

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. IV. No. 104.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

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

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

## EDITORIAL.

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

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom ... 6/6 per annum, post free.  
Foreign Countries ... 8/8 " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### Unmasked.

Mr. Lloyd George now stands confessed as an opponent of the Conciliation Bill, which he declares to be "the very worst way of proceeding" in the Cause of the enfranchisement of women. We also now know what to expect from him; the deputation from the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement, received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer last Saturday, has served to make the position plain. Mr. Lloyd George poses as a friend of millions, not of one million, of women, but the value of this friendship may be judged by the way in which the open enemies of women's citizenship exult in the Chancellor's declaration. "The Conciliation Bill is doomed. . . . I welcome this turn of affairs," writes Mr. A. Maconochie, a strong anti-suffragist, in *The Standard*, of October 16. So the ardent believer in the cause of woman suffrage is acclaimed as a great ally of its open enemies.

### Undemocratic.

Not democratic enough; not a fair representation of the women of this country; this is Mr. Lloyd George's opinion of the Conciliation Bill. Is Mr. Lloyd George to be the authority on this matter, when veteran friends such as Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Phillip Snowden, Mr. Lansbury, outstanding democrats, are working heart and soul for the Bill? The Chancellor is very keen upon figures and percentages just now, but he brushes aside the figures, carefully worked out, which prove that more than 80 per cent of working women will be enfranchised under the Conciliation Bill. We are with him in his desire that millions of women should be enfranchised, but let him tell us where men voters would have been to-day if statesmen in 1832, and in every later extension of the franchise, had refused to do anything because some men were excluded. Mr. Lloyd George has planted himself in front of the door to freedom and is refusing to open it to one million women under the transparent pretext that he wishes it to be thrown open to seven millions. The man who denies freedom even to a unit is an autocratic tyrant.

### Insulting.

"Almost an insult to women" is a Press comment on the Chancellor's declaration. It is an insult. Let him deal with the Woman's Bill as he is dealing with the Insurance

Bill. He implores his critics to refrain from asking too much of him; he sees the wisdom of rejecting widening amendments to the measure on which he has staked his political life. He knows that his pet Bill—to be forced through Parliament in the teeth of opposition from democrats—could not pass if weighted with all that they urge and urge with appealing logic. Those newspapers which support the Insurance Bill cry aloud to him to take no heed of the critics who declare that he gives either too much or too little; amendments, separately non-obstructive, would cumulatively be fatal. It is a case of the heavily burdened camel and the needle's eye. Unfortunately woman's freedom is a minor matter to the Chancellor. Why legislate at all if only counsels of perfection are to be adopted? Why deal with industrial improvements so long as an eight hours' day or a minimum wage are still beyond Parliamentary reach? Mr. Lloyd George considers the Conciliation Bill an insult to married women; was he eager that his Insurance Bill should avoid insults to them?

### War.

The Chancellor wants the support of women for the Insurance Bill. If they had votes, he says, the Bill would have a better chance because it is going to do them so much good! Is it? But why bar the door against them, why endeavour to wreck the Conciliation Bill? Mr. Lloyd George says he honestly believes that when the larger Bill has been carried the supporters of the Conciliation Bill will hurl at him the word "traitor." What are the words he hurls at the supporters of the only tangible and definite measure? "Hinderers!" And at the desire of women to go to the polling-booths with their brothers? "Impractical, stupid propositions," "thoroughly ludicrous"! Suffragists have had dust thrown in their eyes often enough; this time they refuse to be blinded, and can only regard the Chancellor's statement as a declaration of war.

### Victory.

After all, Mr Lloyd George is not the Government; he is not dictator; he is one man; his vote counts one, no more. But we know him now, in spite of protestations of friendship, as an open enemy to the Bill on which Suffragists of all opinions have combined, not because it represents their full convictions, but because experienced Parliamentarians, despite Mr. Lloyd George, regard it as the only possible measure which can succeed in the near future. We are reminded of the story of the heavily-weighted, perspiring individual, panting in the wake of a great host which has marched forward to victory. "Stop them! Stop them!" he gasped. "Why?" "Because I am their leader!" We shall not wait for such a leader, though he pose as the high priest of freedom.

### Congratulations to California.

Another victory! We send our heartiest congratulations to our sisters on the Pacific coast, and rejoice that our good wishes expressed last week have come true. The woman's movement is one all the world over though it varies in form and attainment. Every victory, however, means encouragement to all workers; and we note with gratification that the Californian opponents of the women's vote were afraid of its searching light in the dark places of iniquity. October 10 will now be another red-letter day for the Suffrage cause.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15143 CENTRAL.  
Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.  
President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Miss C. V. TITE  
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.  
Hon. Departmental Officers—  
Political and Militant Department—Mrs. HOW MARTYN, A.R.C.S., B.Sc.  
Publishing Department—Mrs. SNOW, Mrs. EILEEN MITCHELL.  
Press Department—Mrs. HARVEY, Brackenhill, Bromley, Kent.

### AT HEADQUARTERS.

**Mrs. Despard's Scottish Tour.**—Great preparations are being made in Scotland for Mrs. Despard's visit. The following arrangements have been made for her: Glasgow, November 11; Dundee, November 13; Perth, November 14; Edinburgh, Nov. 15, and we urge all our friends in the North to do everything in their power to make these meetings widely known. Further particulars of time and place will appear in our next issue.

**Discussion Meetings.**—Will members do their best to advertise our next meeting among their friends in the Free Church League and the Church League? The Rev. Hatty Baker, one of the few recognised women ministers in England, will open a discussion on "Should Women Enter the Ministry?" We expect to hear the expression of many diverse views on this subject.

**Branch "At Homes."**—Highbury had a most successful "At Home" at Barnsbury Hall last week, when Mrs. Despard and Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., were the speakers. The next "At Homes" will be held at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur-road, Hampstead, Thursday afternoon at 3.30, when the chair will be taken by Mrs. Nevinson, the speakers being Miss C. V. Tite and Miss Nina Boyle; and at Willoughby Hall, Herne Hill, next Monday, the speakers being Mrs. How Martyn and Miss Nina Boyle. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by Miss C. V. Tite. Arrangements for other "At Homes" are being made at Croydon, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Clapham, Kensington and Harrow.

**Visit to the Branches of N.E.C. Members.**—At the last meeting of the National Executive Committee, it was decided to lay certain proposals before the members, and within the next few weeks we hope to arrange for a member of the N.E.C. to visit each of our Branches and to report at the next committee meeting the opinions of members on these proposals.

**Parliament Reopens October 24,** and members are urged to send in their names for the Freedom League parade in front of the House of Commons. Sandwich-boarders, bill distributors, and VOTE sellers will be needed.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK. MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE CONCILIATION BILL.

If the Press reports of the men's deputation to Mr. Lloyd George last Saturday are at all to be relied upon, the Chancellor did not give the deputation much chance to speak. We are, however, sincerely glad to find Mr. Lloyd George is "trying to get millions of women enfranchised," as we were under the impression that hitherto he had given us a great deal of advice but no help, much criticism but no construction, many pious expressions of sympathy on the platform, but a vote against us in the House of Commons.

Mr. Lloyd George said he "would work for the larger scheme until he was convinced it could not be carried in this country." That seems rather a waste of the Right Hon. gentleman's time, but if it can be carried, as he evidently thinks, although in what length of time

was not mentioned, it will interest every Suffragist to see the Bill which we assume the Chancellor will now draft, and we trust he will be willing "to fight it through or fall with it." Meantime until the more perfect Bill receives the backing of Mr. Lloyd George and the Government, we of the Women's Freedom League intend to put our efforts into the Conciliation Bill which is at the moment rather less problematic.

### MRS. DESPARD IN CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER.

Special attention is called to the meetings to be held in these towns on October 19 and 20, as Mrs. Despard will speak on the "Unmarried Mother." Only last week in *The Manchester Guardian* the report of a Rescue and Maternity Home stated that during the year one girl of fifteen, two girls of sixteen, and three aged seventeen had given birth to "so-called" illegitimate children. Facts like these, and unfortunately they are far too common, are not sufficiently realised by the women who are comfortably provided for. It is to rouse in them a sense of responsibility and a desire to prevent the occurrence of these tragedies that the meetings are being held.

### KEIGHLEY BY-ELECTION.

Organiser.—Miss ALISON NEILANS.

Candidates.—Mr. W. M. ACKWORTH (C.); Mr. W. C. ANDERSON (Lab.); Mr. S. O. BUCKMASTER, K.C. (L.)  
At the last General Election, Sir J. Brigg (L.) was returned unopposed. The constituency is a county one with an electorate of about 13,000. The following questions were sent from the Women's Freedom League to the three candidates:—

- (1) Are you in favour of Women's Suffrage, and if so, will you indicate this in your election address and in your speeches?
- (2) Will you pledge yourself to support the Conciliation Bill through all its stages?
- (3) Will you, in the final division, pledge yourself to oppose all amendments which might cause the Bill to be rejected?
- (4) Will you oppose any alteration whatever in the present franchise laws until a Woman Suffrage Bill is passed into law?

Mr. Ackworth has replied to (1) Yes, speeches; yes, election address, already out. (2) Yes. (3) Yes. (4) Yes, if the situation remains as at present.

Mr. Anderson replies (1) Yes. (2) Yes. (3) Yes. (4) I would oppose any extension of franchise to men which left women out.

Mr. Buckmaster has not yet replied, but we understand he supports the Bill.

In these circumstances the W.F.L. will carry on a campaign to make the electors thoroughly understand that the Conciliation Bill is a non-party measure, is promised full support by all three candidates, and that every vote given at this election is therefore a vote given for the Conciliation Bill. Miss Neilans is hard at work in the district, and would be glad to hear from members and sympathisers who can offer help or money. Please write to her, Post Office, Keighley. EDITH HOW MARTYN.

### AN APPEAL FOR PROPAGANDA WORK.

We are carrying out a campaign in the county of Montgomeryshire for the purpose of educating the country parishes to Votes for Women. So far this part of the country is untouched by the Women's Suffrage Cause, and the most extreme ignorance prevails. As the district is large and scattered the campaign will be rather costly. We hope our friends will realise the great and vital importance of this campaign. The electorates of these country districts have not had the opportunity of knowing the momentous issues of our movement, therefore they have not been able to bring the question before their county member.

I earnestly appeal for donations to help me to go on with the campaign, which begins on October 31. We are fortunate in having the assistance of Miss Alison Neilans as speaker, and several local gentlemen have promised to assist us by taking the chair, &c. Donations will be gratefully received and acknowledged. ALIX MINNIE CLARK, Hon. Secretary.  
11, Severn-street, Newtown, North Wales.

## WOMEN AND THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BILL. AMENDMENTS.

The Insurance Bill has now been amended in Committee up to and including Clause 17, with, however, power to reopen several clauses, if desired, so that it is still indefinite. We give, as briefly as possible, the main alterations made, so that its present position may be understood.

### Exemption.

The words limiting the working of employed persons possessed of the right of exemption to thirty-nine weeks in the year have been taken out, so that any women who do not desire to have the insurance payment deducted from their wages can claim that, *although working*, they are ordinarily dependent on someone else. Certificate of exemption should be granted, and no deduction made. (The bases for exemption in the case of employed persons are an unearned income or pension of, minimum, £26 per annum, or being "ordinarily dependent upon some other person.") No person is entitled to be insured whose total income from all sources exceeds £160.

### Income Limit for Medical Benefit.

The Local Health Committees will have power to fix an income limit for medical benefit; any persons exceeding the limit may be required to make their own medical arrangements, receiving a contribution from the funds of the committees not exceeding the amount which would otherwise have been spent for them. The committees may "allow any other persons" to adopt this course.

### No Age Limit for Commencing Benefits.

The words withholding sickness and disablement benefit from insured persons under sixteen have been left out, so that there is no age limit for commencing benefits, but there is a reduced rate for those under twenty-one and unmarried. A society may dispense with such reduction if such persons have one or more members of their family wholly or mainly dependent upon them. Sickness and disablement benefit cease at seventy, as before.

### Suspension of Maternity Benefit.

There is now no reduced rate for maternity benefit, but it may be "suspended," due to contributions being in arrears. Maternity benefit is payable to the wife of an insured person, resident abroad, if the wife is resident in the United Kingdom at the time.

### Married and Unmarried Women Workers.

The clause withholding sickness, disablement and medical benefit from women eligible for maternity benefit still stands, but now limits this disability "in respect of or consequent upon" confinement, and a new paragraph has been added enabling a woman "if married," or widow (in the case of posthumous child), to receive sickness or disablement benefit. Medical benefit is still excluded, and unmarried women are excluded. The position seems to be that unmarried women workers would only receive maternity benefit for their contributions, but a married woman worker, even if married to an uninsured man, would be entitled to both maternity and sickness or maternity and disablement benefit for her one contribution. The clause does not stipulate if married to an insured person—it only reads "if married." In both these cases the benefits come solely from the women's funds. If married to an "insured person," whether the mother is herself an insured person or not, the benefit comes from the men's funds. In considering this "concession" it must be borne in mind that sickness benefit commences from the "fourth day after being rendered so unfit." Disablement commences twenty-six weeks later! Further, when the woman worker is married to an insured man, two contributions have been paid.

### Administration and Choice.

Maternity benefit is now administered "in cash or otherwise" by the society or committee. (Nothing is

said as to by whom this point is to be decided.) The paragraph relating to the prescribed manner of expenditure of this benefit and failure to comply with same has been omitted. It is provided that the mother shall have free choice in the selection of doctor or midwife.

If a married woman or widow who is entitled to both sickness and maternity benefit is in any public institution no part of the maternity benefit may be applied to her dependents, but may be paid to such institution. LEAH ANSON.

(To be continued.)

WILL READERS NOTE THE PARTICULARS, to be found on p. ii. of our cover, of the portrait of Miss Florence Nightingale to be obtained from the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, 159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster?

## Actresses' Franchise League Matinée, LYCEUM THEATRE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27th, at 2.30 p.m.

Prologue by Mr. ZANGWILL | Song & Tableau, "The Awakening."  
Miss CECILIA LOFTUS and Mr. BEN WEBSTER  
in "A Doll's House."

### "ALICE IN GANDERLAND,"

By LAURENCE HOUSMAN.  
Concluding with A PAGEANT OF THE LEAGUES.

Tickets to be had at the A.F.L. Offices, 2, ROBERT STREET, STRAND  
Boxes: 4, 3, 2 guineas; Stalls, 10/6, 7/6; Dress Circle, 7/6, 6/-, 5/-;  
Pit, 2/6; Gallery, 1/.

## Men's League for Women's Suffrage

## A PUBLIC MEETING

IN SUPPORT OF THE

## Conciliation Bill,

WILL BE HELD IN THE

TOWN HALL, KING'S ROAD, CHELSEA,

ON

Thursday Evening, Nov. 2nd.

AT 8 P.M.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. The EARL RUSSELL.  
The Hon. Sir JOHN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G.  
LAURENCE HOUSMAN, Esq.  
CHAIRMAN: HERBERT JACOBS, Esq.

ADMISSION FREE. A few reserved seats in the front rows, 2s. 6d. and 1s. Tickets to be obtained from the Head Office, 159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

By Royal



Warrant.

THE  
GOLDSMITHS &  
SILVERSMITHS  
COMPANY, LTD.

FAMOUS FOR THEIR GEM  
JEWELLERY, GOLD & SILVER  
PLATE AND WATCHES.

The Public supplied direct at  
Manufacturers' Cash Prices.

112, REGENT STREET, W.



## A Sale of Footwear

that is without a parallel

—Commences Monday Next—

4,000 pairs of Boots  
and Shoes at 7/11.

Former Prices: Boots 15/9; Shoes 13/9.

—two pairs for about the price of one.

THIS is a sale of the well-known "Patrician" Footwear—a brand that has been before the British public for 15 years. The value of these Boots and Shoes at ordinary prices was always considered exceptional, but now—since the prices are approximately half—it is undeniably superior to any value previously offered.

"Patrician" models—as the name implies—are Boots and Shoes of high quality and Style. They conform accurately to the natural lines of the foot, are graceful and refined in appearance, wear well, and are exactly the class of goods required to-day.

We have purchased the manufacturer's whole stock of English Styles in this famous footwear at a great price concession, and will give the benefit to the purchasers. Every pair offered is without damage of any kind.

The number of sizes and fittings is large enough to enable us to promise a perfect fit for everyone. There are styles in Black and Brown Glace Kid, Laced, Buttoned, and Oxfords; and stronger makes in Black Box Calf and Brown Willow Calf; and with all the exceptional merits, 7/11 each pair is priced as low as

Make a note for Monday—

PETER ROBINSON'S

OXFORD ST—W.



### "SOJOURNER TRUTH."

REMINISCENCES BY FRANCES D. GAGE.

The following extract is taken from the report of the proceedings at the Akron Convention called in 1851, on May 28 and 29, to advocate the enfranchisement of women in the American States. Mrs. Frances D. Gage was chosen as President of that Convention, and her extemporaneous speech—almost the first she had made in her life—proves to us how ardently women were working and pleading for enfranchisement so many years ago.

Some of our younger readers may not know that "Sojourner Truth," Mrs. Stowe's "Lybian Sibyl," was once a slave in the State of New York, and carries to-day as many marks of the diabolism of slavery as ever scarred the back of a victim in Mississippi. Though she can neither read nor write, she is a woman of rare intelligence and common-sense on all subjects. She is still living at Battle Creek, Michigan, and is now one hundred and ten years old. Although the exalted character and personal appearance of this noble woman have been often portrayed, and her brave deeds and words many times rehearsed, we give the following graphic picture of Sojourner's appearance in one of the most stormy sessions of the Convention.

The leaders of the movement trembled on seeing a tall, gaunt black woman in a grey dress and white turban, surmounted with an uncouth sun-bonnet, march deliberately into the church, walk with the air of a queen up the aisle, and take her seat upon the pulpit steps. A buzz of disapprobation was heard all over the house, and there fell on the listening ear, "An abolition affair!" "Woman's rights and niggers!" "I told you so!" "Go it, darkey!"

I chanced on that occasion to wear my first laurels in public life as president of the meeting. At my request order was restored, and the business of the Convention went on. Morning, afternoon and evening exercises came and went. Through all these sessions old Sojourner, quiet and reticent as the "Lybian Statue," sat crouched against the wall on the corner of the pulpit stairs, her sun-bonnet shading her eyes, her elbows on her knees, her chin resting upon her broad, hard palms. At intermission she was busy selling the "Life of Sojourner Truth," a narrative of her own strange and adventurous life. Again and again, timorous and trembling ones came to me and said, with earnestness, "Don't let her speak, Mrs. Gage; it will ruin us. Every newspaper in the land will have our Cause mixed up with abolition and niggers, and we shall be utterly denounced." My only answer was: "We shall see when the time comes."

The second day the work waxed warm. Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Universalist ministers came in to hear and discuss the resolution presented. One claimed superior rights and privileges for man on the ground of "superior intellect," another because of the "manhood of Christ; if God had desired the equality of woman, He would have given some token of His will through the birth, life and death of the Saviour." Another gave us a theological view of the "sin of our first mother."

There were very few women in those days who dared to "speak in meeting," and the august teachers of the people were seemingly getting the better of us, while the boys in the galleries, and the sneerers among the pews, were hugely enjoying the discomfiture, as they supposed, of the "strong-minded." Some of the tender-skinned friends were on the point of losing dignity, and the atmosphere betokened a storm. When, slowly from her seat in the corner rose Sojourner Truth, who, till now, had scarcely lifted her head. "Don't let her speak!" gasped half a dozen in my ear. She moved slowly and solemnly to the front, laid her old bonnet at her feet, and turned her great speaking eyes to me. There was a hissing sound of disapprobation above and below. I rose and announced "Sojourner Truth," and begged the audience to keep silence for a few moments.

The tumult subsided at once, and every eye was fixed on this almost Amazon form, which stood nearly six feet high, head erect, and eyes piercing the upper air like one in a dream. At her first word there was a profound hush. She spoke in deep tones, which, though not loud, reached every ear in the church,

and away through the throng at the doors and windows.

"Wall, chilern, whar da is so much racket dar must be somethin' out of kilter. I tink dat 'twixt de niggers of de Souf and de womin at de Norf, all talkin' bout rights, de white man will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all dis here talkin' bout?"

"Dat man ober dar say dat womin needs to be helped into carriages, and lifted ober ditches, and to hab de best place everywhar. Nobody eber helps me into carriages, or ober mud-puddles, or gibs me any best place." And raising herself to her full height, and her voice to a pitch like rolling thunder, she asked: "And ain't I a woman? Look at me. Look at my arm (and she bared her right arm to the shoulder, showing her tremendous muscular power). I have ploughed, and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me. And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man—when I could get it—and bear de lash as well. And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen chilern, and seen 'em mos' all sold off to slavery; and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me. And ain't I a woman?"

"Den dey talks 'bout dis ting in de head; what dey call it?" ("Intellect," whispered someone near.) "Dat's it, honey. What's dat got to do with woman's rights or niggers' rights? If my cup won't hold but a pint, and yourn holds a quart, wouldn't ye be mean not to let me have my little half-measure full?" And she pointed her significant finger, and sent a keen glance at the minister who had made the argument. The cheering was long and loud.

"Den dat little man in black dar, he say women can't have as much rights as men, 'cause Christ wan't a woman! Whar did your Christ come from?" Rolling thunder couldn't have stilled that crowd as did those deep, wonderful tones, as she stood there with outstretched arms and eyes of fire. Raising her voice still louder, she repeated: "Whar did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Man had nothing to do with Him." Oh, what a rebuke that was to that little man!

Turning again to another objector, she took up the defence of Mother Eve. I cannot follow her through it all. It was pointed, and witty, and solemn, eliciting at almost every sentence deafening applause; and she ended by asserting: "If de fust woman God ever made was strong enough to turn de world upside down all alone, dese women together" (and she glanced her eye over the platform) "ought to be able to turn it back, and get it right side up again. And now dey is asking to do it, de men better let 'em." Long-continued cheering greeted this.

"Bleeged to ye for hearin' on me, and now ole Sojourner han't got nothing more to say."

Amid roars of applause she returned to her corner, leaving more than one of us with streaming eyes and hearts beating with gratitude. She had taken us up in her strong arms, and carried us safely over the slough of difficulty, turning the whole tide in our favour. I have never in my life seen anything like the magical influence that subdued the mobbish spirit of the day, and turned the sneers, and jeers, of an excited crowd into notes of respect and admiration. Hundreds rushed up to shake hands with her, and congratulate the glorious old mother, and bid her God-speed on her mission of "testifyin' agin concerning the wickedness of this 'ere people."

THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, distributing the prizes at the City of London School for Girls, said:—"Of all the interesting circumstances of the age in which we live, nothing is more interesting than the increasing useful positions occupied by women. And women's services to the world have been rendered more effective by the more liberal advantages placed at their disposal. There are some people who deprecate the interference of women in public life. I believe that women cannot touch anything without improving it. I would not limit the sphere of their activities, and with all my heart wish to see them in all departments of life in which their abilities permit them to take a part."



### RELIABLE FURS

Our Furs are invariably of sound and reliable quality. The shapes are excellent, and even in the lowest priced garments are never "skimmed." Our well-known 25 guinea Fur Coats are also stocked in grey squirrel, English mole-skin, natural musquash lined squirrel, and fine flat caracul.

Seal Musquash Long Fur Coat (as sketch), a luxurious new model, made from musquash skins. Exceptional quality and value.

Price 25 Gns.

In second-grade skins 19½ gns.

**Debenham  
& Freebody**  
Wigmore Street,  
(Covendish Square) London, W.

Famous for over a Century  
for Taste for Quality for Value

### MRS. NEVINSON ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

At our weekly discussion meeting at the Essex Hall last Wednesday, under the chairmanship of Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Nevinson spoke on the political situation. Those who know Mrs. Nevinson's gift for dry humour will not need to be told that the address proved as entertaining as it was instructive. Mrs. Nevinson pointed out the hopefulness of the political outlook. For the first time, a Prime Minister had given a definite pledge, and had further guaranteed that it should be carried out "in the letter and in the spirit." For the first time, a Bishop of the Church of England had made an uncompromising speech in our favour—of which the Church papers had not reported one word! For the first time, a lawyer, addressing an influential body of other lawyers, had held up the abominations of the law as it affected women, and had urged that women should have the protection of the vote. The Scottish Liberal Federation at Dunoon had passed by a big majority a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill; and for the first time, also, the boycott of the London Press had been broken down, and *The Standard* was giving a page a day to the women's movement.

Mrs. Nevinson urged her hearers not to permit the spirit of distrust to gain ground among them. Not to believe anything anybody said was a real danger to the Suffrage societies. They could never forget the betrayal of 1884, when, under threat of Mr. Gladstone's resignation, 176 Members of Parliament broke their pledged word and threw out the Suffrage Bill. In spite of all these things, Suffragists must endeavour to increase their faith. A schoolboy had said of the great Dr. Arnold: "It's a shame to tell him a lie; he always believes it." That should be their line of action, and perhaps politicians would be ashamed to betray them.

N. B.

## THE VOTE.

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

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

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

SATURDAY, October 21, 1911.

### OUT OF THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE.

We rejoice to read the glad news that in the Far West the men of California, by special referendum, have freed their women. At first the voting went against us, but later the men from ranch and farm, healthy in mind and body, turned up and out-voted the enemies of freedom. I see it is reported that the vote of the towns went against the women, as saloon-keepers and others interested in the liquor trade feared the effect of a possible Temperance reform.

The amendment for women's suffrage is now adopted, California being the sixth State in America with a free womanhood. We heartily congratulate our luckier sisters, and take their victory as a good augury for our own coming triumph. Surely Englishmen in the Old Country will not leave their women for ever in chains, when all over the world the Anglo-Saxon races are showing themselves worthy of their sires who met at Runnymede.

On the whole, our Cause has never been so near victory as now. We have the pledge of the Prime Minister in his letter written to Lord Lytton—that his promise to give full facilities for the Conciliation Bill "shall be kept both in the spirit and the letter." Forty members are willing to ballot for place, and though the wreckers will be at work, headed by Mr. Lloyd George, who announced on Saturday to the deputation of the M.P.O. "that he would work for the larger scheme," we have a solid body of supporters who may be trusted. We hear that the anti-suffrage members propose to make an unholy alliance with adult suffragists in order to throw out our Bill, and we know enough of politics to believe it.

The married woman will, of course, be trotted out, "the noblest of her sex," dear to the heart both of Liberals like Mr. Lloyd George, and Tories and Orientals like Sir Maurice Levy. This affection for married women is of recent growth, as the disabilities of "these noble women" have not weighed upon politicians for forty-two years, when single women and widows received the municipal franchise and their married sisters were practically disqualified. Neither do the deeds of politicians bear out their words, for legislation both ancient and modern (notably in this Insurance Bill) is especially hard upon wives, and a married woman in English law has fewer rights and liberties than the *feme sole*.

Other straws are blowing in the right direction. For the first time a Bishop of the Bench, Dr. Hicks, of Lincoln, has spoken publicly in favour of our Cause at the Church Congress, saying that he regarded women's suffrage not only as a just and right measure, but as a valuable factor for the moral and social regeneration of the nation.

At the Legal Conference at Nottingham, Dr. Jacques read a paper on "The Disabilities of Women under English Law," enumerating, with the skill and accuracy of the professional lawyer, the injustices to the sex, which we lay-women collect so toilsomely and painfully.

At Dunoon a meeting of Scottish Liberals, after a good deal of heckling of a democratic M.P., Mr. Pringle, who said he was in favour of women's suffrage but against the Conciliation Bill, voted eighty against thirty-two in favour of our Bill.

The Reverend Stanhope James in an open letter in *The Times* to Mr. Lloyd George, asked that gentleman his exact attitude towards the Conciliation Bill;

a deputation of the Men's Political Union did the same last Saturday. We have his answer and are prepared!

Lastly, we may count on our credit side the letters and speeches of our good friends the enemy, now appearing daily in *The Standard*, and converting many.

On Saturday we read to our infinite delight the following statement of one "Chloe" (the name does not suggest serious politics):—"The complete fallacy of the wacry, 'No taxation without representation,' has been exposed so often and clearly of late, that it is difficult to think of any society as advancing it still. Taxes, it has been pointed out almost to weariness, are money paid 'for valued received,' lighting, paving of streets, police-guardianship, &c. They are not coupons for a prize."

"Chloe" is clearly neither a tax nor a rate-payer, or she would know that these "taxes" she mentions are called rates, and that women for forty-two years have had the municipal vote in order to protect themselves and see that their representatives do give them "value for money received," that lighting is good and cheap, and that paving-stones are laid on proper cement, that police are honest men. However, as the article is a criticism of feminine methods of argument directed against Miss Pankhurst, no doubt Miss Christabel can defend herself.

Because our Cause is part of the struggle of light against darkness, of justice against injustice, of liberty against tyranny, we are bound to win; evolution is going on all the time. We are told that the ape dropped his tail and became a man, that man's fifth rib has become a woman, and that woman shortly will shake herself free of her chains. A few short months—at most a few short years—will see us delivered from the land of Egypt and out of the House of Bondage.

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON.

### ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE. LIGHT ON A DEBATED QUESTION.\*

The Corresponding Secretary of the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage is the Rev. Hatty Baker, one of the few women who, as yet, have entered the Christian ministry. In a small book, written by Miss Baker, entitled "Women in the Ministry," obtainable for the sum of sixpence, she deals with the prejudice which has so long excluded women from this noble service, and argues that the great need of to-day is a ministry in which men and women work together. The pages of Miss Baker's book are packed with information and interest; she discusses the question from the Scriptural point of view, from the point of view of the early Church, and from that of the twentieth century. Naturally St. Paul's dictum with regard to women comes under review, and Miss Baker insists that other less quoted pronouncements of the apostle tell in favour of women preachers. Reference is also made to the mediæval story of the woman, said to be of English descent, who became Pope, but a more tangible fact is the recognition by the Society of Friends of the equality of men and women as preachers. Miss Baker's excellent book is worthy of study by everyone interested in the woman's movement; a perusal of it by our members would be an excellent preparation for the discussion meeting on October 25, when Miss Baker is to speak on the same subject. She holds up to women a high ideal of service they can render as preachers, but she writes: "Never undertake it save as you know yourself touched, aye, burned (*branded*) of God."

ACTIVITIES OF THE MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The Men's League is organising a series of important meetings in London in support of the Conciliation Bill, the first of which will be held in the Town Hall, Chelsea, on Thursday, November 2, at 8 p.m. The speakers are:—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, the Earl Russell, Sir John Cockburn, and Mr. Laurence Housman. Mr. Herbert Jacobs will preside. Admission free; a few reserved seats at 2s. 6d. and 1s.

\* "Women in the Ministry." By Hatty Baker. (London: C. W. Daniel. 6d. net.)

### MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S DECLARATION ON THE CONCILIATION BILL.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, after speaking on the National Insurance Bill at Whitefield's Tabernacle on Saturday, October 14, received a deputation from the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement and explained his position with regard to the Conciliation Bill. A request that Mr. Lloyd George would receive a deputation was at first met by a refusal, but on Saturday morning the Union heard by telephone that the request would be granted for Monday; eventually, Saturday was agreed upon. The deputation consisted of Mr. Victor D. Duval, Mr. Hugh A. Franklin, and Mr. Cameron Swann. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was accompanied by Mr. Masterman and the Rev. Silvester Horne, M.P. Mr. Duval referred to the remarks said to have been made by the Chancellor on the Conciliation Bill at a meeting of Liberals; these were repudiated by Mr. Lloyd George, who declared that he objected to be cross-examined on a speech made at a private meeting. *The Standard*, giving an account of the deputation, reports that Mr. Lloyd George said he was certainly in favour of woman suffrage and he did not think that he had heard a serious argument against it yet; but he was in favour of the suffrage only upon the terms on which it had been given in any other democratic country. He was in favour of it as it had been given in New Zealand and Australia, and he was not aware of any civilised country where anything like the Conciliation Bill had been carried. Therefore, because he believed the effect of it would be to put undue and unfair weight in certain directions and not attain a fair representation of the whole of the women of this country, he thought it was the very worst way of proceeding. The deputation would say that that was establishing a principle. He thought it did in such a way as to make it very much more difficult to extend it, and for that reason he was not convinced yet that it was easier to carry the Conciliation Bill than to carry a larger Bill.

He should work for the larger scheme until he was convinced it could not be carried in this country. They had never tested the other scheme yet. Next year they would have a fair test, and he would judge upon the circumstances, but they might take it from him that he was not a member of the conspiracy which it had been said had been formed to thwart the Women's Movement. He should not depart from his present position until convinced that the Conciliation Bill was the only practicable method of getting recognised woman suffrage in this country for some time.

Mr. Duval said that all women wanted was to be able to go with their brothers to the polling-booth to register their vote.

Mr. Lloyd George: Of all the impracticable, stupid propositions, I never heard anything more thoroughly ludicrous than that. Is that all women want? I thought they wanted the vote to protect the interests of women.

Mr. Duval said he considered the larger scheme was impracticable, and would never go through.

Mr. Lloyd George: I have no doubt that you are a better authority on what is practicable than I am. If I may say so, the supporters of the Conciliation Bill are behaving in such a way that I honestly believe that if we succeed in getting the larger Bill through they will turn round and call us traitors. Don't you hinder the Women's Movement. That is what you are doing. We are trying to get millions enfranchised, and you say, "No, we only want a million."

A speedy result of this declaration was a letter to *The Standard* from Mr. A. Maconachie, an open opponent of Woman Suffrage, welcoming Mr. Lloyd George's attitude and rejoicing that it would now be easy to strangle the Bill. The letter is as follows:—

"The 'Conciliation' Bill is doomed. That, in my view, is the net result of Mr. Lloyd George's declaration of policy, which is also a declaration of war.

"The majority for the second reading on May 5 was 167. A transfer of 85 votes will suffice to strangle the Bill, and it is practically certain that in the present House of Commons Mr. Lloyd George will have no difficulty in finding that number of advanced Radicals and Labour members who are suffragists, but who will not have a gerrymandering Bill for the special delectation of their Unionist opponents. For every practical politician perceives that that would be the result of enfranchising only the woman householder. Mr. Lloyd George is on absolutely unassailable ground in insisting that, if women voters are to be, they must be numbered by millions, not by one million.

"As an anti-suffragist, I am delighted with this turn of affairs, for it will be easier to fight the open, whole-hog proposal than the subtle and deceptive policy of the Conciliation Bill. That Bill is merely dust in the eyes of the public, to blind the country to the true measure of the revolution which is projected."

### WOMEN WORKERS IN CONFERENCE.

The Conference of the National Union of Women Workers was held in Glasgow from October 9 to October 13. The attendance was large and the meetings full of interest; the papers contained many suggestive facts and figures for all women who are concerning themselves with the social problems of the day. "Public Opinion and the Press in Relation to Public Opinion" was the subject of the Conference. Lady Laura Ridding in her Presidential Address spoke on "Public Opinion." She claimed that the subject was eminently practical and adapted to present-day needs, and declared that public affairs had ever been determined in civilised States by the gradual formation and final ascendency of common opinion, which rises like a tide and eventually carries everything before it.

"At this moment," she said, "in regard to primary duties and principles, the nation seems again to have sunk into a strangely dumb and torpid condition caused, not by her conservatism, but by her materialism. She needs prophets to awaken her to a greater sense of self-sacrifice, justice, and liberty, to turn her eyes away from earth to the heavenly vision, and to touch her lips with fire from the altar that, as in past times of her history, so now again, the whole nation may once more testify her belief in truth and holiness in the expression of her public opinion."

Dr. Mary Murdoch followed with an able paper on the question of "Housing and National Health." She said it was sixty years since Charles Dickens said, "The reform of the housing of the people must precede all other reforms, for without it all reform would fail." The saying remained true to-day, and although public opinion had been raised and legislation had been framed it remained with us to see that it was enforced. Dr. Murdoch also dealt strongly on the fact that a temperate nation would make a healthy nation.

Lady Bathersea presided at the afternoon session, at which papers were read on "Public Opinion in Regard to the Penal System." Among the readers of interesting papers was Mrs. Walter Runciman, who spoke on "The System as it Affected Juveniles," and dealt with reformatory treatment, particularly the Borstal system.

In the evening excellent addresses were delivered by Mrs. Heitland and Mrs. Hannay on "The Press in Relation to Public Opinion," and Mr. W. A. Coote, secretary of the National Vigilance Association, read a paper on "The Press as an Educational Force."

The next day Miss D. S. Potter spoke on "The Insurance Bill as it Affected Women." She pointed out how women had the greatest difficulty in bettering the position of women because they were not yet in a position to exercise influence directly through the vote. Emphasis was laid on this fact by the majority of speakers throughout the Conference.

The third day was largely devoted to papers and discussions on "The White Slave Traffic," and a resolution was passed asking the Government to give immediate facilities for the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which is designed to give greater legal powers for dealing with the evil. A resolution was also adopted urging that an amendment should be added to the National Insurance Bill, securing that at least one of the Insurance Commissioners should be a woman, and that one-fifth of the Advisory Committee and one-fourth of every Health Committee should be women.

At the final session of the Conference Lady Laura Ridding presided, and Mrs. Creighton gave an address on "Responsibility in Thought and Opinion." Principal George Adam Smith gave the final paper on "The Improved Conditions of Women's Work During the Last Twenty Years." "Much has been already done," he declared, "but still much work is waiting to be done." He concluded by an eloquent appeal to all who were working for the common good to keep bright and pure their own ideals.

A Suffrage Day concluded the gatherings. Lady Betty Balfour and Mrs. Philip Snowden were among the principal speakers; the "anti's" also rallied their forces. E. G. M.



NEW COSTUMES . . .  
FOR PRESENT WEAR.

= WILLIAM =  
**OWEN**  
WESTBOURNE GROVE, W.

The "Patrician."

Smart Walking Costume in Navy Coating, lined Satin, and trimmed Black Silk Military Braid. Skirt cut with the new box-pleated back. Also in Black.

Price 63/-



The "Mayfield."

Very Smart Costume, in the new Reversible Tweed, Coat lined Silk, with Velvet Collar. The Revers, Pockets and foot of Skirt are trimmed with the reverse side of material. In a good variety of shades.

Price 63/-

WILLIAM OWEN,  
WESTBOURNE GROVE, . . . LONDON, W.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

\* \* \* Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND THE INSURANCE BILL.  
To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam.—It is unfortunate that we never seem to have an opportunity of joining in the benedictions which are showered upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Whitefield's and elsewhere. Perhaps if we had more chance of hearing him, we also should feel assured that the Insurance Bill "confers so many direct benefits upon women." Mr. Lloyd George's speech last Saturday was instructive. He said: "They (women) pay 1d. less and they get what corresponds to the value of that penny less." Now, we regret that the actuarial value of the woman's 8d. insurance in proportion to the man's 9d. is not 7s. 6d., but 8s. 11d. How do these "correspond"? Still it is only a loss of 1s. 5d. a week, and what of that to a poor woman! Mr. Lloyd George continues: "Then the maternity benefit—one million and a half every year given to the women." Here again we thought this was a benefit to men to pay for the costs of a wife's confinement; at any rate, a wife does not get it unless the husband is insured, or if she has paid for it herself, in which case, we suppose, even Mr. Lloyd George would admit, she is directly entitled to it.

"I have been trying to persuade them" (that women are better off than men under the Bill). This is quite news to us, as we do not recollect hearing of the great mass meeting for women only on the Insurance Bill, or any other evidence of persuasion. If we remember rightly, Mr. Lloyd George received one deputation of women and persistently interrupted and sneered at them.

It is unfortunate the Chancellor did not finish his sentence about the sanatoria for women, as we are under the impression that there is no sanatoria provision for women whatsoever, unless, indeed, that too is one of the "things we are trying to arrange." We think that the fact that while men and women earning 15s. a week will each pay 3d., and the woman receives 7s. 6d., and the man 10s. might also be "arranged" rather more fairly; but then, as Mr. Lloyd George says, "It is an impossible task" to persuade women that their 3d. is not as good as a man's.—Yours faithfully

ALISON NEILANS,  
National Executive Committee of the Women's Freedom League.

WOMEN AND BOROUGH COUNCILS.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM.—In reference to Mrs. Coates Hansen's letter, may I point out that I think one reason why women have shown no anxiety to serve on Borough Councils is that, as Borough Councillors, they would have little opportunity of doing that "women's work" that we are all so insistent needs to be done. Roughly speaking, I believe the duties of such Councillors are:—The lighting and watching of the borough; the maintenance in good order of all drains and sewers that run into the main sewers; paving cleansing, watering and general improvement of the streets; preventing street obstruction; affixing names—previously sanctioned by the L.C.C.—to the streets; removing unauthorised sky signs, house refuse, dust and garbage; checking nuisances, especially the smoke nuisance and nuisances connected with offensive businesses; enforcing the provisions of the Public Health Acts as regards infectious diseases, disinfection, &c.; administering the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act; registering local dairies; attending to the sanitary condition of local factories and workshops and bakeries; inspecting slaughter-houses; providing mortuaries; remedying defective water fittings, seeing that new houses are equipped with a proper water supply and that cisterns are clean; maintaining proper baths and wash-houses; maintaining public libraries; maintaining the cemeteries.

As citizens, undoubtedly we are much indebted to the various Councils for the way in which these duties are fulfilled. The improvement in the appearance of the streets can be well gauged by the illustration in Harnsworth's "Universal History" (page 4,817), of the late Queen Victoria's first official visit to the City. Probably no street of any town or suburb in our time presents such a neglected aspect as the City did then. None the less, participation in such duties would in no way assist the accomplishment of the "women's work" we have so much at heart.—Yours faithfully,  
ADA CUNNINGHAM.

TAX RESISTANCE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM.—May I, through your columns, express the gratitude I feel for the generous response of the Branches and members of the W.F.L. towards the fund raised in recognition of my tax resistance protest and used for carrying on the general work of the League? As a member of the N.E. Committee I know the constant efforts of our treasurer to raise money, and ensure with careful expenditure the best results for what is, to my mind, the greatest and most righteous Cause of the present day. The practical recognition of my efforts by our members gives me encouragement and strength necessary for future work.—I am, yours faithfully,  
EMMA SPROSON,  
Kelmecott, Wokingham, October 15.

THE PIT BROW GIRLS OF FIFE—AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM.—At the great meeting to be held in London on October 31, under the auspices of Miss Eva Gore-Booth and Miss Esther Roper, to protest against the amendment to the Coal Mines Bill prohibiting the further employment of women as pit brow workers, it would be well that all sections of pit brow girls should be represented. In Scotland the measure affects some 2,000 women in the districts of Lanark and Fife. Arrangements have been made to send up girls from Lanark to the meeting, but so far Fife has been unable to organise its forces.

I venture, therefore, to appeal to the readers of THE VOTE for help (i) to raise the £10 needful for the expenses of organisation and for the journey of two pit brow girls from Fife to London (ii) To give hospitality during the week-end of October 31 to these two girls.

All contributions and all offers of hospitality will be gratefully received and acknowledged by Mrs. R. K. Hannay, 81, North-street, St. Andrews, Fife. I remain, Madam, faithfully yours,  
J. E. HANNAY.

81, North-street, St. Andrews, October 16, 1911.

MISS MALECKA BAIL FUND.

On Monday the Foreign Office received a wire from the British Consul at Warsaw stating that the £2,000 required for the bail of Miss Malecka should be sent at once. Our readers are aware of the urgent need of this Englishwoman, who has been for months in a Russian prison without trial. Here is a way to help. Donations should be sent to the credit of the Miss Malecka Bail Fund at the London County and Westminster Bank, Temple Bar, London, E.C.

THE THREE ESSENTIALS

of a good boot are—

1. Comfort.
2. Elegance.
3. Durability.

The Boots and Shoes supplied by . . .

HALL & SONS, Ltd.,

combine all these characteristics. HALL & SONS, Ltd., also make a feature of Sandal-Form footwear, specially designed to take the natural outline of the foot.

WE INVITE members of the Women's Freedom League and readers of "THE VOTE" to inspect our New Designs in Boots and Shoes for

For Winter Wear, Calf Coloured.  
Boots..... 17/9  
Shoes..... 13/9

WINTER WEAR.

HALL & SONS, Ltd., 112, Strand, London, W.C.

DO YOUR FEET ACHE ?

THE SCHOLL "FOOT-EAZER," worn inside the boot, instantly relieves tired, aching feet, and all forms of foot trouble by bridging over the weight from the heel to the toes, thus equalizing the weight of the body and eliminating all muscular and nervous strain.

THE SCHOLL "FOOT-EAZER" consists of two German Silver springs, leather covered, and is light and comfortable to wear. It provides untold foot comfort, and increases your capacity for walking, making that exercise a positive pleasure.

Every pair carefully fitted, and sold on 10 days' free trial. Price 7/6 per pair.

HALL & SONS, 112, Strand, W.C.  
And 60, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

MADAME LOUISE



THE "W.F.L." HAT

Designed in the Colours of the League by Mrs. Thomson-Price. A Charming Hat in Green Felt with White Quills and Gold Buckle.

MADE BY LOUISE,  
266, REGENT STREET, W.

COLLOA,

60, St. Paul's Churchyard, LONDON, E.C.



Costumes to  
Measure from  
42/-

MOTOR COATS  
and FURS :: ::

Illustrated Catalogue  
and Patterns sent post  
free on application.

Made in the New Reversible  
Tweeds at  
21/-  
In Real Harris Tweeds,  
50/-

Special Attention  
to  
Country Orders.

## HAIR ON FACE AND NECK. ELECTROLYSIS

as performed by MADAM MAY DEW is the only way by which superfluous hair can be permanently destroyed. **30 to 40 Hairs Removed in Half-an-hour, 7/6. No mark or scar.**

A beautiful complexion procured by using the unrivalled skin food, **FLORIS CREAM.** Imparts a youthful appearance. Send 3d. stamps for trial jar.

Sample Box of High-class Specialities, 1s.

Hours: 10 to 5.30 a.m. Saturdays 10 to 1. Telephone - 877 MAYFAIR.

**Madam MAY DEW, 95, Wigmore-st., W.**

## MODERN ARTISTIC DRESS

"The Studio," 34, Baker Street, W.

**MORA PUCKLE**  
Embroidered  
Coats, Dresses  
and Djibbahs



**MARIE ROCHFORD**  
HandmadeHats  
(very Light in Weight)  
Toques and  
Bonnets.

**FIRTH & MARSDEN,**  
16, JOHN DALTON STREET, MANCHESTER.

### BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

Mr. Mitchell most kindly, at very short notice, came down to speak for us at the Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace, last Monday. THE VOTE was sold. Next Monday will probably be the last of our open-air meetings. By kind permission of Mrs. Myers a drawing-room meeting will be held at 112, Marlow-road, Anerley, on Tuesday, October 31, at 3 p.m. Miss Ethel Fennings will be the speaker. The secretary will be pleased to hear from anyone who would like an invitation. Miss Fennings has been asked to give an address at the Men's Adult School, Woodside, on November 5.

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

On Friday, October 13, at the usual weekly "At Home," we had the great pleasure of listening to a lucid and inspiring address from our President, Mrs. Despard. She laid special stress upon the Anti-Suffragists' views against women taking part in Imperial matters, and showed how women were associated with practically every form of social life, which is the basis of true Imperialism. Mrs. Marion Holmes occupied the chair. After questions had been answered, tea was served. Great satisfaction was expressed with the inspiring address. The secretary will be pleased to receive promises of articles for sale at the "At Home" on October 30. There will be a stall for useful articles, and a refreshment stall.—E. T.

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

An interesting debate took place at Abney Literary Society on October 9, when Mrs. Mustard, of the Hackney Branch W.F.L., took the affirmative, and Mrs. Gladstone Solomon, Organising Secretary of W.U.O.W.S., took the negative of "Should women have the Parliamentary Vote?" Mrs. Mustard stated the case very lucidly from the historical, political and economic aspects. Mrs. Solomon's speech was in no sense a reply to Mrs. Mustard's, consisting as it did mainly in aspersions on the Conciliation Bill, and on the character of those whom it proposed to enfranchise. In the discussion Mrs. Solomon was very severely criticised for making such statements as "all women are jealous," "women have drawn up a Bill" (i.e., the Conciliation Bill). One venerable gentleman, who gave some personal reminiscences of past franchise extensions, advised Mrs. Solomon to "go home and think about it." The

voting went in favour of Woman Suffrage. At the Branch meeting, on Thursday, October 19, Mrs. Stebbings will give a lecture on "Palmistry." A special display of poker-work articles will be on sale to League members and friends at reasonable prices.—P. LE C.

**Hampstead Garden Suburb.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. BETHAM, 7, Woodside.

The first political meeting of the Branch will take the form of attendance at the Hampstead "At Home" on Thursday, October 19. On November 2 its first social meeting will be held in the Institute at 7.30 p.m., when there will be a programme of music, and Miss Nina Boyle will speak. Tickets, 6d. each. Miss Annie Valerio has undertaken the arrangement, and it is hoped that all members will endeavour to secure a large attendance of the residents in the Suburb and elsewhere.—E. L. B.

**Highbury.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss B. M. JOHN, 65, Marquess-road, Canonbury.

Our "At Home" on Tuesday was well attended, and we are very grateful to the speakers, Mrs. Despard, Miss Underwood, and Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P. The larger part of the audience consisted of strangers, who listened with deep interest and enthusiasm to the eloquent and convincing arguments of Mrs. Despard and Mr. Chancellor. We were all especially glad to hear Mr. Chancellor promise once more to do everything in his power, both inside and outside of the House, to get the Conciliation Bill passed next Session. The singing of "The Awakening" by Miss Huxtable was much enjoyed. Under the heading of "Suffragettes at Barnsbury Hall," the local Press gave a good report of the meeting. THE VOTE and literature sold well, and a good collection was taken. Our thanks are due to Miss Nina Boyle and Mrs. Clarkson Swann for two splendid open-air meetings advertising the "At Home."—B. M. J.

**Kensington.**—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. WALL COUSINS, 7 Castelnau Mansions, Barnes, W.; Miss REEVES, 16, Bracewell-road, W. Kensington.

A Branch Meeting was held on Thursday, October 12, when arrangements were made for our "At Home" on Thursday, December 7, 8.30 p.m. It was also arranged to hold a members' meeting on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of each month during the winter at 53, Drayton-gardens. Will all members endeavour to keep these evenings free?

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

The Branch held its farewell meeting for this year in Hyde Park on Sunday, October 15. Mrs. Nevinson and Mrs. Tanner were the speakers. The former pointed out very humorously the many anomalies in our laws where women, more particularly married women, are concerned. Her points were much appreciated by the audience. Mrs. Tanner referred to the inconsistent and illogical arguments of the anti-Suffragists, and made a strong appeal to sympathisers present to do all they could in a practical manner to ensure the passing of the Conciliation Bill into law. Will volunteers for the House of Commons parade on October 24 send in their names? Remember also the interesting discussion meetings, Lower Essex Hall, Strand, on Wednesdays, 8 p.m.—R. S. T.

**Stamford Hill.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Homleigh-road, N.

Our first evening "At Home" this session is fixed for November 7, at 7.30 p.m., at Northfield College (by kind permission of Miss James). The speakers' class meets on Thursday, October 26, at 8 p.m., at Mrs. Thomson's, 7, East-bank, when last week's discussion will be continued, Mrs. Cunningham dealing with "The Powers of Local Government Authorities in Relation to Women's Work."

### SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

**Brighton and Hove.**—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. FRANCIS, 51, Buckingham-place, Brighton; Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

A successful and enjoyable Whist Drive was held on Saturday at Mrs. Budd's house in aid of the local funds. It is hoped that as many members as possible will avail themselves of our Saturday evening "socials" and bring their friends. Will those who have anything for the Jumble Sale kindly let Miss Hare know by the morning of Saturday, October 21, so that the things may be collected? We are looking forward to Mrs. Despard's visit on Wednesday, October 25, when she is speaking for the W.F.L. in the afternoon at Miss Hare's house, and at 8 p.m. is holding an open meeting at the rooms of the Theosophical Lodge, 19, Norfolk Terrace.

### WALES AND MONMOUTH.

**Swansea.**—Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. KNIGHT, 23, Walter-road; Hon. Correspondence Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty.

As Sir Alfred Mond is speaking at Swansea on October 18 on the Insurance Bill, we have thought it advisable to postpone our Branch Meeting to October 25. We are giving "The Pot and the Kettle" on December 18, the first performance of this play in Swansea. By the time this notice appears one of our members, Mrs. Cole Morgan, will have taken our side in a debate, in Welsh, at Capel Henrietta. We hope she will be able to report a victory. The secretaries would be glad if any members taking part in such debates would let them know about a fortnight in advance, so that the meetings may be announced in THE VOTE.

### EAST ANGLIA.

**Ipswich.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss C. E. ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road.

Will members and friends do their best to make known our Sale of Work, which takes place on Friday, October 27. On November 2, Mr. Henlé has promised to speak for us; on November 9 we are arranging a Tax Resistance Meeting, at which Mrs. Kineton Parkes and Mrs. Louis Fagan will be the speakers. A letter has been sent to the candidates for the coming municipal elections, asking them if they are in favour of the Conciliation Bill, and an effort will be made to obtain votes for those who give a satisfactory answer.

### SCOTLAND.

**Dundee.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss L. CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent, Dundee.

Our "Three-minute Speeches" Meeting proved most interesting, and resulted in animated discussions. On the first question, "Should women concentrate on the Parliamentary Vote by giving up all other public work until it is granted?" Miss Clunas took the affirmative. The general opinion on the second, "Is the Municipality fair to women?" proposed by Miss A. P. Grant, a Parish Councillor, was that through ignorance a Town Council is often unfair to women. Some of the grievances will no doubt be brought forward at the elections in November. A message of congratulation was sent to Miss Moorhead, a member of the W.S.P.U., who has the honour of being Dundee's first tax-resister. Lady Griselda is our speaker on October 26. Members are asked to be present in large numbers, and to bring their Anti-Suffrage friends.

**Edinburgh.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place. Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

On Wednesday evening a fine address was delivered by Miss Anna Munro, dealing with the Conciliation Bill, and especially with the three reasons which render it imperative that everyone should work for that measure at present—the payment of Members, the treatment of women under the Insurance Bill and the proposed legislation dealing with pitwork workers. There was a good attendance, presided over by Miss Sara Munro. Tickets (2s., 1s., and 6d.) for Mrs. Despard's Shelley Lecture on November 15, are now ready, and handbills can be had for distribution. All members are urged to work their hardest for this meeting. Mr. A. Blyth Webster, M.A., Lecturer in English Literature at the University, has kindly consented to take the chair. A beginning has been made with the work-party for the sale (November 25) in the shop on Tuesday afternoons. All

who are free are asked to attend. Tea is served from 4 to 4.30 p.m. HELEN McLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

**Glasgow.**—Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow. Hon. Secretary: Miss M. STEVEN. Hon. Treasurer: Miss JANET L. BUNTON.

On Saturday, October 21, at 7.30 p.m., an "At Home," at which Mrs. Murray is to give a musical entertainment, will be held in the Centre. We hope all members will come and bring their friends. Will all those who intend going to the Fancy Dress Party secure their tickets at once? Remember the Jumble Sale on November 4. Goods can be left at the Centre, or on receiving a postcard here will be collected.

### INCOME FOR SEPTEMBER, 1911:—

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Donations and Sub-		Miss E. Murray	4 0 0
scriptions:—		Mrs. Wilson	1 0 0
Anon. . . . .	2 0 0	Miss J. L. Bunton	0 10 0
Mrs. Beatson . . . . .	0 1 0	Collecting Boxes:—	
Mrs. Stevens . . . . .	0 5 0	Miss B. White	0 7 9½
Miss B. Semple . . . . .	0 8 8	Miss E. Murray	4 16 10
Miss Sylvia Murray	1 10 0	Membership fees	0 15 0
Miss M. Findlay . . . . .	1 1 0	Collections . . . . .	1 3 11½
Mrs. Turner . . . . .	1 1 0	Sales, &c. . . . .	7 0 4½
Mr. Scrimgeour . . . . .	3 0 0	Amount previously ac-	
Collecting Cards:—		knowledged	209 5 10½
Miss Morrison . . . . .	0 7 0	Total	£240 3 6½
Miss Steven . . . . .	0 10 0		
Miss McHaffie . . . . .	1 0 0		

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE have organised an irresistible feast of good things for their Matinée on October 27 (See advertisement, p. 315.)

A PIT BROW WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION.—At a public meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, E.C., on Tuesday, October 31, at 8 p.m., twenty pit brow women workers will be on the platform in their working dress. Two of them will speak against the abolition of their work, and will be supported by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wigan, Miss Gore-Booth, Miss Esther Roper and others. Admission free; reserved seats, 2s. 6d. and 1s.

IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF GIRLS' CLUBS, debates on Women's Suffrage will be held at the small Queen's Hall on Friday, October 27, and on Monday, November 6, at 5 p.m. On October 27 Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, M.A., will oppose Mr. G. K. Chesterton; on November 6 Miss Cicely Hamilton will oppose Miss Gladys Pott. Tickets 5s., 4s., 2s. 6d., 1s.; or for two debates, 8s. 6d., 7s., 4s., 2s., may be obtained at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Room 28, or from the offices of the Organisation, 118, Great Titchfield-street, W.

## You Can Order Everything by Post.

A distinctive feature of our business is the execution of orders received by post. These are executed by special staffs expressly appointed for the purpose, and receive precisely the same careful attention as orders given personally.

### A Bonus on - Your Purchases

If you open a Deposit Account, keep it in credit and spend not less than £25 in a year, you will receive a bonus of 2% on your purchases. Write for full particulars.

### Catalogue of - - 1,000 Pages Free.

This invaluable shopping guide, profusely illustrated, will be sent free and carriage paid to any address. Write for it to-day on a postcard.

## SPIERS & POND'S STORES

QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, E.C.  
(Opposite St. Paul's Station, S. E. and C. Railway.)

Free Daily Delivery by Vans and Motors in London and Suburbs. Country orders sent carriage paid to nearest goods station, certain heavy and bulky goods excepted.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

## LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

**Thurs., Oct. 19.**—Hampstead Branch "At Home," at the Subscription Library, Prince Arthur-road, 3.30 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, Miss C. V. Tite. *Chairman:* Mrs. Nevinson.

Hackney Branch Meeting, 4, Clarence-road Hackney, 8 p.m. Mrs. Stebbings on "Pal-mistry" and special display of poker-work.

**Fri., Oct. 20.**—"At Home," at the W.F.L. Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3 to 5.30 p.m.

Open-air Meeting, Thornton Heath Clock, 7.30 p.m.

**Mon., Oct. 23.**—Herne Hill and Norwood Branch "At Home," Willoughby Hall, West Norwood, 8 o'clock. *Speakers:* Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Nina Boyle. *Chairman:* Miss C. V. Tite.

London Branches Council Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7 p.m.

Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace, 7.30 p.m.

**Tues., Oct. 24.**—Market-place, Acton, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Duval, Mr. R. Pott.

**Wed., Oct. 25.**—Discussion Meeting, Lower Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Rev. Hatty Baker on "Should Women Enter the Ministry?" *Chairman:* Mrs. Mustard.

**Thurs., Oct. 26.**—Kensington Branch Members' Meeting, 53, Drayton-gardens, by kind permission of Miss Tite, 8.15 p.m.

**Fri., Oct. 27.**—"At Home," W.F.L. Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3 to 5.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Tanner.

**Mon., Oct. 30.**—Croydon Branch "At Home," Public Hall, George-street, 6 to 10.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. How Martyn, Miss Nina Boyle.

**Tues., Oct. 31.**—Drawing-room Meeting at 112, Marlow-road, 3 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Ethel Fennings.

**Wed., Nov. 1.**—Discussion Meeting, Lower Essex Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle on "Should British Women be Imperialists?"

**Thurs., Nov. 2.**—Social Meeting in the Institute, Hampstead Garden Suburb, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 6d. *Speaker:* Miss Nina Boyle.

**Fri., Nov. 3.**—National Executive Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 2.30 p.m.

**Sat., Nov. 4.**—National Executive Committee Meeting, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 10 a.m.

**Tues., Nov 7.**—Stamford Hill Branch "At Home," 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Tanner.

**Tues., Nov. 14.**—Clapham Branch "At Home," Wirtemberg Hall, Clapham, 3.30 p.m. Lady Stout, Mrs. How Martyn. *Chairman:* Miss C. V. Tite.

## BRIGHTON. PROVINCES.

**Wed., Nov. 8.**—Miss Nina Boyle.

## CHELTENHAM.

**Thurs., Oct. 19.**—Town Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard, on "The Unmarried Mother."

**Fri., Oct. 20.**—At "Snowden," London-road, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

## GLOUCESTER.

**Thurs., Oct. 19.**—3, Heathville-road, by kind invitation of Miss N. Booth, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

**Fri., Oct. 20.**—Glevum Hall, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard on "The Unmarried Mother."

## GRAVESEND.

**Tues., Oct 31.**—Miss Nina Boyle.

## IPSWICH.

**Fri., Oct. 27.**—Sale of Work, Old Museum Rooms.

**Thurs., Nov. 2.**—"At Home." Mr. Henlé.

## HANLEY.

**Sat., Oct. 21.**—Lecture Room, Glass-street, Hanley, 6 to 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

## MIDDLESBROUGH.

**Thurs., Oct. 26.**—Branch Members' Meeting. Miss C. V. Tite

## MIDHURST.

**Wed., Nov. 1.**—Jumble and Provision Sale, Easebourne Village Hall, 2.30 p.m.

## SOUTH SHIELDS.

**Mon., Oct. 23.**—Branch Members' Meeting. Miss C. V. Tite.

## SUNDERLAND.

**Tues., Oct. 24.**—Branch Members' Meeting. Miss C. V. Tite.

## WEST HARTLEPOOL.

**Wed., Oct. 25.**—Branch Members' Meeting. Miss C. V. Tite

## SCOTLAND.

## DUNDEE.

**Thurs., Oct. 26.**—Gilfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Lady Griselda Cheape (President, St. Andrews Branch, Anti-Suffrage League).

(Forthcoming Events continued on page iii. of cover.)

**VITAREGIS**  
THE CELEBRATED  
**Sulphur Aperient Water**  
Removes and prevents Rheumatism,  
Neuritis, Gout, and other Uric Acid  
Troubles.  
OF ALL CHEMISTS.

EXCELLENT  
FOR THE  
COMPLEXION.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD.

President: The Rt. Hon. The EARL OF LYTTON.  
9, Grafton Street, W. Telephone: 3932 Mayfair.

LIST OF LECTURES—Autumn Session, 1911.  
At 8.30 p.m.

*Wednesday, Oct. 18.*—THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN ITS RELATION TO PRESENT-DAY POLITICAL MORALITY. Miss BROADHURST.  
*Chairman:* Mr. HERBERT JACOBS.

*Thursday, Oct. 26.*—ANNUAL DINNER, Criterion Restaurant.  
*Chairman:* Sir ALFRED MOND, M.P.

*Speakers:* The Hon. Sir JOHN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G., Mr. ISRAEL ZANGWILL, Mrs. PHILIP SNOWDEN, Miss GERTRUDE KINGSTON, and others.

*Wednesday, Nov. 15.*—WOMEN IN TURKEY. Miss ISABEL FRY.  
*Chairman:* Mr. H. W. NEVINSON.

*Wednesday, Nov. 29.*—PLAYS OF TO-DAY. Mr. J. T. GREEN, Dramatic Critic of *The Sunday Times* and *The Ladies' Field*.

*Chairman:* Mr. GOLDFINCH BATE.

*Wednesday, Dec. 13.*—Resolution for Debate: THAT WOMEN ARE FAVOURED BY THE LAW.  
*Proposer:* Mr. GRAHAM MOULD, Barrister-at-Law. *Opposer:* EARL RUSSELL, Barrister-at-Law. *Chairman:* Miss OTTER.

## Subscriptions:

Town Members	£1 1 0	and Entrance Fee,	£1 1 0
Country	„	£1 1 0	
Foreign	„	£0 10 6	

Hon. Treas.,  
GOLDFINCH BATE.

Secretary,  
Miss GRAY HILL.

**DON'T WAIT**  
until  
**A STRIKE is DECLARED,**  
but  
**Order your Coal at once**  
from

**William CLARKE & SON**

Stove Coal.....	22/6	Special House ..	25/6
Large Kitchen ..	23/-	Best Household..	26/-
Roaster Nuts ....	23/6	Silkstone .....	27/-
Best Nuts .....	25/-	Anthracite Nuts..	40/-

341, GRAY'S INN ROAD, KING'S CROSS, W.C.  
95, QUEEN'S ROAD, BAYSWATER, W.  
Telephones: 628, 1592 and 2718 North, 565 Paddington, &c.

Deliveries most parts of London (Country by arrangement)

Floral Artists to  
H.R.H. The Princess Christian.

**CHARLES WOOD & SON**  
(Successor CHAS. H. W. WOOD).  
23, HIGH STREET, MANCHESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.

Every Variety of Floral Work in Town or Country. The Choicest Selection of Cut Flowers and Plants.

Orders by post receive prompt attention.

Established 1850. Telephone 2924. Window Boxes, &c.

Estimates Free.