

THE VOTE.
September 19, 1913
ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL "JUSTICE" ISSUE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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**PUBLIC PROSECUTORS
WHO
DO NOT PROSECUTE.**

Mr. BODKIN, conducting a case in which a child had manifestly been shamefully used, concurred in the opinion that he had no "corroborative evidence," in the teeth of admitted facts.

WOMEN WANT THE VOTE

BECAUSE Women form the huge majority of sweated workers.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Mrs. Sproson back to active work. It was not generally known to members of the League that she took part in the strenuous Chesterfield contest, but would not allow it to be mentioned at the time, in case her health would not allow her to continue. Her speeches were received with the greatest enthusiasm, and on Trafalgar-square last Saturday she was admittedly the most popular of the orators. We are delighted to have her back in harness, and to know that she is in a fair way of recovery from her long and tedious indisposition.

A Monstrous Practice of the Bench.

In giving details of the abominable case of the child, Violet Parrott, we must comment on a disgraceful custom indulged in by counsel and defence alike, from which the Bench never attempts to protect women and girl complainants. It is considered sufficient defence to make a counter-charge of improper conduct on the part of the child, as if that were any excuse for a grown man who takes advantage of it. Wetherall's friends, in the case mentioned, declared that another police constable was the offender, an offender, apparently, that the Treasury has no intention of pursuing and trying. In another case recently tried, in which a child of fourteen had been criminally assaulted, the Bench allowed defendant to ask her whether she had not had immoral relations with two other men, and with her own father. It would appear that because so unfortunate a little creature had had the desperate ill-luck to fall into such evil hands, that no protection was to be afforded her at all. One man having offended, the child is to be fair game for all others, in spite of the law, which declares such acts to be criminal, irrespective of the tendencies of the girl victims.

The Duty of the Bench.

We submit that women and girls have a right to be protected from gross allegations which have nothing to do with the particular case before the court. It is so common a practice to defame a woman's moral character, with the intention of reducing the value of her evidence, that it is high time we stirred up Bench and Bar on this point. Immoral relations with another woman would not count against the reliability of a man's evidence; but it is confidently relied on, even if only suggested and not proven, to prejudice judge and jury against a woman seeking redress for wrong. Further, we intend to raise continual protest against the most improper practice, explained by the Common Sergeant in addressing the jury, of not accepting even the most unshakable evidence, in sexual cases, given by women complainants, unless there is corroborative evidence. This "rule of practice" makes for abominable injustice; and we would remind our readers that women charged with soliciting are convicted on the bare word of a constable who in his turn often has accepted the bare word of a strange man whose name and address need not be given.

The Insolence of the Bench.

At Wimbledon, on a recent occasion, one John Littleton was charged with shooting at his wife with a rifle. He pleaded that she had written improper letters to another man. The Bench, dismissing the case, had the insolence to tell Mrs. Littleton that the letters were most improper, and that she "had better take great care how she behaved in future." We do not

know the rights and wrongs of the case; but we submit that shooting is a criminal offence and writing love letters is not; and that no right existed to admonish anyone not charged and not guilty of a chargeable offence.

The Eccentricities of the Bench.

Last week we told of a boy of fourteen indicted for indecent assault at the Criminal Courts. This week we hear of the committal of a small boy who, through reading trashy literature, endeavoured to wreck a train by placing impediments on the line and inventing a story about three men and a struggle. Committed for trial! Will our authorities never learn sense and proportion?

Our Hard-Won Rights.

There are few things that conduce less to respect for the law than to discover that the law is making a favour of what is really a right. For some years now the Suffrage societies have been fighting for equal rights in the matter of entry to the courts of justice, from which women are most improperly excluded whenever a case comes on that may be described as "indecent"—and therefore, in the greater number of cases, concerning some woman or girl-child. Our special correspondent recently had some trouble in gaining admittance to such a case at the Clerkenwell Sessions, and some correspondence took place with the Home Office.

The result has been that the Home Office has made good Mr. McKenna's declaration to the deputation of the Women's Freedom League last February. The Home Secretary admitted that a grievance existed and promised to put right what could be put right by his Department. Tardily as he has acted, we nevertheless acknowledge his action and chronicle one more triumph for the Women's Freedom League. Mr. Spokes, Recorder of Reading, now taking duty at the London Criminal Courts, alluded to the episode last Friday and spoke of the "tremendous complaint" made by Mrs. Watson, who gives us his pronouncement in the matter. We would like to make it quite clear to Mr. Spokes that her "tremendous complaint" was not that she should not have been admitted while the prosecutrix was in the middle of her evidence, but that she should have to ask for permission at all, and that she should be told by the police that they had strict orders not to admit women to similar cases.

Mr. Spokes: This is a case of indecent assault. A difficulty has arisen because at the last Sessions, in one of these cases, when the prosecutrix was being examined, a card was handed up and put on my desk, and I understood a lady wished to make a complaint. I could not interrupt the evidence of the prosecutrix at the time my attention was called to it, and therefore I did not inquire into it at the time. At the end of the evidence of the prosecutrix I inquired into the complaint and I found that the lady, who represented some society, wished to be present to take a shorthand note or make a report of the proceedings. I at once, in accordance with the practice that has obtained for many years, directed that she should be admitted. She has made a tremendous complaint to the Home Office that she was not admitted till after the evidence for the prosecution had been finished. If she had sent in her card before it had begun she would have been admitted at once: I wish to make that quite plain. My own view has been—and I have acted on it myself for many years—that no woman who wishes to be present when a charge is heard affecting another woman can be excluded from the court, and if any woman desires to be present at the hearing of a case of indecent assault she has a legal right to be present. In this case if any woman desires to be present while the case is being tried she is to be present. If she does not desire to be present it is better that she should not be present. If she wishes to be present she is entitled to be present.

The point to call attention to in the above statement is that Mr. Spokes admits the "legal right" of women to attend public trials. As it is a legal right it does not rest with Mr. Spokes or anyone else to permit us to exercise the right, and one can only wonder at the effrontery which ever dragged that right into question and denied its exercise. Magistrates and judges whose business it is to administer the law have no excuse for not knowing what the law is; and until women have some controlling voice over the law and its administrators their rights will always be in peril from masculine arrogance and intolerance.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

London Work.—Our regular weekly meetings will be resumed at Caxton Hall next Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Laurence Housman will be the chief speaker, the subject of his address being "The 'Rights' of Majorities." The chair will be taken by Mrs. Huntsman promptly at 3.30, and after Mr. Housman's speech Miss Nina Boyle will give a brief survey of the political situation. We cordially invite all our friends to be present at this meeting.

Work in the Provinces.—This week Miss Trott is working with our Manchester Branch. Miss Andrews begins a campaign in Chester, and will afterwards visit our Manchester and Liverpool Branches. At the beginning of next month Miss Anna Munro begins a tour of our Branches from Wellingborough to Middlesbrough. In the same month Miss Nina Boyle hopes to visit our Grays, Birmingham, Aintree, and possibly Wolverhampton and the Potteries Branches. On her way south, towards the end of next month, Miss Eunice Murray will speak at meetings held by our Middlesbrough and North-Eastern Branches, and London members will be glad to learn that Miss Murray will probably be working with us in London during November and December. Other plans are being made for organisers to visit our southern Branches, particulars of which will be given in later issues of THE VOTE. We are arranging a very strenuous campaign of the Women's Freedom League throughout the country. We need volunteers for this work in every district, and we appeal to our readers to support us wherever they live either financially or by personal service.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

The following leaflet has been printed for distribution among women in the precincts of the courts:—

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

WOMEN IN COURTS OF JUSTICE.

It is a common practice for Judges and Magistrates to order that

"ALL WOMEN LEAVE THE COURT"

during the hearing of cases of indecent conduct, criminal assault, rape, solicitation, and other matters affecting women, men alone being permitted to remain.

Women who desire to attend Police, Criminal, or Law cases in the Courts are hereby informed that such action is *entirely illegal*.

If they have entered the Court *no one* has a right to put them out, except for disorderly conduct. If they are refused entry, they have ground for an *action against the door-keeper* and those who gave him his orders.

Women who are turned out of the Courts, or refused admission to the Courts, are earnestly requested at once to call on or communicate with Miss NINA BOYLE, Women's Freedom League, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

- "The Queenie Gerald Case" By Keir Hardie Price 1d., post free 1½d.
- "Woman's Suffrage Who's Who." Published at 6s., price 2s. 6d., post free 2s. 10d.
- "Women's Freedom League" Regalia. Price 2s., post free 2s. 1d.
- Green, White and Gold Silk Ties (woven). 8d., post free 9d.
- "Five Years' Struggle for Freedom." By Margaret Wynne Nevinsom. (A history of the W.F.L.) 2d., post free 2½d.
- "This Monstrous Regiment of Women." Illustrated. By Ford Madox Hueffer. 6d. Now offered at 3d., post free 3½d.

THE POLITICAL PIG-STY.

Anti-suffragists have accustomed us to their war-cry, that women are in some innate and fundamental fashion "unfit" to handle national and Imperial issues; and since to be "unfit" presupposes some standard of "fitness," it is an educative process to discover this standard and analyse its comparative claim. There was never a better opportunity for gauging the standard of fitness by which we women are judged unfit than the present political and constitutional position, and the wrangle which superior male persons are carrying on—at the expense of the entire community—round the question of Home Rule for Ireland.

The Parliament Act was passed, the power of the House of Lords broken, and its reform delayed, and the sacred "British Constitution" altered, for the undisguised purpose of carrying Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment. Of the merits of these two measures we need say nothing at all, beyond that they cannot in any way pretend to be of import to the whole nation. The one is in the interests of a certain number of Irishmen, and the other of a certain number of Welshmen; Englishmen are only indirectly concerned, and Scottish men not at all. Two Sessions of Parliament, with all the entailed expenditure of public money and energy, and all the resultant delay in and neglect of other public business, have been devoted to these measures. One set of Irishmen have for years refused to obey the laws, and have conspired together to render them ineffective, because there was no prospect of Home Rule; another set are now refusing to obey and conspiring to render the law ineffective because there is an immediate prospect of Home Rule. Many of these men on both sides, who have, be it observed, more than their fair share of votes and representatives, have been among the most censorious critics of the women who, having neither votes nor representatives, are expressing their indignation on the same principle, but by far less deadly methods.

The Home Rule Bill has to make one more flounder through the Commons, and it will be law, despite the opposition of the Lords. Ulster, meanwhile, is preparing her "Provisional Government" and her armed force. Liberal statesmen and politicians have jeered at the armed force and belittled the Ulster opposition all over the country, both in and out of Parliament. They have boasted of their determination to pass the Bill into law, and have scorned the suggestion that they could not do so. And now, at the eleventh hour, a Member of the Cabinet, and a powerful one, has suggested a Conference and a compromise.

Decidedly, Mr. Asquith is not happy in his choice of a Cabinet. What with Suffrage, single-tax, and Mr. John Burns, he seemed to have trouble enough without this sudden plunge of the Lord Chancellor's. But we are not concerned with the Prime Minister's woes; what concerns us is the situation itself. Here are responsible supporters of the Home Rule Bill suggesting that the work of two arduous Sessions shall be thrown away, and that the sacrifices made to push Home Rule forward shall be thrown after it; and even going so far as to hint that Welsh Disestablishment can go, too, and be hanged to it. Where does the public come in, the

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public that has to pay? And where, oh where, the innate "fitness" for the handling of national and Imperial concerns of the male section of that public?

Even more of this sort of fitness is displayed by those who are offended with the idea of the suggested Conference. Liberals wildly yell, No compromise! and Unionists, No surrender! The Die-hards on both sides prefer bloodshed to conciliation, and testify to their eternal fitness for the management of grave national issues by taunts and phrases of defiance. *The Globe*, pompous organ of rebuke for militant women, says without one vestige of a smile—the Press is strangely devoid of a sense of humour—that "a murderous civil conflict . . . is such a terrible possibility that reasonable men of all opinions are seriously asking how it can be avoided." But when Sir Edward Carson, at Durham, replies to Lord Loreburn's proposition that it means that "serious and thinking men are beginning to realise the gravity of the situation"—the situation that he, Sir Edward, has created!—and goes on to say that "no matter what it costs or how long it takes, we are going to make government under Home Rule impossible by steady, persistent and insistent opposition," and then indicts the statesmanship that made the situation possible, we find *The Globe*, not rebuking all these mad, fighting-drunk men, but appealing to the King—the King who was so pitied and so mocked at for having been drawn into the Parliament Act squabble!—to save the situation!

It would be hard for women, however inexpert and untrained in the use of the political work and machinery of the country, to beat this record of masculine unfitness. It is time the anti-suffragists found another cry than woman's unfitness; unless, indeed, by the grace of God, some idea of their futility should assail them and keep them silent altogether.

C. NINA BOYLE.

Advanced Styles

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FOR THE

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The Charming Butterfly Velours Hat is only one of the original conceptions of Thompsons' Milliners which will be the vogue in the coming Autumn.

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Thompsons' Prices are noticeably less than West End Prices.

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LONDON, W.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Election News.

Mr. Israel Zangwill, the famous novelist, Zionist and Suffragist, is said to be contemplating the desirability of contesting a constituency as a militant Suffragist candidate.

The Glasgow Herald says:—"With talk of an early General Election in the air the militant Suffragists, like other political organisations, are busily engaged perfecting their arrangements for the descent upon the constituencies. Whether these plans in the case of Suffragists will include the promotion of independent Suffragist candidates is a matter which is still under consideration. That being the case, it is at least premature to say that the militants intend to run a candidate in opposition to Mr. Asquith in East Fife, and Mr. George Lansbury told me this afternoon there was no foundation for the rumour that he would contest the Prime Minister's stronghold. He has again been adopted as Labour candidate in Bow and Bromley, where he was defeated last year by an Anti-Suffragist Unionist, when he resigned to test the feeling of the constituency on the question of Votes for Women."

Tax Resistance.

A most enthusiastic meeting was held in the Market-square, Bromley, Kent, on Wednesday night in connection with the imprisonment of Mrs. Kate Harvey for non-payment of her insurance tax and licence on manservant. Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson, of the Women's Tax Resistance League, was followed by two Californian ladies, Mrs. Wilks and Mrs. Grover Smith, both of whom enjoy the vote in their own country and voted in the recent election for President Wilson. Both the American speakers supported tax resistance as one of the best methods of protesting against the present injustices to women. The crowd throughout was entirely sympathetic and vigorously applauded the speakers. Popular sympathy is obviously with Mrs. Harvey. Mrs. Wilks is a Unitarian minister, and has worked for the Suffrage for fifty years.

Two charges of contravention of the Revenue Act were made at the instance of the Officer of Customs and Excise against Dr. Grace Cadell, 145, Leith-walk, Edinburgh, the well-known Suffragette, in the Midlothian County Justice of the Peace Court this afternoon. The Clerk of Court read a letter from Dr. Cadell, dated from London, stating that as she was not a person in the eyes of the law it was impossible for her to appear personally. Mr. Henry Seex, Officer of Customs and Excise, stated that Dr. Cadell kept two carriages, and only held a licence for one. She had been told about it, and refused to take out the licence. A fine of £2, with the option of ten days' imprisonment, was imposed.

The second complaint was that she had armorial bearings painted on one of her carriages, and had taken out no licence for the same. She had had armorial bearings painted on her carriage for years, but this year she had refused to take out the necessary licences. When remonstrated with she had only replied that she was a Suffragette.

A fine of £3 3s. was imposed, which included the licence, with the option of ten days' imprisonment.

The Ulster Government.

Miss Dorothy Evans, the W.S.P.U. organiser for Ulster, has addressed a letter to Sir Edward Carson, in which she says:—"It is hardly necessary for me to point out that in assuming the powers of a Government you become subject to the obligations of a Government. Hitherto we have held the Imperial Government, with Mr. Asquith at its head, wholly and solely responsible for giving votes to women in every part of the Kingdom. But now that you are about to constitute a Government for Ulster, we look to you to grant the Vote to the women of Ulster. You and your colleagues and supporters are forming an Ulster Government, and are preparing for armed rebellion as a protest against being brought under a system of government to which you do not give your consent. It is on precisely the same principle that the Women's Social and Political Union, the militant Suffragist organisation, refuses to submit to government without the consent of women, either in Ulster or in any other part of the Kingdom."

The Times publishes the following statement:—"The secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council has written to the secretary of the Ulster Women's Unionist Association in reference to the part which Ulster women will take in the proposed provisional Government for Ulster. He states:—"I am authorised to inform you that the draft articles of the provisional Government already approved of by this council include the franchise for women on the basis of the register for local government purposes. In taking this step the council are merely following the policy which they have consistently adopted of co-operating with your Council and which has been at all times reciprocated. In the events of a Nationalist Parliament being forced upon us, it will take a considerable time to hold the necessary elections under the new franchise; and to meet the difficulty that will arise in the meantime through women not being represented upon the provisional Government it has been decided to propose at the meeting of this council, to be held on the 24th inst., that your council be invited to submit the names of women willing to act upon the various committees which will be on that date established. This ensures that those who have so heartily supported us in the past will immediately be co-opted with a view to taking their proper share in the management of the affairs of Ulster whilst,

we are holding the province in trust for the British nation, in which matter we fully realise that their interests are as much at stake as those of the men."

Franchise Resolution.

The resolution passed by the Trades Union Congress in favour of Women's Suffrage, *The Queen* points out, is the first passed definitely in favour of women as apart from Adult Suffrage. Mr. Ben Turner, who seconded the resolution, remarked that: "The Prime Minister could not have received stronger proof that women desired the Vote than had been given by the marvellous march of women from all parts of the kingdom to London." *THE VOTE* disagrees with Mr. Turner. We think that far stronger proof than even that afforded by the march is furnished by the fact that hundreds of women have been and are willing to suffer imprisonment, and violence, and insult in the Cause.

The "Undesirable Immigrant."

Divergent opinions about Mrs. Pankhurst's American reception are published. Some would exclude her as undesirable, because her convictions include crimes involving 'moral turpitude'; others wish 'moral turpitude' to be defined; it is not plain that she is 'fugitive from justice,' seeing that the British authorities made no effort to detain her; but what seems plain is, that she will be detained at Ellis Island and invited to give her views, under 'severe cross-examination,' on the 'moral law' and the 'duties of citizenship,' and one or two other items like that which will give her undreamt of opportunities. One of the Immigration authorities is reported to have said: 'Foolish, objectionable, and indefensible as the methods are by which Mrs. Pankhurst has sought to secure the Suffrage for Englishwomen, she is not a criminal in the ordinary sense of the term, and to make an issue of her coming would be an exhibition of bureaucratic assiduity.' It may safely be assumed that the same will be true of the projected 'cross-examination.'

A number of influential American women are forming themselves into a "militant" body to insist on her landing; and threaten to throw the harbour officials into the sea and create "a war to the death between men and women" should there be any interference with the visitor. That there are militants, and very spirited ones, in the States seems plain in spite of all denials.

Mrs. Pankhurst leaves Havre by the *Provence* on October 11, and her headquarters will be the Political Equality Association, 15, East Forty-first-street, New York, by kind permission of Mrs. Oliver Belmont. The tour will last through November. It is understood that the Government is sending Mrs. Pankhurst's police record to the States.

The W.S.P.U. and the Law.

Mrs. Baines, of Manchester, awaiting trial, is believed to have left for France.

St. Ansted, Cheam, Sutton, an unoccupied mansion, has been damaged by fire; a hayrick on Hampstead golf links has been destroyed; the foreign newspaper mail bag at Thread-needle-street Post Office was destroyed by fire one day last week; one of the greens of Norwood Bowling Club was deeply scored with a sharp instrument, "No votes, no peace; blame Asquith; Votes for women," and a flag and literature scattered about, corrosive fluid also having been plentifully used; Mrs. Holton and Miss Casey have been arrested at Bradford for damaging by fire contents of four pillar-boxes; Buckingham Palace is being closely guarded, and "all the windows have been first boarded up and then protected by bomb-proof plates, and both on the roof and in the yard there is a ceaseless patrol by detectives and firemen." Kenton Railway Station on the Ponteland line near Newcastle was destroyed by fire on Saturday, the damage being estimated at £1,000. Luggage bags found on the premises were inscribed, "Asquith is responsible for militancy. Apply to him for damages." Owing to fear of Suffragists, the members of the congregation of Brentwood (Essex) Parish Church are guarding the building day and night, taking hourly "turns."

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage.

The Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, which is the outcome of the Scottish deputation that Mr. Asquith made the egregious blunder to insult, is now an established fact. Centres are organised in Midlothian, Glasgow, Berwick-on-Tweed; and East Manchester is to be dropped upon soon. Open-air meetings in the Parliamentary divisions of all the Scottish centres are being organised. Voters will be asked to vote Mr. Asquith's coalition out of office. Voters will be asked to vote for no party whose leader will not make Women's Suffrage a straight and foremost issue at the election, and voters will be asked to do as women have done—embarrass every reactionary Government which keeps its women outlawed. A mass meeting of the Edinburgh centre will be held in the Synod Hall, November 14. A mass meeting will be held in Glasgow on or about October 7. Berwick-on-Tweed is to shortly approach Sir Edward Grey, and if the answer is unsatisfactory, Berwick-on-Tweed will use its vote as the most efficacious form of militancy. If Woman's Suffrage cuts a thwart party line, it is now quite certain that no party can proceed on any lines until it takes the question up, and leads it on statesmanlike lines. Now the voters are coming into the fight in real and grim earnest—the end is not far off.

OUR REUNION.

There are hours in the lives of most of us when our sense of individuality seems to fade away, and we become merged in the greater personalities of the movement, when we become one with those of our leaders who at other times we honour from afar. Such an hour was experienced on the evening of the Reunion of the members and friends of the Women's Freedom League last Monday. The earlier part of the evening was given over to social intercourse, during which time refreshments were served by the junior members, when friend met friend, and the old members had an opportunity of extending a welcome to the new friends and sympathisers.

The gathering was very ably presided over by Mrs. Clark, who referred in her opening remarks to the imprisonment of Mrs. Harvey. Mrs. Clark further drew attention to the fact that while Mrs. Harvey was unable to be present with us, she had a very good representative in her daughter, Miss Margery Harvey, who had taken her mother's place on the platform, whilst also representing the large army of young people who were coming into the movement.

Miss Margery Harvey proceeded to read a very inspiring letter from her mother, exhorting all to do their utmost to make the various sections of the League a great success during the coming winter, and dwelling especially on the evening set aside for the performance of a dramatic version of *Hiawatha*. The importance of every member doing her share to make *THE VOTE* a great power all over the country in every way possible was also insisted on.

The applause which greeted our President, Mrs. Despard, on rising to speak came from hearts alive to the great end to which she is leading the way. All eyes were fixed on her with eager expectancy, while she unfolded to us some of her ideas for the coming winter's campaign. At the outset Mrs. Despard paid an affectionate tribute to the character and work of Mrs. Harvey, and after expressing her appreciation of the young life which was coming into the movement to a larger extent than ever, she directed our attention to a "Vote Brigade," which is to be honoured by her generalship. The aim of this Brigade was not only to increase the sale of *THE VOTE*, in which were some very valuable features not to be found in any other Suffragist papers, but also to bring the workers more into contact with each other. For this end Mrs. Despard promised to try and meet such members who could make it convenient twice every week, and urged all who had any time whatever at their disposal to offer their services for this very important section of the work.

Miss Nina Boyle then made an appeal for funds, after which Mrs. Tippett gave a very interesting talk on "Responsibility," which elicited much applause.

E. POPPLETON.

"HIAWATHA."

(DRAMATISED BY MRS. K. HARVEY.)

A DRAMATIC REPRESENTATION

OF

Longfellow's famous Poem, "HIAWATHA,"

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TICKETS 4s., 2s., and 1s., all Reserved and Numbered to be had at W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C.; or Braekenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent.

Nearest station to Institute, Aldersgate, on Metropolitan.

The Proceeds will be given in Aid of *THE VOTE*, the organ of the Women's Freedom League.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE PROTEST.

The protest meeting last Saturday, in spite of the numerous counter-attractions offered to the public, must be chronicled as one of our successes. The resolution,

That this meeting protests with indignation against the vindictive sentences passed on voteless women, and especially that on Mrs. Harvey, and demands that the Government accord equal treatment to men and women under the law and under the constitution,

was carried from each platform, and the crowd appeared entirely sympathetic. The advertisement campaign carried by Mrs. Ball with the Freedom League Caravan was thoroughly effective, and Mrs. Ball is much to be congratulated on the energetic fashion in which she carried out the work. A large number of well-known supporters were present, and a great number of VOTES were sold.

It is impossible to give the speeches at full length, as space forbids. THE VOTE is heartily grateful to the friends who supplied reports of the proceedings at both platforms.

Miss Munro, chairman on Platform No. 1, declared that the woman's movement had won much sympathy in the country, but women wanted more than pious opinion—they wanted realities. It was the lack of realities which had driven and is driving them into other paths—paths which had won honour for those who entered them in the past. For the old principle held good still: taxation without representation was tyranny—and this was true for men and true also for women. Women were fighting not merely for the right to put a cross on a piece of paper. The vote was more than that: it was the symbol of power and liberty, and by its means woman would gain power to make her country cleaner and happier.

Mrs. Despard made the first speech. It was (she said) somewhat sad and strange that over and over again in this country—which claims to be democratic and liberty-loving—we should have to call round us our friends to protest against gross injustice. It is not so long since we protested against the imprisonment of our friend, Mr. Lansbury, but he was not long under lock and key. And why? Why but because there were too many men workers who were determined that he should not remain under lock and key. And why had men workers more power than women workers? You will be answered: "Because industry belongs to man who has created it." But where would industry be without the women? And was there a greater industry in the world than the making of men and women? The voice of the man was heard and heeded, but the voice of the woman was heard and not heeded. Were it heeded, she would say to our lawgivers of to-day: "Come down from your place."

A sentence of monstrous injustice had been passed on Mrs. Harvey. She refused to pay the insurance tax. Let her point out the inequality of the sentences passed on insurance resisters.

Mrs. Harvey was sued for a count of ten weeks, amounting to 5s. 5d. To this was added costs and special costs, till it mounted to £17. For refusing to pay a licence for a man-servant she was further fined £22. But a man who defaulted for thirty-one weeks and, moreover, deceived his servants into the belief that all was straight, was fined 15s. We realise, therefore, that this is vindictive. Mrs. Harvey was fined not for refusing to pay her tax but for being a rebel.

Mrs. Harvey was a woman who devoted her life to the help of others. During the dockers' strike she had taken into her own home three of the dockers' children and cared for them as if they had been her own. For the sake of justice—for the sake of our country's reputation—she asked the people to help. "I ask all men—workers or not—to send a card to Mr. McKenna, demanding Mrs. Harvey's release. Work for the time to come, when men and women shall stand together to make the world better, purer, happier and holier than that in which we are condemned to live."

Mr. H. W. Nevinson thought that it was a strange thing that under a Liberal Government he should have seen about ten times as many indignation meetings as under any other Government. He believed it was because the people at Westminster were shut up within their walls and came in contact only with their own people; they were not in touch with the new spirit that was abroad in the country. There they sat and talked about their little parties—deaf and blind to the facts of the world around them. He had been in Russia, and had seen men shot down because they tried to win liberty. But these men knew that Russia did not believe in liberty; she believed in despotism.

But we had a Liberal Government, whose principle was, "No taxation without representation." "How was it that no Minister was with us on the plinth? Why did they not come and stand by us? They earned £400 a year—the big men earned £100 a week—yet they left it to a poor journalist to come and teach liberalism! This I do believe. It would be impossible for any twenty elected well-known women of this country to behave in regard to any question as our Cabinet has behaved in the woman's question during the past six years! After such trickery can you wonder that women are driven to active rebellion? If such rebellion had not broken out, they would have been unworthy of the heritage of our fierce people."

Mrs. Cobden-Sanderson's point was that Mrs. Harvey was worthy of the vote as a *human being*. She had worked for the great movement of universal brotherhood. Even caddies were striking now against the Insurance Act. But the caddies would have a vote one day, and Mrs. Harvey never. She objected, naturally, to obey laws made without her consent; and if ever there was a law which touched women equally with men, and left them, in fact, in a worse position than men, that law was the Insurance Act. Resistance to taxation is no new principle. Mr. Harry de Passe, speaking next, said: "I only wish more people would protest against this insurance tax, which has been imposed against the people's will. The sending of a good woman to prison for refusal to pay makes it clear to us that we are living under a Government of compulsion. It is this principle of compulsion that we must fight. As for those who had the vote, let them not use it for the furtherance of bureaucratic legislation. Let the privilege and monopoly everywhere be abolished, so that the people may come into their own and be delivered from the control of the expert."

Mrs. Sproson made a fine appeal. The average Briton (she said) was a great illusionist, and there were three points on which he deluded himself—he thought he had a Free Parliament, a Free Press, and Free Courts. He had no one of the three. In this respect, therefore, he was worse off than a Russian peasant. The Russian knew where he was. He knew he was governed by an autocrat. We were governed by an autocracy, but we did not know it. Women were accused of being hysterical! Now, men were just as hysterical as women, only they showed it rather differently. Had they ever seen a football team? She was a Wolverhampton Wanderer herself, and had a presentiment once that the Wolverhampton Wanderers would win the Cup. She said so to a London crowd, and one would have thought she had killed a policeman! That night, when she went through the streets, she saw men blowing penny trumpets!

She had been four times in prison for not breaking the law, and the only time she had really done something she went free.

Miss Amy Hicks, M.A., who took the chair on No. 2 platform, said that Mrs. Harvey had been sent to Holloway Prison for two months for refusing to comply with the Insurance Act, and for refusing to pay the licence in connection with her garden, on the ground that taxation and representation ought to go together.

Miss Hicks then read the following message from Mr. Lansbury, who was too unwell to speak at the meeting:—

"Please say that I hope every man and woman who really believes in freedom and justice will not rest until Mrs. Harvey is released. It is perfectly monstrous that the law should be administered in the iniquitous manner it has been in her case." And the following telegram from Mrs. Kineton Parkes:—

"Success to the meeting.—Denounce injustice. Regret cannot participate."

Mr. John Scurr said he had come to protest against the action of the Liberal Government in respect to women, and to let the Government know that there are people at the present time who are not prepared to sit down calmly and let these things go on in the name of liberty, and in the name of England, to please the personal convenience of the Prime Minister. Mrs. Harvey, in company with the rest of women, either taxpayers or working women, had not been consulted as to the National Health Insurance Act. Although that Act has placed a poll tax of 3d. or 2d. on every woman who works or employs labour at all, they have neither been consulted as to whether they desired that tax, what the amount of that tax should be, or what should be the benefits given under the Act; therefore Mrs. Harvey contended that, as she had not been consulted, she under no circumstances was going to pay that tax. (Hear, hear.) He wanted to tell the Government in power at the present time that, if they were anxious to have a revolution in England, their various acts both in regard to the Suffragists and the workers on strike were bringing about a revolution. He was not only protesting against what was happening in Mrs. Harvey's

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE will commence its
AUTUMN SESSION of Wednesday Afternoon PUBLIC MEETINGS
At CAXTON HALL on September 24, 1913.
Speakers: Mr. LAURENCE HOUSMAN (on "The 'Rights' of Majorities"), **Miss NINA BOYLE.**
The Chair will be taken at 3.30 p.m. **ADMISSION FREE.**

The Northern Men's Federation FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

(NON-PARTY AND CONSTITUTIONAL.)

Founder and Honorary Organiser of Federation—

Mrs. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT,

6, Wellington-road, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.

The following centres are now formed and in working order:—

MIDLOTHIAN.

Hon. Secretary.—Miss NANNIE BROWN, 71, Princes-street, Edinburgh.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. ALEXANDER ORR, 32, Feltes-row, Edinburgh.

GLASGOW.

(To include Lanark, Carstairs, Garnwarth, etc.)

Hon. Joint Secretaries.—Miss ALICE A. PERRY, 15, Woodlands-terrace, Glasgow; Mr. A. M. SERVICE, 83, Kingsborough-terrace, Hyndland, Glasgow.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. ANDREW SLOAN, Athenæum Club, Glasgow.

BERWICK-ON-TWEED.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (pro tem.).—Mr. R. K. GAUL, 32, Hide-hill.

Other cities are being organised and particulars will be duly announced.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE NATIONAL FUND to cover heavy working expenses will be gratefully received and should be sent NOW to Mrs. ARNCLIFFE SENNETT, at the above address.

LONG, LONG AGO!*

A lecture was delivered by Mrs. Besant on August 25, 1874 and so much appreciated that, in its printed form, it passed into three editions. It has now been reprinted and added to a useful series advocating Women's Rights.

When one reads such a vindication of the claims of women as this, and has evidence of the attention it aroused nearly forty years ago, one realises that something more than merciless logic and unanswerable argument, and brilliant advocacy were needed to win Votes for Women. Those who do well to study this pamphlet who look upon the present passionate outburst of a militancy as born of a wild unreasoning impatience instead of a natural consequence of years of serious patient effort ignored, save for the stinging lash of contempt. Nearly forty years ago Mrs. Besant realised the danger to the State of such a policy, and she embodied her warning in these prophetic words: "But women are now beginning to think of resistance; a deep, low murmuring is going on, suppressed as yet, but daily growing in intensity; and such a murmur has always been the herald of revolt. Further, do men think of what they are doing when they taunt the present agitators with the indifference shown by women? They are, in effect, telling us that, if we are earnest in this matter, we must force it on their attention; we must agitate till every home in England rings with the subject; we must agitate till mass meetings in every town compel them to hear us; we must agitate till every woman has our arguments at her finger's end. Ah! you are not wise to throw in our teeth the indifference of women. You are stinging us into a determination that this indifference shall not last; you are nerving us to a struggle which will be fiercer than you dream; you are forcing us into an agitation which will convulse the State." Written over thirty years ago, surely this must impress those who still enjoin patience. After 48 of "educating" the public, one of last Sunday's papers actually alluded to the "deadly silence" of the militants touching the reason for wanting the Vote!

WHETHER THE SUN SHINES OR THE RAIN DESCENDS, you will do well to visit Messrs. A. and P. Kuchemann, 1, Arundel-place, Coventry-street, London, W. (near the top of the Haymarket), and supply yourselves with both sunshade and umbrella. You may be sure of excellent value for your money, and an old umbrella can be re-covered for 3s. 6d. or mended while you wait.

"The Political Status of Women." By Mrs. Annie Besant. The Women's Rights Library. Price 3d.)

case, but wanted to say that there had been nothing more disgraceful and contemptible than the action of the Government in Dublin. (Applause.) In the Post Office women were not granted equal concessions with men because they had no political power behind them. They did not receive equal pay for equal work, although it was admitted they often did the work far better than men. Women had no means, until they resorted to violence, of being able to influence the Government. The only thing left was to go to prison. They have given Mrs. Harvey two months in the second division—(shame)—because she refused to pay a fine three times more than that inflicted on any man, and they called this justice! How did this compare with the imprisonment passed on that woman in connection with the Piccadilly flat case? (Hear, hear.) In that case there were very highly placed names, which Scotland Yard had received instructions from the highest possible quarter not to "let out." (Hear, hear.) They had got to tell the Government that Mrs. Harvey had got to come out, like Mr. Lansbury. (Hear, hear.) This demonstration was only the beginning of the agitation, and would not cease until she had been released.

Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Despard, and Mr. Mark Wilks followed with fighting speeches, in which the Government was dealt with faithfully.

The resolutions were put at 5 o'clock.

The Women's Freedom League desires to thank the generous supporters, both speakers and helpers, who contributed to the success of the meeting; also Mrs. Ball and the ladies who helped with the Caravan.

FACTORY GIRLS AND THE VOTE.

A few weeks ago I was present at a Tuesday evening at Hoxton Hall, and, in company with the girls of Mrs. Rae's club, "The Girls' Guild of Good Life," heard a most interesting lecture on the difficult subject of the Insurance Bill. The girls of the Guild listened with keen attention, and talked lucidly about various intricate problems; moreover, they acted in a manner which showed a most intelligent interest in the whole woman question, thus emphasising the need for their consideration with regard to Women's Suffrage.

They want it sadly. I do not blame the factory owners for the girls' low wages, any more than I blame the British farmer for the starvation stipend of the agricultural labourer of to-day. Emphatically it is the conditions of life in modern England that have raised the gaunt spectre of destitution and made possible the fact that thousands of girls are eking out a *living death*—it is hardly worthy of the name of a miserable existence even—at the rate of 1½d. or 1¼d. remuneration per hour.

These conditions are the offspring of the lack of vitality of modern legislation. Whence does this abuse spring? The question answers itself, and cannot be righted till the women have a voice in the nation's councils to plead for those who merely keep on the straight path through some innate love of goodness and purity, and personal contact with such institutions as Mrs. Rae's "Girls' Guild of Good Life." The Guild was started more than twenty-five years ago by its president. It is non-political and unsectarian, and was formed for the cultivation of such habits and graces as tend to the building up of pure and happy lives, thus forming the basis of all national greatness, and true empire power. Mr. W. T. Stead and Mrs. Josephine Butler inspired the work, aided by Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson (the distinguished sanitarian), Sir Walter Besant, Mr. Montagu Williams, Archbishop Temple, and others.

Queen Alexandra has taken a great interest in the girls for twenty years, and Queen Mary frequently sends useful and attractive presents. More than five thousand members have been enrolled since the commencement of the Guild, and the rules are few and simple: All work must be paid for before taking home; no bad language must be used; no member can be admitted without first signing the Total Abstinence Pledge; any member suspended for a fortnight through bad behaviour cannot compete for prizes or attend excursions.

It is difficult to believe that Hoxton Hall, the headquarters of this thriving club, was once a low music hall. From twenty-five to thirty meetings are held every week, not including committees. The principal weekly gathering takes place on Tuesdays, when classes are held for dressmaking, cutting-out, ironing, painting, writing, embroidery, crochet, fret-work, basket-making, &c. Besides the religious side on Sundays, "Young People's At Homes" are held in the evening. On weekdays, socials, a woman's adult school, debating society, and popular entertainments. There is a mandoline band for musical girls, a cookery class for practical ones, and so on. I have established a colony for "visiting girls" at Newchurch, Isle of Wight, and elsewhere. Last year more than twenty came to the Isle of Wight, and seemed to be much benefited by the rest and change.

Doctor Beckett Overy devotes an evening every week to attend to those who may require his services.

It is a good feature in the working of the club that many senior girls help with the junior classes, and that the married girls seldom lose touch with the environment which has so helped and aided them in life's journey.

ETHEL HARGROVE.

[We regret having held over this valuable contribution for so long.—Ed.]

THE VOTE.

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, September 19, 1913.

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: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.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.

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"FALSE AND FRAUDULENT PRETENCES."

People who "obtain money by false and fraudulent pretences" frequently find themselves in the dock answering for their unhandsome doings before a jury of their fellow-men. The ordinary man is supposed to have a prejudice against being defrauded; the law is supposed to protect him against it; the public is supposed to approve of such prosecutions and to be ready to assist the law in its pursuit of the misdemeanant. What causes surprise, under these supposititious circumstances, is to note the very large class of persons who obtain money by false and fraudulent pretences who never reach the dock at all, and the apathy of that other class which never makes any attempt to put them there. The class known vaguely but comprehensively as "the authorities," for instance, is never put in the dock to answer for its abuse of public trust and squandering of public money. Yet it has earned that guerdon as fully and as conscientiously as the absconding clerk, the bogus company promoter, the false trustee, and the confidence-trick man. Why do not "the authorities" reap the same reward as those other malefactors? We wonder why not?

Mrs. Harvey is in Holloway because she will no longer consentingly give her money to dishonest trustees to handle for her. She has been adjudged "guilty" of a crime which is in reality no crime, but a public service. She has set an example of watchfulness in the nation's interests that others would do well to follow. She not only will not pay for what she may not choose; she will not pay for inferior goods, for bad service, foisted on her without her consent, by false and fraudulent pretences.

What is it we pay for? In the taxes and duties levied on the population right down to the poorest and humblest of all—who pay through their tea and sugar and the very necessities of life—there is a vested right to a good return and to honest and able management. These paid servants of ours—the Cabinet, the House of Commons, the Army and Navy, the Civil Service—represent the skilled labour of national employment. Some of them get the highest skilled wages paid. It is only the exception when skilled work is given in return for those wages.

The legal advisers of the Government, one way and another, draw some £45,000 a year. The Attorney-General, besides his £7,000 a year, is entitled to charge a daily fee when put on to a job. The other is only a waiting fee. The result has been that one of the Government's chief measures had to be withdrawn because it was not in order and did not comply with the rules; and a few days before the close of the Session a Government amendment of more than ordinary importance, affecting the shameful taxing of married women's incomes, had to be dropped for the same reason. These two measures both were of deep importance to women. One was to have an amendment

granting to women the rights of their citizenship; the other was to give them relief from an entirely illegal form of levying taxes on their incomes. Both attempts at remedying injustice failed because of the incompetence of the Law Officers of the Crown. Women are still to be refused the benefits of the Married Women's Property Act when it comes to taxation, and over two millions of unlawful booty are still to be collected and disposed of by those guilty of false and fraudulent pretences. No wonder Mrs. Harvey goes to prison sooner than let them spend money of hers!

The President of the Board of Trade draws £5,000 a year. He has under him inspectors who hold inquiries and make reports, and occasionally a Commission is appointed to make a special report. Such a report was made, at great expense, about two years ago. It was then pigeon-holed—a common fate of reports. Then the *Titanic* went down, and another Commission sat. This one cost upwards of £30,000. The Attorney-General cut in and drew his fees, and the Solicitor-General did likewise. Then it transpired that there had been the former Commission and that its report had been pigeon-holed. Had its report been carried out, the mortality from the *Titanic* disaster would in all probability have been less. The public paid for both Commissions, both reports; and it paid more—the list of casualties.

The Board of Trade is conducting another inquiry now. Major Pringle is inquiring into the Aisgill disaster, just as three years ago he inquired into the Hawes Junction disaster. The recommendation made then was that electricity rather than oil-gas should be used for lighting. The railway boards smiled courteously; the Board of Trade responded in kind; the same recommendation will now be made again. Women and children have paid with their lives for the false and fraudulent dealings of the Board of Trade, whose duty it is to maintain and to introduce safeguards up-to-date for those who travel by land and by water. Small wonder that some women are refusing to pay these "wicked and slothful servants."

There was a fire at Messrs. Arding and Hobbs. Nine girl children were roasted to death on the roof or smashed to pulp on the pavement. It transpired that young lads monkeyed around among the piled heaps of celluloid with gas-rings and blazing sealing-wax. L.C.C. inspectors had said nothing; the manager pooh-poohed fire-drill as farcical. No report of this scandalous neglect ever reached the L.C.C. through its inspectors. There was another fire at John Barker's. Five more girls frizzled to death in that outbreak; and it transpired that only a trifle over 500 of the thousands of London firms that keep young employees on the premises had complied with the L.C.C. regulations of 1907, regarding precautions against fire. Women are only allowed to vote in proportion of one to every seven men in local government; they cannot turn out these inspectors, and can bring but little influence to bear, for the elections are run on party lines. The power above the L.C.C. is the Cabinet. No London County Councillors have been put in the dock.

The Cabinet is composed of persons who at divers and sundry times perambulate the country with their cohorts of supporters and parasites, telling the gullible public, with an unparalleled effrontery of bluff, that in their hands the finances, interests, and persons of the community will be safe. Other sets of politicians also go on circuit giving this a flat denial and upholding their own peculiar political pills and potions and panaceas. Sometimes the winners call themselves Unionist, sometimes Liberal; they are equally false and fraudulent in their pretences. They draw large salaries for themselves, secure office, titles and pensions for their following; make shameless inroads for their own advantage into the public purse entrusted to their keeping, and misadminister the bulk with a recklessness only equalled by its ineptitude and inefficiency. Commissions sit eternally, for no apparent object but

COMMERCIAL & JUDICIAL MURDER. INSTANCES.

"I took her away; it would have killed her." A mother spoke. She had come before a Care Committee to ask that her school-children might be fed. There were six of these: two were under school age, one, a girl of a little over fourteen, was above. "Has she been put to work?" the mother was asked. "Yes," she answered bitterly, "to a laundry. Work—hard work—from 8 to 8. Four shillings a week. First week, two days' pay kep' back. They always does that, in case of girls leaving sudden."

"I suppose you can't feed your girl on that?" said a member of the Committee.

"No, I can't," was the answer, "and I don't mean to try. We may as well die one way as another."

That is a case of such commercial slaughter as is continually going on. Here are two more in which the judicial attitude towards slow murder is exemplified. They come from Devonshire, South Molton, where a bench of magistrates—his Worshipful the Mayor at their head—adjudicated on certain breaches of the Factory Acts. It is illegal to give out home-work to workers of adult age who work twelve hours, or to those under eighteen whose legal work-time is ten and a-half hours.

A girl, fifteen years of age, working from 8 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., piecework pay, on gentlemen's white collars, was able to earn from 4s. 4d. to 5s. a week. In order to earn a little more she had taken collars home with her, and worked two and a-half hours after tea. This brought up her wages to 6s. 6d., or sometimes 8s. 9d. The manager pleaded that the workers were not obliged to take collars home; that to do so was a common practice in similar factories; that (curiously), though he knew of the practice, it was without his knowledge it was done.

Nevertheless, after long cogitation, the bench of magistrates decided that the Factory Act had been broken, and imposed a fine of 2s. 6d. with 12s. 6d. costs. A second charge was proved, and they decided *not* to record a conviction, but only to ask defendants to pay costs. Pressed by the woman inspector, the Mayor remarked that "to set themselves right" they would inflict a nominal fine of 6d. The same penalty was inflicted on two other counts.

Compare this with the vindictive sentence on Mrs. Harvey for tax-resistance—on ten counts, the full debt, 5s. 5d., a fine of £10, with costs amounting to nearly £7 more!

Consider, too, how frequently Anti-Suffragists assure us that the Factory Acts, passed by men, are a proof of their consideration for women!

Let me put the matter plainly. For petty larceny, especially if it can be proved that it has been carried on stealthily for some considerable time, the penalty is prompt and severe. For such neglect of the young by parents and guardians as may entail physical suffering, punishment is also meted out in proportion to the nature and degree of the offence. But when, through many years and in many separate cases, employers of girls and women are found guilty of what is practically robbery and murder (for none can dare to deny that semi-starvation, overwork and bad conditions in workshops do shorten life), sympathy for the law-breakers is expressed by administrators of the law, and sentences, confessedly nominal, are inflicted.

Who can wonder that women, not subject to such conditions, but condemned to the awful knowledge that they exist, are in revolt?

I asked this question of Mr. McKenna the other day. I received no answer. C. DESPARD.

LADIES wishing to visit London, and at the same time would like to know of a really nice comfortable, well furnished, clean and central private hotel (bus and train pass top of square to all parts of London), could not do better than pay a visit to Miss Davies, 13, St. George's square, Westminster, where they will receive every attention. For particulars read advertisement on back page of this paper.

to enable commissioners to draw fees. The Housing Commission that sat at Birmingham denounced the "back-to-back" design; but houses are still built on the "back-to-back" plan in Birmingham. The Poor Law Commission presented a Majority and a Minority Report. Neither have been acted on, and Mr. John Burns is now upholding and extending the crying evils that the Commission sat to remedy. The Commission on the Jury System sat for months and months; its report gave no relief to sufferers and no promise of justice; but even what it did recommend goes unheeded. The Divorce Commission's Report is waste paper; its only result, a private member's Bill, with no ghost of a chance to obtain time or consideration, let alone a third reading. The legal advisers help the Cabinet to frame laws, and the legal members of the House discuss and amend them, with the result that no one knows what they mean until other legal gentlemen, or the same ones, have been paid a second time to discuss them before a judge and jury, who must also be paid to say what they eventually do mean. The public pays three times over in this business of law-making; is it any wonder that some women are rising up to say they will pay no more until they have power to ensure more efficiency? Nay, is it not far more amazing that they have not done so long ere this?

The Government is the Great Fraud of the age. It and its supporters, with their false and fraudulent pretences, cannot even govern. No one will pretend, in this the twentieth century, that "government" is rightly interpreted as mere coercion, repression, or exhibition of force. Government that is good, government, above all, that claims to be "representative," must be based on the goodwill of those governed. The Government does not exist for one set or one class or one portion alone. No matter who elects it, no matter what its name, party or politics, all the community has an equal claim on it. Unrest in any direction should enforce on a Government the duty, the necessity, of immediate attention to that unrest, and an endeavour to remove the cause in some fashion that will allay the unrest without causing undue friction elsewhere. None of our governments do this. It is the fashion in governing circles to allow unrest to simmer, boil over and create uproar and outrage; upon which police, military, and specially enrolled forces are most improperly burdened with the task of quelling riot and keeping order.

Governments that cannot govern, that delegate their proper functions to subordinate institutions, that prate of the voice of the people and the mandate of the people and the welfare of the people, but heed none of these things until driven to do so by outbreaks of violence; that keep office but neglect their work; that take pay and do not earn it, are an anachronism. They obtain and keep their power by a system of false and fraudulent pretences; and just as it is said in our little wars that "regrettable incidents" will continue to occur until one or two generals have been hanged, so lives will be sacrificed, children demoralised, and the people robbed wholesale, until some of the "managing directors" of our national firm make their appearance in the dock charged with obtaining money by false and fraudulent pretences, or some other charge that will properly describe their crime. Meanwhile women should not pay their national contributions; Mrs. Harvey will not do so; the goods are not worth the money. C. NINA BOYLE.

REBELLION.

Rebellion! foul, dishonouring word,
Whose wrongful blight so oft has stained
The holiest cause that tongue or sword
Of mortal ever lost or gained.
How many a spirit, born to bless,
Has slunk beneath that withering name,
Whom but a day's, an hour's success
Had wafted to eternal fame!

—Thomas Moore.

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THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

This column will be devoted this week to a case tried at the Old Bailey before the Common Sergeant, in which P.C. Wetherall was charged with criminal assault last March on the young daughter, aged fourteen, of Mrs. Parrott, at whose house four police constables were lodged. The child will shortly be confined. She is of irreproachable reputation and most carefully brought up; no evidence of any sort could be brought against her character, yet irresponsible witnesses were allowed to make unsupported allegations of misconduct with other men. It would appear that the official mind does not admit any guilt in a man who tampers with a child, if he can plead any sort of suspicion that another man has done it before him!

Wetherall was acquitted, for want of what the judge called "corroborative evidence." Judge, counsel, and police witnesses seem to have combined to browbeat this poor child, who was kept for one and a-half hours in the witness box on two successive days in her deplorable condition of mind and body; but what we principally wish to deal with is the extraordinary conduct of the prosecution.

Mr. Bodkin conducted the case against Wetherall. He gave his client no help in the witness box; he allowed evidence of startlingly irregular kind to be given without protest; he did not call two important witnesses, and he agreed with the Bench that there was no corroboration of the girl's story. Neither did he insist on the defence making good its own tale. In fact, he played the part of the complacent friend of the defence, and it was to such hands that Mrs. Parrott had to trust the protection of her child!

Mrs. Watson, who watched the case for us through the Courts and brought us into touch with the distracted parents, gives us the following statement:—

In the Wetherall case, although we have the very clear evidence of the girl herself, all the points of which are borne out, with the one exception of the actual assault itself, we have the judge talking of uncorroborated evidence, and telling the jury what they are to do, instead of letting them fulfil the duty for which they are there.

The girl, Violet Parrott, of 29, Church-road, Homerton, says that on three dates in March (5, 12 and 26) she took up Wetherall's breakfast and he assaulted her, telling her not to tell her mother or she "would get a hiding." She says her mother was always out shopping on a Wednesday morning, a statement proved by the mother's evidence. The girl cannot give a reason for fixing March 5 as the first time, except that it was on a Wednesday and Wetherall had his breakfast in bed. In the schedule of Wetherall's duties in March, drawn up by a police inspector, it was proved that he was on a duty on which he always had his breakfast in bed.

The girl is firm in fixing the second assault as happening

the Wednesday before the boat race. On this date Wetherall was on a duty when he would have had his breakfast in bed.

The third assault the girl is certain happened on March 26, because two days later she went away to her first situation, the date of which going is borne out by her mother. On this date Wetherall says he did not have his breakfast in bed, because he had previously been on duty for a short time. He says, however, that he came home for breakfast, and he does not himself suggest that he was not in the house on that occasion. The most he says is that he did not have his breakfast in bed, and the schedule shows that he was not on duty. Medical evidence given by two doctors at different times gives distinct corroboration of the accuracy of the dates.

At the last moment the defence introduced a story which another policeman is supposed to have told a friend of Wetherall, who repeated it to him. This story, even if true, is utterly discreditable to the three policemen who were concerned in it. It is that one police constable Riley, who lodged with Mrs. Parrott, told another policeman, also a lodger, that he had been familiar with the girl Violet. This man told Wetherall the story, but none of them seem to have thought of warning the mother of her daughter's danger, nor even of doing their plain duty in reporting the seduction of a girl under the age of consent, which is a criminal offence, as they must have known. If their story is true, they should be punished for a grave neglect of duty.

The girl was not cross-examined about this story, nor questioned on any point raised in connection with it, although she had to undergo a sharp questioning on a remark she made that Riley had once touched her face in a friendly way.

Then a youthful constable is put into the box, and tells how one night in March, date not specified, he saw a little brother of Violet's looking in a certain window, and apparently accusing a person inside of being in P.C. Riley's arms. This constable, by his own account, seems to have taken this disgusting behaviour on the part of a little boy, a girl of fourteen, and a policeman with remarkable unconcern. He did not seem to think the mother should be warned or the girl protected, and as he says: "It was no concern of his what another P.C. did," although he admitted that had it been a private person he would have reported it. No evidence was called in support of this extraordinary story, and the man himself only "remembered" it an hour before he was called into the box. It is a remarkable thing that evidence of this kind should have been allowed. I have often heard evidence of a third person disallowed, and witnesses have often been stopped from describing things that occurred, if the prisoner was not present at the time. The brother was not called to substantiate the last story. The mother says that he would have denied it utterly as being untrue from beginning to end!

I am suspicious of the fact that the judge stopped the case immediately after coming back from lunch. If Mr. Bodkin so immediately agreed that there was no corroborative evidence, why did he take up the case at all? With the exception of the two incidents concerning Riley, he evidently knew all the evidence on both sides before the case was taken up. Did this hearsay evidence, unsupported, influence the judge and Mr. Bodkin? If so, it would appear that men accused of criminal assaults against girls have only to trump up some story, however unsupported by evidence, defaming the name of their accuser, and they can be sure of getting off scot-free! There is more than one case where the man has made allegations against the woman and has been acquitted! It may not be cause and effect, but it appears something very like it!

One last question: Why do judges always act upon what they admit is not a rule in law, but only their rule in practice, in demanding corroborative evidence to a story of this kind? They have power to convict without corroborative evidence; why do they never do so? I was told by the official reporter that he heard the jurymen say that they were not satisfied at all in bringing in a verdict of Not Guilty; and I saw myself that they were plainly astonished at the sudden stopping of the case.

Although counsel is not supposed to put leading questions to a witness, yet when a witness shows confusion, and it is evident that the real drift of the question is not understood, counsel always helps the witness by suggestions and hints. For instance, this girl made statements at the police station that she did not in her confusion repeat at the trial. Mr. Bodkin's duty was to have reminded her of these, and to help her tell her story coherently. She was not questioned by him on important points appearing in her statement before the magistrate, although worried about unimportant details. All these things, although appearing trifles, show to the initiated how badly the case for the prosecution was conducted. The mother says she never saw Mr. Bodkin before the morning of the trial. Important witnesses were not called, important papers were not put in, and immediately after lunch the prosecuting counsel amiably gave up his case at the direction of the judge.

The most shameful thing of all is that P.C. Wetherall was released on a bail of £5, and remained on duty pending his trial. If Mr. Bodkin did not know this, he ought to have done so; we fear he cannot plead ignorance.

Public prosecutors, police, and other officials of this kind must go. They do well to be afraid of the indignation of women!

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE HOME OFFICE.

August 12, 1913.

To the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,—We have to call your attention once more to the tyranny and want of common consideration exercised by the Bench towards that section of the public which is composed of women. At the recent trial of Arthur H. Bennett for indecent assault on a child of thirteen, daughter of respectable people, the court was crowded with men, the examination of the child was conducted by an Indian counsel, the mother of the child (who had to give evidence) was not allowed to remain in the court, and all women were rigorously excluded.

The following conversation took place between the representative of the organ of this League and the policeman on duty at the door of the court:—

"After the jurymen had entered, I pushed open the door. The policeman on duty came out and said, 'You cannot come in, it's an indecent case.' I said, 'What case is it?' He replied, 'Assault on a little girl.' I said, 'That is just what I want.' He said, 'You cannot go in, no woman is allowed in court when these cases come on.' I replied, 'If I were in court you could not turn me out.' He said, 'I know; but you're not going to get in while I'm here. I have my orders.' I was writing this in my notebook, and asked him, 'Who gives you your orders?' He replied, 'The judge.' I said, 'But the judge does not know I am here,' and he said, 'No, it's always the rule; he gives the order at the beginning that no female shall be allowed to come in for these cases. But what are you writing?' 'I am taking down all you say; I want it for my paper.' He went hurriedly into the court, and left me. After a few moments I pushed open the door, and he came out and said, 'I can't let you in. I have my orders, and must obey them.' 'I know that,' I replied, 'but I want to know exactly what these orders are, and who gives them.' 'Would you like to send your name in to the judge?' he asked. 'Certainly; here is my card,' handing him my Press card. He disappeared into the court, coming out in five minutes to say, 'The judge is still reading your card. He has not yet told me to let you in, but you had better stay near.' I waited quietly for another five minutes, when he came out and beckoned me in. When I entered the little girl was alone in a court of men, being questioned as to the details of the assault."

We protest indignantly at this travesty of "public trial," which only admits to these cases that section of the public whose interests demand that the other section shall be kept in ignorance of the horrors such trials elicit.

We protest against the procedure which prevents the mother of a child placed in such a position from taking her place beside her in the court. We protest against the indiscriminate admittance of brutalised men while women are excluded, and demand that the courts shall, in such cases, be cleared of men and not of women. And we venture to remind you that when we placed a case of similar nature before you on February 11 last, you expressed sympathy, admitted the injustice and impropriety—and have taken no steps whatsoever to remedy the gross abuse of power and offence to decency involved.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of Political and Militant Department.

Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

August 26, 1913.

Dear Madam,—You wrote to the Home Secretary on the 12th instant with regard to the exclusion of women from a recent trial of a man for indecent assault on a child of thirteen, but you did not state at what court and on what date the case

was heard. Would you be good enough to let me have these details?—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) J. F. HENDERSON.

August 27, 1913.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of August 26, and have pleasure in forwarding details of the case to which we called your attention.

A man called Bennett, who takes young pupils, was charged before Mr. Spokes, at the Clerkenwell Sessions, on August 7, with indecently assaulting Dorothy Whiteley, a pupil, on several occasions. The child was alone, no other woman but our special reporter being in the court. Her mother gave evidence also, but was not allowed in court while the child was examined and cross-examined. The court was crowded with men.

While corresponding on this subject may we further mention the two cases recently brought against Horace Evans (son of Sir Samuel Evans, president of the Divorce Court) at Machynlleth, Wales. The Bench of magistrates called on all women to leave the court in each of these two cases; in the first, the wife of the accused was allowed to remain with him, although the mother of the injured girl was not allowed to remain. In the second case, the counsel for the injured girl pleaded "as a special favour" that her mother should be allowed to remain.

That "a special favour" should be made to women of what is an elementary public right is so surprising a misuse of authority that we cannot understand how the Government has left it to us to protest on behalf of the public.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) C. NINA BOYLE,

Head of Political and Militant Department. J. F. Henderson, Esq.

BROCKWELL PARK MEETING.

A very successful meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday, September 14, the speakers being Miss Underwood and Mrs. Clark. The latter gave an interesting *résumé* of English history, showing how progress resulted from successive rebellions against injustice and wrong. She enumerated some of the grievances of women, and indicated the various forms their rebellion is taking to-day. Miss Underwood followed with a lucid statement of the Women's Freedom League policy, and explained our methods of tax resistance, &c. She pointed out how badly women need the vote for their own protection, and how badly the country needs their trained intelligence and special gifts to assist in the work of legislation. The audience was most attentive, and there was no opposition. A good many questions were asked, mainly by Socialists, and the speakers pointed out that there is no antagonism between Woman and Labour, but that their strivings for freedom are both parts of one great progressive movement.

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It is undoubtedly a fact that the mineral water treatment of rheumatism, gout, gouty eczema, gravel and other uric acid troubles, is most efficacious.

You should therefore try "Vitaregis Aperient Water," which contains "Sulphur" in the most palatable form yet discovered, and is endorsed by the medical profession.

It is used in the leading Hydros, and has the decided advantage of being quite odourless, as well as palatable, and is also a mild and effective aperient.

Half a tumblerful taken before breakfast, once or twice a week will make you fit and keep you well.

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WRITE FOR OUR LIST OF "SPORTING HATS."

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MODEL No. 7498.—Illustrates a black waterproof hat, piped green suede, which also forms the underlining and band round crown, or with suede trimmings of cerise tan, blue or violet. Price - - - 29/6

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

In the States.

Though as yet there have been no outbreaks of "militancy" in America, the zeal of some Suffragists is inspiring them to unusual methods. In Washington during the summer the roof-gardens are a popular resort in the cool of the evening. Noting this, ardent Suffragists are carrying on a campaign of roof-garden oratory.

The Californian women, as one of the results of their franchise, obtained the Red Light Abatement and Injunction Law, which hitherto had failed to secure support. The Vice Interest is now fighting that law desperately. They have been able to hold it up temporarily after its passage through the Legislature, and have demanded a referendum. Of the signatories to the petition asking for a referendum, there were ninety-six men to every four women, and those women belonged to the Red Light district.

A representative of a Labour Union approached the Mayor of Oakland protesting against the reduction of the number of drinking saloons from 400 to 200, because it meant a reduction in employment. He was immediately referred to the women's Leagues for Civic Betterment (the old Suffrage societies in their new form).

What our Women are Doing.

WOMAN'S RECORD RIFLE SCORE.—A remarkable rifle score, said to be the world's record for a woman, was made by Mrs. Lester Alton at Bisleby. She obtained 104 out of a possible 105, making 35 at 200 yards, 34 at 500, and 35 at 600.

A Parliament of Women.

The National Union of Women Workers is arranging to hold its annual Conference for the second time in Yorkshire, and we notice that the Lady Mayoress of Sheffield has joined the Marchioness of Normanby, the Viscountess Halifax, and other well-known ladies of the West and East Ridings on the committee in charge of the local organisation. The Conference, which is to be held at Hull next month, is virtually the Women's Parliament and brings together active feminists of all kinds—even the Suffragist Mrs. Henry Fawcett and the anti-Suffragist Mrs. Humphry Ward.

British Association.

For the first time in the history of the British Association a woman has been made president of a section, an honour which has deservedly fallen to Miss Sargent. For the first time in the history of Birmingham University an honorary degree has been conferred on a woman; and in granting *Mdme. Curie* such a degree, it may be said that the University is receiving rather than bestowing an honour.

On the Continent.

The Italian Minister of Justice is preparing a measure which will institute a radical reform in the existing law regarding civil rights. His object is to accord to women the same civil rights as are now possessed by men. It is expected that the Bill will be introduced in the Chamber in November, but the Minister will explain the details of the measure in his forthcoming electoral address.

Chapter 4

It's Getting Old-fashioned
to scrub clothes on wash-day.

The slavery, the steam, the sweat, the smell, the worry and most of the work of wash-day are done away with nowadays.

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That's all.

And beautiful white linen!

Fels-Naptha 39 Wilson street London E.C.

SCOTTISH ORGANISER FUND.
Collections and Donations during August.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Brought forward	140 0 0	Mrs. A. Black	0 5 0
Per Miss Ada Broughton	8 10 4½	Miss N. Steven	1 0 0
Per Miss E. G. Murray	1 1 0	Collections at Meetings	11 4 6
Mrs. Murray	1 1 0	Sales	3 0 0
Miss E. G. Murray	1 1 0	Per Miss Alison Neilans	12 17 11
Mrs. Dixon	0 2 6		
Mrs. Conage	2 0 6		179 4 9½

CLYDE CAMPAIGN RECEIPTS.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Bunten, Miss J.	5 0 0	Park, Miss	0 10 0
Baird, Miss	0 13 6	Cuthbert, Esq.	1 0 0
Murray, Miss Eunice	2 10 0	Park, Miss Mary	0 5 0
Murray, Miss Sylvia	1 0 0	Jacob, Miss G. H., B.Sc.	1 0 0
Thomson, Mrs. K.	1 0 0	Macintyre, Per Miss D.	
Anonymous (Glasgow)	0 5 0	(collected)	0 10 0
Bigg, Miss Louisa	2 2 0	Collections	51 7 2
Gore-Browne, Miss E.	0 1 0	Rent from Helpers	4 7 3
"J. C. S."	0 1 0	Membership Fees	1 13 0
Preston, Miss Cecil	0 5 0	Profit on Literature	3 13 2
"Mother of None!"	0 1 0		
Wood, Mrs. Julia	0 10 0		£77 14 1

A. B. JACK, Hon. Treas.

TAX RESISTANCE.

The meetings at Bromley continue to be satisfactory, and at Monday night's gathering in the Market-square the resolution carried on Trafalgar-square was put to the assembled crowd, and carried with only four dissentients. A good many people, however, refrained from expressing an opinion either way. The meeting was under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League, the speaker being Mrs. Emma Sproson, who is now, we are glad to say, once more able to take up Suffrage work. Bromley gave her a cordial reception.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Church League.

The following petition has been drawn up by The Church League for Women's Suffrage, and will be presented to the House of Commons, bearing the signatures of bishops and clergy only, when Parliament reassembles:

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled:

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED BISHOPS AND CLERGY OF THE CHURCHES OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND AND OF THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH sheweth:

1. That the refusal to women in a democratic country of any share in the Parliamentary Franchise is fundamentally unjust; strangely anomalous in view of the public duties which they have been rightly encouraged to undertake and which they admirably fulfil; and calculated to obscure the spiritual equality of the sexes which is an essential tenet of the Christian Faith.

2. That the Empire is thereby deprived of valuable forces which, if experience elsewhere may guide our judgment, would operate in favour of much needed moral and social reform.

3. That all political parties repeatedly assert large measures of reform to be long overdue; and that it would be disastrous to commence such reforms without giving to women a voice in concerns about which they have admittedly expert knowledge.

4. That your Honourable House has repeatedly expressed itself in favour of conferring the Parliamentary Franchise on duly qualified women.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE PRAY THAT YOUR HONOURABLE HOUSE WILL BE PLEASED TO PASS WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY A MEASURE TO CONFER THE FRANCHISE UPON WOMEN ON THE SAME TERMS AS UPON MEN.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS AS IN DUTY BOUND WILL EVER PRAY.

Co-operation in securing the necessary signatures will be heartily welcomed. Full particulars may be obtained, together with copies of the petition and forms for signatures, by writing to the Petition Secretary, C.L.W.S. Office, 6, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

The new Camberwell and Forest Hill "Group," in connection with this League was formally inaugurated at a meeting held in Dulwich on September 8. Representatives of several Women's Suffrage Societies attended and took part in a general discussion on the position of the Cause in the district, Miss Winifred M. Spriggs speaking on behalf of the W.F.L. Mr. Walter F. Westbrook was elected as Chairman of the Group, and Mr. A. J. Clifford Ewen, 1B, East Dulwich-road, S.E., will act as hon. secretary. Considerable interest is being aroused, and it is a matter for satisfaction that a number of the local clergy have expressed their sympathy with the movement, three Vicars of parishes in the district having enrolled themselves as members of the League.

Irish League for Women's Suffrage.

On September 9, at the first meeting of the League since the vacation (Mrs. Sohn in the chair), Mrs. Tanner gave an address on "Where We Stand," taking a very hopeful view of the present position of the Cause. An animated discussion followed, and a cordial vote of thanks to Mrs. Tanner brought a pleasant evening to a close.

The League is returning to its old quarters, and the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 23, at 8 p.m., at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand. Mrs. Nolan, Hon. Sec. (*pro tem.*)

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Bowes Park, New Southgate, N.

A members' meeting was held on Monday, September 8, at "Ulum," The Lodge Drive, Palmer's Green. Work for the coming weeks was discussed, and it was agreed to hold a public meeting in October at one of the local halls. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 22, at 34, Highworth-road, Bowes Park, when it is proposed to deal with anti-suffrage arguments. New members cordially invited.

Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

Will all members bring friends to our first "At Home" of the autumn session, which will be held on Thursday, September 25, at 3.30 p.m., when Mrs. E. M. Moore, of Purley, will speak on "Elizabeth Fry"? Please bear in mind the autumn jumble sale and send parcels as soon as possible to the secretary.

Mid-London.

Will all members able to do so go to the Sunday meetings in Regent's Park? They are from 12 to 1.30, and we hope to keep them up for some weeks longer. It is advisable to have membership forms as well as associate's forms with you, as it is very probable that some of those who have been present at the meetings, which appear to be very popular, would like to join the W.F.L.

West Hampstead.

A members' meeting was held on September 11, at 23, Pandora-road, at 8.30. The secretary reported that the "Suffrage Talks to Working Women" had been held at 211, Belsize-road, during April and May, and open-air meetings had been held in West-End-lane on Tuesday evening throughout June and July; the last meeting before the summer holidays was held on August 6. These meetings were resumed on September 9, and will continue until September 30. For speakers see "Forthcoming Events." Miss Nina Boyle, Mrs. Bracher, Mrs. Mustard, Miss Normanton, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Read, Mrs. Clarkson Swann, Mr. Bostock, and Mrs. Merivale Mayer have very kindly spoken at the open-air meetings, Miss Boyle and Miss Normanton on several occasions. It was decided that as the Branch is in need of funds, a Bohemian Social and Dance should be given on October 30, provided a suitable hall can be engaged in Hampstead. Members are asked to keep that evening free. The next Branch meeting will be held on October 7, same time and place.

PROVINCES.—Aintree.

A Branch meeting was held on Tuesday, September 9. Miss Trotter kindly came from Chester to address the members, and gave us a most interesting account of her work during the summer campaign and the Chesterfield election. She also described in detail the circumstances leading up to Mrs. Harvey's imprisonment. Much indignation was expressed and letters of protest will be sent to the Home Secretary. The secretary was able to announce visits from Miss Andrews, Miss Boyle and Mrs. Despard during September, October and November, so a very successful autumn campaign is anticipated.

Chester.

During the last week we have had valuable help from Miss Trotter, who is holding and organising meetings in every direction round Chester. On the last Thursdays in each month, commencing September 25, public meetings will be held in Brown's Auction Room, Newgate-street. Members are urged to bring their friends and do their utmost to make these meetings successful. We are on the point of taking a small shop in St. Werburg's-street, immediately opposite the main entrance to the Chester Cathedral, an excellent position for a Suffrage centre. This will not be an extravagant venture, the rent being only £18 per annum, and already a number of members have promised weekly subscriptions varying from a halfpenny to half-a-crown as well as contributions toward furniture. We shall be glad to receive further offers of help that we may start on a sound financial basis.

Manchester (Central).

Much useful propaganda work has been accomplished during the week by Mrs. Brickhill and Miss Hudson while VOTE selling.

The Jumble Sale will be held on October 18. Goods of any description, new or old, will be gratefully received; parcels may be left at the office or addressed to Miss A. E. Hordern, care of Mrs. Sharples, 9, Hughes-street, Brook-street, C-on-M. The secretary would greatly appreciate offers of help in visiting, and would supply names and addresses of sympathisers likely to contribute to the Jumble Sale.

Middlesbrough.

A meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch was held last Monday night in Hinton's Café. Mrs. Schofield Coates presided.

The following resolution, which the secretary was instructed to forward to Mr. McKenna, was carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of the Middlesbrough Branch of the W.F.L. protests against the unjust sentence meted out to Mrs. Harvey, and begs to point out that she has been more severely dealt with than male offenders, and that her resistance is entirely due to the fact that she has not the status of a citizen, and that it is due to such conduct as hers, in the past, that male citizens enjoy their privileges of to-day."

It was agreed to hold a Jumble Sale on October 19. The secretary reported that Miss Janet Heyes is coming for a week's campaign in October, and Miss Munro is coming for a week in November. It is hoped that all members will do their utmost to advertise and sell



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Costumes from 4½ Guineas.
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tickets for Town Hall meeting on October 7, as the expenses incurred will be very heavy and funds are at a low ebb.

Southampton.

A successful meeting was addressed by Miss Nina Boyle last Friday evening at Morris Hall. Mrs. Perriman presided, and the number of copies of THE VOTE that were sold, and the good collection taken, were true tributes to the activity of our Southampton Branch.

Waverton.

In response to a local appeal, we held an open-air meeting on Monday evening, September 8. Friends came in from a distance, some having become interested at former meetings and "noised our fame abroad." The chair was taken by Miss Woodall, the indefatigable hon. sec. from Chester, who explained our policy and methods very clearly. The speakers were Miss Trott and Mr. A. Jones, so that the audience was able to review the question from quite different points of view. Interest was well sustained for an hour and a half, and darkness only served to bring in more listeners. THE VOTE sold out, and we took a good collection. We are glad to report several new members to the group.

Winchester.

A Branch of the Women's Freedom League was recently formed at Winchester, and the first meeting was held, by the kind permission of Mrs. Walter Carey, last Thursday evening, at "The Lodge," Bereweke-road. The chair was taken by Mrs. Taplin, the speaker being Miss Nina Boyle. For the previous week Mrs. Taplin had worked hard canvassing the district, and we are greatly indebted to members of our Southampton Branch who came over to Winchester to help her sell THE VOTE in the streets of this cathedral city.

SCOTLAND.—Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 21, Buccleuch-place.

The quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council was held in Glasgow on Saturday, September 13. Delegates were present from Dundee, Paisley, Rothesay, Scattered Members, and Glasgow. Miss Eunice J. Murray was called to the chair.

The principal business was the discussion of the report of the work of the two Scottish organisers for the months of July and August.

Miss Broughton has done excellently both in propaganda and in organising work, in helping weak branches, and in stirring up new ground. Under her care Paisley has more than doubled its membership; Kilmarnock has been reorganised, and a new secretary and president have been appointed; Dumfermline is being awakened, and there are good prospects of new branches being formed at Kilbirnie and Lochelly.

The work of the Freedom League in the Clyde campaign, so well established in former years by Miss Anna Munro and Miss Sidley, has been ably sustained this year by Miss Alison Neilans as organiser and her band of willing helpers, and the very heartiest thanks of the Council are here publicly tendered to one and all for the arduous labours so ungrudgingly given to make the campaign what it has undoubtedly proved—a magnificent success. The Suffragettes are more looked upon as part of the holiday attractions of Rothesay, and to hold in the same district two meetings a day for two months and yet to leave the crowds thirsting for more, is a feat showing no mean mental capacity on the part of our speakers, and is proof that our Cause needs only good exponents to make converts. As a practical result of the work we have many new members added to Glasgow and other branches, and the Council has an excellent financial balance to help carry on further propaganda work in Scotland.

The Council also decided to send Mr. McKenna the following letter of protest regarding Mrs. Harvey's imprisonment:—

"To the Home Secretary.
"Dear Sir,—The members of the Scottish Council of the Women's Freedom League demand that you use your influence to have Mrs. Kate Harvey at once released from her iniquitous and unjust sentence which she is at present undergoing.

"Thousands of persons in Great Britain are resisting the Insurance Tax; many cases have come before the courts; but we cannot find one single example of a similar sentence passed on male offenders for a like offence. When we compare the sentences passed on men and the sentence passed on Queenie Gerald with that of Mrs. Harvey, we find in this another instance of sex bias in the administration of justice.
"Therefore we re-iterate our demand that Mrs. Harvey be instantly released.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,
"ALEXIA B. JACK, Hon. Sec."

We suggest that protest meetings be held in Scotland, and Edinburgh has arranged for one on Saturday, 20th.

A. B. JACK, Hon. Sec.
NOTE—For addresses of Branch Secretaries apply to Headquarters, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

RED INDIANS WANTED!

Will any members who would be willing to appear in costume on the stage to form "crowd" in *Hiawatha* (particulars of which will be found in advertisement column of this number) kindly send in their names as soon as possible to Miss Underwood, W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.? The costumes will be provided, and only the best grease-paint will be used to darken the skin. All must attend the last three rehearsals, before the performance, dates of which will be published later.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Fri., Sept. 19.—MORLAND-ROAD, CROYDON, 7.30. Mrs. H. Bostock.
Sun., Sept. 21.—BRUCE HALL, Chatham-place, Hackney, N.E., 9.30 a.m. *Speaker*, Mrs. Mustard. HYDE PARK, noon. Mrs. Marion Holmes, Mrs. Hyde, REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Boyle and Miss Rogers. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Mrs. Tanner.

Mon., Sept. 22.—CORNER PORTOBELLO-ROAD AND BLENHEIM-CRESCENT, KENSINGTON, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle. BOWES PARK BRANCH MEETING, 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, 7.30 p.m.
Bromley Market Square, 7.30. Protest Meeting.

Tues., Sept. 23.—CORNER BLACKBURN-ROAD AND WEST END-LANE (near West Hampstead Station, Met.), 8.15 p.m. Miss Helen Normanton, B.A.

Wed., Sept. 24.—CAXTON HALL Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Laurence Housman, Esq., on "The Rights of Majorities," and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Hantsman. Admission free.

Thurs., Sept. 25.—CROYDON "AT HOME," 3.30. Mrs. E. M. Moore on "Elizabeth Fry." HIGHBURY CORNER, 8 p.m.

Fri., Sept. 26.—MORLAND-ROAD, CROYDON, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
Sun., Sept. 28.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Nina Boyle. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Hyde. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m.

Tues., Sept. 30.—CORNER BLACKBURN-ROAD AND WEST END-LANE (near West Hampstead Station, Met.), 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.

Wed., Oct. 1.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. DESPARD on "The Policy and Work of the W.F.L.," and J. CAMERON GRANT, Esq., on "Economic Wrongs of the Employer and Employed." Chair: Miss Boyle. Admission Free.

Fri., Oct. 3.—MORLAND-ROAD, CROYDON, 7.30 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

Sun., Oct. 5.—HYDE PARK, noon. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Nevilson, Mrs. Nourse.

Mon., Oct. 6.—CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, 8 p.m. LECTURE by Mrs. WALTER GALLICHAH on "Woman in her Relationship to Man." Admission by ticket, 6d. and 1s., from W.F.L. Office.

Tues., Oct. 7.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' QUARTERLY MEETING, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7.45 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 8.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. E. M. MOORE on "A Woman's Utopia." Admission Free.

Sun., Oct. 12.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Munro.

Wed., Oct. 15.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. NOTT BOWER on "Heroines of the French Revolution." Admission Free.

Mon., Oct. 20.—CAXTON HALL, 8 p.m. LECTURE by LAURENCE HOUSMAN, Esq., on "Petiteco Government."

Wed., Oct. 22.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30.

Tues., Nov. 4.—Dramatic Version of "Hiawatha," by K. Harvey (in aid of "The Vote"), Cripplegate Institute, two minutes' walk from Aldersgate-street Station (Metropolitan Railway), 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Mon., Sept. 22.—Gravesend, 10, Cobham-street, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

Thurs., Sept. 25.—Chester, Brown's Sale Room, Newgate-street, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. *Speaker*: Miss Andrews. *Chair*: Miss Woodall.

Mon., Sept. 29.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m., Branch Meeting.

Thurs., Oct. 2.—Liverpool, Waterloo, Drewhurst's Café, 7.45. Miss Andrews.

Tues., Oct. 7.—Middlesbrough, Town Hall, 8 p.m. Public Meeting. *Speakers*: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mr. Henry Harben. *Chair*: Mrs. Despard.

Oct. 25 to Nov. 1.—Middlesbrough—Miss Janet Heyes.

Mon., Nov. 10.—Middlesbrough. Annual Meeting.

Nov. 16 to Nov. 22.—Middlesbrough. Miss Anna Munro.

SCOTLAND.

Thurs., Sept. 18.—Kilmarnock. Miss Eunice Murray.

Fri., Sept. 19.—Dumfermline. Miss Eunice Murray.

Sat., Sept. 20.—Edinburgh, Mound, 3 p.m., Protest Demonstration against Mrs. Harvey's sentence. Miss Eunice Murray and others.

Wed., Oct. 1.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m., opening "At Home." *Speaker*: Miss A. C. McLaren.

Wed., Oct. 1.—Paisley. Miss Eunice Murray.

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IN THE PARKS.

Regent's Park.

The Mid-London Branch held its usual Sunday morning meeting in Regent's Park. As soon as the cart arrived the audience began to gather. Mrs. Despard spoke most earnestly about the injustice of Mrs. Harvey's imprisonment, and evidently gained the sympathy of her hearers. Mrs. Hyde presided. After the meeting, Miss Alix Clark, who was fortunately present, sold a number of VOTES at the park gates. It would be a great help if some member would volunteer for Vote selling every Sunday, both outside Hyde Park and Regent's Park.

Hyde Park.

A very large crowd assembled in Hyde Park on Sunday morning to hear Mrs. Sproson, and listened with deep attention to her well-reasoned arguments. In the course of her speech she pointed out that there was a similarity between the governments of Russia and England: both are autocratic. The Russians are aware of the fact with regard to their governments; not so the English, who appear to be unconscious of the fact. That the influence of one man was sufficient to block the progress of the Women's Bill this year, in spite of the very large majority known to be in favour of it, afforded a good illustration to her point.

What opposition there was to her speech came from smartly-dressed women, one of whom, in a heavily sprayed hat, tried to turn everything said into ridicule; and a well set-up "gentleman" did his level best to break up the meeting, actually succeeding on two occasions in drawing off part of the crowd to listen to his own sarcastic remarks upon "Women: their Wants and Woes!" Mrs. Nourse was in the chair.

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AN APPEAL.

"THE VOTE" ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT
Extract from the Report of the Directors.)
AN examination of the details of the Trading Account has shown that a fairly creditable average has been maintained in the Advertisement Department, but in order that the accounts may be held and increased, it is necessary that the Advertisers shall be well patronised, and the Directors appeal to all members to support those firms who support the paper, to regard the Advertiser not merely as an ordinary trader knocking at the door of the consumer, but as one of the most important factors in building up "THE VOTE."

OUR SHOPPING GUIDE.

For Addresses see Advertisements near Reading Matter & on Cover.

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We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be Prepaid and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, by the First Post on Tuesday Morning.

BUSINESS, &c.

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