

Men's League for Women's Suffrage

No. 52.

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Monthly Paper.

ONE PENNY.

President: THE RIGHT HON. THE
EARL OF LYTTON.

Chairman: HERBERT JACOBS.

Feb.-Mar.,
1914.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The Annual Meeting of the League will take place on Friday, April 24, at 8 o'clock, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. The business includes, according to the constitution of the League, the presentation of the committee's annual report and financial statement and the election of the committee for 1914-5. Any question as to the League's work, and suggestions as to future activities, will be welcomed. We hope that members will not allow anything to stand in the way of their presence on this occasion. The importance of the League's work increases year by year, and at no period has it been more important that the committee should have behind them the unanimous confidence of the members than during the months which intervene before the General Election. The annual report will be issued early in April, and the officers are anxious to have notice of motions or other business as early as possible, so that the agenda may be sent out in full with the report.

We have to apologise for the postponement of the February issue and its incorporation in this issue for March. The plain and, we hope, sufficient reason is the sheer difficulty of dealing with the quantity of work which confronts the voluntary and the paid officers at every turn. Though the office staff has been greatly strengthened by the addition of Dr. Ingram, whose long experience of political organising is known to many of our members, it is still impossible to burden the office with any real responsibility in connection with the "monthly paper," and the editor has of late found it increasingly impossible to keep up to any proper time schedule.

It is most satisfactory to be able to chronicle a definite advance both at Hull and at Newcastle as a result of Mr. Startup's recent visits. In both cities a ready response was found, and the prospects of vigorous work are unmistakable. This is all in definite relation to our policy of inducing voters to put Women's Suffrage in the forefront of their political faith, and to organise locally in direct connection with political associations. The committee hope to send Mr. Startup on a further missionary tour in a few days' time. Members will have seen our president's appeal for funds to carry on this work. We venture to emphasise his letter, and to add that between now and the General Election the work in the constituencies is our prime duty, and we rely on members to make it possible by generous contributions.

NORTH ISLINGTON.

We would draw special attention in this connection to our campaign in North Islington, where, as it will be remembered, an anti-Suffrage Liberal candidate has been chosen in the person of Mr. Costello. Mr. Fredk. W. Flear is in charge of local arrangements, and a circular is being issued to every elector by members urging him to aid in forming a branch in opposition to the candidature. The circularisation of several wards is completed, and a considerable number of favourable replies have been received. Meetings will shortly be arranged, and we think we can guarantee that the Liberal and Radical Association will have ample reason to regret their attempt to recover with an anti-Suffrage candidate a seat now held by a good Conservative Suffragist. Every Suffragist who has a few free evenings should send his name to the Hon. Political Secretary, in order that he may be given some definite work in the constituency.

A SOCIALIST CANDIDATE.

Incidentally, the British Socialist Party in Islington has announced its intention of running Councillor George Ebury, of Heckmondwike, as a third candidate. As a League we take no part in the contest on party lines. For the time being we are satisfied that the seat is held by a Conservative Suffragist; what we have to show the Liberal Association is that, however favourable their chances under ordinary conditions, no anti-Suffrage Liberal can hold his own.

THE NEW SESSION.

It is satisfactory that this session is not to witness a repetition of the Private Member Bill farce. It is perfectly obvious that with the Irish question still to be solved no private proposal could possibly secure the time and support which it would require. The Nationalist vote would be more than ever at the disposal of the Prime Minister, and a Cabinet defeat would merely leave us confronted for years to come with the same Irish problem. It is pure hypocrisy on the part of a correspondent in the *Manchester Guardian* to pretend that the Nationalist vote is free on any important issue, and least of all at present can any casuistry prove the reverse. Like those who put Suffrage first, the Redmond group put Home Rule first, and its voting is in no intelligible sense free. We doubt whether Mr. Redmond would even permit his henchmen to allow a Suffrage Bill a second reading.

THE PRIVATE MEMBER.

Meanwhile we are glad to see among back-bench Liberals a growing consciousness that Suffragists in the House have incurred a very debt to the cause.

Though an anonymous "Liberal Suffragist" has waxed indignant with Mrs. Fawcett for stating the elementary fact that the Prime Minister's Reform Bill pledge has not been fulfilled, Mrs. Fawcett has the tacit approval of many Liberal members who, despite their party ties, are beginning to feel very uncomfortable indeed. Such men are frankly speaking of the necessity of placing Women's Suffrage on the programme directly the Government's obligations in respect of Home Rule and the Welsh Church have been fulfilled. We deplore the delay, and deeply resent the many discreditable causes which have caused it; but we must remember that every party man who cares for the cause must, between now and the General Election, strain every nerve to assist those who in either party are aiming, however tentatively, at a Government measure. Unless the Ulster problem should find issue in a deadlock which would cause a dissolution on that issue, we believe that the support of Suffragists in the House will enable us to compel both parties to go to the electorate with Women's Suffrage on their programmes.

THE LEITH RESULT.

The Government lost Leith on a split vote by the small majority of 16, there being a very large vote for the Labour candidate. Neither Unionists nor Liberals can derive much satisfaction from the result. From information received we cannot doubt that had Provost Smith been a Suffragist he would have been successful. The Prime Minister showed singularly little judgment in refusing a second time the accredited representatives of the City Councils of Edinburgh and Glasgow. *Quem deus vult perdere prius . . . ?*

BRANCH NEWS.

MANCHESTER MEN'S LEAGUE.

The early part of February was devoted by the League to the organisation of a contingent of our members to attend the great demonstrations held in the Albert Hall and Memorial Hall on February 14. In spite of several disappointments due to unavoidable circumstances preventing some of our members making the journey, the following were present at the Albert Hall meeting:—Sir Ernest Rutherford, Professors Alexander and Herford, and Messrs. Barnes, Fenner Brockway, Richard Robinson and Thistleton-Mark, Mr. Brockway being one of the speakers. The last four members represented the League at the Northern Men's Federation gathering, Mr. Robinson attending on behalf also of the Altrincham I.L.P.

Though the avowed object of the demonstrations was not fully realised, our representatives have returned with the conviction that the two demonstrations served a great purpose in focussing the attention of all Suffragists upon the sole remedy for the present impasse—viz., the introduction of a Government measure. To that extent the meetings were an unqualified success.

In the agenda of the Manchester City Council there was a proposal standing in the name of Councillor Tattersall that the Council should sanction the sending of two representatives to the above demonstrations. The League members took active steps to impress upon the councillors the strong sympathy which

this proposal had amongst the ratepayers, and it was very unfortunate that, owing to the illness of Councillor Tattersall, his proposal was not proceeded with. The Manchester City Council was one of the first public bodies to pass a resolution in favour of the reform.

Our speakers' engagements include a meeting at Radcliffe this month, under N.U.W.S.S. auspices, and Mr. Beanland is booked to speak at Helsby on March 5 at a meeting organised by the Women's Freedom League.

The whole of our members have received a copy of the January issue of the League monthly, and it is hoped in this way to stimulate their interest in the work of the League.

It is with particular pleasure that the League can report a steadily increasing membership.

At the annual meeting, fixed for March 24, the executive hope to submit proposals for a series of meetings.

THE CLUB DINNER.

Those who met in Mr. Jacobs's chambers five years ago and decided to take steps towards the foundation of the International Women's Franchise Club may well have felt triumphant when the Earl of Lytton rose to propose the loyal toasts at the annual dinner on February 26. Not only did the guests number more than 200, but the atmosphere was one of confident ascertained success. To carry on a successful West-End club on a subscription of one guinea is an achievement with which the committee and the Suffrage cause generally may well be satisfied.

The chief feature of the reunion was the presence of many of the new vice-presidents, who sat right and left of Lord Lytton. Among those who spoke were: Lady Betty Balfour, Lady St. Davids, Mrs. Despard, Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., and Dr. Hochmann, while the international element was represented by Madame Schmaal (France) and Fräulein Rosika Schwimmer (Austria-Hungary). The speeches were all delightful, breathing as they did the sure confidence which is engendered by the prospect of immediate success in a cause of the first national importance. Men's Leaguers will have rejoiced especially to hear the genial and humorous speech of our old friend Mr. Goldfinch Bate, the hon. treasurer, who—being no vain optimist—gave highly satisfactory figures as to the continued increase in the club membership. The officers and members of the Men's League were well represented. Sir John Cockburn, Messrs. Herbert Jacobs, Cecil Chapman, J.P., J. S. H. Fry, G. B. Hamilton, C. V. Drysdale, J. M. Mitchell, among older members of the League, were present.

Every Men's Leaguer should join the club if only for the excellent lectures and the admirable library, which the club owes largely to the kindness of Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE MEN'S LEAGUE

WILL BE HELD AT

ANDERTON'S HOTEL, FLEET STREET,

ON

APRIL 24th at 8 p.m.

MEN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

President: THE HON. SIR JOHN COCKBURN, K.C.M.G.

Hon. Secretary: LIEUT.-COLONEL W. A. E. MANSFELDT, Dillenburgstraat 19, Utrecht, Holland.

Hon. Treasurer: MYNHEER F. W. KEHRER, Frankenslag 10, The Hague.

Correspondent: MME. MARTINA G. KRAMERS, Kruiskadi 92, Rotterdam.

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| <p>GREAT BRITAIN.
MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
Secretaries: J. M. Mitchell, Saltburn, Mountfield Road, North Finchley, London, N.
F. N. Sargeant, Branksome, Gayton Road, Harrow.</p> <p>MEN'S POLITICAL UNION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
Secretary: Victor Duval, 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.</p> <p>MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
Secretary: Victor Prout, 20, St. Paul's Chambers, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.</p> <p>FRANCE.
LIGUE D'ELECTEURS POUR LA SUFFRAGE DES FEMMES.
President: Ferd. Buisson, 30, Rue Bobillot, Paris.
Secretary: A. Chenevier, 22, Rue Lacepeoh (or Lacepeste), Paris.</p> <p>NETHERLANDS.
MANNENBOND VOOR VROUWENKIESRECHT.
President: W. A. E. Mansfeldt, Dillenburgstraat, 19, Utrecht.
Secretary: F. F. W. Kehrer, Frankenslag 10, The Hague.</p> <p>GERMANY.
MANNERBUND FÜR FRAUENSTIMMRECHT.
President: Leo Gassmann, Ring 10, Jauer Schlesien, Prussia.</p> <p>BOHEMIA.
BOHEMIAN MEN'S LEAGUE.
Secretary: Dr. Brozek Drahaslov, Prague II., 872.</p> | <p>SWEDEN.
SWEDISH MEN'S LEAGUE.
President: Ernst Beckmann, Djursholm, Sweden.
Secretary: K. Hedström, Saltsjö-Dufnais, Stockholm.</p> <p>NEW YORK.
MEN'S LEAGUE.
Secretary: R. C. Beadle, 11, Broadway, New York City, U.S.A.</p> <p>GALICIA.
GALICIAN MEN'S LEAGUE.
President: Ing. Ferdinand Gerzabeth, Stanislawow ut Kamins Trego 33, Lemberg.</p> <p>MASSACHUSETTS.
MEN'S LEAGUE.
Secretary: Joseph Kelly, Post Office Box 2,274, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.</p> <p>DENMARK.
DANISH MEN'S LEAGUE.
Secretary: Dr. A. Munch Petersen, Norregarden 27, Copenhagen.</p> <p>AUSTRIA.
OESTERREICHISCHE MANNERBUND FÜR FRAUENSTIMMRECHT.
President: Constantin Noske, 8 Borsegasse 10, Vienna.</p> <p>HUNGARY.
HUNGARIAN MEN'S LEAGUE.
President: Prof. Karl Zipernowsky, Oszlop Utcza 9, Budapest.
Secretary: Ernest Reynitz, Sas utca 10, Budapest V.</p> |
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Netherlands.—The Men's League made good propaganda this month, firstly, by holding a meeting at The Hague with Members of Parliament as speakers, and, secondly, by taking part in the procession and monster meeting held in Amsterdam on February 15 by the National Woman Suffrage Association.

The object of the Hague meeting, which the Men's League particularly wanted to serve, was a comparison between the attitude of the different political parties with regard to the question of woman suffrage. The reader will remember that three Liberal parties made a compromise against the Conservative Government and overthrew it in the elections of last June, which compromise meant the claiming of manhood suffrage, and the possibility of one day enfranchising the women too. Then each of the victorious parties refused to form a Cabinet, and so we got a so-called "extra-parliamentary" compromise Cabinet, which announced as its plan of work the carrying out of the reforms claimed by the said compromise of the three Liberal parties. At this

juncture the Men's League wished to ascertain what the attitude of the victorious parties would be as to enfranchising the women. Would they, or would they not, push the Government into a larger concession on the score of woman suffrage, and if the parties themselves did not entertain this intention, would they send a speaker to explain the party's attitude? It is a well-known fact that in each party, and even in each party's Parliamentary club, there are Suffragists and anti-Suffragists; therefore it is not surprising that the Men's League got four speakers to address their public meeting on February 9 belonging to the Social Democrats and the three Liberal fractions that have endorsed the enfranchisement of women. Another meeting is to be held with M.P.'s as speakers belonging to parties more or less opposed.

The other demonstration in which the Men's League took part was arranged by the National Woman Suffrage Association to initiate the collection of signatures to a big national petition demanding Constitutional Equality for men and women. Both

procession and meeting in the Palace of Industry in Amsterdam made great impression on Press and public. The comments, favourable and hostile, are still filling the papers.

Germany.—In January the German Union of Woman Suffrage Societies sent a petition to the Imperial Parliament demanding the introduction of Woman Suffrage. As on former occasions, the Social Democratic Party endorsed it, and its speakers gave forcible speeches in favour. A Conservative said his party did not like to flirt with questions like this, and had the courage to say: We are opposed. A Progressive said that there was an enormous difference between the ardent people had for universal direct suffrage for men and for the enfranchisement of women. A Nationalist declared great appreciation of the work of women for his party in election times, only they could not seriously expect to be enfranchised just yet. Finally, the petition was referred to the Committee on Requests "for perusal," which is a step further than the same demand ever got before.

Bohemia.—The Imperial Government has proposed a new electoral law for the Bohemian Diet. The right of suffrage is to be conferred on *all* men, but women are only to have it when they pay a certain amount of taxes. Eligibility is also withheld from them. The new Bill brings additional disabilities for women, for at present women can register as electors even though the tax they pay is very small.

Sweden.—Everything is uncertain now; but the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on January 16 was of great promise, for His Majesty said: "From the conviction that from a point of view both of justice and of the State's welfare, it is expedient to extend the right of citizenship to the women of the nation, I again present a plan of revision of the Constitution of the Empire to that effect." It seems a misfortune for the Suffrage cause that the King should have had difficulties with the present Government on account of military expenditure, which have caused the Cabinet to resign. The great popular petition for the enfranchisement of women, for which the Swedish Woman Suffrage Association has been collecting signatures during a whole year, cannot now be presented. It is unknown how many names of women it has enlisted, but surely it is a mass demonstration of public opinion.

The **Socialist Parties all over the world** are going to celebrate a Woman's Day on March 8. Meetings for political equality of the sexes, for all reforms that go for attenuating the sufferings of proletarian women and strengthening them in the struggle for liberty, will be arranged by the national Social Democratic parties of every nation. The United States have chosen March 19 for their Women's Day; Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Holland, Hungary, and Russia March 8, whilst England, Italy, Finland, and Sweden gave a declaration of sympathy. The Women's Day is intended to rouse noble feelings of solidarity among all Socialists. MARTINA G. KRAMERS.

THE GREAT MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 14.

The National Union has every reason to be proud of the great gathering in the Albert Hall on February 14. Hundreds of men's societies sent representatives, and hundreds of men were also present in their individual capacities; the collection reached £6,000. Men's Leaguers regretted very much that the illness of one of his family prevented Lord Lytton from speaking. We were, however, much interested to hear Mr. Barton, the retiring member for Oldham, who is president of the new Liberal

Suffrage Association in Manchester. The enthusiasm of the meeting was unmistakable, and we only trust that Mr. Illingworth was sufficiently conscious of his duties as a Whip to attend and learn for himself what Mr. Asquith once again declined to hear by deputation.

The presence of the Lord Mayor of Glasgow, in accordance with a resolution of the City Council, leads naturally to a brief notice of the meeting of the "Men from the North" in the great Memorial Hall at Farringdon Street early in the day. Our old friends Bailie Alston, Councillor Crawford, and others spoke strongly and with that businesslike directness which we associate with politics beyond the Tweed, and we fancy that had Mr. Asquith heard their speeches he would have seen that the hostility of himself and Provost Smith to Women's Suffrage, as it helped to lose Leith Burghs, will shake Scottish Liberalism to its foundations.

NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

The monthly meeting of the Women's Tax Resistance League was held, by kind permission of Miss Gertrude Eaton, at 3, Gloucester Walk, Kensington, on Thursday, February 26. Dr. Haslam was in the chair, and a good number of members and friends were present. Some amusing letters were read from Miss Decima Moore, and Miss Metcalfe and Miss Clara Lee also dwelt on the humorous side of tax resistance. The chief business of the afternoon was, however, "The Organisation of this year's Sales," and to this end suggestions and offerings of help were obtained from those present.

A joint meeting of the Women's Tax Resistance League and Women's Freedom League, over which Miss Lee presided, was held in the Howard Hall, Letchworth, on February 21, when Miss Winifred Holiday very ably put the reasons for tax resistance to a most attentive audience, proposing the following resolution:—

"That this meeting is of opinion that women taxpayers are justified in refusing to pay all Imperial taxes till they have the same control over national expenditure as male taxpayers possess, and that until such time as women are recognised as joint law makers with men they are justified in their campaign against government without consent or representation."

Miss Nina Boyle seconded the resolution, and in a most spirited speech pointed out the injustice of leaving out half the population where laws had to be made, mentioning unequal treatment in the Courts of Justice.

Applause was frequent and the resolution carried unanimously, with the request that a copy be sent to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Member of Parliament for the division, Lord Robert Cecil. Many good questions were put, and literature sold.

A sale took place in the Old Forge, Marlow. The goods, which consisted of a pair of candlesticks, a silver presentation cup, a bronze bowl, and a dog-cart, had been taken from the houses of Mrs. Sargent Florence and Miss Hayes, because of their refusal to pay Imperial taxes. These ladies are members of the Women's Tax Resistance League, whose motto is "No Vote, No Tax." After the sale Mrs. Kinton Parkes, secretary of the Women's Tax Resistance League, Mrs. Hyde, and Mrs. Tippet, of the Women's Freedom League, spoke from the above-mentioned dog-cart.