

# Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

## MONTHLY PAPER.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

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No. 6.

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MARCH, 1910.

**! SPECIAL REMINDERS !**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,**  
**ANDERTON'S HOTEL,**  
**APRIL 26th.**  
**OPEN AIR MEETING,**  
**HYDE PARK,**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 6th.**

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting to pass the report and accounts, to elect a new Committee, and to consider resolutions of which due notice shall have been given, will be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on April 26th, at 8 o'clock. The Committee's report and the agenda will reach every member in due course. It is hoped that every member will make a point of being present in order that the future of the League may be carefully considered. Our strength has so much increased that this question deserves every possible attention.

### DONATIONS DURING FEBRUARY.

THE Honorary Treasurers have received the following donations since the last issue of this paper. They desire to emphasize the appeal made at the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 22nd, by Mr. H. G. Chancellor, and to point out that there are innumerable avenues of work opening before us which we cannot enter for lack of funds. If we are to do the work in the provinces and help to form branches, we must have organizers: honorary organizers among men are not easily found owing to the claims of business. We must, therefore, have a largely increased income, more than double our office expenditure, and provide ourselves with a staff of organizers. Donations will be acknowledged by the treasurers, Messrs. Goldfinch Bate and H. G. Chancellor, M.P.

	£	s.	d.
A Friend .. .. .	10	0	0
" (Special) .. .. .	5	0	0
Aldis, J. A. .. .. .	0	5	0
Atkinson, W. E. G. .. .. .	0	2	6
Bache, Miss M. .. .. .	0	10	0
Bateson, Mrs. .. .. .	2	0	0
Birnstingl, Miss .. .. .	0	5	0
Chapman, J. B. W. .. .. .	0	6	0
Copeland, Dr. .. .. .	0	10	6
Corben, Dr. Chas. .. .. .	1	1	0
Cripps, Rev. J. Ivory .. .. .	0	2	6
Crofton, Miss .. .. .	0	5	0
Drysdale, Dr. .. .. .	2	2	0
Dugdale, Commander .. .. .	0	5	0
Durand, R. A. .. .. .	0	2	0
Elworthy, Miss .. .. .	50	0	0
Evans, Mrs. .. .. .	0	4	0
Francis, S. L. .. .. .	0	2	6
Goodacre, Mrs. .. .. .	0	2	0
Goodwin, Ernest .. .. .	0	10	0
Gray, E. .. .. .	0	10	6
Gugenheim, Th. (Open Air Fund) .. .. .	1	0	0

### EDITORIAL.

THE political situation is turbulent, and our prospect of being received in deputation by the Prime Minister is not increased by the possibility that another General Election is imminent. The matter is being vigorously pressed by the Committee. In any case the general position is negatively more hopeful, in that there is now no longer so huge a difference between the parties. If another election is forced on the country, members will at once be asked to take up the cudgels again, and we hope that the response will be no less enthusiastic.

Members are joining the Franchise Club, 66, Russell Square, at the rate of nearly twenty a week!

Special attention is drawn to the following announcements in another column:—

Annual General Meeting, 8 o'clock, April 26th, Anderton's Hotel.

Open-Air Meetings every Sunday from March 6th, 2.30 P.M., Hyde Park.

We hope that Mr. Th. Gugenheim and his sub-committee will have the support of a large body of speakers. Last year there was a disproportionate amount of work done by half a dozen men. Surely there are at least a hundred London members who will give two or three speeches this summer? Will they write and fix dates, so that we may save time and postage?

The Treasurers' appeal has received a much better response during the past month. A list of donations is given below. Mr. A. A. Eustace has kindly provided the office with a much-needed set of year-books.

	£	s.	d.
Gugenheim, Th.	0	10	0
Hammerschmidt, Miss	0	2	0
Hersey, Hugh	0	10	0
Hilhouse, S.	1	0	0
Hogg, H. Roughton	5	0	0
Holland, A. W.	0	10	6
Housman, L.	0	5	0
Jacobs, Herbert	0	5	0
Jacobs, Herbert	5	0	0
Kennedy, J. Y.	1	0	0
Lucas, Gilbert	0	2	6
Newman, Miss	4	4	0
Norris, T.	0	2	0
Paget, Miss R.	0	10	0
Parke, Warden	0	2	0
Pott, R. H.	5	5	0
Rawles, Mrs.	0	10	6
Russell, Mrs.	0	1	0
Samuel, Mrs. Gilbert	1	10	0
Vulliamy, E.	1	1	0
Wollensen, Mrs.	0	1	6
Yaldwyn, C.	0	2	6
Grand Total	£103	0	0

### QUEEN'S HALL MEETING.

OUR annual demonstration was held in the Queen's Hall on Tuesday, February 22nd. As usual Mr. Herbert Jacobs, founder of the League, was in the chair. A considerable audience of men and women assembled in spite of a day of storm and rain, and many well-known friends of the cause were present. The proceedings began with an organ recital from Mr. Benjamin Dale, and at 8 o'clock the Chairman led on to the platform the following speakers: the Earl of Lytton, Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P. (Plymouth), Mr. H. G. Chancellor, M.P. (Haggerston), one of our honorary treasurers, and Mr. Laurence Housman. Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., arrived shortly afterwards, and Mr. George Elliott, K.C., and Mr. A. M. Langdon, K.C., sent telegrams regretting their inability to come.

THE CHAIRMAN was in exceedingly happy vein, and a series of bon-mots at the expense of the Anti-Suffragists were greeted with hearty laughter. "Dr. Massie," he said, "either the discoverer or the chief exponent of the physical force argument (laughter) . . . has been forced out of his seat by the muscular electors of the Cricklade division of Wiltshire. (Loud laughter.) Dr. Massie . . . felt called upon to give the reasons for his defeat. These reasons seem to me unconvincing. Has he not overlooked the fact that his opponent was the stronger man?" (Applause.) Passing on to the future of the cause, the Chairman prophesied that the Anti-Suffrage candidate at the next General Election would be a rare phenomenon, and alluded to the case of such a gentleman who, instead of being adopted last year, "was returned with thanks to the Party Whip."

THE EARL OF LYTTON moved the resolution:

"That the exclusion of women from the Franchise is both unjust to women, and detrimental to the best interests of the State."

In the course of a most convincing speech, delivered in a grave and impressive manner, the noble Earl briefly outlined the logical basis of women's claim to enfranchisement in relation to the system of Government under which we live. Passing from the necessary relation which should obtain between duty and privilege, he stated with great emphasis that from this time forward "every Government and every Parliament will have to realize that it is governing without the consent of a large section of the population. (Cheers.) That is a very serious situation, when you realize that the whole theory and basis of our Government is the consent of the people governed. (Loud applause.) . . . The laws and taxes which they pass are without that very necessary

sanction; and the influence which the Government exercises is, *pro tanto*, impaired.

The present House of Commons, he went on, is entirely occupied with redressing its own grievance. That grievance is intimately bound up with the cause of Women's Suffrage. The Government are seeking to change the Constitution—a "step which more than any other requires the fullest possible authority, and the amplest sanction and justification. . . . Yet here we have a Government embarking upon no less than a political revolution without having taken any steps to enable the voice of a large section of the population to be expressed."

In the second place, no one who had watched the course of the recent election and read the addresses of candidates could have a moment's doubt as to the value of the vote. He himself, as a candidate for Municipal office, had learnt this practically. Let them compare the treatment meted out to Suffragists who interrupted meetings with that accorded to other political hecklers. Again there was more violence during the General Election than had occurred during three years of Suffrage militancy. What of the Prussian Franchise riots?

Vigorous work had been done by women during the election, and what candidate had expressed his disapproval of their intervention on his behalf, though such intervention might well have been said to interfere with their home duties?

The speaker then pointed out how intimate is the concern which women have with modern politics, and argued strongly against the view of the party suffragist who declined to put his principles in practice if by so doing he might damage his party.

Finally the noble Earl paid a tribute to the extraordinary courage and devotion shown by Suffragists. No other political party had displayed courage so conspicuous, determination so unswerving. "That is the best guarantee that any cause can have of its ultimate triumph." We may say to-day in the words of Brutus, "O, that a man could know the end of this day's business ere it come; but it sufficeth that the day will end." Yes; and it can end in one way only—in victory. (Loud and continued applause.)

MR. ANEURIN WILLIAMS, M.P., said he had been reflecting on the arguments of opponents, but could not occupy even a short speech with them. The alleged frivolity of women had been disposed of by Mrs. Poyser, "She would not deny that women were fools, saying that God Almighty had made them so to match the men." (Laughter.) As to the fighting argument "there are a great many essential things in the world besides fighting, some of which are the monopoly of one sex, some the monopoly of the other, and some which can be shared by both." Women have already to deal with many matters outside the home: why not politics? He preferred to pass from these outworn objections to positive facts. It was a constitutional principle that taxation and representation should go together; almost all the constitutional battles had been on this principle, and it was firmly established. Such a principle implied Adult Suffrage, but he was prepared "to advocate any instalment of justice, whether to men or to women; and the women's cause is evidently the more crying one at the moment." (Applause.)

Practical considerations were equally cogent. The taxation of food, unemployment, temperance, the care of children, problems of morality, marriage, education, factory laws, shop hours, old-age pensions: all these were intensely important to women. And there was to be considered the essential question of the growing numerical disproportion between the sexes.

Reforms of the franchise—1832, 1868, 1885—had always led to new social reforms directly bearing on the welfare of the new electors, and, party politics apart, there was agreement as to their usefulness. Surely similar results would follow in the matters he had spoken of, if women were enfranchised.

It was said that women would be spoiled by politics. He agreed with the greatest of our women poets, who said, "I would rather take my part with God's day than keep quiet here and gather up my feet from even a step for fear to soil my feet in so much dust. I choose to walk at all risks." (Loud applause.) The essential thing was that women should take part in the

improvement of the race. "Nature demands not the seclusion and restriction of women to narrow issues, but their entering into the wider issues of life, which is essential in the interests of the race. 'The world waits for help.'" (Loud and continued applause.)

MR. HUGH LAW, M.P., who was introduced by the Chairman as a member of a party in the House of Commons believed at present to possess some power, declared that his sex were not taking their share in this struggle for the common weal. (Cheers.) It was difficult to deal with the puerile objections to Women's Suffrage. There were some Liberals who said women were born reactionaries; there were Imperialists who said that since women could not bear arms they would be for peace at any price. It was, however, quite impossible to foretell the result of any extension of the franchise. The prophets were nearly always wrong. All this reasoning was based on the assumption that men and women were two hostile species, and woman in particular a species of which nothing was known, and of which the only thing that could be foretold was that it would not act as a man would. (Laughter and applause.) Not a single measure before the country in the past or the present, or ever likely to be, could be pointed to which could divide men and women as men and women. (Loud applause.) They had adopted a system of Government in which appeal was made by everybody, even in the House of Lords, to some wonderful person called "The Will of the People." (Laughter.) It had this disadvantage—it was not a reality. (Applause.) They appealed to the people and the people was carefully defined so as to exclude rather more than half the population. (Loud applause.)

MR. H. G. CHANCELLOR, M.P., read, amid applause, a statement in *The Nation* that "The hostile cause is still argued in this quarter or that, but the general intellectual assent of the community to the principles of the Suffrage indicates one of the most absolutely finished causes that we know of in politics."

The speaker alluded to his experiences as a candidate in Haggerston. He had succeeded, as Liberal candidate, an inveterate opponent of Women's Suffrage. He had frankly told his constituents that if they took him as their candidate they must do so on the understanding that he not only supported Women's Suffrage, but that he advocated it. (Applause.) He had put it clearly and distinctly in his election address. (Hear, hear.) And whenever the question came up at his meetings he stood boldly and strongly for the emancipation of women at the earliest possible moment. (Cheers.) Whilst he desired Adult Suffrage, if that were not practicable at the present moment, he would go for the limited measure. (Loud applause.) He did not believe he had lost a single vote through that. He was certain he had gained some. If a majority of the population was excluded from any effective power in organizing the effective expression of a public opinion at a general election, then a general election was no real index of public opinion at all. (Applause.) He sympathized with the irritation of women who were being denied this elementary right, without being entirely convinced of the wisdom of the form which it took. It was an irritation shared by men who were debarred from exercising the Franchise by unjust registration laws. He responded to some cries of "Torture!" by saying that he wished to bring that to an end in the only practical way, by the grant of the Suffrage for which the torture was undergone. (Applause.) At the last election there were a large number of members of Parliament in sympathy—platonically—with the aims of women. This time there were many who had definitely put it in their addresses, definitely pledged themselves, in public, to support the movement, and would put all the pressure they could upon the Government to allow facilities not only for the discussion, but for the passing of some measure. (Applause.) He hoped that those members of Parliament would, if necessary, make it dangerous for the Government for refuse. (Loud and continued applause.)

This change in the recent elections was due to the self-sacrifice of the women. But also the men had been thinking of the subject—(A voice "Time they did"; laughter and

cheers)—and had realized that the objections were not based on argument, but on prejudice. When clear thinking began, prejudice began to dissolve.

One of the effective instruments for this conversion of men was the Men's League. (Cheers.) It started few in numbers, divided in politics, not only in the ranks but on the committee, but united on one question—the removal of the disability which attaches to women and their enfranchisement on the same terms as men. (Loud applause.) The speaker then paid a tribute of respect and admiration to the work of the Honorary Secretary, which was received with loud and prolonged cheering. He continued with an account of the progress made by the League during the last twelve months, and with a strong appeal to the men in the audience to join the League, and for further subscriptions and donations to the funds, which were urgently needed. He stated that the work was being done on something like £300 a year. They wanted at least £1,000 a year, that they might practically support a Bill which would pass through Parliament by common consent, and not as a party measure; a measure to bring into the homes of the women of England all the benefits which are derived from the possession of the only effective instrument that remains to us for bringing about great legislative reforms. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

The Chairman then directed the stewards to take the collection. Subscription cards were also distributed. A telegram was read from Mr. George Elliott, K.C. (who contested S. Beds in the Conservative interest in January), regretting his inability to speak owing to illness, and sending hearty wishes for the success of the meeting and triumph for the women's cause.

MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN said that he wished to be for a moment practical. The Chairman was anxious at that, because he knew there was a little centre of militancy in his (the speaker's) heart. On that occasion the constitutional lion had lain down with the militant lamb, and the militant lamb was in his inside. (Loud laughter and applause.) "Practical" did not necessarily mean "militant." Had all men who theoretically believe in the justice of this cause been practical, there would have been no call for militancy. (Loud applause.) The mere theoretical Men's Leaguer had disappeared, or was becoming merged in the practical. Every member who was working for the cause was putting it more and more in the forefront of politics. (Applause.) There was a taint and a wrong in all legislation when the voice of any one who ought to be included was not included. The speaker took the Budget for an example, and pointed out that women were the natural Chancellors of the Exchequer in everyday life. (Hear, hear.) The veto against women was more offensive than any other veto would be. (Applause.) The right of the women was not a half right, but a fundamental right. He believed that if women were given a voice in matters of pure air, pure water, traffic, sanitation, smoke abatement, temperance, and morality, this country would possess a cleaner and sweeter face to the heavens, and would become a land more acceptable to God. (Applause.) There had been a new interpretation given to chivalry, namely, that it was the exchange of a favour for a right; that if women gave up their right, favours would be extended to them. He was glad that women were saying: "We have done with that sort of chivalry." (Loud and prolonged applause.)

After reading a telegram from Mr. Langdon, K.C., saying he was detained in Liverpool, the Chairman put the resolution "That the exclusion of women from the Franchise is both unjust to women and detrimental to the best interests of the State" to the meeting, and it was declared to have been carried unanimously.

The Honorary Secretary then announced the result of the collection—over £28. Promises of further sums had also been given. He appealed to Suffragists to attend the Trafalgar Square Demonstration on April 2nd at 3 o'clock, and also to come regularly to the Sunday afternoon meetings in Hyde Park. The proceedings then terminated.

## BRANCH NEWS.

## BRISTOL.

THIS Branch has been active and alert during the month. On the 7th inst. a deputation, consisting of Canon Talbot (the President), Col. H. de H. Haig, Messrs. H. Brydges-Barrett, Arthur Daniell, Edgar Harris, and F. W. Rogers (Hon. Sec.) waited by appointment at Down House upon Sir Wm. Howell Davies, M.P., member for Bristol South, to enlist his assistance in obtaining a good place in the private members' ballot for a Women's Suffrage Bill.

Sir William, who is a well-known supporter of the women's movement, very cordially received the deputation, and discussed the question with the members, eventually promising that if a Bill for enfranchising women was brought in he would back and support it, though he was not at the moment prepared to promise to give up any place he might obtain in the ballot. The members impressed upon Sir William how important it was, with parties so evenly balanced in the House of Common, that the opposition of the women of the country should be removed, especially in view of the approaching by-elections, the opinion being expressed that their active opposition would not only be a serious menace to the Government candidates, but would also tend to confuse the issue. The interview was reported at length in the local press.

Upon the occasion of an address being given by a well-known Anti-Suffragist to the Debating Society at the Y.M.C.A., St. James's Square, Major Edwards and Mr. F.W. Rogers attended by invitation, and took part in the subsequent discussion, a notable feature was the fact that although eight or nine speakers (two only being ladies) discussed the question, *no one* supported the Anti-Suffragist. Members of the Branch have also assisted the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies in waiting upon the (four) local members to present the "Voters' Petition."

Stewards were provided for the meeting at the Victoria Rooms, Clifton, held by the Conservative and Unionist Franchise Association, at which Lady Betty Balfour and Mrs. Bulnois were the speakers. Members are also arranging to act as stewards at Miss Christabel Pankhurst's meeting at the Colston Hall on March 2nd.

A largely attended "At Home" was held on the 8th inst. at 2, Kensington Villas, Clifton, by invitation of Mrs. F. W. Rogers and Miss Cridland, to meet Lady Isabel Margesson, who gave an address on the 'Enfranchisement of Women.'

F. W. ROGERS, Hon. Sec.

2, Kensington Villas, Clifton.

## LIVERPOOL.

A VERY successful "At Home" was held on February 14th. The speakers were Mrs. Allan Bright, Mr. Hughes, and Mr. H. C. Gorst. Co-operating with the Women's Freedom League, a good open-air meeting was held at the Wellington Column on February 16th, when three new members joined. Our next "At Home" is fixed for March 14th, 8 P.M., at the Engineer's Rooms, Mount Pleasant, when the speakers will be Frank L. Joseph, Esq., C.C., and Dr. Alice Ker, Chairman T. A. Patterson, Esq.

A. R. ALLERTON.

## MANCHESTER.

ON February 4th Mr. Sam Brooks, the Joint Hon. Secretary, debated with Mr. C. P. Hough, a member of the Executive Committee of the local Anti-Suffrage League, on the subject "Should Men support Women's Suffrage?" The meeting, which was held in the Lecture Hall of the Mill Street Free Church, Bradford, Manchester, was very well attended, and the sympathies of the audience were all with the women's movement. Mr. L. W. Zimmerman, J.P., a well-known Liberal in the North of England, presided. Mr. Brooks pointed out that "votes for women" was a matter affecting not only women, but the whole

nation. If our women were denied freedom, he declared, the probability was that the children of the present, who would be the men and women of the future, would not have the fire of freedom flaming in their hearts. His opponent made the usual Anti-Suffrage speech, obscuring the main issues and demolishing bogies existing only in his own too-fervid imagination.

The monthly meeting of the Branch was held on February 17th at Lockhart's Café in Oxford Road, opposite the Palace Theatre of Varieties, the Portland Café not being available. Mr. Brooks presided, and the Rev. G. E. Manning, of Sale, delivered a most interesting address on the present position of the movement. He paid a generous tribute to the devotion and self-sacrifice of the "militants" to whose efforts was due the tremendous progress that the cause had made during the last few years. The future, he believed, was most hopeful; success was inevitable, and would be speedily attained. A discussion followed, in which about half a dozen members took part. Before the meeting closed resolutions were adopted inviting the various political associations in the city to press upon the Government the need for the introduction of a Bill granting the Parliamentary vote to qualified women.

I deeply regret to have to chronicle the death of Mr. E. G. Taylor, who was a Vice-President of the Branch, and a devoted supporter of the women's cause. In him not only the Men's League, but all humanitarian and progressive movements have lost a great-hearted friend.

The March meeting of the Branch will be held on the 17th of the month at Lockhart's Café (situation given above). Once more I appeal to members of the Branch to signify their support of the Suffrage cause by attending. The Committee are afraid that in future they will not be able to post the *Monthly Paper* to members of the Branch unless the cost is defrayed by contributions given for this object.

Mr. Hugh V. Herford, 47, Parsonage Road, Withington, our Hon. Treasurer, will be glad if those members who have not yet paid him their subscriptions will kindly do so.

W. BENTLY CAPPER, Joint Hon. Sec.

21, Oxford Road, Manchester.

## SUSSEX MEN'S LEAGUE.

DURING the General Election we sent out canvass sheets to Suffrage Societies in over twenty towns in Sussex, together with literature. We have received the most encouraging returns from our canvass sheets, in fact, too encouraging, for we have more material than we can deal with at present. I hope to be able to make an announcement very shortly as to how we propose to take the work in hand. In the meantime we are opening a branch in Hastings. On February 28th, at 8 P.M., we are holding a meeting at 47, London, Road, St. Leonards, with the view to opening the branch. Mr. H. Baillie Weaver and myself will be the speakers, and Lieut.-Col. A. R. Savile will take the chair. This is likely to be quite a strong branch. We are also making preparations for forming branches in Worthing and East Grinstead. Any help your readers can give me will be very acceptable.

Early in April we are holding a General Meeting in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, which is to be followed by a public demonstration with well-known speakers. At the General Meeting we are issuing an Interim Report.

ADRIAN BRUNEL, Hon. Sec.

61, Norway Street, Portslade, Sussex.

## SOUTHSEA.

Mr. Daniel L. Lipson writes that a Branch is shortly to be formed in Southsea. A preliminary meeting is fixed for March 9th, 8.15 P.M., at 36, Stanley Street, Southsea.