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Proposed New Paper.

THERE would appear to be an opening for a weekly paper appealing primarily to the increasing class of educated women who have intellectual, industrial, or public interests. The number of such women grows daily larger. 'The Englishwoman's Year-Book,' published last year, included institutions and societies of various kinds, the number of which (not counting "refuges" and "homes") amounted to some thousands. It may fairly be reckoned that each of these institutions or societies represents the co-operation of at least three women. Probably every one of these women, besides a good many others unconnected with any of these institutions are interested in many topics quite untouched by the average "woman's paper," and dealt with only very inadequately by any existing review or magazine. A reading public is thus constituted which, no doubt, would never be vast—never comparable in numbers with the public catered for by *Tit-Bits* or by the *Strand Magazine*—but which, on the other hand, would probably be very steady. The aim should be to create a review which no member of that public would willingly be without.

The proprietor of *Women's Franchise*, foreseeing from the beginning that his enterprize was but a first step that would probably need to be followed by other steps, several months ago registered the title *The Woman Citizen*. It is now hoped that money will be forthcoming to issue under that title a greatly enlarged and extended paper. Like *Women's Franchise*, the new paper will consider the right to a vote as occupying the first place in the interests of *The Woman Citizen*, and Suffrage topics will therefore receive special attention.

Although the paper will be in no sense a party organ, its general tone will be distinctly progressive. A paper that should remain neutral upon vital social questions could neither be very valuable nor very interesting.

The general aim will be to fill in the gaps left on the one hand by the so-called "women's papers," and on the other by the daily newspapers. In the former attention is mainly directed towards the frivolous, personal and material aspects of life: dress, amusements, society gossip, cookery, &c.; in the latter the interests of women are dealt with either on an inadequate scale or not at all.

Notice to Subscribers and Contributors.

Articles containing information on the subject of Women's Suffrage should be addressed to the Editor, who will return those not considered suitable as soon as possible if a stamped addressed envelope is sent with the MS. As the paper is on a voluntary basis, and all profits go to help the cause, no payments are made for contributions.

The General Editor gives the widest possible latitude to each of the Societies represented in this Paper, and is only responsible for unsigned matter occurring in the pages devoted to general items.

'WOMEN'S FRANCHISE,'

EDITORIAL AND PUBLISHING OFFICE,
13, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

THE BUDGET.—Women should note that

September 29th is the last day for claiming any benefit or relief offered by it.

INCOME-TAX RETURNS are prepared, APPEALS conducted, and OVER-PAID TAX recovered by Mrs. E. AYRES PURDIE, A.L.A.A., Certified Accountant, and at present the only woman who is entitled, under the Revenue Act of 1903, to appear on behalf of a Client before the Special Commissioners of Income-Tax.

CRAVEN HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.

The *Woman Citizen* will not assume that dress, cookery, or household matters are of no importance or interest at all to the intelligent woman, but it will recognize that her attitude to them is not quite that of the reader to whom the ordinary fashion article addresses itself. The busy woman, part of whose business it is to be suitably dressed, would welcome articles that did not describe the extremest and most ephemeral fashions, but that really helped to make her task easier: articles, for example, that set forth the general idea, the leading note that runs through the fashions of any season or that indicated what not to wear and why. In like manner contrivances that save labour and that promote the health and comfort of homes are interesting to all intelligent women, and notes or articles dealing with such matters will be found from time to time in the pages of *The Woman Citizen*. From the daily papers *The Woman Citizen* will differ in not publishing general news. It will, indeed, deliberately exclude matters likely to be fully treated in the daily press. It will, however, print each week, a series of notes, somewhat resembling the *chronique*, which is a feature of some French reviews. In these the doings of women and any events of special interest to women will be dealt with. Particular efforts will be made to collect full and fresh foreign news, since this is not gathered together elsewhere.

During the Parliamentary Session a weekly account will appear of any proposal or discussion in which women are specially concerned.

Points of law relating to women will be dealt with by a legal expert.

University notes will appear at regular intervals.

Reports of meetings, exhibitions, conferences, &c., will be given, and it is intended that these, however much condensed, shall contain all the essential points of interest. This will mean that they will be written by persons who really understand the subjects treated.

Industrial news bearing upon the interests of women will form a feature of the paper.

In addition to general articles of various kinds, books, plays, music and art will be systematically discussed.

The literary reviews, like the dress and household articles, will be written, not in separate paragraphs, but in a connected article, a group of novels, for instance, being taken together, and their construction, form, &c., being considered. Sometimes, on the occasion perhaps of the appearance of a new book, a study of the whole work of some author may appear. The note of all this portion will be connected criticism instead of snippets. In fact, an endeavour will be made to follow the course of contemporary literary development. From time to time there will be an article about new French books.

The dramatic criticisms will sometimes deal with foreign plays of importance; and more attention will be devoted to the art of acting than is usually given in English papers.

Musical compositions will be systematically reviewed by competent critics in precisely the same manner as books are generally reviewed. It is believed that expert, impartial, and trustworthy notices of songs, pianoforte pieces, &c., would be extremely useful to many women, especially to such as live out of London.

Art being generally treated rather fully in various existing papers, *The Woman Citizen* will, as a rule, confine its notices to the work of women artists in various branches.

A calendar will be published each week in which will be found a list of exhibitions open, of important concerts, of plays, of meetings, conferences, &c. The proprietor, or the proposed editor Miss Clementina Black, will be glad to hear from anyone who can help to bring about the issue of a paper on the above lines.

The Suffrage in Other Lands.

SERVIA.—This is one of the latest countries to take up Suffrage work, but it will be remembered that the report of the Servian delegate to the London Congress was full of encouragement. It showed, that "the Servian woman, that untiring worker in nearly all fields of public activity, has long deserved to take her place among the progressive women of Europe. During 500 years, when her country lay under the Turkish yoke, it was she who kept the faith alive and preserved intact the

religion and the national ideals of her fatherland. She is justified a hundred times in demanding the vote, and she will throw her whole heart and soul into the effort to obtain it." In some respects Servian women are far in advance of their sisters in England. They have practically equal rights before law, and there is scarcely a profession that is closed to them. "There are a great many responsible posts open to women in Servia which remain closed to the women in other countries. Never have they been told that they could not enter any civil department because they were women. On the contrary, women candidates are always admitted and even encouraged." Under these circumstances it is not surprising that the Suffrage movement, young as it is, should be making speedy progress. Already the press is noticing it, and supporters in and out of Parliament have been won. A great meeting is to be held in the autumn, when a report of the London Congress will be given, and it is hoped that many fresh members will be enrolled.

DENMARK.—It is pleasant for the members of the energetic little Highgate Branch of the London Society to know that their "quotation-book" has been imitated in Denmark; The Landsforbund, one of the largest of the Suffrage societies, which is just about to enter the International Alliance as a second society from Denmark, has just published a 'Women's Birthday Book' on similar lines. It contains quotations translated into Danish from celebrated foreign authors and leaders of the movement, together with sentences specially written for the occasion by authors, politicians, and others, who wished to show their sympathy with the cause. A well-known Danish author, Mr. Jeppe Aakjar, has written a Women's Suffrage song, and presented it to the Forbund. ALICE ZIMMERN.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

CHELTENHAM (N.U.W.S.S.).—The unsettled weather has prevented us from holding further outdoor meetings up to now, but the village of Badgeworth has been canvassed and some of the new leaflets left at every house. The people in these quiet little places are glad of anything to read and talk over, and invariably receive us with courtesy. A Labour candidate, in the person of Mr. Charles Fox of Gloucester and Upton St. Leonards, has come forward to oppose Mr. Hicks-Beach, the sitting Conservative and Anti-Suffragist member for the Tewkesbury county division. Mr. Fox is an ardent Suffragist. Standing principally for land and housing reform, he sees the vital importance of women's help in these matters, has put Women's Suffrage in his election address, has referred to it in every speech, and will allow a short Suffrage address to be given at an oncoming outdoor meeting at Cheltenham. THEODORA MILLS.

CUMBERLAND: KESWICK (N.U.W.S.S.).—Fourteen women householders, members of the Keswick Women's Suffrage Association, have sent in claims, through the official channels, to have their names placed on the Parliamentary Register. A series of village meetings will be held in the neighbourhood of Keswick on September 8th, 10th, 14th, 15th, and 16th. Full details are given in the list of Forthcoming Meetings.

Meetings of the N.U.W.S.S.

SEPT.				
Fri.	10.	Rosthwaite, Borrowdale (Open-air)	Chair, Mr. Frank Marshall, J.P. Miss C. E. Marshall Mr. J. R. Brooke	6.30
Tues.	14.	Stair, Newlands (The Guest House)	Chair, Miss C. E. Marshall Miss Chubb Mr. H. M. Jenkins	7.30
Wed.	15.	Threlkeld (The Public Room)	Chair, Miss M. Rathbone Miss Chubb The Lady Beatrice Kemp	7.30
Thur.	16.	Braithwaite (The School)	Chair, Miss M. Rathbone Miss Chubb Mr. Anthony Wilson	7.30

The Suffrage Atelier Cartoon Club Meetings.

Wed.	15.	1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, W.	2.45
Wed.	22.	1, Marlboro' Studios, 12A, Finchley Road, N.W.	2.45

DECORATORS' MEETINGS.

Fri.	17.	1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, W.	4
Oct. Fri.	1.	1, Pembroke Cottages, Edwardes Square, W.	3
Wed.	6.	West Norwood Public Hall	8
		Chair, Miss Abadam Mrs. Philip Snowden Mr. Philip Snowden	

[Orders for bound Volumes of 'Women's Franchise' can now be received.]

ROUSE YE, WOMEN.

Words and Music by

"NEMO."

Con spirito.

PIANO.

1. Rouse ye! Rouse ye, Wo-men, Dream no long-er! Com-rades, make your
2. O - pen, O - pen wide the Gates of Pro-gress, Let not pre-ju-

just cause known! Hark! the call is now to ac-tion, Make this
- dice pre-vent! Stem the tide of e-vil do-ing, Powers of

Right-eous Cause your own. Work for the good of our peo-ples,
Right-eous-ness aug-ment. Rouse up those who still sit i-dle,

p Pray for the pride of our Race, That in fram - ing the laws that shall
Tell them of their sis - ters' need. In the land of the Free it is

mf cres.

rule our dear land Our wo - men ... be grant - ed fair place.
Free - dom we claim, "Mother," "Mo - ther," "Home," for these we plead.

CHORUS. *Marziale. ff*

Work! for the good of our peo - ples, Pray for the pride of our Race, That in

rall.

fra - ming the laws that shall rule our dear land, Our wo - men be grant - ed fair place.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Women's Freedom League.

SCOTTISH OFFICE: 30, GORDON STREET, GLASGOW.

Organising Secretary: MISS ANNA MUNRO.

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. WOOD.

NATIONAL OFFICES: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. HOW MARTYN, B.SC. A.R.C.S.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS BENETT.

Hon. Organising Secretary: MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG.

President: MRS. DESPARD.

Telegrams: "Tactics, London."

Telephone: 15143 CENTRAL.

The Women and the Case.

AT BOW STREET.

FOR the third time within the last fortnight Bow Street, on Friday morning last, was filled with a crowd of Suffragists waiting to hear the magistrate's decision in the matter of the Downing Street arrests. "The court," said the genial representative of *The Daily Telegraph*, "was like a flower garden," gay with the green, white, and gold which have of late so brightened its sordid atmosphere. The decision has gone against the Suffragists; but a case has been stated and an appeal granted, so that the world has not yet heard the last of the Downing Street arrests.

Mr. Curtis Bennett, in recording his decision, said that he quite agreed that any one had the right to present a petition or remonstrance to the Crown, or to any Member of Parliament, but that he was not prepared to differ from the ruling of the chief magistrate that a Member of Parliament was not compelled to receive any such petition or remonstrance. As this matter was now a subject of appeal in the High Court he was of opinion that, until such appeal had been determined, conduct such as defendants had pursued should most assuredly be stopped by the Suffragettes. He spoke of a "cardboard roll" that it was alleged was thrown by Miss Boileau.

The magistrate grew eloquent over the conduct of the police. In his opinion Superintendent Wells had authority to order the apprehension of all the defendants.

The presentation of any petition or remonstrance must be accompanied with reasonable conduct. In Mr. Bennett's opinion it was not reasonable conduct to picket the official residence of the Prime Minister, especially (and here Mr. Bennett seems to have got his facts a bit confused) as had been done in the present case for a period of six weeks, after the written communication from Mr. Asquith and the verbal message sent through Superintendent Wells.

Further, the magistrate held that the defendants, in refusing to obey Superintendent Wells's request to move away from Downing Street, did resist and obstruct that officer in the proper discharge of his duties.

Such, in brief, was Mr. Bennett's address to the defendants and court. Now it happens that it was St. Stephen's which at this time had been picketed for six weeks. Any attempts at picketing Downing Street had met with summary arrest. Also Miss Boileau's roll of paper was forced out of her hand by the rough action of the police-officer. So apparently the magistrate who deals out justice had not even troubled to inform himself of the facts of the case!

But since a case was pending in the High Court, Mr. Bennett was still willing not to record a conviction until the issue of that case was made known if the defendants would undertake to refrain from further action in Downing Street. At Mr. Healy's request, however, he recorded a conviction, inflicting a fine of 40s., or in default seven days' imprisonment in the second division. In further answer to counsel, he agreed to state a case, so that the question is to be carried, some time in November, before the High Court. This case is to be fought out to the bitter end, even if it has to be taken to the House of Lords. To enable this to be done a Legal Defence Fund has been opened, an account of which is given below.

Meantime, our honoured President and her colleagues—Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Hicks, Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Cranstoun, Miss Boileau, Miss Buntin, and Miss Tillard—are still at large, as their conviction is, of course, suspended until the final issue of the case is made known. Further, no undertaking of

any description has been entered into by any one of them. We congratulate them on their further reprieve from Holloway, and on the fact that they are figuring in a test case that will probably be not unknown to history. M. N.

Legal Defence Fund.

THE following letter was addressed to the different papers on Friday after the hearing of our case at Bow Street:—

To the Editor, September 3rd, 1909.

DEAR SIR,—Through the brilliant defence made at Bow Street by Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P., an appeal has been granted to-day by the magistrate in the case of the eight members of the Women's Freedom League—namely, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Miss Boileau, Miss Buntin, Mrs. Hyde, Mrs. Cranstoun, Mrs. Hicks, and Miss Irene Tillard—who were arrested on Thursday, August 19th, for trying to present a petition to Mr. Asquith at the door of his official residence in Downing Street. This ancient right of petition is the only opportunity possessed by unrepresented citizens of laying before the Government the grievances they have to be redressed. It is therefore of the deepest importance to them to maintain this right. The expenses of the appeal will be great; and at this important crisis in our movement we do not think it too much to expect to receive, from both men and women, such financial help as will enable us, with every chance of success, to carry through our case.

We have made many personal sacrifices, and are ready again to face prison, should it be necessary, as well as to give all the money we can afford for the furtherance of the cause which is so dear to us. Meanwhile, we cannot but feel that the time has come for the many who are in sympathy with us to come to our assistance and share the financial burden, which is falling so heavily on a few.

Contributions to the Prisoners' Defence Fund should be sent to Mrs. Despard, President of the Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Signed on behalf of the prisoners on bail.

C. DESPARD.

ANNE COBDEN SANDERSON.

LILLIAN M. HICKS.

Publicity was given to this letter by *The Daily News*, *The Daily Chronicle*, *The Globe*, and several of the provincial newspapers. Already contributions have begun to flow in from those who sympathize with our efforts to obtain elementary justice. It is unnecessary to add more to our readers to an appeal which has opened the purses of strangers will not find members of the Freedom League refusing to respond.

September and the Siege.

WHEN the twelfth of last month came round certain members as they passed the gates of St. Stephen's, had a slightly wistful air. When last Tuesday ushered in September with a sun shining through faint mist-wreaths, and an exhilarating tang of autumn in the air, the wistfulness had deepened. There was a pathetic droop of coat-tails, which suggested vaguely the enormity of a Government which kept aristocratic noses to the grindstone while unslaughtered birds were rejoicing in the freedom of wood and moorland. And we, our feet chained equally to the plebeian kerbstone, echoed the malediction with no uncertain voice.

During this the ninth week of our vigil we have passed 50½ hours at the gates, giving a total of 430 hours and a grand aggregate of 8,600 hours. It is probable that Parliament will sit into October. Many of our pickets have stayed in town

the whole summer that they might remain at their stations it is not right that the burden of the next few weeks should fall on their shoulders too. Will not the women who are returning to town after their holidays give up a few hours during the week that others may get the change they sorely need? It is not much to ask: one, two, or three hours pass with wonderful rapidity, for Palace Gate is a new and instructive standpoint from which to view the world. On this common ground the most wildly militant and the most peacefully persuasive can meet, both secure in the knowledge that they are helping forward the common cause. We appeal to every Suffragist to come over to Westminster and help us.

M. NELSON.

Farewell to the 'Franchise.'

TO-DAY we bid farewell to the *Franchise*. It is with regret, for the Freedom League has been with it from the day, over two years ago, when, thanks to the initiative and enthusiasm of Mr. Francis, this first weekly Suffrage paper saw the light. Much has happened since those early days. We have steered safely through troublous waters under the aegis of the *Franchise*; but now the horizon is clearing, and we have to undertake a more hazardous, because more responsible, voyage of our own. Meantime we should like to thank Mr. Francis for the long shelter he has extended to us, and for his readiness to help us in every possible way, particularly during the last few weeks.

Our first issue of the new paper *The Vote* will be ready, we hope, early in October. The registration of the company is completed, and active preparations are going on in the office at 148, Holborn Bars. Everything is in readiness for bringing out the paper as soon as the necessary capital is forthcoming. Applications for shares are coming in well; but there are still a good number not yet allotted. As a weekly paper is an absolute necessity to bind closely together all the different branches of the League, it behoves every patriotic Freedom Leaguer to do her utmost to make the paper go. Shares have been fixed at the nominal sum of 5s. (of which only 1s. 3d. has to be paid down, 1s. 3d. in three months' time, and the rest at some indefinite period, on call) so that everybody can take at least one share, and so feel a personal interest in the paper's welfare. *The Vote* must become the very centre of the work of the League, and its most effective weapon of propaganda.

As I write I have by me a copy of the cover. Printed in black on a soft, artistic grey paper, it bears in bold letters its title *The Vote*, with the sub-heading "for Women's Freedom," which sums up the whole ideals of our movement. A charming symbolic design by Miss Eva Claire represents a woman's figure sitting by the sea-shore, one hand raised to shade her eyes as she gazes expectantly towards the dawning radiance of the future, while from the other slips a chain, falling by the anchor at her feet. As all our readers know, the paper is to be under the joint editorship of Cicely Hamilton and Marion Holmes.

Meanwhile, to bridge over the gap between the *Franchise* and *The Vote* we shall publish a halfpenny news-sheet, much after the style of the present Freedom League pages of the *Franchise*. Each issue will advertise the new paper, and we rely on our members to scatter them broadcast over the land.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE NEW PAPER.

1. By taking up shares in "The Vote," Ltd. Copies of prospectus and form of application can be obtained from the office, 148, Holborn Bars, E.C.
2. By obtaining advertisements. Every paper can support itself by its advertisement columns if they are persistently worked up. Advertisement rates can be obtained also at 148, Holborn Bars.
3. By ordering the paper yourself.
4. By obtaining not less than twelve new subscribers per annum.
5. By selling the paper at public meetings and in the streets.
6. By making its approaching publication as widely known as possible.

Literature Department.

THE Literature Committee of the Women's Freedom League feels that the time has now come for a new venture in the working

of this department. It has been doing good work since the foundation of the League, and is now on a sound financial basis; but we are anxious to appeal to a larger public than is possible under our present conditions. Matters have also been brought to a crisis by the fact that our present office at 1, Robert Street is becoming quite inadequate for the work carried on there, and the need for more room is urgent.

Under these circumstances we have decided to take a shop in some busy neighbourhood, and transfer the entire literature department there. Besides making our literature widely known, this would also serve as a centre for inquiries, for advertisement of meetings, &c., and should thus be of the greatest value in bringing the work of the League before the general public.

The outlay involved will necessarily be large. We can hardly hope that for the first year our profits would cover the liabilities, and we calculate that, to allow for all contingencies, we must have a sum of £200 guaranteed to call upon if necessary before we definitely take a shop.

This step seems to us so important for the well-being of the League that we are appealing to our friends for special help in the way of donations or guarantees. We have already received encouraging promises, and shall be glad to hear as soon as possible from others willing to support the scheme. Small donations gratefully accepted, as every little helps.

Please send all communications to Miss Hicks, Hon. Literature Secretary, 1, Robert Street.

LITERATURE secretaries are now, we hope, ready to start work again in their branches after the holidays, and we are confident that during the coming season they will make a great effort to increase their sales. It is difficult to over-estimate the importance of our literature in spreading real knowledge of the aims and ideals of the Women's Freedom League among the many who are now ready to learn.

Please note:—1. Mr. Healy's brilliant speech for the defence at Bow Street (price 1d.), which is already having a tremendous sale, should be in the hands of every Women's Freedom League member. The appeal will come before the High Court in the autumn, and it is essential that before then the legal aspect of the case and the constitutional issues involved should be clearly understood by all.

2. We have issued as a post card (price 1d.) a photo of Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson at 10, Downing Street, quietly conversing with Superintendent Wells before their arrest. This will help to correct some of the ideas still abroad about the "wild scenes" which must occur on these occasions.

3. We have on sale a new portrait button of Mrs. Despard, (price 2d.). Mr. Lyon Blease's booklet (4d.) 'Against Prejudice, a Reply to Prof. Dicey,' has been already reviewed in these columns.

A. M. H.

Our Work—Past, Present, and Future.

SOUTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

"THE Town Hall, Neath, was crowded on Monday night, the occasion being the visit of the Suffragettes. Hundreds failed to gain admission. Some 4,000 people had assembled outside the Town Hall... The aftermath of the meeting was very extraordinary, because the gathering in the Town Hall was most orderly throughout." So runs the account in *The Western Daily Press*. Well! we considered that it was only natural that some excitement should have been provoked when 4,000 people wished to gain admittance to a hall that could only hold some hundreds. Mrs. Bastian, who had come from Hadleigh in Suffolk, made a most sympathetic chairwoman, and additional interest was added to the meeting by short speeches from Mrs. Cleeves and Mrs. Ross. We are grateful to the Misses Leyson for their help in the sale of literature and collection, and to Miss Ethel Leyson, who with Mrs. Cleeves, worked up this magnificent meeting. We congratulate ourselves on the conversion of the senior member of the legal profession in the district, amongst others, to the cause. At the beginning of our campaign we offered to address the various political clubs in Swansea. The Socialists gave us an opportunity of so doing on Tuesday night in Siddall Buildings. The chair was taken by Mrs. David Williams and a most

profitable evening was spent. In the future we hope to illumine the Conservative and the Liberal Clubs. This work is necessary, in view of a general election.

The Cardiff Branch arranged a meeting in the Ruskin Hall on Wednesday afternoon, and the result was good; many new members' names were taken, and with this fresh impetus we shall go forward with fresh plans.

To Mrs. D. A. Thomas, the wife of the Liberal member for Newport we are indebted for a delightful garden party meeting at Llanwern Park last Thursday. All the surrounding districts were represented, and our literature sale alone proves the success of this gathering. Will all sympathizers communicate with me at 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, as I have returned for a short time, in order to make arrangements for an extensive campaign. For this work I shall need at least £100. I have already received a cheque (from "A Woman Friend") for £25, other promises of £10, and £5, so that one half the sum is already assured. Please let me have the rest of the amount soon! It is so necessary. Wales is represented by forty Liberal M.P.s. Their constituencies must be worked, and pressure brought to bear ere it is too late. Will any sympathizers at Merthyr, Aberdare, Brecon, Abergavenny, or Mid-Wales please send in their names and promises of help at once? MURIEL MATTERS (Organizer).

MIDDLESBROUGH AND THE NORTH-EAST.

Hutton Ruddy, Darlington, West Hartlepool, and Middlesbrough have had meetings this last week. The Misses Mahoney kindly arranged for the use of the schoolroom at Hutton Ruddy where many of the voters in the Cleveland constituency came to renew their acquaintance with the Suffragettes. On Thursday afternoon Mrs. Dickie of Middlesbrough gave a very successful drawing-room meeting at her house, and as a result Middlesbrough will receive several new members. A good collection was taken and much literature was sold. In a few days we shall have a new branch at West Hartlepool, where Miss Cook has been busy securing members.

At Darlington on Friday night Mrs. Coates Hansen presided over an enormous meeting at the Market Place, where a number of Middlesbrough members gave their assistance. At the end a resolution was put, at the request of some members of the audience, with the result that we had an overwhelming majority in our favour. We were accompanied to the station by a large crowd, which cheered us as we disappeared along the platform.

Will those who wish to join or help in this district kindly communicate with me at Northgate, Roman Road, Middlesbrough? ALICE SCHOFIELD (Organizer).

SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN.

Monday saw the close of the Clyde campaign upon a very rainy day. Considering the fact that no less than thirty-seven meetings have been prevented by rain or accidents, the work has brought about very satisfactory results. Sixty-one meetings have been held. The expenses—including voluntary workers' expenses for four weeks—have been £16 13s. 8d. Collections, donations, and profit on literature amount to £31 7s. 10½d., showing a profit of £14 14s. 2½d. Literature to the value of £14 19s. 11½d. has been sold.

Now the autumn session has begun in Scotland with preparations for the play 'How the Vote was Won' in Helensburgh, and plans for public meetings in many parts of Glasgow, and for the great demonstration on Glasgow Green on September 25th. The regular "At Homes" and meetings are beginning again, and Glasgow is once more the active centre of work, interest, and enthusiasm in the west of Scotland.

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY (Organizer).

CARAVAN IN EAST ANGLIA.

We have had excellent meetings at Yarmouth and Gorleston, at which Miss Law has been the chief speaker. Contrary to all that we had been told to expect, we found the very large audiences most quiet and attentive. On Saturday we moved to Lowestoft, where we expect to remain until the end of the week, going over to Beccles for meetings. Southwold will be our next stopping

place. Miss Tucker, whose help in every way has been simply invaluable, has to leave the van on Saturday. Who will volunteer to take her place? VIOLET TILLARD (Organizer).

LIVERPOOL AND NORTH WALES.

GREATER interest than ever was evinced at Bangor on Monday. We felt more personal support, as many of those who have recently joined the branch turned up to show their sympathy. Not a single man dared disagree, and there was huge amusement when Miss Broadhurst boldly asserted that, whatever they might say to each other, there was not a man amongst them who was not acknowledging in his inmost mind "She's quite right! Sooner or later we shall have to admit it." There was a large sale of badges, and the meeting was not over till 10.

Another visiting week was followed by our first evening meeting at Carnarvon, where large numbers assembled and gave us a most sympathetic hearing. Offers of At-Homes and other means of extending the work were made by those who have now made common cause with the Freedom League. On Saturday, however, came the most thrilling experience of our North Wales campaign. A pouring wet day augured ill for the evening Bethesda meeting.

A false rumour of our intended coming had brought crowds out on the Wednesday, and naturally it would not do to disappoint on the Saturday all those miners, who had never yet seen a Suffragette, and were evidently so keen to hear one. Never shall we forget the scene on our arrival in this picturesque little town. Hundreds of men and women crowded the streets, waiting in the rain, with an eager tensity that made one tingle. Up went our banner, and, followed by a cheering multitude, we wended our way to the hillside field, where, on a natural platform, we took our stand. There as we stood the people streamed and streamed till over 2,000 stood round about us in a silence that could be felt. And if never before, we felt the true greatness of our work at that awe-inspiring moment. We were listened to in the same tense way. Even the clouds turned their silver linings to show us welcome. It was truly an epoch-making event. Our badges were sold out long before the demand ceased, and the little white flags figured quaintly in the hats of the men who crowded to see us off. Of course we shall have to go again, very soon. Everywhere "the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few." Will those with time and money come forward to help us now? MARGARET MILNE FARQUHARSON (Organizer).

HYDE PARK.

WHEN we arrived in the Park on Sunday morning we heard numbers of people inquiring for the Freedom Leaguers. The well-known flag was wanting—our lorry had not turned up! We held a council of war with friendly policemen as to whether we might bargain for chairs; but just as we were getting really anxious, fortunately the van arrived. A crowd of people flocked immediately to our colours, obviously prepared to be interested and entertained, for a good two hours.

I was in the chair, and introduced Miss Irene Tillard, the first of the ladies to be arrested in Downing Street, who gave a forcible and interesting speech, during which the people crowded eagerly round. Miss Bremner followed, letting off all her pent-up militantism, to the great joy of the audience. We kept the meeting going for an hour and a half, and whether from interest, as we imagined, or merely from inertia, as a cruel critic afterwards insinuated, the people looked as though they would have patiently endured a double dose.

At the end of the meeting I spoke of the Legal Defence Fund, and several subscriptions were promised from the crowd, while one old gentleman slipped half a crown into my hand, and the policeman looked the other way. M. NELSON.

CARAVAN CAMPAIGN—BERKSHIRE.

ON Saturday, September 4th, Miss Munro returned to Scotland, and charge of the caravan was handed over to Miss

Benett, who had a good and attentive audience at her every meeting in Thatcham. Great kindness has been received from Mr. and Miss Ashman and their friends, members of the I.L.P., who have made the vanners presents of vegetables, cooked their food, and insisted on paying the rent of the "pitch." Miss Boileau, one of the defendants in the recent Bow Street case, has now joined the van.

Special Notices.

HERALDS OF 'THE VOTE.'

LONDON is prepared to welcome our new paper. News-agents have received repeated requests for *The Vote*. This enthusiasm must be encouraged. So we have decided to organize a regular army of street sellers. London is being divided up into districts, each of which is to be handed over to a captain, with a staff of assistant sellers, and a start will be made next week with the halfpenny news-sheet, which must herald in every corner of the city and suburbs the coming of *The Vote*. Decked with sashes of green, white, and gold, armed with an attractive poster, our resplendent "gutter merchants" will take the street. Many enthusiastic volunteers have already been enlisted, but certain districts are still going a-begging. We call on every member with a few spare hours—morning, noon, or night, it matters not which—to come forward and help us. Call in at the office any time this week and hear all about the new scheme.

DEBATE.

A DEBATE on Woman's Suffrage has been arranged by the Central Branch between Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett (representing the Women's Freedom League) and Mr. MacConachie, Barrister-at-Law (representing the Men's League for Opposing Woman Suffrage). It will take place in the small Queen's Hall on Thursday, November 3rd. Freedom Leaguers should all rally to the scene and carry our colours triumphantly through.

MRS. BILLINGTON-GREIG's numerous friends will be glad to hear that she has reached her own home in Glasgow safely. The journey was taken in stages, and, though very tired, she bore it very well. The doctor insists on a long rest from speaking or active organizing; but in a little while Mrs. Billington-Greig hopes to use her pen, when we shall again have the benefit of her advice in all important matters. She hopes to contribute to our new paper, in which she takes the keenest interest.

Cash Received August 29th to Sept. 4th.

Amount previously acknowledged	£ s. d.	Brought forward...	£ s. d.
Anderson, Miss M...	3,352 8 2	May, Mrs. (L.D.F.)	3,441 1 6
Bevan, Mrs.	0 10 0	Mayer, Mrs. M.	0 6 0
Brook, Mrs. and Miss (L.D.F.)	0 10 0	Michael, Miss M. J. (L.D.F.)	0 1 0
Branch, Miss S.	1 1 0	Nevison, Mrs. M. W. (L.D.F.)	1 10 0
Central Telegraph Office (per Miss Vincent)	20 0 0	Peck, Mrs. (L.D.F.)	0 10 0
Cimino, Miss	0 5 0	Reeves, Miss E. K.	0 10 0
Cimino-Follero, Miss	1 3 4	Rumbold, Mrs. B. E.	0 1 0
Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. (L.D.F.)	0 10 6	Snow, Mrs. J. E.	6 11 0
Cobden Sanderson, Esq., T. J. (L.D.F.)	0 10 6	Snow, Esq., W. R.	5 0 0
Cranston, Mrs. E. (L.D.F.)	5 0 0	Snow, Esq., Ralph	0 10 0
Despard, Mrs. C.	5 0 0	Seymour, Esq. John B. (L.D.F.)	1 1 0
Despard, Mrs. C. (L.D.F.)	5 0 0	Temple, Mrs.	0 5 0
Eastbourne Branch	0 8 0	Tite, Miss A. J.	2 2 0
Fels, Mrs. J. (L.D.F.)	0 8 0	Tudor, Miss D. M. (L.D.F.)	5 0 0
Forsyth, Miss (L.D.F.)	0 2 6	Vickery, Dr. Alice	5 0 0
Haverfield, Hon. Mrs. E. (L.D.F.)	0 2 6	White, Miss (L.D.F.)	1 0 0
Ibbotson, Miss O. M. (L.D.F.)	0 10 0	Wilks, Mrs. T.	1 0 0
Leatham, Mrs. I.	0 2 6	Woman Friend, A (per Miss Muriel Matters)	25 0 0
		Collections	9 9 2
		Total	3,507 6 8
Carried forward	£3,441 1 6		

Scots Wha Hae—not enough.

THE Hon. Treasurer of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League appeals to readers—especially Scottish readers—of the *Franchise* for contributions to the "1,000l. Fund," which has been started with the object of developing and extending the work of the League in Scotland.

The Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League is anxious to be self-supporting, and so relieve the central organization of burdens which it has, up till now, had to bear on behalf of Scotland at all times of more than usual activity, such as by-elections.

Amount previously acknowledged	£ s. d.	Brought forward	£ s. d.
Central Br. (Glasgow) Outdoor Meetings	68 16 6	Mrs. Julia Wood	88 14 1
Collected by Mrs. Julia Wood	2 0 0	Cups of Tea sold in Office	11 0 0
Central Branch (Edinburgh)	3 0 0	Scattered Members (per Miss Eunice Murray)	0 10 6
A Friend, Kilmacolm (per Miss White)	1 0 0	Teacher from Skye	1 0 0
Miss Sylvia Murray	0 10 0	Mrs. Russell	1 0 0
Miss Sophia Robbie	0 2 6	Two Sisters	0 5 0
Miss Eunice Murray	10 0 0	Robert and Catherine Fordyce	0 4 0
Miss Christina Anderson	0 5 0	E. Johnston	0 7 6
Miss Elderson and Mrs. Finch	0 1 6	Ellen Gardiner	0 2 6
Miss Mary McIntyre	1 0 0	F. M. Francesca	0 1 0
Mrs. Murray (Cardross)	1 0 0		
Miss E. Wilson	0 5 3		
Anonymous	0 2 6		
		Total	£103 4 7
Carried forward	£88 14 1		

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received and duly acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Julia Wood, W.F.L., 30, Gordon Street, Glasgow.

[The Editor deeply regrets that pressure of space forces her to withhold this week's Branch Notes. In the new paper a certain space will be specially set apart for these notes, and Secretaries will shortly be hearing from the Editor in this connexion.]

PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS.
September 9th to December 11th.

Picketing the House of Commons, Thursday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, from 2.30 p.m.; Friday, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.	
SEPT. Thur. 9.	Highbury Corner Lowestoft Bishop Auckland
Fri. 10.	Renfrew Open-air Meetings Beccles Renfrew Open-air Meetings
Sat. 11.	Paisley Open-air Meetings Corner of Acton Lane, near Willesden Junction
Sun. 12.	Hyde Park Wandsworth Common Battersea Park Brookwell Park Clapham Common
Mon. 13.	Temperance Hall, Middlesbro'
Tues. 14.	Darvel Open-air Meetings Sheffield, Hillsbro' Car Terminus Aberdeen Road
Wed. 15.	Helensburgh, Worker's Meeting Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, At Home
Thur. 16.	Darvel Open-air Meeting
Fri. 17.	Galston Open-air Meeting
Sat. 18.	Kilmarnock Indoor Meeting Dunton, Petworth
Sun. 19.	Trafalgar Square, Men's League Meeting Hyde Park
Mon. 20.	Horsham, The Carfan
Tues. 21.	Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, At Home
Wed. 22.	Thornton Heath Cloak
Sat. 25.	Glasgow Green Demonstration
Tues. 28.	Edinburgh, Café Vegetaria, At Home
Wed. 29.	S. Norwood Cloak
Nov. Thur. 3.	Debate, Small Queen's Hall
DEC. Sat. 11.	Yuletide Festival, Albert Hall
Sun. 12.	Hyde Park

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

Chairman of Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.
Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Telephone: 9958 CENTRAL.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.
Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

New Monthly Leaflet—Important Notice.

THE Executive Committee have decided to issue to all the members of the League a monthly leaflet, containing all news of our work and forthcoming arrangements. At all events till the end of this year, the leaflet will be sent free; but members are earnestly asked to remember that the extra tax on our funds is a serious matter, and to contribute towards it if they can. The first issue will reach members early in October. The reason for this new step is the cessation of this journal, *Women's Franchise*, which has for more than two years been our official organ jointly with other societies.

Notes and Comments.

It is with reluctance that we hereby take leave of our readers in this the last issue of *Women's Franchise*. Soon after the Men's League was formed, one of its members, Mr. Francis, undertook the formation of this, the first paper devoted solely to the cause of Women's Suffrage. At first it was the official organ jointly of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Women's Social and Political Union, and ourselves. Subsequently for a brief period it was also the organ of the Women's Freedom League, and other societies have from time to time sent news to it. Gradually, for reasons which obviously cannot be discussed here, the Women's Social and Political Union and then the National Union ceased to send official information, and with the recently announced decision to the same effect from the Women's Freedom League, the Men's League is left alone.

The splendid success of the Suffrage organs which have since appeared—*Votes for Women*, *The Common Cause*, *The Englishwoman*—and the probable success of the new organ of the Women's Freedom League, make it unreasonable perhaps for us to deplore the fact that *Women's Franchise* has finished its work. And yet, we cannot but regret its disappearance. Not only has it a special claim to our gratitude as the first of the Suffrage papers, but we shall miss it for another reason also.

A SYMBOL OF UNITY.

In the beginning it symbolized the essential unity of the Suffrage Societies: it was the organ of the movement. There week by week a reader could find out not only what was being done by his or her own society, but what the other societies were doing also. Differ as we may about policy and tactics, we are one in aim; we care for each other's success, and it was good for us to keep week by week in touch with each other's doings. With the foundation of a separate journal for each society, we are liable more and more to forget that we are all parts of one whole, that each contributes something to the general progress, and that over and beyond the failures and successes of societies there is the great common goal of the freedom of women.

However, though we may be excused for regretting the disappearance of the mother of Suffrage periodicals and sympathizing with those who have striven to render it worthy of itself, we must rather be glad for what it has done, and look to the future rejoicing in the flourishing condition of the several daughter journals.

As announced above, the Men's League will substitute for these columns a monthly leaflet, sent free at present to our members. One advantage of this will be that many who did not take *Women's Franchise* will thus for the first time be in regular touch with the office and the work. Subsequently it is hoped that the annual subscription may be raised in general meeting so as to cover the cost of this monthly leaflet; faced, however, as we are by the prospect of having no official newspaper, we are compelled to incur the somewhat heavy cost at once, and to urge friends to contribute towards it.

We hope also to arrange to send news to all the other Suffrage papers. This is done already on occasions; but perhaps a regular arrangement will be made.

In conclusion, we beg to thank those who have so often helped us in these columns by contributions and advice, and to express our regret for many sins both of omission and commission.

We wish also to place on record our very high sense of the splendid services rendered to the cause by Mr. Francis. Apart altogether from the responsibility of a proprietor, he has had editorial duties of a most complicated character. Week after week he has had to face the technical problem of fitting together four separate sets of copy—a far more difficult business than making up a single paper; moreover, he has also had to collect and edit material for the general pages. Only those who have been in close touch with him, and are also acquainted with journalism, can understand how much time and thought the work has involved, especially for a man whose time is already heavily mortgaged. Apart from all this we owe to him the splendid conception of a joint Women's Suffrage paper, embracing all aspects of the movement.

OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

OUR speakers are urgently asked to communicate with Mr. Gugenheim immediately on their return from holidays, and to mention dates on which they will be available. Next Sunday we resume the meeting in Brockwell Park at 6 p.m. It is intended to continue our open-air work at all events till the beginning of the winter. Hyde Park as usual at 2.30.

Trafalgar Square Demonstration.

September 18th, 3.15 p.m.

Members and friends are specially reminded of the demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon, September 18th, at 3.15 p.m.

We wish to make this in a real sense a MEN'S DEMONSTRATION, and it is incumbent on all our members to make a point of being present. A special circular has been sent to all our metropolitan members, and handbills for distribution can be obtained from the office.

We want men to stand on the plinth, but more especially volunteers to distribute and sell literature. All members are urged to wear the League badge.

This is the First Demonstration of Men on behalf of the cause in Trafalgar Square.

Open-Air Campaign.

HYDE PARK MEETINGS.

August 29, 1909.

WHEN London is "empty" our Hyde Park meetings seem to grow bigger, and our audiences more unwilling to go away. Last Sunday speaking lasted from 2.30 till 5 o'clock, and the gathering grew steadily till at the last it must have numbered nearly a thousand. Mr. Housman was in the chair, and was followed by Messrs. B. Shipham, and W. Stephens, who both made excellent speeches, and never lost the sympathetic interest of the audience. At the conclusion of the meeting many questions were answered, and the usual resolution was put and carried. On the chairman's decision being challenged, a count was made, when it was found that the resolution was supported by a majority of almost exactly two to one.

It is to be hoped that speakers will turn up in force during the remaining Sundays of our open-air campaign, as it is quite evident that at our new pitch, where we are less hampered by

other speakers, we can command big audiences and carry out a really successful propaganda.

L. H.

September 5.

Favoured by beautiful weather, we had another good meeting. The speakers were Mr. Mitchell (in the chair), Mr. Gugenheim, and Mr. Nofydd Roberts. We were lucky in obtaining confirmation of our predictions as to the good which Women's Suffrage will produce from Mr. E. F. Levy, who has recently returned from New Zealand. A large crowd remained to the end, and apart from a gentleman who was anxious to know what view the League took about the "metaphysics of love," questions were on a high level, and bore very closely on the essentials of the subject.

J. M. M.

The League's Speakers.

WITH the opening of the autumn campaign our speakers are once again busy. Mr. W. L. George spoke at Winchelsea last Monday, and Mr. Housman at Bath on Tuesday. Sir John Cockburn is to address a meeting at the Guildhall, Bath, on September 28th, when the Rev. Canon Talbot, president of our Bristol Branch, will be in the chair. Mr. Victor Duval will uphold our attitude with regard to the Limited Bill before the Propaganda Society (which advocates Adult Suffrage), Mr. Mitchell is at Carlisle on October 7th, and at Keswick on October 9th. A striking feature of the Bath meeting on the 28th inst. is the strong list of prominent men who are supporting the speakers: among them are five Justices of the Peace.

May we urge all our members (1) to let us know whether and when they are prepared to speak (it is most important to waste no time in correspondence); (2) to send notes in advance of their engagements; and (3) to see that we get reports after the meetings.

G. K. C. and the Vote.

MR. CHESTERTON is a brilliant and a subtle controversialist. He is a master among the latter-day constructors of paradox. But there are occasions on which even his facility fails to conceal the truth of a contention which he is ostensibly refuting. Of such is his reply to Mr. Kenneth Richmond in *The Daily News* of Monday, August 30th. In that letter he deliberately abstains from discussing his fundamental objections to Women's Suffrage, and meets Mr. Richmond on his own ground, namely that the vote would be of value to women if they got it. In order to refute Mr. Richmond he sets up the thesis that the possession of the vote is a much overrated power.

In developing the thesis he rightly points out a number of cases in which he, as an individual, would derive no advantage from being a voter, and is, as usual, delightfully ironical. But he cannot expect any one to overlook the fact that such cases are characteristically those in relation to which the vote is not intended to apply. Indeed, after having made much of his instances, he practically explodes them by admitting that the vote can do something when a large aggregate of persons desires a particular reform.

This is the whole gist of our contention. Nobody in his senses would pretend that the vote is everything: the most extravagant democrat, whether Suffragist or not, would not contend that even the most perfect franchise would bring the millennium. If one desired to vie with Mr. Chesterton in propounding the obvious one might solemnly point out that majority voting works out badly for the views of a numerically strong minority. Moreover, it is highly undesirable on general grounds that even Mr. Chesterton should be able by his single vote to effect, e.g., the removal of one of His Majesty's judges. He seems to think that the powerlessness of his vote in such a matter as this is proof of the futility of government by the vote.

The theory of the vote is simply this, that when a majority of persons in the community desire to be ruled by a particular set of politicians with a certain general programme, these persons shall be able to put those politicians in power.

Now our contention is that women ought to share this power, *such as it is*. It is, indeed, only one of the many devices which civilization has evolved; it is a device which affects only a small area of civilized activities. But in point of fact it is a power, defective, confused—on the whole a failure from some points of view—but none the less a power. It compels politicians to some extent to carry out the wishes of the electorate (*i.e.* of a temporary majority among them). Some millions of men by a relatively small majority put the Liberals into power in 1906: the Liberals have to some extent tried to give effect to the wishes of their supporters. Meantime the Conservatives have been balked of their cherished reforms. So much even Mr. Chesterton will admit is due to the vote.

Very well. Women have no share in this position. We would put this problem to Mr. Chesterton. Suppose women had been enfranchised before 1906, and had voted Conservative in such numbers that Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman had not been returned to power? Then we should have had a Conservative Government. Does Mr. Chesterton contend that the vote is not a power?

There are many ways in which persons individually or collectively affect the current of affairs. Granted that women have some of these: they do, however, lack this power of collectively affecting the personnel of our legislature, and thus the trend of legislation. Any woman may exercise that power which Mr. Chesterton individually possesses of influencing public opinion through the press and on the platform. But when Mr. Chesterton, submitting to absorption in the electorate in his capacity of voter, finds himself temporarily in agreement with the majority, and thereby aids in sending a particular man to the House, he enjoys a power which the ablest woman lacks.

Of course a man of wide personal influence may regard his vote as the least of his weapons—may even scorn to use it. None the less to many thousands of persons it is practically the only weapon, and as such we want to give it to women as well as to men.

We do not want to enfranchise this and that woman in order that she may bring about a reform which she wants. What we do want is to bring about a state of things in which the wants of a great body of women may be properly considered in Parliament, and that not by the courtesy of men, but by the automatic necessities of our system.

J. M. M.

The Call of Freedom.

DOWN where the wide waters wash round the Mount of St. Michael, Northwards where Shetland keeps vigil o'er wild chilly seas, Far to the east, where the fens are lit up by the sunrise, And westward where Holyhead stands 'mid the wave and the breeze,

Sounds the loud call to awaken the spirit of freedom
Sleeping so long in the seed of the freemen of old,—
"Gather the women for war against wrong and injustice!
All may find refuge in freedom's unlimited fold.

Men! are ye mindful of liberty won through the ages—
Won with a wearisome war against Tyranny's host?
Slowly the chains have been forged to encircle ye newly;
Slowly the rights that ye love have been bartered or lost.
Now, not enough that your manhood should battle unaided;
Call ye your women to join in the struggle for right.
'Freedom for all' is the watchword, not 'freedom for manhood';
Man is too weak to sustain, and for ever, the fight."

Onward together, O maidens and men, to your glory,
Cheered by the voice that invigorates all to pursue
Paths that shall lead to a land where no pleasures can weaken,
Roads that ascend to a summit, wherefrom ye shall view
Cities and seas and bright meadows outstretching before you
Bathed in the beauty and pureness of liberty's light,
Waiting for nations to fill them with men and with women,
Comrades in power and in love, and united for Right.

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OF THE

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November 10th and 12th and December 11th, 1908.

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