Crosfield, leading members of the Society of Friends, and Mr. J. Smith, C.B., were on the platform.

It is hoped that the twelve days' visit of Miss Duncan will result in many fresh developments of Suffrage work in Croydon. She has brought in many new members, and by her charming speeches, her tact, and vigour, has done much to inspire the branch.

#### Midland.

The Societies within the Midland Federation have been most active during the last ten days in urging their respective Borough Councils to pass a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill.

Nottingham decided on a personal interview with each Councillor; Birmingham, West Bromwich, Warwick, and Leamington have written letters to every member of the Town Council; and Olton has circularised all its district councillors, following up each letter by a pamphlet explaining the Bill; while Birmingham, after writing to each Councillor, sent him a copy of "The Common Cause" of November 3rd, containing the article (marked in blue pencil) on the resolution passed by the Manchester Council.

The West Bromwich work was carried on with such success that when the Town Council met on November 9th a resolution in favour of the Bill was passed with only one dissentient, 22 of the 24 members being present.

In several of the Midland towns the Council has not yet met, or reports of the work have not yet come to hand.

Within the last three weeks a joint deputation of the N.U. and the W.S.P.U. has waited on Colonel Hickman (Member for South Wolverhampton), and a joint deputation of the N.U., W.S.P.U., and Men's League interviewed Sir Francis Lowe, M.P. for Edgbaston. In both cases the deputation was satisfied with the result of the interview. Colonel Hickman told Miss Phillips (Midland organizer) and Miss Evans (W.S.P.U. organizer) that they had put before him points of view which he had never before considered, while Sir Francis Lowe said that he "did not mind the extension of the franchise to widows and spinsters." This was a concession indeed from any Member for Birmingham.

A deputation of representative constituents from Olton and Solihull was arranged to wait on Mr. F. A. Newdegate (Lamworth), but as no answer from him had been received on Friday last, it was decided that it was now too near the opening of Parliament to press the matter further. The president of the Olton W.S. Society therefore wrote a letter to Mr. Newdegate, explaining all the points on which she would have spoken had the deputation been received. This was sent with a letter of introduction from one of Mr. Newdegate's most prominent supporters in Olton. Other voters in this constituency have also written letters, asking him to use his influence in pressing for further facilities for the Bill.

A new and most promising Society, which will join the Federation directly it has affiliated to the N.U., was formed at Sutton Coldfield on November 9th. It already has forty-three members, and we left it, after its preliminary meeting, enthusiastically making arrangements for the conversion of its Town Council, and for increasing the sale of "The Common Cause." We hope to see a representative of this, our seventeenth Society, at our next committee meeting on November 24th.

We have been most fortunate in securing the services of Miss Helga Gill, at any rate for a time, in our Federation. She is now working for us at Oxford. Applications have been made by the Midland Societies for an organizer up till the end of the first week in July next year.

#### BURTON SOCIETY'S DEPUTATION TO COL. RATCLIFFE.

Our president, Mrs. M. Sadler, and two members of the Burton Women's Suffrage Society waited on our member, Col. Ratcliffe, by appointment on Monday, October 31st. He received us very kindly. He approves of the Conciliation Bill, and promised to state the fact in his election address, and also to urge the Government to grant facilities for the passing of the Bill this session.

The Leicester and Shrewsbury Societies have circularised all the Town Councillors with regard to passing a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill, and the Oxford Society has written to the Mayor.

#### North-Western.

The nineteenth meeting organized by the Keswick Society in support of the Conciliation Bill was held in the Public Hall, Workington, on November 10th. The chair was taken by Miss C. E. Marshall (chairman North-Western Federation). The usual resolution supporting the Bill and demanding further facilities, was moved by Sir John Randles, M.P. for the Division, and a member of the Conciliation Committee, seconded by the Rev. Canon Pollock, supported by Miss I. O. Ford, and carried with one dissentient. A branch of the Keswick Society is now definitely started in Workington, with Miss M. Davies, L.L.A., as local secretary pro tem.

By an oversight no report was sent in of a campaign in September, in which Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, kindly helped us. Meetings were held in Cockermouth, Workington, Whitehaven, and Maryport, and resolutions were passed in each place demanding facilities for the further stages of the Conciliation Bill this session. Besides Mrs. Cooper, who most generously gave us four days out of a nominal holiday, the speakers were Miss Chubb, of Liverpool (also on holiday), Mr. Frank Marshall, Mrs. Frank Marshall, Miss C. E. Marshall (all of Keswick), and Miss M. Davies, of Workington. Lady Beatrice Kemp most kindly lent us her motor-car for three days.

This week we are busy preparing for a deputation to Mr. Denman, M.P. for Carlisle, which is to take place next Saturday. This is one outcome of the Conference of Liberal Women Suffragists held at Carlisle on October 29th.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and North Wales.

**INAUGURAL MEETING AT PRESTON.**  
Considerably over 2,000 people met in the Public Hall on November 11th, when, for the first time, the enfranchisement of women was put before the town from the N.U. standpoint.

The Chairman (the Rev. W. Hudson Shaw) roused the audience to enthusiasm by his vigorous and whole-hearted support of the cause. Lady Frances Balfour's closely reasoned speech was carefully and attentively followed, and her ready answers to the questions put and to the usual objections raised were constantly punctuated with applause. Mr. Lyon Blease dealt very effectively with some Anti-Suffrage literature which had been distributed at the door, and Mrs. Allan Bright obviously forced home some vital truths. As a result the resolution supporting the Conciliation Bill was carried with one dissentient. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Webb-Peploe, one of the most active promoters of the meeting, and seconded by Dr. Mooney. Considerable business was done at the literature stall, and the collection amounted to over £12. We hope to start a branch of the N.U. without delay.

**Scottish.**

The Scottish Federation have been fortunate in having the services of Miss Lumsden, of Aberdeen, for meetings in Edinburgh, Dunbar, and Leven. The meeting in Dunbar was held on Wednesday, the 2nd, the Provost of Dunbar in the chair. Miss Lumsden gave a most inspiring address. Mrs. Mills, from Dundee, also spoke, and a resolution urging the Government to give facilities for the third reading of the Conciliation Bill was passed unanimously. On the following Monday Miss Lumsden and Dr. Elsie Inglis spoke at Leven, and it is expected that as the result of the meeting a Society will soon be formed. The resolution regarding the Conciliation Bill was put, and carried *nem. con.*

**GLASGOW CAMPAIGN.**

We have had a dozen open-air meetings during the past week, and about thirty are arranged between now and November 23. Our total number of meetings will be over sixty, and we feel that by this time most of the inhabitants of Glasgow know all about Miss Abadam's meeting and our big meeting in the St. Andrew's Halls on November 23rd, when Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Abadam, and Lord Lytton will speak. We have been fortunate in securing as our chairman Sir Samuel Chisholm.

We hope to sell many copies of "The Common Cause" at the St. Andrew's Hall meeting.

ELIZABETH LAMOND.

## New Winter Blouses



### NEW FÊTE BLOUSE

(as sketch), an entirely new idea, in best quality ninon, with wide ribbon of contrasting colour underneath, round the figure and over the shoulders, finished with black ribbon velvet, and lace vest and collar. In black, white and all shades.

21/9

Sent on Approval.

## Debenham & Freebody

Wigmore Street (Cavendish Square), London, W.

## Women's Social and Political Union in the Albert Hall.

Determination was the keynote of the Albert Hall meeting on Thursday 10th, when the W.S.P.U. held one of its big gatherings—determination, high resolve, conviction, and a belief in ultimate victory. The intangible way this spirit filled and dominated the assembly was not one of the least remarkable manifestations of that night. It passed from Mrs. Pankhurst to her audience—one could almost see it as it went,—and a glance at her face was enough to understand the force which, generating in herself, gripped and held the individual members of her Society in thrall. Nothing can move a crowd but sincerity, and as one followed the speeches, one saw the vision in the speakers' minds, saw the day when that vision will be fulfilled, realised in a flash that the dawn of the woman's day is close at hand.

The evening was wet and windy, and the streets golden and gleaming where the pools of water lay on wet paving stones. A steady stream of women passed through the subway from S. Kensington Station, passed wonderingly and with curiosity, for one could see that to many of them it was a new experience. The cram at the Albert Hall entrances was not so great as on the occasion of the procession, and so one entered without much difficulty into the huge arena. The colour scheme of decoration of the W.S.P.U. varies but little—green, white, and lilac draperies with crossed flags of the colours, and on the many boxes the names of the districts and towns from which the holders came.

The organ front above the keyboard was utilised as a huge hoarding, on which a large advertisement of "Votes for Women" was erected. On each seat lay a neat little "Invitation to the Valse," with its green pencil attached with white cord—for all the world like a dance programme, and indeed the dancers danced to some purpose, as later in the evening the little programmes were handed in and the figures on the rail moved steadily up to £9,000. These wonderful collections taken by the W.S.P.U. make one rub one's eyes—the war chest is again full, and the trumpet has been sounded. "If this Bill is killed, there is an end to the truce; if no time is given for the Conciliation Bill we shall take it out of the hands of the Government and resume direction of the agitation." The date was given, the absolute end of the women's patience—the 22nd of this month. As the resolutions of the various Corporations all over the country were read out, calling on the Government for a third reading of the Bill, the name of "Manchester" produced a thunderous hand-clapping. As with most women's meetings, a punctual beginning was made, but the time of waiting would in any case not have been long, because of the delightful music made for us at the organ. Once under way, the proceedings moved with rapidity, and it was not so long before we were threading Mr. Zangwill's witticisms like beads upon a string, in the vain hope that we might tell them over again at our leisure. He made up a new Mother Shipton prophecy for us: "Women will vote when men fly." He suggested that the deep and supreme secret of the Cabinet is that the parties are going to "swop" leaders, since this agitation over the enfranchisement of women has shown us a very topsy-turvydom of opinions. If only one woman might have a vote, he would give it to the one who had toiled unceasingly for the cause, to whom he gave so much praise that all eyes turned to the slender little figure in black who sat prominently upon the platform. Shouts of laughter rent the air when he gave the name that was in his mind, which was not that of Mrs. Pankhurst. And so to the end we listened and laughed alternately. But everywhere, and beneath all mirth, lay the strenuous purpose which had filled that great hall with eager women. That purpose was the last word, that Cause the alpha and omega of the meeting.

AGNES EVANS.

## Women's Freedom League.

One of the most interesting impressions made on the writer during Suffrage Week was the curiously different humour of the many meetings. One could, as it were, feel the pulse of each meeting—each was temperamentally different from the other. Enthusiasm, energy, assurance, faith, determination, brotherhood, a great sense of responsibility—all these qualities, present at every meeting, were individually conspicuous at single meetings, giving, as it were, the keynote to that particular gathering. The best in each woman came up in turn, the best in all women was always there. We are learning to be loyal to one another, we are sinking our own individuality for the general good in a quite remarkable way. In the Caxton Hall on November 7th Mr. Granville Barker hoped that every woman who gets the vote will use it for the Socialists; yet, though he hardly dare hope it, he was there to urge the importance of getting the Conciliation Bill through, though he does not agree with it entirely.

I should much like to comment, too, on the extraordinarily skilful way a member of the Women's Freedom League dealt with a difficult member of the audience. How different was her method to the method used by the male "chucker out." It was merely a matter of a strong will and a kind heart; persuasive, firm, and gentle, she induced a most disturbing

## WEST HEATH SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD.

A School where Boys and Girls are educated together, and where they learn the respect for each other and gain the wholesome and natural knowledge of one another which is a foundation for all that is best in the mutual relations of men and women.

West Heath School is a day-school, with accommodation for a certain number of Boarders, where children are received from the ages of six to eighteen; thus obviating the disastrous break, at 13 or 14 years of age, in the continuity of their intellectual work, which is a necessity (for moral reasons) in schools where boys and girls are separated from one another.

At West Heath School the boys and girls share each other's pursuits, whether in work, games, or leisure. They have, in fact, in this respect the freedom of a large family, in conjunction with the help due to the supervision of a staff of experienced educationists. At the same time, the even proportion in the staff of men and women gives ample opportunity for the association of boys with men and of girls with women which must be an inherent characteristic of any true system of co-Education. Where boys and girls are thus brought up, false ideas as to predominance find no acceptance, and a standard, honest in being alike for all, is upheld.

### PARTICULARS FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

Reference allowed to:—

The Rev. Canon Scott-Holland, St. Paul's, E.C.; and Dr. Jane Walker, 122, Harley Street, W.

element to leave the hall without any undue fuss or force. It showed, in a small way, how capable, tactful, and useful women are, and how extraordinary it is of men not to recognise this fact as being of infinite value to the State no less than in the home.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

The Men's League held an impressive demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon. In spite of the cold, the audiences at the six platforms were large and attentive, and it was interesting to notice that they did not consist mainly of those who are already members of Suffrage Societies, but included large numbers of the ordinary "men in the street," who will presumably be called on to vote within the next two months. Among the speakers were Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. Reginald Pott, Mr. Robert Cholmeley, Mr. Joseph Clayton, Mrs. Despard, Miss Abadam, Miss Corbett, and many others. Those who were present realised the truth of Miss Abadam's words, that Mr. Asquith's statement that chivalry was dead represented a delusion acquired in the "No" lobby on the night of the second reading of the Conciliation Bill, and that the best proof that he was mistaken might be found in this great demonstration, initiated by men, organized by men, spoken to by men, and paid for by men, men who were determined to use all their strength to gain for women the protection of the vote. The resolution was carried with enthusiasm.

### SUSSEX BRANCH.

The Men's League took an active part in a large mass meeting at Brighton on the afternoon of November 12th. Nearly all the Societies in favour of the enfranchisement of women were represented. There were four platforms and seventeen speakers, nine of whom were men. There was a large audience, composed almost entirely of men. At two of the platforms the resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed unanimously.

The cycle corps of the Men's League held a meeting in the Square, Storrington, on November 5th. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Francis and Mr. A. Brunel spoke to a large audience, and a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed unanimously.

## Industrial and Professional Women.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Suffrage Week has been not the number of meetings, nor the passionate enthusiasm of the audiences (that we expected), but the variety of atmosphere in the different gatherings. They all had the same object, and all demanded it with the same resolution and fervour, otherwise they were quite unlike. It makes us realise afresh how wide our movement is—as wide as humanity itself. Except in object and enthusiasm, the joint meeting organized by the Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society, the new Constitutional Society, and the Women's Group of Fabians, was very unlike the Church League meeting that preceded it on the afternoon of the same day, or any of the other meetings that went before. The new Constitutional Society was well represented both on the platform and in the hall, and many of its members are doubtless women of leisure—or rather women who would be at leisure if they did not feel themselves bound to toil for the enfranchisement of others—but in spite of this an atmosphere of work pervaded the hall, and one could not help feeling that the majority present represented the five million women who are actually in the labour market, and who are personally concerned with the fact that in that market you are paid not according to your work, but according to your sex, and in Miss Gore-Booth's words, "fined for being a woman."

A long printed list of the Trade Councils and Trade Unions (83 of them) which during the autumn have sent resolutions to the Government demanding immediate facilities for the Conciliation Bill, was passed round the hall, and the Chairman (Miss Gore-Booth) remarked on the significance of their action. These local trade unions, she said, do not generally act except through Federations. It is only when the work-people in a locality are very strongly moved about something that the local unions take the initiative in this way. She also pointed out the folly of saying that women are paid less than men because they are not organized, when the 40,000 organized women teachers were every one of them paid less than male teachers of the same attainments and certificates, simply because, though organized, they happened to be women.

Miss Reddish, now Workpeople's Panel, Board of Trade Arbitration Court, and for twenty-two years a "hand" in a cotton factory, said her long experience among working-men led her to believe that the Conciliation Bill embodied just the measure of women's franchise that they had long advocated. Again and again, when she was supporting Women's Suffrage

on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men, she had heard it said that what was really wanted was a vote for the person who "kept the house," whether male or female.

Lord Lytton, who was received with the enthusiasm which is his due, then spoke, and a series of interesting speeches were made by Mrs. Louis Fagan, of the New Constitutional Society; Mrs. Ridge, of the London Married Teachers' Association; Miss Roper; Miss Millicent Murby, representing women civil servants and the Fabians; the Rev. H. Williams, and Miss A. K. Williams. The resolution that "in view of the economic and social need of women, and of the demand for Women's Suffrage made by all classes of the community, including organized labour, speaking through Trade Councils and Trade Unions, this meeting protests against any further delay in this vital matter," was carried unanimously and with great enthusiasm.

### Artists' Suffrage League.

At a charmingly informal meeting down in Chelsea, the Artists' League insisted on the absolute duty of each and all to attend the Albert Hall meeting on Saturday. Miss Emily Ford, who is as wise as she is witty, suggested with a twinkle that we should drag our enemies thither as well as our friends. The genial tone of that meeting no doubt arose partly from the fact that it was held in a studio—the home of informality,—where stately chairs and lordly divans set with soft cushions made a variant from hard benches, and where one's eyes fell always on some delightful picture representing Miss Wigan's travels far and wide. This hospitable hostess also gave us all tea, a welcome refreshment after groping one's way through the fog into Chelsea's dimly lighted regions. Frankly, these artists are "tired of the Suffrage," tired that is of many meetings, tired of so much talk. They quite delightfully take up the position of a charming and bored child. But it is a determined child for all that, and, bored or not, it is going to put its back into this thing and help in the last big shove as it helps always on the decorative side of the cause. How well women can speak too! Miss Lowndes held us all in thrall whilst she described the subject of a modern German picture she had seen abroad, which might be interpreted as bearing on the Suffrage question. I should imagine that Miss Lowndes does not realise the power of story-telling she possesses, nor how she could teach growing girls the deep underlying truths of the cause by this very means. Miss Palliser gave us her simple and earnest best, and her best is of rare quality. It was impossible to sit unmoved as she quoted for us what to her is evidently an intimate spring of refreshment—two beautiful sentences from Mr. Gladstone's speech on the occasion of the defeat of his Bill in 1895. People will not often tell one of the things which have moved them, but yet it is the sharing of these very things which makes them so precious and so moving. It was a bright and sparkling little meeting, and gave one a glimpse of at least one of the little groups which helped to make up the big concourse at the Albert Hall on Saturday evening.

### The New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

The members of this Society can congratulate themselves on the share they have taken in two large public meetings in Suffrage Week.

On Friday evening at the Memorial Hall they held, in conjunction with the Professional and Industrial Women's Suffrage Society, a very successful meeting. The Society's representative, Mrs. Louis Fagan, whose eloquence is already well known to members, had a splendid and well-deserved reception from a large and sympathetic audience, whilst the Rev. Herbert Williams made his debut on a Women's Suffrage platform in a speech full of reasoned conviction.

This Society took part officially in the Albert Hall demonstration of Saturday, 12th inst., and in addition members have supported the various other meetings held during Suffrage Week.

The weekly At Home on Tuesday last, at which Miss Muriel Matters spoke, was well attended, and the committee hope that members will do their best to be present at the sale of Christmas presents to be held at the office on Tuesday, December 6th, as funds are especially needed in view of the coming general election.

### Actresses' Franchise League.

The matinee to be given by the Actresses' Franchise League and the Women Writers' Suffrage League on November 18th promises to be an event of more than common interest. Such a number of prominent theatrical stars as will appear together in the "Pageant of Great Women" has perhaps never been seen before in the annals of the stage. There will be over sixty performers, and they include nearly every name well known on the stage of to-day.

Miss Lily Brayton will impersonate "Justice," Miss Lillah McCarthy "Woman," and Mr. Henry Ainley "Prejudice,"

while the historical characters will include Miss Lena Ashwell as "Florence Nightingale," Miss Gertrude Kingston as "Hypatia," Miss Evelyn D'Alroy as "Grace Darling," Miss Eva Moore as "Marie Thérèse," Miss Amy Brandon Thomas as "Sappho," Miss Suzanne Sheldon as "Catherine of Russia," and Miss Mabel Love (who makes a welcome re-appearance after a long absence) as "Elizabeth of Hungary."

Miss Lilian Braithwaite will be in charge of the programmes, and will be assisted by a bevy of youthful and well-known actresses, and Miss Bessie Hatton at the head of a group of distinguished writers will distribute literature.

Two new plays are promised—Miss Cicely Hamilton's "The Homecoming," in which Miss Auriol Lee, Miss May Whitty, and Miss Marianne Caldwell will appear, and George Paston's "Stuffing," which will serve to introduce Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Clare Greet, and Mr. Arthur Chesney in congenial rôles.

Special items are to be provided by Miss Edith Clegg, Mr. Courtice Pounds, Mademoiselle Dolli, and Miss Lydia Kyasht.

Tickets may be obtained from the Actresses' Franchise League (2, Adelphi Terrace House), the Women Writers' League (55, Berners Street), and the Aldwych Theatre, at the ordinary theatre prices.

### A Suffragist from Oregon.

Mrs. Colby has arrived from Oregon, and is staying at 13, Brunswick Square, W.C. She will be happy to help in Suffrage work, and is a practised speaker.

### West Bromwich Town Council.

At a meeting of the West Bromwich Town Council, held on November 9th, the Mayor presiding, a letter was read from Mrs. Browne, the secretary of the local Suffrage Society, asking the Council to do as several other authorities in other towns had done, and send a petition to Parliament in support of the Conciliation Bill. After some discussion the resolution was carried with one dissentient.

### London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage.

Under the auspices of the above Society a meeting of London University graduates was held in Manchester on Friday, November 11th, in support of the Conciliation Bill. Professor Weiss, D.Sc., presided, and a resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the Bill was proposed by Miss P. A. Sheavyn, D.Lit., and seconded by Dr. E. Vipont Brown. Amongst those who sent apologies for being unable to be present, but expressed sympathy with the object of the meeting, were Professor James Hope Moulton, the Rev. J. F. Tristram, Mrs. Rhys Davids (Lecturer in Oriental Philosophy), Mr. Thistleton Mark, M.A., and Miss S. Burstall, headmistress of the Manchester High School.

### Review.

#### A SUFFRAGE CHRISTMAS CARD.

A most attractive Christmas card is issued by the Artists' Suffrage League (259, King's Road, Chelsea), price 2d., or 1s. 9d. per dozen. It is printed in colours, and represents Father Christmas with bags full of delights (labelled votes), saying to a small boy, "Shan't we give the girls some this time?" A bevy of adorable baby girls peep round the corner, expectant, and the deep blue night is illuminated with the star of hope.

### 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.

#### WOMEN AND PUBLIC OPINION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam.—In your issue of October 27th "Waverer" points out that Mrs. Swanwick dwelt at some length upon certain horrors perpetrated upon little girls by a few degenerate and vicious males of the lowest class.

Mrs. Swanwick evidently intended to shock her audience, composed of a few men, many women, and some young girls. She succeeded in this; what she did not succeed in doing was to show that the giving of the vote to women would in any way mitigate those horrors. That, apparently, did not matter in the least. She had called attention to a subject undreamt of by the young girls, and almost unheard of by most of the

older women. Result—shock to their clean, fresh, and pure-thinking minds.

That was what was apparently desired, for then it was hoped that after the sickening sense of disgust which must follow an unclean tale told in public to a mixed audience, the wounded hearts would cry for justice, and would flock to Mrs. Swanwick's banner of Truth and Right.

It would be unjust and cruel to consider the whole of womankind wicked and cankered for the crimes of a few degenerate, vicious, or feeble-minded women. So I say, madam, and so said "Waverer," and so said many of Mrs. Swanwick's hearers, that it was unjust to blame the whole of mankind for the sins of a few degenerates, etc.

All men are not wicked, nor vicious, nor unjust, nor are they pleased and satisfied that such things can occur. Can Mrs. Swanwick show us how "Women's Suffrage" could stamp out this crying evil also? The matter is surely largely a matter of public health, good houses, clean and well-lighted streets and alleys, some watchfulness by other men and women, and surely by the mothers and fathers of the little children themselves. No, madam, Mrs. Swanwick raked up some very unpleasing tales of horrors, told them very impressively and well; but, in the opinion of a large proportion of her audience, did her cause in the telling a vast amount of harm.

Her worst sin was that on this point she was unconvincing—she certainly caused a sensation, but the result was far from what she anticipated. She apparently would have us believe that men are doing nothing to help these poor little injured children, and that women would alter these things in "five minutes" if they had the present power of men.

"Five-minute" and "lightning" reforms are only possible in the imagination and wish of all good people, but not in reality. Things will take time, and in that time it is inevitable, though horrible to contemplate, there will be other cases of a like nature.

We all draw our origin from animals, and in a few, animal vestiges of body and mind still remain, and only time and education and wholesome surroundings will eradicate them. Laws and punishments are of little avail, and as for light sentences in certain cases, one can only judge by hearing all the evidence brought out coolly in open court. Newspaper reports are absolutely valueless in forming an opinion as to the justice or injustice of a sentence. The "cat," I feel, might be useful, for brutes are being dealt with, not human beings. It is little punishment to shut up a brute for a few months, but the "cat" once a week for a few months might appeal to some natures.

I am by no means an Anti-Suffragist, and I think it is only right to point out to speakers on the Women's Suffrage question, things that occur to me as terrible mistakes in the conduct of speeches by prominent women speakers.

Let them speak with passion and ardour, let them speak bitterly, if need be, let them speak joyously and smilingly on occasion—but let them always be just and fair, accurate and truthful.

I am one of those who believe that no good was ever done by exaggeration and inexactitude, nor by pitting class against class, nor womankind against mankind. No, let us work together, combined and united for the common weal, if you like, with equal rights.

Inaccuracies might be pointed out, too, in Mrs. Swanwick's speech; such as when she referred to such wicked laws framed by men that made it impossible for a poor woman to leave the workhouse without the consent of her villainous husband in order to make a little home for herself outside.

To some of Mrs. Swanwick's tales of woe a good, intelligent, and most hardworking woman guardian not far from me in the audience was interjecting the word "Fibs! Fibs!!" to Mrs. Swanwick's remarks.

Why cannot women-speakers, and, indeed, earnest speakers of both sexes, be accurate, strictly accurate, and strictly just? One's impression of Mrs. Swanwick's speech was that it was unprepared, not properly thought out, not checked accurately in detail; that it was well delivered, and that it was intended thoroughly to shock her audience. If so, the first was unfair to her audience, and the latter was justifiable only if Mrs. Swanwick was prepared to show that the cause which she had at heart would produce such results as would minimise and exterminate the horrors which she recited.

One was led to think that the shock was delivered for other reasons—was given, in fact, as a bombshell, to wake up the ignorant and neurotic element of her audience to cry aloud, "If men allow this (which they don't) I will join these noble women, who will stamp it out (which they won't)."

I submit that the law of the land, though not perfect by any means, keeps improving, and is not so outrageously unfair towards womankind after all, and, in some instances, favours their sex when it comes to a judgment or sentence.

Unfortunately, inaccurate statements seem to be constantly made by those who want the vote for women. Witness the



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of . . .  
the Wheat

to keep your body well nourished and your system clean and clear. White flour clogs the human grate and makes the fire of life burn badly. It constipates, and

constipation is the fore-runner of appendicitis, cancer, and all the terrible devouring diseases of modern life.

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letters of correction in your own paper, madam; and I say again, inaccuracies and misrepresentation of fact and intention will do the cause no good.

To you, madam, this letter may at first sight appear to be almost too strong a criticism of a speech. But to one who really has the good of the cause at heart, what I have found fault with does seem to me to be a matter worthy of the closest attention.—Yours,

A MALE WAVERER.

[We print this exceptionally long letter because we do not wish to suppress criticism, but it cannot be one of the objects of this paper to defend individual speakers who may fail to make their meanings plain. We wish to make one or two comments, however. Firstly, if young girls go to political meetings, those who permit their presence must take the risk of their hearing what is meant for adults. One cannot speak to children of the deepest needs and wrongs of humanity. Secondly, the cases are not few. The S.P.C.C. has an average of over 1,000 cases of this sort a year, and all workers in this field tell us that the number of cases upon which, in the present state of the law and its administration, legal convictions can be secured are a small fraction of those upon which there is moral conviction. Thirdly, no one in their senses supposes reforms in these matters would follow instantly upon the enfranchisement of women; but law, administration of law, and public opinion could all help in a speedier change, and these would all be affected by the women's vote, here, as in New Zealand and Australia. Fourthly, we are in disagreement with our correspondent in his recommendation of the "cat." We think better laws, longer sentences, and the possible permanent detention of the depraved, who should be treated as dangerous "feeble-minded," would be both a better protection to the children and more consonant with modern ethical feeling. We will leave our readers who are acquainted with the Poor Law to judge our correspondent when he appears to endorse the accusation of lying in reference to the statement that the law allows a man to prohibit his wife from going out of the workhouse. Many guardians, to their honour, will not enforce this law, but it is there, and can be enforced, and sometimes is. (See "The Englishwoman," February, 1910, p. 24.)

As to the corrections we insert in our paper: we should like to inform our correspondent that they appear many because we insert all; most papers do not do so.—Ed. "C.C."]



## CHILD MURDER VERDICT.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—The issue of the "Daily News" dated October 31st contained a report of the "Croydon Child Murder Verdict," the reading of which made my blood boil. I wrote to the paper in question on the subject, but, up to the present, have seen no further notice of the case, either in a daily paper or any Suffrage papers. This may be due to oversight on my part. As accurately as I can recall, the report was to the following effect: A young Croydon laundress, Florence Boxall, was accused of murdering her illegitimate child. The Coroner, in addressing the jury, remarked that in a similar case Daisy Lord had been exalted by the public into a martyr. Such cases were too frequent, and strong measures should be taken to prevent other people from committing such crimes. "One member of the jury wished to bring in a verdict of "manslaughter" instead of "wilful murder." The Coroner then remarked that he admired that man's heart, but not his head. Then a member of the jury (probably the same) raised the point that steps should be taken to punish the man, who was at least "equally responsible with the girl." To this the Coroner replied that it was none of his business, and a verdict of "Wilful Murder" was returned. My point in writing is to express the hope that Suffrage Societies will watch the progress of this case, and, if possible, censure the coroner. Men of the type of this Croydon coroner are absolutely lacking in imagination; they cannot realise a tithe of what that poor child has already suffered, and are willing to inflict the extreme penalty of the law on the girl, and at the same time remain indifferent to the fact that the man is free to be admitted into respectable society—free, possibly, to ruin other souls for his lust. The man may have had no actual part in the murder of the infant, but cause and effect must not be thus arbitrarily separated. Such a state of affairs is infamous—is intolerable. It is time that women sat on juries. It is our duty as women to see that the poor child, Florence Boxall, is saved from the abominable injustices of our man-made laws.—Yours,

ALICE E. GLOYN.

32, Bushey Hill Road, Camberwell, 5th Nov., 1910.

We agree with our correspondent that the law of infanticide needs reforming, as well as law, administration, and public opinion in the whole question of responsibility of parentage. At the same time, the coroner was technically right when he said the father's responsibility was none of his business. The ultimate penalty of the law is never exacted in these cases, but men still think it serves some purpose to impose them. We hope shortly to have an article on this point.—Ed. "C. C."

(The two letters above were unavoidably held over last week.)

## IDEAS, NOT FORCE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Your motto in "The Common Cause" of November 10th, "Ideas, not force, rule the world," brings this thought in its train: Can we show to our friends the militants (who have done such earnest work for the cause) that there is no doubt since they have refrained from militant tactics they have impressed the public more? Our cause is further forward. This great reform movement is more widely known. Our members are steadily increasing, and new societies are being formed; and now when perhaps we are nearer the goal than we have been before—now we feel that our mistaken action may lose the battle. Ideas, brought to fruition—that is, turned to steady work for the welfare of others, for the uplifting of womanhood, for the placing on a firm basis all social reforms, so that others who come after us may find the amelioration of woman and mankind easier and less difficult than it has been in the past—such ideas, such thoughts, are prevailing, are gaining the respect of public opinion far and wide. To have Faith is to be able to do; To have Hope is to see the end in view; To have Love for the Highest Ideal is to be able to give up all for the sake of a greater all.—Yours,

SIDNEY M. KNIGHT.

## WOMEN AND PUBLIC OPINION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I join with your correspondent of last week in urging upon "Waverer" the consideration of the importance of the vote to women if such cases as you have been referring to are ever to be firmly and adequately dealt with by law. Our rulers are human, very human, and the knowledge that women cannot call the governing parties to account, nor hinder their return to power, is responsible for very much of the unequal treatment we so justly resent. And may I add, Madam, that I—and doubtless many of your readers—trust that you will continue the very able handling of these questions which you have successfully begun. Knowledge is imperatively required here; and I can think of no more suitable means of imparting it than through the columns of "The Common Cause." We should know what, in part, we are fighting for.—Yours,

SUFFRAGIST.

C. E. P. writes to the effect that he regards women as "far above the plane of men," and begs them to maintain their high standard of purity and goodness while aspiring to freedom.

## THE SERVICE VOTE.

A correspondent from Winchester asks what was meant by the statement in our issue of November 3rd that the Conciliation Bill would not give the vote on the *service qualification*. Any man who himself inhabits a dwelling-house by virtue of any office, service, or employment is entitled to a vote in respect of the same, provided that the person under whom he serves does not inhabit the house. This is known as the "service vote." Qualifications are simply described in Whitaker's Almanack and in a penny pamphlet issued by Edward Lloyd, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, entitled, "The General Election Guide." Various party organizations also give information.

(We are again obliged to hold over some letters.)

## Reports of Societies within the 'National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter. (We are obliged to hold over all the new reports and a great number of overset ones.)

## LONDON—WANDSWORTH.

On Tuesday, October 25th, the annual conversazione of the Wandsworth Branch was held at Wandsworth Town Hall. The hall was beautifully decorated with flowers, and the Wandsworth Suffrage banner occupied a prominent position near the platform. There was a very large attendance of members and friends. The chair was taken by Miss Emily Hill, one of the local hon. secretaries and member of the Executive of the London Society. Miss Hill referred to the growth of the Society, and urged those who had not already joined to unite their forces to those of the existing workers. She had great pleasure in introducing the two speakers, Miss Bertha Mason and Mr. Walter McLaren, M.P., who might be described as hereditary Suffragists. Miss Mason's father—Mr. Hugh Mason—had charge of the Women's Suffrage Bill in the House of Commons from 1880 to 1884; Mr. McLaren's mother—Mrs. Priscilla Bright McLaren—was a pioneer in the woman's movement.

Mr. McLaren, M.P., gave a comprehensive sketch of the Parliamentary proceedings in connection with the Conciliation Bill. Miss Bertha Mason, in an amusing speech, pointed out the inconsistencies of the opponents of the Conciliation Bill. She made a stirring appeal for support to all friends of constitutional freedom.

The following resolution was carried *nem. con.*:—"That this meeting pledges itself to the support of women's franchise by every legal and constitutional means, and calls upon Sir Henry Kimber, M.P., to press for facilities for the Conciliation Bill."

Mr. Shillington moved, and Mr. Herbert Tritton seconded, a vote of thanks to the speakers and to Miss Sydney Keith, of the Actresses' Franchise League, who very kindly gave several recitations during the evening, which were very highly appreciated.

A large number of copies of "The Common Cause" was sold in the hall.

## NEW FOREST.

On October 24th a successful village meeting was held in the schoolroom at Emery Down. Miss Shore, Miss Ffolliott, and Miss Bateson spoke, explaining first principles and supporting the Conciliation Bill. In Miss Shore and Miss Ffolliott our Society has found two enthusiastic and enterprising helpers, to whom we are most grateful.

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## NOTTINGHAM.

Miss Martineau (Surrey) spoke charmingly at our monthly At Home last Wednesday. The Rev. Bingley Cass took the chair before tea and Mr. Beilby after tea.

On Thursday the Hucknall branch had a crowded meeting in the Small Public Hall. Miss Dickson, our Australian organiser, had spent a week there. She held one very large and deeply attentive outdoor meeting, and on Thursday chalked the pavements for the evening meeting. Cards were given away, and members of the local branch did all they could. As a consequence the hall began to fill nearly half an hour before the advertised time. Mrs. W. E. Dowson took the chair, and a resolution asking for facilities for the Conciliation Bill was passed unanimously. The hall was more than half full of men, and it seemed to us on the platform that nearly all those present voted. Free literature was eagerly taken, and we sold a number of "Common Causes."

## NORTH HERTS.—HITCHIN.

On the 20th October a public meeting took place in the Town Hall. The audience was very attentive, and the resolution was carried with only three dissentients.

The Earl of Lytton presided, and in an extremely interesting speech dealt with several aspects of the Suffrage movement, saying that he supported it in the interests of the State as well as in that of women, since the responsible co-operation of women was needed in questions of social reform. Explaining and defending the Conciliation Bill, he said he regarded the continued refusal of the women's claim as a grave national danger. He emphatically denounced the attitude of those politicians—such as Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill—who expressed general agreement with the cause, but refused to help it forward when the opportunity came.

Mrs. Swanwick, in a very earnest and convincing address, replying to Mr. Lloyd George's contention that the women's question should wait till the settlement of others which were more important, argued that these last would be settled more quickly and effectively if women took their share in the work. A great deal was heard at present about the representation of labour in Parliament, but surely women's labour should be represented there too. As showing the need for this she quoted the hard case of the Edinburgh women printers, also the difficulties placed in the way of public appointments for qualified women doctors. She pointed to serious miscarriages of justice due to the women's point of view being overlooked, and to the light sentences inflicted for outrages on children. This part of the speech was delivered with thrilling effect, and seemed to produce a strong impression.

Miss Margery Corbett spoke with great eloquence and charm. As one of the "Younger Suffragists," she appealed to the younger generation to take up this question, recollecting that the measure of emancipation gained by women during the last forty years had been won largely by the efforts of women pioneers. She said the agricultural labourer was the last to be enfranchised, but he was not asked to wait until he was a perfect politician. He had learned by responsibility, and women would do the same.

Sir George Fordham supported the resolution.

## SALISBURY.

On October 25th, a large and influential meeting of citizens was held. Our members had worked hard selling tickets, and were early astir on the morning of the day chalking pavements. Mrs. Henry Fawcett gave a speech which was most convincing and helpful, while her moderation also was marked and appreciated by an attentive audience. Lady Grove was unfortunately unable to take the chair through illness. A resolution calling upon His Majesty's Government to give facilities for Mr. Shackleton's Bill was carried with only three dissentients. The press was again exceedingly good in printing a full report of the meeting, and in two instances giving us very favourable editorial notices.

## SHROPSHIRE.

Our weekly informal meeting was held in the shop on October 25th, and was a great success. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Palmer, Miss Williams, and Mrs. Walters, who organised it. Mrs. Harley and Mrs. Timpany received the visitors, and explained first the aims of our Society and then the Conciliation Bill. Three new members were enrolled, and others promised to come again.

On Friday, October 28th, there was a packed audience in the Music Hall to hear Lady Frances Balfour. In beautiful and earnest language she spoke of the pressing need for women's enfranchisement, dwelling more particularly on the misery caused by the underpayment and sweating women workers. Mrs. Harley, who was in the chair, in introducing Lady Frances, spoke of the great work she was now doing on the Divorce Commission. The resolution, which referred to the Conciliation Bill, was passed with only four dissentients. Miss Gale proposed the vote of thanks to Lady Frances, and Mrs. Harold Cook seconded it. Five new members were enrolled, and a number of "Common Causes" were sold.

## WALLASEY AND WIRRAL.

The first meeting of the season was held on October 27th at 8 p.m. in the Suffrage Shop, 70, Banson Street, New Brighton. Refreshments were served before the meeting, and by the time the serious part of the meeting began the room was filled to overflowing, sixty people being present. Miss Eskridge took the chair, and a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed unanimously. As Miss Eleanor Rathbone is fighting for her seat on the Liverpool City Council, she was unable to keep her engagement to speak, but Miss Waring gave an interesting address on "Women in India." At the end of the meeting several much-needed domestic articles, such as brooms, pegs, shelves, were promised for the shop. Two new members joined the Society, and much literature and many "Common Causes" were sold.

## WEST HERTS.

Lord Robert Cecil addressed a large audience in the Clarendon Hall on October 17th. Mr. A. Bronet presided. Lord Robert Cecil moved a resolution urging the Government to give time for the further stages of the Conciliation Bill. He said it was quite evident that the House of Commons was overwhelmingly in favour of the principle of the Bill. The Government had in effect decided in favour of the Bill, but would not allow the necessary time and opportunity for the House of

Commons to carry its decision into effect. Lord Robert Cecil alluded to the arguments—he supposed he must call them so—of the Anti-Suffragists. He said we were told they had raised £100,000 to carry on their campaign, and in the same breath we were told that the Suffrage cause was absolutely dead. He could only assume that the £100,000 was raised to go towards its funeral. Such a gross waste of money he had never heard of before. He said the reason why he was so strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage was that he was convinced the country would be better governed if women had the vote.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Frances Sterling and carried unanimously.

## ABERNETHY.

A fortnight's work—like the weather, varying from storm to sunshine—had one of its brightest gleams at Abernethy on Thursday. The members of that Society were invited, by the kindness of Mrs. Wishart, of Inglewark, to meet in her house, and quite an enthusiastic little gathering was held. After hearing a short description of the aims of the National Union, its rapid growth lately, and of Federation work, the members expressed their willingness to be helpful, several on leaving declaring they had no idea Suffrage was so interesting, while all were hopeful that "Abernethy would do great things for the Woman's Vote."

## ALTRINCHAM.

On Wednesday, November 2nd, this Society held a meeting at Altrincham in support of the Conciliation Bill. We were fortunate in having as chairman our Member of Parliament, Sir William Crossley, and as speakers Miss Margaret Robertson and Mr. Frank Milne. The weather was unfavourable, so that there was only a small audience of about eighty. The usual resolution was, however, passed unanimously.

This meeting closed a month of special effort, during which this Society has held three public meetings in different parts of the constituency and given two dramatic performances.

## BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT.

On October 27th Mrs. Fawcett addressed a large meeting in the Town Hall, the chair being taken by Sir Owen Roberts, the good friend of the higher education of women. Mrs. Fawcett was listened to with the deepest attention by the audience, composed of all sorts and conditions of people. The resolution, praying Parliament to grant time this session for the Conciliation Bill, was put by Mrs. Fawcett, seconded by Mr. Jeffery Edwards, and carried with an overwhelming majority, only eight voting against it.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Raynbird, and seconded by Mrs. West, whose beautiful little speech touched many hearts. Basingstoke will long remember the pleasure of listening to our president that night, and the Society will doubtless be more supported than formerly in consequence of the honour done to it by Mrs. Fawcett.



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**BIRMINGHAM.**

At the meeting of committee on Wednesday the treasurer reported that the sale of tickets for the Town Hall meeting last week realised about £30, and the collection £15, and that after all expenses were paid a good profit will result.

The committee resolved to make an appeal to the City Council to pass a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill.

Representatives from the Society were appointed to join a deputation organized by the Birmingham Men's League, including also representatives of the W.S.P.U., to wait on Sir Francis Lowe, M.P. for Edgbaston, to urge his support of the Conciliation Bill.

On Thursday afternoon a very enjoyable musical At Home was given by Miss Kirby. Tickets were paid for, and the proceeds were presented to the Society.

A meeting of the Franchise Club was held on November 4th at the office of the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society. Reports of work done during the past month were given, and a discussion of new work followed. It was reported that the speakers' class had held its first meeting under the instruction of Miss Fry, warden of the University Women's Hostel. Methods of increasing the circulation of "The Common Cause" were discussed, and a number of members undertook to deliver the paper regularly at libraries, restaurants, and other places of public resort. The plan of allotting the various districts in Birmingham to circle secretaries, responsible for distribution of literature, etc., is extending rapidly. The number of circle secretaries having increased from ten to seventeen during the last month. A further more comprehensive scheme of local organization for Suffrage propaganda has been set on foot, and will result, it is hoped, in a considerable enlargement of Suffrage work in this neighbourhood.

**BRADFORD.**

On October 31st Mrs. Cooper (Nelson) met the members of the Society prior to beginning a week's campaign of open-air meetings. Four midday meetings were held at different mills, including the celebrated Salfatre Mills, where Mrs. Cooper said the attendance was the largest she had ever addressed.

Evening meetings were held at—Bolton Woods, where the Rev. R. Roberts also spoke; Whetley Hill, where Mr. A. Craven, secretary of the Men's League, spoke; and at Morley Street. For three nights Mrs. Cooper held two meetings nightly. There was an afternoon meeting on Saturday at 3.30 p.m. at Rawson Square, at which Mrs. Cooper and Mr. Rennie Foster, secretary of the Bradford Health Society, spoke. Mrs. Bauer, local secretary, presided on each occasion. Resolutions calling upon the Government to grant further facilities for the passing of the Conciliation Bill into law this session were passed.

The Society are deeply grateful to Mrs. Cooper for the splendid manner in which she carried these meetings with her. Conciliation Bill leaflets were distributed and "Common Causes" sold.

**CARDIFF.**

Mrs. Viriamu Jones has been giving us much help during her visit to Cardiff. Besides addressing drawing-room meetings in Penarth, Llandaff, and Cardiff, she was the chief speaker at the members' monthly meeting held at 10, Park Place, by kind permission of Miss K. Richards, Dr. Eric Evans in the chair.

Mrs. Viriamu Jones dwelt on the vision which women have of the future, and pointed out many glaring injustices both in the social and in the industrial world, which are harmful to the race, and which can only be removed with the help of the vote. She referred to the age of the movement, reminding her hearers that early in the fifties the Sheffield Female Political Association had the same aims as we now have. She then emphasised the necessity of demanding immediate facilities for the Conciliation Bill.

The resolution, seconded by Miss Collin, was carried unanimously, and copies were sent to Mr. Asquith, Mr. D. A. Thomas, and the Cardiff City Council.

**CHELTENHAM.**

A public meeting in support of the Conciliation Bill was held in the King's Hall on November 2nd. Mr. F. W. Rogers, of Bristol, took the chair, and Miss Abadam was the chief speaker. There was a good audience considering other attractions in the town, and Miss Abadam's racy and pointed remarks had an excellent effect. A resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill was passed with one dissentient. The vote of thanks was moved by the president, Mrs. Swiney, and seconded by Mrs. S. Wilson, M.B. "Common Causes" were sold, and a collection was taken. "White Slave Traffic" leaflets were also given away. All five banners were displayed.

Viscount Duncannon, M.P. for Cheltenham, after considerable delay, has written refusing to sign the requisition to the Premier asking for facilities. The Bill is not "democratic" enough for him. Lord Duncannon is a Conservative. Previously he stated that the Bill had his "full support."

**EDINBURGH.**

Miss Louise Lumsden gave a very interesting address last Friday on "The Position of Women" at our weekly At Home. Miss F. G. Matheson took the chair. Miss Lumsden said the standard which is set before women is too apt to be "what will please men?" She advocated citizenship for women as the only thing that will give them the position which they ought to have. The meeting was very well attended.

**ESSEX—NORTH AND EAST.**

A public meeting was held in the Assembly Room, Braintree, on Monday, October 31st. Rev. E. Corke Pritchard took the chair, and Miss Helga Gill was the speaker. A resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill, and demanding facilities for it, was passed with one dissentient.

A public meeting was held at the Workmen's Hall, Bocking, on Tuesday, November 1st. The chair was taken by F. Weaver, Esq., M.A., and Miss Helga Gill was the speaker. The resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed *nem. con.*

At both meetings Miss M. E. Tabor explained the Conciliation Bill, and several men spoke in support of it. Questions were asked, and great interest shown. Miss Gill's excellent speeches rousing much enthusiasm amongst her audiences.

**HARROGATE.**

We had a very successful meeting when Mrs. Fawcett was with us on October 15th. On November 1st we held the first of what we hope will be monthly meetings. Mrs. de Bunsen, our president,

gave an address to the members and friends. "The Common Cause" was sold at both meetings, and we have enrolled five new members.

**HASLEMERE, HINDHEAD, AND DISTRICT.**

We have held four meetings since the three already reported, at which Mrs. Stanbury spoke.

That at Fernhurst, on October 18th, presided over by Mrs. Boyd, was breaking new ground, so we were fortunate to have as speaker the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, who is well known there. The resolution was carried by a 4 to 1 majority.

At Grayshot, on October 19th, Miss Gibson, in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Marshall, explained the Conciliation Bill to a small but enthusiastic meeting of women ratepayers, who were unanimous in its favour.

At Beacon Hill on October 21st, Professor Cox in the chair, Mr. Ancurin Williams, M.P., our tried and steady friend, gave an extremely clear exposition of the Bill, which he helped to frame. He spoke of the seriousness, even the passion, of the debate on the Bill, which, he said, gave a very strong impression that the cause of male monopoly was a lost cause. He pointed out that the Bill was sound in theory, being based mainly on the household qualification. Moreover, not only was it just between sex and sex, but also between class and class, and he quoted Mr. Charles Booth's figures about London and the L.L.P. investigations in some fifty boroughs where such percentages as 82, 87, and 90 of those enfranchised would be working women.

The Rev. A. E. Simms, vicar of Grayshot, proposed the resolution. He dealt with the physical force argument, and said if he believed that he were governed by brute force he and many others would be anarchists to-morrow. The resolution was seconded by Miss Wortabet, and carried by a large majority.

On October 24th, at 8 p.m., in the Haslemere School Hall, Mr. Laurence Housman gave one of the most convincing and sympathetic speeches we have ever heard to an audience which ought to have been bigger. The resolution, seconded by Mrs. Marshall, was carried with two dissentients.

**HUDDERSFIELD.**

At a Council meeting held last week, Miss Siddon presiding, Mrs. Studdard read replies from the Prime Minister and Mr. A. Sherwell, M.P., acknowledging the receipt of the resolution passed in St. George's Square. It was unanimously resolved that a deputation be appointed, and that the Town Council be requested to receive them at the December meeting. Mr. C. Leach, M.P., was elected a vice-president of the Society.

**LONDON—BLACKHEATH.**

We had our public meeting on the 4th. The hall was quite filled, the tickets having been all sold before the evening of the meeting, and the audience was most enthusiastic. We were delighted to find that many Anti-Suffragists had come, and many who were indifferent. After hearing Mrs. Fawcett's and Mr. Cholmely's convincing and witty speeches they expressed themselves much interested, and we know that this meeting will be productive of increased and serious attention being paid to the question of Women's Suffrage in Blackheath.

Mr. George Whale was in the chair, and many well-known men and women of the platform. Dr. Pollen, Mr. Coppethwaite, and Mr. Monk all contributed towards the success of the evening.

**LONDON—EALING AND ACTON.**

On Tuesday, November 1st, the general annual meeting was held in the Prince's Room of the Municipal Buildings, when the request of the Bedford Park Branch to rejoin our branch was under consideration. Mrs. McGregor, Mrs. Shuter, and Miss Isles, of Bedford Park, were unanimously elected to the Ealing Committee until such time as that branch again becomes strong enough to work independently. The business meeting was followed by Miss Bertha Mason's delightful lantern lecture on the "Pioneers of the Suffrage Movement," when picture after picture of beautiful women and strenuous workers followed in fast succession, and were much applauded.

The next of our series of At Homes will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd, when Mrs. Colchester will deliver her reading on "Two Pioneer Women" at 37, Uxbridge Road.

**LONDON—HAMPSTEAD.**

A very successful drawing-room meeting was given on the 27th October by Mrs. Turner, 29, Rudall Crescent. Miss Emily Davies was in the chair, and Mrs. Mylne gave a most interesting address. She spoke from personal experience of the work of Poor-law Guardians and Borough Councillors. Two members of the Anti-Suffrage League were present, and an animated discussion took place. As a result we gained two members for the London Society.

The meeting at the Library, November 3rd, was somewhat interfered with by a downpour of rain. Still, about twenty, mostly men, turned up. Lady Strachey was in the chair, and Miss Clementine Black gave an address, in the course of which she said she had been reading the International reports of women workers in Canada and Australia, and had been much struck by the difference in tone in the two reports. Whereas the Canadian women had to beg that certain things should be done, the Australian women demanded that reforms should be carried out. Miss Black earnestly begged those present not to fail for the want of just the "little more" that might bring success. Mrs. Stanbury followed with a rousing appeal to our members to do their utmost to help during Suffrage Week. She asked that all members should at least wear their badges that week, and so advertise the interest taken in our movement, even if they could do nothing else. She further said that if we wished for success we must believe in it, and so create the right atmosphere around us. All our penny badges were sold out at the end of the meeting.

**LONDON—SOUTH PADDINGTON.**

There were over thirty present at 36, Gloucester Square, on the 4th, when Mrs. Franklin Thomason kindly gave an At Home to S. Paddington members and their friends. Mrs. Spring Rice took the chair, and introduced Miss J. Thomson, B.A., who gave an address on Suffrage Week. She first spoke on the reasons women required the vote, and then appealed to those present to help during Suffrage Week. She proposed a resolution calling on the Government to give time this session for the Conciliation Bill to pass. This was seconded by Miss G. Dykes Spicer, B.A., and carried by a large majority. Miss Franklin then made an appeal for support for "The Common Cause," with the excellent result that some ladies present volunteered to take shares, and several copies were sold.

(We are again obliged to hold over all the new reports and some over-set ones.)

**Forthcoming Meetings.**

NOVEMBER 17.		
Sheffield—Cutlers' Hall—Miss Blanche Leppington.	3.15	
Sheffield—Cutlers' Hall—Miss Blanche Leppington.	8.0	
Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Committee Meeting.	11.30	
Crews—Members' Meeting—Miss Robertson.	7.30	
Letchworth—Dinner-hour Meeting.	1.0	
Baldock—Town Hall—Miss Geraldine Cooke, Miss Cicely Corbett.	8.0	
Bournemouth—Town Hall Avenue—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Eddison.	4.0	
Birmingham—Harborne—Mrs. Ryland's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss Helga Gill, Mrs. Osler.	3.15	
Wallasey and Wirral—70, Rowson Street—Monthly At Home—Miss McCrindle.	3.0	
NOVEMBER 18.		
Leeds—Burley Liberal Club—Miss Fielden.	8.0	
Birmingham—10, Easy Row—Franchise Club—Social Study.	5.30	
Letchworth—Meetings at 1, 3.30, and 8—Miss Cooke, Mr. H. Stewart.		
Hastings—Public Hall—Miss Margery Corbett, B.A., Cecil Chapman, Esq.	8.0	
NOVEMBER 19.		
Northwood and District—Suffrage Offices—Rev. R. Pyke, Miss Green.	7.0	
Leeds—Headingley Wesleyan Guild—Miss Fielden.	8.0	
Letchworth—Mrs. Price.	8.0	
Carlisle—Deputation of Liberal Women Suffragists to Hon. R. D. Denman, M.P.		
NOVEMBER 21.		
Cambridge—Bourne—Miss Cochrane, Mrs. Rackham.	8.0	
Leeds—Presbyterian Church—Debate—Mrs. Parrish.	8.0	
Wimslow—Public Hall—Three Plays by A.F.L. Stewart.	8.0	
NOVEMBER 22.		
Leeds—Morley—St. Mary's Fellowship—Miss Fielden.	7.30	
Batley—Mrs. Lee Potter's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Fielden.		
Batley—Public Meeting—Miss I. O. Ford, Mrs. J. R. Cross, Evening.		
South Shields—Royal Hotel—Committee of North-Eastern Federation at Home—Miss Frances Harcastle, M.A., Miss C. M. Gordon, M.A.	4.0	
NOVEMBER 23.		
Dormansland—The Parish Room—Miss Frances Sterling, Miss Barbara Duncan.	8.0	
Hull—Victoria Hall—Public Meeting—Miss I. O. Ford.	8.0	
Nottingham—Weekly At Home—Mrs. J. M. Lees.	7.30	
Scarborough—Annual Meeting and Sale—Miss M. Corbett, B.A.		
Hitchin—Workmen's Hall—Women Household's Meeting—Miss Foxley, M.A., Miss G. Cooke.	3.0 and 7.30	
Leeds—The Kindergarten, Headingley—Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Fielden.	5.15	
Whitby—Shildon—Miss Robson's Drawing-room Meeting—Miss F. N. Pringle.		
NOVEMBER 24.		
Eastbourne—Grove Hall—Public Meeting—Miss Frances Sterling, Rev. C. Hinscliff.	3.0	
Leeds—Clayton Hall—Public Meeting—Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Fielden.	8.0	
Bristol—111a, Whiteladies' Road—Speakers' Class—Debate.	7.30	
NOVEMBER 25.		
Birmingham—Stetchford—Drawing-room Meeting.	3.15	
Dublin—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—35, Molesworth Street—Discussion on N.U.W.W. Conference—Mrs. H. Docknell, Mrs. E. Hill Tickle.	8.0	
Wallasey and Wirral—New Brighton Assembly Rooms—Actresses' Franchise League.	8.0	
NOVEMBER 27.		
Pudsey—Labour Church—Miss Fielden.		
NOVEMBER 28.		
Lyndhurst—Mrs. Rackham.		
NOVEMBER 29.		
Huddersfield—Temperance Hall—Annual Public Meeting and Tea—Mrs. Walter Rea.		
Burley—Mrs. Rackham.		
Birmingham—Edgbaston—Vestry Hall—Christmas Present Sale.	3-7	
Leeds—Liberal Club—Women Liberals—Miss Fielden.	8.0	
Scarborough—Labour Hall—Mrs. Cooper (Nelson).		
Marple Bridge—Miss M. Robertson, B.A., C. H. Burden, Esq., B.Sc.		
LONDON.		
Nov. 17: S. Kensington, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss I. O. Ford.	8.30	
Esher, Drawing-room Meeting, Lady Frances Balfour.	2.45	
Nov. 18: Camberwell, The Grove, Open-air Meeting, Miss Cockle.	7.30	
Stroud Green, Open-air Meeting, Mrs. Dowse, Mrs. Rogers.		
Nov. 19: Highgate, Muswell Hill, Mrs. Garnett, Miss Bessett-Smith.	8.0	
Nov. 21: Blackheath, 3a, Eliot Place, Speakers' Class.	5.0	
58, Victoria Street, S.W., Speakers' Class, Miss M. Corbett, B.A.	3.0	
Nov. 22: Ealing, At Home, Mrs. Colchester.	8.15	
Nov. 23: E. Moseley, Conservative Hall, The Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Cicely Corbett.	8.30	
Nov. 24: Chiswick, Mrs. Shuter's Drawing-room Meeting, Lady Frances Balfour.		
Sutton, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Close.		
58, Victoria Street, S.W., Reception to Members and Friends.	8.0	
Wandsworth (Balham), Meeting.	8.0	

Nov. 25: S. Kensington, Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Fyffe (Hostess), Miss Sterling.	3.50
Wimbledon, Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. Webster (Hostess), Miss R. Travers.	3.30
Nov. 26: Highgate, Muswell Hill, Mrs. Rogers.	8.0
Nov. 27: Southgate Road, N., Brotherhood Church, Women's Suffrage, Miss H. D. Cockle.	
Nov. 28: 58, Victoria Street, S.W., Speakers' Class, Miss Margery Corbett, B.A.	3.0
Nov. 29: Enfield, St. Stephen's Hall, Bush Hill Park, Meeting and "How the Vote was Won."	8.0
Nov. 30: S. Paddington, Debate, Mrs. Franklin (Hostess), Ellen, Countess of Desart, Mrs. Swanwick, M.A.	9.0
Highgate, Athenaeum, Muswell Hill, Public Reception, Mrs. Homan, Mrs. Russell James (Hostesses), Lady Frances Balfour.	7.0
SCOTLAND.	
Nov. 17: Edinburgh, Warrender, Murrayfield, Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Scott Moncrieff.	
Glasgow, Whiteinch, Burgh Hall, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Perth, Guild Hall, Col. Tilfer Smollett.	4.0
Nov. 18: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, At Home, Miss Frances Parker.	
Glasgow, 58, Renfield Street, At Home: hostess, Dr. Everett McLaren.	4.0
Bridge of Weir, Miss Abadam.	3.0
Glasgow, Springburn, Masonic Hall, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Nov. 21: Govan, Town Hall, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Nov. 22: Maryhill, Town Hall, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Nov. 23: Glasgow, St. Andrew's Hall, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, Lord Lytton, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Nov. 24: Kilmacool, Miss Abadam.	3.0
Greenock, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Nov. 25: Edinburgh, Music Hall, Earl of Lytton, Miss Abadam.	
Glasgow, 58, Renfield Street, At Home, Miss I. Waddell.	4.0
Nov. 26: Dunbar, Miss Abadam.	Afternoon.
Lenzie, Miss Abadam.	8.0
Nov. 28: Peebles, Miss Abadam.	
Nov. 29: Perth, Guild Hall, Miss Abadam.	8.0

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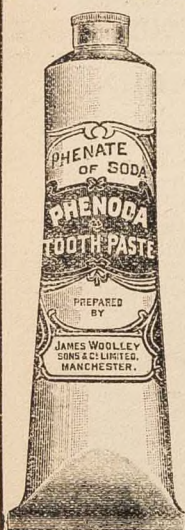
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