

# The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

# Women's Suffrage

Societies.

VOL. III. No. 155.

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MARCH 28, 1912.

ONE PENNY.

## Notes and Comments.

### Backing Our Friends.

Thursday, 28th March, our date of issue, is the date fixed for the postponed Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill, and we draw the attention of our readers to the arrangements described by Miss Courtney on p. 864 for the convenience of members of the National Union desiring to show their interest in the fate of the Bill. The National Union has always considered that the promise of facilities for the Conciliation Bill was a very valuable promise, and we feel sure that many of our members will be glad of the opportunity afforded of meeting each other and of offering the encouragement of their interest to the staunch friends in the House who stand by them through good and evil report. It is not enough realised how difficult the loyalty of such friends is sometimes made to them and we hope that our members will do what in them lies to show their appreciation.

### Sir Edward Grey.

It is good hearing indeed, that Sir Edward Grey will speak for us on Thursday. No one is more absolutely beyond all accusations of chicanery and subterfuge, no man's word means more plainly just what it says. Sir Edward Grey also knows something of the deep social and moral needs of women that, far more than any political motive, underlie their demand for enfranchisement. His advocacy will, we hope rally the faint-hearted, the faithless and the vacillating, to fresh courage, faith and determination.

### A Non-Party Solution.

A moving appeal to members of parliament signed by Winifred, Lady Arran, Lady Brassey, the Hon. Mrs. F. Thomas, Lady Castlereagh, Lady Cowdray, Lady Willoughby de Broke, Muriel, Countess de la Warr, Mrs. Anstruther, and the Hon. Mrs. C. S. Goldman, concludes with these words:—

We take this opportunity of inviting your attention to the many difficulties which a non-party solution may encounter. One leading Minister opposes the Conciliation Bill because it is too small, and objects as strongly to the rival plan because it is too large. Unionists fear that the Conciliation Bill may lead to adult suffrage, but adult suffragists are none the less reluctant to support it. Irish Nationalists declare that it

stands in the way of Home Rule, but Unionists do not on that account rally to its support. Men who did nothing for it while a truce prevailed now oppose it because militancy rages. It is these insincerities which have created the mood of suspicion and anger that leads to militancy. For our part we are prepared to try the experiment of a non-party measure and to put our faith in the House of Commons. The outcome of this session will show whether it has been wisely placed. We refuse to admit that the right of women to share in political life is on trial. Every party has settled that question by enlisting women among its workers

and speakers. What is on trial is the capacity of the House of Commons to take effective action for the redress of a grievance which it has repeatedly admitted. The rejection of our Bill would not end the agitation, but our trust in a non-party solution would be shaken. We should resolutely refuse to support any party which hesitated to embody Women's Suffrage in its official programme. We beg of you to weigh before you cast your vote the sufferings, the labours, and the sacrifices which any hasty abandonment of the principle to which you are committed would impose on women, whose earnest desire it is to take their place as enfranchised citizens in the service of the community.

It is an interesting commentary on this letter that the only party which, as a party, supports women's suffrage is the Labour party.

### The Women and Children Argument.

The shadow of the coal strike deepens over the country. It must not be supposed, because we have had no articles dealing with it that women have no concern, or only a secondary concern in it. A dispute of this nature concerns women if possible more vitally than men, and they certainly suffer more by it. When we hear anti-suffragists maintain that women may not have the vote because they might use it to send men to war, while they stayed safe at home (in itself a monstrously distorted view), we wonder how it never occurs to them that in a dispute of this sort the women are in

truth the warriors, fighting with want and suffering. While the miners are riding the pit ponies about and going to football matches, their women-folk are toiling in the homes as usual—no, not as usual, but with labour, care and anxiety added to the day's work that, for a working woman goes to make a seven-day week of no eight-hour days. We do not say the women grudge their sufferings and toil; we do not give an opinion upon the justice of the dispute; but we want men to have the justice to admit that these are questions which affect the women of the

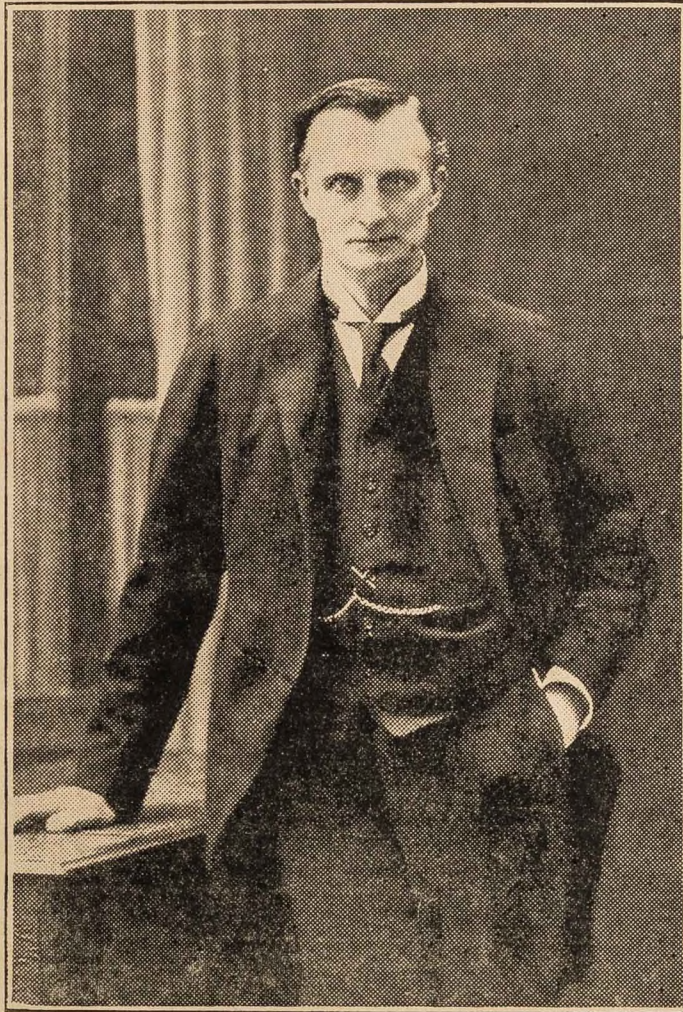


Photo by Campbell-Gray.

The Right Hon. SIR EDWARD GREY, Bart., K.G., M.P.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

country at least as much as the men. When men were clamouring for their eight-hour day they did not consider how it would pile hours upon the women; when the miners made a fuss about washing at the pits instead of bringing their dirt home, they did not think how that dirt nearly breaks their women's backs and hearts; it was the Miners' Federation which opposed the rest of the Labour party (and was happily defeated) when that party resolved to stand by the women in their fight for the vote; it was the Miners' Federation which endeavoured to drive the women (by laws which they have no direct power to alter) from healthy work which they are competent to do. If women stand by the men in their demands and suffer bitterly by the industrial war which men are waging, is it not true that the men, too, should stand by their women? When men are pressing some advantage of their own they find it often convenient to put forward the "women and children" argument; we do not find them so willing to admit that argument when the women themselves advance it.

**The Bitter End.**

Sir Alfred Mond made one of his characteristic speeches on the Minimum Wage Bill last Thursday in the House. It was none the less humane for being shrewd, too. In the course of it he said "Is it a wise thing for anyone on any side to say, 'Let us fight to the bitter end'? There are always plenty of people who think it a great and glorious thing to brace themselves up to fight to the bitter end. It is a great and magnificent and an idiotic thing. You always find you have to compromise at the finish."

**The I.L.P. and Women's Suffrage.**

At the twentieth annual Conference of the I.L.P., to be held at Merthyr on April 8th and 9th, the following resolutions are on the agenda paper:—

3. That this Conference declares:—
  - (a) That further extensions of the franchise to men which leave the injustice to women unredressed should be definitely opposed.
  - (b) That the Government must embody Women's Suffrage as an integral part of its own Bill, not leaving the question to the chance of subsequent amendments.
  - (c) That in view of the Prime Minister's declaration for manhood suffrage, equality can only be secured by an adult suffrage measure conferring equal rights on men and women. *Cardiff.*
4. That this Conference offers strong opposition to the Government's proposed Bill for Manhood Suffrage, and demands in its place an Adult Suffrage Bill, to include the granting of the franchise to women on the same terms as it is granted to men. *Finsbury.*
5. That this Conference views with indignation the Government proposal to introduce a Reform Bill this year extending the franchise to men only, and urges upon the Labour Party the necessity for including women in the Extended Franchise Bill. *Clydebank, Aberdeen.*
6. That this Conference emphatically protests against the threatened exclusion of women from the proposed Franchise Reform Bill, and calls upon the Labour Party in the House of Commons to oppose and vote against the Third Reading of same unless women are included. *Manchester (Central).*

**China Makes the Pace.**

A Shanghai correspondent writes to us:—Events are moving rapidly here just now, in fact so rapidly that if the demand of British women for the vote is not soon granted, we shall find ourselves left behind in this respect by the Chinese. A Chinese statesman remarked the other day that, as China is an old country, it is only natural that we as a younger nation should be left behind!

Six women have been elected on the Canton Provincial Assembly, which means in all probability that women will be eligible for Parliament, as representatives of the Provincial Assemblies are to form the National Assembly. There is also a movement among the more advanced to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women as well as men, this movement originating with the statesmen, not with the women themselves, so that the women who are fighting the battle in Britain are winning freedom for others as well as for themselves. Then too, the plans for remodelling their social laws are fair to women. Divorce is to be on equal terms, prostitution to be suppressed, girl slavery to be made illegal, and in other ways the new Government is preparing to show its willingness to give women their rightful place in the national economy.

**The Position of Ohio.**

An error accidentally crept into our account last week of the position of Women's Suffrage in Ohio. The statement given, p. 854, should have been: "The Constitutional Convention of Ohio has passed a resolution in favour of submitting the Women's Suffrage question to a vote of the people by 73 to 34." The vote of the people will probably take place in July or August of this year. A private letter recently received from a leading Women's Suffragist in Ohio says:—"We are in the centre of the United States, the fourth State in the U.S. for population, and have given the nation five recent Presidents, Hayes, Garfield, McKinley, Taft, and Harrison." A Women's

Suffrage victory in Ohio would mean much, and a favourable vote in the Constitutional Convention of more than two to one is a good omen. An ineffectual attempt was made to have the question of Women's Suffrage referred first to the women of the State. This was defeated by 62 to 38.

**A French Lady Honoured.**

Mademoiselle Sarah Monod, President of the French National Council of Women, has been made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

**Birthrates.**

Miss Waring writes:—Lately, in a certain Sunday paper, an Anti-Suffragist correspondent, who somewhat audaciously signed himself "One who knows," said that the birthrate of New Zealand—legitimate and illegitimate—was not an inspiring record.

As a matter of fact in New Zealand in 1909 the rate of natural increase (that is, the excess of births over deaths) was higher than that of any nation recorded. This position New Zealand did not hold in the statistics of the years 1881-5, before the granting of Women's Suffrage.

Further, the places that come second to New Zealand in 1909 are Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia, all Women's Suffrage States. Victoria alone, of all Australia, does not succeed in overtopping all other records. Victoria, it will be remembered, at the time the statistics were taken, had only just been granted Women's Suffrage.

It is to be noticed that Australia does not achieve these results by an abnormally high birthrate. In this respect it is beaten by Hungary, Spain, Italy and Prussia (in the order given). Perhaps this is what "One who knows" referred to. What we should like to ask all thinking people is this:—Is it better to bring babies into the world in such large numbers that many die like flies, so that the population is only moderately increased, or in such moderate numbers that they live and largely increase the population?

Another consideration gives food for reflection. Who are more likely to grow up healthy men and women: the children who are the few survivors of an abnormally large family, or those who represent a healthy family of moderate numbers, whose mothers have not been worn out by excessive child-bearing and child burying?

The illegitimate birthrate in New Zealand is interesting. Lady Stout tells us that it has decreased from 10.70 per 1,000 unmarried women before Women's Suffrage to 9.72 in 1906.

For the statistics referred to above (except those given by Lady Stout) see "The Declining Birthrate," by Dr. Newsholme.

**Women's Greater Expenses.**

The Birmingham teachers are presenting a memorial asking that women teachers shall have equal pay with men for equal work. When we complain that, out of her lower salary, a woman must pay a higher premium in order to get smaller pension, we are met by the statement that since a woman has a "better life" than a man, it is actuarially not possible to insure her on the same terms as a man; she lives longer after the period at which she can no longer earn. This is, of course, a fact. But when the same person is driven to find an excuse for the higher salary of a man doing the same work as a woman, he will tell you that the salary must be higher because a man has (or may have) a family to keep; that is to say, he is supposed to get a higher salary because his living expenses are greater. If a woman has to provide for a longer period of superannuation than a man, are not her expenses greater than a man's in that respect? And why are a woman's greater expenses not to count, if a man's do? No one has ever attempted to answer this.

**The Work of the Federations.**

Referring to our statement last week of the progress made by the National Union during the last few days, we have received an interesting communication from Dr. Elsie Inglis showing how the growth of the Union has leapt up since the establishment of Federations. The Scottish Federation was formed two years ago and there were then 16 Societies in the area; there are now 44. "These Societies," she says, "have been formed simply by the hard work of our members."

Those engaged in the work of organisation know that this is true all over the country. The Federations are each of them as keen as possible to establish a Society in every constituency in their area, and the list we give fortnightly under National Union news shows how assiduously they are working away at achieving this result. Not only do local organisations help to form public opinion, but they help to make it effective. A member of Parliament naturally and rightly gives weight to opinion in his own constituency.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

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LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., 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 day possible, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and book-stalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, THE COMMON CAUSE, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the news-agent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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**The Conciliation Bill and the Coming Division.**

Some members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies felt a keen sense of disappointment when the second reading debate on the Conciliation Bill was postponed from March 22nd to March 28th. This feeling was not, however, shared by the officers of the Union, who were watching events at close quarters. It is well known that on Monday, the 18th, the Prime Minister had announced the Bill by which he and his party hoped to end the coal strike; it was proposed to suspend all other Parliamentary business and to get this Bill through all its stages as quickly as possible. March 22nd had been previously allotted to the debate on the second reading of our Bill, and it was for a time in question whether that arrangement should be adhered to or an extra day be given to the Miners' Bill, the Conciliation Bill being consequently postponed to the following week. The officers of the National Union considered the question carefully, and as far as they were concerned, they let it be known that they offered no objection to the Conciliation Bill debate being taken on the 28th instead of the 22nd. The continuance of the coal strike was bringing a huge amount of misery and distress upon thousands, and possibly upon millions, of men, women and children. To shorten it even by a few hours was an object of first-rate national importance. It would, in my judgment, have shown a very great want of sense of proportion had we acted otherwise than we did in acquiescing cheerfully in the short postponement of the debate on our own Bill.

I do not believe that our action involved the slightest real sacrifice of our great cause; on the contrary, to have acted otherwise would have been prejudicial to it. It does not really promote Women's Suffrage if those who represent it say in effect that they are blind and deaf to every other great national question. We claim the franchise because we urge that we are citizens with a true sense of citizenship and we know that what hurts the body politic hurts us.

Mr. Balfour pointed out when he was speaking last Friday that the Prime Minister had acted not only fairly but generously in the matter. He did not snatch the 22nd from the Conciliation Bill with alacrity, and from the first when the question arose he acknowledged that he was bound to provide at an early date another day in lieu of it. He did provide this by giving up a Government day to the Conciliation Bill, so that the debate on the second reading of our Bill, instead of coming to an end at five o'clock, will be prolonged until 11. This extension of time will be an advantage in allowing a larger number of our supporters the opportunity of addressing the House.

Writing before the debate, and when the result is necessarily uncertain, what can be said? What does every good General expect of his soldiers during the great stress and strain of battle? To stand firm, to hold fast, to be neither unduly elated by success nor unduly depressed by reverses. In such a cause as ours "Failure is impossible"; we shall go on working zealously and faithfully whatever may be the result of Thursday's division. There is a saying to the effect that "A dead dog swims with the stream, while none but a live creature can swim against it." Whether the stream be for or against it, we know our duty and mean to stick to it. No one understands Women's Suffrage who is incapable of seeing that it is part of a much larger movement, namely, the uplifting of the status of an entire sex, and the remodelling and improving the relations between men and women. In so far as our movement is successful, it does as much for men as it does for women. The improved relationship between men and women is the most marked result of Women's Suffrage wherever it has been adopted. Other reform movements have had for their aim to improve the position of a class or some section, small or large, of a people. But our movement has a far wider aim: therefore it is more difficult and arduous. But as the difficulty is greater, so is the reward greater when it comes; and it has been coming decade by decade for the last hundred years. Let us go forward then, full of courage and confidence. Take long views, see how much ground has been gained, say, since ten years ago. Again I repeat Susan Anthony's words, "Failure is impossible."

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

**A Degree Standard in Home Science.**

We have received the following from Sir Arthur Rücker:— It is a familiar device in public controversy to make a series of statements and, if they are not replied to in detail, to assume that they cannot be answered.

I entirely decline to follow Miss Freund into the mass of statements and arguments which she adduces in support of her case. The reason I have already given—viz., that similar objections have been raised in the past to other advances in technical teaching, and have proved illusory, is in itself a sufficient reason for this attitude.

It may be reinforced by another general consideration—viz., that Miss Freund has undertaken to prove the negative proposition that instruction of a University character in domestic science cannot now be given.

Apart from the inherent difficulties of proving a negative, I would remind Miss Freund that in the early days of steamships a well-known man of science proved, to his own satisfaction, that the weight of the coal required to carry a steamer across the Atlantic would sink the ship. We are not to be deterred from our enterprise by the corresponding objection that the curriculum will swamp the students.

It is, also, at the present stage a sufficient answer that other competent authorities disagree with her; among whom I may cite Professor Smithells and Professor Jackson. When doctors thus differ the question cannot be settled by a priori arguments, but only by actual trial; and the trial is going to be made. If those of your readers who are really interested in the matter will take the trouble to read Professor Smithell's reply to Miss Freund published in *Education* on June 9th, 1911, they will see that the expert opinion is not all on her side, that, in particular, after giving a list of the possible subjects included under the general head of "household duties," Professor Smithells states that he really does not understand her "contention that we must wait for a household science to be developed."

My reasons, then, for declining a detailed controversy imply no disrespect to Miss Freund. They are that arguments similar to her own have, *mutatis mutandis*, been proved to be misleading in the case of other technical subjects; that she is attempting to prove a negative, and that those whose views are of equal authority with her own do not agree with some of her specific statements. On these grounds I am of opinion that the experiment being made at King's College should be tried out, in spite of the many difficulties, of which those who promote it are well aware, and of the fact that one discontented student (who attended for one term only) has appeared among many who have declared that they have enjoyed and have benefited by the imperfect courses which, owing to dearth of funds, have alone been possible in the past.

Under these conditions it would, in my opinion, be waste of time to be led into a detailed controversy.

One other point I should like to make. I do not regard the question under discussion as involving a man *versus* woman

controversy. During my teaching career I always had women students and treated them exactly as I did the men. I have been in turn a member of the governing body of a High School for Girls, of a University College for Women, and finally I was Principal of the first University that gave degrees to women. I should be the last to support a movement which I believed would result in a lowering of the instruction given to those of them who aim at a University degree.

ARTHUR RÜCKER.

It appears to us that Sir Arthur Rücker has in his letter justified Miss Freund's criticisms. He meets a "mass of statements and arguments" with the reply that men of science have been mistaken before and will be mistaken again, that some well qualified persons disagree with Miss Freund, and that it is difficult to prove a negative. It should be remembered that Miss Freund's "negative" in this case is that domestic science up to degree standard cannot be taught because it does not yet exist, and that by doing a little of a great many sciences and an amount of technical study far less than that required in technical colleges, you will not attain a degree standard.

For ourselves, though we should not go so far as to deny that some good may be got from the course, we anticipate that any great improvement in domestic work must come partly from very highly developed technical skill and consequent invention, from the research work of highly qualified physicists and chemists directed to particular inquiries, and by a very great change in economic conditions which shall enable women to profit by the saving of material, time and ability to be obtained only by organisation, specialisation, and division of labour. It may console us for what we regard as the many (and some avoidable) defects of this particular scheme that a number of energetic young women confronted by so many various problems at once will probably in time strike out developments. It seems wasteful. But human progress is wasteful. No doubt a less magnificent scheme, making fewer promises and treading the arduous path of research, would not have brought the handsome sums of money which people were anxious to lavish on a course which promised to keep women "womanly" (that is to say, amateurish) and to crown their womanliness with a degree.

### Sticking to Their Principles.

The following whip has been issued in support of the Conciliation Bill. It will be noted that it is signed by Sir Edward Grey and members of the Liberal, Labour and Conservative parties.

DEAR SIR,—We venture to urge upon you the importance of being in your place on Thursday, March 28th, to vote for the second reading of the Women's Enfranchisement Bill, which will be introduced on behalf of the Conciliation Committee by Mr. Agg-Gardner. Facilities have been promised for this Bill, and also for Woman Suffrage amendments to the Government Reform Bill. A vote for the second reading will be an affirmation of the principle of Woman Suffrage, and also an expression of the desire of the House to avail itself of the promised opportunities.

It would, in our opinion, be contrary to the best traditions of British statesmanship if the recent behaviour of some of the advocates of Woman Suffrage were to influence the vote which the House will give on this Bill. A hostile vote on March 28th, as an act of reprisal for the deeds of the militant women, would fail in its object, since their organisation long ago repudiated this Bill.

Though we condemn the violence and unwisdom of these demonstrations, we are anxious to remove the root cause of the discontent which exists among the thousands of women who, in spite of repeated disappointments, have confined themselves to constitutional agitation. Just as we should refuse to be coerced by acts of violence into a course which we disapprove, so we refuse to be diverted by such acts from a course which we believe to be right and just. We appeal to every member of

### 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. **President:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.  
**Hon. Secretary to Press Committee:** MISS EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary). **Hon. Secretary to Press Committee:** MISS EMILY M. LEAF.  
**Telegrams:** "Voiceless, London." **Hon. Sec. to Literature Committee:** MISS I. B. O'MALLEY. Telephone 1960 Victoria.  
**Offices:** Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

### From Headquarters.

THE NATIONAL UNION AND THE CONCILIATION BILL: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THURSDAY, 28TH.

It is, of course, well known that it is illegal to hold any kind of meeting within a mile of the Houses of Parliament while the House is sitting. The Executive Committee, however, hopes

the House of Commons who approves the principle of Woman Suffrage to support his convictions by his vote.

We are, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. D. ACLAND.  
J. T. AGG-GARDNER.  
THOMAS BURT.  
ROBERT CECIL.  
EDWARD GOULDING.  
E. GREY.  
J. MURRAY MACDONALD.

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W. MITCHELL-THOMSON.  
ALFRED MOND.  
W. ORMSBY-GORE.  
WALTER RUNCIMAN.  
PHILIP SNOWDEN.  
JOSEPH WALTON.

### Sir William Byles' Constituents.

The Manchester Society held a meeting at the Cobden Hall, Broughton, on March 25th. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity. Mr. J. R. Tomlinson, from the chair, emphasised the long delay in dealing fairly with the question of Women's Suffrage, and alluded to the efforts of various M.P.'s to escape from their pledges now that the question had become a practical one.

Miss A. Maude Royden, who proposed the resolution, made a convincing speech. She detailed the immense benefits obtained in lands where women have the vote, dwelling most forcibly on the moral aspect, and pointing out that the opposition in America was largely organised by the White Slave Traffic and the liquor interest.

Miss Margaret Robertson dealt with the arguments of the Anti-Suffragists at the recent Albert Hall meeting. She spoke of the relation between votes and wages, and emphasised the fact that women take a large share in the work of the world. The resolution was carried with two dissentients, and a rider calling upon the member for North Salford (Sir W. P. Byles) to show the support he professed for Women's Suffrage by voting for the Conciliation Bill was moved from the audience by Miss Barton (Hon. Sec. Lanes. and Ches. W.L.A.), seconded by Miss Shutt, P.L.G., and carried unanimously.

### In Parliament.

#### THE MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

The problems created by the coal strike and the attempt of the Government to deal with the situation by means of a Minimum Wage Bill entirely overshadowed all else last week. Even the Navy Estimates could not compel the whole-hearted attention of the House. On March 19th the Prime Minister asked leave to introduce a Bill to provide a minimum wage for workmen employed underground, and on the 21st it was read a second time by a majority of 123. It went into Committee on the 22nd, the Conciliation Bill, which was down for second reading on that day, being postponed to Thursday, 28th. One of the most interesting political events of the week was the return of Mr. Balfour to the virtual leadership of the Opposition, since on Thursday he moved the rejection of the Coal Mines Bill.

#### QUESTIONS.

On March 18th, in reply to Mr. McCallum Scott and Mr. Lansbury, the Postmaster-General hedged rather badly. It is known that a new class of assistant women clerks, at lower pay, has been introduced to do some of the duties formerly fulfilled by the other women clerks; now that these have only the more advanced work to do, it is contended that the strain on them is greater and they should receive higher pay; but Mr. Samuel shelters himself behind the findings of the Hobhouse Commission which, of course, dealt with a different condition.

On March 21st, in reply to a question, Mr. Birrell admitted that "parts of Galway and Clare are, no doubt, in a bad state" with regard to violent outrages.

that members of the National Union will show their interest in the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill by appearing in Parliament Square, wearing the colours of the Union, during the progress of the Debate from 3 to 11 p.m. on the 28th. In order to provide a place where members may rest and obtain refreshments, the N.U. has reserved a room at the Victoria Mansions Restaurant, No. 24, Victoria Street. This room is upstairs; it will be reserved for the National Union from 4 p.m.

### The Political Situation.

—11 p.m., and tea and light refreshments will be obtainable at moderate price during the whole of that time. The room downstairs is a public restaurant, where lunches and dinners will be provided for those who require them. Mrs. Fawcett and members of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. will be present in Parliament Square and 24, Victoria Street during the afternoon and evening. The offices of the National Union will also be kept open all the evening for those who wish to make enquiries; and to supplement the accommodation at No. 24, Victoria Street, should this not be adequate. Please note that 24, Victoria Street is on the same side of the street as the Westminster Palace Hotel, and about two minutes' walk beyond it. It is, therefore, within easy reach of Parliament Square, and it is hoped that these arrangements may make it possible for a large number of our members to be in the Square at intervals during the Debate.

#### SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A special meeting of the Executive will be held on Friday, March 29th, at 2.30 p.m., and the usual meeting on the first Thursday in the month will not be held on Thursday, April 4th.

#### EASTER HOLIDAYS.

The offices of the National Union will be closed from Friday, April 5th, to Monday, April 7th, inclusive.

#### NEW SOCIETIES.

During the last fortnight the following new Societies have joined the Union:—

*Kentish Federation.*—Maidstone.

*West Midlands.*—Kidderminster and District, Wellington (Salop).

*East Midlands.*—Peterborough.

*South Wales.*—Lampeter.

In the *North-Eastern Federation*, South Shields and Jarrow, which have hitherto formed one Society, have now divided into two, an evident mark of progress.

#### THE ARTISTS' LEAGUE.

The vote of thanks to the Artists' League for their services in connection with the Albert Hall meeting was accidentally omitted from the COMMON CAUSE last week. It is unnecessary to state how highly appreciated those services were. The Albert Hall has never looked so impressive, and the effect was the result not only of many hours of toil, but of many days and weeks of thought and work on the part of members of the League. Our warm thanks are due to the artists who gave so much of their time and their skill to the National Union, and perhaps we may add that the advantage to us of the Artists' League may be measured by the difference between the appearance of the Albert Hall on the nights of the Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage meetings respectively.

#### POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONCILIATION BILL.

The following statement was issued to the Press on the 20th: *The President and Officers of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies* hope that all the Societies and members throughout the country will understand the special circumstances which have led the Government to absorb the day, Friday, March 22nd, which had been allocated to the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. It was obvious from what took place in the House on Monday and Tuesday that the reason for doing this was the national crisis brought about by the coal strike and the necessity which the House of Commons, irrespective of party, recognised for getting the matter settled without delay.

The gravity of the national crisis was so apparent that on reading what Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bonar Law said in the House of Commons on Monday, the 18th, the officers of the National Union on Tuesday morning drafted a letter to Mr. Asquith, voluntarily offering to relinquish Friday, March 22nd, as far as they were concerned, on condition that he gave another day at an early date for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. On consultation with political friends, however, this letter was not sent. But those who will carefully read what Mr. Asquith said in the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 19th, will see that he made a definite promise to provide another and an early day for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. The day will be Thursday, 28th. In view of the suffering and loss to thousands of people and the great damage done to trade of every kind by the prolongation of the strike, it is confidently believed that every Suffragist will cheerfully accept the small sacrifice involved by deferring the second reading debate on their Bill for a short time.

K. D. COURTNEY.

The postponement of the date of the second reading of the Conciliation Bill was known in time for Mrs. Fawcett to announce it at the meeting of the London Society in the Empress Rooms on Tuesday, March 19th. She was able to state at once that in view of the national crisis, the National Union was perfectly willing to sacrifice the date especially as they were confident that another day would shortly be offered by the Government. On Wednesday it was announced that Thursday, March 28th, was the day selected, and that the whole sitting from 3—11 p.m. could be devoted to the debate on the Conciliation Bill. In this respect, therefore, we are the gainers, as the House rises at 5 on Fridays and the time for debate would therefore have been considerably shorter. The additional week is also an advantage in so far as it gives us more time to consolidate our majority and to secure the return to their allegiance of those who had declared their intention of voting against the Bill. Work in their constituencies was set on foot at once and the few extra days afforded by the postponement of the date will make it far more effective. The attitude of the Nationalist members is still uncertain, and the reasons for expecting a smaller majority this year than last remain the same, but the majority, whatever it may be, will at least be one which can be depended upon. The half-hearted and the so-called "academic" supporters will have left us, and we shall know on whom we can depend for the Committee stage.

K. D. COURTNEY.

### Press Department.

The *Morning Post* has lately informed us that the question of Women's Suffrage has now passed beyond a joke. Though good jokes are necessarily long lived and born to be often repeated, no record of a joke exists in the ponderous phrases which occur over and over again in the pages of the *Morning Post* every time the subject of Women's Suffrage is mentioned. Some weeks ago, however, in a leader which expressed the wish men have felt "for discovering a firm ground of principle on which to stand since it became the practice of lady agitators to break windows," it was suggested that many men had found it in "the maxim, 'Try all things, hold fast that which is good.'" Even allowing for the misquotation, the injunction to experiment is encouraging to Suffragists, but the *Morning Post* proceeds to warn us against "this good-natured tolerance," and refers us to what it apparently considers the surer teaching of arithmetic. Women's duties to the community, it tells us, and not their rights are the question at issue. "The plainest arithmetic proves that the most important work in life, the necessary service to the State of the average woman is to be a mother of three or four children." Those who do not fulfil the required service—the surplus female population—should be shipped off to the great dominions, "where there is plenty of room for them."

The *Times*, on the other hand, appears to hold that the Suffrage question is not to be cured by deportation, but by the medical practitioner; the medical practitioner in the issue of March 18th refers the matter of "Insurgent hysteria" to those who are practiced in dealing with lunacy, while a second medical practitioner in the issue of March 21st proceeds to upset the diagnosis of the first. Having failed on these lines to secure "the desired ground of firm principle" with which to deal with the question, *The Times* leader writer once more takes the matter into his own hands, and goes to the root of things by declaring that it is the admirable women "who walk in processions and attend meetings" who are responsible for gathering "in their train a much larger number of women who are not at all admirable, and that their teaching has a really disastrous effect on the characters, once blameless, of women of all ages, especially young girls." A letter from an Anti-Suffragist who writes under cover of a pseudonym, and can therefore with impunity make charges which are no less vague but more offensive, appeared in the *Standard* on March 16th. Unfortunately Mrs. Acland's admirable letter, expressing protest against this contemptible method of attack from a member of Parliament has only elicited a letter of a still more objectionable type, which entirely ignores the unanswerable figures which she furnished.

No less ridiculous is the solemn assurance of the *Times* on March 22nd that Mrs. Fawcett and the National Union support the Conciliation Bill because it would strengthen the Conservative forces in the country.

It is possible that the undiscovered jokes referred to by the *Morning Post* may lurk somewhere in these various contributions to one of the most serious and immediate political pro-

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(Arranged by the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, the West Midland Federation, and the Church League for Women's Suffrage.)

WINTER HALL, LEAMINGTON, Wednesday, April 17, Thursday, April 18, 2-30 to 9-30.

OPENED

April 17th, by THE COUNTESS OF SELBORNE.

Chair - MR. F. R. BENSON.

April 18th, by THE LADY BEATRICE KEMP.

Chair - LORD HENRY CAVENDISH BENTINCK, M.P.

Plays (Actresses' Franchise League), Concerts. Exhibition of Sweated Industries

ADMISSION:

Wednesday, .. 2.30 to 5 p.m., 1s.; after 5 p.m., 6d. Thursday, .. .. . 6d.; after 5 p.m., 3d.

Gifts of Toys, Baskets, Foreign Goods and Curios, Plain and White Work, Woollen Articles, Home Produce, Leather Goods, Miscellaneous Articles, gratefully received by MRS. AUBREY DOWSON, Yew Tree Cottage, Lapworth, Warwickshire.

blems of the day, but it is excusable not to have recognised them in such meaningless evasions of real issues. It is to be regretted that anti-suffrage methods of personal indictment and vague, unsubstantiated charges should invade papers of such good repute as the Times, whose fairness on other topics has been hitherto unquestioned. E. M. LEAF.

Literature Department.

Will all who are doing suffrage work among teachers in connection with the Suffrage resolution at the coming N.U.T. Conference at Hull, please note that we have now got a leaflet specially designed for this purpose? It is by Mr. Robert Cholmeley, whose writings about Suffrage and about educational matters are well known to all interested in either. It is called "Teachers!" Price 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.

We have now got two excellent economic leaflets by Miss I. O. Ford, whose experience in matters connected with women's work and wages makes everything she writes on the subject of very special value. The titles of the leaflets are "Will the Vote help Industrial Women?" 4d. per 100, 2s. 6d. per 1,000; and "Easier to Starve," 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.

Those who are combating anti-suffrage misapprehensions will find two of our new leaflets useful: "Anti-Suffrage Arguments" is by Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A., price 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000; "A Blow to Anti-Suffragists" is by Miss Helen Ward, price 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000.

We have reprinted the old leaflet, "To Working Men," with some slight alterations. It can now be had for 4d. per 100, 2s. 6d. per 1,000.

We have stocked two excellent new pamphlets this week. Suffragists will remember Miss Ethel Naish's articles on the legal position of unmarried mothers in the Englishwoman and the Standard. Her pamphlet, "Whose Children are These?" deals with this subject, and is of poignant interest. It is now on sale at the National Union Office (price 2d.). The other new pamphlet is "Women and Prisons," by Helen Blagg and Charlotte Wilson, published by the Fabian Women's group (price 2d.).

May I beg members of the National Union who send urgent orders for literature to say on their orders whether, in the event of any of the leaflets they ask for being out of stock, they would like others of the same character and about the same price substituted? We do our best not to let any of our publications run out, but considerations of economy and space make it impossible to keep a very large stock, and it is not always easy to gauge the demand for any particular leaflet quite accurately. In the case of the cheap leaflets we have several which can be substituted for each other without difficulty.

The prices of new publications announced in the COMMON CAUSE are always mentioned when possible. But sometimes these announcements have to be sent in before printers' estimates have been received, and it is then not possible to mention a price.

In connection with this, may I say that we are selling all our new leaflets at as low a price as we possibly can? Those with coloured corners are necessarily more expensive, as the cost of producing them is nearly double that of the plain leaflets. The general price of the plain single-page leaflets is 4d. per 100, 2s. 6d. per 1,000, if they are printed on one side only, 6d. per 100, 4s. 6d. per 1,000 if they are printed on both sides.

All orders for literature should be sent to the National Union Literature Department, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

THE WEST END ASSOCIATION. (Miss GOLDING.)

Secretaries, Housekeepers, Matrons, Governesses, Nurses and Companions introduced free of charge. Flats, families receiving Paying Guests, Schools, Nursing Homes and Couriers recommended. There is also a Branch for Domestic Servants. 317, REGENT STREET, W. (Near QUEEN'S HALL.)

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The catalogue of publications can be sent free to anyone who writes enclosing 1d. stamp for postage.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

Treasurer's Notes.

We now have a complete record of the amounts given or collected by Federations and Societies towards the Albert Hall collection. They reach the sum of £1,119 2s. 9d.; in this total we have also included special gifts from branches of the London Society, but not the large sum given by London members, because it is impossible to say how much of this came through

the loyal and enthusiastic work of the Society and how much was obtained in other ways.

The Union has cause to be proud of the zeal shown by its Federations and Societies, and the splendid gifts made by some of the smaller and poorer Societies are a testimony to the spirit and devotion of the whole Union.

The full list will be published as quickly as space permits, after which the list of individual subscribers to the collection will be resumed.

We are glad to see that the great effort made at Albert Hall has in no way diminished our ordinary income; I have again this week to announce several handsome donations and some new subscribers. Still more of these are needed.

F. M. STERLING (Treasurer pro tem.).

Contributions to General Fund.

Table listing contributions to the General Fund, including sub-sections for 'Already acknowledged since Nov. 1st, 1911', 'Received from March 16th to March 23rd', and 'Donations given or collected by Societies'.

ALBERT HALL MEETING, FEBRUARY 23rd, 1912.

Table listing contributions to the Albert Hall Meeting, including sub-sections for 'Already announced' and 'Donations given or collected by Societies'.

Table listing contributions from various branches and societies, including Birmingham, Blackheath, and London Society.

Table listing contributions from the London Society, including sub-sections for 'East St. Pancras and Highgate' and 'Highgate (Branch London Soc.)'.

balanced judgments and to violent action based on wrong principles. On March 19th, Miss Lowdres (in the chair) gave a sketch of certain franchise reform movements of the last century, analysing their points of resemblance to and of difference from our own. Miss Toyden pulverised various statements and arguments to be found in the Anti-Suffrage handbook, and Mrs. Fawcett, who received an enthusiastic and prolonged ovation on rising, called upon all suffragists, whatever degree of success attended upon all their energy and gifts with renewed and determined vigour to bring about our great reform which, she declared herself more firmly convinced than ever, was necessary for the welfare of the State.

A new series of receptions will begin on Tuesday, April 23, and will continue throughout May and June. TRAVELLER SQUARE. By kind permission of the chairman of the Free Church Platform at the demonstration on March 16th, several members of the London Society held an impromptu but successful meeting on the third side of the Nelson Column. Miss Helen Ward and Miss Glynis being speakers. The resolution was carried with only a few dissentients. The COMMON CAUSE poster was exhibited on the platform. CITY OF LONDON.

On March 10th, Miss I. O. Ford spoke, chiefly on the industrial advantages of the vote, to members of the Jewish Working Men's Club and Lad's Institute, Alldgate, the Hon. Mrs. Franklin in the chair. The audience listened with interest, but the male portion, at least, appeared not to have heard much about the subject before.

HAMPSTEAD. On March 11th a successful drawing-room meeting was held at "Morland," Chislett Road, by kind permission of Mrs. Silvanus Thompson. The hostess, who was in the chair, told us she was of the third generation of the Woman Suffragist in her family. Miss I. O. Ford gave an inspiring address touching on the position of the sweated worker. Several questions were asked and answered. Two new members joined the society.

HIGHGATE. The Highgate branch having started in Miss Alice Zimmerman's drawing-room five years ago, the "At Home" on March 18th when she was once more our hostess seemed a specially auspicious event. A suffrage sketch "Lady Butterly and Mrs. Macbean" was first given, and Mrs. Burgin proved such a persuasive Lady Butterly that one admitted the more the way in which Mrs. Bouman, as the farmer's wife, held to her suffrage principles, and voiced her homely but convincing arguments in the broadest of Scotch.

Miss Abadam, in her eloquent address, emphasised the fact that in a true democracy every section of the community must be represented, and that in certain cases a man could not represent a woman's interest without disfranchising himself. After a warm vote of thanks to Miss Abadam, "The Awakening" was sung with much expression by Mrs. Betjamann.

TADWORTH-FORMATION OF LOCAL BRANCH. A most successful meeting was held on the evening of March 11th at the Village Hall, Tadworth, by kind invitation of Mrs. Elliman. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Rande, and Miss Maude Royden addressed a most attentive audience of about 150 people. After several questions had been asked and answered, Miss Watson announced that a local branch was to be formed. Votes of thanks having been accorded to hostess, chairman and speakers, much informal discussion went on whilst coffee was served and nearly all the literature provided was sold. About 25 members were enrolled and a committee representing Tadworth, Walton-on-Hill, Kingswood, Burgh Heath was straightway formed. Plans for further meetings are already under consideration, and thanks to Mrs. Elliman's energetic initiative the new branch should soon spread.

WYNSOR.-A debate took place at the Guildhall on March 14th, at 8 p.m. Expressions of regret that they could not be present to support the cause of Women's Suffrage were received from Miss Ashton Jonson, Miss Stevens (of Hedgerley Park), the Rev. Mr. Blackburn, the Rev. Mr. Lansdowne, Miss Violet Hanbury, Mrs. Grenville Grey, Mr. Hugh Maenaghten, Sir Harry Verney, the Hon. H. Lawson, Winifred Countess of Arran, the Lady Edward Spencer Churchill and Mr. Warre Cornwall.

On the platform on the Suffrage side were the Headmaster of Eton, the Hon. Mrs. Lyttonell and Miss Lyttonell, the Hon. Mrs. W. A. Cecil, the Rev. Bernard Everett (Minor Canon of St. George's), Miss Maenaghten, Mr. T. F. Dunhill, Alderman Bampfylde, J.P., and Alderman Heavell, J.P. Sir Frederick Dyson was in the chair.

Mrs. Swanwick and Mr. Cholmeley based their arguments on the principle of representative government; Miss Gladys Pott on some distinction between "private" and "public" function and character. The Suffrage Society, having propaganda in view, supplied the local anti-suffragist organiser, who was a stranger to the neighbourhood, with lists of local anti-suffragists, and the result was a good muster of them and a considerable majority against the suffrage. The debate roused great interest locally, and the speakers on both sides were very well received.

London Society.

The offices of the London Society, 58, Victoria Street, Westminster, will be closed for the Easter holidays from Good Friday, April 5th, to Monday, April 8th, inclusive. EAST END RECEPTION. Miss Frances Sterling was the speaker at our East London reception on Monday, March 18th, Mrs. Walter Roeh in the chair. Miss Sterling made a splendid speech which was greatly appreciated. Several new associates joined after the meeting. Miss Addison (a member of the Actresses' Franchise League) sang "The Awakening" and other songs very charmingly. WEST END RECEPTIONS. On March 12th, Miss Emily Davies took the chair at the Empress Rooms. Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Fallis dealt with the prospect of the Conciliation Bill on its second reading and Mrs. Swanwick pointed out the danger of allowing just indignation to lead to un-

Total £2,739 12 9

(To be continued.)

Organisation in Herefordshire.

I arrived in Hereford on Thursday the 14th, addressed a small meeting that day, and after discussing matters with some of the committee decided to call a meeting of members for the following Monday. Fresh interest had been roused by the meetings which Mrs. Mayer and Miss Morrison addressed, and people appear anxious to help to make the work successful. Miss Smith, Principal of the Training College, has consented to act as secretary; this is a great gain to the cause, and I think the Hereford Society, after its long sleep, has now every chance of becoming a really powerful one. I have arranged to address a meeting of the League of young Liberals and also a drawing-room meeting which Mrs. Bulmer is very kindly giving. I spent a day, trying to find the Conservative candidate for North Hereford, but without success. There was no contest. Mr. Fitzherbert Wright was declared elected on the 18th, and left Leominster the same day. He has not yet replied to my letter, but I understand from his supporters that he has announced his opposition to women's suffrage. From the 19th to the 25th I stayed in Leominster. Mrs. Neild, The Grange, has helped me very greatly, giving a drawing-room meeting and also assistance in other ways. On Thursday evening I addressed a public meeting in the Mission Hall, at which Miss Huetendahl took the chair. The audience was a large one, but for the first time since I began to speak for suffrage I was faced with organised opposition of an unpleasant kind. However, the bulk of the audience was warmly sympathetic, and two men constituted themselves stewards, turning one persistent interrupter out. The resolution was carried without dissent, the opponents evidently not having the courage of their convictions. I hope the spade work done will be followed up later. Leominster needs educating badly.

M. H. RENTON.

Federation Notes.

West Midland. DEPUTATION TO MR. P. S. FOSTER, M.P. (SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE).

The deputation to Mr. Foster, mentioned last week as being in formation, took place on the 22nd inst., when the Rev. Ingham Brooke, of Barford, Mrs. Aubrey Dowson, of the Solihull Women's Suffrage Society and Miss Palliser attended. Mr. Foster still refuses to renew his pledges, in consequence of the militant outbreak, but we have reason to believe he will abstain from voting when he receives the very influential memorial which is to be presented to him this week.

ORGANISATION AT WEDNESBURY.—The N.L.O.W.S. having held a meeting at Wednesbury recently, we felt that we must provide an opportunity for Wednesbury to hear the other side. Miss Walters and Mr. J. Cameron Grant are coming to speak for us on the 25th, and Alderman Kilvert, a veteran of the Crimea, will take the chair. Last week a systematic house-to-house visitation of Wednesbury was undertaken by me, with the valuable assistance of several members from West Bromwich. Mrs. Beadsworth was most successful in persuading shopkeepers to display our bills, and in the street canvass she gained many supporters. Mrs. Cashmore and Mr. Pearce gave much time and trouble to the work with excellent results and my thanks are due also to Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Staples, Mrs. Whitehouse, and last but not least, Mr. and Mrs. Nash.

E. J. D. MORRISON.

East Midland. The East Midlands have reason to congratulate themselves on nine months' work. The Federation came into existence last June with five societies, which were shortly increased to six by the inclusion of Lincoln within the East Midland area. By energetic propaganda work the number has now been raised to 13. The seven new societies are Grantham, Kettering, Southwell, Melton Mowbray, Oundle, Crick and Peterborough.

A well-attended meeting was held in the Victoria Hall, Kettering, on Wednesday, March 20th. Mr. R. Burley Wallis presided, and was supported on the platform by the Lady Frances Balfour, Miss I. O. Ford, Mr. A. Webb, Mr. C. Wickstead and others. The arrangements for the evening, which were most successful, had been made by the secretaries of the Society, Mrs. J. H. Wallis and Mrs. F. Everett, with the help of their Committee. Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Everett, whose addresses were much appreciated, proposed and seconded the following resolution, which was afterwards carried by a large majority, there being only six to the contrary:—"That this meeting urges every member of Parliament who supports the principle of the enfranchisement of women to vote for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill, on the ground that the patient and constitutional work of a vast number of earnest women and men should not suffer through the rash action of a small section." Votes of thanks to the speakers were passed on the proposition of Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Wickstead.

The NOTTINGHAM Society held its annual meeting on March 14th at the Assembly Hall. Lady Maud Rolleston was in the chair, and councillor Margaret Ashton gave a most rousing address. The report of work done and financial statement for 1911 was read and passed, and the Council for the year (who will defer the election of the speaker, and to the hon. secretary for all her work for the branch, was proposed by Mrs. Blandy and seconded by Dr. Sarah Gray. Over 200 were present, who were mostly members, but six or seven new members were gained and a good collection taken. A small whist drive held this month at the offices realised a nice profit, and

the Weekly "At Homes" have been well attended. Fourteen members went up to London on Feb. 23rd. The LEICESTER Society has taken an office at 20, Granby Street. "At Homes" to members and friends were held on March 12th, 13th, and 14th, at which short addresses were given on the work of the Society, and several new members joined. The office is open daily from 10 to 1.

Eastern Counties. DEPUTATION TO SIR FREDERICK LOW, K.C., M.P. (NORWICH).

Representative (not all in an official capacity) from the Norwich Women's Suffrage Society, the Liberal Christian League, Women's Liberal Association, I.L.P., and Women's Labour League, waited on Sir Frederick Low on March 20th to urge upon him to support some measure of enfranchisement of women, and the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill. This latter he refused to support on the ground that it no longer conciliated. As to any further measure that might be introduced, he could not express himself before seeing the exact form the Bill might take. The Conciliation Bill he did not consider to go far enough, while on the other hand votes for women on the same terms as men would be an absolute impossibility, as enfranchising more women than men. On being further questioned as to what he would suggest as being the happy mean, he pleaded the lateness of the hour as rendering any further discussion impossible.

Very strong support was given to the deputation (unofficially) from representatives of the I.L.P., who made it evident to Sir Frederick Low that any measure introduced to enfranchise more men, without including at least some measure for women, would undoubtedly result in the I.L.P. withdrawing its support from the Liberal Party.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT THETFORD, NORFOLK.—At a meeting held at St. Audrey's on Thursday, March 21st, Mr. T. H. Millington in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to form a Women's Suffrage Society in Thetford. Miss Phillips, head mistress of the Girls' Grammar School, kindly consented to be President, and Miss Leach Secretary. A committee of six ladies and gentlemen was chosen, and there is a membership of 29 persons at present, which it is confidently hoped will soon be much larger. A great deal of interest in our cause was evinced in the town.

ALDEFUDD.—A very successful drawing-room meeting was held at the White Lion Hotel on Wednesday, February 21st, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Sharp presided. Miss Mervin Mayer gave a very forcible address. She spoke of her own experiences among the starving factory girls on strike, and among the sweated women workers in the rope trade. She also spoke from personal knowledge of the satisfactory results of the enfranchisement of women in Australia. Her subjects were well chosen to interest her hearers, and her great enthusiasm has put a living spirit into our new society. The motion: "That this meeting calls upon the Government to grant votes to women this session" was carried with one dissentient.

EAST HERTS.—Tuesday, February 20th, a crowded and enthusiastic meeting was held in the school, Highcross. The Rev. F. A. Overton, of Highcross, took the chair, and Miss A. Villiers, of Stevenage, gave a very clear address on "The Reasons for Granting the Parliamentary Vote to Women." The COMMON CAUSE sold well, and 19 new members were enrolled at the end of the meeting.

On Thursday afternoon, February 22nd, a small meeting was held in the Coronation Hall, Ware. The Rev. Martin Reed took the chair, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave an address on "The Women's Suffrage Question." Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke again in the evening at the Cowdray Hall, Hertford. The Rev. W. Coad Pryor taking the chair. At all three meetings a Suffrage resolution was carried by a large majority, and copies were forwarded to Sir John Rolleston, M.P. for East Herts. This society now numbers 33 members and eight associates.

IPSWICH.—The annual meeting of the above society was held at the St. Lawrence Hall on Friday, March 22nd. The president, Miss Gale, took the chair, and the hon. treasurer and hon. secretary both read very satisfactory reports. The officers and committee for the next year were then elected. A public meeting was held in the evening. Miss Eva Ward took the chair, and Miss Maude Royden was the speaker. Mrs. Royden devoted a large portion of her address to a study of the influence of legislation on sweated industries, and the helplessness of women in that sphere because they had no political power.

S. Western. DEPUTATION TO MR. DUKE, K.C., M.P., (EXETER).

On Saturday last a deputation waited on Mr. Duke, K.C., M.P., to request him to vote for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. The following were present:—Miss Willcocks, B.A., Miss Lucraft, representing elementary teachers, Mrs. Scott (women in business), Mrs. Nawn (Co-operative Women's Guild), Mrs. Ross (Conservative married women), and the hon. sec. Mrs. Fletcher.

Mr. Duke repeated what he has said before, that though he believed women with the household qualification ought to have the vote, yet he did not consider he had a mandate from his constituents in this matter. He also declared that he would vote against Adult Suffrage. But if the Government brought in a Manhood Suffrage Bill, for which he did not consider they had a mandate, he would vote for an amendment to include a limited number of women. All the ladies present spoke urging the importance of

the vote and the indignity of being without it, each from her own position as worker or married woman, but nothing more could be obtained.

BARNSTAPLE.—A cake sale, entertainment, whist drive and garden party were held in the Parish Church Rooms on February 12th. Only a small sum was realised after expenses were paid. A very successful public meeting was held on March 13th in the Barnstaple Parish Church Rooms. The speakers advertised were Dr. Mary Morris, of Bath, and Miss Davenport, of Miss Baly, of Exeter, kindly took her place. Dr. Morris made a most brilliant speech, which was listened to with great interest by a large audience. Mr. Sydney Reavell was in the chair. Questions were invited and were very ably answered by the speakers. A collection was taken at the end of the meeting.

The annual meeting of the EXETER Branch was held at the smaller Barnfield Hall on Saturday, March 16th. There was a good attendance of members and friends. Mr. Linford Brown took the chair, and after the hon. secretary and treasurer had read the report and the balance-sheet, Mrs. Raekham addressed the meeting. She deprecated the recent actions of the W.S.P.U., but at the same time she urged all Constitutional Suffragists to ask themselves whether they could not sacrifice more to the Cause than they had been doing. Perhaps if they had all done more, militant tactics would never have arisen. She failed to understand the point of view of those members of the N.U. who wished to give up meetings and retire from membership at this juncture. Miss Montgomery moved and Mrs. Lincoln seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Raekham.

PLYMOUTH.—A meeting has been held each week in a different schoolroom in the outlying parts of the town—viz., Morice Town, Ford and Salisbury Road. The annual meeting of the branch, which was well attended, was held in the Corn Exchange on the 19th. Miss M. P. Willcocks, B.A., very kindly came from Exeter and took the chair, and after the report had been adopted and the Committee re-elected, Mrs. Raekham gave a very interesting address. Several new members joined.

SIDMOUTH.—At the invitation of the Executive Committee, a large number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the Suffrage question assembled at Trump's Winter Garden on Saturday, March 16th, to meet Mrs. Raekham, who gave an able address on "Women's Suffrage and the Present Situation." Tea was served at 4 o'clock. This is the eighth meeting which has been held in Sidmouth, and the neighbourhood this year in connection with Suffrage work.

TORNES.—A very successful and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Seymour Hotel Assembly Room on Monday, March 18th. Mrs. Raekham (London) and Sir Robert Newman, B.A. (Exeter) addressed the meeting, and Admiral Story moved and Mrs. Ulyat seconded a resolution expressing disapproval of the militant outbreaks, and urging every M.P. who supports the cause of the enfranchisement of women to vote for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill on March 22nd. Miss F. E. Mills Young was in the chair.

This month should have been a specially busy one in the Federation, and it is much to be regretted that many meetings have been given up for no better reason than the actions of another society. Those meetings which were held were particularly well attended, as was to be expected.

Manchester and District.

THE BAZAAR. The workers in the recent Women's Suffrage Bazaar in Manchester were entertained at the Midland Hotel by Miss Margaret Ashton on March 19th. The reception was very well attended. During the evening Mr. Brookes, one of the hon. treasurers, announced the result of the bazaar, which was £2,354, after all expenses had been paid. Miss Ashton was presented with a bouquet of roses and lilies by the committee, and in the course of a few remarks she announced that it had been decided to make gifts as mementoes of the bazaar to the members of the staff and also to the Hon. Thrift Fund Treasurer, Mr. W. W. Arnold, and to Mr. Livingstone Eccles.

ACCRINGTON.—On Wednesday, February 21st, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall. There was a good attendance. The speakers, Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., and Professor de Sumichrast, of Harvard University, were greatly appreciated. The Lady Beatrice Kemp was unable to take the chair which was very much regretted. Geo. Brownhill, Esq., J.P., kindly consented to preside.

The Blackburn Society held an "At Home" on Thursday, March 14th. The members were addressed by Mrs. Norman Dugdale (president), and Miss Mabel Sharples. The latter at the last moment took the place of her cousin, Mrs. Lees, ex-mayor of Oldham, who was ill, and gave an address on the practical and educative work, which the provincial societies can undertake to set the necessity of the Suffrage before women, especially working women. The meeting had the satisfactory result of bringing several new members to the society.

BOLTON.—The annual general meeting was held on March 13th at the Central Hall, Bolton. The chair was taken by G. Carruthers, Esq. Miss Rathbone, city councillor of Liverpool, gave an address. Mrs. Haslam, Post Law Guardian and president of the association, and others also spoke. The following resolution was carried:—"That this meeting expresses its indignation at the recent action of members of the Women's Social and Political Union in causing wilful destruction of private property, and affirms its adherence to the well-known non-militant policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. At the same time it urges every member of Parliament who supports the principle of the enfranchisement of women, and particularly the members for Bolton, Mr. Harwood and Mr. Gill, and the member for Westhoughton division, Mr. Wilson, to vote once more for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill on March 22nd on the ground that the rash action of a small section cannot affect the justice or urgency of the reform."

BUXTON.—The first meeting of the Buxton branch was held on the afternoon of February 20th, at St. Ann's Hotel, and was most successful. Mrs. Haslam, city councillor of Liverpool, gave an address. Mrs. Haslam, Post Law Guardian and president of the association, and others also spoke. The following resolution was carried:—"That this meeting expresses its indignation at the recent action of members of the Women's Social and Political Union in causing wilful destruction of private property, and affirms its adherence to the well-known non-militant policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. At the same time it urges every member of Parliament who supports the principle of the enfranchisement of women, and particularly the members for Bolton, Mr. Harwood and Mr. Gill, and the member for Westhoughton division, Mr. Wilson, to vote once more for the second reading of the Conciliation Bill on March 22nd on the ground that the rash action of a small section cannot affect the justice or urgency of the reform."

visitors to Buxton will come forward and give help. Will they apply to the honorary treasurer, Mrs. Vickery, Ellingham, Temple Road, Buxton?

WORSLEY.—The Eccles Society held two meetings, February 26th and 27th, in Monks and Worsley respectively. Miss Royden addressed both meetings and the Lady Beatrice Kemp took the chair at the Court House, Worsley, where she is so well known. The object of the meetings was to enlist the sympathy of the different churches in the division. Miss Royden gave a very interesting account of the "Church League for Women's Suffrage," and showed the necessity for the religious leagues which are being organised, as well as the secular society. The leading members of some of the churches were present and good results are hoped for.

LOSTOCK GRAM.—A meeting was held on February 29th in Lostock Gram. The chair was taken by Mrs. J. R. Tomlinson. The resolution that this meeting asks that Parliament enfranchise women in 1912" was proposed by Mrs. Cooper (Nelson), seconded by Mrs. Blinco, and passed nem. con. The meeting was well attended, the audience being chiefly composed of men.

MARPLE BRIDGE.—On Thursday, February 29th, a Suffrage debate (organised by the Local Women's Liberal Association and our branch) took place between Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A., and Miss Cordelia Moir, secretary of the Manchester branch of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage. The meeting was held in the Congregational Hall, Marple Bridge, and the chair was taken by Mr. David Thompson, of Mellor. Miss Ashton moved a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage. Miss Moir spoke against it, and after a discussion by members of both sides the point was decided by ballot, which resulted in 76 for the resolution and 69 against.

Scottish.

Various things are conspiring against our big meeting in Aberdeen on March 27th. The University vacation is on, and the students who might have helped us are all away. The coal strike has made factories and quarries close down, so the workers there cannot be reached by outdoor meetings. The British Women's Temperance Association is having a Conference in Glasgow which its leading representatives in Aberdeen must attend. But, despite all these handicaps, we are pursuing our course vigorously, and are rejoicing that we have the opportunity of coming well to the fore in the Granite City where one hears too often the statement that "the Militants have killed the Suffrage Cause." Mrs. Pawcett's Daily News article is proving a useful antidote for this ignorant and pessimistic state of mind. I hope to stay on a little while after the meeting, and shall be glad to receive further names of sympathisers and possible helpers at 130, Crown Street, Aberdeen. On the 21st I addressed a meeting at Brechin, where the membership has increased in a few weeks from 18 to 35. Mr. Robert Harcourt, member for Montrose Burghs, last week pronounced definitely against the Conciliation Bill in a letter to the local papers. His attitude seems to be the unreasonable one adopted by Sir W. P. Byles, but it is hoped that the memorial just sent him by his Brechin constituents may make some impression.

ALICE CROFTON.

S. Wales and Monmouthshire. CARMARTHEN. A memorial has been forwarded to Mr. Hinds, the M.P. for W. Carmarthenshire, signed by residents and voters in his constituency, principally official and professional men. Miss Waring was fortunately able to spend two days at Carmarthen, and did valuable work in promoting the memorial and in influencing town councillors and the local Liberal Association with regard to passing resolutions on the subject of women's suffrage. It so happened that neither at the ensuing meeting of the Council nor at that of the Association was there a sufficient attendance to warrant the adoption of a Resolution; but the subject is kept alive, and will be brought before both bodies again.

As Mr. Hinds' constituency contains only two branches of the N.U.W.S.S.—at Carmarthen and Lampeter (22 miles apart)—signatures were necessarily limited to the neighbourhood of these towns. Only four definite refusals were received at Carmarthen, and none at all at Lampeter.

West Lancs., West Cheshire and North Wales. SUFFRAGE SHOP AND CAFE AT COLWYN BAY.

Colwyn Bay has for a week been made keenly aware of the vitality of the local Suffrage Society by a line of flags across the main street, and a notice board announcing "Suffrage Shop and Cafe," and giving particulars of a full programme. Members and their friends had converted a grimy auction room into a most attractive "shop," well hung with bunting and surrounded by large placards bearing the names of all the great Suffrage organisations. The well-filled stall of embroideries and fancy goods and the literature stall occupied one side of the room, and the other was devoted to a cafe where a brisk business was carried on each day. The handwork of various kinds must have represented many weeks of preparation. The literature stall in a way the real heart of the undertaking found a very fair share of attention and, of course, offered opportunity for much conversation and a few warm discussions. On Monday evening the room was well filled for a meeting which had been announced on the handbills. Mr. Black, a very staunch friend of the society, took the chair, and I did my best to interest the audience on the political side in the work of local societies. An impromptu meeting was also held on another evening when we had an informal talk mainly on the arguments for including married women in the franchise.

On Saturday evening a delightful concert was given by the ladies from Penrhos College, and on Wednesday the society gave an entertainment. The first half of the programme was a charming dramatic scene from Cranford, and this was followed by humorous sketches by Mr. Norman and lightning sketches by Mr. Hammond. On Wednesday evening a presentation was made by Dr. Blake on behalf of the society to Miss Kenyon. Miss Kenyon has been the joint secretary with Miss Spencer of the society from its beginning, and is now forced to retire.

May I venture to suggest that the excellent example of the Colwyn Bay Society might be followed by other societies, specially those in seaside places? The Colwyn Bay effort was to culminate with a big meeting for Mrs. Phillip Snowden on Friday, but as she had to leave before then I am not able to report upon it.

EDITH ESKNIGGE.

Liberals and the Suffrage.

On March 13th, at the annual conference of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Women's Liberal Associations, held at Blackburn, under the presidency of Mrs. Egerton Steward-Brown, the following resolution was moved by Mrs. Francis Acland, seconded by Miss Truda Crossfield (Warrington) and unanimously passed:—"This Conference heartily thanks those M.P.'s who have supported the Conciliation Bill, and expresses its profound satisfaction that the Bill will be brought up for Second Reading on March 22nd, and earnestly urges all Liberal M.P.'s for Lancashire and Cheshire to support it, and further appeals to them to vote for the amendment to the Electoral Reform Bill advocated by Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Edward Grey, Lord Haldane, and other Cabinet Ministers. This Conference fears if Liberal Members fail to support these measures a large number of their most active workers will refuse any longer to support the Liberal Party, to which they look to do justice to their claim for Parliamentary enfranchisement."

A joint meeting of the Women Liberals and the Young Liberals was held in the Textile Hall, Bury, on Thursday, March 13th, 1912. The resolution, praying Parliament to enfranchise women in 1912, was proposed by Mr. J. R. Tomlinson, of Knutsford, seconded by Mr. F. S. Barnes, and carried unanimously. Copies are being forwarded to Sir George Toulmin, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Lloyd George.

Mrs. Osler addressed the annual meeting of the Wednesbury Women's Liberal Association on March 13th. A resolution protesting against methods of violence, and urging the Government to enfranchise women this Session, was passed by a small majority. Mrs. King proposed a resolution at the annual meeting of the Birmingham Women's Liberal Association on the 19th inst. thanking the Government for facilities for Women's Suffrage in this Parliament, and urging the Birmingham Men's Liberal Association to promote a Suffrage resolution at the next annual meeting of the National Federation. It was passed with three dissentients.

Local Councils which have Passed Resolutions in Favour of Women's Suffrage during the Past Two Years.

We have heard from Miss Bennett that Newry, Pembroke, and Bray must be added to our last week's list, and that the Galway County Council, as well as the Urban District, has passed a resolution. From Mr. Brailsford we hear that Ambleside, Canterbury, Jarrow, Penryn, Truro, and Wrexham have followed in England; Warrenpoint in Ireland; Newport and Swansea in Wales. The list so far totals 153.

People's Suffrage Federation.

A conference will be held on Saturday, March 30th, at Essex Hall, Essex-street, Strand, at 3 p.m., to demand the inclusion of womanhood suffrage in the Government's Electoral Reform Bill. Mrs. Anderson (Miss Mary McArthur) will be in the chair, and a large and representative number of women's industrial organisations will attend. We hope to publish a report next week.

Service at St. Ethelburga's.

A singularly beautiful and impressive service on behalf of the enfranchisement of women was held at St. Ethelburga's, Bishopsgate, on Thursday, March 22nd, conducted by the Rev. Dr. Cobb.

The service was chiefly devoted to prayer, and there were seven special petitions. That the Government might be given wisdom, that they might act justly and that speedily. That our opponents might be converted, and that we might work with singleness of mind. That comfort might be given to those suffering for conscience sake, and that peace and goodwill might reign on earth.

After these were concluded, Dr. Cobb gave a short and inspiring address. The woman's cause was the cause of righteousness, and the cause of God. Men and women were incomplete without each other. Government by man alone was in-

complete. This message was one of good cheer, of confidence, and steadfastness. Several beautiful and appropriate hymns were sung during the evening, and the audience dispersed all surely feeling deep gratitude that they had been privileged to be present at such a service.

Teacher's Plea for Equal Pay for Equal Work.

The following interesting memorial has been signed by more than 1,500 women teachers engaged in the Council and Voluntary Schools of Birmingham. It is addressed to the chairman and members of the Elementary Education Subcommittee:—Ladies and Gentlemen,—We, the undersigned women teachers engaged in the Council and Voluntary Schools of the enlarged City of Birmingham, respectfully request that in all future scales of salaries no differentiation shall be made in the amounts paid to women and men when the work and responsibility are equal.

We beg to submit to your consideration the following reasons in favour of our plea:—

- (1) The work of men and women teachers involves equally long training and probation. The examinations are the same, except that women must possess additional qualifications in needlework and, if trained for infants' schools, kindergarten.
(2) Their hours of work are equally long and arduous, and the difficulties and responsibilities are the same.
(3) The classes taught by women are as large as those taught by men, and as head teachers, women have the sole responsibility of departments in some cases as large as those under the charge of head masters.
(4) The education of girls and the younger children, which is generally entrusted to women, is of equal importance with that of boys, and of equal value to the community.
(5) The pay of women teachers is too low to admit of continued culture and enlarged experience which are necessary to the maintenance of a high standard of excellence in teaching.
(6) The cost of living, of the same quality, is as great for women as for men.
(7) The provision of a home, for those who make teaching their life work, is as necessary for women as for men.
(8) Generally speaking, salaries are too small to admit of saving, or making adequate provision for breakdown or retirement. Long and efficient service receives no recognition.
(9) Opportunities for rising to the best positions are very few. However successful, women teachers are seldom promoted to higher posts in the educational service.
(10) The lower rate of pay reflects unfavourably upon the status of women teachers.

We beg also to submit the following facts in support of our request:—At a general meeting of the Birmingham Association of the N.U.T. on December 19th, a resolution embodying the principle of equal pay for men and women was passed, and appears on the conference agenda for Easter 1912. In the State of New York, U.S.A., the principle of equal pay has been conceded.

In this country, other professions, and some trades have adopted this principle. The Medical Association refuses to allow women medical officers to accept less pay than men. The British Government has in its latest appointments adopted the same rule. Women Insurance Commissioners are to receive the same salaries as men commissioners.

In view of the above reasons, we ask that the scales of salaries should, in justice, be based on the principle of payment for work done irrespective of sex.

Women Workers in Local Government and on Parochial and Other Bodies.

Madam,—At the annual meeting of the Women's Local Government Society, held on Friday last, Lady Strachey, the President of the Society, read some extracts from a report of the speech made by Miss Violet Markham in the Albert Hall on February 28th.

The meeting instructed the Executive Committee to communicate to the Press a refutation of the charges brought against women (1) as regards their lack of interest in Local Government, and (2) as regards their general apathy about things which concern their less fortunate neighbours.

To (1) the annual reports of the society furnish a refutation, and as space here is limited, we must refer our readers to them.

As regards (2), in carrying out our instructions we shall quote from the report of the Albert Hall meeting, given in the "Times" of February 29th, as we believe the "Times" reports to be generally accurate.

Miss Violet Markham is reported to have said "that a woman's citizenship was as great and as real as that of any man, that her service was as vitally necessary to the well-being of the State." With this statement we cordially agree. The report of the speech continues—"the work of Local Government, with its splendid opportunities of civic betterment, and the natural uplifting of the race, belongs naturally to women. Here her powers of citizenship and service could find the fullest and noblest expression." . . .

"This great field was practically neglected. Let them think of it—in the length and breadth of the United Kingdom there were only 21 women elected on town councils, only 3 on county councils, and there were no fewer than 232

boards of guardians without a woman on them." Miss Markham's figures are correct as far as they go, but it must be obvious that the number of women who are successful in an election does not represent the whole number of candidates. In the last metropolitan borough election 64 women came forward and 8 were elected, in November, 1911, in England and Wales 14 women were nominated as town councillors and 6 were elected, in the triennial elections of 1910 there were 7 women candidates for county councils, and 3 were elected. There are at the present time 1,319 women serving on 413 boards of guardians. On statutory education committees there were 641 women, and on statutory committees for pensions and midwives there are many other members.

There are plenty of women wishing to offer their services to the community—women who are capable for the work—and one hindrance in their way is that a contested election is a costly affair, but even if the expenses were nil there are serious obstacles to be overcome. It is necessary for women as for men to offer themselves either as party or as independent candidates. If a woman stands as independent she has to provide for the whole organisation of her election, to find her own committee room, and money for expenses, amounting to some £20 to £200, according to the importance of the council to which she is seeking election. Supposing that a woman is nominated and supported by her party, she still has to secure the votes of a majority of the electors. The electors are for the most part ignorant of the duties of the various councils, and of the part which women should take in them. The Women's Local Government Society seeks to remedy this state of ignorance by recommending suitable men and women, with an accurate knowledge of their subjects, as lecturers, and the work of its affiliated associations is to arouse local interest in citizenship in various parts of the country.

But there is a serious restriction as regards the eligibility of candidates. Outside London, in England and Wales, married women and educated women of leisure living at home are not eligible as candidates for county councils. The qualification is an electoral one. The Women's Local Government Society's Local Government Qualification Bill provides a residential qualification for women and for men for town and county councils. From 1876 to 1894, while the qualification for Poor Law Guardians was electoral, only 169 women became guardians. After March, 1894, when a residential qualification was provided by

the Local Government Act, the number of women guardians at once rose to 875.

Mrs. Violet Markham is further reported to have said: "Why did these women, as rate-payers, tolerate slums and insanitary dwellings, infant mortality, indifferent education, and child labour—all matters which went to the very root of a nation's strength and well-being? Was it not humbug to talk about women being denied all share in the national life, when, a small minority excepted, they had shown so little practical interest or sympathy in causes which concerned the aged, the sick, the destitute, the erring, the welfare of little children—all causes which should go straight to the heart of every true woman?"

Can it be possible that Miss Violet Markham knows nothing of the gratuitous work of: The Workhouse girls' Care Association, district visitors, Sunday school teachers, the Girls' Friendly Society, C.O.S. committees, women's settlements, sisterhoods, parish workers of all kinds, the Salvation Army, the National British Women's Temperance Association, the hon. secretaries of homes and refuges, school managers, after-care committees, members of County Council advisory committees, and hosts of others too numerous to mention, or of the paid work of Bible women, police court matrons, mission women, district nurses, deaconesses, almoners, the Church Army, rent collectors, medical women, factory inspectors, sanitary inspectors, and, again, many more too numerous to mention.

Are not these women actively caring for and practically helping "the aged, the sick, the destitute, the erring, the little children?" It is true that this local work is not done in the "limelight and self-advertisement" of the Albert Hall platform. This work is "hard work, monotonous work, conscientious work; but it is work on which the whole future of the race turns."

We fully and freely recognise and are grateful for the work of this army of devoted women, and we seek to help them by every means in our power, by promoting legislation and otherwise, and where we cannot give the help that we would, we at least refrain from putting obstacles in their way and doing anything to belittle the good that is being done.

Signed on behalf of the Women's Local Government Society,

JANE M. STRACHEY, President.  
SARAH J. D. SHAW, Chairman.  
MARY T. LOCKYER, Treasurer.  
ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE, Secretary.  
19, Tothill Street, March 20th.

### Foreign News.

#### Denmark.

On February 24, one of the Danish suffrage groups celebrated its fortieth anniversary. The Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, and other members of the Government were present, and the former made a speech in which he pointed out that a revision of the Constitution which should not provide for Women's Suffrage was impossible, not only under the present, but also any future government.

The women of Copenhagen have recently been called upon to record their municipal votes for the second time. These elections are usually for the period of four years, and therefore they would not have been due till 1913, but some special financial measures necessitated a special appeal to the electorate in the capital. This took place on the 12th inst., but the results were not to hand when "Jus Suffragii" from which our information is taken, went to press. The following summary of the situation in Denmark is also taken from "Jus":

"The present Cabinet (moderate) stands for Women's Suffrage. In April, 1911, a proposal was carried in the Lower House, whereupon it was discussed in the Upper House, and referred to a committee. On November 8th, 1911, it was taken up again by the Upper House, and after a short debate referred to another committee of fifteen, where it has since been buried. One thing, however, must be remembered—that Women's Suffrage requires revision of the Constitution, and that involves that the Government will have to dissolve the whole Parliament. It is very gratifying to know that we have a Cabinet standing for Women's Suffrage, but it would be far more useful if the Cabinet were standing for the dissolution, and there are no signs to this effect at present."

#### Portugal.

It is interesting to read of rapid progress here, and indeed there is much to be done. One of the first essentials is the alteration of paragraphs in the Civil Code which are unjust to women. Dr. Alexander Braga has introduced a Bill to promote some of the most urgent reforms. Among these are (1) The free disposal by women

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which every Thinking Woman in the land, and very many thinking men, want to see and to study every day. "WOMAN'S PLATFORM" has ended what was called the "Press Boycott" of the serious interests of thinking women—not their ribbons and ornaments, but their thoughts, aims, claims, views, hopes, deeds, and—WORK.

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of their own salary; (2) the right to act as witnesses to wills and to give bail; (3) free disposal of their property; (4) equal rights with the father over the children; (5) a claim to indemnity in case of breach of promise of marriage.

Apparently there is little prospect that this Bill will pass. Perhaps it will help to educate the electors, which is a stage through which all reforms must pass.

The Portuguese Women's League celebrated its third anniversary on February 27 by entertaining its chief founder, Madame Ana Osorio. Many distinguished men and women assembled in her honour, and bore testimony to her work in the domain of education and suffrage, and to her pioneer labours on behalf of the social and economic emancipation of women.

The Association for Feminist Propaganda is about to issue a monthly organ, of which the first number will appear in April. It will be edited by Madame Castro Osorio, and proposes to keep in touch with the international feminist and suffragist movement.

### Review.

THE WINGS OF DESIRE. By M. P. Willcocks. (John Lane, pp. 363. 6s.)

It so happened that in the daytime I read "Wings of Desire" to myself, and in the evening "Emma" was read aloud to me, and if I had wanted to see how far women have moved in the last hundred years—I do not think I could have found a better illustration than in the contrast of these two books. Like Miss Austen's work, Miss Willcocks' is typical of her own time, but what a change in the type! Emma's picture of her future at 51, unmarried, is:—"Women's usual occupations will be open to me then as now; if I draw less, I shall read more; if I give up music, I shall take to carpet work." Now listen to Anne Herford, the little doctor in "Wings of Desire." "Liberty is coming to women, but we've got to prove we're worthy of it. We're going everywhere, free women after centuries of servitude; but we're going into such dark places that we must be sure always to take our own light with us." The tale is a long record of women struggling for a more sincere and truthful position, striving to put their relations with men on a new basis. It shows, too, the new awakening loyalty of woman to woman, and the pull that it gives a girl face to face with a difficult choice to feel she has numbers of women at her back, all helping to make footprints on the road for the others who will come after, and so find the way easier. The book is too crammed with stuff, too closely packed with cleverness to be popular; it seems to be written less as a novel than as an expression of the author's faith in women's future, and as such it is inspiring and worth while. The tale of treasure-seeking with which it opens is a kind of window through which one looks on to the men and women variously affected by the adventure and the escape it provides for them from difficulties and monotony. The crux of the book is the final ordering of Sara's life by herself. Every reader may not agree with her way out. There are few, after all, who have chosen the "muddy track" who have not at some time said to themselves, as did Sara, "This that to us is so glorious is to so many but a shame."

AGNES EVANS.

### 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.

#### CONSISTENCY.

Suffragists are carefully watching to see how Sir W. Byles, Mr. E. Cravshaw Williams and Mr. Sydney Buxton vote when the Bill for Home Rule comes on in the House. All the arguments they have used to show why they cannot support Women's Suffrage this session apply with greater force to the Home Rule Bill. If they remember, or if they look at the Blue Book, they will note the answers to questions on the crimes of the Irish which Mr. Birrell gave in February. They will see how much more serious and numerous those misdeeds were, and that it would seem that quite as many people are under some form of police protection as we have women in prison for window-breaking now. These Members of Parliament must be logical, and therefore I suppose they can only write fatherly letters to the papers saying that they consider their splendid cause, and that they are in favour of the Bill, as they have been for many years, but that this session they cannot vote for it on account of the deeds of violence of the Irish. They will note that these men have votes as a weapon, too, which women have not. These gentle-

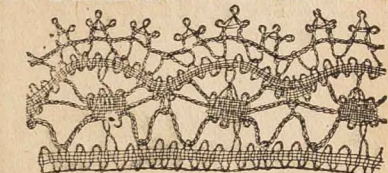
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NOW, Ladies and Gentlemen, won't you try them? The Virginia are 5/- per 100; the Turkish, 6/-. Perhaps you'd rather try a few first? Then just send along some stamps—I leave the amount to you—and I'll post you as many as I can for the sum you send. Only—DO IT NOW.

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Buy the Royal Primrose Soap from the Suffrage Shop, 54, Long Row, Nottingham. Send for Price List and Samples. All profits to the cause.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

Your correspondents who draw attention to my error in the matter of the amount of hours required for domestic subjects in the training of teachers in the Public Elementary Schools are quite right. I am sorry to find that I had been misinformed or had misunderstood my information. I see in the Board of Education Regulations of 1909, which appear to be the last issued, that the number is 1,600. This amount certainly seems to include a period (140-180 hours) which must be occupied in teaching. The discovery of my error, much as I regret it, does not affect my general view, as the aim of the King's College course differs from that of the Domestic Science Schools. I readily admit, however, that I laid myself open to criticism by suggesting the comparison.

As I am compelled again to seek the hospitality of your columns in order to acknowledge my own mistake, I am almost tempted to take up some of the fresh criticisms, or fresh ways of putting the old criticisms, advanced in your recent correspondence, especially as I see that I cannot have made my own position sufficiently clear. The discussion, however, is of the kind which tends to be interminable, both because of the detail involved, and because there are deeper questions of the philosophy of education behind which can hardly, I fear, be dealt with thoroughly here. Interested as I should be in discussing these with any willing to listen to me, I cannot take at present the time which this would demand, as it is owed in other directions. May I just, however, make one more reference to the external or surface aspect of the question of the inclusion of many subjects, and request those who cry out in horror at the notion of including short courses in certain sciences (in subordination to others) in a course which claims a place in schemes of Higher Education, to take a wider survey of University courses than they appear yet to have done? They will find, if they investigate, that it is not at all unusual in universities, Canadian, American, Scotch, English (including London B.Sc., Intermediate course) for some subject or subjects to be taken for a single year. The study of these short courses contributes a special kind of discipline, or aspect of knowledge, to the total result. An interesting example, and one of which I have had considerable opportunity of observing the effect, is that of the course in physics required in the first year of the Arts course of McGill University. In later years the student in the same course usually takes either Biology, or Geology for at single session. The advantage gained depends on a relation of each subject to the whole system of which it forms part. It is impossible to be dogmatic a priori as to the effect of different systems upon mental development, after an experience which is in the least degree varied.

HILDA D. OAKLEY, University of London, King's College.

PAY UP AND SHUT UP!

In February I had erected on the outside of my office window at Craven House, Kingsway, a sign bearing the simple words, "The Women Taxpayers Agency." (Other tenants of the building also exhibit signs indicating their name or business, or both.) No exception was taken to my sign until March 11th, just after the militant outbreak, when I got a peremptory notice that the word "Women" must be deleted from the sign, as the landlords and some of my fellow tenants (all men), regarded the word "Women" as being "offensive and objectionable, and they took serious exception to it." They "did not want women shouting that they paid taxes; women would do well to keep quiet."

I pointed out that the demand was most unreasonable, and that I could not be expected to consider it, but was informed that the demand for the removal of the offending word was to be taken as an ultimatum. My answer to the ultimatum was the immediate removal of my sign and myself into the building immediately opposite, very appropriately named Hampden House where the sign of the "Women Taxpayers Agency" will appear as prominently as before.

The sequel to my removal will probably be an action against me in the County Court, for damages for breach of agreement, as I left the premises before my tenancy had expired.

E. AYRES PURDIE.

OUR FRIENDS THE ANTIS.

I was delighted at coming upon the following paragraph in the March number of the Anti-Suffrage Review: "The Irish Anti-Suffragists welcomed gladly this first opportunity of working for their positive policy, viz., the 'principle of the representation of women on municipal bodies,' and they decided to help the woman candidate on the condition that the question of Woman Suffrage should not enter into the election." My pleasure increased on discovering from another column that this was no purely Irish policy; that the Local Government Advancement Committee is affiliated to the National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage. That individual Anti-Suffragists took a large share in the rougher work of Parliamentary as well as of Municipal elections, I knew; but it is a great step forward for Anti-Suffragists as a body to declare themselves in favour of this good Suffrage work. I do not know if you can spare room in your columns for the following imperfect attempt to express gratitude that they and we should thus be

"Keeping up an interchange of favours, Like good men in the truth of their behaviours."

AN N.U.-SUFFRAGIST.

We thank you, dear, dear Antis, we thank you from our heart, We're stepping out upon a march in which you take your part.

Oh, once we thought you'd leave us, but our fear it was not true, And we'll move along more briskly if it's side by side with you.

With the wisdom of the serpents and the mildness of the doves, You calm the fear of those who hear and charm their errant loves.

The wildest, the most shrinking male, at your alluring call With but little hesitation finds he's marching with us all.

In country and in city, in village and in town, You in Liverpool and Belfast, in Hertfordshire and Down, You are calling on the women to exercise their sway. Not by feminine allurements, but a better kind of way.

It's not the vote you stop at—oh no, you make it plain, O'er our affairs your women mayors and councillors shall reign.

We will not speak, not we, 'twould be too indiscreet a text, We will not speak, dear Antis, of what you'll ask for next.

For men listen to your speeches—they perfectly adore The pretty way in which you say "Don't give us any more."

Oh disingenuous, sincere, oh innocently wise, We wish you well, we long to swell the ranks of your allies.

We thank you, dear, dear Antis, we thank you from our heart, You're working hard for what we want, and with consummate art.

Oh, once we thought you'd left us, but our fear it was not true, And we'll gladly tread the pathway that is opened out by you.

Other Societies.

IRISH WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 15th, two meetings were held in the Temperance Hall, Roserae. They were addressed by Miss Buchanan, P.L.G., and Mrs. Haslam. The afternoon meeting passed off quietly, but there was considerable interruption at the evening meeting. Miss Buchanan dissociated the society from militant action. She pointed out how women were now forced into the industrial market, and now they needed the vote to protect their interests, and also how they desired it in order to enable them to better social conditions. Mrs. Haslam gave a short account of the society, which was founded in 1876, and is the oldest Suffrage Society in Ireland. She sketched the work it had done in Local Government. On March 19th, Mr. T. J. Haslam read a paper on "Some conditions of a possible Utopia." He said it was a delusion to imagine any kind of Utopia would ever be realised upon earth until the masculine attitude towards women had been fundamentally changed.

THE ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The Leap Year Dance, arranged by the Actresses Franchise League, was held at Princess' Galleries on the 19th, and was an enormous success. Dancing, which began at 10 p.m., was kept up until nearly 5 a.m., and even then, after such an enjoyable evening, many of the guests seemed reluctant to leave.

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The committee will be "At Home" to members and their friends at 2 Robert Street, Adelphi, on Friday, March 29th, at 3 p.m. Hostesses, Miss Maud Hoffman; chair, Miss Inez Bensusan. Speakers, Miss Ada Moore and Miss F. Campbell Patterson.

The next public meeting will be held at the Criterion Restaurant, on Friday, April 12th, at 3 p.m. (Please note change of date.) Madame Larkom will be the hostess, and Miss Maud Hoffman will take the chair. Speakers, Lady Stout, Mrs. Madeleine Luette Ryley and Philip Snowden, Esq., M.P.

NEW PLAYERS

19, Overstrand Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W. It will be interesting to playgoers to learn that Mr. Henry Ainley is going to play the part of the "Rev. Stephen Frame," the founder of the "Next Religion" in Mr. Zangwill's play of that name to be produced by the New Players at the London Pavilion on the 18th and 19th April, and Miss Adeline Bourne, who made such a success in "Medea" at the Kingsway, will play "Mary Frame." A reception will be held after each performance, when the President of the Society, Major-General Sir Alfred Turner, assisted by Lady Turner, Lady Tenterden, Lady Evelyn Guinness, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, Sir Harry and Lady Johnston, Lady Meyer, Mrs. Zangwill, and the ladies of the Reception Committee, will receive in the foyer of the theatre.

Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.

(The meetings are given only a fortnight in advance.)

- MARCH 28. Croydon—The Arcade, 34a, High Street—Opening of suffrage office—"At Home" 3-6 Blaenau Ffestiniog—Public Hall—Miss Margaret Robertson, Rev. H. Williams, Jones Morris, Esq. (chair) 8.0 Colchester—Dr. Bensusan Dutt's drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Rackham 4.0 Colchester—Mayor's Parlour and Town Hall—Members' meeting—Mrs. Rackham 8.0 Birkenhead—Institute Room, 2, Park Road South—Annual meeting—Mrs. Harley, Mrs. Ziegler (chair) 3.0 Gainsborough—Cleveland Hall—Miss Fielden, Mrs. Stainthorpe (chair) 3.30 Chester—Holborn Restaurant, Foregate Street—Members' meeting—Miss Evelyn Deskin, Miss Margaret Taylor, M.A. 3.0 Great Malvern—Mrs. Radford's drawing-room meeting—Miss O. Corbett, B.A., J. Cameron Grant, Esq. 8.0 Newton Abbot—Hiltsford—Mrs. Cordevent's drawing-room meeting—Miss Helen Fraser afternoon 3.0

- MARCH 29. Barnsley—Arcade Hall—Councillor M. Ashton, M.A. 7.30 Barmouth—Belle Vue Room—Miss Marjell Pryoe, Miss Eskegga, Mrs. Morgan 8.0 Exmouth—King's Hall—Miss Helen Fraser, Mrs. Knight Bruce (chair) 8.0 Purley—Mr. and Mrs. Shannon's "At Home"—Mrs. Duncan Harris, R. F. Cholmeley 8.45 Plymouth—Johnstone Terrace School 8.0 Woking—Central Assembly Hall—Annual meeting and "At Home"—Miss G. E. Hadow 3.0 Redcar—Mrs. Fothergill's drawing-room meeting—Miss Fielden 3.30 Reading—Messrs. Salmon's Cafe—Members' meeting—Mrs. Robie Uniacke 3.0 Llandrillo—Church Schools—Mrs. J. J. Richards, Miss Stewart, Rev. W. Foulkes, Rev. J. Davies (chair) 7.30

- MARCH 30. Exeter—Temperance Hall—Great Western Railway men—debate—Miss Helen Fraser 8.0

- APRIL 1. Budleigh Salterton—Public Rooms—Miss Helen Fraser 8.30 Nottingham—Office, 54, Long Row—"Electoral Reform"—Mrs. Blagg 7.30 Stevenage—"The Chestnuts," Basils Road—"The present political position of W.S."—Mrs. Reed 8.0 Knutsford—King's Coffee House—Annual meeting 7.30 Social meeting—Miss M. Hewitt 8.0 Uxbridge—Brookfield Restaurant, High Street—"At Home"—"British Women in History" 7.30

- APRIL 2. Newcastle-on-Tyne—27, Ridley Place—Suffrage choir practice, conducted by Mrs. Belle Simpson 8.0 Romiley—St. Chad's School—Devotional meeting, conducted by Rev. S. P. Gray (Redbry) 8.30 Romiley—St. Chad's School—Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A. Rev. H. Enfield Dowson, B.A. (chair) 7.45

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

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MISS I. O. FORD will be delighted to receive books for a Women's Suffrage Bazaar to be held in Leeds on 14th and 15th June, to raise money for the West Riding Federation. Sermons and School books are not required. Adel Grange, Leeds

MISS MUREL MATTERS has free dates for lectures in April and May. Address: 27, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

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LONDON.

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Notting Hill Gate—33, Ladbrooke Square—Lady Stawell's "At Home"—Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Stawell (chair).

APRIL 3. Windsor—Castle Hill—Open-air meeting—Miss C. Corbett, B.A., J. Y. Kennedy, Esq.

SCOTLAND.

Perth—The City Hall—Mrs. Snowden, C. M. Robertson, Esq., Miss Haldane, of Cloan (chair).

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Reception to delegates and Executive Committee, Scottish Federation annual meeting.

Stirling—Albert Hall—Mrs. Snowden, C. M. Robertson, Esq., A. Ponsonby, Esq., M.P. (chair).

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Inverleithen—Parish Church Hall—Mrs. Philip Snowden, C. M. Robertson, Esq. (chair).

Kirkcaldy—Beveridge Hall—Mrs. Snowden, R. C. Lockhart, Esq. (chair).

IRELAND.

Dublin—39, Molesworth Street—Irish W.S. and Local Government Association—Meeting to consider aims and objects of the United Irishwomen—Miss Hayden, M.A. (chair).

Birmingham—Choruch League—Mrs. Adams' drawing-room meeting—Mrs. Bethune Baker, Mrs. Ring (chair).

West Bromwich—Labour Church—Miss E. J. D. Morrison, M.A.

West Bromwich—Town Hall—L.L.P.—Miss E. J. D. Morrison, M.A.

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SURREY, SUSSEX & HANTS FEDERATION. Hon. Secretary: Miss M. O'SHEA, The Cottage, Cosham, Hants.

Area: The Counties of Surrey, Sussex and Hants and Isle of Wight. SOCIETIES AND SECRETARIES. Aldershot.—Miss ELISE C. GARRATT, Sherwood, Church Lane East, Aldershot.

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Peelers.—Miss A. F. BEAUCHAMP, Dawcyk, Stobo, Peebles-shire. Perth.—Mrs. ANDREW SMITH, Murrayville, Kinross Terrace, Perth.



**Votes for Women.**

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

**PUBLIC MEETING**LARGE ESSEX HALL,  
ESSEX STREET, STRAND.**Friday, March 29, 8 p.m.**

To discuss result of Second Reading of the

**CONCILIATION BILL.**Speakers:—Mrs. Despard, Mrs. May Wright Sewall,  
Dr. G. B. Clarke (ex-M.P. for Caithness),  
Miss Anna Munro, Miss Alison Neilans.

Chairman - - - - Miss NINA BOYLE.

Reserved Seats, 1s. and 6d. Admission Free to Women.

PEOPLE'S SUFFRAGE FEDERATION.

**WORKING WOMEN AND THE VOTE.**A Conference of Delegates from  
SELF-GOVERNING ORGANISATIONS  
OF WORKING WOMEN(Women's Co-Operative Guild, Women's Labour League, Railway Women's  
Guild, National Federation of Women Workers, Trade Unions and  
Branches) in London and the Neighbourhood, will be held at**ESSEX HALL, ESSEX STREET, STRAND,**  
LONDON, W.C.,

On SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 30th, at 3 o'clock,

**TO DEMAND THE INCLUSION OF WOMANHOOD  
SUFFRAGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S  
ELECTORAL REFORM BILL.**

Chairman - - - - MISS MARY MACARTHUR.

The Gallery will be Open FREE to the Public.

**NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.****SECOND READING**

OF

**CONCILIATION BILL.****MARCH 28th, 1911.****THURSDAY NEXT, 3-11 p.m.**

Members of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies who wish to be in Parliament Square during the progress of the Debate are informed that Rooms have been reserved at the Victoria Mansions Restaurant, 24, Victoria Street, open from 4 p.m.—11 p.m., where Tea, Dinner and Light Refreshments will be obtainable at moderate prices.

Mrs. Fawcett and Members of the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. will be present in Parliament Square and at 24, Victoria Street during the afternoon and evening.

The Offices of the N.U. and of the London Society will be open till 7 p.m.

**WOMAN SUFFRAGE**  
**A DEBATE**

WILL TAKE PLACE IN

**KENSINGTON TOWN HALL,**

ON FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH, AT 8.30 P.M., BETWEEN

LADY FRANCES BALFOUR MISS MARGARET ROBERTSON  
(National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies)MRS. ARCHIBALD COLOUHOON AND MISS GLADYS POTT  
(National League for Opposing Woman Suffrage)

CHAIR - - - - DR. DOUGLAS COWBURN.

Admission by Ticket only. Seats Numbered and Reserved, 2/6 & 1/-, and a limited number of free tickets to be obtained from the N.L.O.W.S., Caxton House, Westminster; the N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster; or from the Hon. Sec., Kensington Branch N.L.O.W.S., 25, Bedford Gardens, W.; or from the Kensington Committee of the L.S.W.S. Sec., Miss Boyd, 5, Onslow Place, S.W.

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