

THE VOTE,
July 24th, 1914.
ONE PENNY

"STOP THE TRAFFIC."

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. X. NO. 248.

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FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1914

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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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Why not for His Women Subjects?

King George, in his desire for a peaceful settlement of the Irish question, has done more than look on. The conference meeting this week at Buckingham Palace, to which the protagonists have been "commanded" on the advice of His Majesty's Ministers, is evidence of the fact. The King, we are told, welcomed the eight members of the conference, and urged upon them the necessity of finding a way out of a disastrous situation. Yet among these law-makers are defiant law-breakers, men who have organised the training of a rebel army to fight against His Majesty's soldiers, involving not only destruction of property, but of life, men who have gloried in gun-running and holding up His Majesty's officials, and dared the Government to arrest them. If the King could not receive women demanding justice because they had broken the law, what right have Sir Edward Carson and Captain Craig within Buckingham Palace? When a woman's peaceful deputation desired to present a petition to His Majesty there were soldiers inside the palace precincts to keep the women at a distance; outside they were ridden down by the police, violently treated, arrested, and flung into prison. Militant men are admitted, welcomed, and, under the roof of the King, bidden to find a way for redressing their grievances. If the King can thus exert himself on behalf of his male subjects—who have in their hands the weapon of the vote—when a danger point has been reached, why should he turn a deaf ear to the grievances of his voteless women subjects? Let him call a conference of women—representatives of the Suffrage Societies and even of the Antis—and let the Government be cross-examined by the women as to their promise breaking and law breaking which have driven women into rebellion. His Majesty received a special report, we read, of the latest boxing match, when two men knocked each other about until one was disabled; how many special reports have been placed before him of the great meetings and demonstrations on behalf of Woman Suffrage? How much does he know of the disabling of the lives and bodies of women and little children through the passion and greed of men, and the failure of the law to do them justice? His Ministers have created a situation for women as disastrous as the situation in Ireland. How long before His Majesty insists that torture shall cease and peace be made by granting their just demands?

The Wisdom of the Doctors.

We have good cause to support the action of the Forcible Feeding (Medical Men) Protest deputation in refusing to commit themselves—and their speeches to the Home Secretary—to the tender mercies of the official reporter of the Home Office. We know from experience how inaccurate official reports can be. After the last deputation of the Women's Freedom League to the Home Secretary the report sent to us by the Home Office was so full of blunders that it was returned by us with a strong protest against its being allowed to stand among the records of the department as a true account of what took place. The ignorance of officials and legal luminaries as to the suffrage movement spreads downwards to the lesser lights. In another column we give extracts from the speeches which the doctors would have made and add here a significant remark made to our prisoners just released from Holloway. When they were taken to their cells, after being sentenced, each asked if there were blood stains in them. "No," was the reply, "there has been no forcible feeding in these cells."

What Does the Bishop Think?

The Bishop of London's conversion to woman suffrage is a welcome fact because it arises from conviction. It has been gradual, but effective through his recognition of what would have been possible in his purity campaign if women had votes. We doubt not that the debate in the House of Lords on July 20 on his latest Bill will make him a keener supporter than ever of votes for women. Noble lords, in their anxiety to blame the "temptresses" were busy whittling away the safeguards of the Bill and weakening its force. The Lord Chancellor's amendment, which gives a girl only one year's further protection, 14 instead of 13, was carried, and other amendments are prepared which will further weaken it. We desire that young men should be protected, but the noble peers seemed to overlook the fact that it is the woman who suffers and pays, while the partner of her guilt so often goes scot free. The debate emphasised the Bishop's contention that if he had the votes of a million women behind him a strong, not a weak, Bill would reach the Statute Book—and speedily.

Women and the Priesthood.

It is the unexpected that happens—the Church of England must be prepared for it. No sooner has Representative Church Council decided that women should have the ecclesiastical vote on the same terms as men, and may even sit as parochial Church councils, though it was aspiring too high for them to be lay representatives on the Ruridecanal and Diocesan Conferences, than it is boldly announced—in the *Times*—that a movement has been initiated to consider the question of the ordination of women to the priesthood of the Church of England. It is expected that a conference of clergymen's wives and women Church workers will be held in London, probably in September. Of course, the suggestion has opened the floodgates of condemnation, but it is a sign of the changing of the old order that progress has been made so far, and in the new order there must be sex equality.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

A little cork fell on the path of a whale,
And he lashed it down with his mighty tail;
But in spite of his blows, it quickly arose,
And floated serenely in front of his nose.
Said the cork, "You may flap and sputter and rap
But you never can keep me down
For I'm made of the stuff that is buoyant enough
To float instead of to drown."
M. A. Edmonds-Remie, in the *Gary Daily Tribune*.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.
THE MILITANT POLICY OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
AT HEADQUARTERS.
OUR HOLIDAY NUMBER.
"STOP THE TRAFFIC": OUR POLICE COURT PROTEST.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM: FORESHADOWINGS IN FICTION.
L. A. M. Priestly.
BRITISH WIVES AND FOREIGN HUSBANDS.
Lady Aberconway.
THE "PROTECTED" SEX.
WANTED: AN ELECTION CRY. C. Despard.
WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.
OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.
FORCIBLE FEEDING: THE DOCTORS' DEPUTATION.
POLICE WOMEN: DEPUTATION TO THE HOME OFFICE.
ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE:
MYSTICISM IN THE EARLY CHURCH. S. Gay.
W.F.L. CAMPAIGNS.

Women's Freedom League.

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OUR MILITANT POLICY.

The question is frequently asked, What is the actual policy of the Women's Freedom League, and how do we stand with regard to militancy? It may be well at this critical moment to make our position perfectly clear.

We are militants, and in so far our methods differ from those of the constitutional Suffragists. We believe that there have been moments in the history of every nation when laws had to be broken in order to prove that they harked behind the conscience of the people. That the law that prevents woman from taking her place as citizen is unjust and tyrannous we believe, and therefore we are in rebellion against a Government that refuses to give the nation an opportunity to redress that injustice. Therefore, we resist taxation, we refuse to submit to the Insurance Act, we make protests in public places against the orders of authorities; we do everything we can to emphasise our conviction that we are being treated as outlaws.

But we use no violence, and we do not, at any time or in any way, either damage private property or inflict suffering and loss on our fellow citizens.

This, briefly, is our policy. I wish also to make it perfectly clear that it is adopted by the whole of the League, and has not been imposed upon it by its leaders. Over and over again, in our yearly conferences, two resolutions have been passed by large majorities—that we ourselves shall abstain from violence, and that we shall not criticise those who follow other methods. C. DESPARD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Hyde Park and Caxton Hall Meetings

Next Wednesday afternoon will be our last meeting in Hyde Park until September, when we shall resume them until October. In October we shall begin our Wednesday afternoon indoor meetings, and our readers will be glad to know that we have an excellent number of speakers for the Autumn session. Mr. Laurence Housman will speak at the first meeting on October 8.

Our Campaigns

Most Londoners are now away, but members of the Women's Freedom League are in the midst of strenuous Suffrage campaigns on the Clyde Coast, the Welsh Coast, the Isle of Man, and on the South Coast, particulars of all of which will be found in another part of our paper.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

Holidays.

Will readers kindly note that the Offices of the Women's Freedom League will be closed from Friday, July 31, at 6 p.m., until Tuesday, August 4, at 10 a.m.

HOLIDAY VOTE SELLERS.

Mrs. Penrose, 100, Hamilton-road, Reading, will welcome a post-card from any member able to join her in selling THE VOTE, etc., at St. Ives, Cornwall, in August.

Miss Kemp, 1, Garfield-terrace, Caister-on-Sea, will do the same at Caister or Yarmouth.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR HOLIDAY NUMBER NEXT WEEK.

THE VOTE of July 31 will be a Holiday Number, specially intended to emphasise the meaning of the Woman's Movement and the need for the enfranchisement of women for the benefit of national life. It will be invaluable for the Coast, Caravan and other campaigns, and will be in circulation throughout the month of August in addition to the weekly issues.

Attractions—It will have a most attractive cover in the colours of the League, with the famous shield of the Women's Freedom League on the front. Our good friend and clever artist, Mr. John Leighton, has done a special drawing for the number. Many well-known writers have contributed important and interesting articles—some grave, some gay—on various aspects of our Cause. Among them are Mrs. Flora Annie Steel, G. Colmore, Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett, Sister Arendt (of Stuttgart), Miss Margaret Hodge, Mrs. Mustard, Miss H. E. Servio, B.A., Mr. Laurence Housman, and Mr. James Barr. Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle and others will also contribute.

Order Early—We urge every member of the League and all sympathisers to order the Holiday Number early from their newsagents, and to make a special effort to ensure a record sale. The holiday season is an excellent opportunity for enlightening the public on the need for "Votes for Women," and, through this enlightenment of voters, bringing pressure to bear on the Government. Do not fail to take your part in this valuable work.

A Good Idea—Miss Alix Minnie Clark, our untiring and successful VOTE seller, and devoted worker for the Cause, who is organising the North Wales campaign, sends us the welcome news that several members of the Montgomery Boroughs Branch (of which she is hon. secretary) have undertaken to pay for 1,000 copies of the Holiday Number for free distribution. It is an excellent idea which other Branches might take up. If they paid for 500, 250 or even 50 copies and sold or distributed them, it would be excellent propaganda and invaluable in increasing the circulation of THE VOTE. Let every one put their shoulder to the wheel and give our Holiday Number a great send-off!

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I remain, yours sincerely,

R. J. C. WOLSELEY.

Stafford, March 16th, 1914.

PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS—

465, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

"STOP THE TRAFFIC." Our Police Court Protest.

The first of the Obstruction Protests organised in response to repeated acts of aggression and injustice on the part of police officials, Scotland Yard, and officialdom generally, was carried out on Saturday, July 11, and was successful beyond our wildest dreams. Arrested *outside* the temporary police court in Francis-street,—the offence of which the protest consisted, *i.e.*, chaining up the police court doors, having been committed *inside* the court—the police played into our hands by charging us with an offence we did not commit, the offence of obstructing them in the street. Flung into the street with great and unnecessary violence, one member of the party being in a fainting condition, into the midst of an excited and growing crowd—many of whom sympathised with the protesters—we were then charged with not going away at once, and thereby creating an obstruction on the footway. Our intention had been to continue the protests by proceedings in court, which would have been purely obstructive and farcical; but the wholly improper charge, and the extraordinary slovenliness with which the police case was presented, supplied us with a powerful defence, of which Mrs. Watson took full and delightful advantage. The case occupied the best part of the morning on Monday, July 13, at Bow-street, and a considerable portion of Tuesday afternoon. It was then remanded once more until Thursday.

Indecent Invasion of the Cells.

The first stage of the proceedings was at Marlborough-street police station, where dismayed officials quailed before the prospect of our refusing bail and spending a week-end in their cells! While under detention there, an abominable incident occurred. When placed in a roomy, clean cell, all together, and when several of the party were lying down, and were thinking of loosening their clothes to attend to their bruises, a sudden incursion of men took place without warning. The Inspector who arrested us arrived with five detectives, who tramped passed the cells where other women were detained—a grossly improper and indecent thing, seeing that the inmates of the cells, who might have been doing anything, were in full view of the men as they passed—came into our room, gazing insolently at us; I made an indignant protest as to the impropriety of the proceeding. This was the more marked inasmuch as when Dr. Knight was fetched to state the condition of health of two of our number, the persons concerned were taken down one by one to be interviewed. The detectives were marshalled with a view to identifying "the Smiths"; the net result being that one exclaimed triumphantly, "That's Nina Boyle." The indecency of these incursions of men into the women's quarters of the police station can only be understood by those who have seen the accommodation provided.

"Stopping the Traffic" at Bow Street.

Bail was provided by Mrs. Jason Kerr, and the five "Smiths" surrendered for trial on the following Monday at Bow-street—the temporary court premises in Francis-street, where the Marlborough-street sittings are for a time being held within the Bow-street jurisdiction. Mr. Graham Campbell was on the Bench; from start to finish, we are bound to admit, his patience was inexhaustible, and was sorely tried. Of the eight officers who took part in the affray, three of whom carried out the arrests, only two were put in the witness-box; and the case was got up with that studied slovenliness that is characteristic of the solicitors who act for the police. Mrs. Watson fell upon them in pure legal style, tearing their statements to tatters and subjecting them to raking cross-examination on a host of details to which they had incautiously committed themselves; and what had been entered upon in a spirit of pure farce became, to the dismay of the rather dull persons responsible for the prosecution, a well-contested and serious defence.

Having held up proceedings until no more time could be spared, the case was remanded. Mr. Campbell offered bail, but we were determined to test the conditions of remand, and refused bail, thus gleaming a fresh crop of details in regard to the conditions to which women are subjected when in the custody of the Government. With these we shall deal in the future. Tuesday afternoon's proceedings lasted some two hours, and then the case for the defence had got as far as the examination of one police witness who should have been called for the prosecution, but who was not so called. A good deal of wrangling ensued as to the questions he would or would not answer; and he finally took refuge under the wing of the magis-

trate and "declined to answer." Miss Boyle then announced that the prisoners would all go into the witness-box; and the case was once more adjourned until the Thursday.

On Thursday the case was to have been called at 11.30, but it had to be put off again, owing to the pressure of business.

The Disgrace of Remand Conditions.

While on remand on Monday night—the first time any of the party had enjoyed that particular experience—we had some opportunity of judging how accused persons who are refused bail, or persons too poor and unfortunate to secure it, are treated while awaiting trial. After a wearying day in the police-court, there is the hateful and painful journey in the prison van, and a long and solitary detention in the reception cells—solitary little boxes where there is nothing but a chair. One may spend almost any time in this period of waiting, which is the most trying of all the various grades through which prisoners pass. Prisoners on remand who may when tried prove to be innocent, are treated like convicted persons—worse than convicted suffragists who secure treatment under "Rule 2433." We were not allowed to have our clothes nor to communicate with each other; and the searching, measuring, examining, describing, etc. (to which as political offenders we refuse to submit willingly) is carried out relentlessly in regard to these unconvicted persons who, if fortunate enough to have well-to-do friends, would be at complete liberty! From what we observed, we came to the conclusion that had we not been suffragists we should not even have had supper (or tea—the last meal, served at 4.30), after the trying day in court, a really superfluous piece of cruelty. No facilities for preparing or taking over their defence are given to remanded prisoners; a whole world of "applications" has to be gone through to obtain certain modifications of treatment which they "may" claim, but cannot enforce; those charged together (as we were) are not allowed to communicate about their defence; the food is infamous and far too scanty, consisting in most cases of the third division brown bread without butter, and "tea" more resembling pig-wash than any other compound on earth. What spirit, or comfort, or unforgotten persons weighed down with a load of anxiety and distress, perhaps wholly unmerited, can keep up under these truly infamous conditions, it is easy to imagine. Most of them are brought back to trial with every nerve on edge and their strength—when they need it most—at the lowest ebb.

Prison Van Scandals Continue.

An additional and unnecessary aggravation of this cruelty is supplied by the journey down to the police-court. After an uneatable breakfast—and no one's appetite is at its best with such a day before them—we were pestered from a little after 7 a.m. to be ready for the prison van. After being unmercifully hustled and plagged—each one being told that all the others were ready and waiting for her!—we were bundled off at a quarter to eight, one of us not being quite dressed! The van was full to overflowing, Mrs. Hull and I, the matron and the gaoler, all standing in the gangway and shutting out the air from the others. The inhuman rattling and jolting and the cruel vibration, after the prison beds and the prison breakfasts, soon took effect on all of us. Every one felt sick and faint, and one girl was on the verge of vomiting, when the van pulled up for a few minutes and gave us some moments of respite. All of us had bruises to shew from the bumping and the pressure of the seats. I called the attention of the matron to the fainting girl, who had already rung the bell supplied to secure attention; but all she said was that it could not be helped, she could not do anything. No water is carried, or anything to revive those who feel ill. A more inhuman, barbarous contraption does not anywhere disgrace the man-made administration.

One of the passengers was a young mother with an unweaned baby. The male staff at Holloway are "doctors"; we wonder what they would say in private practice to the idea of committing a nursing mother to this sort of journey twice a day? And we are expected to believe that men "protect" women!

Another girl, quite young, on remand, gave us a dreadful account of the week she had been in prison: the food, the treatment, exactly as if she had been convicted. She had been able to eat none of the loathsome food, and was in a state of great mental and physical weakness. She had committed a paltry theft (of a small work basket!) and had appeared before a very harsh magistrate, and was in terror of a severe sentence. "It will ruin me," she said; "I have nowhere to go to if I go to prison, and shan't be able to get work. I shall have only the streets." Two street-walkers, one on each side of her—jolly, reckless, good-natured girls, with kind faces—held out comforting hands to her and begged her not to cry; but they owned that there was nothing but the streets, when it came to that. "That's how lots of us come to it," they said. She was taken by surprise by their kindness and concern,

and they gave her their address; and so, when for the first time in the custody of the Government, this poor child gained her first introduction to the worst company she had ever been in—and she unconvicted!

We were landed at Bow-street by 8.30, long before the court opens—a disgraceful business. The atmosphere of the court premises, early in the morning, is more than objectionable. The van scandals continue to be endured; all this has to be because there are not enough vans, and the one in which we were taken to Bow-street had to go to the South-Western and other courts. The state of those girls might be better imagined than described by the time they got to their destination. On Monday, when at Holloway gates with our luggage, Miss Sidley saw another can arrive, with as many as five men, as well as women, in it. This is the second time Miss Sidley has seen men and women together in the van, so we are at liberty to assume that, whatever pretence is made to the Freedom League, the presence of the matron is the only change that Mr. McKenna has carried out. All the other infamies remain unaltered.

After conviction on Thursday we arranged the forms of protest we would make in prison: (a) if searched by violence; (b) if put in any wing except D.X. One of the first things we got into trouble for was booing the doctors (whom we had refused to allow into our cells) when we met them in the galleries. For that we were deprived of exercise, and beguiled the time in singing, shouting to each other, exchanging views with some W.S.P.U. members—Miss Olive Wharry, Miss Annie Bell, and Miss Ivy Bon—who were our neighbours. There are a number of them in prison, several being in hospital in a very wretched condition; but their spirits and courage are wonderful, and it was a heartbreaking thing to hear them shouting encouragement to each other, often in cracked, strained voices, two or three times a day. The sullen, shamefaced bearing of the doctors, and the Governor, seemed to indicate that all are conscious of the vileness of their conduct. The petty bullying in which Dr. Paton indulges is incredible; and all these girls are in solitary confinement week after week, exercising alone, allowed to see no one; a treatment that is, I believe, purely illegal. One has been in solitary confinement seven weeks. What we are to think of men who are not ashamed, yet continue to do it, is hard to say.

C. NINA BOYLE.

Punishment and Finger Prints

For booing the doctor the prisoners were kept in solitary confinement. Miss Boyle had an attack of malaria, but refused to see the doctor, and it was only after a great disturbance had been made that the remedies she asked for were given. Punishment for insubordination followed; two prisoners were detained till 4 p.m. instead of being released at 8 a.m. on July 20; Miss Boyle had two more days of close confinement, and Mrs. Hull the loss of all privileges. Attempts to take finger-prints just before release were strongly and successfully resisted.

The Magistrate Hears the Truth

All the prisoners made good protests before the magistrate. Miss Eythe Smythe showed herself to be well-informed as to procedure in the Courts, and the impossibility of justice being done when only the view of the police is taken. She spoke of the power of recall of a judge who failed in his duty, possessed and used by women voters in some of the United States, and claimed the right for British women as citizens.

Miss Annunziata Smith told how she was driven to protest because of the want of justice meted out to her when she sought redress of a grievance. Mrs. Louisa Smith, who made the concluding statement, declared, as a result of her experiences, that she could never again believe that a charge brought by the police is the real charge; she expressed her indignation at the administration of the law and maintained that there was sufficient justification for further protests. She told how a man, who had attempted to assault a young woman in a railway carriage, had received the same sentence as had been given to her on a previous occasion for obstruction, which inconvenienced no one but the Public Prosecutor, who failed in his duty. She concluded by saying that it was intended to continue the protests, to create real obstruction in the Courts, to take up the time of magistrates and police as a protest against the travesty of justice meted out to the poor, the helpless, and especially to voteless women.

"I do not agree with those who say we cannot parley with men who threaten violence and illegality. There is rarely violence without some cause. When the cause is abated, the violence and other ugly symptoms disappear."
Winston Churchill.



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The Belfast Corporation Declares for Woman Suffrage.

On July 1 the Belfast City Council by 17 votes to 5 declared its approval of the grant of the Parliamentary franchise to women on the basis of the Local Government register. The discussion was interesting. Among the seven speakers who took part, not one avowed himself an anti-suffragist; three who opposed the resolution did so on the point of order. It is satisfactory that in the end the Council agreed with the speaker who considered that the Council should take notice of anything that concerned the welfare of the citizens of Belfast. Political feeling could hardly be more acute than it is in Belfast just now; yet we find the Corporation willing to consider the question of suffrage even while armed Ulster Volunteers walk the city streets. It is not surprising that one speaker declared that militancy should not be made an excuse for voting against the resolution. Belfast has by this action placed itself in line with such important Nationalist Corporations as Dublin and Cork. Out of the nine Irish Corporations which have passed suffrage resolutions, five are mainly Nationalist, four mainly Unionist, and in every case, notably in Belfast, the majority was made up of Unionists and Nationalists alike. On one question at least Unionists and Nationalists are able to meet, and that is woman suffrage.

IN MEMORIAM.

Miss Dorinda Neligan.

We deeply regret to announce the death of Miss Neligan, who held for many years the position of Headmistress of the High School for Girls at Croydon. She had been a member of the Women's Freedom League almost from its foundation, and took an active part in the Suffrage Cause. On several occasions her goods have been sold for Tax Resistance. The Croydon Branch, through Miss Neligan's death, loses a valued member and friend. She was 81 years of age, and had spent her life in service to the community. She was one of the women whom the King should have delighted to honour.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM. FORESHADOWINGS IN FICTION.

By L. A. M. Priestley (author of "Love Stories of Some Eminent Women") etc., etc.

"The Heavenly Twins," by Sarah Grand

IV.

Two scenes, in the *Heavenly Twins*, stand out with special distinctness and arresting force. The first which I shall give is a scene between Evadne and Colonel Colquhoun, that is set to the saddest of all sad refrains: "It might have been."

"You would have loved me then if I had lived a different life?" he said.

"Yes," she answered simply, "I should have loved you. No other man has made me feel for a moment what I felt for you, while I believed that you were all that a man should be who proposes to marry; and I don't think any other man ever will. You were born for me. Why, oh, why! did you not live for me?"

"I wish to God I had!" he answered. She rose impulsively and stretched out her hands to him. It was a movement of pain and pity, sorrow and sympathy, and he understood it.

"You meant to marry always," she said. "You treasured in your heart the ideal of a woman. Why could you not have lived, so that you would have been her ideal too, when at last you met?"

He took her two little outstretched hands and held them a moment in his, looking down at them.

"I wish to God I had!" he repeated. "Did it never occur to you that a woman has her ideal as well as a man?" she said; "that she loves purity and truth, and loathes degradation and vice more than a man does?"

"Theoretically, yes," he answered, "but you find practically that women will marry anyone. If they were more particular, we should be more particular too."

"Ah! that is our curse," said Evadne—"yours and mine. If women had been 'more particular' in the past, you would have been a good man, and I should have been a happy wife to-day."

The second scene is painful in the extreme, where Edith, grey, ghastly and suffering, confronts her husband, whom she had summoned to her bedside. It is a terrible commentary upon the sins of society; brutal, emphatic, realistic, in the desire to show how the innocent suffer from the wrong-doing of the guilty. Mr. W. T. Stead drew special attention to this scene in his review of the book when it first appeared:—

Edith was lying on her back, with her face turned towards Angelica. There were three gentlemen present: the Bishop, Dr. Galbraith, and Sir Moseley Menteith.

Edith was looking at her father. "That is why I sent for you all," she was saying feebly, "to tell you, you who represent the arrangement of society, which has made it possible for me and my child to be sacrificed in this way. I have nothing more to say to any of you, except"—she sat up in bed suddenly and addressed her husband in scathing tones—"except to you. And what I want to say to you is—go! go! Father, turn him out of the house. Don't let me ever see that dreadful man again!"

Angelica was hidden by the curtain in the deep embrasure of the window. Menteith bit his nails and stood still for some time. Then the Bishop came, followed by Dr. Galbraith, and walked straight up to him. It was a bad moment for Sir Moseley Menteith. He tried to inspect his father-in-law coolly, but his hand was somewhat tremulous as he raised it to twist his little light moustache.

"My daughter wishes you to leave the house," the Bishop said sternly; "and—er—I may say that I—that we—her father and mother, wish you also to go—er—now, at once."

Angelica sprang from her hiding place. "And take that," she cried, "for a present, you father of a speckled toad!" and seizing the heavy quarto Bible from the table, she flung it with all her might full in his face. It happened to hit him on the bridge of the nose, which it broke.

Later, when Angelica confided the whole poignant story to her brother Diavolo, she summed up

in a few words the underlying cause of all such misery:—

"There is no law, you see," Angelica resumed, "either to protect us or avenge us. That is because men made the law for themselves, and that is why women are fighting for the right to make laws too."

(To be continued.)

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

From our able Irish contemporary, *The Irish Citizen*, which so gallantly keeps the Woman Suffrage flag flying week by week, we take the following account of a terrible case of child assault in Dublin, in which the man went *scot free* on the ground that the little girl, barely seven years old, was "too young to answer questions"—but *not* too young to be the victim of man's cruel lust. The article is as follows:—

Have you a Little Daughter?

By M. E. DUGGAN, LL.B.

Scene: Green-street Courthouse, packed with people; row upon row of men and some women gaze down. Twelve men far away in a box, a big man in a strange wig, another above strangely clad, on the table, a timid, baby girl, terrified, shy. The scene lasts a minute and ends; the Crown has withdrawn the charge against Madden, ex-free-labourer, for having infected a child of barely seven with a foul disease, on the ground that she is too young to answer questions.

It is all so simple, a man suffering from foul disease, believing the old and mistaken superstition that it is possible to cure himself by violating a young child, need only select a timid, shy victim, the younger the better, and go rejoicing on his way, confident in the knowledge that our method of legal procedure is utterly unsuited for cases affecting little children.

I do not know whether an *in camera* trial would have been better. One wanted something informal, a few men and women, in ordinary attire, in an ordinary room; some kind person to take the baby girl in her arms and ask a few questions in a way that a baby could understand. So the Recorder discharges Madden. Instantly a woman's voice shrieks out, "that's nice law." His young wife, child in arms, who had to enter the Lock Hospital within four weeks of her wedding, grows rapidly hysterical; a rush is made to her assistance; the lady who accompanied me gets to her, and gently helps her out. Following, I see a quiet woman with a look of frozen despair on her face, holding the little girl by the hand. I speak to them. Baby is very shy (such a baby, a pretty little thing). A practical solution of the sweet supply difficulty induces her to whisper that she is "grand." We go out; Madden passes saying that "he has suffered enough already." A quiet, respectable, dignified workman joins us, with the remark, "If it were in America, they'd lynch him." It is the father. Poor fellow, he is justly indignant, but pleased to find that the Suffragists are interested. I am invited to call and hear full details. He is confident baby could pick Madden out of a hundred. I offer that quiet, heartbroken mother and father my sympathy, and look round for my companion, who, believing nothing else could be done for the child had assisted Mrs. Madden. Unfortunately, I failed to see her. I heard afterwards that she and a sergeant succeeded in quieting Mrs. Madden, who is living with her father and mother. We really need police women for work of this kind, though, no doubt, some policemen are kind enough; but there ought to be some responsible experienced woman to deal with the overwrought and distressed women one sees constantly in Court.

For various reasons, I cannot enter more fully into details. A question will, it is hoped, be asked in Parliament, as to the precise reasons why the Crown decided not to proceed, and whether any genuine attempt was made to prepare the little girl for examination. It is just barely possible that Mr. Seymour Bushe may not be an authority upon little girls, nor men the sex best fitted to understand children.

We, of the I.R.L., are arranging an independent examination of our own, with a view to testing the credibility of the child concerned. We do not intend to let the matter drop. We cannot, of course, estimate the truth of the Crown's contention of baby's inability to give evidence until we have made our own enquiries. There ought to be a proper children's Court, and, unless I am much mistaken, this case will go a long way towards getting it.

BRITISH WIVES AND FOREIGN HUSBANDS.

By LADY ABERCONWAY.

At a meeting of representative women from the British Dominions Overseas, held in London on July 9th, a resolution was unanimously passed disapproving of the clauses relating to married women in the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill. This measure confirms the provisions of the law of 1870, which first deprived British women of the inalienable rights of British nationality, and has exercised a world-wide influence to the disadvantage of women. The present Bill, which has now reached Report Stage in the House of Commons, emphasises and accentuates the position of British women as aliens, should they marry men who are not British subjects. It directly classes all married women in the status of minors, idiots and lunatics, and dumps nationalities upon them as though they were inanimate objects. Surely this shows a conception of the present position of women which is altogether out-of-date.

Under these circumstances, it is earnestly hoped that steps may be taken to modify the Bill before it leaves the House of Commons. As the Bill aims at securing a world-wide agreement on the subject of nationality, a unique opportunity is afforded of improving the present law with regard to the position of women.

In the first place, we ask that British women who have married men of British nationality, should not be made to forfeit that British nationality against their will, should their husbands become naturalized in another country. We consider that as the man has entered into a contract with his wife under British law, our law should protect the wife by enforcing that contract. Should this prove impossible, owing to the regulations of foreign powers when the husband resides in a foreign land, it is only fair that such a wife should, if she so desire, be freed by British law from a marriage which may impose upon her conditions to which she never assented when she took her vows in her parish church at home. For instance, one of the numerous English residents in Constantinople, might, for business reasons, think it well to become a naturalized Turk. Under these circumstances he could compel his English wife to share a harem with other women, who would have equal rights with her as his wives. He could also without fault on her part divorce her by declaring three times: "I divorce thee, I divorce thee, I divorce thee," nor could he undo this act until his wife had married some other man, and had been widowed or again divorced. The position of an Englishwoman under such circumstances would be pitiable. She would not remain the wife of a Turkish subject, and on the other hand no means are provided for her in this Bill to recover British nationality. This, of course, is an extreme case, but many troubles and disadvantages are experienced by the British wives of aliens throughout the world, and we claim that their case has a right to full consideration when a Bill affecting the whole British Empire is presented to Parliament. Moore's "Nationalisation Law Digest," a leading text-book published in America, gives many instances of American women married to aliens in various parts of the world, who, when they have suffered cruelty and oppression, have sought the protection of the United States. American Law has been recently assimilated to British Law, and the petition of all such women is therefore now refused on the ground that by the act of marriage they have ceased to be American citizens.

We contend, therefore, that in every case where a British woman is married to an alien, the very least that the law can allow is to permit her on widowhood, divorce, separation or desertion by her

husband, to recover fully and automatically her British nationality, together with all the rights and privileges of a British citizen.

In the case of a British woman married to an alien residing in British territory, it is difficult to see what good end is served by declaring her an alien. The country to which her husband belongs has really never taken possession of her, and it would be a distinct advantage to her, as well as a convenience to her family, if she were allowed still to exercise the rights of a British citizen, free to take advantage of any political privileges the law affords her, free to enter into contracts and business relations with the formal consent of her husband, to retain her property and earnings, as permitted by English law, and be able to dispose of the same by an English will. As the Bill now stands, no British woman married to an alien is able to make a will except in the legal manner of the country of which her husband is a native.

When a British woman is married to an alien and is living with him in a foreign country, the case is different. The laws of foreign countries usually prescribe that the wife of a subject is herself also a subject of the country of her husband, but I fail to see why, even in this case, she should be forced entirely to renounce British nationality. It might be necessary in some instances for her British nationality to be dormant during the life of her husband, but nevertheless, any property she might possess in the British Empire might be safeguarded and reasonable protection might be afforded to her by British representatives in those foreign countries in which she might be domiciled, without stirring up any grave international difficulties.

No man of any nationality can lose his rights as a subject of his own country except by his own directly declared wish, and when we see the value of the protection of a great State to persons in foreign countries who fall into trouble, we are amazed at the drastic manner in which the present Bill deprives women of their British nationality on marriage with a foreigner. We cannot help contrasting the manner in which England treats its own daughters with its behaviour to its daughters-in-law—women of foreign nations who marry British subjects. These women, without taking any oath of allegiance to our institutions, or of loyalty to our King, are nevertheless admitted by the very fact of marriage to the privileges of British citizens, however unfit some of such women, say of Japanese or Chinese race, may be to understand British political problems. The cinnamon coloured children of such marriages are admitted to full rights of British citizenship.

China, following the example of England, has lately declared all foreign women married to Chinamen to be subject to Chinese law,—no very pleasant position for a woman of the white race. Some nations, on the other hand, do not grant the civil rights of nationality to the foreign wives of their citizens. The unfortunate British women, therefore, who are the wives of these men, may find themselves repudiated by their native country, and thus be left without any nationality at all, and this may occur even though they have never left British territory.

When we reflect that women are taxed throughout the British Empire to pay the salary of legislators and officials, and have a right to have their welfare considered by such officials, we cannot be silent under what we consider an unjustifiable neglect of the interests of women. To class them for the sake of simplicity with idiots, minors, and lunatics, and repudiate them utterly under all circumstances and for life should they marry foreigners, is unworthy of the rulers of a great nation which calls itself the "Mother" of a world-wide Empire.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.,
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FRIDAY, July 24th, 1914.

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.

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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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WANTED AN ELECTION CRY.

We gather from various utterances in party-political papers that, at the present moment, when the Parliament which, promising so much, has done so little, is on its death-bed, all the parties and sections of parties there represented are out not for a death-bed repentance, but for an election cry. Tory, Liberal and Labour are bent on the same quest, for much consideration is required. It must be new. The electorate is getting tired of the old never-fulfilled promises. It must be attractive, so that it will tickle the imagination of the electors, without putting forward what would seem to them impossible of attainment. It must have regard to the novel and rather alarming spirit that is growing up amongst the people; but it must steer clear of anything that may appear revolutionary. The great mass of the electors being handworkers, special appeal must be made to them; for statesmen of every shade of opinion are aware that if they can persuade the engineers, builders and transport workers, the railway workers and the miners, the shop assistants and the general and agricultural labourers, that one political party has their interests more deeply at heart than another and has power to serve them, the triumph of that party is assured. At the same time, the god capital—that old-time mammon of unrighteousness—must be conciliated.

All this would puzzle the wisest brains; indeed, we cannot be surprised at the bewilderment of the political parties, bankrupt in large ideas, as they passionately search for a cry, strident and elusive enough to draw to their side those from whom they draw their power.

We women are, at the present moment, in the position of outsiders who are supposed to see most of the game. We have emerged from our obscurity; we have looked what men call politics in the face; we have been troublesome; we have threatened the dominance of man; therefore, we have little doubt the politicians will throw us crumbs of comfort. Many of them, especially Liberals, may feel that it would be well to conciliate us. Party leaders may even be ready to offer us vague guarantees. These after our sad experience of political treachery, will not affect us much. And, in fact, it is to the electorate—our life-partners, and, to a large extent, our fellow-sufferers—that we make our appeal. "Be strong," we say. "Act on your own initiative. Refuse to accept ready-made programmes. Make them for yourselves. Before ever the candidates who ask for your support have settled on their battle-cry, present them with yours!"

How good and wholesome it would be to find the electors throughout the United Kingdom meeting together in council, entering into communication with the other, and, after careful consideration, placing their demands before those who aspire to represent them.

That would be a curious turning of the tables! Impossible, many would say. Not at all, we say. The reason why men have been so stupid in the past; the reason why, on an issue that does not in the least affect their daily life, and for an individual who is as much of an alien to them as the problematical man in the moon, they flock to record their votes, is that what the politicians call politics has never seemed really to touch them in their lives. Westminster—the House of Commons, the House of Lords—has constituted to them a sort of Heaven, distant and unapproachable.

No one who has had anything to do with election contests can have failed to be struck by the way in which the uneducated elector reads meanings of his own into the appeals that are made to him. Literally, he does not understand what is put before him; and politicians are only too ready to trade on his misconceptions by confusing the issues.

We hope and believe, however, that much of this is passing. The new Trade, or rather Industrial Unionism which promises to make national unity possible; the self-denying lives and noble teaching of such men as John Scurr, George Lansbury, Keir Hardie, and many others who feel as they do; above all, the ardent work of the women in our movement, carried on at all costs and hazards through the length and breadth of the country, are arousing the electorate. It is our profound conviction that in no distant future, the voting public will have a battle-cry of their own, strong enough to impress Parliamentary candidates with a conviction of its reality and simple enough to be understood by all; and, with a deep sense of responsibility we ask why should not the first great election cry be

Equality of Civic Rights for Women and Men.

We have stood together in the building and preservation of our race; is there any reason why we should not stand together in moulding the Society in which the coming race is to live? We certainly can see none.

Given that—the next great step in advance—given the recognition by every member of the community that their nation, with all its multiple activities, is only the larger home governed by those who know the needs of the family, and we shall have election-cries and parliamentary programmes that can be understood by the people.

We, of the Women's Freedom League, are trying, by every means in our power, to make the Government feel the urgency of our demand. We are fighting against corruption and exposing the wrongs to which women in their impotency are subjected; and that is well. But let us remember that our chief appeal at the present moment must be to the electorate. Through our Branches, all of which, we believe, have realized that they are set in the midst of towns and villages as mission-centres for the gospel of reconciliation; through our finely attended park meetings, and through our caravan and coast-campaigns we are arousing the country.

If we can make our brothers see what we see so clearly that the political franchisement of women is their concern as well as ours the victory, will be won. An election cry, simple and strong enough to convince politicians of its reality, will be sent forth; and to the will of the people—women as well as men—political parties will be compelled to bow.

C. DESPARD.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Women Workers' Trials.

At a meeting convened by the National Federation of Women Workers, held in Southwark Park, London, on July 18, Alderman Devenay presided. Miss Mary MacArthur, of the Women's Trade Union League, criticised Mr. McKenna, the Home Secretary, for not introducing the legislation promised, and quoted cases showing the fines and deductions to which women workers were liable. For being five minutes late a collar-ironer, whose proper wages were 5d. a dozen, was paid 4d. a dozen, her fine totalling 3s. 6d. In another case a woman, after doing 83 gross of pins, was entitled to 1s. 9½d. After deductions she received 5½d. In yet another case a girl had earned 2s., but the deductions also amounted to that sum, and she received nothing. The following resolution was carried:—"That this mass meeting of Deptford workers calls on the Government to fulfil its promise, and introduce a Truck Bill, and further demands the abolition of fines, deductions and the living-in system.—*Daily News*, July 20.

Women Road-Menders: Important Development.

As a protest against the action of the Haverfordwest District Council in refusing to adopt plans for a new road, women roadmenders of Hook, Pembrokeshire, who recently turned out to repair a road leading to the market town of Haverfordwest, held a mass meeting recently and gave the council a large piece of their minds. Mr. Joseph Davies, the parish council clerk, was loudly cheered for suggesting that the women of Hook should follow the example of Cromwell and the Barebones Parliament, and go into Haverfordwest and turn the district councillors out of the Board-room by the scruff of their necks. The county main roads committee has urged the council to adopt plans for a new road, and has promised to aid the scheme with a grant of money, but without success. Four hundred people, it was stated at the meeting, are without a road to their market town, and eighty people living on the side of the present impassable road are denied medical attendance after dark for eight months out of twelve.—*Leicester Daily Mercury*.

Careers for Women.

An intelligence committee for the collection and distribution of information on the higher professions for women, to be known as the Higher Professions Intelligence Committee, has just been formed in connection with the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women and the Students' Careers Association, Princes-street, Cavendish-square. The committee includes Lady Bryce, Mrs. W. L. Courtney, Miss Haldane, Mrs. Deane Streetfield and Miss Spencer (Secretary of the Central Bureau). A comprehensive programme has been drafted. Special information regarding new openings for educated women and early investigations into the opportunities offered in them will be gathered. All information will be collated at one centre, where it will be easily available, and the Students' Careers Association will be apprised of all such openings, with suggestions for suitable preparation and training, so that there may be suitable candidates ready for selection. Special attention will also be paid to the study of conditions, economic and other, affecting the newer professions, so that the advantages and disadvantages may be equally clear. The idea for this new committee arose out of the interesting investigations undertaken last year for the Council on Women's Employment in the civil service. This body of representative women sat for some two months, the sub-committee meeting weekly to prepare evidence on the higher professions of women for the Royal Commission on Civil Service. It was resolved to re-construct this temporary committee and give it a permanent place as an advisory committee for the Students' Careers Association.—*The Times*, July 6.

Women on the Staff at Kew.

Although no women are actually employed within Kew Gardens, yet in the Herbarium outside there are several trained women doing valuable work, and a large number of women attending daily for the purposes of study. Amongst the women on the staff are Miss E. M. Wakefield, who is doing research work in connection with plant diseases and fungi; Miss M. Smith, a plant artist, who began her work at Kew in 1873; and another woman who is busy in the preparation of the Index Kewensis, as well as librarians, etc.

Study of Fishes: New Employment for Women.

A new employment for skilful women will be opened up in the next few months under the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is from the fisheries department that the demand will come. No one outside the marine biological laboratory placed round our coasts can realise the difficulties of the rough sea-work done by the naturalists in charge of them. Since women of the highest skill as naturalists have been placed in these laboratories the work has gone on more quickly. They are not expected to go out in the boats, and they are always ready to continue to its appointed end each observation made by men on the water. Only four women have been appointed as yet, but shortly a number of appointments will be made through

the Civil Service Commissioners by examination, and the salaries are likely to be about £150 a year.—*Standard*.

Loans for Professional Women.

Lack of funds need no longer deter the ambitious girl from entering on a professional or business career. The Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, 5, Princes-street, Oxford-circus, an organisation which has been doing splendid work in the country for the last sixteen years, has now started a loan fund to help promising girls along the path of success. The president of its Consultative Committee of the Bureau is Miss Stephen, principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, and among the vice-presidents are:—

Miss B. A. Clough, Vice-Principal, Newnham.
Miss H. Jex Blake, Principal, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Miss K. Jex Blake, Vice-Mistress of Girton, Cambridge.
Miss Tuke, Principal of Bedford College.
Miss H. D. Oakley, M.A., Warden of King's College, London, Women's Department;
and the Principals of the women's colleges at Manchester, Durham, Aberystwyth, Glasgow and Dublin.

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Daily Sketch.

Woman Medical Officer for Schools.

Wolverhampton scored a success over the appointment of the Assistant Medical Officer for the schools. It insisted that the council should open the post to women, and the advertisement was changed to allow this. Now the appointment has been made, and it is a woman who has the position.—*Labour Leader*, July 16.

Miss Fanny Atkins: A Fine Record.

Past and present scholars of Merchant Taylors' School will regret to learn of the death of Miss Fanny Atkins, which took place last week at the picturesque old house in Dalston-lane, where she was born 78 years ago. For nearly fifty years her life was devoted to the preparation of boys for the school. Her first pupil was the present Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford, Dr. Hesse, then Headmaster, recognised her capabilities as a teacher and sent her many pupils, a confidence that was continued by Dr. Baker and Dr. Nairn, so that until her death she was never without a representative in the school. Miss Atkins was a devoted daughter of the Church and an untiring worker. Her devotion to duty and her keen intellect and wit combined to form a character which was an inspiration to her pupils, and of not a few won the life-long affection. Among them was the Regius Professor of Hebrew at Oxford and the Oriel Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture; a full list would include many well-known names in the Church and public services. Her energy seemed to make her invincible to age. Quite recently she said, "I am working as hard as ever I did, and I am doing my work just as well." She died, as she would have wished, in the midst of her labours.—*The Times*, July 16.

INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Woman Candidate for Johannesburg Town Council.

Mrs. Katharine Wybergh, editor of the *Labour Leader* of Johannesburg, and president of the Women's Enfranchisement League of that city, who is at present in England, has been informed by mail that she has been nominated as a candidate for the Town Council of Johannesburg at the municipal elections in October.

Her candidature—the first of its kind in South Africa—is a direct outcome of the Labour Party's victory in the recent Provincial Council election. In the Transvaal Council the Labour Party, following the deportation of the Trade Union leaders, gained a majority of one over all other parties.

One of their first actions was to introduce a Bill granting women the right to be elected to town councils, and this they carried through all its stages to become an ordinance. The only thing that remained to make it so was the ratification of the Union Parliament, and this has been actually vetoed. In the meantime, Parliament has been prorogued.

The Labour Party in the Council, ably led by Mr. F. A. W. Lucas, a rising and popular young barrister, who is an ardent Suffragist, is now considering the stopping of supplies, as an immediate and effective retort. In the event of this a financial deadlock will have been reached, necessitating another session of the Union Parliament later in the year.

"Every reactionary influence," said Mrs. Wubergh to a representative of the *Daily Citizen* on July 16, "is being exerted to the uttermost to induce the middle-class electorate to go back on this reform sharing the same fate, and persons are not wanting to-day who are literally engaged in eating their own words and swallowing their own votes. Meantime, no greater object lesson could be found than the value to the Cause of Woman Suffrage of the disinterested allegiance of the Labour Party."

FORCIBLE FEEDING,

The Doctor's Deputation Withdrawn.

On July 15 at 4 p.m. a deputation of medical men waited on the Home Secretary by appointment to discuss the question of the forcible feeding of prisoners. The deputation consisted of Dr. McIntosh, chairman; Dr. Haden Guest, Sir Victor Horsley, Mr. C. Mansell Moullin, Mr. Frank Moxon, and Dr. H. Schutze, thus representing every branch of the medical profession. The deputation, when introduced, asked that reporters should be admitted. Mr. McKenna refused, on the ground that names of prisoners might be mentioned in the discussion. The deputation retired and discussed the Home Secretary's objection. On returning, they pointed out to the Home Secretary that his objection was without any weight, and that the names of cases to which they intended to refer had already appeared with details in the public press. Mr. McKenna still refused to admit reporters, and in answer to Dr. McIntosh further refused even to admit the deputation's own reporter. Mr. McKenna had arranged that an official reporter should be present in order that he (the Home Secretary) should keep full control over any report that ought to be sent for publication. The deputation explained to Mr. McKenna that they could not accept his refusal, that their position in this matter of forcible feeding was one of grave public responsibility, and that therefore they demanded to be heard in public. Mr. McKenna said he could not agree to be a party to a public discussion of the cases of individual prisoners now in custody. The medical gentlemen therefore decided not to go on with the deputation, but are ready at any time to place their views before the Home Secretary.

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should he reconsider his refusal.

The following are excerpts of speeches that would have been delivered had the Home Secretary heard the deputation:—

Dr. McLACHLAN (Oxford).—"Speaking as a medical man, I regard forcible feeding as grossly illegal. No medical man for any purpose whatsoever has the right to perform a surgical operation on any person without that person's consent, provided of course that that person's mental faculties are intact. As a medical man, I know of no alternative to forcible feeding. Rectal feeding is still more objectionable, and is at best a form of slow starvation. There is only one way out and that is to remove the cause. This cause must surely be a grave one, since it compels His Majesty's Ministers to act in this illegal manner and to violate a principle that lies at the very root of English law."

Dr. MCINTOSH, who is not a Suffragist, stated that the deputation was a medical and not a Suffragist deputation. He considered the question to be largely a medico-legal matter. Lord Alverstone's judgment, which states that "it is the duty of a medical officer to feed a prisoner who starves," was declared invalid, because no evidence of the custom of asking a prisoner's consent to any operation, which Mr. McKenna states is invariably obtained, was brought before the Lord Chief Justice. This custom clearly gives the prisoner a right to refuse operation, quite apart from the Cat and Mouse Act, which was specially introduced to avoid the necessity of forcible feeding. A medical officer of a prison is in exactly the same position as a doctor outside a prison in regard to operations. Any operation must be done with the intention of benefiting the patient. Any treatment designed to compel a patient to serve a sentence of imprisonment conflicts with this important rule. Forcible feeding can only be described as torture and is performed without the patient's consent.

Dr. HADEN GUEST.—"The prison doctors are employed to inflict forcible feeding on untried prisoners against their will. This is contrary to the constitutional right of the prisoner to fair play. A prisoner is assumed in English law to be innocent until proved guilty, and for the purpose of establishing his innocence is allowed access to documents and to the services of lawyers. The service of a lawyer is allowed in order that the prisoner may have his mind properly directed to the points at issue. In the circumstances, Miss Nellie Hall's trial was a gross miscarriage of justice and of the constitutional rights of an English citizen, as she was incapacitated for the proper conduct of her defence by treatment inflicted upon her by the prison authorities."

SIR VICTOR HORSLEY.—"Forcible feeding by the prison doctors is not medical treatment to preserve life and health, but a form of torture. It has been proved to have nearly caused the death of the prisoner in three cases in which the food injected passed into the lung. It has caused gross injuries to the nose and throat in many cases, injuries to the heart, lungs and nervous system and prolonged injury to the general health. (See Report, *British Medical Journal*, 1911). It has caused gross injustice. Many prisoners being allowed to escape their sentences altogether, others favoured by imprisonment only for a few days and others by being excused from forcible feeding altogether. It is clear that the statement made from time to time, chiefly by anonymous medical men that prison forcible feeding is the same as that of hospitals and asylums is untrue. The only course for the Home Secretary to take is the medical one of giving up a cruel and foolish dealing with a symptom and to treat the cause of the disease of unrest by introducing legislation for the equal enfranchisement of men and women."

Mr. FRANK MOXON.—"As a medical man, I strongly protest against the unequal and discriminating treatment of these brave and determined women. If I am asked, as I have no doubt you would wish, what treatment would I as a medical man suggest in the place of forcible feeding for sane and resisting hunger strikers, I would emphatically say that there is no treatment which can or ever will be effective or permissible which does not also seek to remove the cause of the trouble. Torture such as forcible feeding is the inevitable result of the denial of justice."

Mr. MANSSELL MOULLIN stated that they were there to protest against torture by forcible feeding as carried out in His Majesty's prisons. They had not yet perhaps reached in London the refinement of torture practised in Perth, where the prison authorities were reported to have committed the grossest and most indecent outrages upon the body of a woman under the pretence of sustaining her strength. As medical men they wished also to protest against the degradation and prostitution of the medical profession by compelling its members to act as torturers and executioners. There was no question that the Home Office was responsible. It was a disgrace and scandal that such duties should be imposed upon the medical profession."

POLICE WOMEN.

Deputation to the Home Office.

Everyday evidence accumulates of the urgent need of and demand for police women; the idea, which twelve months ago was scoffed at in this country, is now becoming "practical politics." It is largely due to the example of Germany and the United States, and to the realisation by the public that conditions in this country make this development imperative.

On July 16 twenty-four institutions interested in social work were represented on a deputation which, organised by the National Vigilance Association, was received by Mr. Ellis Griffiths at the Home Office. Its object was to press for the appointment of police women.

Mr. Donald Maclean, M.P. (Deputy-Chairman of the House of Commons), who introduced the deputation, the deputation, pointed out that, in spite of the alarmist views expressed at the time, no more successful action had been taken in connection with administrative, industrial legislation than the appointment of women inspectors. The deputation believed that the experiment of appointing women police could be safely undertaken, and that similar satisfactory results would accrue. The duties of police women should be clearly defined.

Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck introduced a deputation from the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, who requested that every local authority should be obliged to appoint two women constables; and Mr. Archibald Allen (Deputy-Chairman of the British National Committee for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic) declared that the appointment of police women was the logical and natural corollary to the appointment of female factory and sanitary inspectors. The work which women police could do had many aspects. They could give to women advice which a male constable was not in a position to give, and they could protect women from annoyance in cases where a man could not do so. They could and ought to take the depositions of women and children in all cases involving immorality. Police women should be on duty at police stations when charges of offences against women and children were taken.

The presence of police women would make for the improvement and safety of parks and open spaces, and enable them to be places of decent enjoyment for those for whom they were primarily intended.

Mrs. James Gow (representing the National Vigilance Association, the National Union of Women Workers, the London Diocesan Council, and the Mothers' Union) declared that mothers ought to be able to consult women police before placing any charge of offences against their children; and Mrs. Bigland (of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee) urged that police women, and not policemen, were the persons to inspect the women's lodging-house, and, as in America, they should be permitted to supervise dance halls and cinema shows.

In reply Mr. Ellis Griffiths agreed that the welfare of women and children was the welfare of the community as a whole. Because the appointment of police women would be a fresh step and an experiment, it was not in the least alarming. He assured the deputation that their views should be put before the Home Secretary, who would carefully consider them as they ought to be considered, and would take what steps he thought fit in order, at any rate, to make the police force more efficient and more capable of dealing with the questions which had been put before him.

The Richmond Board of Guardians have passed a resolution approving in principle the appointment of women police, and favouring legislation to carry this object into effect.

The Bolton (Lancashire) Watch Committee has recently appointed Miss Eva Burton to the staff of the police force. Miss Burton is assistant to her father, Mr. R. Burton, the probation officer. She will be under the supervision of Mr. J. Molyneux, chief constable, and her work will be preventative in character. The chief constable stated that he had felt the need of women's assistance in dealing with young girls who, not rendering themselves amenable to the law, were forming habits which might lead them into the Courts. In cases of this character the official assistance of a woman would be valuable. Miss Burton would be of assistance in other ways, he added, among them in hearing statements by female witnesses in cases in which they might hesitate to talk to a member of the opposite sex.

The chief of the Denver Police Department has declared that "the best man in the Denver police is a woman."

WILLIAM OWEN

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ON OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

The Mystic and Occult Knowledge of the Early Christian Church. By Susan Gay. Theosophical Publishing Society. 3d.

An interesting pamphlet entitled *The Mystic and Occult Knowledge of the Early Christian Church* has just been written by Miss Susan Gay. In it she shows, clearly as it seems to me that there existed in the primitive Church a knowledge and a power that do not characterise the Christian Church of to-day.

"When the Church had triumphed over her enemies, when she was acknowledged by emperors and kings—then it was that the temptation to enforce the special rites she loved upon all Christians drew her into centuries of persecution, founded to a large extent on erroneous interpretations of certain texts of scripture."

It was with the Church as it has been with other institutions in the world's history, poor, obscure, unnoticed by the great ones of the world, save when it was felt to be dangerous, and then bitterly persecuted, the Church retained her purity and her zeal. She received the teaching of the masters of wisdom with understanding. It has been proved indeed that much of the ancient truth, now coming back slowly to humanity, was preserved in the mysteries or hidden words of the initiates and given by them to those who were able to receive it. All this is set forth with great clearness in Miss Gay's pamphlet. What, however, makes it so peculiarly interesting to us is that she shows how the Church—especially, I think, the Protestant section of the Church—is hampered by her attitude towards women. In the Sacrament of Marriage, for instance, exalting the male, she has failed to teach the eternal quality of man and woman in Christ, and to point out the high plane which should be reached in the married state of mutual happiness, self-denial and purity. As it is in the Church of to-day, even in the case of married clergy, the self-denial seems generally to be demanded from the women only.

Again, after Miss Gay's fine description of Brotherhood, as it was realised in ancient Peru, thousands of years ago, she makes a remarkable prophecy: "When Brotherhood includes, as it should, woman as well as man, bestowing on womanhood every human right, religious and moral equality and perfect freedom, we shall see the death-blow given to those ideas, those practices, in social life and in the State, which are at the root of suffering, especially to women, in poverty, disease and prostitution."

That rings fine and true, for it strikes the spiritual note. I heartily recommend this little book to our readers.

C. DESPARD.

POLITICAL NEWS.

The Independent Labour Party's Election Cry.

At the meeting of the National Council of the Independent Labour Party last week at Keswick it was unanimously decided that adult suffrage should be the chief plank in the party's platform for the forthcoming election. Mr. Keir Hardie now sees the realisation of his desires in this respect. It is expected that a campaign with the election cry of equal franchise rights for all men and women will be organised throughout the country before the coming general election.

Women and the Legal Profession.

It is understood that a concerted effort will be made in the near future by a number of representative women's societies to induce the Government to provide facilities during the winter session for a Bill dealing with women and the law. Lord Wolmer's Bill was not proceeded with last session owing to the want of Parliamentary time, and a short Bill was introduced by Mr. J. W. Hills. This measure seeks to reverse the legal decision in the case of *Bebb v. the Law Society*, that a woman is not a "person" within the meaning of the Solicitors Acts. However, there is a growing feeling among educated women that reform should come on a broader basis, and endeavours will be made to induce Lord Wolmer to reintroduce his Bill. The Lord Chancellor, the Prime Minister, and the Law Officers were declared to be in favour of Mr. Hills's Bill dealing with the junior branch of the profession, and Sir Simon's sympathies with the suffrage movement are understood to extend to the larger proposals of Lord Wolmer.—*Times*, July 16.

Mr. Bryan a Suffragist.

According to a Reuter cable on July 17 Mr. Bryan, U.S. Secretary of State, made a formal statement in favour of equal suffrage for men and women, declaring that he asked no right for himself which he would be unwilling to grant to his wife. Above all arguments, he said, he placed the right of a mother to participate in the moulding and environment of the children. The question of woman suffrage was brought to his attention in connection with

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a proposal for a woman suffrage amendment to the constitution of his own State of Nebraska.

Voters to oppose the Liberal Party.

At a meeting of the Executive of the Northern Men's Federation for Women's Suffrage, held in Edinburgh last week the following resolution was passed: In view of the fact that during its tenure of office, and while it had the power and time to pass a Women's Suffrage Bill, the Liberal Government has withheld every measure of support from the women it has betrayed and then coerced, the Executive of the Northern Men's Federation have decided to advise all members of the Federation to refuse any support to the Liberal party at the general election. The Northern Men's Federation considers that it would be dangerous to trust to the promises of a party which has not shown a sufficiently developed sense of honour in dealing with the question, and that it would be opposed to the interests of the nation and clean Government to return such a party again to power.

Married Women's Income Tax.

Mrs. Kineton Parkes has written to every member of Parliament and the Press as follows:—"May I draw your attention to the unsatisfactory nature of the clause introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer into the Financial Bill with regard to the income tax of Married Women?"

1. The injustice of the present law in counting together the incomes of husband and wife for purposes of taxation remains unremedied. This constitutes a special tax on marriage—to the amount, as the Chancellor has said, of a million and a half annually; a tax which does not fall on those who contract irregular unions.

2. The fact that application must be made each year six months in advance will render the clause practically inoperative.

3. If either party refuses to disclose to the authorities his or her income, the other will be penalised by losing any exemption or abatement to which he or her is entitled.

4. The provision that 'power to distrain in the case of non-payment by the husband or the wife and to the goods and chattels of the husband' withdraws from married women the right granted in 1882 to control their own property. Take the case of a lodging-house keeper whose only capital is her furniture; she will not dare to avail herself of the new clause for reclaiming her own share of abatement, since her husband's non-payment of his tax would render her goods liable to seizure. The case where the wife fails to pay involves similar injustice to the husband.

May I urge you to vote for the clause to be moved by Mr. Felix Cassel, to the effect that husband and wife should be treated as separate taxable units. This is the only amendment of the existing law which offers a real solution."

In the debate in the House of Commons on July 15 the clause was read a second time and progress reported.

Forcible Feeding not an Urgent Matter.

On July 14 Mr. Wedgwood endeavoured unsuccessfully to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to the forcible feeding of unconvicted persons. The Home Secretary objected on the ground that the practice had existed for several years. The Speaker ruled that if the motion related to something that had occurred in the past it was out of order. If such cases occurred again he could consider the question with an open mind.

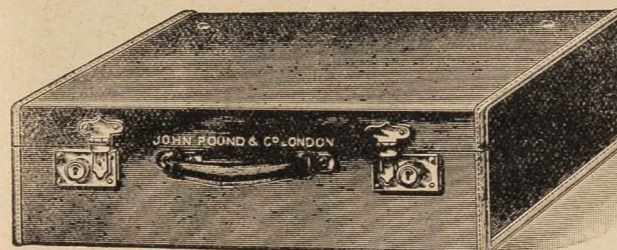
The Lords Reject the Plural Voting Bill.

The Plural Voting Bill was discussed in the House of Lords on July 16, and rejected, the figures being: For, 49; Against, 119. This is one of the Bills to come under the protection of the Parliament Act, and Earl Beauchamp, concluding the discussion for the Government, said: If ever there was a question on which the people had made up their minds it was this. While regretting that the Bill was not to be proceeded with any further in that House on that occasion, the Government hoped, in spite of that, that it would become law before a General Election took place.

AN AFTERNOON OF ATTRACTIONS.—A garden party with irresistible attractions has been arranged for Saturday, July 25, at 1, Fitzjohn's-avenue, Hampstead (near Swiss Cottage Station) by kind permission of Mr. Frank Debenham, J.P., in aid of the International Suffrage Shop. The Actresses' Franchise League will give an allegory and a duologue, and in addition to a musical programme and recitations by Miss Decima Moore, there will be dances by Miss Annie Spong's children. Tickets, 5s. and 2s. 6d., from the International Suffrage Shop, 11, Adam-street, Strand.

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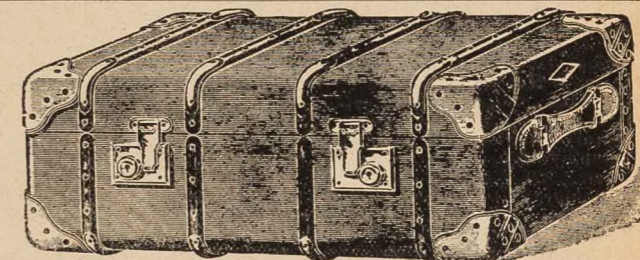
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IN THE PARKS.

Hyde Park

An enormous crowd assembled to hear Mrs. Merivale Mayer on Sunday at 6.30 p.m. The thousands of men and women standing round the cart had the air of a regular congregation rather than a chance audience. Mrs. Mayer is an established institution now, and her audience awaits her long before she arrives. She spoke of the civilising effect which Women's Suffrage will have in elections in this country. Women, she insisted, realise that to elect members who shall voice the community in Parliament is a sacred and important duty. The present degrading conditions show that men under-estimate the importance of this responsibility. Woman's place being the home, she has a right to speak on all that concerns the National Home—the State. The housing question is essentially a woman's question, but as long as slum landlords sit on housing committees real reform is impossible.

Mrs. Mayer referred to her experiences during a factory women's strike in Bermondsey, and told of the misery and hardship they endured to win liberty. Nothing could stop the Woman's Movement; the vote was the necessary weapon to improve conditions. All through her long and stirring address Mrs. Mayer dealt with interruptions in a masterly and delightful manner. EDITH RUSHBROOKE.

Regent's Park

A large and interested crowd listened last Sunday morning to the excellent speeches of Mrs. Mustard and Miss Le Croisette, and were only opposed on one point—that the meeting ended when they "wanted more!"

Brockwell Park.

An excellent meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning, July 19, when Miss Underwood was the speaker and Mrs. Mockford took the chair. Miss Underwood dealt most effectively with the historical aspect of the question, and quoted some of our distinguished supporters, from Condorset to the Bishop of London, our latest ally. Afterwards an unknown gentleman in the crowd asked to be allowed to say a few words, and made an eloquent appeal to the men in the audience to respect their mothers and the women of their country, and to concede gracefully a right long withheld. The audience was most attentive, and there were no interruptions. The Herne Hill and Norwood Branch hopes to continue these meetings till the end of the season, and will be glad to see members and friends in the park on Sunday mornings at 11.30. Next Sunday Miss Nina Boyle will be the speaker.

Clapham Common.

The last two Sundays two very successful meetings have been held on Clapham Common, at the former of which Mrs. Mustard was the speaker, and Miss Le Croisette kindly took the chair; last Sunday the speakers were Mr. J. Y. Kennedy and Miss F. A. Underwood, and the Chairman Miss W. St. Clair. The crowd stayed for more than an hour-and-a-half at each meeting.

NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

The following are the places to be visited during the above campaign:—JULY 24-31, RHYL; Address, Kingsley House, 14, Edward Henry Street. AUGUST 1-7, LLANDUDNO. AUGUST 8-14, COLWYN BAY; Address, 34, Sea View Road. AUGUST 15-20, BARMOUTH; Address, 1, Moss Bank. AUGUST 21-15, ABERDOVEY and TOWYN; Address, Balkan Hill, Aberdovey. AUGUST 26-SEPT. 4, ABERYSTWYTH and BORTH; Address, 25, North Parade, Aberystwyth. Aberystwyth.

I shall be glad to receive the names and addresses of members and sympathisers who are spending their holidays in the above places on the dates mentioned. I must also appeal for funds to carry out this campaign. To make the work effective and to place the Women's Freedom League on a firm basis, money is necessary. Will members realise the importance of the campaign and give as liberally as possible? Donations to Dr. Knight or myself will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

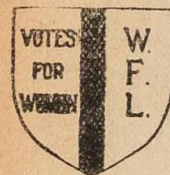
Miss Anna Munro will be the speaker, and the profound impression she made at the places visited last year is still fresh in the minds of the inhabitants, who are eagerly looking forward to a return visit.

ALIX MINNIE CLARK, Hon. Organiser.
11, Severn-st., Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs.

CLYDE COAST CAMPAIGN.

Organiser: Miss ADA BROUGHTON, Concord, Rothesay. Our meetings in Rothesay, Dunoon, Millport and Largs have been most orderly, and our policy is now understood. The only opposition our speakers have to encounter comes from "drunks" and "irresponsibles." The meetings have been well attended. Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Hyde and Miss Bunten have helped with the speaking, and all have been highly appreciated. During the past fortnight Miss Gentles has proved an ideal housekeeper. Mrs. Paton has kindly consented to fulfil her place for this week. We herewith gratefully acknowledge:—Mrs. Walter Carey, 10s.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Sunday, July 26.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Speaker, Mr. Laurence Housman. Chair, Miss F. A. Underwood. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6.30 p.m. Speaker, Miss Nina Boyle. Chair, Miss F. A. Underwood. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30. Miss Nina Boyle.
Monday, July 27.—KENSINGTON (corner Lancaster Road and Portobello Road), 8 p.m. Miss Rushbrooke.
Tuesday, July 28.—TOTTENHAM HIGH ROAD (outside Gas Works), 8 p.m. Miss Boyle.
Wednesday, July 29.—HYDE PARK. Open-air meeting, 5 p.m.
Wednesday, July 29.—STREATHAM AND THORNTON HEATH. Garden Party, for Birthday Fund. 32, Buckleigh Road, Streatham Common. 3.30—8 p.m. Tickets, 1s., from Hon. Secretary or Mrs. Pyart, Thornton Heath.
Sunday, August 2.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Alison Neilans.

PROVINCES.

Friday, July 24—28. CARAVAN CAMPAIGN.—GRANTHAM. Open-air meetings daily in district. Speakers, Miss Goddard, Miss Barrs and Miss Becher.
Friday, July 24 to Monday, August 31. ISLE OF MAN CAMPAIGN.—Headquarters, Douglas. Open-air meetings daily. Miss Andrews and others.
Friday, July 24 to Thursday, July 30. NEW FOREST CAMPAIGN (continued).—Meetings daily. **Friday, 24, MILFORD-ON-SEA. Saturday, July 25, NEW MILTON.** Speakers, Mrs. Leigh Rothwell and Miss Trott.
Saturday, July 25.—MIDDLESBROUGH (Wilstrop House, Roman Road). Garden Party. Tickets, 1s.
Monday, July 27.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Open-air meeting. Speaker, Mr. Charles Coates.

SCOTLAND.

Clyde Campaign during July & August.—Headquarters, Rothersey. Open-air meetings at the Pier nightly, 8 o'clock.
Friday, July 24.—CASTLE HILL, DUNOON, 11.30 and 3 o'clock.
Saturday, July 25.—PIERHEAD, KIRN, 11.30. CASTLE HILL, DUNOON, 3 o'clock.
Monday, July 27.—LARGS, 11.30 and 3 o'clock. MILLPORT, 11.30 and 2.45 p.m.
Tuesday, July 28.—CASTLE HILL, DUNOON, 11.30 and 3 o'clock. KIRN, 11.30.
Wednesday, July 29.—LARGS, 11.30 and 3 o'clock. MILLPORT, 11.30 and 3 o'clock. PORT BANNATYNE, 8 o'clock. ROTHERSEY, PIERHEAD, every evening, at 8.

NORTH WALES CAMPAIGN.

Hon. Organiser: Miss A. M. Clark. Speaker: Miss Anna Munro.
Friday, July 24—Friday, July 31.—RHYL, Address: Kingsley House, 14, Edward Henry Street.
August 1—7.—LLANDUDNO.
August 8—14.—COLWYN BAY, Address: 34, Sea View Road.
August 15—20.—BARMOUTH, Address: 1, Moss Bank.
August 21—25.—ABERDOWEY and TOWYN, Address: Balkan Hill, Aberdovey.
August 26—September 4.—ABERYSTWYTH and BORTH, Address: 26, North Parade, Aberystwyth.

BRANCH NOTES. LONDON & SUBURBS.

Bowes Park.

In June a garden whist drive was held by kind permission of Mrs. McLaughlin to raise funds for the Branch and the Birthday Fund. Our best thanks are due to Mrs. McLaughlin and all who helped to make the afternoon a success. On Saturday, July 18, a garden party was held at "Urum," Palmer's Green, by kind permission of Mrs. Schonfeldt. The afternoon and evening passed very pleasantly, with competitions, music and an exhibition of country dances, and was financially very successful. The proceeds are to go towards the Birthday Fund. The Secretary expresses her personal thanks to all who helped so kindly to make the party a success.

Croydon—Office: 32a, The Arcade.

The office will be closed from Saturday, July 25 until Monday, September 14, but during the holidays Mrs. Loveday has kindly promised to be at the office on Friday mornings from 11.30 a.m. until 12.30 p.m., in order that members and friends may call for their copies of THE VOTE and for merchandise. Next open-air meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17, at 8 p.m. At the Branch meeting on July 17 it was decided that our Branch should promise their help to the "Carnival" Committee by offering to be responsible for one stall.

Streatham and Thornton Heath.

A garden whist drive will be given at 32, Buckleigh-road, Streatham Common, on Wednesday, July 29, from 3.30 to 8 p.m., in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund. Tickets, 1s. each, from the Secretary at the above address, or Mrs. Pyart, at Thornton Heath.

PROVINCES.

Bournemouth.

A meeting was held at Surrey-road on July 17. Mrs. Leigh Rothwell made a most spirited speech and kept the audience interested for an hour. After Mrs. Rothwell's departure to catch her train, several working men approached Mrs. Lambert, Hon. Sec. of the Branch, and requested her to arrange meetings in Lower Parkstone; they offered their protection and help should their comrades behave too roughly. Mrs. Rothwell will speak again in Bournemouth the first week in August—date will be announced later.

Ipswich

We held our last meeting for the summer on July 16, and were very pleased to welcome Miss Andrews, who related her experiences in various parts of the country. Mrs. Hossack spoke on work at Headquarters. It was decided to hold another "Green, White and Gold" fête in the autumn. It is hoped that during the holiday everyone will try and make at least one article for the stalls, and those making jam will also put a few pots on one side for the sale. Contributions are also asked towards a mascot stall.

Middlesbrough.

Our open-air meeting on July 13 was very successful. Miss A. Mahony took the chair. The Rev. T. C. Gobat made a very eloquent plea for Woman Suffrage. Mrs. Schofield Coates spoke; everyone was very sympathetic when she spoke of the splendid devotion of women like Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Pankhurst. The crowd was very eager to hear all our speakers had to tell them, and seemed sorry to disperse. THE VOTE sold well, Vote sellers being greeted with remarks such as "Your Cause is right" and "You are bound to win." On July 14 a Committee meeting was held at 35, Albert-terrace, and all arrangements were made for the garden party to be held at Wilstrop House, Roman-road, on Saturday, July 25, from 3.30 to 6 p.m. There will be a guessing competition, songs, music and short speeches. Tickets, 1s. each. As the proceeds are in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund, we hope that all members will do their utmost to make it a success.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Mrs. White kindly acted as hostess at our last work party. Members will be notified where the next will be held. Gratefully acknowledged for Birthday Fund:—Mrs. White, 5s.; Mrs. Speck, 7s. 6d.; Mrs. Everard, 2s. 6d.; and Mrs. Tremain, 5s.

Sale and Ashton-on-Mersey.

Members met at Thornlea on July 13. A long letter from our Hon. Sec. describing the garden party at Bracken Hill, and giving us encouraging news of Mrs. Despard, following a reading from "Women in the New Era," brought us into vivid contact with the spirit of the Freedom League. The next meeting will be held on July 27, at 3 p.m., at Thornlea. Address: "THE VOTE—the voice of the League."

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE CAMPAIGNS. The Caravan.

We have had a successful and interesting week with the caravan. At Stamford on July 13 we held a dinner-hour meeting at Martin's Works, the men listening with great attention to Miss Barr's excellent speech. In the afternoon a meeting for women only was held on our camping field and many sympathisers' cards were signed. Miss Killingworth presided, and the speakers were Miss Barrs, Miss Becher and myself. On July 14 Miss Barrs spoke to the men at Blackstone's Works, and announced our evening meeting which was held in a meadow surrounded by water. We were told that we were in danger of being thrown in, but a very large crowd listened attentively until some boys made a disturbance towards the close of the meeting. Miss Killingworth presided; Miss Barrs and I were the speakers. The police behaved well on this occasion, although they had previously refused to assist us. On Wednesday we reached Grantham, and as the police did not know of a camping ground we stored the van to find a private field. On Thursday Miss Barrs addressed the men at Hornsby's Works during the dinner-hour; our evening meeting had to be abandoned owing to heavy rain. Several of us went out canvassing, and were mobbed by upwards of a hundred people, who surrounded us, howling "Suffragettes" and "Votes for Women," and threw mud, etc. To prevent the crowd from coming to the caravan we waited in the police station until it dispersed. On Friday we held a meeting in the Market Place, and had an excellent hearing, the crowd being quite quiet and orderly. At the close we sold all our copies of THE VOTE, and were asked to speak again.

FRANCIS GODDARD.

Isle of Man.

Miss Taylor, Miss Lowe, and I have now started on our campaign in the Isle of Man. Douglas is our Headquarters and we are holding meetings in various parts of the town. The local authorities are sympathetic and also the police. "Women have no votes here," they remind us, and our reply is "That will be an object lesson to our audiences, for there seems to be neither civic nor domestic discord on this delightful little island." Peace reigns except for the invasions by the summer visitors who arrive in thousands. Then Douglas is turned in a place of pleasure; the promenade is black with people enjoying the fresh air, glad to be away from the smoky atmosphere of the large cities, and making merry over the numerous amusements provided for them. It is a relief to set foot upon a part of the British Isles where women have the suffrage and such is the case in this little Isle of Man. Women owners of land were allowed to vote for the House of Keys in 1881 and women ratepayers in 1892. The Island's story could almost be guessed from its situation. The lot of the grain between the mill-stones is rarely a happy one. Overrun from time to time by its powerful neighbours, the Island has been successively Irish, Scandinavian, Scotch, English, and yet to-day is politically independent of them all. "Quocumque jeceris stabit" is its motto; "Whichever way you throw me I shall stand," and this motto has been well endorsed by women suffragists.

I shall be glad of more help, and funds are urgently needed if this campaign is to be kept running. Please send to me at 7, Belgrave-road, Onchoron, Douglas, Isle of Man. Gratefully acknowledged, 2s. 6d. from Miss Maud King.

CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

South Coast and New Forest.

The villages of Shawford, Compton and Twyford were visited on July 13 by Mrs. Singleton and Miss Trott, and Mrs. Whetton came up from Portsmouth to speak. A pitch on the Downs was denied us by the principal farmer, in consequence of which no one could be induced to lend a trolley or box; there were rumours about, too, of a ducking in the river, but a little heckling was the worst that happened. A thoroughly successful meeting was held on the Broadway, Winchester, the next afternoon, at which a large audience, the majority being working women and labourers, listened attentively. Mrs. Whetton spoke principally on the economic side of the movement, quoting recent 'sweating statistics,' which her listeners thoroughly appreciated. We thank her heartily for her help, and we are able to report four new members this week.

Since July 20 Miss Trott and Mrs. Leigh Rothwell have conducted the campaign. Meetings have been held in Fawley, Totten, Brookhurst and East Boldre, and will be continued at Milford-on-Sea and Milton. The Southampton Branch voted £1 towards the expenses; Miss Gore-Browne kindly lent a bicycle, which has been invaluable for reaching places far away from a station. Sympathisers at Fawley and members at Lyminster and East Boldre have helped the campaign by subscriptions, the loan of a trolley (at Fawley) and by distributing handbills to advertise the meetings. Further help will be most acceptable.



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