

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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ONE PENNY.



SUGGESTED BY THE EXETER PETITION.

Notes and Comments.

Local Councils.

Every week for some time past has our resolution been carried, usually by large majorities in the local councils of our great cities. Nothing could shew more satisfactorily the support in the country among just that class of men who are not at all susceptible to emotional freaks, but may be supposed to represent the common sense of the business man. Birmingham is a splendid addition; Sheffield and Burton represent two more important centres of industry and Ramsgate the type of population that one certainly does not imagine likely to be carried away by revolutionary measures.

Easter Conferences.

Easter is a great time for conferences and last week, besides the Labour and the Socialist meetings, there were conferences devoted to special interests such as the conference of the Amalgamated Society of Telephone Employees at Leeds. The state of affairs complained of at this meeting was such as needs drastic reform. Miss Tynan spoke of girls standing at the board from 9 till 1 and again from 2 till 6 and said the work was ruining their health. Mr. Summers, organizing secretary, said that Dundee jute factory girls and Nottingham lace girls were better paid than telephone operators. The General Secretary stated that there was always 10 to 20 per cent. of the staff sick with nervous disorders. Bad pay, cruel speeding-up, lack of sitting accommodation, too long hours and lack of promotion were the main complaints.

The same complaints were made at the Conference of Postal Telegraph Clerks at Nottingham, where Miss Woolfe stated that in a London office 30 out of 36 girls had been carried out in one morning, either suffering from hysteria or in a fainting condition. A resolution complaining of the increase in women's labour and its damaging effect upon men's labour was passed by a large majority, Miss Woolfe protesting that the resolution should have taken the form of demanding equal rights.

A meeting of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants in Edinburgh unanimously passed a resolution condemning the living-in system.

Forthcoming Conferences.

Two conferences shortly to be held are of particular interest to women. On May 17th at the Guildhall the National Association for Women's Lodging Houses will hold a conference, at which papers will be read by Lady McLaren, the Rev. O. Z. Edwards, Mrs. Mary Higgs, Mrs. Morrison, Councillor Margaret Ashton, Miss Margaret Robertson, Alderman Thompson, Mrs. Bramwell Booth and Mrs. MacKirdy.

On the 30th and 31st May and 1st and 2nd June there will be a National Conference on the Prevention of Destitution at Caxton Hall. There will be five sections (1) Public Health, President Sir T. Clifford Allbutt; (2) Education, President Prof. Sadler; (3) Lunacy, President Sir William Chance; (4) Unemployment Agencies, President Sir Alfred Mond; (5) Financial, President The Hon. Mr. Justice Phillimore.

Death of Lady Halle.

On the 15th April died Lady Hallé in her 72nd year and there is no one who can take her place. She was a rare artist with a pure and classical style joined with exquisite grace and the most exhilarating verve and go. She played the great music in a great manner and had withal personal charm that made her performances a delight to the eye as well as to the ear.

Parliamentary Language.

We note that Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate, stated at Dunbar last week that the discussion concerning the House of Lords was "the purest moonshine and utter humbug." When we characterized the suffragist professions of a gentleman who had worked for an anti-suffragist as "cant," we were severely rebuked by some of our readers. Perhaps if we had used the parliamentary

language of "purest moonshine and utter humbug" we might have escaped censure,—who knows?

Making Law Operative in Kansas.

Kansas is not one of the Suffrage States, yet Hunnewell, a city in that State, has not only a woman Mayor, Mrs. Wilson, but she has selected a woman Chief of Police and this lady has begun an active raid against illicit drinking saloons, personally heading several raids. She is not making any change in the law, but merely making existing law operative.

Portugal and Women's Suffrage.

A paragraph has appeared in the papers as emanating from Reuter's correspondent at Lisbon, stating that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had made a speech to a meeting of journalists, in which he foreshadowed a women's suffrage bill. Enquiries have so far not confirmed this.

American Politics.

The women's vote is making itself felt with a vengeance in America. The newly enfranchised women of Washington almost immediately secured the recall of the Mayor of Seattle, who was allowing the town to be "run" on what Americans call "wide open" lines, that is in defiance of the law. In Tacoma (also in Washington) the Mayor had introduced an anti-treating and early-closing law to which some men much objected, and they asked for his recall. Upon the vote being taken, the newly enfranchised women voted solid for the temperance Mayor and got him returned again. We understand that the anti-suffragists voted like good women and we have the happiest augury for our future.

Mayors in America have a wonderful amount of power and it is said to be due to the Mayor that New York is in such a disgraceful state of corruption,—burglary, robbery, gambling and prostitution being fearfully rife. It was this shameful corruption which was the cause of the terrible factory fire lately in which hundreds of girls perished. The inspection of buildings as well as of everything else is made the subject of bribery. We read that almost every instance of faulty inspection has "politics" at the bottom of it. Clearly the women are needed to clean out these foul places and we hope the women of the Eastern States will not rest until they have acquired the right to protect themselves, their sisters and children from such iniquity.

An Irish Local Government Bill.

In the Bill presented by Mr. Hugh Law which is down for its second reading on the 21st April, it is proposed that women shall be elected and act as councillors and aldermen of county and borough councils in Ireland "in the same manner and on the same conditions as men." If this passed, our Irish sisters would be ahead of us. We wish them luck!

Two More Women's Bills.

An army bill to make better provision for unmarried mothers when an affiliation order has been obtained against a soldier, passed its second reading on March 27th. Mr. Philip Snowden's Bill for throwing open all clerkships and writerships in the Civil Service to Women, with pay equal to that of men, provided their services are performed in the United Kingdom, is the fourth order of the day on May 19th.

Our Cartoons.

We thought Mr. Chesterton's personality so widely known that no one would be in any doubt as to our last week's cartoon, which was a caricature of him and Miss Hamilton, but we have met one reader who, unfamiliar with the two antagonists, did not recognize who stood for "statics" and who for "dynamics." We hasten to assure our readers that this week's cartoon contains no caricature of any individual.

The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

TRADE UNIONISTS MUST HAVE THE FRANCHISE.

We still hear it said by anti-suffragists that working women can improve their wages and conditions by means of Trade Unions quite effectively, because men have done so, and that the possession of the vote is not therefore at all necessary for them.

Now, the history of men's Trade Unions shows us that working men found they

MUST HAVE VOTES

if their Trade Unions were to be of real use to them.

Before 1871 Trade Unions were considered legally as "illegal associations," and, except as benefit clubs, they were comparatively powerless. In 1871, and in 1875, these repressive laws were repealed, because in 1867 the working men in the towns were enfranchised and some Trade Unionists were returned to Parliament, who worked for the repeal of these laws. Also, many of the voters threatened to abstain from voting altogether, and to

RUN LABOUR CANDIDATES

unless their wishes were attended to. This policy was entirely successful, and in 1875 even "peaceful picketing" during a strike was declared legal. That is, in eight years only, freedom had been obtained for Trade Unions through the possession of the vote.

TRADE UNIONISM ALONE

cannot save the working man or the working woman.

People are also fond of quoting the great Lancashire Textile Union, which numbers something like 100,000 women in its ranks, as an instance of the immense power a Trade Union can have for obtaining good wages and conditions; and they sometimes say that this Union achieved its high position without the help of political power.

Now, in 1895, before the Labour Party (not the I.L.P., which began in 1893), under the name of the Labour Representation Committee, was formed for the purpose of running Trade Union and Labour Candidates, an International Textile Congress was held at Ghent. Forty Lancashire men were there, sent by their Union. All the nations except England declared that

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION

was necessary to make Trade Unions of any real use. Forgetful of 1871, and the great fight for freedom after 1867, these Lancashire men denied their need for political representatives, and became very angry. Trade Unionism was enough they said, and there was almost a fight between them and the

Germans about it. The two interpreters—a man and a woman—had a dreadful time of it, and tact rather than truth had to be used to prevent an International war!

Five years later the Labour Party was formed, in 1900. In 1902 the great Textile Union joined the party, and Mr. Shackleton was returned to Parliament as their representative in 1903. The man who had been most bitter in his opposition at Ghent was also a candidate for election. He admitted that he now found

UNIONS WERE HELPLESS

unless they were backed by Parliamentary representatives. At the same Congress, in Milan, in 1905, the Lancashire men took the lead in urging all Unions to run candidates. Mr. Shackleton was held up as an example to be admired by all.

It is about 40 years, or nearly so, since Mrs. Paterson founded the Women's Trade Union League in London. People who tell us at debates, and at meetings, that we ought "to make women join Trade Unions" speak as if Trade Unionism for women was a new idea. It is not a new idea; but it has NOT DONE NEARLY SO MUCH for women as it has for men, and it

NEVER CAN,

without Parliamentary representation to back it up.

We see quite clearly, that Trade Unions for men were *not* able to protect their members until working men were enfranchised in 1867, nor were they able to pass their most effective reforms,—such as the Past Trades Disputes Bill,—until they had elected their own Labour Representatives for Parliament. The Women Trade Unionists therefore need parliamentary representatives, *elected by their votes* to make their Unions strong and able to protect their interests. The gander and the goose require the same sauce!

THIS WEEK'S STORY.

DRAWING-ROOM DEBATE ON SUFFRAGE.

Anti-Suffragist: "You should make women join Trade Unions, they would be all right then—though really I don't see why you always bring in the Industrial women,—for women don't work in big trades like men do, so they don't want the vote! Men know best what women really want!"

THIS WEEK'S MOTTO.

"Each person is the only safe guardian of his own rights and interests."

J. STUART MILL.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday. THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in Britain or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	1 9
6 MONTHS	3 3
12 MONTHS	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Democratic Methods.

It does seem as if it should be the natural and obvious thing for a Member of Parliament who is sponsor for a bill to come down to his constituents and explain to them the nature of the bill and why he is backing it. Yet public opinion is in such a queer state on the question of Women's Suffrage that when Sir George Kemp did the straightforward and manly thing and came last week to tell his constituents of all parties about the Conciliation Bill, one had the feeling that he was doing something unusual and not quite easy. He did it remarkably well. It is a fortunate thing for us that he is the sort of man no one would dream of calling a "crank" and he put the matter in such a frank common-sense fashion that he at once suggested that that hoary old term of abuse would nowadays be more fairly applied to the few remaining real Anti-Suffragists.

We have repeatedly asserted that the National Union is democratic in its constitution and methods. We do not use the term "democratic" in the odd senses with which we have recently been made familiar, to mean either the rule of persons with an income under a certain amount or the rule of persons who happen to agree with the speaker. But there is a further ambiguity: when we say a measure is "democratic" do we mean that it is what the people want or what the people need? Are we to wait for a solid majority spontaneously to demand clearly and categorically that a great change shall be made, or are we to make changes that the more enlightened and instructed are convinced will be for the good of the whole? Those who do not desire to see a certain reform carried out but who cannot deny the justice of it, are fond of asserting that until there is a loud and unmistakable clamour for it among the electors, they are powerless to move. The disingenuousness of this can be shown quite plainly by pointing to the various measures they have introduced (and in some cases passed) for which there was no popular clamour at all. But, abandoning all the tactical advantages of this *tu quoque* style of controversy, can we say that it would really be better for England if our Members of Parliament were mere delegates and if our

Ministers shook off all responsibility for devising legislation and declared themselves prepared only to carry out measures which had been severally approved in detail by a majority of the electors? Such a theory of democracy has only to be stated to prove itself absolutely unworkable in a complex social system like ours, with an electorate of seven millions. It is not only disingenuous therefore to suggest that we do govern in such a crazy way; it is unreasonable to suggest that such a way is a possible way of governing; it would be only useful as a way of not governing (if we include administration as well as legislation) or of never reforming our laws (if we only include legislation).

What then is the alternative? Can we say we have democracy if a small body of elected Members of Parliament or a much smaller body of appointed Ministers can force a measure upon the people without regard for their opinions and desires, just because, in the opinion of these few, the measure is good for the many? Scarcely. To a very limited extent, of course, it may be said that the electors in choosing one of two or three men, choose a programme, but in view of the rigid construction of parties, this is only a very small portion of the truth and it may sometimes happen that a measure commanding a very large majority composed of men of all parties, does not command the support of the whole of any one party; because it has the misfortune not to have got tied up into one of those highly artificial bundles called a "party programme," it is left out of the questions for which any party is said to have got a "mandate" although it may (and Women's Suffrage actually does) command a bigger majority than that of the Government of the day for many of its measures.

The wise course lies, as most courses do, between the extremes. It is manifestly impossible to get the electors to legislate; it is manifestly undemocratic to legislate against the will of the electors. The theory of the English democracy is that the majority elected has a general mandate to prosecute the business of government on certain very broad lines, with the understanding that measures introduced into the House shall be brought to the country and there discussed and explained to the electors and that Ministers shall receive and attend to the representations of those whose lives would be affected by the proposed legislation. It is to be supposed that politicians, whose business is politics, will be able to see the bearings of a measure on the nation as a whole better than those whose interests are more directly involved, but it is of the highest importance, first, that the politicians should be sympathetically aware of these interests and, second, that the people who live under the laws should understand their reasonableness and desire heartily to co-operate in their administration.

When therefore a state of manifest dissatisfaction and unrest occurs among a large body of intelligent, sober and duty-loving citizens—such a state as is plainly manifest among the women of England—it is most patently the duty of a politician who wishes to be a statesman to attend to the condition of the women, to look into the causes of their unrest and to devise means for allaying it. It is also his duty, when a measure has been hit upon which appears to represent a common measure of agreement between those who form the largest majority, to submit this measure to the electors; to bring it into the country and explain it to those who actually possess the vote and to those who would, if the measure passed, possess the vote.

This is so obviously the right, reasonable and honourable course to pursue that it is shocking to think how largely the education of the electors has been left to the Women's Suffrage Societies and how little politicians have themselves helped to lead the people in this vital matter. We have heard a Cabinet Minister who declared himself "favourable" read out a question on Women's Suffrage at a public meeting with an accent and gesture which invited the coarse unthinking laugh—which it got! This is fortunately an extreme case; but the politicians who have spoken at their own meetings about Women's Suffrage or have rebuked an uncivilized treatment of the question have been too few. If our leaders had emulated Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and checked this silliness wherever it occurred, they could

have done much to humanize politics; in constituencies like Barnsley and Oldham, where the Members have spoken frankly to the electors on the subject, they find a civilized general opinion prevailing. We have always pleaded for light and air and knowledge and free discussion. Our Suffrage meetings are always open and our questions are always answered. We are not afraid of the people. All we ask is that their elected representatives shall speak frankly to them on this great and vital question and that the Government shall give the necessary time for its discussion in the House.

Shirking and boycotting, suppression, shuffling and delay are not democratic methods, nor do they seem to women to be worthy of men.

An Easter Sermon by Josephine Butler.

[The following is a quotation from a book entitled "Woman's Work and Woman's Culture" (1869).]

The author of "Ecce Homo" has set the example to those to whom it did not occur to do so for themselves, of venturing straight into the presence of Christ for an answer to every question, and of silencing the voice of all theologians from S. Paul to this day, until we have heard what the Master says. It may be that God will give grace to some woman in the time to come to discern more clearly, and to reveal to others, some truth which theologians have hitherto failed to see in its fulness; for from the intimacy into which our Divine Master admitted women with Himself it would seem that His communications of the deepest nature were not confined to male recipients; and what took place during His life on earth, may, through His Holy Spirit, be continued now. It is instructive to recall the fact that the most stupendous announcement of an event concerning which the whole world is divided to this day, and which more than all others is bound up with our hopes of immortality, the resurrection of Christ, was first made to women. Nor can we wonder, looking back over the ages since then, and seeing how any truths asserted by women, not at once palpable to the outward sense, or provable by logic, have been accounted as idle tales, that of the first apostles it should have been said "The words of the women seemed unto them as idle tales" when they declared that Christ was risen. Among the great typical acts of Christ, which were evidently and intentionally for the announcement of a principle for the guidance of society, none were more markedly so, than His acts towards women; and I appeal to the open Book, and to the intelligence of every candid student of the Gospel history, for the justification of my assertion that in all important instances of His dealings with women His dismissal of each case was accompanied by a distinct act of Liberation. In one case He emancipated a woman from legal thralldom. His act no doubt appeared to those who witnessed, it as that of a dangerous leveller, for while He granted to the woman a completeness of freedom from the tyranny of the law, which must have electrified the bystanders, He imposed upon the men present and upon all men by implication, the higher obligation which they had made a miserable attempt to enforce upon one-half of society only and the breach of which their cruel laws visited with terrible severity on women alone. They all went out convicted by conscience, while the woman alone remained free; but,

be it observed, free in a double sense—free alike from the inward moral slavery, and from the harsh humanly imposed judgment. The emancipation granted to another in the matter of hereditary disabilities was signal. In a moment He struck off chains which had been riveted by the traditions of centuries, and raised her from the position, accepted even by herself, of a "Gentile dog" to one higher than the highest of the Commonwealth of Israel.

In another case His "Go in peace," and words of tender and respectful commendation to one who had been exiled from society, contrasted solemnly with His rebuke to His self-satisfied host, who, while firmly holding his place among the honoured of this world, marvelled that Christ should not seem to be aware what manner of woman it was who touched Him. To another, before ever she had spoken a word, He cried, "Woman, thou art loosed!" and to objectors He replied, "Ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" The tyrannies and infirmities from which He freed these persons severally were various and manifold, and this does but increase the significance of His whole proceeding towards them. Search throughout the Gospel history, and observe His conduct in regard to women, and it will be found that the word liberation expresses, above all others, the act which changed the whole life and character and position of the women dealt with, and which ought to have changed the character of men's treatment of women from that time forward.

While in His example of submission to parents, of filial duty and affection, in His inculcation of the sacredness of marriage, and of the duty of obedience to laws which ought to be obeyed, His righteousness far exceeded the righteousness of the Pharisees of His own or the present day, it seems to me impossible for anyone candidly to study Christ's whole life and words without seeing that the principle of the perfect equality of all human beings was announced by Him as the basis of social philosophy.

To some extent this has been practically acknowledged in the relations of men to men; only in one case has it been consistently ignored, and that is in the case of that half of the human race in regard to which His doctrine of equality was more markedly enforced than in any other.

It is no wonder that there should be some women whose love for this Saviour exceeds the love which it is possible for any man to feel for Him, and that, retiring from the encounter with prejudices which are apt to lurk even in the minds of the most just and generous of men, they should be driven to cast themselves in a great solitude of heart before Him, for He only is just, He only is holy, He only is infinitely tender.

In Parliament.

BUSINESS AND PLEASURE.

The House rose on Wednesday 12th for the Easter recess, which is a very short one. No one in the House seems to be taking the debate on the Parliament Bill very seriously. On Wednesday Hon. Members played the familiar game of "blocking" each other's motions so that nothing could be discussed and Sir Edward Grey added to the humour of the situation by referring to the congestion of business.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. COURTNEY.
Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary).
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

President:
Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. AUERBACH.

Secretary: Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A.
Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W. Telephone: 1960 Victoria.

From Headquarters.

Arrangements for the meeting on May 3rd are getting on fast. Societies are already sending in the names of their delegates, and it is evident that the meeting will be

thoroughly representative. Amongst the speakers will be: Mrs. Fawcett, Miss Sterling, Miss Margaret Ashton, and Miss Clementina Black. Other names will be announced later.

The Easter holidays have prevented the making of any further arrangements about the procession on June 17th. Further details will be announced later.

K. D. COURTNEY.

Great National Convention.

On Wednesday May 3rd at 3 p.m. Mrs. Fawcett will take the chair at the Convention of the National Union, to take place in the Portman Rooms, Baker Street.

It is intended that this convention of delegates from every one of the societies in the National Union shall represent the body of support all over the country and the work done in the constituencies in support of the Conciliation Bill by the Union.

The strength of the National Union is distributed all over Great Britain and the idea is to gather this strength for one day in London, in a representative form, and so focus and concentrate for one day what is throughout the year distributed into every nook and outpost of the Kingdom. Numbers we hope to have for the Procession on June 17th; on May 3rd the provincial societies will join with the London Society to shew London,—the home of Royalty and the seat of Government—an epitome of the work of this truly national union.

The societies are invited to send each two accredited delegates, one of whom will sign a resolution to be sent to the Prime Minister and the Members of Parliament. Speeches will be directed to shewing what has been the nature of the work done by the National Union in educating the country and in organizing public opinion and making it manifest to the representatives of the people. The meeting will be free.

Press Department.

Our new Press Department begins work this week. Miss E. M. Leaf has been appointed Hon. Press Secretary to succeed Miss C. E. Marshall, who is returning to Cumberland, and Miss Patricia Hoey has been appointed Press Secretary.

The chief work of the Press Department will be to try and get fuller and more accurate news of the Women's Suffrage movement into the London daily papers. It will be the duty of the Press Secretaries to find out what kind of news is most acceptable to the different papers and to keep them constantly supplied with suitable material. Arrangements are being made for obtaining first-hand news of the women's movement in other countries (we have emissaries this week in Berlin and Paris) and for receiving prompt and regular information at headquarters of the progress of our work in the provinces, for it is in the provinces that the rapid growth of the movement is most conspicuous.

The Federations are already responsible for keeping in touch with the local papers in their area (see "Common Cause," October 20th, 1910, "The Work of Press Secretaries"), but no news of provincial events reaches the Londoner.

Complete files and records of all Press cuttings will be kept at the office, and lists of papers which give good Suffrage news will be published in "The Common Cause" from time to time. Hitherto the only daily paper which has actively and consistently supported the movement has been our good friend the "Manchester Guardian." London Suffragists will be glad to hear that this paper can now be obtained in London by the early morning delivery. We are able this week to announce that the "Daily Graphic" has decided to make a special feature of Suffrage news. The details are not finally settled yet, but the editor has undertaken to publish regularly any news we send him. Suffragists should show their appreciation of such action by taking one or both of these papers. It will be especially valuable to have daily reliable news of the progress of the Conciliation Bill.

The results of the last two months' work have been decidedly encouraging. Much kindness and sympathy have been met with in unexpected quarters.

The amount of space devoted to Women's Suffrage news in the provincial papers bears striking testimony to the advance we are making, and their attitude is for the

most part very satisfactory, especially in the districts where our strongest Societies are at work. Many of the London weeklies are friendly; some of them heartily espouse our cause; and there are signs that the London dailies also are waking up to see that the tide is really coming in and it is no use for them to play Canute any longer.

CATHERINE E. MARSHALL, Hon. Press Secretary.

Treasurer's Notes.

Miss Bertha Mason has written to point out that I had made a mistake in stating that she had estimated that close on £20,000 was spent on suffrage work last year within the Union. I should, of course, have said that this calculation referred to the money raised, as it was based, for the most part, on financial statements supplied by the various annual reports, which naturally included the unspent balances. Every society, I hope, endeavours to make its income exceed its expenditure, and these balances, although an important part of the money raised, must therefore be deducted from the total in forming any estimate of the money actually spent.

We are very grateful to all those who have sent such generous donations for work in support of the Conciliation Bill, and who thereby are enabling us to carry on an especially vigorous campaign in many constituencies where work was greatly needed. We are also able to take the opportunity of a by-election at Cheltenham to organise an active campaign of propaganda in favour of the Bill at this important moment throughout the constituency. Any further contributions for similar purposes will be most acceptable.

HELENA AUERBACH.

FOR SPECIAL WORK IN SUPPORT OF THE CONCILIATION BILL.

April, 1911.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	168	14	10
Mrs. C. Carlisle Thompson	25	0	0
Miss B. A. Clough	20	0	0
Mrs. E. T. Pilcher	10	0	0
Mrs. Tubbs	10	0	0
Mrs. H. Enfield Dowson	10	0	0
Mme. Loppe	5	0	0
Mrs. Hogg	5	0	0
Mrs. Arthur Hecht	3	3	0
Miss M. B. Thornton	2	0	0
Miss Alice Heavey	1	10	0
Miss R. Costelloe	1	10	0
Mrs. Gregory	1	1	0
Miss Rose M. Paul	1	1	0
Mrs. Philip Snowden	1	1	0
Mrs. Pritchard	1	1	0
Sunderland W.S.S.	1	0	0
Miss Annie J. Cotes	1	0	0
Mrs. George	1	0	0
Miss M. Lyttleton	1	0	0
Miss Hanks	1	0	0
T. Ritchie, Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs. E. Holme	1	0	0
Miss M. S. Tait	1	0	0
Mrs. Paris	1	0	0
Mrs. Tolmó	1	0	0
Mrs. Seyd	1	0	0
Miss Violet Eustace	0	15	0
Oxted and Limpsfield W.S.S.	0	10	6
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson	0	10	6
Miss M. Lakin	0	10	6
Miss Whiteley	0	10	0
Mrs. Bartram	0	10	0
Miss D. F. Cholmeley	0	10	0
Miss Alicia A. Leith	0	10	0
Miss Emily Leith	0	10	0
Forward Suffrage Union	0	10	0
Miss E. S. Dugard	0	10	0
Mrs. and Miss Powell	0	10	0
Miss Mary L. Despard	0	5	0
Miss Edith Terry	0	5	0
Miss Mary Morton	0	5	0
Miss T. G. Prosser, M.B.	0	5	0
Miss Helena Jones	0	5	0
Miss L. H. Ensor	0	5	0
J. T. M.	0	5	0
Misses Winington-Ingram and M. Walrod	0	4	0
Miss A. M. Partridge	0	2	6
Miss Claydon	0	2	6
Miss F. G. Fidler	0	2	6
Miss B. S. Sackville	0	2	6
	£285	17	4

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND.

April 8th to April 13th, 1911.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st	638	16	6½
Subscriptions—			
Miss M. L. Despard	0	5	0
Mrs. Corbett	1	1	0

Mrs. Lewis	1	0	0
Miss I. O. Ford	5	0	0
Mrs. Sim	0	7	6
Miss M. A. Sloane	0	4	0
Affiliation Fees—			
Sunderland W.S.S.	0	6	0
Barnsley W.S.S.	0	19	6
Goole W.S.S.	0	5	0
Tynemouth and District W.S.S.	0	10	0
Newton Abbot W.S.S.	0	6	6
N. and E. Essex W.S.S.	0	17	0
Kilmarnock W.S.S.	0	7	6
Marple Bridge W.S.S.	0	9	3
Carnarvon W.S.S.	0	15	0
Ashford W.S.S.	0	5	0
	£651	14	9½

By-elections.

EAST LOTHIAN (HADDINGTONSHIRE)

Candidates: B. Hall Blyth (Unionist)
J. D. Hope (Liberal)

Scottish Federation Committee Rooms:

Market Street, Haddington.

Polling Day: Wednesday, 19th April.

Spring cleaning, East winds, and Easter holidays have combined to rob us of many helpers. Miss Edith Kirby and I are working almost single-handed at the Western and Eastern halves of the county respectively. On 20th April the big Corn Exchange in Haddington, which the candidates use for important meetings, was well filled with electors, who gave Miss Macmillan and me a most sympathetic hearing. The audience seems to have been a bigger one than the candidates had that night. The Law was represented in our chairman, and the Church, in the person of the Rev. W. B. Tough, appealed earnestly to the men not to put off the granting of our just claim lest a too tardy victory should carry with it bitterness at the delay. Despite the throngs of electioneers of every colour who have flooded the country, we get good audiences almost everywhere and meet with no hostility, though the bucolic stolidity of the country folk is not an inspiring atmosphere. Most of the villages and all the chief towns will have heard our message in these three weeks, and we hope that a new Society may be formed at North Berwick, as a by-product of this election. It is a very close contest, and no one can foretell the result. Fortunately it is a matter of some indifference to us, both candidates being good Suffragists.

The local Press has been kind to us, the "Manchester Guardian" gave us a good paragraph, and the "Scotsman" has noticed one or two of our meetings. We hope for many signatures at the polling stations on Wednesday, 19th April, to our letter asking Lord Haldane's help in the Cabinet for the Conciliation Bill.

ALICE CROMPTON.

CHELTENHAM.

Candidates: Mr. Agg Gardner (U.)
Major Mathias (L.)

Mr. Agg Gardner has put Women's Suffrage into his election address and promised to vote for the Second Reading and for the further stages of the Conciliation Bill and to press the Government for facilities. Major Mathias will vote for the Bill but ignores other questions and has not mentioned the subject in his address.

The International and the London Procession.

It is a most unfortunate thing that the Procession on June 17th should clash with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Stockholm, but it does and Mrs. Swanwick and Miss A. Maude Royden, who were elected delegates, have resigned in order to walk in the Procession.

Open-air Meeting at Birmingham.

Mrs. Annot Robinson has been working for the National Union in connection with the Conference of the I.L.P. in Birmingham and on the afternoon of Easter Sunday a large and enthusiastic meeting in support of the Women's Suffrage Bill was held in the "Bull Ring." The demonstration was attended by many of the delegates who had already arrived in the town. Good use of the opportunity of influencing their sympathies was made by the speakers, who included Mr. Fred Jowett, M.P., Miss Isabella Ford, Mr. Leonard Hull, Miss Julia Varley, Mrs. Ring (Birmingham W.S.S.), Dr. Eden Paul, Miss Smith (Wigan W.L.L.), Mr. Porter (Portsmouth), Mr. Halliday (Birmingham Socialist Church), and Mrs. Annot E. Robinson, L.L.A.

The following resolution was passed from both platforms, and only two people held up their hands as opponents: "That this meeting, believing that the time has come for the admission

of women to the franchise, trusts that the Government will grant to the Bill shortly to be introduced by Sir George Kemp the facilities needed for passing through all its stages, promised by the Prime Minister for a Women's Franchise Bill."

The democratic nature of the Bill was made clear by the various speakers, and the plea that the best method of celebrating the Coronation year was to pass the Bill and make the Queen a citizen in the land in which she reigns aroused loud and prolonged applause. On Monday morning the welcome extended to the I.L.P. delegates by the Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society was very cordially received.

Important Deputation to Mr. Hoare.

On Tuesday, April 4th, Mr. S. J. G. Hoare, M.P., received a deputation from the Chelsea Branch of the London Society of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Dr. Coates, who introduced the deputation, said he hoped Mr. Hoare would not take their request for an interview as implying any doubt as to the way his vote would be given on the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill on May 5th. Mr. Hoare had given them his assurance that he would vote for the second reading of the Bill, so they had no anxiety on that point. But they were very anxious to know what action he was prepared to take in the subsequent stages of the Bill.

The deputation wish to ask Mr. Hoare two questions:—

1. On the assumption that the Conciliation Bill passed its second reading was he prepared to press for facilities for securing its passage into law during the existence of this Parliament?
2. Would he, if possible, support the motion of the Conciliation Committee?

Before asking for answers to these questions the deputation desired to put various points of view before him. Dr. Coates' own point of view was that women needed the protection of the vote when legislation was in progress which affected their interests.

Professor Westlake, who spoke next, said he wished to say a few words on two points—the proposal to deal with Women's Suffrage by referendum, and the question whether the Bill ought to be referred to the Grand Committee or kept in Committee of the whole House? He said the proposal to submit the Women's Suffrage question to referendum was one that ought not to come from friends of the movement, because it would entail delay, as no machinery exists for that purpose. But if the proposal were made by enemies of the Bill, Suffragists were not afraid of the result. With regard to the question of Grand Committee, it was the custom to refer important political questions to Committee of the whole House, but to send them to Grand Committee would not take them out of the control of the House of Commons, because there would still be the report stage of the third reading, but it would involve some delegation of power. It would be to the advantage of Suffragists to send this Bill to Grand Committee, because they would not then be dependent on the Government for granting time to deal with it. Women's Suffrage was not a party question, nor in the ordinary sense a political question; the details would require careful consideration, taking more time than could probably be given in Committee of the whole House.

Miss Murrell Marris explained that the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was a non-party organisation working on constitutional lines, containing members of all political parties. She herself was a Unionist, and she wished to assure Mr. Hoare that there was a strong feeling in favour of Women's Suffrage amongst Unionist women in the constituencies with which she was connected, and that they hoped that Unionist Members of Parliament who approved the principle of Women's Suffrage would do their best to get that principle embodied in a practical measure. She quoted the testimony of the women municipal voters in a seaside town as to the practical use their municipal vote had been to them in safeguarding their interests, and said the Parliamentary vote would help women in the same way. She hoped it would not be necessary in the interests of any party to postpone the settlement of this question any longer. Women wanted to have votes now and to use them. To take only one instance: Women were keenly interested in the question of education, to which Mr. Hoare had given much attention ever since he went into the House of Commons, and were anxious to help on educational reforms.

Miss Lowndes, who spoke as a member of the Executive Committee of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, quoted Mr. Asquith's reply to the deputation of trade unionists on February 8th, showing that when he advocated Adult Suffrage he really meant Manhood Suffrage. This was the danger which Suffragists feared, and which made them so anxious to secure the enfranchisement of some women, if only a small number, at once. Manhood Suffrage would mean the addition to the register of some four million men who are too young, or too incapable, or too improvident to have any fixed abode. These men would be largely kept by funds to which the women had to contribute, yet they would have votes and the women would have none. She claimed that before an attempt was made to enfranchise all men, some voice should be given at any rate to some women, so that the wishes of

the women might have some weight in the counsels of the country. "We women," she said, "are going to be asked now to support you, Mr. Hoare, in common with other members of Parliament." (Mr. Hoare, laughing: "Not by my wish.") "You must agree that this is not just when we have no vote in choosing you as our representative."

Mr. Hoare, in replying to the deputation, said he had voted for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill last year, and would do so again now or in any future Parliament. He understood that the deputation wished to know what further action he was prepared to take if the Bill passed the second reading. If a proposal were put forward to submit Women's Suffrage to a referendum that proposal would be academic. He could not imagine that there was any chance that the present Government would consent to it. But he would feel bound to support such a proposal with regard to this or any other measure of great importance. His action would have no practical result except to make clear his attitude towards the referendum. He would not himself move the application of the referendum. With regard to the question of sending the Bill to Grand Committee instead of to a Committee of the whole House, he could not agree to all that Dr. Westlake had said on that point. He considered that any Bill proposing serious changes in the franchise was a political question of the first importance. He could not pledge himself beforehand to vote for sending it to Grand Committee. His action must depend on circumstances. He had an open mind on this point. With regard to the second question: Would he support the action of the Conciliation Committee? Did anyone know what that action would be? (It was here explained that immediately the second reading had been passed the Conciliation Committee intended to move a resolution stating that the House of Commons desired facilities for the further stages of the Bill this session.) Mr. Hoare said he was afraid the Government might tack the present moderate Bill on to a much larger measure of electoral reform. That would put some of its present supporters in a difficult position. (Miss Lowndes: "That would make it a different Bill. We are only asking for your support for this Bill.")

It was explained that the Conciliation Committee would certainly not support an Adult Suffrage Bill. Mr. Hoare said that in that case he thought he could answer "Yes" to the second question. He would certainly press for reasonable facilities for the present Bill.

Dr. Martin explained that the deputation consisted of Chelsea Suffragists, and thanked Mr. Hoare for receiving them and answering their questions.

Deputation to the Member for S. Wilts.

The Salisbury Society arranged, on behalf of the West of England Federation, a deputation to Mr. Bathurst, the Member for South Wilts. The deputation consisted of Mrs. S. Fawcett, Mrs. Evans, Miss Hardy, and Mr. Peart.

After Miss Hardy had introduced the deputation and clearly explained its object and its representative nature, Miss N. O'Shea, who had undertaken to speak for the deputation, laid before Mr. Bathurst the chief arguments in favour of Suffrage.

After a long and interesting discussion of debatable points, Mr. Bathurst said he thought our work lay more with the constituencies than members of Parliament, and added that an expression of opinion from his constituents would greatly affect his action. He declared himself as neither actively for or against us, agreed that from the taxpayers' point of view we had justice on our side, but he said that Adult Suffrage which was looming in the future, and the fear that women might eventually be members of Parliament, made it difficult for him to support any step which was likely to have either of these results. He is convinced women are more guided by sentiment than men. He also told us that he abstained from voting in favour of the Conciliation Bill (1910) because of Mr. Shackleton's speech about the thin edge of the wedge.

Federation Notes.

North of Scotland.

The principal news this month is our success in getting the Inverness Town Council to pass a resolution asking the Government to grant facilities for the passage into law of the Women's Suffrage Bill, down for second reading on May 5th. The members of the committee went in twos and threes as deputations to all the Town Councillors, and it was most refreshing and encouraging to meet with such courtesy and ready support from almost all.

Over twenty ladies were present on the night the question was brought up, and were a silent but interested audience. The resolution was carried by 14 to 3. The four other members who had all promised support were unavoidably detained.

West Lancashire, West Cheshire, and N. Wales.

BIRKENHEAD TOWN COUNCIL.

For the second time we have approached the Town Council with a view to getting a resolution passed in favour of the Bill. We joined forces with the local branch of the W.S.P.U. in canvassing the women ratepayers in four of the wards,

obtaining 543 signatures, also in canvassing the Town Councillors, many of whom promised their support. However, when the resolution was brought forward it was found that one by one the Councillors had left the chamber, and not a sufficient number remained to form a quorum, so the business lapsed. It is scarcely likely that we shall let the matter rest at that.

DEPUTATION TO MR. BIGLAND, M.P.

On April 13th a joint deputation of members of the Birkenhead Women's Suffrage Society and of the local branch of the W.S.P.U. waited on Mr. Bigland to beg for his support of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. He would give no definite promise, saying that he would see how the debate went on May 5th. The only conclusion the deputation could come to was that he was in sympathy with the Bill as it now stands.

CANVASS OF LLANGOLLEN WOMEN RATEPAYERS.

There are 181 women municipal voters on the register, and of these 157 were interviewed, 24 being dead, ill, or absent. Of these 157 women, 118 signed a petition which was laid before the Urban District Council, and 39 refused. The petition was also signed by seven out of nine Urban District Councillors, nearly all the resident clergy of various denominations, and three out of four doctors. Of the 181 women municipal voters 30 are business women who keep at least one regular domestic servant; 80 are earners who keep no regular servant; 40 are working-class housewives who keep no servant; and 31 are middle-class housewives who keep one or more servants. That is to say, about 11.6 per cent. are women of "independent means."

N. and E. Ridings Yorkshire.

An important meeting was held at York on Saturday, March 18th, at St. William's College. Mrs. Corbett Ashby attended as representative of the National Union Executive. Mrs. de Bunsen, The Abbey, Knaresborough, was unanimously elected chairman. Mrs. Edwin Gray and Mrs. Cudworth (York), Mrs. Kempthorne (Hessle Vicarage, Hull), and Mrs. E. R. Cross (Scarborough) were co-opted as members of the committee. The secretary read the annual report, which was adopted, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Knowles for kindly offering to cover the cost of printing it. Votes of thanks were also passed to Mrs. Bauer (Bradford) and Mrs. Kirk (Hull) for their past services as chairman and hon. treasurer of the Federation Committee. The boundary of our area was agreed upon; it will include the Parliamentary Division of Ripon in the West Riding.

West Heath School,

HAMPSTEAD.

For Boys and Girls between the ages of six and eighteen.

[ESTABLISHED 1897.]

The school is happily situated, and attention should be drawn to its special advantages in this respect. It is no doubt considered ideal for a school to be in the country, but in the part of Hampstead where West Heath School stands, many advantages of the country are present, while those of the town, which can be turned to good use for children, are at hand.

* * * * *

The school has a large playing field; good well-treed gardens; is near to a quiet part of the heath, and itself faces across open country towards the Harrow Weald. It thus finds a freedom which many schools actually in the country cannot compass in these days of golf, motor-cars, and game-preserving. At the same time, the advantages of having the British Museum, the Zoological Gardens, the Natural History Museum, historical buildings, beautiful pictures and sculpture (to mention only part of what is available), within easy access for the visits of a class, are of incalculable value in the education of the children.

Particulars from the Principal.

Reference is allowed to THE REV. CANON SCOTT-HOLLAND, D.D., 1, AMEN COURT, ST. PAUL'S, E.C.; and DR. JANE WALKER, 122, HARLEY STREET, W.

Local Councils and Women's Suffrage.

Birmingham Town Council.—A resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was passed on April 11, by a majority of 16.

Burton Town Council.—On April 12th the Burton Town Council passed a resolution urging the Government to grant facilities for the Conciliation Bill, by a majority of 18 to 10. Of the 10 against, 5 spoke in favour of Women's Suffrage but objected to the matter being brought before the Town Council. Great interest was evinced in the matter, as is seen by the fact that 16 out of the 28 members of the Council present spoke on the subject.

Forfar Town Council has passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, and is petitioning its Member, Mr. Harcourt, with reference to Conciliation Bill.

The Hale Urban District Council on April 10th, 1911, passed the following resolution: "That the Hale Urban District Council, as the only body representing the women ratepayers of the district, do urge the Government to grant facilities this session for extending the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Household-ers." The Council has forwarded copies of this resolution to the Member of Parliament for this constituency, Mr. J. R. Keby-Fletcher, and to the Prime Minister.

Ramsgate Town Council.—The following resolution has been passed and sent to the Premier, Home Secretary, and Member for Thanet: "That this Council approves of the Parliamentary Franchise (Women's) Bill to enfranchise women householders, and urges the Government to grant facilities for its passage into law this session."

Sheffield City Council.—On Wednesday, April 12th, the Sheffield City Council passed, by 38 votes to 6, a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage. The Council had previously been canvassed by a Joint Committee of the N.U., the W.F.L., and the W.S.P.U., and a majority of the Councillors were known to be on our side. There was, however, a very long agenda to be ploughed through, our motion was No. 19, and considerable fear was felt lest it should be adjourned along with other business until the next meeting, which falls after May 6. That this fate did not befall it was due mainly to Councillor Neale, who proposed the resolution and, at a late hour saved it from the shelf by moving "the suspension of standing orders" to allow of its being given precedence over other business. Our warmest thanks are due to him for his unwearied exertions on our behalf; to Councillor Walker who seconded, and to many kind friends in the Council for advice and sympathy. The numerical weakness of the opposition came as a surprise to the most sanguine of us, and we feel that we owe thanks also to the principal speakers against the motion, whose inadequate arguments and archaic sentiments helped to bring some uncertain supporters off the fence. Much interest was aroused in the debate, and the orderly and attentive audience of both sexes which crowded the public gallery and (by courtesy of the Lord Mayor) the floor of the Council Chamber itself called forth special comment in the local press.

The Solihull Rural District Council is sending up a resolution to the Prime Minister requesting him to give facilities during the present session for the effective consideration of the Conciliation Bill. We believe this is the first Rural District Council to pass a Women's Suffrage Resolution.

Wolverhampton Town Council.—This Council has passed a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill. A local worker writes: "It may interest you to know that they were perhaps influenced by perusing recent copies of 'The Common Cause,' which I had been able to send to some of the most influential. I have sent copies of 'C. C.' also to clergymen, ministers, medical men and others. The very strong opposition here has been owing very largely to the ignorance upon the subject."

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

I should be glad if you would allow me to call the attention of your readers to a dinner which is to be given by the Men's League in honour of Miss Vida Goldstein, a prominent leader of the women's movement in Australia. The dinner is fixed for Thursday, May 4th, at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, at 7.30 p.m.

The occasion is one of considerable interest, inasmuch as it immediately precedes the second reading of Sir George Kemp's Bill.

OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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Telegraphic Address:—"THACKERAY, LONDON."

It is hoped that a number of Colonials, in London for the Coronation, will attend the dinner, and that the Hon. Pember Reeves, who took a prominent part in the legislation which gave the vote to the women of New Zealand, will preside.

Tickets (4s. each) may be obtained at the office, 159, St. Stephens House, Westminster.

J. MALCOLM MITCHELL (Hon. Sec.).

West London Ethical Society.

We have received the following from Mr. G. E. O'Dell, of the West London Ethical Society:—

At its last annual meeting this Society instructed its Committee to appoint a woman member, in addition to two men members already authorised by the Registrar General, for the performance and registration of marriages in the Society's Church. The Committee forthwith appointed a member and sought the Registrar General's sanction. But, as you will see from the enclosed letter, a woman is not held eligible for the appointment.

What makes the position peculiarly anomalous is that, according to the law, a woman equally with a man may administer to persons marrying in a registered church the formula required to be included in the ceremony; but a male Authorised Person must hear her do it, and only he may do the clerical work of entering details of the marriage in the Church's registers.

(ENCLOSURE.)

General Register Office,
Somerset House, London, W.C.

March 23rd, 1911.

Sir,—I am directed by the Registrar General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., with reference to the proposed appointment of Miss F. Winterbottom as additional Authorised Person for the Ethical Church, 43, Queen's Road, Bayswater (No. 19,457), and in reply to inform you that it is held that a woman is ineligible for the appointment of Authorised Person just as she is for the appointment of Registrar of Marriages, and that the Registrar General would therefore be unable to sanction such an appointment.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) A. C. WATERS, Chief Clerk.

G. E. O'Dell, Esq., The Ethical Church, 46, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

Review.

"THE ENGLISHWOMAN."

The April number has an article called "What shall we do with it?" in which instances are given of the energetic way in which the women of Washington are catching hold of their newly acquired vote. That witty lady, J. M. S., administers a stinging rebuke to the Anti-Suffragists, in her little "dialogue of the living." The "Man of the Times" replies to every appeal for the representation of women on grounds of public and private expediency, justice and right, that nothing can be done for women because "Lady Wellborn has played off a silly joke," and the woman speaker indignantly concludes, "Do you think that a man who in a vitally important discussion uses the silliest argument upon record should be disfranchised, together with the rest of his sex?"

Mr. James Haslam discusses the increase in the numbers of industrially employed women; Eugenia Newmarch shows how the race-preserving instinct of women is a precious thing which can only be ignored to the fearful damage of the nation; there is a brightly written account of the work in a sub-post office by Mrs. Fausset and some most instructive quotations in an article by B. L. Hutchins, from the report of a factory inspector in 1879 upon the suggestion that women should be appointed; this gentleman thought the "multi-farious duties of an inspector of factories would really be incompatible with the gentle and home-loving character of a woman." There is a charming poem called "Mother," and many other interesting articles.

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Mrs. Billington Greig at the Queen's Hall.

A meeting was held on April 10th, in the small Queen's Hall; Miss Cicely Hamilton was in the chair. She expressed herself entirely ignorant of the nature of Mrs. Billington Greig's speech, and, though not altogether unprejudiced, very anxious to hear.

Mrs. Billington Greig spoke on "The Feminist Revolt, an Alternative Policy." She said the Suffrage movement was narrow because it had been divorced from the realities of life. In early days it had been confined to the purely political aspect; but it was more important to get sex equality than to get the vote. We had minimised the meaning of the vote, so as to facilitate the passage of the Bill; we dared not admit all we wanted, that we believed not only in political sex equality but sex equality generally. We thought that the Suffrage movement ought to be kept apart from anything that would damage it in the eyes of the multitude. Our movement had no general appeal to working women, or those who suffer under unequal conditions, because we had taken the artificial instead of the natural means of revolt. The public must not only be made to feel, but to feel guilty. This could not be done by forcing on its notice artificially created victims; it only proved zeal, and zeal was not always a proof of the truth of your cause. True victims existed in abundance; their condition could be traced to the inequality of the sexes, and they could be used to demonstrate the truth of their own case. If a magistrate judged a woman more severely because of her sex, or gave a light sentence to a man who had ill-used his wife, you could protest in court. Then you could drive home the fact that these unnatural conditions existed under man-made and man-administered laws. You could make your protest apply to any question of industry where women were not treated justly, or anywhere else. This might postpone one part of the movement; but when we had the vote our advantage would be so much more real, solid, and true. The movement would be brought into the lives of the people, instead of being specialised to a few who had had a certain education. It would also be a practical demonstration of the fact that women were unjustly treated and were right in protesting.

She said she had no intention of forming another Suffrage Society; there were quite enough; and she did not think the present time desirable to start a broad, true, feminist movement, or that she was the person to initiate it. She could only suggest that her hearers should prepare the way for broad and plain discussion by making it possible for feminists to speak their minds freely on some platform, where the discussion would be conducted in a spirit of careful inquiry. They should not form a Society, nor commit themselves to any programme; but meet to discuss, to hear, and to study.

A very animated discussion then took place.

Nottingham Liberal Federation.

At the Annual Meeting of the Nottingham Liberal Federation Mrs. W. C. Dowson moved the following resolution:—

That in the opinion of this Association the Women's Suffrage Bill, to be read a second time in the House of Commons on May 5th, should be granted Government facilities as early as possible.

In a well-considered speech she said women were the more democratic sex because they were the mothers of the country; and that was one of the chief reasons why they asked for the vote.

Councillor E. Richards seconded, remarking that the sex barrier was a survival of medieval times, and that it was the duty of the Liberal Party to do away with every anomaly existing in this country.

The resolution was carried by a good majority.

Letters to the Editor.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

THE PRESS AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

With regard to the Press boycott, why not organize a counter-boycott? All women (anyway, all working gentlewomen) take in a daily paper. If all women refrained from taking any paper, except the "Manchester Guardian," surely the sale of daily papers would be affected to a certain extent. It would have to be a universal movement, organized by the Suffrage societies. I am sending a copy of this to the W.P.L. and to the W.S.P.U., as in this case, at any rate, union is strength.

GERTRUDE WILLIAMS, B.A. (London).
The College, Saffron Walden, March 30th, 1911.

[We have frequently referred to the press boycott and recommended our readers to take the Manchester Guardian and "The Common Cause." A scheme is being organized by the National Union.—Ed. "C.C."]

WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS.

In the re-print in a recent issue on "Midwives and the Vote," the chain of events and powers between a man, and that between a woman, and an Act of Parliament (all of which it is necessary to move to get an Act adjusted or passed) is plainly demonstrated, the deduction being that "there is no remedy but the . . . Parliamentary vote." The chain, however, was shown to be this:—

Man.	Woman.
Vote.	No Vote.
Trade Union (= a group of votes).	No Trade Union.
The Member.	The Member.
The Act.	The Act.

Two links, not one only, are missing in the woman's case. It remains with themselves to form one of them.

I do not wish to ignore the difficulties of forming this link of the Trade Union, nor by any means to belittle the value of the franchise, only that impossibilities may not be hoped for from the possession of the latter, and also that women may realise again the power of a trade union, which will add greatly to the power of the vote, when that is obtained.

AMY HARTLAND.
Hardwick Court, Chepstow, April 9th, 1911.

[We agree entirely about the importance of women combining in trade and professional unions. Doubtless the acquisition of voting power in politics will make women more acceptable in men's unions just as it will also help them in standing for local governing bodies, etc.—Ed. "C.C."]

MILITANCY: A PLEA.

I do not think it is quite fair of your reviewer to give as proof that "militancy" has put the cause back the fact that a great many people have said so, or even that a great many people believe so. Non-militants naturally hear what non-militants say; militants, on the other hand, hear exactly the contrary. Opinion either way is not proof. Nor can I accept as proof (am I wrong?) that members of non-militant societies have to "live down" the effects of militancy. Militants have to live this down with twice the difficulty; for when non-militants come into the field after militants they have the great advantage of being able to say, "We are not responsible for this. Surely the fact that one's actions produce disgust, resentment, even furious retaliation, is no proof that such actions are in themselves, and because of this resentment, wrong."

ENNIS RICHMOND.
April 14th, 1911.

Our reviewer writes: "I was quoting the opinions not of any selected class of people—militant or non-militant—but the opinions of voters during the election of January, 1910, when we spoke to every man as he came out of the polling booth, asking him to sign our petition; also of the opinions of householders in the door-to-door canvass which so many of our workers have done. The unanimous verdict of many hundreds of our workers all over the Kingdom was that immense numbers of signatures were refused because the men and women hated 'militant methods,' and immense numbers signed with the special proviso that they did so because we stood for the principle of enfranchisement, not for methods of violence and disorder. I agree with Mrs. Richmond's last sentence; but she would probably admit that 'disgust, resentment and furious retaliation' are in themselves bad things, and to provoke them unnecessarily is wrong. The militants do certain things, not because they like them, but because they say they are necessary to get us the vote; if we find that they have to be 'lived down,' they would appear to be not only unnecessary but injurious, and their justification disappears. Life in an atmosphere of 'disgust and resentment' is not possible or right, and the enfranchisement of women will come much more surely and steadily in a thousand ways if we abandon such heated atmosphere."

I was much interested by your reviewer's footnote to Mrs. Ennis Richmond's letter in your issue of April 13th re the former ardent (?) W.S.P.U. worker's experience at the polling booths. I should like to give one of my many experiences on the same subject. During the election of 1909 I was following our usual practical policy of working agin the Government that refuses women political freedom, at Dundee. On the afternoon of polling day I was outside Loches polling station when I heard a pleasant but agitated voice—belonging to one of your members (I do not remember her name, but we returned by tram and had tea at Lamb's Hotel)—calling, "Oh, please will you come here? There's a man here who won't sign our petition because I am not 'militant'; please come and ask him to." I complied with pleasure, and the N.U.W.S.S.'s petition was enriched by the obdurate "militant" elector's signature. He was one of the many thousands who believe in "deeds" as well as "words."

Another scene recalls itself to my memory. Coming away from a N.U.W.S.S. meeting at the Gilfillan Hall, Dundee, I overheard another elector: "They'll never get it that way; they're just talking." Then he looked up and caught my eye and laughed in a friendly way, seeing my purple, white and green badge. "'Tis you leddies will get it."

I hope in common fairness you will insert this the W.S.P.U. side to your reviewer's picture. We are incessantly coming across these little touches—since we also read "The Common Cause"—genuine humour.

As for the twenty years' lull of which your reviewer speaks, I should think the less said about that the better. It is hardly a subject to be proud of, but rather to be regretted.

We also can produce "bushels of proof" of the futility of "words" which are not backed up by "action." When "militant" methods have been tried for forty years without success, then and then only will we listen to adverse criticism from the N.U.W.S.S. As Chrystabel Pankhurst said at the Albert Hall: "We cannot hear, we cannot see the small-minded people who try to hold us back."

CATHERINE I. CORBETT (N.W.S.P.U.),
The Bungalow, Falmouth.

(MRS. F. CORBETT.)

[Well, it's a pity you can't.—Ed. "C.C."]

"THE COMMON CAUSE."

A gentleman who was until lately Vice-President of a Liberal Association, and resigned owing to the treatment the Suffragists were receiving, writes:—

May I say how much I sympathise with you in the trouble you are having with some of the Liberal readers of "The Common Cause"? I cannot understand their objecting to anything you have written. It shows the warping effect of party politics when such well-meaning people translate the plain truth about the conduct of certain members of a so-called Liberal Ministry into an attack on Liberalism. If their vision were not warped, they would see that every word you have written is justified.

HAVE WOMEN SOULS?

I notice in last week's paper that you repeat the hydra-headed fable about the Church Council at Macon, which is alleged to have disputed if Women had souls. I beg to enclose you a pamphlet written by a theologian, showing how the whole myth has arisen from a dispute at that Council as to whether the word Homo (as with our modern word "person") in an order given that all must contribute to the support of the altar might be construed by women to mean only men, and excusing themselves from the duty. On a little reflection it is obviously ridiculous that the Church, which had already canonised so many women saints and martyrs, could be arguing in the 5th century whether they even had souls!

BLANCHE SMYTH-PIGOTT.
8, George Street, Manchester Square, April 11th, 1911.

We regret that we gave currency to a "fable" which certainly is very widely circulated indeed. Miss Smyth-Pigott encloses a reprint from an article by the Rev. Herbert Thurston, S.J., in "The Month" of January, 1911, which is pretty conclusive as to its mythical nature.—Ed. "C.C."]

THE SOCIETIES AND THE UNION.

Supplementing my suggestions last week, allow me to make clear the foundation upon which societies can build up their work. A special piece of work may be for only a moment, but the principle of selection was the seed I desired to sow in every mind prepared to receive it. Having as a Union decided to follow some course of work, let each society adopt the same, as far as its limitations allow, so that we have our efforts reflected in the work of each atom. It gives effect to have this unity of purpose; if the selection is conscious the effect has a result further reaching in its influence.

It is this desire to strengthen the work by the interest taken in it personally by every member of the National Union that urges us to advocate the admission of members of the Union as visitors to Council meetings.

MARGARET O'SHEA.

CONSCRIPTION AND UNIVERSAL SERVICE.

Mrs. Atkinson, of Camberley, writes to correct the heading "Conscription" in our Parliamentary report of last week, and begs we will draw attention to the difference between this and Universal Service, which is what is advocated by Lord Roberts and the National Service League.

THE BRISTOL ANTI-SUFFRAGE CANVASS.

Miss Long Fox writes to say that she had assurance from one of the Secretaries of the local Suffrage Society that they had nothing to do with Miss Parry's statements. We received the statements direct from Miss Parry, with whom we were put into communication by one of the Secretaries of the local Suffrage Society. Miss Long Fox also very kindly corrects a printer's error in the Anti-Suffrage Review, by which the vote at a local debate was said to have gone in favour of the Anti-Suffragists, whereas as a matter of fact it went to the Suffragists.

MARRIED WOMEN AND THE VOTE.

I read, with interest, a letter from "Only a Voter," on page 12 of to-day's "Common Cause," and I see your correspondent begs for your opinion about the vote for married women; and also asks for "arguments in support of same if your answer is in the affirmative."

He also states, "to give man and wife a vote is ridiculous in the extreme." I wonder why? But never mind that; I beg to offer two arguments for the married woman's vote.

The first is this: If a woman has the vote she would, naturally, take more interest in politics, and therefore be better company for her husband. Just as, if she takes an interest in his work, in his games, in his sport, she is better company—a better "helpmate," in fact.

The second argument is this: Where man and wife disagree as to some political question, it would be less exasperating to the wife if she had a vote as well as her husband. Without one, when she feels strongly upon a subject, she is forced to sit inactive, unable in any way to support her convictions. This state of things is—well, to put it mildly, exasperating. Give the wife a vote and you place her at once upon equal terms. She and her husband can each "protest," or—what is more likely—they can "pair" and save one another the trouble of voting, and the trouble of a squabble.

May I add that, while many husbands and wives are altogether at one in matters political, in homes where this is not the case a double vote would prevent heart (and tongue!) burnings. Of course there are plenty more arguments to urge. I have merely used these as being of a "domestic" nature.

MABEL KITCAT.

Warling Dean, Esher, April 13th, 1911.

WOMEN IN THE COTTON TRADE.

As a staunch supporter of Women's Suffrage I am anxious that the militants should attach importance to the economic position of the millions of working women in our country. Take, for example, the cotton industry of Lancashire: Here in our midst is enough scope for Mrs. Richmond's fighting propensities; in fact, for every woman who has got any grit about her. All the best paid work in the cotton trade is monopolised by men, which I consider is very unfair to the women; and what is worse, those so-called skilled artisans practise sophistry in order to obtain the support of women who are weavers and winders, so as to compel a cotton employer to grant superior wages and conditions to a very small number of men out of the many hundreds of thousands employed in the cotton trade. Perhaps the same thing applies to almost every other trade; but if it be so, then it only goes to show how gigantic the economic injustice has become.

I have had many years of experience among the so-called skilled artisans in their protected trades, and I am firmly of opinion that they will fight to the bitter end if women make any attempt to enter their trade.

Women weavers and winders, along with a large number of men weavers, form Weavers' Unions and are paid alike for equal work; but even in the Unions the officials are chosen almost invariably by men; women for some cause or other prefer to leave the Union business to men.

ROBERT COOPER.

59, St. Mary Street, Nelson.

(A number of letters have had to be held over.)

Work of Societies in the Union.

EASTERN FEDERATION.

Miss Courtauld (North and East Essex Society) arranged a campaign for Miss Cooke, which proved a great success. A meeting was held in a different place each night during the last week in March. Some of them were small gatherings of newly formed Women's Liberal Associations; larger meetings were arranged at Halstead, Colne Engaine, and Maldon. Mrs. Jemmett kindly gave a drawing-room meeting at Maldon, and a good number of new members were enrolled. Everywhere a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried either unanimously or by a very large majority. The men employed at the Iron Works at Maldon begged to have a meeting for themselves. Miss Courtauld and Miss Gill addressed them in the dinner-hour last summer, and they were so much interested that they want more at the earliest opportunity. The Essex jumble sale was very successful. Over £15 was cleared and sent to Federation funds. We are glad to report that the hitherto independent societies of Bedford and Ipswich have decided to affiliate and federate; and the new members at Bury and Stowmarket are organizing a joint society.

KENTISH FEDERATION.

FOLKESTONE.—A small meeting, intended mainly to interest working-women, was held on March 18th. The speakers were Miss Tile and Mr. Condy. Owing to its being quite unavoidably arranged for a Saturday night, many were unable to be present who would otherwise have come; but as the speeches were reported in both local papers, it is hoped many may be reached who did not attend. Miss Gordon, the hon. secretary, further reports that the householders' petition, with 324 signatures, was presented to the House of Commons on March 15th by the member for the borough.

TONBRIDGE.—A very animated and well-attended debate was held in the Public Hall Chambers, Tonbridge, on March 15th, Mrs. Rackham having as her opponent Councillor P. L. Babington, B.A. Both made able and carefully thought-out speeches. Mrs. Rackham's capabilities as a speaker are too well known to need comment. Mr. Babington brought forward the old "Force" and "Care-of-the-home" arguments. A discussion followed, and on the vote being taken Mrs. Rackham's motion was carried by a handsome majority.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Miss Matthews, the hon. secretary, says the shop proves a great success, and since its opening fortnightly "At

Homes" have been given, which have been extremely well attended and have resulted in a considerably increased membership. On February 18th a very successful meeting was held in the Town Hall, and the resolution in favour of granting the vote to women was passed, with only five dissentients. A small meeting in the village of Southboro has also been held, but very bad weather made only a small attendance possible. Both meetings were well reported by the local Press, which has always shown itself fair to the Cause.

LONDON SOCIETY.

ASHTED.—On March 25rd, by kind permission of Mrs. Ruxton, a drawing-room meeting was held at "Ardee." It was the first meeting for Women's Suffrage that had been held in Ashted, and the room was crowded, about seventy people being present. Miss Sheepshanks and the Rev. J. A. Grant made most able addresses, Miss Sheepshanks showing how the political vote would benefit both the home life and economic position of women. The resolution was passed with only two dissentients. At the close of the meeting several new members joined.

BATTERSEA.—On March 31st a dramatic entertainment was given for this branch by the Actresses' Franchise League. A delightful and varied programme was gone through, to the appreciation of a full and representative audience. Miss Bompas gave a short speech, in which she reviewed the progress made towards human liberty since the French Revolution, and showed our movement to be merely waves of the same great tide. She put a resolution to the meeting, calling on Mr. John Burns to do all in his power to help forward the Bill, and it was carried unanimously. The President (Mrs. Worthy) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the League, to Miss Bompas, and to Mr. de G. Griffith for the constant kindness he has shown us, as well as for his willing help as chairman on this occasion. The hall was beautifully decorated by Miss Shore and her friends of the Artists' Suffrage League; the Younger Suffragists sent us helpers to sell literature; and two gentlemen came from Wandsworth to steward for us. To all these we offer our sincerest thanks.

BLACKHEATH.—On March 29th the annual meeting of this branch was held in the rooms of the Blackheath Printing Press. Mrs. Coppertwaite took the chair at three o'clock, when the business part of the meeting began. An excellent balance-sheet was read, showing that £61 had been spent on propaganda work in Blackheath during the last year. The committee was elected for the ensuing year, and the report and balance-sheet for past year adopted. At 5-30 members' friends were admitted, and Mrs. Adkins (the former chairman of the branch) acted as chairman. Mrs. W. was warmly welcomed back to Blackheath. An appeal was made for funds to carry on the shop window, which, being just opposite Blackheath Station, makes an excellent advertisement. In the absence of Miss I. O. Ford (unavoidably caused by illness) Miss Sheepshanks gave an excellent address, and urged all who were present to remember the work the pioneer women of the past had done to gain for women all they enjoyed to-day. Members of the Suffrage Atelier were present, and had beautified the hall by their exhibition of banners and work.

CAMBERWELL.—An open-air meeting was held in Peckham on April 6th—speaker, Miss Dawson; and another on April 10th—speakers, Miss Courtney and Miss Helen Ward. On April 7th a drawing-room meeting took place at 6, De Crespigny Park, by kind permission of Mrs. Bousfield. Speakers: Miss O'Malley and Miss Ward. One or two members joined, and some literature was sold. On April 11th a small but most enthusiastic meeting of members took place; Miss Ward in the chair. Miss Thomson gave an admirable lecture on "Women and Labour." The meeting ended with a warm tribute to the splendid work of Mrs. Bowdon Smith and Miss Dawson, and the other members of the committee.

EPSOM AND EVELL.—The annual meeting of this branch was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Arnould, at 1, Queen's Gate Villas, Epsom, on April 3rd, Mrs. Homan (first president) in the chair. Mrs. Homan reviewed the position of women in general, and then turned to the work of the Epsom branch, founded two years ago. Great activity had been displayed. In the summer there had been weekly open-air meetings, and during the autumn and winter months there had been lectures on various subjects directly concerning women and children, a public meeting (Mr. Cecil Chapman), a debate, and many drawing-room meetings. The branch now has its own banner. Mrs. Homan was elected president, and Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Garrido hon. treas. and hon. sec. The committee were re-elected *en bloc*. The report for the years 1909 and 1910 having been adopted, Miss Watson made an emphatic appeal for more workers, and outlined a programme of future work. The principal address was given by Mrs. Rackham. At the end of her thoroughly interesting speech Mrs. Rackham put the resolution to the meeting. It was eloquently and ably seconded by Mr. A. M. Chirguin, and carried *nem con*.

SOUTH KENSINGTON.—A most successful drawing-room meeting was held, by kind permission of Mrs. Curteis, at 4, Marlborough Road, on March 28th, at 8-30 p.m., Miss Cockle in the chair. Mr. Cholmeley said he could think of no reasons why men should not be willing to let them have it. He reduced these to two. (1) The determination to keep what they have got; and (2) the determination not to see what is in front of their noses. There was a long and animated discussion. Miss D. Lawrence, of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, spoke at some length. She stated that the drink bill in New Zealand had gone up since women had got the vote. A gentleman present, who was a New Zealander, stated that there was no doubt that the women's vote had been a temperance vote. Miss Lawrence also stated that God and Nature had decreed that man should be head. Others joined in the discussion, and Mr. Cholmeley replied. About fifty were present, and three new members joined the Society.

KINGSTON AND SUTTON.—A conference was held at St. Andrew's House on March 31st, at 5-30 p.m. Mr. Alfred Zimmermann was in the chair. Miss Clementina Black gave a convincing and well-reasoned address on "Sweated Labour." About forty members and friends were present.

LAMBETH NORTH.—On April 11th Miss Ward addressed a meeting of nearly two hundred mothers in the Lower Marsh Hall, by kind invitation of their president (Mrs. Goddard Clarke). The women seemed keenly interested and took away many leaflets.

SOUTH PADDINGTON.—A very good meeting was held on April 3rd at the Ethical Church. Mr. Dykes Spicer (in the chair) urged that more propaganda work should be undertaken to reach the women of the middle class. Mrs. Rackham proposed the resolution to be sent to Mr. Harris, M.P. for South Paddington. She commented upon the six W.S. Bills which have been brought in during the last thirty years and have passed their second reading. It might seem to suggest that Parliament had become a mere debating society. Miss Boyle, president of the Women's Enfranchisement League in Johannesburg, said that the movement in South Africa is very real and living. She had realised now that to belong to the Suffrage movement is to belong to the best club in the world, from the warmth of her reception by all Suffragists in England. The resolution was carried unanimously, and an interesting debate took place. A drawing-room meeting was held on March 30th, by kind permission of Mrs. L. B. Franklin, in her house, to hear the report of the work carried out by the South Paddington branch during the last eighteen months. Mrs. Franklin was in the chair, and Miss Boyd (the secretary) read the report. In a very full list of varied activities she mentioned the soirées held at the Elysée Galleries, when £71 was collected—more than any branch committee has yet contributed to the funds as the result of one entertainment. Miss Grace Spicer read the report of the "Afternoon Tea Discussions Society," of which she is the secretary, and for which she has arranged eight very successful debates. They were held in Mrs. Spring Rice's house, who is president of the Debating Society. Miss C. Corbett then spoke, and after the meeting tea was provided.

NORTH AND SOUTH PADDINGTON.—A very interesting meeting was held in the gymnasium of the Westbourne Park Chapel on March 29th, Mrs. M. A. Spielmann in the chair. Miss Bompas spoke on the number of questions which had recently been dealt with by Parliament, and which had formerly occupied the attention of individuals, such problems as education. These individual philanthropists were very often women—such as Mary Carpenter, who started the Reformatory system. Mrs. Philip Agnew very kindly recited a ballad, while Mr. Agnew extemporised on the piano most beautifully, and Miss R. Franklin sang "The Awakening." Mr. Ransom proposed and signed a resolution to be sent to Mr. Harris, the member for South Paddington, urging him to be in his place on May 5th to vote for the Conciliation Bill. Mr. Swann seconded the resolution, and said that though in favour of manhood suffrage he saw that the time was not yet ripe for it, and he heartily supported a Bill to do away with the artificial restrictions of sex. Mr. Smith, a member of the Men's League, also spoke.

PORTLAND.—On March 27th Miss Helen Ward addressed a meeting of the Liberal Women's Association, by invitation of the hon. secretary. She found the members practically unanimous on the subject of Women's Suffrage and strongly inclined to the terms of Sir George Kemp's Bill.

BOROUGH OF ST. PANCRAS.—A highly successful public meeting was held by the North, South, East, and West St. Pancras branches of the London Society at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Camden Road, on April 4th, Miss Frances Sterling in the chair. Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P., in proposing a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill, explained its scope and strongly appealed to all those present to support it, whatever their views on the present franchise laws. He said that to deny to women their right to have some voice in the management of their country was to be false to the principles of Liberalism. Miss Clementina Black, in seconding the resolution, said that Miss Sterling had spoken of the vote as a need, Mr. Chancellor had described it as a right, but she considered it as a duty. The country had a claim on women for work in public as well as in private life. The resolution was carried with enthusiasm and with only four dissentients. A keen discussion then ensued. The St. Pancras "Gazette," "Chronicle," and "Guardian" all gave excellent reports of the meeting; the "Chronicle" also mentioned it on its poster the following week.

WEST ST. PANCRAS.—A successful drawing-room meeting was held at 50, Regent's Park Road, on March 28th, by kind permission of Mrs. Wills and Miss Hallows. Miss Lidgett took the chair, and Miss Bompas made a most interesting speech. A resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill was carried by a large majority. Four new members joined us, and "Common Causes" were sold.

EAST ST. PANCRAS.—We closed the Suffrage Shop on April 3rd.



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as it has now been permanently let; but are continuing vigorous work in the constituency. We have sold or otherwise distributed a good deal of literature, and we feel that the shop has been an excellent advertisement and has brought us many friends.

SUTTON.—A drawing-room meeting was held on March 28th, by kind permission of Mrs. Martin, at which Mrs. Holman gave a most interesting address on the rights and duties of women as citizens in the Middle Ages. The meeting was well attended, and was followed by an animated discussion. A drawing-room meeting took place, as arranged, on April 7th at Mrs. Gillett's, Miss Thomson being the speaker. The audience, though small, was very appreciative.

WANDSWORTH.—On April 8th a deputation of influential voters and of members of the local committee was received by Mr. Kimber, M.P. Mr. Kimber professed himself in favour of widow and spinster householders having a vote, but would not promise to support Sir George Kemp's Bill.

"COMMON CAUSE."—In addition to large numbers purchased locally, and subscribed for by members, the office estimates that about 1,200 have been sold during the last month by workers from headquarters, one of the largest sellers being Mrs. Fyffe.

NORTH OF SCOTLAND FEDERATION.

LOSSIEMOUTH.—A most successful meeting was held at Lossiemouth on April 8th in the Town Hall, ex-Provost Peterkin presiding, and addressed by Mrs. Hunter (president, Inverness). It was arranged at the present time as the fishermen were on shore. Hundreds of them were present, and listened to Mrs. Hunter's admirable address with great attention. A resolution asking for facilities for the Conciliation Bill was unanimously carried. The success of the meeting was greatly due to the untiring zeal of Mrs. and Miss Forsyth, Lossiemouth. Other meetings are being arranged throughout Sir A. Williamson's constituency.

INVERNESS.—Two fortnightly meetings fall to be recorded. On March 14th two papers were read on "Women's Vote and the Sweated Industries." Miss Black dealt in her paper with the general position of women in industry and gave details of many of the worst sweated trades. Mrs. Robertson, in a very able paper, showed how the enfranchisement of women had helped to remedy this evil in other countries, and would certainly help in our own country. At the closing meeting for this session, on March 28th, Mrs. Hunter read a most interesting and inspiring paper on Josephine Butler, that great heroine and pioneer of the movement.

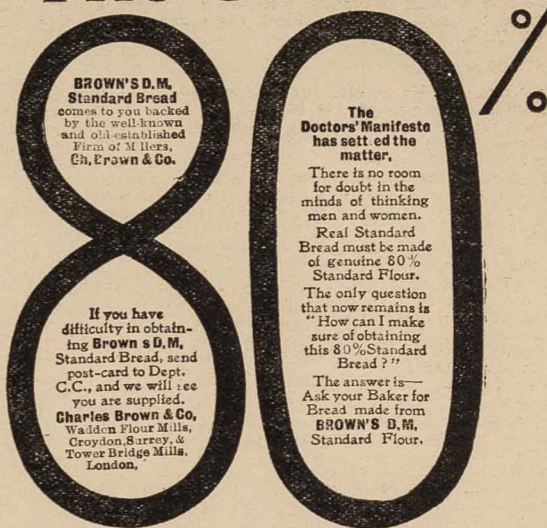
NORTH AND EAST RIDINGS FEDERATION.

SCARBOROUGH.—By kind permission of Mrs. Wallis a delightful lantern lecture was given by Mrs. de Bunsen in aid of the funds of the Scarborough N.U.W.S. Society—"By Raft to Baghdad." Mr. Rowntree introduced the speaker, and the Mayor of Scarborough was also present. A very successful "At Home" was held at St. Nicholas Boarding House on March 21st, when Mrs. Rackham was the principal speaker. Mr. E. R. Cross, LL.B. (clerk to the magistrates), presided, and Mrs. Daniel, Mrs. Sellar, and Miss Hibbert-Ware were the hostesses. Members of the teaching profession were specially invited, and came in encouraging numbers. Mrs. Rackham delighted everyone by her comprehensive and inspiring address. A vote of thanks to the speaker and chairman was proposed by the Mayor (Mr. W. S. Rowntree), and seconded by Miss Hibbert-Ware. Eighteen new members were enrolled—a result which must be gratifying to our generous hostesses, who worked hard to make the meeting a success.

WHITBY.—A small "At Home" was held at Sleights by the secretary of the Society on Wednesday, March 29th, with the object of affording an opportunity of meeting the committee to the members of the Sleights branch, who are not always able to attend meetings in Whitby. Miss Pringle, the treasurer of the Society, explained the Conciliation Bill. Great interest was shown, and many questions asked, as there were several women ratepayers amongst those present. A very successful entertainment was held by the Whitby Society, on Tuesday evening, March 14th. A concert was followed by "Lady Geraldine's Speech," which was well acted, and provoked much laughter. "Common Causes" on the one hand, cakes and sweets on the other, sold well; and large numbers crowded round the basket of "Surprise Parcels." A large profit was made.

FILEY.—On February 23rd a public meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, at which Mrs. Philip Snowden was the speaker. Unfortunately the night was very wild. Those who had ventured to brave the weather, including a party of members of the Scarborough branch of the W.S.P.U., who had driven over, were amply rewarded by hearing Mrs. Snowden's speech. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. W. Foster Smith, and seconded by Dr. Marion Mackenzie. On March 25rd a public meeting was held in the Grand Hall, Filey. Mrs. Rackham and Mr. Joseph Clayton being the speakers. The audience numbered about 200. The audience listened to both speakers with great interest. The resolution was carried with only one dissentient. The chair was taken by Mr. W. Foster Smith. Votes of thanks to the speakers and chairman were proposed by Mr. Marriner, and seconded by Mrs. Harold Brown. Between the speeches, a pianoforte solo was given by Miss Hess and a recitation by Miss Hanks. On March 24th the Filey Society held a meeting in the Old Schools, Hunmanby, at which Mr. Joseph Clayton spoke. The room was well filled, and the audience much appreciated Mr. Clayton's speech. The chair was taken by the Rev. A. N. Cooper, M.A., Vicar of Filey, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Colonel W. E. Bell and seconded by Mrs. Harold Brown. A dialogue, "The Point of View," by Miss B. M. Danby, was given by Mrs. Irwin and Miss Hanks. On March 25th the Scarborough and Filey Societies united to organize a meeting in Norton, the expenses of which were defrayed by the North and East Ridings Federation. Mr. Joseph Clayton was again the speaker. Unfortunately the audience was very small, Saturday afternoon being a bad time for a meeting; but those who were present were extremely interested. A debate took place after Mr. Clayton's speech, the questioners being quite satisfied by Mr. Clayton's answers. Miss Hanks announced that the N. and E. R. F. was desirous of forming a society in Malton and Norton, and that Mrs. Merivale Mayer (the organizer) would begin work there on April 20th. The chair was taken by Mr. E. S. Roe, who afterwards expressed his intention of joining the Malton

The Genuine



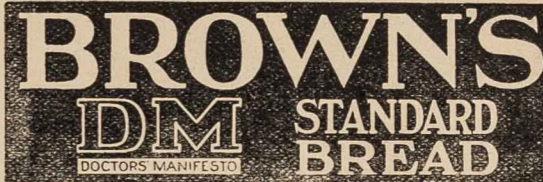
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Society, and paid his subscription then and there. The vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Hess and seconded by Mrs. A. M. Daniel. The Common Cause was on sale at all the meetings. The annual meeting was held on Monday, March 20th, in St. William's College. There was a large attendance. The principal speaker was Mrs. Rackham. A successful literature stall was held by Mrs. Edwin Gray, assisted by Miss Meyer. Tea was provided, and six new members joined. Mrs. L. A. Hope was elected by ballot to fill the vacancy on the committee. Mrs. Jalland presided.

HULL.—Mrs. Rackham, of Cambridge, addressed a gathering of the Hull branch in Owen Hall on March 21st. It was a deeply interesting lecture, well reported in the "Eastern Morning News" and other local papers. Miss Rowland moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Rackham, seconded by Miss A. Jackson. Mrs. Richardson was thanked for presiding.

WEST RIDING FEDERATION.

BARNESLEY.—The West Riding Federation was formed on March 6th, and Mrs. Merivale Mayer began work at Barnsley on the 20th. She addressed the first meeting at the Wesleyan Chapel Mother's Meeting, Heelis Street. The women were deeply interested and accepted leaflets heartily. On March 29th Mrs. Alexander (president) and Miss Wray (hon. secretary) were "At Home" in the Arcade Hall—prettily decorated for the occasion. The speakers were Mrs. Mayer and Mr. Joseph Clayton (hon. secretary, Men's League). About 110 people were present, many of whom were members. Between thirty and forty new members were enrolled, this being the result partly of individual calls which Mrs. Mayer made upon people during her stay. Miss Cliffe sang "The Awakening" very gracefully. On March 30th an open-air meeting was held at Cudworth, and though the weather was damp and cold, there was an excellent and enthusiastic audience. Bills were distributed, "Common Causes" sold, and the resolution passed unanimously at every meeting.

BRADFORD.—On March 31st an open-air meeting was held, at which Mrs. Mayer spoke for a considerable length of time. The Secretary explained the attitude of the local M.P.s upon the question, and asked the electors of the three divisions to write their respective members and ask them to be in their place in the House and vote for the Bill; and in the case of the member for the East Division, to abstain from voting against. An open-air meeting was addressed by Mrs. Mayer on April 1st, the Rev. R. Roberts in the chair. Electors were again appealed to to write M.P.s re voting upon Conciliation Bill. Both meetings were largely attended, bills distributed, and resolutions passed unanimously. The Society regret the shortness of Mrs. Mayer's stay with them. SHERFIELD.—A successful social evening, arranged by Miss Elliott, was held on April 8th at Nether Lecture Hall, when Mrs. Merivale Mayer was the guest of the evening. Short speeches, alternating with intervals for music and conversation, made up an enjoyable evening. The President (Dr. Helen Wilson) sketched for us the history of the Women's Movement which has culminated in the demand for the Suffrage, and reminded us of the great victories which have already been gained. She was followed by Mrs. Mayer, who spoke eloquently of the victory of the Suffrage movement in Australasia—of how the vote was won, and how the vote has been used. She concluded with a stirring appeal to the women of the Mother Country to resent the slight of a political system that leaves them on a lower plane than the women of the daughter nations, and to demand in their turn the recognition of full citizenship. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks both to the speakers and to the other ladies who in various ways had provided for our entertainment.

WEST LANCASHIRE, WEST CHESHIRE, AND NORTH WALES FEDERATION.

WARRINGTON SOCIETY.—There was an unfortunate error in our last week's issue, which stated that the Warrington petition was signed by seventy-four of those interviewed; it should have been 74 per cent. Out of the 832 seen, there were 618 for Suffrage, 57 against, and 157 neutral. Out of the 396 only eighty-five were unaccounted for; the rest were removed, dead, out, or ill.

WEST OF ENGLAND FEDERATION.

TAUNTON.—Our meeting here, held on April 7th, in conjunction with the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, was a complete success. Miss E. H. Smith, the Bristol hon. secretary of that Society, had been indefatigable in doing her share of the preliminary work; and Mrs. Davies, our organiser, had also spared no pains, but seen thoroughly to all the tiresome details upon which the success of a meeting depends. The result was that the Parade Assembly Rooms were filled at 8 p.m. to hear the Lady Betty Balfour and Mr. Hannon. The former charmed everyone with her lucid and womanly exposition of our case, and the latter, in the course of a witty and able speech, told the audience that he owed his interest in our cause to his experiences as a Parliamentary candidate and the good work done for him by women workers. A resolution urging the Government to pass the Conciliation Bill this session was passed by a large majority, the only determined opposition coming from Miss Mabel Smith, of the N.L.O.W.S., and not from any local "anti." Her string of questions and objections were entirely met by Lady Betty's apposite replies. We are much indebted to Mr. Luttrell, a prominent Liberal of the neighbourhood, for coming all the way from Quantoxhead on a very cold night to preside for us, and to show how united are the best men of the two great parties when a question of justice is being discussed. The municipality of Taunton was represented in the person of Councillor Van Tromp, who kindly proposed the vote of thanks, and who, by having allowed Mrs. Davies to address his factory workers during the campaign, has given such substantial help to our cause. Our thanks are also due to Mrs. Eden, of Kingston Grange, who most hospitably entertained two of our number; to Miss Platt, and to all those—too numerous to mention severally—who helped as sellers, collectors, and name-takers. The meeting was well reported in the local Press, much interest has been aroused, and the Taunton branch is now firmly established, with Miss Gresswell as secretary and Mrs. Swaisland as treasurer. Moreover, owing to the direct appeal of the Federation secretaries, the meeting has paid its own expenses.

Besides the sums already acknowledged, we have to report £1 from Mrs. Ingham Baker, 10s. from Miss Ward and Miss Strachey, and £1 13s. 1d. taken in the collection.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—On April 8th, at 3.30, another joint meeting, with the same speakers, was held at this well-known seaside resort. The Assembly Rooms were well filled with an appreciative audience. Our resolution was again carried by a large majority, and this time there was no heckling. As Weston up till now has been somewhat bitterly "anti," this change of front speaks well for the efforts of the local branch, which owed its origin in the summer to Mrs. Cross. Our chair was again filled by a prominent Liberal of the neighbourhood, Mr. Cross, of Bristol, kindly coming over for the afternoon to support the principles of free Liberalism. A good collection was taken, and the proceedings terminated with an informal reception, at which Lady Betty Balfour and the other speakers were entertained.

WINSCOMBE.—Mrs. Tanner reports three drawing-room meetings on social topics since Christmas. On February 1st Miss Philip, from London, gave an address on "The Children's Charter"; on March 22nd Mrs. Lofthouse, from Birmingham, spoke on "Women's Municipal Lodging-houses." The evils of one sex legislating for both were very forcibly shown on these occasions; while on March 1st Mrs. Grubb, speaking on "Moral Laws," very clearly and convincingly showed the injustice to women of the laws dealing with the relations between the sexes.

BRISTOL.—The secretaries report four working parties, with Mrs. Randall Vickers, Misses Tanner, Miss Stock, and Mrs. Scenington respectively as hostesses; one lecture on "Asoka: King, Monk, and Missionary," by Miss Williams; and speakers (Mrs. Cross and Mrs. Willis) sent to a meeting of Liberal women at Bishopsworth. The chief work of the Society during the last month, however, has been directed towards obtaining a resolution from the Town Council. This is now in good train.

CLEVEDON.—We are asked to state that Miss G. M. Clayton, 2, Hallam Road, Clevedon, has resumed her duties as hon. secretary of the Society.

Forthcoming Meetings.

APRIL 20.	Camberley—Oddfellows' Hall—Annual Meeting—Miss Nina Boyle.	3.0
APRIL 22.	Malton—Market Place—Open-air Meeting—Mrs. Merivale Mayer.	6.30
APRIL 24.	Knutsford Society—Annual Meeting at 85, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.	3.30
	Sevenoaks—Kippington Parish Room—Mrs. Rackham.	8.30
	Leeds—Congregational Church, Oak Road—Mrs. Parrish.	7.30
APRIL 26.	Liscard—Concert Hall—Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Allan Bright (chair).	8.0
	Baldoak—Town Hall—Miss A. M. Royden, Rev. H. Cubbon, M.A.	8.15
	Bristol—9, Beaufort Road, Clifton—Mrs. Cross' Working Party.	3.0
	Cuckfield—Queen's Hall—Miss A. Martin.	3.0
APRIL 27.	Oldham—Music Room, Werneth Park—Social for members and friends.	7.30
	Leeds—Co-operative Guild, Burley—Mrs. Parrish.	7.30
	Goole—St. Mary's Hall—Miss I. O. Ford.	Evening
	Redhill—King's Hall, Colman Institute—Annual Meeting of Redhill, Reigate and District Society—Miss Nina Boyle.	8.0
APRIL 28.	Letchworth—Ashwell County Council School—Mrs. Rackham.	8.0
MAY 1.	Leeds—Salem Congregational Chapel—Mrs. Parrish.	8.0
MAY 3.	Darlington—Temperance Institute—Miss I. O. Ford.	3.0
	Shildon—Friends' Meeting House—Miss Ford, M. Watson, Esq., J.P. (in the chair).	7.30
MAY 4.	Cambridge—Guildhall—Sir J. Cockburn, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mr. G. Lansbury, M.P., Mrs. Novinson.	8.0
	Croydon—Large Public Hall—Mass Meeting of Suffrage Societies.	8.0
	Leamington—Birch's Music Room—Franchise Club.	3.0
LONDON.		
April 21:	North Lambeth, 28a, Wincott Street, S.E., Debate, Miss Emily Hill v. Mr. Samuels (A.-S. L.).	8.30
	Edmonton, Town Hall, Mrs. G. S. Abbot.	8.0
April 22:	Norwood, Suffrage Offices, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Abadam.	8.0
	Highgate and N. St. Pancras, Corner of Pratt Street, Camden Town, J. Malcolm Mitchell, Esq., Mrs. McRae.	7.30
April 24:	Windsor, Reception Room, Guildhall, "At Home," Miss A. H. Ward.	5.0
April 26:	Hampstead, The Library, Prince Arthur Road, Debate, Mr. Chomeley v. Mr. G. Calderon. Chairman, J. S. Fletcher, Esq., M.P.	4.0
	Kingston, Market Place, Open-air Meeting, Speakers from Men's League.	8.0
	Portman Rooms, Baker Street, "At Home," Miss Adler, L.C.C., Miss Boyle, and others.	3.30
April 27:	Lambeth, Moffat Institute, Miss J. H. Thomson, B.A. Esher and E. Molesey, The Fountain, Open-air Meeting, Miss A. Dawson.	3.30
April 29:	Highgate and N. St. Pancras, Cobden Statue, Camden Town, Miss Ruth Young, Miss Davies.	7.30
May 1:	Balham, Assembly Rooms, The Lady Frances Balfour.	8.0
May 2:	Willesden, Furness Road Council Schools, Mrs. Philip Snowden, Mr. L. Housman, chair W. B. Luke, Esq., J.P.	8.0

Wimbledon, Mrs. Dewey's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss A. Maude Royden.	3.30
May 3: Highgate and N. St. Pancras, Cobden Statue, Camden Town, Miss A. Maude Royden, Miss O'Malley.	7.30
Portman Rooms, Baker Street, N.U. Demonstration in support of Sir G. Kemp's Bill, Mrs. Fawcett (chair).	3.0
May 4: Wandsworth, Mrs. Badcock's Drawing-room Meeting, Miss Sheepshanks.	3.30
Esher and E. Molesey, The Fountain, Open-air Meeting.	8.0

SCOTLAND.

April 21: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, "At Home," Miss F. Raeburn.	4.30
April 28: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, Miss F. Raeburn.	4.30
April 29: Glasgow, 202, Hope Street, Opening of New Offices, Cake and Candy Sale.	2.0
May 1: Edinburgh, 40, Shandwick Place, Mrs. Guyer, Miss E. Foggo.	8.30

IRELAND.

COUNCILLOR M. ASHTON'S MEETINGS.

April 20: Mallow, Drawing-room Meeting, The Castle.	11.30
Waterford, Large Concert Hall. Chairman, The Dean of Waterford.	8.0
April 21: Dublin, Leinster Hall. Chairman, Sir C. Cameron, M.D., C.B.	8.0
April 22: Dublin, Drawing-room Meeting, Mrs. C. L. Townshend.	3.30

SCOTTISH FEDERATION.

Date.	Place.	Speaker.	Organizers.
April 25—Wick.	Miss Abadam.	The Misses Matheson.	
April 26—Thurso.	Miss Abadam.	The Misses Matheson.	
April 27—Tain.	Miss Abadam.	The Misses Matheson.	
April 28—Dingwall.	Miss Abadam.	The Misses Matheson.	
May 2—Aberdeen—Miss Abadam—Local Society.			
May 24—East Edinburgh—Miss Nina Boyle—Local Society.			
May 3—Montrose Burghs, Forfar—Miss Abadam—Miss Kirby.			
May 4—Montrose Burghs, Brechin—Miss Abadam—Miss Kirby.			
May 5—Montrose Burghs, Montrose—Miss Abadam—Miss Kirby.			
May 6—Montrose Burghs, Arbroath—Miss Abadam—Miss Kirby.			
May 5—Kirkcaldy Burghs, Kinghorn—Miss Boyle—Miss Swan.			
May 6—St. Andrews Burghs, Anstruther—Miss Boyle—Local Society.			
May 8—St. Andrews Burghs, Cupar—Miss Abadam—Local Society.			
May 10—St. Andrews Burghs, Crail—Miss Abadam—Local Society.			
May 9—Dundee—Miss Abadam and Miss Boyle—Local Society.			
May 10—12—Glasgow Campaign—Miss Boyle—Local Society.			
May 11—Kirkcaldy.	Miss Abadam.		
May 12—15—Border Burghs and Melrose—Miss Abadam—Misses Smith and Barber.			
May 17—Berwick.	Miss Abadam.	Local Society.	
May 18—Glasgow.	Miss Abadam.	Local Society.	
May 19—Port Glasgow.	Miss Abadam.	Local Society.	
May 19—Kilmarnock.	Miss Abadam.	Local Society.	
May 20—Thornhill (Dumfries County)—Miss Abadam—Miss Wright.			
May 22—Inverleithen.	Miss Abadam.	Miss Beauchamp.	
May 23—Selkirk.	Miss Abadam.	Miss Beauchamp.	
May 1—Nairn—Miss Abadam—Northern Federation.			

THE NEW CONCILIATION BILL.

Amended to meet objections, will be introduced on May 5th. To counteract MISREPRESENTATION, Suffragists and the general public should be made acquainted with its provisions and effect. Broadcast distribution of the two-colour explanatory leaflet just drawn up by Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., is the best means of doing so. To be had only from THE WILLIAM MORRIS PRESS, 42, ALBERT STREET, MANCHESTER, at the prices following:—250 3s. 6d., 500 5s., 1,000 9s., 2,000 17s., 3,000 24s., 5,000 37s. 6d., all carriage paid.

Manchester Society.

Members desiring to take part in the Convention in London, on May 3rd, to support the Second Reading (see p. 22) are requested to communicate as soon as possible with Miss M. C. Marshall, 85, Deansgate Arcade.

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Delegates from all the Societies of the National Union are convened

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TO BE SENT

TO THE PRIME MINISTER

AND

TO THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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