

# The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of  
**WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**  
Societies.

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**Notes and Comments.**

**The Pilgrimage.**

Money and promises are coming in well for the Pilgrimage, but much more is wanted. We ought to outdo ourselves this summer, just to show that nothing can make us down-hearted! We publish elsewhere an account of the way the Somerville students at Oxford are working to raise funds, which should prove to everyone that where the will exists, the way can certainly be found. It does one good to go among the women's colleges at any time. One cannot believe in depression or even delay when one is there. The spirit is so fine, the enthusiasm so infectious.

The organisation of the Pilgrimage routes is still being worked out, and many of the details have yet to be fixed. Songs should be sent in to the N. U. Offices by June 10th at latest, as some of the more distant federations will be actually setting out on the 18th. A suggestion has been made that an adaptation of "O, Who will o'er the downs so free?" would make a good marching-song—but the adaptation has not been sent! Will someone try? And will they forgive THE COMMON CAUSE for the strange caricature it made last week of the title of the song—

"John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave,  
But his soul goes marching on?"

Questions have also been asked about dress, especially as to the correctness of wearing grey. Grey is one of the shades specially recommended by the Pilgrimage Committee, and since there seems to be a certain amount of misunderstanding still as to these recommendations, we beg to point out that their object was not to make each individual look as nice as possible, but to ensure some degree of uniformity. There is no one colour of which every member of the N. U. has a costume, and it was not desired that Pilgrims should be put to unnecessary expense in buying a uniform. The only alternative was to banish colour altogether, except the N. U. scarlet, white, and green, in badges, haversacks, and banners. Therefore black, white, grey, and navy blue were chosen, and surely almost everyone has some garment in one of these shades.

**Well-deserved Honours.**

Our heartiest congratulations to Sir Alfred Mond and Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson on their appearance in the Birthday Honours List.

**Report on the Jury System.**

We deeply regret that neither the Majority nor Minority Reports on the Jury System have any recommendation on the glaring anomaly that women are not eligible for service, but, on the contrary, recommend that the husbands of women rate-payers should be eligible instead of them. Women alone in this country have not that fundamental right of the free—the right to be tried by their peers. In spite of the fact that many offences tried in our courts are offences in which sex is liable to bias the judgment—such offences as wife-beating, assaults on women, and so forth—men, and men alone, give the verdict. And when women complain of this injustice, they are met with the insulting assurance that men are more merciful to women than women would be to each other! Women have no desire to see the guilty escape because they happen to be women, nor are they able to understand why such "mercy" is not exceedingly cruel to the innocent. On the other hand, they believe that the administration of the law against wife-beating or other violence against women, young girls, and even little children, would be considerably strengthened by the presence of women on juries.

It should be noticed, however, that the Minority Report recommends the basing of the jury list on the Parliamentary register. This would ensure that the granting of the franchise to women would automatically make them eligible for service on juries.

**Women Solicitors.**

We rejoice to see that four women are bringing actions against the Law Society, claiming to be examined for the profession of Law. Miss Bebb, Miss Karin Costello, Miss Maud Ingram, and Miss Frances Nettlefold—all winners of first-class honours at Oxford or Cambridge—are all bringing actions, but Miss Bebb's will be regarded as the test case. The case will turn on the interpretation of the word "man" in the Solicitors' Act of 1843. Miss Bebb's contention is that "man" here includes "woman," but the Law Society has consistently refused women admission, and withheld its support last year from the Bill then before Parliament enabling women to become barristers or solicitors. We wish success to Miss Bebb, both for the sake of the women who wish to practise as solicitors, and—perhaps even more—for those who would profit by their services.

**Women in the Civil Service.**

We have received, shortly before going to press, a Memorial to the Prime Minister, which has been called forth by the fact that a Royal Commission is at present enquiring into conditions in the Civil Service. The signatories, whose names must command the respect of all, include Anti-Suffragists like Mrs. Humphry Ward, Suffragists of every shade of opinion, and men and women holding important offices at the Universities. We print the Memorial *in extenso* on page 146, with the names and titles of those signing it, and call the attention of our readers to its importance. We cannot too strongly endorse the plea that "the very great and continued extension of the authority of the State in matters closely touching the life of the people has led to a pressing need of women's services in administration." This is the feeling which informs the whole

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

### "Solidaire."

We, when we open our eyes to the dawn of an African day,  
And hear anew the Voice of God as He passes on His way—  
"Let there be Light!" and there is light, clean as morn of the world—  
Do we think of women who never see the wings of day unfurled?  
We, when we come to the good day's end, lean out to bless our God  
As He walks in the cool of the evening—we see the way He trod,  
Through the garden of infinite spaces, beyond the adoring stars—  
If wrong can live in a land like this, what might it be afar?

My sisters, pardon  
If in our garden  
Faint sound the sighing,  
The sorrowful crying—  
The seas lie between us,  
The blue mountains screen us.

(From South Africa, The Woman's Outlook, April, 1913.)

It was Mrs. Josephine Butler, surely, who first said of womanhood that it was *solidaire*. She is the patron saint of all international women's movements, for she taught the unforgettable lesson that the wrongs of every woman are the wrongs of all women, and no woman can be outraged or oppressed but womanhood itself is the sufferer. She saw, early in her great warfare, that the problem to which she sought solution could never be solved by England alone, but must be linked on to the movement for reform in other countries, and advance made all along the line. In 1874 she set out for the Continent, and inaugurated Internationalism among women.

To-day, Labour itself—that great international force—is not more conscious of the solidarity of human happiness and pain than women are. It is significant that we have moved side by side in this matter. Labour has been sitting in International Congresses, breaking down the barriers of race once thought invulnerable, studying together the problems which everywhere await solution, and everywhere affect the welfare of the worker, whatever his nationality. But at the same time there has developed an equally strong sense of solidarity among women, who, breaking down the barriers of race and class at once, are everywhere seeking together the solution of problems which affect all women alike. The abolitionist Congress meets in Paris this week; the "Woman's Movement" will be studied in Stockholm next week by delegates from all over the world. The International Council of Women meets yearly in council. The International Women's Suffrage Alliance has met in London, in Stockholm, and this year in Buda-Pesth, with preliminary meetings in Berlin and Vienna. Delegates will attend from thirty countries, one coming even from far-off China. Side by side will sit the women who are still in the heat of the battle and the women whose battle is won. Australia sends her representatives no less than Great Britain. A hundred are coming from America, some from enfranchised, and some from still unenfranchised States. Their names are household words far from their own homes. Miss Jane Addams is one of them; Judge Lindsay another. Mrs. Chapman Catt and Dr. Anna Shaw are as well known in Europe as in America. An International Suffrage paper, *Jus Suffragii*, is read everywhere. Even in those countries where women are not asking for the vote, because representative Government in our sense does not exist, the woman's movement exists. In Turkey, in India, in Japan, women are asking for freedom. They will not be with us at Buda-Pesth, but their spirits are with us, and we strive the more valiantly because of the help we must some day bring to them. For we desire not political freedom only, or only for ourselves, but political freedom in order that we may win social and economic freedom also and for all. The world is shrinking

memorial. It goes on to urge that women should be appointed and promoted on their merits, as men are. There is at present a strong tendency to hold women unfit for higher and more responsible work than merely typing, and the women-typists who begin at 20s., have no prospect of rising to really responsible and well-paid positions. This is bad for the women, and surely bad for the service. Very much better conditions can be had in other employments for really competent women, and it is not right that Government service should be the worst paid and (consequently) liable to be the worst served. No one asks that special provisions should be made in favour of women, and if they are not fit for better work than they have at present, they will not, and should not, get it. But promotion and recognition should be by merit in all good service, and the new activities of the State in domestic legislation imperatively demand the help of women.

Women have a specially strong case for eligibility "to scientific and other specialist appointments, especially in State Museums," for the work done by women in research is past the stage of contemptuous disbelief. Names like those of Mrs. Strong, Miss Jane Harrison, Mrs. J. R. Green, Mrs. Hammond, and Mrs. Sidney Webb occur to the mind at once. Dr. Muriel Robertson has been appointed by the Government to an inquiry into sleeping sickness; Miss Sargent is President of the Botanical Section of the British Association; Miss Lorrain-Smith is the first authority in England on lichenology. In the name of common-sense, why restrict our area of choice to men when such work is being done by women?

### Women and the "Spoils" System in America.

One of those things that give Suffragists a lift has happened in America. It will be remembered that ex-President Taft appointed a woman—Miss Julia Lathrop—to be the first Head of a New State Department, the "Children's Bureau." Miss Lathrop was, of course, a Republican, or Taft would not have appointed her. When Woodrow-Wilson was elected President, it was supposed that he would, after the American custom, remove the Republican lady, and put in a Democrat. Indeed, a Democratic candidate was at once put forward. The women's clubs—those influential and public-spirited organisations peculiar to American women—thereupon bombarded the President with resolutions and letters, entreating him to confirm Miss Lathrop in her appointment, on the ground that she was far the best person to do it. After some hesitation, he consented.

There will be many Americans, and not a few British, who will be surprised at the President's weakness in allowing so paltry a reason as Miss Lathrop's genius for her work to override the supreme importance of rewarding party followers with the spoils of office. But to those who know that the women who appealed for Miss Lathrop belonged to all parties, and insisted on party being—for once—forgotten, in the interests of the children, the news is uplifting.

### Release of Mrs. Pankhurst.

After four days' imprisonment (and hunger-strike), Mrs. Pankhurst has again been released on leave. It is difficult to imagine anything much more horrible than this cat-and-mouse business, or one more repulsive to every tradition of the Liberal Party. It seems to be a battle between the Government and the Social and Political Union, which of them shall do more harm to their own cause by their attitude towards Women's Suffrage. Meanwhile, the situation rapidly becomes tragic.

The *Suffragette* case is being tried. Mr. Edgar Whiteley (Manager of the National Labour Press) being charged with conspiracy before the Manchester Stipendiary Magistrate. The case for the prosecution seems to rest chiefly on the plea that to publish the organ of the W.S.P.U. was to make oneself in some degree responsible for the policy of the Association.

### International Women's Suffrage.

Next week will see the gathering of Suffrage delegates from all over the world, to Vienna first, and then to Buda-Pesth, for the seventh International Suffrage Congress. We issue a special "International" number, that our readers may know how our movement has progressed in the many countries in which it is stirring public opinion, or has already achieved success.

The Tenth International Women's Conference met, in Paris, on June 3rd, under the presidency of Lady Aberdeen. Seventeen nationalities were represented.

materially. Every advance in the science of transport and communication brings us closer together and destroys distance, so that by travel and by report, we know each other much better than we used. But spiritually the world is widening, for with that better knowledge comes the consciousness of the solidarity of human people, and the assurance that we can, no more as a race than as individuals, live, suffer, or rejoice alone.

Internationalism has already brought us not only a responsibility but a reward. For in these days when defeats come they are outweighed by victories. Suffragists in Great Britain rejoice over the advances made in America, and count up the gains for Suffrage as if they were their own. Women who already have the vote are watched with a sympathetic pride when they put it to worthy use. It seems—

"Impossible that they should fail, so watched  
By gentle friends who make their cause their own."

And every reform won by the women of the Suffrage States counts for so much more than a victory for themselves. It is hailed and chronicled the world over by other women with the Suffrage battle still to fight.

No movement, we believe, can be so entirely to the good as this. It is, to begin with, very much more practical, in working for reform, to recognise the fact that humanity is *solidaire*. The nations are too dependent on each other to accomplish very much alone. The most sceptical reader of Mr. Norman Angell's great book is forced to admit the striking truth of his facts, even if they reject his conclusions. We are obliged, nowadays, to look at many of our problems from a wider standpoint than that of our immediate needs and interests. But beyond this is the incalculable advantage to all reforms of mutual understanding and respect. Nothing more forces itself upon one in all kinds of work than the impossibility of doing anything in an atmosphere of suspicion. Everything is possible where people trust each other's goodwill; but in the face of hostility and suspicion one cannot advance. In spite of the cynic, it is a fact that knowledge generally breeds, not hostility, but sympathy and respect. It is because the different social classes know so little of each other that they are so rancorous and unjust. It is because the nations judge each other in the dark of ignorance that war is possible. Everything that makes for better understanding makes, not only for peace, but for progress. It makes common action possible, and common progress, and common war against wrong. International arbitration, international action against the traffic in womanhood, international codes of honour become possible only with increasing goodwill and knowledge of each other. The Woman's Movement is doing service, not only to women, but to all the nations, by their international meetings. They will not forget, when their immediate object is won, the days when they sat side by side in council, when they rejoiced over each other's victories and grieved over defeats; when every advance was a common joy, and every loss a common sorrow; when they learned that they were *solidaire*.

### Suffrage Summer Schools.

The Suffrage Summer-Schools are very fortunate in their choice of place this year. Those who know Oxford with the knowledge of the student would perhaps not exchange the time spent within her walls for any other privilege that life has brought them. In spite of her step-motherly attitude towards her women-students, they would still rather be door-keepers in the University of Oxford than dine at the high table of Liverpool or Leeds! And the Suffrage School offers a chance not lightly to be missed, of study and comradeship in the very home of scholarship and beauty. Miss Dunnell has arranged a brilliant course of lectures and classes, and everyone who possibly can should send in her name to go to them.

By the way, the University Extension Summer-School will be going on at the same time. Its subject of study will be the history of France. From the list of lectures, comprehensive and interesting, the name of Joan of Arc is absent. Is this the way that men write history?

Of the Scottish Summer-School, at St. Andrews, Miss Crompton writes:—

"The University Hall has been secured for this purpose, and no more suitable place could be imagined. The Hall is surrounded by a large garden with tennis-courts, and commands a fine view of the famous golf links, hills, and the sea. St. Andrews itself is one of the most picturesque places in the kingdom, and the air is remarkably invigorating. The tuition will be carried on by experienced speakers and lecturers."

## In Parliament.

May 28th.

THE MENTAL DEFICIENCY BILL came up for second reading, and a very interesting discussion took place. The object of this Bill is to provide guardianship for feeble-minded persons who are not under proper care and control. Referring to the report of the Royal Commission on the subject of the feeble-minded, Mr. McKenna reminded the House that:—

"It was observed that there is a class of persons in this country who, by reason of mental defect, are not able to take proper care of themselves. Under the existing law they are not provided for under the Lunacy Acts, or under the Idiots Act, except in a certain measure. . . . Not only have we a unanimous Report of a Royal Commission in favour of some legislative measure, but I am not exaggerating when I say that local authorities have been overwhelmed in their petitions in favour of this Bill. I go further, and say that persons engaged in every kind of social work . . . have without exception recognised the need for some legislation of this kind. At this moment there are scores of thousands of people who, owing to mental defect, are unable to take proper care of themselves, and who might, if this Bill were passed, live happy, and within the limits of their powers, even useful lives. At present they are left, uncared for and unprotected, to live miserable existences, and become a source of degradation, misery, and poverty to others."

Objection to the Bill was made by certain members on the ground that it would interfere with the liberty of the subject; others called it an "Anti-Christian" Bill, and attacked it on the ground that it represented an experiment in eugenics; but, on the whole, the opinion of the House was favourable. It is noticeable that the experts, whose opinions were quoted in support of the Bill, were mostly women, Miss Dendy's letter to the *Times* being used again and again. According to Mr. Crookes, she is "the greatest authority on the subject."

The debate was continued on June 3rd. Its object—to protect feeble-minded persons for their own sakes, rather than to detain them for the sake of the community—was well and forcibly expressed by Dr. Chapple. Mr. Pringle opposed the Bill for the astonishing reason that it was "enlarging the possibilities for defeat" of the Government! Mr. Crookes well said that he had "never listened to a more barbarous kind of argument."

The Second Reading was carried by 273 votes to 96.

May 29th.

DEBATE ON SUPPLY, THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—The most interesting suggestion in the debate was made by Mr. Ponsonby, who brought forward the view that the British Government should work, not by implication only, but by definite constructive action, in the interests of peace. He said:—

"More than 500,000 people are employed in the war service. The State does not spend 6d. in any effort to maintain or consolidate peace. I should like to see a department constituted in the Foreign Office."

Mr. Ponsonby's suggestion was a permanent committee—"A Peace Department, for the consideration of constructive schemes for the consolidation of peace by international discussion, the study of international law, analysis of the economic effects of war, and practical encouragement of all kinds of conferences between nations." We regret that no speaker took any notice of this most valuable proposal, though several demanded better control of foreign policy by the House of Commons, and Mr. Swift MacNeill loudly announced, what many of us believe, that "war is the result of secret diplomacy."

It seems clear that the Congo atrocities are now a thing of the past. This is news that will bring unspeakable relief to us all. We congratulate the people of Belgium and their king.

May 30th.

GOVERNMENT OF SCOTLAND BILL.—The debate on Scottish Home-Rule was remarkable for what was not said. No allusion whatever was made to the fact that this new body, set up admittedly to deal with local and not with Imperial affairs, would exclude women from its electoral franchise. If anyone really thought that Anti-Suffragists believed their own arguments, they might be surprised at the absence of any protest from Anti-Suffragist M.P.'s. As no one does, no one will be surprised. Suffragists, however, have a right to be surprised at the absence of protest from their friends, and will be interested to hear that Mr. Adamson (Labour Party) had been deputed by his colleagues to explain their views, and was all ready primed with his speech and notice of an amendment to be moved including women. He was unable to catch the Speaker's eye, hence his silence. His opportunity will come again in the committee stage of the Bill.

SWEATED INDUSTRIES.—Under the Trade Boards Act, only four sweated industries were scheduled for a minimum wage, but the number could be added to by a Provisional Order, if it were accepted by Parliament. A bill is now before the House confirming certain Provisional Orders which extend the operation of the Act to other industries.

## The Women's Movement all over the World.

Since the last International Suffrage Congress was held, the cause of the enfranchisement of women has made steady progress all over the world. There have, it is true, been many disappointments; but everywhere a hopeful spirit prevails, and in several places notable victories have been won.

### Norway.

In Norway—the first European country to enfranchise its women—the limited suffrage granted experimentally has worked so well that all parties in the State are prepared to extend it, so as to place men and women on an equal footing politically, as they already are with regard to the municipal franchise. Victory is regarded as certain, as the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution has unanimously recommended equal voting rights.

The following extracts from the Committee's Report appeared in *Jus Suffragii*, May 15th:—

"Lately during all discussions on the matter, it has been nearly unanimously admitted on all sides that the question has not been, if equal suffrage should be granted, but when the universal suffrage should be given to women. Experience was wanted. It has come. For twelve years women have voted in public affairs in Norway. We believe that it has been for the public benefit. In this country we have reached a stage in which all political parties agree in their programmes with the view that women should have the same right to vote as men."

The Universal Suffrage Bill will probably be passed this month.

### Sweden.

In Sweden the Liberal Government's Suffrage Bill passed the Lower House by 14 votes last summer, but was defeated by the Opposition in the Upper House; even there, however, the Suffragists have gained 35 votes more than they received when the question was last discussed. The National Association, meanwhile, is constantly adding to the number of its local Societies, which indicates that Woman Suffrage is becoming increasingly popular in the country. Next year a large demonstration is to be held, for which preparations are being already made with great energy. The demonstration is being regarded with sympathy by the Liberals and Social Democrats, the Liberals, at their annual meeting, having made a declaration that the Liberal organisations, as well as the Liberal Press and the private members of the party, ought to help the women in their demonstration for political enfranchisement, by taking up the question at their meetings, by working for it in their Press, and in every way they could.

### The Netherlands.

The announcement of the Government of its intention to lay before the nation a proposal for revision of the State Constitution, by which the male franchise is to be extended, while the women's claims are ignored, was received with intense indignation by a large section of the public. A strong but dignified protest was made by the National Woman Suffrage Association, and a big demonstration took place at the Hague on May 5th, the Concert Hall at the Zoological Garden being packed from floor to ceiling, parties of Suffragists from all over the country having travelled to the seat of Government to take part in this indignation meeting. The following resolution was passed *nem. con.*, amid great applause:—

"That this meeting, called by the N.W.S.A. on May 4th, 1913, at The Hague, having heard the motives of the Executive and several speakers, declares its indignant disappointment at the Government's proposal concerning electoral reform in the approaching revision of the Constitution, which, by declaring women—men's equals socially and economically—their political inferiors, ignores the movement, living and growing among Dutch women, that makes them claim their enfranchisement. This meeting is of opinion that the economic evolution in modern society brings the enfranchisement of women as a natural sequel, and that the Government, in proposing that women shall remain deprived of the vote, deliberately refuses to see the existing economic facts. Protesting indignantly against the reactionary Government proposals which will exclude women from citizenship for years to come, this meeting calls upon the Dutch nation and especially upon Dutch women of all opinions and classes to join in a protest against this arbitrary and iniquitous action of the Government that stamps the whole female sex with inferiority, and requests the Executive of the W.S.A. to communicate this resolution to the Government."

Many of the leading daily papers championed the women's cause, publishing leading articles, and even cartoons, to show their disapproval of this fatal ignoring, on the part of the Government, of a movement which has been going on for 20 years. If the United Liberals are given a majority in the June elections, there seems a good chance that the women may be enfranchised under an Adult Suffrage Bill. If, on the other hand, the Clericals return to power, the constitution is likely to be amended without giving votes to women.

### Belgium.

Belgium, where the men have been striking for an effective vote and manhood suffrage, is too much concerned with the

uselessness of the labour vote under the present conditions of plural voting to trouble much about its voteless women. The Clerical majority is nominally in favour of womanhood suffrage, as a counterbalance to manhood suffrage, but its academic championship of the women is in reality more in the nature of a checkmate to the claims of the men than of genuine support of women's enfranchisement.

### Denmark.

In Denmark the Woman Suffrage question is going through an extremely critical stage. A short time ago, Woman Suffrage was included in a Liberal Government Reform Bill, which practically aimed at abolishing the House of Peers. This Bill passed the Lower House by a large majority, but was thrown out by the Upper House, not from any objection to Women's Suffrage, but as a matter of self-preservation. At the recent General Election the Democrats have obtained a victory, in consequence of which the Government have resigned. Should the Conservative majority in the Upper House now regard the result of the recent election as a mandate from the nation for the Reform Bill, Danish women will shortly be enfranchised. If, on the other hand, the Bill is again thrown out, owing to the peers' objection to reform of the Upper House, their chance will be postponed indefinitely; for the Socialists refuse to accept a Women's Suffrage Bill, except as part of a general Reform Bill.

### Iceland.

Iceland seemed, a little time ago, on the verge of enfranchising its women. So confident, indeed, were the suffragists of their success, that they did not even trouble to organise an agitation, all parties being favourable to the proposal. Unfortunately, however, the Bill was dropped, for fear that certain clauses (unconnected with woman suffrage) might lead to complications with Denmark, under whose suzerainty the Icelanders live; but it is expected that a separate Women's Franchise Bill will shortly be introduced.

### France.

France, though one of the most democratic countries in the world in many respects, is very backward as regards the political status of women, who have not yet won even the municipal franchise. This they are working hard to obtain, and the various societies for the parliamentary franchise are also active. The report read at the National Congress of the French W. S. A. on May 12th, breathed a hopeful spirit, and showed that the Association is rapidly growing.

### Italy.

When the question of electoral reform was lately being discussed in Parliament, efforts were made to obtain the inclusion of women, deputations being sent to various Parliamentary groups. Many speakers in the Chamber advocated the women's cause, and declared themselves ready to vote for an amendment enfranchising women; but, as the result of the attitude of the President of the Cabinet, who declared that he would take the Bill back if woman suffrage was passed, the amendment was defeated.

### Spain.

Spain shows very little evidence of practical sympathy with Women's Suffrage, and the movement has an uphill task before it.

### Portugal.

Portugal shows a more progressive spirit. It has passed several excellent laws favourable to women since the establishment of the Republic, and has a Reform Bill under consideration which would confer the franchise on women of twenty-five, on an educational basis; it passed the Senate last summer, but still has to go through the Lower House.

### Finland.

Opponents of Women's Suffrage are fond of pointing out the smallness of the results achieved in Finland by the women's vote. But it must be remembered that Finland is not free. The Russian Throne can override all the decisions of its Diet, and most of the excellent legislation passed by that Assembly since women have been enfranchised has been rendered ineffective.

### Russia.

In Russia itself, liberty is yet to come, and men must win their own freedom before they are likely to trouble much about the enfranchisement of women. In Russian Poland the women's claims receive respectful attention from the Polish deputies to the Duma; but the country's present relationship with Russia precludes any chance of Women's Suffrage for some time to come.

**Austria.**  
Austria is one of the most backward of all European countries with regard to the Women's Movement, as there women are not even allowed to enter political associations; but there are hopes that this disability may soon be removed, a Bill for this purpose having already passed the Lower House.

**Bohemia.**  
Bohemia, however, which stands to Austria in a somewhat similar relationship to that of Poland and Finland to Russia, is at least able to express its progressive views, since it has a Diet of its own. Women have never been disfranchised in Bohemia, and they are eligible for Parliament, a right they seek to maintain by continually putting women up for election. Last summer they actually carried an election, but the successful candidate, Madame Nikava Kuneticka, a famous writer, was not allowed by the Governor of her constituency to take her place in the Diet—action which called forth strong protests in Prague.

**Galicja.**  
In Galicja, Polish and Ruthenian women with a certain tax qualification may vote for members of the Diet through a male proxy. The Commission on Electoral Reform has, however, advised the abolition of this absurd restriction, and it seems almost certain that the Diet will give women the direct franchise. There seems a good prospect, too, that women will soon be eligible for Municipal Councils.

**Germany.**  
Germany, where men complain of a fettered Parliament and an inadequate franchise, has done nothing in the direction of enfranchising women, though several Woman Suffrage petitions have been laid before Parliament and keenly discussed. More interest has been shown during 1912 than ever before, and more consideration to women's claims has been given by the Reichstag during the present Parliament than in former years.

**Hungary.**  
The bad example of the "Mother of Parliaments" has, unfortunately, been followed by the Hungarian Assembly. In spite of the sympathy with which Women's Suffrage is regarded by Parliament and by the nation, the women's claims have quite recently been shelved, and a Reform Bill passed which leaves the women out, the Prime Minister, after a speech in favour of Woman Suffrage, requesting Parliament to put the question on one side:—

"There is no shame in postponing W.S." he said, "as England, our most admired example for parliamentarism, shows that postponing the women's claims does not disagree with parliamentary principles." And the Committee, with much sympathy for the noble cause, put the question aside.

The position is thus described by Miss Rosika Schwimmer in *Jus Suffragii*:—

"Those of our friends all over the world who know already that the Parliamentary Reform Bill has become law without granting suffrage to women, surely expect us now to be violently angry, passionately furious and entirely down-hearted. To be sure, we are angry and sad, but our spirits are not broken and we are not so desperate as you would expect us to be, without knowing the circumstances of our defeat. You remember, in August and September we were in the position of ladies invited to a dinner and waiting to see the gentlemen take our arm and politely escort us to our seats at the table. The Premier, several leaders of the Opposition parties and of the Press, offered us their arm, and we took it and were cheerfully moving towards the dining-room, but at the door the gentlemen rid themselves of us with a courteous bow, saying: 'And now ladies, sit down here before the door of the dining-room. Inside only gentlemen are served. We are awfully sorry, because we know women have also stomachs to feel hungry; they even have to pay the bills for maintaining the dining-room and the food we are eating, but we cannot avoid helping ourselves before trying to keep you and your children from starvation. You may be sure, when we shall be completely satiated we shall be anxious to come and fetch you into the dining-room. Please ladies don't hold our arms so tight, we really cannot conduct you now into the room, and besides, it is unwomanly to be so greedy. Be content that your fathers, sons, husbands, brothers and sweethearts will be able to enter the dining-room. You, being the weaker sex, can endure hunger longer than we, who, as the stronger sex, cannot face longer the hardships of hunger.' Our 'Another bow and they slipped away into the dining-room, where there was plenty of room and of food for women as well as for men. In their greediness they unfortunately slammed the door not only before us women, but also before some hungry creatures of their own sex too. This makes us sure that they will have to open the door very soon for those who will force it."

**The Balkan States.**  
In the Balkans, as in all other countries where no action has yet been taken in Parliament, the agitation for women's enfranchisement has nevertheless made great progress, the women of Bulgaria and Servia having been particularly active, and their Suffrage Associations most energetic. During the war, however, this activity was temporarily transferred to more pressing objects. Mrs. Ella Sossanvitch gives the following account of Servian women's work for their country:—

"All the ladies on the committee (of the Suffrage Society) are so much taken up by the hospital work, or by the care for poor families, that one has absolutely no time for anything else. Our President is chiefly occupied at present by a Home for poor fatherless children, who have been left without parents during the war. One of our Vice-Presidents is at Durazzo working as nurse in a hospital, she has left Belgrade after having organised the hospital of the Servian Sisterhood, a hospital which is considered as the best one in Belgrade, and which is run only by ladies. The other Vice-President is at Monastir helping the poor families by distributing money, garments, and so forth; many of the ladies on the committee are gone as volunteer nurses all over the conquered regions, some to Bulgaria, and just now you can imagine how busy the nurses are receiving every day sanitary trains full of Servian wounded from Adrianople, and in a few days we may also expect them from Scutari."

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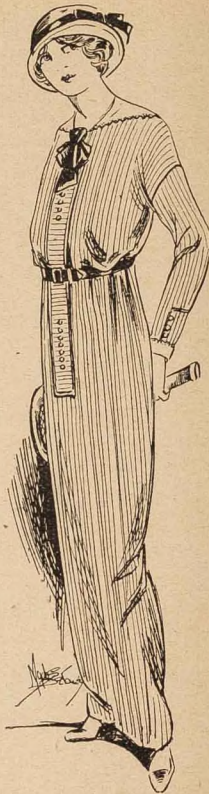
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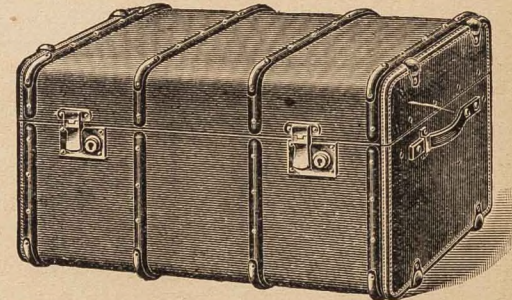
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**British Dominions Overseas.**

**New Zealand.**

Advance in New Zealand has been very rapid, and perhaps more striking than in any other country; but Suffrage papers have kept their readers specially well up-to-date on this subject, and as no new developments have occurred quite recently, we are devoting our space this week to news from countries where the progress of the movement has received less attention.

**Australia.**

Australia is an "all-Suffrage" country now, the Federal Government and every State having given the full political franchise to women. The battle was, in most of the States, an easy one, and perhaps for that reason, the women were some time before realising to the full the value of their new responsibilities and powers. It is interesting, however, to notice, from the following figures, that the interest of the men in politics has increased side by side with that of the women. The same tendency was very strongly marked in New Zealand also:—

PERCENTAGE OF VOTERS FOR FEDERAL SENATE.					
		Men.		Women.	
1903	...	35.96	...	14.86	...
1906	...	40.67	...	28.74	...
1910	...	66.30	...	55.92	...

FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.					
		Men.		Women.	
1903	...	40.54	...	15.57	...
1906	...	40.44	...	29.12	...
1910	...	66.30	...	55.92	...

There have also been three women candidates for the Legislature, among whom the names of Mrs. Martell and Miss Vida Goldstein are familiar to British Suffragists. No woman has yet been elected, but Miss Goldstein, whose second candidature is just over, polled 10,000 votes, to her opponent's 16,000. Like many women standing for Local Government bodies over here, she had to face the difficulties of an independent candidature, and we gather from her election address that her sympathy with militancy also created some hostility. Miss Goldstein stuck to her guns, however, and we can only wish that in this instance they had been of a different make! Women have given their attention chiefly to educational and social reform. The Australian system of primary education is believed to be one of the best, if not the best in the world. Kindergartens have been established, and an Act provides that money which used to be spent on supporting children in State institutions is paid to the mother instead, that she may look after them herself. Sex-physiology is taught in schools, and classes in agriculture and horticulture are open to girls as well as boys. Women sit on the governing bodies of universities. Women-doctors are appointed to the Government schools, they sit on hospital boards, and have secured great improvements by their political power, in the way of penal reforms. The C. D. Acts have been kept out of all the States, except Queensland and Victoria, and of these two States they are a dead letter in Victoria, and have been suspended in Queensland.

According to Mr. Peake, Premier of S. Australia, who is at present in England, Women's Suffrage "has operated to prevent men of a certain—or rather uncertain—character getting into politics, and has quickened the action of the Legislature in many matters of social and industrial legislation.

**South Africa.**

Although the Women's Suffrage Movement in South Africa was only begun in 1895, it has made wonderful progress, especially when it is remembered that the nature of the country makes co-operation very difficult. It is not easy for any new idea to spread in South Africa. The European population is very scattered, and one part of the country differs so widely from another.

In South Africa, states Mrs. Mackintosh, President of the Women's Enfranchisement Association of that country, the Woman Suffrage question has been complicated by the colour problem. In Cape Colony the vote has been granted to coloured men who have attained a certain standard of education, and are either owners of property or are earning a certain minimum wage. In Natal, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal, no coloured man can vote, but a strong agitation is in progress for enfranchising the black population. On the one hand, the women of Cape Colony feel that they suffer under a gross indignity in being debarred from political rights that have been granted to coloured men. On the other hand, certain influential

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**Fête Toilettes**

THIS is the time when all Society frequents Peter Robinson's, for the most beautiful Fashions of any Season of the year are being shown in the various Salons—special interest attaching just now to the Sections devoted to Fête Toilettes, Race Gowns and Wraps, Millinery, Evening Frocks and Cloaks, and Sunshades.



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### Prime Minister of a Suffrage State.

Mr. Watt is Prime Minister of the last State in Australia to grant votes to women. But he is a convinced believer in the reform, and he has had opportunity for watching it for ten years as regards the Federal franchise, and for five in his own State of Victoria.

"Do the women use their votes?" was the first question put to him. "In some places they poll more heavily than the men," was the reply; "but taking an average all over the country, both in Federal and State elections, they work out just about equal." "No"—in answer to a further question—"I don't think it depends on the special issue at each election. Women are just as much interested in every question that comes up as men are, and since the vote was granted in the first Australian State, eighteen years ago, there has been no falling-off in their interest. It is only that in some places the women are better organised. We haven't organised our parties as thoroughly as you have in Great Britain, but the women often organise more easily than the men. When an election comes along, I know I can always find three or four women who will take the lead and organise a band of workers for the fight. And they do work," said Mr. Watt. He considered for a moment, and then added: "I always have a Women's Committee at my elections—always. And" (with a twinkle in his eye) "I never heard that anyone's digestion suffered for it! The cooking at home seems to go on all right, in spite of the election work." Mr. Watt added, more gravely, "The sacrifice that is made is made by the women. They don't let other people suffer for it."

The Premier of Victoria did not think that "women's questions" were better attended to now than before they had votes. With natural pride in his progressive country, he maintained that they had never been neglected! "There were no crying abuses," he said; "our marriage laws, and laws about property are more liberal than yours, I think."

"But what about wages?" I asked. "Has the Suffrage affected them?" Mr. Watt thought not, except in the Federal Civil Service, where the standard of equal pay for equal work is kept up. "In other things, it is a nice point what 'equal work' really means," he said. "And besides, living is less expensive for women than it is for men." I expressed astonishment. In England a woman has to pay as much for what she eats as a man. "Oh, not with us," said Mr. Watt. "With us there is a very considerable difference, for instance, in what a man and a woman would be charged at a boarding-house. It used to be £1 and 10s., and there is still a considerable difference. Then a girl pays less in railway-fares than a boy. Girl apprentices and students get 'concessions' at a cheaper rate. Of course, all this reflects again on the wages, and probably helps to keep them down." "It is rather a vicious circle?" I suggested, and the Prime Minister agreed. But he was sure that economic questions were more carefully studied now than they used to be, and this he attributed largely to the women voters. "There is no sweating known to the public or to the Government that isn't stopped as soon as it is known. The Wages Boards, which began with four trades, have now been set up for between 110 and 120, and they have killed sweating. During the whole period of their working" (since 1895) "there have only been two strikes in any of the industries under Wages Boards, and one of those occurred in a trade in which the Board had not yet made a decision or taken action."

Economics led naturally to another question. "Sir John Cockburn told me," I said, "that there is nothing in Australia to compare with the great organised commercial business of the White Slave Traffic here. Is that your opinion too?" "Certainly," said Mr. Watt. "Of course there are immoral people everywhere. But as an organised business, it simply doesn't exist. I have seen sights in the great European capitals to which there is no parallel with us." And he went on to a deeply-interesting point. "You see," he said, "girls are paid a decent wage out there. I always think that poverty makes crime. If a girl can never afford anything bright and pleasant—any recreation or any little luxury, and she knows there is a way by which she could—well, it puts temptation in her way. But if she is decently paid, and her people too, the attraction is in the home. She is happy there, and the temptation doesn't touch her."

"I'd like you to put last what I think," concluded Mr. Watt, "of the effect of Women's Suffrage on the whole. Some of our problems aren't the same as yours, and I quite think in this country women should be enfranchised step by step as the men were. But what I want to say now would be true here just as much as in Australia."

"All right," said I, getting my pen ready, and then came this rather surprising statement—in the teeth of the average Anti-Suffragist's fears: "Women's Suffrage steadies political feeling. In democratic countries, turbulence is always a danger. Well, in a time of political excitement, men will let themselves loose. Women won't. They don't want hysterics. They don't want earthquakes. They are the domestic economists, and they have to calculate the needs of their households pretty closely every week. This is why economic questions are so closely studied now, and why you get a steadier, more sober, more wholesome opinion on all questions connected with the home."

"I could give you a dozen examples illustrating that," said Mr. Watt, rising. "Oh!" said I. "Then at least give me one!" One was given me; but as the giver made me promise to leave out all the names of the parties, and commit no indiscretions of any kind, I can't give it! I will only give that part which will most interest readers of THE COMMON CAUSE. It concerned the conviction of a certain candidate that he would get a more reasoned public opinion on certain questions if he deliberately laid them before the women. He, therefore, organised special meetings, to which only women were admitted—besides the usual public ones to which men and women came together—and spoke to them on these domestic and economic questions. The result surpassed his expectations. The plan will commend itself to Suffragists who have prophesied that in this country, also, candidates will find it worth while to lay their views before women when women have votes—and not before.

### The Woman's Movement in Germany.

By FRAU ORBANOWSKA.

(Member of the Women's Liberal Party, Berlin.)

There are two forces in the Woman's Movement, the economic and materialistic force, which Socialists are inclined to think accounts entirely for the movement—the force outside us—and the mental and intellectual side of the question—the force inside us.

#### I.—The Force Without.

Practically, the modern woman's movement began from the time that spinning and weaving ceased to be an obligatory part of women's work, and schools were founded which took a good part of the cares of education out of the house.

The wonderful technical development of the last century has certainly done far more than even capitalism in making the family, economically spoken of, unproductive, and a woman, from an economic point of view, an object of luxury.

It is not our purpose here to follow up this gradual change. Suffice it to say that the crisis broke out with the enormous development of industry, together with the great technical discoveries. For their further outgrowth they wanted the help of women, or say, cheap labour. Unprotected, inexperienced, and with no talent for organisation (the only means to cope against capitalism), they were an easy prey for the capitalists, who took advantage of the situation, in the fullest sense of the word, to make capital out of the women. And here we have the cause of the woman's question in the working classes, the disastrous effects of which can scarcely be overestimated: on the wages of the man, upon the family, on the health of the woman and the children before and after birth, to the general degeneration of the race. To sum this question up, we stand in Germany in 1912 before the fact that nearly ten millions of women have to earn their own livelihood.

In 1900, please to note, there were six and a half million women earning their own living. The development of Germany in the last thirty years, from an agrarian country to an industrial country, the so-called financial reforms, taxing objects of necessity, the artificial increase in the price of land, and as naturally in the price of rents, the dearness of food, especially meat, by the closing up of the frontiers for the benefit of the great landowners—the Agrarian Lords—have tended, in the short period of only twelve years, to send three million more women into the army of workers, and hand in hand with them an enormous increase of Socialism in all large towns.

These numbers of women employed show us, through statistics, that considerably more than one-third of the women in Germany are leading dual lives, as housewives and also as bread-earners, out of the house, and less than two-thirds of all the women are able to devote themselves to the family.

We may without exaggeration call the present married factory workers the most heavily burdened creatures that civilisation has known.

(To be continued.)

### The Women of Galicia.

In her delightful book of travel, "Spain Revisited," Mrs. Walter M. Gallichan has dedicated one chapter to an interesting study of the women of Galicia. These women, she says, have "a definite character of remarkable strength." In ancient times they played their part in driving back the Roman legions and fought side by side with men. Their fortitude became proverbial. In the Middle Ages Queen Dóna Urrica led her army in person through several campaigns, and was accompanied by her sister, Dóna Teresa, of Portugal.

In the Galicia of to-day, owing to the widespread emigration of the men, the farms are worked and managed by women. Women drive the ox-carts. The seed is sown and reaped by women. Naturally, this and other outdoor occupations which they carry on make them full of energy and vigour. "I have seen women in Galicia," says Mrs. Gallichan, "bearing immense burdens, unloading boats, acting as porters and as firemen and removing household furniture. I saw one woman with a chest of drawers easily poised upon her head; another woman bore a coffin; while a third, who was old, carried a small bedstead. A beautiful woman-porter in one village carried our heavy luggage, running with bare feet without sign of effort. . . . When a fire breaks out in a small town or village it is the women water-carriers who act as firemen.

Spanish women have always held their own in other ways besides those of physical prowess. In Galicia particularly they have preserved in certain directions a freedom and privilege which Englishwomen have only of late begun to claim. Many primitive customs still survive, and one of them is that in matters of inheritance the eldest daughter takes precedence of the sons. As far back as the fourth century Galician women insisted on retaining their own names after marriage. The practice is still common for sons to use their mother's name coupled with their father's, or even the mother's alone.

It is the working-class woman of Galicia who is so robust and intelligent. The women of the upper classes are for the most part "like delightful children"; irresponsible and not cultured. Their womanhood, however, has its own graciousness, and they find their happiness in marriage and in their children. Yet the number of educated Spanish women who have made a name in the world is not few. Among them three Galicians may be mentioned—Dóna Emilia Pardo Bazan, Concepcion Arenal and Rosalia de Castro; and these three it is well to remember, for as each of them was a good wife and mother they give the lie to the idea that the possession of intellect by women is abnormal, and injures their essential womanhood. Dóna Emilia Pardo Bazan was of aristocratic origin, and became famous as a reformer and artist. Concepcion Arenal was the most distinguished Spanish woman of the nineteenth century. She was a poet, novelist, etc., and a leader of social and moral reforms. She adopted men's garments to gain entrance to the universities; and was appointed Inspector of Prisons by Queen Isabella, but had to resign on account of her sex. Rosalia de Castro revived the great tradition of Gallegan poetry. She expressed in one of her volumes of poems "the confused joys and obscure sorrows of the Gallegan workers"; and the pity of her womanhood for the sadness of the emigrants, and the poverty and hardships of the people steals its way through all the sweetness of her verses with an insistent appeal.

K. L.

#### Reports of N.U. Work.

We have circularised Secretaries of Societies, asking them to help us by reporting meetings in tabulated form. Will all who are interested in this change kindly read our reasons for making this change? The N.U. has grown too large for its paper. But until the circulation goes up, we cannot increase its size, and consequently it becomes increasingly difficult to give anything like sufficient space for reports of work done. The reports, in fact, have to be cut down until they are almost unreadable, and the space given to them is not "interesting matter" to the general public. Yet it is most important that there should be some record of the enormous amount of work that is being done.

We therefore ask COMMON CAUSE correspondents to send their reports to their Federation Secretaries, or to us, in accordance with their usual custom, but tabulated thus:—

Date, Place of Meeting, Speaker, Number of Members (or Friends) enrolled, Collection taken, COMMON CAUSES sold.

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## Correspondence.

## THE PILGRIMAGE FUND.

MADAM,—May I say that I think it would help in the rapid growth of the Pilgrimage Fund if it were made perfectly clear in all printed appeals that members can earmark their contributions for the work of their own Society or Federation? This is, I know, understood by those who are organising the Pilgrimage, but it is not actually expressed in all the appeals, and some who are hoping to contribute may not clearly realise it. Many Suffragists feel that direct propaganda work in the area in which they live has the first, though not the only, claim on them. A large proportion of the Central Fund now goes to helping Federations to do missionary work in places where there are no societies, or where the societies are very weak; but if every Society and Federation were self-supporting better local work could be done, and the Central Fund would be set free for those particular branches of our work which can be most efficiently and economically administered from headquarters.

In order to attain this ideal it is surely desirable that every member should give something to her own Society or Federation, and should feel responsible for, seeing that its work in the coming year is well provided for. Many members will doubtless also wish to make a gift to the Central Fund. I understand that all contributions sent to headquarters and not earmarked will go to this. I hope it will be made perfectly clear that everyone is encouraged to earmark something for work in the area of her own Society or Federation.—Yours, &c.,

I. B. O'MALLEY.

DRESS FOR THE PILGRIMS.—We have received a large number of letters on this subject, but all may be answered together: (1) Grey is one of the shades recommended by the Committee; (2) the object of the recommendations was to obtain some degree of uniformity—not to put Suffragists to unnecessary expense; (3) therefore, all Pilgrims will be welcome whatever they wear.—Ed., C.C.

## "LAW-ABIDING."

MADAM,—As a member of the N.U.W.S.S. who has been distraised upon for non-payment of taxes, and expects to go through the same process again in future years, I should be glad to know whether I am thereby excluded from participation in the proposed "Pilgrimage." What is the exact force of the term "law-abiding"?

ELIZABETH STURGE.

[We refer Miss Sturge to our note to Miss Merrifield's letter in last week's issue. "Constitutional" is, of course, the word that really describes the attitude of the N.U., and in our country the law sometimes violates the constitution. Unfortunately, party use has so made the word its own that many people would think "Constitutional Suffragists" were simply "Conservative Suffragists," and for this reason it was decided not to use it on our Pilgrimage flags. But it certainly describes our attitude better than the more ambiguous "law-abiding."—Ed. C.C.]

## THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE W.S.P.U.

DEAR MADAM,—As a Constitutional Suffragist I always take in THE COMMON CAUSE, and I confess I was more than sorry to see in this week's issue one of the hardest, narrowest, most pointless, if, indeed, not most spiteful, of paragraphs under the heading "Rearrest of Mrs. Pankhurst." It gave me great pain to see that a suffrage paper could be so uncomprehending, so small-minded, and so utterly mistaken as not to see that that paragraph is the strongest possible incitement to militancy! Contrast that paragraph in a suffrage paper with the articles that have appeared in the *Referee* and the *Daily Sketch*, and it is really very disheartening to see that papers of that nature often get nearer the truth and are more capable of feeling all that lies behind the mistakes that may be made during a great agitation, than THE COMMON CAUSE, which is the property of a woman's organisation!

RUTH C. BENTINCK.

[The paragraph referred to chronicled the re-arrest of Mrs. Pankhurst, and stated that she must be held morally responsible for the acts of her followers, since she does not protest against them, and her paper tacitly approves them. We believe that Mrs. Pankhurst would agree with us; but there has been a tendency on the part of other militants to evade responsibility and even to make the detestable suggestion that the police are placing bombs as *agents-provocateurs*. It was this

tendency which called forth the paragraph objected to. Frankly, we understand Mrs. Pankhurst's attitude, though we detest it. We understand the attitude of the N.U. It is not even difficult to understand the attitude of ordinary newspapers, standing outside the movement, neither deeply moved by, nor very clearly perceiving, the tremendous issues at stake, and adopting an easy good-nature towards things for which they do not greatly care. But we cannot understand the attitude of our correspondent. That an earnest Suffragist, such as Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck, realising, as she must surely do, the significance of the battle we are waging, should be able in one sentence to speak of herself as a Constitutional Suffragist, and in the next to speak so lightly of the use of bombs as "mistakes that may have been made," leaves us uncomprehending.—Ed. C.C.]

## PRESENTATION TO MISS FORD.

MADAM,—We understand that owing to the pressure on your space only a short account of the presentation to Miss I. O. Ford could be inserted in THE COMMON CAUSE. May I explain that the money—£75—was collected from the Societies in the Federation, and given to Miss Ford on her birthday, to be used for Federation work. This is not very clearly stated in your account. May I also say that the money was raised in answer to an eloquent appeal by Miss Ford to the societies (at the Federation annual meeting in April) for funds to carry on the work? The Federation is deeply indebted to Miss B. B. Rogers, who planned the whole thing, and personally undertook all the secretarial duties connected therewith. She wishes to thank all the Societies who so cordially joined in the presentation. We felt it was due to them that the object of the Fund, and also the reason of it having been raised, should be explained.

F. M. BEAUMONT (Hon. Treas., W.R. Federation).

## THE PRESS AND THE HYDE PARK MEETINGS.

MADAM,—On studying the list of papers recommended to Suffragists I am struck by this fact: that there were tens of thousands of men and women looking eagerly on Monday morning (May 19th) for news of the way in which the first Sunday meeting in Hyde Park by the London Society had prospered, and most of them could find no word in their paper. To take the three papers which I see daily: the *Daily Chronicle* entirely ignored the event; I could find nothing in the *Daily Citizen*, nor could see anything of last Sunday's meeting in Monday's issue of that paper; in the *Daily Telegraph* I found on the important Monday, and have since found, good reports of peaceful meetings and events both in England and abroad.

It is an undoubted fact that the newspapers, with few exceptions, are responsible for militancy. In their columns the strongest actions by peaceful Suffragists are ignored, while the most insignificant attempt for notoriety by a militant is given the importance of a national event. Thus the press, on the whole, has proved that only the sensational can hope to be reported; and women, recognising this years ago, began to commit sensational deeds. The newspaper managements thereupon assumed a virtue they had long lost, and in the end fiercely let loose the passions of the ignorant upon the women. Daily do the newspapers discountenance the law-abiding and invite the criminal, and daily do they utter sententious and preposterous condemnations of those who respond to their invitations.

Why do Suffragists take papers which forget that they should be "news" papers—of sense, as well as sensation? CLARE JERROLD.

## ABOLITION OF SEX-DISQUALIFICATION.

MADAM.—It may be true, as you state, "that the male franchise is so unsatisfactory that no politician would care to reduplicate its absurdities in the case of women," but surely it would be far easier simply to abolish the disability of sex, and to grant the vote to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men; then later the anomalies of the franchise for men and women could be dealt with by one Bill.

S. M. FOLEY.

[It would be quite "easy" to do as Miss Foley suggests, but as there is no party in the House of Commons, and very few individuals, to whom the result would be satisfactory, it is, perhaps, reasonable to consider why it is not done. The procedure suggested commends itself very strongly indeed to women, because it contains the principle for which they are fighting; but not at all to politicians, because, whatever their party, such a measure would emphasise some principles to which they are strongly opposed.—Ed., C.C.]

## Notes from Headquarters.

## The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:  
MISS K. D. COURTNEY.  
MISS C. E. MARSHALL (Parliamentary).  
MISS EMILY M. LEAF (Press).  
MISS I. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer: MRS. ATERRACH.

Secretary: MISS CROOKENDEN.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

## Liberal Press and the Women's Movement.

The Liberal Press has taken the opportunity of the by-election at Altrincham for a prolonged attack on revolutionary propaganda, and has done its utmost to drive home the analogy between the methods of Sir E. Carson and Mrs. Pankhurst. To escape from the predicament involved in male militancy, the Unionist Press retaliates by concentrating its condemnation on female militancy, and on the powerlessness of the Government to keep order. In the confusion ensuing amidst the general recrimination as to methods for promoting or delaying reform, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, in a speech admirably reported in the *Leicester Mercury*, puts in the much-needed plea that Parliament should attend to its business of dealing seriously with "the organic and social problems" confronting it, and that the House of Commons should cease to be regarded as the place for "nagging and ragging opponents."

It was curious how respectable organs of the Press were howling about militants and adopting quite a different attitude in regard to other persons. How could the *Times*, for instance, say "well done" to Mr. McKenna for locking up the printer who told the women to burn property, when it said to Sir Edward Carson, "go and blaze up Ulster." What was sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander. He thought the women were wrong, but the Government put their powers in force as regarded women, but were afraid to do so in regard to the Tory Party.

The *Westminster Gazette*, commenting on Mr. Hamilton's return at Altrincham, blames the Unionists for concentrating on attacks on the Government, rather than forming an "alternative policy." At the same time, on the point of constructive policy from its own Party, where women's interests are concerned, the note of the *Westminster* is distinctly dubious, though modified by the recognition that Suffragists are supplying much of the motive force behind the pressure for reform. In its issue of May 29th, speaking of the Majority and Minority Reports of the Divorce Commission, and its prospective legislative results, the *Westminster* says:—

"It would be a grave scandal if the difference between the two Reports were made the excuse for neglecting to effect reforms recommended by both. The government is under special obligations in the matter, because in these days of Woman Suffrage agitations it is of the first importance that Parliament should not show itself indifferent on questions vitally affecting women. The Prime Minister, in his speech three weeks ago, gave it as his considered opinion that the non-enfranchisement of women had not led to their interests being overlooked or neglected. It will hardly be possible to maintain that proposition if nothing is done by Parliament in this matter of Divorce Reform."

The signing of the Peace of London has brought a fine tribute to Sir Edward Grey from the *Daily Chronicle*, not only on account of his foreign policy, but for his championship of Women's Suffrage:—

"Never was Sir Edward Grey's ascendancy in the House of Commons more marked than it is to-day. Radicals and Labour Members cherish with gratitude the memory of his noble speech on behalf of Women's Suffrage—a speech whose glowing sympathy with the unfranchised half of the nation came as a revelation to those who cherished the delusion that Sir Edward Grey is a cold and austere Whig. The moral triumph of this speech and the success that has marked its author's policy in every part of the world have combined to secure for him in unique degree the pride and the confidence of the House of Commons, and, indeed, of the country at large."

## The Friends of Women's Suffrage.

The Friends of Women's Suffrage Sub-Committee have been considering the quarterly reports sent in by the societies working the scheme. Many of these are so encouraging that the Committee earnestly hope that those Societies which have not yet taken up this particular piece of work will hasten to do so. The reports show that, though not by any means all the Societies are working it, and many of those who are have only just taken it up, there are already about 20,000 Friends in Great Britain. As Members of National Union Societies are not eligible for enrolment, this is an important additional piece of evidence of the support our work is receiving outside our Societies.

In rather less than a year's work, the London Society has enrolled over 8,000 Friends. It has over 1,200 in the constituency of Whitechapel alone, and over 1,200 also in Canning Town, where 283 were recently enrolled at a single meeting. These "Friends," many of whom are very poor, are not only eager to come to meetings, but are full of active sympathy with the work of the Society. Some of them gave active help during the Whitechapel by-election, coming in after their working hours were over to offer help, and themselves assisting in the enrolment of new "Friends." A similar report of the helpfulness of

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Dowson, Hon. Secretary, read the annual report, which was of a distinctly encouraging nature. Steady progress has been made during the year, the membership having increased 50 per cent. within the last six months.

South Wales and Monmouthshire. NEWPORT.—On May 5th there was a very successful reception of the Newport School-teachers, excellent addresses being delivered by Professor Millicent Mackenzie and Mr. W. Harvey.

The South Wales and Monmouth Federation reported that new societies are in process of being formed. At Neath, on May 23rd, Mr. Fernier Buckley and Miss Chambers spoke.

The annual meeting of the Federation was held on May 24th in Cardiff, and in the evening of the same day there was a public meeting addressed by Mrs. da Silva.

South-Western. A Council Meeting was held in Exeter on Saturday, May 24th, and was well attended, many delegates being in Exeter for the Provincial Council.

North of Scotland. The annual meeting of the North of Scotland Federation was held in the Queensgate Hotel, Inverness, on Friday, May 16th.

The Sub-editor regrets that an interesting account of Huddersfield Annual Meeting was omitted last week; but long reports sent in the form of a newspaper cutting present difficulties, as they have to be remodelled to fit in with our extremely limited space.

Memorial to the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.

SIR.—We desire to express to you our conviction that the best interests of the community would be furthered by increasing the number of women in the Departments of the Civil Service outside the Post Office, and by improving the conditions of their employment.

We would urge, in respect of clerical employment,—That women candidates should be required to attain such educational qualifications as should fit them for varied clerical work, and that women should be eligible for promotion in the same manner as men.

We would also urge—That women should be eligible for scientific and other specialist appointments, especially in the State Museums, on the same conditions as men, and with full opportunities of work and promotion.

The Signatures to the Memorial are those of: The Right Hon. Arthur H. D. Acland, Miss Margaret Ashton, M.A., Manchester City Council.

The Rev. H. Montag Butler, D.D., Master of Trinity College, London. The Rev. Alfred Caldecott, D.Litt., D.D., Dean of King's College, London.

W. M. Geldart, M.A., B.C.L., Fellow of All Souls College and Vinerian Professor of English Law, Oxford.

John Masfield. H. W. Massingham, Editor of the Nation.

John L. Myres, M.A., Wykeham Professor of Ancient History in the University of Oxford.

The Right Hon. Sir John Rhys, M.A., D.Litt., Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, and Professor of Celtic in the University of Oxford.

C. Grant Robertson, M.A., Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., M.S. Lond., Consulting Gynaecologist at the Royal Free Hospital.

Criminal Law Amendment Committee. Many interesting speeches were made at the Central Buildings Conference on June 3rd.

Stead Memorial Fund. A Women's Shilling Fund has been started in connection with the Stead Memorial Fund, with the object of raising a Hostel in London as a tribute to women who have taken a certain neighbourhood.

Rotherham E.F.F. A number of successful meetings have been held. The organiser finds her system of cottage meetings specially useful, and describes her system as follows.—I find a friend in a certain neighbourhood.

Women Sanitary Inspectors. A Sanitary Society has been formed by the Women Sanitary Inspectors, consisting of Misses S. S. Miss S. Marguerite O'Kell, of "a body of women workers keenly desirous of associating themselves with the general movement in support of the enfranchisement of women."

Forthcoming Meetings.

JUNE 6. BIRMINGHAM—Grand Fete—Birmingham and West Midland Federation—Edgbaston Botanical Gardens—Opener, Lady Rochdale—Chair, John Osler, Esq.

JUNE 7. GATESHEAD—Garden Party—The Red House, Durham Road (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Emley)—Address by Mrs. Bilcliffe, Music, Conjurings, &c.

JUNE 8. EDINBURGH—Saughton Park, L.L.P. Meeting.—Speaker, Miss Alice Low.

JUNE 9. BRISTOL—Co-op. Guild, East Street—Speaker, Mrs. W. C. H. Cross.

JUNE 10. JAIN—Mason Hall, Public Meeting—Chair, Balle Robertson—Miss Bury, "Why Women Want the Vote."

JUNE 11. YORK—Garden Party at Huntington Lodge (by kind permission of Mrs. Meyer).

JUNE 12. OXFORD—Garden Meeting (by kind invitation of Mrs. Margoliouth), 88, Woodstock Road.

Coming Events.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. Wednesday, June 11th, 3.30 p.m. Club Tea.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, St. James's, S.W. Tuesday, June 10th, at 3.30 p.m. CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, Speaker, Mrs. Smyth-Piggott.

THE LEAGUE OF JUSTICE, Speakers, Mrs. Cavendish Bentinck, Mrs. Emma Richmond. Subject, "The Policy of the League."

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Coming Events.

ACTRESSES FRANCHISE LEAGUE. Meeting for women only, Grand Hall, Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, Friday, June 6th, 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD., 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. Wednesday, June 11th, 3.30 p.m. Club Tea.

THE SUFFRAGE CLUB, 3, York Street, St. James's, S.W. Tuesday, June 10th, at 3.30 p.m. CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, Speaker, Mrs. Smyth-Piggott.

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## SUFFRAGE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**SUFFRAGE SUMMER SCHOOL.**—University Hall, St. Andrews. 11th-25th August. Lectures and classes four hours daily. Bracing air; sea-bathing, golf, tennis. Terms (board, lodging, and tuition), 35s. a week.—Apply, Secretary, Suffrage Summer School, Scottish Federation, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

**WANTED.**—Volunteers to canvass and speak during Haslemere Campaign, June 15th to July 16th. See letter to COMMON CAUSE, May 30th. Hospitality offered.—Please apply Miss Stoehr, Down End, Hindhead, Haslemere.

**TWO SUFFRAGE DIALOGUES,** 3d. each. Comedy, 6d.—"S." Fordel, Glenfarg.

**WILL ANY FRIENDS INTERESTED** in the economic position of women in India visit an Exhibition and Sale of skilled handicrafts (Lace, Embroideries, Trinkets, &c.) being held at 29, Maddox Street, Regent Street, W., till June 14? It is quite free. Secretary, Mrs. Rogers, 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, N.

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Address

(in full.)

To the Secretary

Society for Women's Suffrage,

Or the Secretary, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.