

# Men's League FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

MONTHLY PAPER.

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JUNE, 1911.

## THE SITUATION.

Will all members intending to join the Men's League Contingent in the Procession of June 17th, please inform the Office at once on a postcard, so that we may know our strength? It is sincerely hoped that members of the League will march with the League.

All members will muster at 4.30 outside St. Stephen's House, Westminster Bridge.

May, 1911, will always be remembered as a marked date in the history of our movement. Never has the justice of our claim on behalf of women's enfranchisement been so widely admitted in the press, in elected councils, and in public meetings; and never has our cause been so triumphantly vindicated in Parliament itself. There is probably not an anti-Suffragist in the kingdom who does not now realize in his heart that our victory is certain and near. Anti-Suffragists may continue the struggle, but the heart is knocked out of their ranks. They will make no great sacrifices for a mere negative. The positive forces of liberation and enlightenment are all against them, and they know it.

The month opened with the dinner at Pagani's, given by the League in honour of Miss Vida Goldstein and the emancipated Dominions of the Empire which she represents. An account of the assembly will be found in another column, and we will here only give our renewed thanks to Mr. Pember Reeves for presiding, and to leading representatives of the chief suffrage societies, such as Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Despard, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst for accepting our invitations, and addressing us on behalf of our common cause, in comparison with which no differences as to opinions or methods have any significance.

Next day (May 5th) came the debate and division on the second reading of the Conciliation Bill. The speeches on our side were all excellent. Sir George Kemp, to whom the fortune of the ballot had given the Bill, introduced it in an admirable statement. Mr. Henderson (with a reservation in favour of adult suffrage), Lord Hugh Cecil, Mr. Hugh Law, and Mr. King supported him, but to our mind the very best speeches were delivered by Mr. Ellis Griffith, the Welsh Whip, and Mr. Lansbury, the earnest and eloquent Labour member. Of the opposition we can only say that it collapsed. Mr. MacCallum Scott's was the only speech that rose above futility, and it told in our favour. Of the fifteen arguments usually brought against us, he admitted that fourteen were nonsense, and he excused his disbelief in our cause only on the weary old ground of the physical force argument.

The debate resulted in the triumphant majority of 167 (255 to 88), and the Bill was referred to a Committee of the whole House. Instantly the question of facilities arose. Would the Government grant the opportunity for the further stages, or would they add this Bill also to the measures they have burked by their Veto? With the exception of *The Daily Chronicle*, the whole of the Liberal Press united in urging Mr. Asquith to follow his plain duty and carry out the will of the people as expressed by their representatives. *The Daily News* called it an overwhelming case for the granting of facilities. *The Nation* said: "The

Government's pledges are specific, and it cannot now merely decree the measure's extinction." *The Manchester Guardian* warned the Liberal party that it cannot forswear its fundamental principles without suffering for it in all sorts of ways. *The Westminster Gazette* said that to shirk the subsequent stages would be "to treat the women as children, and to afford excuse for folly on their side."

No government can afford to disregard such warnings as these from their own supporters in the press. It is evident that Lord Robert Cecil was expressing the real thoughts of nearly the whole Liberal newspaper opinion when he wrote to *The Times*: "Will the Government act up to their promises, or are we to be met by further evasions? We heard much recently about the difference between the male and female sense of honour. If facilities for the Bill again are withheld, women may rightly thank God that such difference exists." Our position, already overwhelmingly strong, was further established by the appearance of the Lord Mayor of Dublin with his suite at the bar of the House on May 12th to petition for full facilities. In reality, he came as representing all the 83 City, Borough, and District Councils, which have sent up similar petitions, and our League joined most heartily in the great welcome given him on his arrival at Euston, midnight, May 11th, and at the dinner organized for him on May 12th by the W.S.P.U. The Lord Mayor of Bradford, together with the Mayors of Glasgow, Huddersfield, Oldham, and many other cities, also requested the Prime Minister to receive them in deputation with a similar purpose. Mr. Asquith refused. On no other subject in the world would he have refused a deputation of such importance.

In answer to Lord Wolmer, Mr. Lloyd George, speaking in place of the Prime Minister, announced on Monday 29th, that next session, if the Bill was again read a second time, the Government would be prepared to allot a week for its other stages. He further added that "the Government were bound by their pledges to find whatever time was necessary to enable the House to express its opinion even to the final stage of the Bill." But as he declared the time granted next session would be limited to a week without the closure, the Government have obviously done nothing whatever so far towards the fulfilment of their pledges.

We rejoice to see Mr. Walter McLaren's resolution to postpone payment of members till women have the vote. It was formerly thought a mean profession to live on money filched from women's pockets, and we hope there is still enough sense of decency left in the country to despise members who are willing to stoop so low. We certainly can feel nothing but contempt for a "representative" who votes himself £400 a year out of money contributed by women who secure no representation at all. It is no excuse to say that Cabinet Ministers have long been taking larger sums on the same iniquitous terms. The pickpocket was never acquitted because Dick Turpin stole more.

Mr. J. E. Francis, a well-known member of our League, is, we believe, the first man to have his goods sold up for tax-resistance in our cause. His protest in the auction-room at Brighton was well received by a crowded audience.

H. W. N.

DINNER TO MISS VIDA GOLDSTEIN.

The dinner given by the League in honour of Miss Vida Goldstein at Pagani's Restaurant on May 4th was a great success.

The chair was taken by the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Director of the London School of Economics in the University of London, and formerly Agent-General for New Zealand.

Mr. Pember Reeves, in proposing the toast of Miss Vida Goldstein, paid a very high tribute to her own work in Australia.

Miss Goldstein, in reply, referred both to the general aspects of her work, and also to her personal experience as a parliamentary candidate.

Mr. Laurence Housman then proposed the toast of "The Cause and the Bill." He drew a most brilliant picture of the Conciliation Bill and the women's movement as a whole in terms of the famous fable of the duck and the kangaroo, with special reference to those who saw in the Bill not only an inadequate measure of reform, but a measure calculated to stand in the way of further progress on democratic lines.

In proposing the toast Mr. Housman coupled it with the names of Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Despard, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, who were subsequently called upon to reply.

In conclusion, Mr. Herbert Jacobs moved the health of Mr. Pember Reeves, who shortly replied.

JOHN STUART MILL.

MORE than 40 years ago, John Stuart Mill cast all the weight that the dignity of his personal character and all the force that his great intellect commanded into the incipient movement for the emancipation of women, both by action in Parliament and by the publication of his closely reasoned and unanswerable arguments on the subject.

On the very spot where the hustings stood a crowd of sympathizers awaited, on May 20th, the march of contingents from the Freedom League, the Women's Social and Political Union, the Actresses' Franchise League, the Free Church League, the Fabian Women's Group, the Men's Political Union, and our own League, who were to gather, in a great cause, round Nelson's column and do honour to the memory of the "stalwart" who once stood almost alone for liberty and the liberation of womanhood.

A procession had started at 2 P.M. from Robert Street and proceeded to Mill's statue on the Embankment, where beautiful floral wreaths were placed on the pedestal.

Three of these speakers were members of our League. Mr. Malcolm Mitchell said we were too busy with our games to remember debts to great men.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At the first meeting of the new executive committee held on May 16th, Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., was elected chairman of the League.

The following resolution was moved by Mr. Laurence Housman, seconded by Mr. T. M. Budgett, and carried unanimously: "That the very hearty thanks of the Committee be given to Mr. Herbert Jacobs for his great services in the past, and his conduct as Chairman of the League."

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Executive Committee on Tuesday, 23 May: "With a view to preventing the recurrence of the abuses which have occurred on previous occasions, this League, in the event of a renewal of public demonstrations by the Women's Suffrage Societies, shall organize a corps of witnesses who will be willing to serve at short notice."

OPEN AIR CAMPAIGN.

The Open Air meetings have been resumed, and our banner appeared in Hyde Park on May 21st and 28th.

The Hyde Park meetings will probably be continued, but it is essential that we do not confine ourselves to this district.

May I urge upon all members either (1) to speak once a fortnight at least at open air meetings, to be arranged in the suburbs; or (2) at least to undertake to find a suitable corner in their neighbourhoods and guarantee on a date arranged to have a chair or an orange-box ready for speakers.

Surely members will not again this summer leave all this important work to the devoted energies of women and the efforts of a handful of men!

ALL FOR THE CAUSE.

Suffragette Sally. By G. Colmore (Mrs. H. Baillie-Weaver). London, Stanley Paul. 6s. (To be obtained from the Men's League Offices, 4s. 6d. post free.)

MRS. BAILLIE-WEAVER has written several novels, but this seems to us by far the best of them all. It is eminently readable—as a novel should be—and therefore to friend and foe alike it is to be recommended.

All the story of the last five years of the Women's Movement is told in this book, and told simply, without exaggeration or bitterness. Mrs. Baillie-Weaver understands what the militant movement means; understands why each step has been taken, and understands the prejudice, the brutal opposition, the weakness, and the apathy that the suffragette has had to conquer.

'Suffragette Sally' is the sort of book that cannot be read with any feelings of comfort. The honest opponent and the merely indifferent will be taught by it as no pamphlet could teach.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

MEMBERS will note with considerable satisfaction that the total money received for May is £66 13s. 9d.

Will those members and friends whose names are not enumerated below make a special point of sending at least half-a-crown each to the League this week?

The postage of the League office is getting enormous. Members have had sixpence per head expended on them this month in postage alone.

The money received for May hardly covers more than this one item.

The work of the office is seriously handicapped by want of funds for necessary expenses. We therefore appeal to you boldly to send us a cheque for as much as you can afford.

A. W. G. J., Finance Secretary.

Table with columns: Annual Subscriptions, £ s. d. and names like S. L. Francis, Robert Cooper, Chas. Corben.

Table with columns: Special Donations, £ s. d. and names like T. D. James, Norman Parley, Wm. Boulting.

Table with columns: Monthly Subscriptions, £ s. d. and names like Norman Parley, F. Stanton Barnes.

Table with columns: Donations, £ s. d. and names like John Gordon, Geo. Epps, F. Stanton Barnes.

Table with columns: Postage Fund, £ s. d. and names like J. Y. Kennedy, S. L. Francis.

Table with columns: General Fund, £ s. d. and names like J. Y. Kennedy, Sale of Literature.

Table with columns: New Members, £ s. d. and names like Wm. Slade, Sydney R. Daniel.

Table with columns: Total Money received for May, £ s. d. and names like Annual Subscriptions, New Members, Donations, Special Donations.

MEETINGS ADDRESSED  
BY MEMBERS OF THE M.L.W.S.

MAY 1.	Eastbourne, W.S.P.U.	H. W. Nevinson.
" 2.	Willesden, N.U.W.S.S.	Laurence Housman.
" 3.	Chelsea, W.S.P.U.	Cecil M. Chapman, J.P.
" 3.	Hampstead, New Constitutional Clapham, W.F.L.	Joseph Clayton.
" 5.	Criterion Restaurant, A.F.L.	Joseph Clayton.
" 5.	Kingston-on-Thames, N.U.W.S.S.	T. Gugenheim.
" 7.	Hyde Park, W.F.L.	Reginald H. Pott.
" 7.	Ealing, W.S.P.U.	J. Y. Kennedy.
" 8.	Croydon, W.S.P.U.	Reginald H. Pott.
" 9.	Nottingham, N.U.W.S.S.	J. M. Mitchell.
" 9.	New Constitutional Society, Debate with Mr. Maconochie and Lady Florence Bourke	Cecil M. Chapman, J.P.
" 10.	Waltham Green, W.S.P.U.	Reginald H. Pott.
" 10.	Wimbledon, W.S.P.U.	F. O. Bather.
" 11.	Hampton Court, N.U.W.S.S.	J. Y. Kennedy.
" 12.	47, Elm Park Gardens. Conservative and Unionist W.F.A.	Cecil M. Chapman, J.P.
" 13.	Camberley, N.U.W.S.S.	T. Gugenheim.
" 15.	Caxton Hall, Men's Political U.	H. W. Nevinson.
" 15.	Rouel Road, Congregational Church: Lecture, 'Suffrage and Home Life'	Cecil M. Chapman, J.P.
" 17.	Wakefield, N.U.W.S.S.	F. Stanton Barnes.
" 18.	Bishopgate, Church League Hendon,	Reginald H. Pott.
" 20.	Criterion Restaurant, A.F.L.	Cecil M. Chapman, J.P.
" 20.	Hastings, N.U.W.S.S.	Joseph Clayton.
" 20.	Trafalgar Square, W.F.L.	J. M. Mitchell, Dr. C. V. Drysdale, E. Duval.
" 21.	Hyde Park, W.F.L.	T. Gugenheim.
" 21.	" " Men's League	J. M. Mitchell, T. Gugenheim, and J. Simpson.
" 22.	Deptford, W.S.P.U.	Reginald H. Pott.
" 22.	Mablesfield, N.U.W.S.S.	Laurence Housman.
" 24.	Criterion Grand Hall, Women Writer's League	H. W. Nevinson.
" 24.	Letchworth	Laurence Housman.
" 24.	Windsor, N.U.W.S.S.	J. Y. Kennedy and T. Gugenheim.
" 25.	Woolwich, W.S.P.U.	Reginald H. Pott.
" 25.	Winchester, N.U.W.S.S.	Laurence Housman.
" 25.	Chorley Wood, W.S.P.U.	Cecil M. Chapman, J.P.
" 25.	Horbury Rooms, W., London Society	Rev. Hugh Chapman, J. Malcolm Mitchell.
" 26.	Ramsgate, N.U.W.S.S.	Laurence Housman.
" 27.	Hornsey, W.S.P.U.	T. Gugenheim.
" 27.	E. Grinstead, Debate with Mr. Maconochie	J. M. Mitchell.
" 28.	Hyde Park, Men's League	J. Malcolm Mitchell, T. Gugenheim, J. Simpson.
" 30.	Knightsbridge, New Constitutional Club	Arthur Mackinley.
" 30.	Ealing, London Society	Laurence Housman.
" 31.	Wimbledon, W.S.P.U.	R. F. Cholmeley, J. Y. Kennedy.
" 31.		Laurence Housman.

MEETING IN NOTTINGHAM.

A successful meeting was held on May 9th in the Circus Street Hall, Nottingham, under the auspices of the National Union. The speakers were Councillor Margaret Ashton and Mr. J. M. Mitchell. The hall was full, and an absolutely unanimous resolution was passed. Several distinguished Nottingham citizens were present, and Mr. — formerly member of Parliament for one of the city divisions, made an enthusiastic speech at the conclusion.

It was good to see a number of Men's Leaguers present in the hall, either as stewards or in the audience.

TEACHER, experienced, Certificated M.A. of Edinburgh. Deeply interested in W.S. movement, would like to OPEN SMALL PRIVATE BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL. People interested in this will receive particulars and Prospectus on application to "No. 17," MEN'S LEAGUE OFFICES, 159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster, S.W.—[ADVT].

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(Mrs. H. Baillie Weaver).

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