

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE).

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ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

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EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

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WHAT WE THINK.

Wanted, New Voters.

The narrow majorities in many of the constituencies, strange and unaccountable as most of them are, point to the evenness with which the country is divided on what the two parties regard as the great issues of the day. These curiously small excesses of one opinion over another—in Gloucester there was an excess of four people voting Unionist out of 7,802 who voted—point to the necessity for new blood in the body politic if the great bulk of public opinion is to be swayed definitely to one side or another. The early tide, as we go to press, is setting ominously against the Liberal party, and it would seem as if the "passionate discontent" of the existence of which Mr. Balfour reminded Mr. Asquith, and in the teeth of which he told him he would find it impossible to govern, had influenced the male voter in many constituencies. In every daily paper the fact that the present political situation is a very serious one is continually harped upon; each party insists that the country is with it and it alone. Yet we have the curiosities of these narrow majorities. It is plain that if the country really does think seriously either one way or the other, there is a vast amount of suppressed opinion. If this suppressed opinion were allowed to voice itself the present political scales would not be so evenly balanced. If Mr. Asquith had gone to the country with his position towards the Woman's Bill clearly and definitely stated, his party would not now be fighting between life and death. He may thank himself if another general election follows close at heel on this one—and the prophets say it will—and trade disorganised turns finally against him. It is his own fault if he gets an indefinite mandate from the country on the Veto and on Home Rule. If the electorate are really with him it must be plain to him that there is some influence at work that is not unlikely to send him back to the House with the loss of his majority, or with it so weakened that he must continually come to heel at the bidding of one or other of his allies. What this influence is the frequent interruptions at the meetings where his colleagues of the Cabinet are speaking ought to warn him.

The Law's Pets.

The light sentences which magistrates, with one or two noble exceptions, inflict on men who have been guilty of domestic offences was well illustrated

at Hitchin last week. *The Daily Telegraph* says: "Harry Durrant Kempton, an Army Reservist, was sentenced to one month's hard labour for neglecting his wife and child. The evidence showed that no arrangements were made for the attendance upon prisoner's wife when she became a mother. There was neither fire nor food, although Kempton was in regular employment, and during the week following the birth of the child the mother had only one cup of tea, one raw turnip, and two raw carrots." Any right-thinking human being would have regarded this as a case of attempted manslaughter; but the magistrate has the dignity of his sex to uphold, and, women being cheap, he probably thinks that this light punishment fits the crime. The dignity of motherhood in the eyes of the law has never been better illustrated.

French Fogies.

Early in the new year we may expect to hear whether women will be admitted as members of the *Institut de France*. At the monthly meeting of the Central Administrative Committee of the Five French Academies which met a few days ago the question cropped up and there was a fierce discussion. It was perfectly plain that the principal objection arose from the fact that any yielding on the part of the members now might mean that some year there might be a woman-president of the Institute—for membership of any of the affiliated societies carries with it the right of full membership of the Academy itself. It was plain during the discussion that the question of Madame Curie's election to the vacant fauteuil of the Academy of Sciences was the fear behind their utterances. At the "plenary trimestral united sitting of all the Academies" on January 4 the matter will be settled.

Only one woman has ever sat in a French Academy—the painter, Madame Vigée le Brun, in the Academy of Fine Arts—and it is stated on excellent authority that the Academy of Sciences will almost certainly not follow that example. "Madame Curie," says *The Daily Telegraph*, "qualified a hundred times over as a scientist, will be rejected because she is a woman." The woman's question will never have been so plainly put.

Inconsistencies.

The Times, which is nothing if not behind the times, is, as all Suffragists know, rabidly anti-Suffragist and voices with considerable unctious catchwords from Mrs. Humphry Ward, Professor Dicey, and others of that ilk. Its position usually is Mrs. Humphry Ward's, that woman's political ignorance is invincible and imposed by nature. When women are wanted at election times it is apt to find that position o'er difficult, and we notice in the hints to canvassers in the *Woman's Supplement* that "Women who are keenly interested in some political question which makes a special appeal to them are apt to forget that in the course of a day's canvassing many different points of view will be presented to them, and a comprehensive acquaintance with the political situation generally will be found of far greater help in electioneering than a highly-specialised knowledge of one particular question." We wonder what Mrs. Humphry Ward would think of the editorial impudence which airily takes it for granted that any canvasser could get up a "comprehensive acquaintance with the political situation generally," when he ought to know that she, and she alone, is the one exception to the rule of invincible political ignorance she has formulated for others.

LONDON ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

No woman with any pride or independence of spirit but must be feeling to-day the ignominy of being ignored in the present tremendous struggle for the soul of the nation. The forces of Democracy and sham-Democracy are fighting for the mastery, and we, who also have ideals, who also have hopes and desires seeking realisation, are thrust aside. Over the people's forum, over the Temple of Justice, stand the words (to quote Miss Madge Turner's report below):

"No Females Allowed,"

and so we, who do our share of the world's work and carry our share of the world's burdens, are treated as helots in the State, as criminals or lunatics. This shall not be—it is contrary to honour, to our self-respect, to fairplay and to common sense. Let our indignation strengthen our resolve that *never again* shall there be a General Election in Great Britain without the women. Be the sacrifices what they may which the Cause demands, they must be made, and if suffering is the price of human progress, we will suffer, but we will also win.

London is working well, and not one Member will go back to the House without having had evidence of the devotion and resolution of the women. He will feel, when this question comes up in the new Parliament, that it is a vital one, and the old-time scorn will choke the scorners, the old-time ribaldry will die on the lips of the stupid. There is no issue before the country advocated with so much intense earnestness and sincerity as the Enfranchisement of Women, and though we cannot to-day evidence it at the ballot-box, no Member who is not so wilfully blind and obtuse as to be harmless through excessive dulness but will recognise that here is a demand which brooks no delay.

We are not, therefore, discouraged if our attack on the Government candidates fails in its nominal objective—it is still successful, and it is worthy of every effort we can spend.

Reports from all the Branches show activity, courage, and enthusiasm, and we of the W.F.L. shall have done our share in this campaign. Hackney (in Hoxton), Clapham and Central London Branches (in Battersea), Croydon, Hampstead Northern Heights, Acton and Finchley, all have been very active, and now that Hoxton and Battersea have polled, our workers are spreading into other districts.

As far as Hoxton is concerned, Miss Madge Turner reports:—

"Electioneering this week has been carried on under difficulties. In addition to party prejudice, which runs high here, we have had to fight against the elements, and no praise can be too much for those members who have held meetings, advertised, sandwiched, and done the hundred and one things that have to be done during an election in the pouring rain. On Monday evening some of the Hackney members attended Dr. Addison's meeting at the Town Hall. They put their questions at the proper time, and enforced an answer amidst tremendous uproar. We have held open-air meetings every day, and have had good results, and also held a big indoor meeting in the Pitfield Baths, where Mrs. Despard and Miss Neilans spoke. The meeting was orderly from beginning to end, thereby greatly astonishing the police and the baths authorities, as the other Suffrage meetings there this week have been very disorderly. Good work has also been done by Mrs. Hussey, Mrs. Watkins and Mrs. Ives, canvassing from house to house. Miss Bennett has taken dinner-hour and an outdoor afternoon meeting; Mrs. Nevinson came down for an afternoon meeting; Miss Guttridge, Miss Norris, Mr. Simpson, Miss Eggatt, Mrs. Hussey, and Miss Ashby have addressed open-air meetings. Mrs. Catmur and Mrs. Sorabjee have kept shop for us. Others who have helped in various ways are Miss Sims, Mrs. Pierotti, Miss Busby, Miss Dyer, Miss Jeffries, Miss James, Miss Shepherd, Miss Cale, Miss Connell, Miss Barlow, and Dr. Patch. The Hackney Branch have rendered much

help all through the campaign, and Mr. Watkins has been a tower of strength on all occasions.

"At the Town Hall on Friday I applied for permission to attend the nomination, but was met with the smiling but unrelenting remark, "No females allowed." I protested. On polling day we "manned" the polls all day, and met with a good deal of kindness and sympathy."

From Battersea Mrs. E. Taplin writes on Monday:—

"A vigorous campaign is being conducted in Battersea against the President of the Local Government Board, Mr. John Burns. Open-air meetings have been held in all parts of the constituency, when the weather has permitted, and even in the pouring rain we have held well-attended meetings. Our Committee Rooms at 316, Battersea Park-road, are large and prominent, and attract more than usual attention. On Saturday, December 3, we had a very successful meeting at the Surrey-lane School, addressed by Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Sproson, with Mr. Stuart Albery as chairman. A good collection was taken, and some literature and badges were sold. Our workers have been indefatigable, canvassing in the relentless weather, walking in poster-parades, chalking, &c."

"Our special thanks are due to Mrs. Huntsman, who has been splendid. Mrs. Tritton, Mrs. Taylor, Miss Le Mesurier, Miss Boileau, Mr. Holland, Mr. Glazier, Miss Norris, and many others have helped us greatly. Miss Underwood has been invaluable as a local worker, knowing the district well. Our poll day is Tuesday, and we have much to do, and although it is impossible to predict results, we hope ere this appears in THE VOTE to have assisted at least in accomplishing our object of defeating this well-known enemy."

Among other reports the following are of particular interest:—

Hampstead.

A deputation from the local branch of the W.F.L. was received by the Liberal candidate, Mr. Dore, on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. H. W. Nevinson introduced the deputation and spoke as a tax-paying woman and Poor Law Guardian. Mrs. Thomson-Price represented the women householders and professional women, and Miss Lucas pointed out to the candidate the hard position of the single girl fighting her way in the world. Mrs. Van Raalte (an ex-Liberal woman), Mrs. Spiller (Hon. Sec.), and Miss Kathleen Rochford (Treasurer) were also present. Mr. Dore gave us a satisfactory written pledge, and the committee agreed not to oppose him at this election. To-morrow another deputation will wait upon Mr. Fletcher, the Unionist Member, a friend to our Cause and a supporter of the Conciliation Bill.

Acton.

The Acton Branch of the W.F.L. has written to Mr. Herbert Nield, the Parliamentary candidate. His reply was that if the enfranchisement of women stopped where the Conciliation Bill left it, he would vote for that Bill. But if women demanded any more he would oppose them.

Croydon.

The Croydon Branch wrote to the local candidate. Mr. Ian Malcolm declared that until militant tactics are given up he kept "an absolutely open mind on the question." Mr. A. W. Leon, on the contrary, wrote, "I am strongly in favour of Woman's Suffrage, and have said so in my address. The Veto of the Lords must be abolished before any such Bill can become law."

We have now to go straight ahead, and every woman who can and will help is urged to call or write to Headquarters.

B. BORRMANN WELLS.

HON. secretaries of branches are reminded that December 13 is the last day for sending in resolutions for the agenda of Annual Conference.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

WINSTON'S LITTLE WAY.

Welsh Campaign.—In the Liberal Stronghold.

On Monday night Miss Corben arranged a splendid social gathering in the old malthouse adjoining her residence at Caldicot: the room was well filled with men and women of the village, who have not many opportunities of hearing a suffrage speech. The village constable was also present. Mrs. D. A. Thomas, wife of the retiring Liberal M.P. for Cardiff, came over from Newport to take the chair for us. Mrs. Francis recited Laurence Housman's "Woman This and Woman That." The audience listened attentively to my address on "The Need for Woman's Enfranchisement."

On Tuesday I spoke at the Cheltenham Branch sale of work, which the Mayoress (Mrs. Margrett) very kindly opened for us. On Wednesday evening Mrs. Earengay, Miss Boulton, Miss Eamons, Miss How, Mrs. Burton and I went to the Liberal meeting to question Mr. Richard Mathias, the Liberal candidate. Throughout all the speeches the men around us kept up a running fire of interjections, so when Mr. Mathias declared "the Liberal Party stands for the freedom of the people," I interjected "Are women included?" For some minutes there was the uproar which usually takes place now when a woman lifts up her voice in a political meeting. Later in the speech I was able again to interject suitably. Then I waited till all the speeches were over, although the men interrupted continually, when I said, "Mr. Chairman, is there a time allotted for questions?" The Chairman, Mr. Mathias, Mr. Lynch (candidate for Gloucester), and the other persons on the platform merely smiled at the sight of a woman asking an orderly question in an orderly manner, and being hooted and jeered at by the Liberal men in the hall, who had greeted with hysterical enthusiasm their candidates' imitation of Mr. Churchill's grandiloquent pleas for the liberty of the people. The Chairman closed the meeting without deigning to reply. We were then hustled out into the street, where a great mob of "freedom-loving" men exhibited a desire for a little horse-play.

On Friday, at Penrhos Vicarage, a drawing-room meeting was held by invitation of Mrs. Austin. Unfortunately the weather again proved unfavourable, and made it impossible for many to come who would otherwise have been present. But we had a very pleasant little gathering, and hope that between us we have sown a little seed which may soon blossom forth. Mrs. Francis again took the chair and explained the political situation, and I dealt briefly with the necessity for rebellious methods, and the need for us to show ourselves worthy of the sacrifices made for us by the women who struggled for those rights which we to-day enjoy by winning further rights and liberties for the next generation.

CARNARVON.—On Saturday I travelled up to Carnarvon to join Mrs. Cleaves and Miss Clark, who have been busy making the preliminary arrangements for our campaign. Already their presence is felt throughout the constituency. The attitude of the people here grows more friendly every day, and many have wished good luck to our cause. The contest will be short and sharp, for polling takes place on Saturday, December 10, the earliest possible date for a borough constituency. The six boroughs comprising the division are well scattered. This means additional expense in running the campaign. Our special fund for work in Wales is exhausted; will friends who realise the importance of keeping our cause well to the fore in this hotbed of so-called Liberalism please send donations to Mrs. Cleaves, 13, Castle-street, Carnarvon, until Saturday; after that date, "Chez Nous," Sketty, S.O., Glamorgan.—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

Ipswich.—A Turbulent Meeting.

Our Election campaign at Ipswich was a short and brisk one, extending over little more than a week. Our contest took the form of opposition to Sir Daniel Goddard, the senior Liberal Member for the borough, who voted against our Bill in July and returned an unsatisfactory answer to our questions. Our outdoor meetings on the Cornhill, at Earl Grey's Corner, and in other parts of the town were splendidly attended, and were addressed by Miss Neilans, Mrs. Stansfield, Mrs. Tippett, and Miss Cummin. The weather, much to our regret, spoiled the outdoor meetings planned for Mrs. Sproson; she, however, gave a most eloquent address to members of the Independent Labour Party, and answered a shower of questions at the close of the meeting. Mrs. How Martyn, Mrs. Vulliamy, and Miss Neilans were the speakers at the Co-operative Hall on Tuesday. At the first it was evident that a rowdy element was present, determined to wreck the meeting. Only those in front could hear Mrs. How Martyn's clear exposition of the policy of our League and her clever answers to the questions sent to her. Miss Neilans made a most determined fight for a hearing, but the opposition preferred their own voices. We had a good meeting of sympathisers, however, after the rowdy element had dispersed. A howling mob awaited us in the street below, but the caretaker let us out of a side entrance, the gates of which made us all think we were being taken to prison. One member remarked that she felt just like a Cabinet Minister slinking out the back way. On Saturday we decorated two cabs and drove through the town flying our banners and colours. We came home

rather bespattered with mud, but with "Votes for Women" ringing in our ears. This week has made the Women's Freedom League a reality in Ipswich, and therefore the battle has been worth fighting. Besides those already mentioned, special thanks are due to Mrs. Hossack, Miss Howard, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Redman, Miss Nicholson, Mrs. Garner, Dr. Knight, and Miss Stansfield. Mrs. Vulliamy gave splendid service at the beginning of the week; Miss Cummin worked indefatigably, and Mrs. Tippett postponed her visit to France to help us.—CONSTANCE ANDREWS.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Lively Scenes.

The hasty capitulation of all anti-suffragist candidates has been the characteristic of the Election campaign in this district. The Liberal candidate for Southport made a satisfactory statement and our opposition was therefore withdrawn. In Chester the attitude of the Liberals changed with marvellous rapidity at a threatened invasion of Suffragettes. In the Eccles Division, Sir George Pollard still shows himself a believer in adult suffrage to the exclusion of women's suffrage, and has consequently received the attention of the Eccles and Urmston Branches. On Friday evening, Miss Heyes and members of the local branch questioned him on his visit to Urmston.

Members of the W.S.P.U., having interpolated several apt reminders during the candidate's speech, were ejected, and at question time the W.F.L. was left alone in the field. The questions were answered, but our members did not escape the zeal of the Liberal stewards. Miss Ethel Hudson held up a copy of THE VOTE as Sir George entered the room, and a well-aimed blow from behind sent the paper spinning across the hall. After the meeting Miss Heyes held a most successful protest meeting outside the building. All copies of THE VOTE were sold; ardent Liberals promised to bring pressure to bear upon their candidate, and begged for another meeting in the near future.

Members of the Sale Branch have questioned both candidates. Miss Hines and Miss Fildes attended the meeting of the Conservative candidate on Tuesday evening. Their question, a written one, was passed over by the chairman, and when Miss Hines insisted on its receiving an answer, pandemonium ensued. When the uproar ceased, Mr. Ketby Fletcher replied that he had not yet made up his mind on the subject; in consequence a deputation from the Freedom League interviewed him on Friday afternoon.

The Sale Branch members will be present at the polling station with leaflets and VOTES from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday. Help is chiefly needed between 12 and 2 p.m., and from 6 p.m. to the closing of the poll.

In addition to the election work our members found time to help in working up the ratepayers' meeting for the purpose of discussing the feeding of necessitous school children in the district. Miss Manning spoke for the branch on this occasion, and Miss Geiler, Mrs. Gothard and Miss Manning are to serve on the committee, subsequently elected, to deal with the matter and press for the adoption of the Act of 1906.

Three other meetings have been held. On Sunday, November 27, Miss Heyes addressed the Pendleton I.L.P., and Miss Manning spoke at Pankhurst Hall on "Woman, Yesterday and To-Day." An unexpected objection was raised at both these meetings, viz., that the militant movement was becoming "too respectable."

On Tuesday an exceptionally good meeting took place at the Litherland Debating Society, near Liverpool, when Miss Heyes spoke on "The Voice of the People." This is the first time that the woman's movement has been discussed by the Society. Between 70 and 80 members and friends were present. A good debate followed the address, and the meeting broke up with three cheers for the Cause.—M. E. MANNING.

Chester.—Interrupters Hurdled Out.

Chester Branch has had an exciting experience. Five of its members were roughly ejected from the Liberal candidate's meeting half-an-hour before it began. According to the evidence of a man in the audience "the ladies were sitting as quiet as earwigs," simply wearing badges. As soon as we were spotted by the stewards as Suffragettes, though we are all local residents, we were told (not asked) to "get out," and simply hurled off the gallery over a rail, down the stairs and into the street, so roughly that another spectator ejaculated, "Stop it; you will put their necks out!"

We promptly interviewed the candidate, Mr. Paul, who was most courteous, and did his best to rectify matters by sending us with an escort back to the hall with a special pass to the platform, and he promised to apologise publicly. This he did early in his speech, but, alas! we could not get in, even to stand, and the Liberal agent who organised the meeting refused to allow one of us to occupy a seat offered by a gentleman for whom one was reserved.

We interviewed the agent on the following day, and found him unwilling to investigate the affair or to apologise on behalf of his stewards. This we insisted on as due, not merely to us who suffered the insult, but on behalf of the League we represent.

Not until Saturday at noon, under threat of an election campaign in opposition, when Miss Manning and Miss Heyes were even then on their way here, did he deign to make a satisfactory apology.

The stewards are trying to justify their action by saying we were disorderly and waved a flag; also, that we had a chain; so it seemed necessary to explain to the public the truth of the matter.

Torquay—A Hopeful Constituency

Such a wet and stormy battlefield! I always thought South Devon was famous for sunshine, but apparently the Clerk of the Weather is an "Anti"! Mrs. Williamson and I arrived here late on Saturday afternoon, and at once proceeded to look for committee-rooms, and, after four hours' steady tramping in the rain, found them. Plenty of shop-window, a most obliging landlord, with only eleven Liberal votes to turn, and the best of causes behind us—if that is not enough to make a Freedom Leaguer cheerful, I don't know what is!

Colonel Burn, the Unionist candidate, seems very popular, and most residents think it will be a very close fight. The Liberal, Sir F. Layland-Barratt, is an "Anti," and voted against both stages of the Conciliation Bill last July. Colonel Burn does not appear to have expressed his views, and I have therefore written to him. Considering the great number of women in Torquay who are occupiers, and therefore entitled to vote under the Conciliation Bill, I believe we shall have much support if we can win their interest.

Miss Madge Turner arrives to-night (Monday) to take charge of the campaign. This is a county constituency, and includes Brixham, Paignton, St. Mary Church, Dartmouth, Kingswear, besides Torquay, so we shall need every bit of help we can get, and would be glad to have names of sympathisers in the district, and donations for expenses, which will be heavy.

Mrs. Despard will address an indoor meeting here on either Thursday or Friday, the 8th or 9th. A. NEILANS.

Glasgow—Keeping the Liberal out.

Glasgow Branch held its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 1, at 8 p.m. Business, to organise the Election campaign in Glasgow and district. Two city constituencies we may leave alone—Blackfriars, where there is no Liberal candidate, and Tradeston, whose Member is Mr. Cameron Corbett. The other five must be worked, and the District Conveners are busy getting the members to be present at all meetings to question the candidates, and to hold protest meetings outside. Day and evening open-air meetings are arranged to be held during the week in these five constituencies, and a special one is to be held outside Mr. Lloyd George's meeting in St. Andrew's Halls on Monday evening. On Friday, December 2, we managed to get Mr. McKinnon Wood, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to say he did not understand why one-half of the population were debarred from voting, in a packed meeting of Glasgow Liberals where no questions were allowed, in the City Hall. We hope to hold at least six meetings each day in Glasgow. Speakers: Mrs. Gordon, our new organiser, and Misses Shennan, Gibson, Steven, Reid, Scrymgeour, and Semple. The District Conveners, Mrs. Macleod, Mrs. Sloan, and Misses Stewart, Perritt, Dickie, Reid, Gibson and Hunter, are all using the abilities of the members in their districts to the most advantage, and show that no elector shall be allowed to forget that the Women's Freedom League is alive and fighting.

The county Elections come the following week, and so we will be able to tackle East and West Renfrewshire, Govan, Partick, and North-West Lanarkshire. Open-air meetings have been arranged for already, and all members in these places are urged to send to the District Convener, or the Organiser, at 302, Sauchiehall-street, telling which hours they can help. Helpers are always required, for the more helpers the more meetings. Chalking, selling literature, asking questions at meetings, helping in the shop—come and help in these things.—E. S. SEMPLE.

Dundee—Winston's Little Way.

Mr. Churchill has received a deputation of the Women's Freedom League. On Tuesday the women talked to Mr. Churchill, starting in a mild fashion from the Liberal women, a little stronger when the Constitutional women received audience, culminating in a battle-royal—to quote a local paper—when Mr. Churchill and the Women's Freedom League met face to face on Votes for Women. Miss Husband, Miss Grant, and Miss Clunas told the senior Member for Dundee in plain, unmeasured terms their opinion of his treatment of Women's Suffrage. Mr. Churchill informed us that Mr. Asquith's pledge—"sort of a pledge," Miss Clunas dared to call it—is genuine. He had, with his usual adaptability for somersaulting, arranged his attitude to his audiences. To the Liberals he said that the laws were more favourable to women than men, but some time they might get Votes for Women, if they were good to the Constitutional he said it was right, but that he would not vote for a Bill which would disturb the balance of parties; to us he stated that facilities were promised in the next Parliament. To judge from his remarks on our opposing him, Mr. Churchill evidently considered that his condescension in receiving us ought to have turned the scale. All left him feeling that the Suffrage will be won in spite of Mr. Churchill, who is holding it back while desirous of claiming credit when victory is won.

All over the constituency large and interested meetings are held. On Friday evening Mrs. Billington-Greig spoke in the Y.M.C.A. She dwelt at length with Mr. Churchill's political character and utterances, proving most conclusively that the worst thing the Dundee men could do for themselves, as well as

us, would be to vote for the Home Secretary. Miss Murray also, in a very eloquent speech which was frequently loudly applauded, appealed to the men to stand by the women this time. Miss Husband dealt with the deputation. New members were gained, and a considerable quantity of literature sold. For the week-end much help was given by Miss Jack, who came in spite of a very bad cold, and Misses Thompson and McCallum, of Dunfermline. Miss Murray and I are holding day and evening meetings, assisted by Miss McGilchrist Gilchrist, Mrs. Allan and Miss Clunas, and the other members of the branch. We hope, if we cannot turn Mr. Churchill out, to at least considerably reduce his majority. This week donations have been received from Anonymous, per Miss Buxton (Glasgow), £5; Mrs. McGregor, £1; Miss Sarah Bennett, £1; Miss Daisy Anderson, 2s.—ANNA MUNRO.

THE committee of the "Vie Heureuse," consisting of women of letters, awarded a prize of £200 to Marguerite Audioux, a peasant girl who came to Paris in search of work, and for some years gained her living as a seamstress, who has written "Marie Claire," an autobiographical novel which has proved to be the book of the year.

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Smart Evening Wrap in velveteen,
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braid, lined white jap silk, £2 7s 6d.

IN ALL COLOURS.

THE GLASGOW CENTRE.

"Give my love to the beautiful shop." Mrs. How Martyn's face was illumined with pleasant memories as she gave me this parting message on my return north.

I think we may, with all modesty, claim the possession of the finest situated and best equipped Suffrage premises in Britain, and Glasgow members are justly proud of 302, Sauchiehall-street, which is now the centre of the amalgamated branches of the W.F.L. in our city, and where all meetings take place.

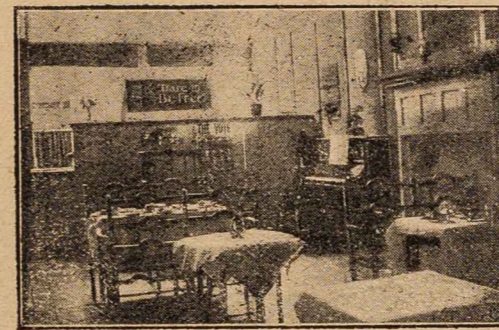
Situated in one of our best shopping centres and promenades, the frontal aspect of the shop is most attractive, the windows display-



The Glasgow Shop.

ing, in addition to a good variety of Suffrage literature, "Vote" placards, &c., a handsome stock of artistic work by leading lady artists, which is sold on commission. There are numerous beautiful specimens of *repoussé* work, *marqueterie*, painted china, etchings, and embroideries, on view inside, and they serve the double purpose of stock and ornamentation. On entering, one is immediately charmed with the spaciousness, and highly artistic scheme of decoration throughout. The walls, panelled in brown canvas with oak supports, and with green, white and gold flags effectively grouped at intervals, form a distinct contrast with the snowy ceiling and balcony rails. The fireplace at once commands attention, being a fine work of art in a cream shade, inset with medallions and other designs enamelled in delicate tints. Between it and the windows, a handsome piano is in readiness for "At Homes," &c. On the opposite side stands a well-stocked bookcase, from which members may provide themselves with good volumes at the rate of twopence each per week. On the counter at the door lies a fine variety of Suffrage literature.

During the afternoons the shop is a model café,



A Corner of the Tea Room.

where small tables are set out, and daintily decorated with fresh flowers, usually gifts from members. Tea is made ready in a neat little kitchen in the rear, and the tables are waited by voluntary helpers looking smart in green overall pinafores, embroidered in white and gold. On meeting nights the tables are removed,

and rows of chairs substituted, transforming the shop into a splendid lecture hall, where Mrs. Billington-Greig, Miss Cicely Hamilton, and other prominent speakers have occupied the little platform, and delighted and enthused us from time to time.

A white painted staircase leads to the balcony (at the rear of which are a dressing-room and small office),



The Secretary's Room.

and a further flight leads up to the large and well-equipped front office, where all clerical work in connection with the league in Glasgow is done.

As manageress of the Suffrage centre, Miss J. K. McArthur fills her role with much skill and conscientious labour, and feels greatly indebted to those who give their voluntary assistance in the shop, which like most other things beautiful, requires much care and attention. KATE EVANS.

OUR SHOPPING GUIDE.

** Each month we shall give brief hints to our readers as to where they can purchase with good results to themselves.

Efficient Cleaning and Dyeing.

Messrs. Chambers and Co., 89, Maple-road, Penge, have allowed us to peruse some of the many testimonials which they constantly receive when they return goods which have been cleaned or dyed. Some of these are from our own members, and from what we have seen of Messrs. Chambers' work we cordially recommend any of our readers who wish to give a new lease of life to an old costume or soiled blouse to send them to Messrs. Chambers. From the testimonials before us we take the following remarks:—"Enclosed 5s. 6d. in settlement of account. I would also like to tell you how very pleased I am with the dress. I have never seen one so well done, and shall certainly recommend you to my friends." "P.O. 4s. 6d. enclosed in settlement of account. I think the costume is beautifully cleaned, and I shall have much pleasure in sending you orders." "With many thanks from Mrs. D—, who is very pleased with garments cleaned."

Decorations for Christmas.

None of us can do without flowers and holly to decorate our houses at Christmas, and where there are children the small palms to hang Christmas presents for them. All of these can be obtained in great variety at Charles Woods', 22, High-street, Manchester-square, and his show of cut blooms—particularly many-coloured chrysanthemums—is specially attractive at this season.

Rich Feathers.

For those who need feathers at very reasonable prices, either the smart lancers or the sweeping cavalier, a splendid choice in all the fashionable colours can be had at Madame Baumann's, 136, Theobalds-road, W.C. All members of the League, mentioning THE VOTE, will get prompt attention, and will find her charges to compare very favourably with those of other firms.

Sale of Furs.

Special value is being offered at William Owen's, Westbourne-grove, where winter furs of every description are being sold at summer prices. Those who have put off getting their furs until now, or who wish to give seasonable gifts to their friends, ought not to miss this opportunity. Those of our members who habitually deal with William Owen speak of the good value that is always to be had there, and of the courteous attention of the assistants.

Value in Coats.

There is nothing so useful in winter as a good warm coat with a turn-up collar that will defy the elements. At Messrs. Beddall's stores at Kentish Town-road a very good coat of this description, in good quality tweed and extremely serviceable, can be had for the moderate sum of 21s. 9d., and worth considerably more. For those who desire a smart evening wrap, moderately priced, we recommend the evening coat shown in our advertisement columns.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 143, Holborn Bars.
Secretary—Miss M. E. RIDLER.
Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc.,
Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE, Miss MARIE LAWSON.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1910.

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Had there not been a General Election at this juncture we might have counted with much justification upon the carrying of a Woman Suffrage Bill during 1911. The sudden dissolution of Parliament with other resulting events have thrown things again into the melting pot and introduced many new elements of danger. We may be better off or worse off when the new House assembles than we were when the Parliament of 1910 was dissolved but the probabilities are that we shall be worse off. There is still a sporting chance for 1911 but it is less likely to crystallise into a certainty than the chance of a few weeks ago.

It is too soon yet to say how the verdict of the electors will go. Saturday's pollings seem to indicate that there will be little change from the old position and the little there is seems so far in favour of the Unionists. The Scottish and Welsh constituencies are proverbially Liberal, and they may reverse the advantage before the end of the week. If they do not add gains to the Government side—and the almost general reduction of the Liberal vote even where Liberal seats have been retained is not an auspicious omen—such victory as another indeterminate result can give would fall to the Conservatives. Certain people would take this result as being a sign of the British desire to retain the House of Lords as an integral part of the British Constitution. By others it would be hailed as a victory for the Unionist plan of reform for that Upper House and as a demand for the Referendum; while many women would hail it with delight as due to the Suffragist effort to inflict political punishment on the Liberal Ministry.

There is much to be said in favour of a condign punishment of a brutal and hypocritical Government. But there is certainly another side to this question. It is to our advantage to punish the Government that has withstood our justifiable demand, but it does not necessarily follow that it is to our advantage to have that Government turned out of power altogether. There can be no immediate certainty as to which result of the General Election would finally prove most favourable to Women Suffragists. We have educated the present Government by pressure and protest. It has been driven to abandon one place of evasion after another. Point by point the weaknesses have been eliminated from the statements of the chief Minister of the Crown. One ground of postponement has had to be given up, and again another, until we have little more to gain. The pressure of the last five years has been exerted almost wholly upon these same Ministers until even they must be getting weary of ill-doing. These circumstances seem to indicate that it would be to our advantage if the Liberals were again returned to power, and the conclusion is strengthened by the complete and ominous silence upon the issue among the Conservative leaders.

On the other side there are as yet no strained relations, no bad memories to impede an immediate fair hearing of our claim by a new Conservative Ministry. The fall of the Liberal Government, so far as it could be shown to be due to our efforts, would produce an immense effect upon the succeeding Ministry. But how is the Suffragist effect upon the results to be calculated? And when it is calculated to our satisfaction, by what means are we to convince the Ministry of the dominant sex that the sex subject has made its wrongs the turning point in the contest?

Frankly, a survey of the conditions constrains us to admit that the return of the present Liberal Administration seems to hold the greater share of hope and the more immediate chances of victory.

The questioning of Ministers of the Crown has been

carried out wherever possible, but very often the accompanying conditions have precluded the gaining of any additions to or explanations of the Prime Minister's pledge. A notable exception was provided by the series of deputations received by Mr. Churchill on one of his flying visits to Dundee, and from his utterances on that occasion we can deduce something of the attitude Ministers will adopt in the new Parliament if it should be under the control of a Liberal Cabinet.

The Home Secretary's words were coloured with some natural irritation due to recent demonstrations, and he took the opportunity to read a lesson in manners to the Women's Freedom League deputation. As Mr. Churchill's state of mind was plainly not favourable to us we can take his words as putting the case at its worst, and can hope for some improvement of prospects when the new Parliament opens. In the first place Mr. Churchill admitted that there was no logical justification for the sex bar in politics, and he followed this up by informing the Liberal women that they would get the vote as soon as men wanted them to have it. Upon receiving the members of the Freedom League he declared that it was impossible for the Prime Minister's pledge to be fulfilled during 1911, and suggested that the last session was as good as the first session for a franchise measure. On this point of time therefore it is clear that we shall have to fight and to begin to fight early. Though it must not be forgotten that the Home Secretary's argument cuts both ways: if we are to wait until another General Election to use our votes—and we are perfectly willing to wait—then it would surely be to the advantage of a Government that has promised to give time to fulfil its promise at the earliest moment and so to escape annoyance and agitation.

A point of equal importance elicited by Miss Clunas was that the Government held itself bound to carry out the pledge of providing full facilities whatever the form finally taken by the Suffrage Bill in its passage through the House. There is to be no further attempt to deny the House temporal facilities because the Cabinet is not personally in favour of the terms of the measure finally chosen by the members of the Commons.

The year 1911 may yet be made the year of our first legislative victory. If the Liberal Government is returned to power we have some guarantees upon which to base our hopes. But if the Unionists are returned we cannot have any knowledge of the probabilities until the new House assembles. If the decision of the election is such that no decisive victory is recorded and another election is made necessary within a short time, we must still cling to our hope. A new electorate is the only means by which the too well balanced parties can be given a chance of differentiation and new life. Let the Government returned, whatever its colour or name, take the opportunity of doing an act of justice and at the same time opening up an obvious way out of the national deadlock which we seem to have reached.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

MRS. DESPARD'S PIANO.

DEAR FELLOW-MEMBERS,—I desire through the medium of THE VOTE to thank very heartily those who took part in the fine protest at Holborn when my piano was sold. I wish to thank also those who would have been there had earlier notice been given to them. The authorities were careful not to allow time for wide advertisement. The Notice of Sale came to me on the Saturday before it was to take place. I had actually started on my journey North, and I telegraphed from King's Cross to the office.

Thus they had not more than one full day, and I was obliged to be away to meet my engagements. It may interest my friends to know that the sum taken for my piano, £7 10s., was not enough to cover the tax and expenses. I have heard no more, however. When I do hear, I will at once give you notice through THE VOTE.—I remain, yours sincerely, C. DESPARD.



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English Mole-Skin Fur Set
(as sketch), worked in new stripe effect. Stole 8 inches wide, 50 inches long; Muff 12 inches wide, 15 inches long. Special price, Muff and Stole complete.

84/-
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MINERVA PUBLISHING CO.

The ordinary general meeting of the Minerva Publishing Company, Limited, was held on Thursday, December 1, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, Mrs. E. How Martyn (director of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Miss M. E. Ridler) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditor, the Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said, "I desire, in the first place, to refer to the retirement of the managing director, Miss Marie Lawson, whose resignation of the management of the company's business dates from to-day.

"It is scarcely necessary for me to emphasize the gratitude felt for the splendid service rendered by Miss Lawson in the formation of the company, and in the conduct of its business up to the present time. It is not too much to say that without Miss Lawson THE VOTE could not have been.

"Special attention has, during the past few months, been directed towards instituting an efficient business system; Miss Lawson is, therefore, of the opinion that her retirement need not affect the work of the company. I am pleased to state that Miss Lawson is offering herself for re-election to the board—I have no doubt that she will be re-elected—and will, in the capacity of an ordinary director, continue to give her valuable services to THE VOTE. I also take this opportunity on behalf of the board, of thanking Miss Ridler for her services as secretary, which have been so generously given, and I am quite sure that the shareholders will be pleased to note that she has kindly consented to continue as honorary secretary, with which office she will, in future, combine some of the duties of management."

Dealing fully with the question of VOTE sales, the speaker said: "Special mention must be made of the valuable assistance rendered by certain members of the Women's Freedom League who, by selling THE

VOTE in the streets, and in other public places, have very materially aided the circulation and extended the knowledge of the paper.

"In this connection I am glad to be in a position to announce that the Women's Freedom League has been fortunate in securing the services of Miss Ethel Fennings as VOTE organiser. Miss Fennings's untiring energy in this department is already well known, and she is relying upon the hearty co-operation of all members of the Women's Freedom League. THE VOTE organiser will, we trust, shortly extend the sphere of her operations to the various provincial centres, and largely-increased sales are confidently expected to result from this appointment. I will not deal in detail with the various features of the report from a business point of view, but will leave these matters to be referred to by the seconder of the resolution. I now beg to move: 'That the report and accounts for the year to August 31, 1910, be, and are hereby received, approved and adopted.'"

Miss Marie Lawson, in seconding the motion, said: "I have much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report and balance-sheet from the date of the incorporation of the company up to August 31, 1910. The copies of the accounts which are in your hands contain all necessary items, and as many of these items are also dealt with in the report of the directors, I do not think I need refer to them further, unless any of the shareholders desire fuller information. With regard to our capital account you will observe that up to the date of the balance-sheet only about five-eighths of the total capital had been subscribed, and on the 2,814 shares which are only partly paid up, the sum of £383 is still outstanding. This amount, together with the accounts receivable, and the cash in hand, as shown in the balance-sheet, represents the available working capital for the current year.

"On the credit side of the account you will observe that we have reserved a sum equal to 10 per cent. on the amount due by sundry debtors to provide for any possible bad or doubtful debts, and we have also written off 10 per cent. from our preliminary expense account. I should like to explain that this particular account now includes all the expenses incurred in and about the business of the company from August, 1909, while the company was being formed and the preliminary arrangements made down to the end of October, 1909, when the first number of THE VOTE was published, and the business of the company may be said to have commenced. We cannot say that we, as directors, are entirely satisfied with the accounts, which we now present to you; but I think we may say that on the whole they are as satisfactory as we could possibly expect.

"Now that we have outlived the difficulties of the first twelve months; now that we are in a position to state that at the end of August, 1910, the net result was better by about 30 per cent. than it had been at the end of the previous March; now that we have in operation the new contract for printing and publishing THE VOTE, which will effect a considerable saving on the cost of production, I think we may go forward with courage.

"Our progress during the current year will depend upon circumstances over some of which we have no control. It will depend upon the activities of the Women's Freedom League. It will depend also, to some extent, on the political situation, but I for one shall be disappointed if we do not show an improvement equal to about 40 or 50 per cent. on the current year's business.

"There is one thing, however, that we have to contend against which does not make for progress or development, and that is an inadequate working capital by which we are handicapped and impeded in every direction.

"We most earnestly appeal to all members of the Women's Freedom League to assist us during the next two or three months by taking up the remainder of the 3,058 shares which represent the unsubscribed capital."

In conclusion Miss Lawson submitted for the informa-

tion of those present, facts and figures showing the progress made in the printing and the advertisement departments during the first eight and ten months respectively.

After some discussion, in the course of which several useful suggestions were made, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Dr. Macpherson, seconded by Dr. Elizabeth Knight, the two retiring directors, Mrs. Edith How Martyn, and Miss Marie Lawson, were unanimously re-elected to the board.

On the motion of Mrs. Duval, seconded by Mrs. Tritton, the auditor (Mrs. Ethel Ayres Purdie) was unanimously reappointed.

The proceedings then terminated.

CAXTON HALL "AT HOME."

The downpour of rain and the absence of many election workers served to make the gathering at Caxton Hall on Thursday last smaller than usual. Unfortunately Mr. G. O'Dell was prevented by throat trouble from speaking. In the absence of Mrs. Francis, who was electioneering in Wales, Mrs. Despard took the chair.

Mrs. Despard—A Trying Position.

Mrs. Despard, in the course of her speech, said that the present position was a trying and delicate one. We had been told to "wait and see." We had waited, but we had not seen very much as far as the realisation of our hopes went.

After much consideration it had been decided not to take part in the action of other societies. "We are now face to face with the electorate, not with the Commons or the Cabinet, and we demand that a mandate shall be sent to the new House of Commons. We say, 'Here are women who, year after year, have been working for the poor, the sick, the oppressed, the unemployed, the children, and now, before anything else, we demand a practical recognition of these our services.'"

Miss Matters.—Illogical Cabinet Ministers.

Miss Matters dealt with the illogical attitude of Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George. Mr. Winston Churchill went about the country (carefully guarded against the ferocity of the Suffragettes) talking about breaking down barriers of opposition and carrying the Liberal cause to victory. Suffragists have to say that the attitude of Mr. Churchill is such that it will not carry the Liberals to victory. His attitude and that of some of his colleagues has forced many women who have worked all their lives for the Liberal party to come out from that party. They feel that they have given years of work, of spirit, of enthusiasm, and have received nothing in return. They did not expect much from the Conservative party, but they did from that party which counted among its members such men as Cobden and Gladstone; but they had been bitterly disappointed. One could not but agree with Mr. Zangwill when he said that during the debate on the Conciliation Bill the leaders of the two parties had swapped places. Mr. Balfour spoke as a Liberal and Mr. Asquith showed himself the Tory he was.

Lloyd George had said the plain issue before the country was—were the people to govern themselves or were the Peers to do it? Women said, "Was a little clique in the House of Commons to govern the destinies of all the women of the country? Mr. Winston Churchill said the vote of a Free Trader must count as much as the vote of a Tariff Reformer, the vote of a Non-conformist as much as that of a Churchman. We say the vote of a woman must count as much as that of a man. We claim full political equality. If every law were fair to women, and if every tax were just, we should still make our demand. One excuse that was made for not dealing with our Bill was that it would never have passed the House of Lords. But why not give it a chance? Out of the thirty-five Suffrage Bills not one had been sent to the Lords. Our quarrel was with the Commons, not with the Lords.

WILLIAM OWEN.

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LORD LYTTON ON THE PRESENT SITUATION

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—As the Conciliation Committee recently sent an urgent request to the two militant Suffrage Societies to refrain from any form of violent protest at the present moment, it may interest your readers to know the grounds on which that advice was given. It has caused us great disappointment and mortification to find that in spite of our efforts to promote the cause of Woman Suffrage during the last Parliament and the proofs which we have given of our sincerity we have failed to secure the confidence of many of the militant women.

It is not my business now to criticise or reproach those who have refused to listen to our advice, but merely to lay before your readers the reasons on which that advice was given.

If the choice lay between accepting Mr. Asquith's statement as satisfactory and militant tactics, I should justify the latter because his statement was profoundly unsatisfactory, but I do not admit the alternative. I regard militant tactics—at least so far as they involve street riots and imprisonments—as a desperate remedy only to be resorted to when no progress can be made by any other means, and the sacrifices which these demonstrations impose upon the brave women who take part in them are so serious that they must never be wasted.

In judging the present situation I have to ask myself what are the facts and what is the possible gain to be derived from fresh demonstrations of the kind which we have lately seen. The facts are that if the Liberals are returned to power they are pledged to give time for a Woman Suffrage Bill in the next Parliament. Whether this pledge is of value or utterly worthless will depend very much on the result of the elections. If the Liberals gain largely at the elections they may be strong enough to carry a more extended Bill than ours even against a united Conservative Opposition. If the balance of parties is much what it now is our Bill is the only one which would stand any chance of passing the House of Commons. If the Conservatives have a majority we have as yet no pledge from them, and the situation will be an altogether new one. In either of these three eventualities the whole time of next session will be occupied by the House of Commons in dealing with the Constitutional question, on which the election will primarily have been fought, and in passing a highly controversial Budget. Neither party, therefore, would probably be in a position to grant facilities for a Suffrage Bill in the first session.

These are the facts; now let me consider what is the possible gain from militant tactics at this moment.

There are only three objects which anyone could hope to attain, and in my opinion neither of them is, in fact, attainable.

1. That the question will gain ground in the country during the elections, and therefore stand a better chance of recognition at the hands of the new Parliament than if no militant action had taken place.

2. That the Liberals, if returned to power, will be more disposed to deal with it immediately.

3. That the Conservatives, if returned to power, will feel compelled to put Woman Suffrage before Tariff Reform, House of Lords reform, or any other question.

It is my opinion that the recent demonstrations cannot possibly produce any of these results, and I regret, therefore, that they were undertaken.

It may be asked how much longer women are to wait, what limit is to be placed on their patience, and in what circumstances would militancy again become necessary.

I answer that patience is required until the promise which has already been obtained is proved to be worthless. The following are three circumstances which would justify a renewed militant agitation:—

1. If the Liberals attempted to deal with the question by means of a Bill which would not be carried in the House of Commons.

2. If the Liberals, after dealing with the Constitutional question, proceeded to take up ordinary legislative work before giving time to our Bill.

3. If the Conservatives came into power and refused to give any undertaking to deal with the question.

Assuming that militant tactics do have the effect of compelling attention and forcing a Government to make concessions, they would be called for in either of these eventualities and would probably have the results expected of them. In such circumstances, at any rate, however much I should regret the necessity, I should not feel that this weapon was being wasted or was being used wantonly.

I do feel both at this moment because I do not see what object they can possibly achieve. I do not even know what result they are expected to have, and I hate to feel that women are going to prison and suffering terrible hardships for nothing. I also dread the possibility that the exasperation created by a vain agitation may drive some of them to acts of violence too terrible to contemplate.

Let me put one more question. What is to be lost from refraining from violent demonstrations just now? While the elections are actually in progress there is more practical work to be done in the constituencies than in prison, and the composition and opinions of the next Parliament will be more surely affected by election work than by street fighting. When the new Parliament meets, such members of the Conciliation Committee as have survived the elections will at once get to work to keep the question alive in the House of Commons, and to prepare for a new opportunity of bringing their Bill forward. With a prolongation of the truce the movement will not lose ground either in or out of Parliament. If the best happens militant tactics will never again be required; if the worst happens, they will be resumed in circumstances which will make them intelligible even to those who do not approve of them.

Conciliation and militancy cannot go on side by side, and until a truce is again declared there can be no more Conciliation Committee. Your friends in Parliament can do nothing while you are fighting outside, and the resumption of hostilities implies that there is no work for us to do. But from the moment that we are allowed to enter the field, and so long as your interests are confided to our care, you need have no fear that we shall keep the flag flying. The members of your League have shown wisdom and forbearance in the present crisis, and I hope they will believe that the confidence which they have placed in us will not be abused. I am, yours faithfully,

LYTTON.

FRANCHISE IN WASHINGTON.

GOVERNOR M. E. HAY, of Washington, has addressed the following letter to Mrs. Emma Smith DeVoe, President of the Washington Equal Suffrage Association:—

Kindly allow me to congratulate you upon the magnificent victory won in securing the constitutional amendment permitting women to vote in this State. You and your associates certainly waged a battle of which you may well be proud. . . .

The proclamation announcing the amendment to the constitution will be made as soon as the canvassing boards make their returns, and I am in hopes of being able to get it out the day before Thanksgiving, so that the Suffragists of the State may have double reason for thanksgiving.

The Governor's signature is not necessary to a joint resolution of both Houses of the Legislature submitting a constitutional amendment, but Governor Hay, of Washington, and Governor Vessey, of South Dakota, are so strongly in favour of equal suffrage that when their respective Legislatures passed the Acts submitting it, they both of them affixed their signatures as a mark of sympathy.

Washington's Chivalrous Men.

The first legislation resulting from the adoption of the Woman Suffrage amendment to the Washington

Constitution was brought up six days after the election, when a Bill was introduced in the City Council of Seattle to forbid smoking in polling-places at general or special elections.

The purpose of the proposed ordinance, we are told, is to make conditions about the election booths more attractive to women who may wish to vote, or who may preside as election officials.

When Massachusetts granted school suffrage to women, in 1879, an ordinance was straightway passed in Boston, forbidding smoking at the polls. Far from destroying chivalry, equal suffrage promotes it.—*Woman's Journal*, Boston.

MR. PHILIP SNOWDEN ON THE QUESTION.

On his return from America, Mr. Snowden was interviewed by *The Christian Commonwealth* on the movement in America and on his opinion of Mr. Asquith's statement.

When I came away the women were holding demonstrations to celebrate the gaining of the suffrage in Washington—the fifth state to welcome women in the field of politics. The organisation of the women's movement is remarkable in America. Ten months ago they started to reorganise their forces in New York, and now they have branches of the movement in every ward of the city, with an aggregate membership of 25,000. I attended a convention in Carnegie Hall, at which 4,000 delegates were present. The women's clubs form another extraordinary institution. We have nothing like them; I had heard of them before I visited America, but I had no idea of their strength and value. Every town possesses its women's club, which is always the centre of a fine intellectual life. The women who are associated with this movement are of a splendid type. Educationally, I think the women of the United States are in advance of the women in this country; they have greater opportunities.

Mr. Asquith's Suffrage Statement.

"To come to England: What is your opinion of Mr. Asquith's statement on the suffrage?"

It is probably as satisfactory as anything we could have expected. It will depend upon the Conciliation Committee whether a Bill is discussed early or late in the next Parliament. If the Conciliation Committee are determined in their demand for facilities next session, the Prime Minister will not be able to refuse them. He can have no possible excuse for so doing. And if a majority is secured the Bill should pass into law next session.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON PROP GANDA CENTRE.

The arrangement for Committee Rooms at 316, Battersea Park-road, enables us to obtain the premises for three months, and during this period it is intended to run a special campaign in South-West London. From this centre our activities will radiate into Clapham, Brixton, Balham, Tooting, Putney and Barnes, and we hope to see a great increase of interest in this part of London.

To secure great results great efforts will be needed, and I invite co-operation and support in this new venture. First of all, we need furniture and fittings in order to make the Centre comfortable and inviting. Who will give or loan us floor-covering and chairs?

Then we must make the Centre self-supporting, and to do this we need articles for sale. From now until the first of January, Christmas and New Year cards, calendars and suitable gift articles in particular will be most welcome. Who will make the Cause in South London a Christmas present? B. BORRMANN WELLS.

EXCELLENT propaganda work can be done by sending copies of THE VOTE to the Member of your constituency, whether favourable or unfavourable to the Cause.

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THEATRICAL BOOTS AND SHOES MADE TO ORDER.

BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON.—1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

Central London Branch.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.

On Tuesday, November 29, we held a branch meeting for the purpose of framing resolutions and making nominations for the Annual Conference agenda, and those present considered that having got through so much business another meeting was unnecessary.

Two new members joined us, and a collection of 5s. was taken. We were very sorry to receive the resignation of our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Williamson, who is leaving London, and we would like to express our gratitude to her for all the work she has so ably undertaken for us.

Till another Treasurer is elected, subscriptions to the branch may be sent to me.

Miss Edith Craig and Miss Seruya are organising a meeting for this branch, to take place shortly in a small hall. Miss Cicely Hamilton (a member of the branch) has kindly consented to speak for us, and a special notice of the place, date, and time arranged for, will be found in next week's VOTE, so make a point of looking out for it.—E. G. T.

Brighton and Hove.—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. FRANCIS, 51, Buckingham-place, Brighton; Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

A members' and friends' meeting will be held this Friday, December 9, at Miss Girand's Studio, 57, George-street, Hove, at 4 p.m., to meet Mrs. Fenwick Miller. Members and friends are requested to send articles, new or old, of any description for our forthcoming jumble sale, and to offer their services as sales-women. The sale will take place at 10, Stoneham-road, Hove, on Monday, December 12, in the afternoon and evening. Tickets to give away for it can be obtained from either of the Hon. Secretaries. It is hoped to hold a tax resistance meeting early in January, with Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Kineton Parkes as speakers.

Portsmouth and Gosport.—Mrs. WHETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

Our first big indoor meeting, Friday, December 2, was a decided success. The Albert Hall, which holds a thousand people, was well filled. Of course, Mrs. Despard was the attraction, and she gave a most eloquent and inspiring speech. I was in the chair, and Mr. D. L. Lipson, B.A., Secretary of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, proposed the resolution in a fine and thoughtful address. The resolution was carried unanimously. The reception, too, was very successful. New members were made at both meetings, a lot of literature sold, and our stock of VOTES completely disappeared. THE VOTE can always be obtained at 4, St. Paul's-road, Southsea.—S. WHETTON.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

Glasgow: Suffrage Centre, 302, SAUCHIEHALL STREET.

Suffrage Centre Managers: MISS K. MCARTHUR.

Hon. Secretary: MISS B. S. SEMPLE.

Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTON.

Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

Glasgow.

GLASGOW.—Arts and Crafts Exhibition, from December 12 till 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Buy your Christmas gifts at the Suffrage Centre: Pictures, metal work, painted glass and china, jewellery, Russian work and leather work for sale. Tea served daily as usual. Admission free.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road.

Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place.

Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street.

Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

We have not allowed the question of Votes for Women to be forgotten by the public during this Election. By lantern processions, open-air meetings, and the questioning of candidates we have reminded electors that there is not yet reality in Mr. Asquith's appeals to the "people." Miss Sara Munro, Mrs. Finlayson Gould, Miss Jacob, B.Sc., Miss J. M. Marshall, Miss Lauder and Miss McLachlan, M.A., have spoken at the open-air meetings; while Miss Nannie Brown, Mrs. Thomson, Miss Sara Munro, Miss Wood and Mrs. Bell have heckled candidates, and many other members have helped by their presence and by selling literature, &c.

It is not intended to let pass without further protest the Presentation of the Freedom of the City to Mr. Asquith, on December 20. In conjunction with the W.S.P.U. and the Men's League, we are calling upon women and men ratepayers to object to this misuse of their money at this time. Anyone knowing of ratepayers likely to do this please communicate at once with the Secretary.

Mrs. Thomson makes a special appeal for sweets, dolls, and dainty articles, however small, for the shop. She is particularly anxious to have a very attractive Christmas display. It is well to remember that much good—and not only of a financial kind—is done by those who keep our fancy goods window well stocked.—HELEN McLACHLAN, Assistant Secretary.

MISS FRANCIS RUSHWORTH, a dressmaker, entered on the Register as Francis Rushworth, recorded her vote in the East Leeds Division on Monday. The heavens remained standing and the earth still goes round. The lady also voted in January last.

CANDIDATE M.P.s WHO HAVE MENTIONED WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN THEIR ELECTION ADDRESSES.

*LORD CHAS. BERESFORD (Un.), Portsmouth.

*SIR WILLIAM BULL (Un.), Hammersmith.

MACKENZIE BELL (Lib.), St. George's, Hanover-square.

The Suffrage should be given to women, both as an act of justice and as tending towards national purity. My whole-hearted support will be given, therefore, to this reform.

RT. HON. SYDNEY BUXTON (Lib.), Poplar.

H. G. CHANCELLOR (Lib.), Haggerston.

H. ELVERSTON (Lib.), Gateshead.

PHILIP S. FOSTER (Un.), S.W. Warwickshire.

W. J. FISHER (Lib.), Canterbury.

I am strongly in favour of a comprehensive measure of electoral reform which should include a less cumbersome form of franchise, which could be extended experimentally to women.

*BERTRAM G. FALLE (Un.), Portsmouth.

HAMAR GREENWOOD (Lib.), Sunderland.

A. H. GILL (Lab.), Bolton.

F. W. GOLDSTONE (Lab.), Sunderland.

F. T. H. HENLE (Lib.), S. Paddington.

J. G. HANCOCK (Lab.), Mid-Derby.

HUGH E. HOARE (Lib.), Chelsea.

I am in favour of Adult Suffrage.

H. M. HYNDMAN (Soc.), Burnley.

Proportional vote of all adults.

*J. A. JACKSON (Un.), Whitehaven.

A. H. JESSEL, K.C. (Un.), Cent. Hackney.

I am in favour of votes for women. Sex ought to be no bar to the suffrage of a person who is otherwise qualified. The grievances of working-class women will be listened to if women have the vote.

F. W. JOWETT (Lab.), West Bradford.

H. L. JACOBS (Lib.), East St. Pancras.—The Women's Suffrage Liberal candidate.

GEO. KEMP (Lib.), N.W. Manchester.

A. LEVY LEVER (Lib.), Wolverhampton South.

GEO. LANSBURY (Lab.), Bow and Bromley.

J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Lab.), Leicester.

The new Parliament must deal with the enfranchisement of women.

JAS. MARTIN (Lib.), East St. Pancras.

EDWIN S. MONTAGU (Lib.), W. Cambridgeshire.

*H. NUTTALL (Lib.), Stretford Div. of Lancs.

MAJOR JAS. E. PLATT (Lib.), Yarmouth.

I am a strong supporter of Woman Suffrage.

JAS. PARKER (Lab.), Halifax.

The enfranchisement of women would ennoble and elevate our political life.

*T. GIBSON POOLE (Un.), Middlesbrough.

COUNCILLOR J. POINTER (Lab.), Attercliffe.

G. H. ROBERTS (Lab.), Norwich.

G. SCOTT ROBERTSON (Lib.), Bradford Central.

*WM. WATSON RUTHERFORD (Un.), Liverpool, W. Derby Division.

FRANK SMITH (Lab.), Chatham.

Justice and common-sense demand that men and women should be equal at the ballot-box. I stand for the removal of all sex disabilities. I support the proposal to grant the suffrage immediately to women, on the same terms as to men.

J. WESTON STEVENS (Lib.), Bristol West.

A. H. SPOKES (Lib.), West Marylebone.

C. N. L. SHAW (Soc.), Battersea.

I regard it as a national disgrace that the women who form one-half of the community should be denied political representation.

GEO. A. TOUCHE (Un.), North Islington.

I am of opinion that sex should not, like crime or lunacy, deprive an otherwise qualified adult from participation in the government of the country through the exercise of the Parliamentary franchise. It appears to me to be unwise and unjust to exclude women from the elementary rights of citizenship.

*H. C. W. VERNEY (Lib.), North Bucks.

* Those marked thus are in favour of the extension of the Franchise to women rate and tax payers only or property owners. Names of members elected on Saturday are underlined. Hyndman and Hoare's are rather distant references to Women's Suffrage.

J. FISCHER WILLIAMS (Lib.), Oxford.

The Franchise question should be settled on the Australian principle of one vote for every adult.

GEO. J. BENTHAM (Lib.), Gainsborough, Lincs.

JAS. BRANCH (Lib.), Enfield, Middlesex.

*A. R. CHAMBERLAYNE (Un.), St. Rollox Div. of Glasgow.

JAS. FALCONER (Lib.), Forfarshire.

CHAS. E. PRICE (Lib.), Edinburgh (Central).

WM. ROBERTSON (Lib.), Ayr Burghs.

A. A. THOMAS (Lib.), South Northants (Adult Suff.).

J. TUDOR WALTERS (Lib.), Brightside.

THOS. WILES (Lib.), South Islington (Adult Suff.).

CHAS. T. MILLS (Un.), Uxbridge.

"I am not in favour of the principle of Women's Suffrage."

ELECTION NOTES.

London University.

Suffragists who have any influence with voters at London University should remember that Sir Philip Magnus (Unionist) is against the principle of women's enfranchisement, and while at the last moment asserting that he thinks women graduates ought to have votes, has neglected to put any notice of his conversion in his Election address. Sir Victor Horsley (Radical), on the other hand, is one of the most loyal supporters the Cause has, and his return would be an excellent thing for the early settlement of the question.

The Mayor of Oldham.

As Mayor of Oldham, Mrs. Lees has been appointed Returning Officer. According to *The Morning Leader*, "an extraordinary position has arisen," for "in the case of a tie the Returning Officer may give the casting vote. Could Mrs. Lees, although debarred as a woman from going to the poll, cast the deciding vote in the Oldham Election if the need arose?"

Mr. Alfred Hawkins' Case.

Mr. Alfred J. Hawkins, of Leicester, who was flung out of Mr. Winston Churchill's meeting at Bradford, has many witnesses as to his infamous treatment by Mr. Churchill's gallant band of young Liberals. Out of one of several letters from eye-witnesses to *The Yorkshire Observer* we take the following:—

After interjecting the remark, "That question applies to woman suffrage as well as to men," he was hurried by the stewards into the corridor, and, being roughly handled, he said: "Now you have got me out of the hall you need not be so violent." whereupon he was thrown down a short flight of steps, and, his leg coming into contact with the stone, he sustained a fracture of the kneecap. In reply to his cry that his leg was broken, he was lifted up and thrown into the street.

It is stated that an action for damages will be taken by the Men's Political Union against Mr. Churchill's stewards.

Winston's Way Again.

Mr. Churchill broke his tour round the country to come to town and appear against Mr. Hugh Franklin, nephew of Mr. Herbert Samuel, the Postmaster-General, who attacked him recently with a dog-whip. Mr. Franklin gave as the reason of his attack the insolence of Mr. Winston Churchill to Mrs. Cobden Sanderson. It will be remembered that the Home Secretary ordered Mrs. Cobden Sanderson to be removed from Downing-street, where she was recovering from a faint, insolently demanding why these women were allowed to linger. Liberalism has come to a pretty pass when a Liberal Home Secretary orders violence to be done to the daughter of Richard Cobden, and has to be chastised by the nephew of the Liberal Postmaster.

Mr. Churchill, who at Lambeth Baths spoke of the systematic deliberate, cold, calculated money-fed attempts to break up meetings, was asked by Mr. Franklin's counsel, did he suggest that the militant movement was largely conducted by money and that these demonstrations bring money to the movement. When it is remembered that the Liberal party could not exist without money—that the Irish Party has just collected £40,000 towards this election, the less money-taunts for "movement" purposes Mr. Churchill gives utterance to, the better. That Mr. Franklin's railway fares were paid for him was all that could be proved—and the payment of railway fares are always a legitimate party expense. Mr. Franklin was sentenced to six weeks in the second division.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Thurs., Dec. 8.—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Rev. M. C. Hoggins, Mrs. How Martyn.

Fri., Dec. 9.—1, Robert-street. Members' Meeting, 7.30.

Sun., Dec. 11.—60, Lyndhurst-road, Peckham, 11 a.m. Mrs. Duval.

Mon., Dec. 12.—Mrs. Syms, 8, Church-lane, Hornsey. Northern Heights Branch meeting, 7 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 14.—Sale of Christmas Cards, at 2, Temple Fortune Farm, N.W. Garden Suburb.

Thurs., Dec. 15.—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Mme. Aino Malmberg, Rev. Hugh Chapman, of Chapel Royal, Savoy.

1, Robert-street, 6.45 p.m. London Branches Council.

Sat., Dec. 17.—1, Robert-street, 11 a.m. National Executive Committee.

Mon. Dec. 19.—(Hampstead branch) Whist drive at 29, Newman-street, Oxford-street, W., at 8 o'clock.

EDINBURGH.

SCOTLAND.

Wed., Nov. 14.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Business meeting.

Wed., Nov. 21.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road, 8 p.m. Lantern lecture by Miss Grace Jacob, B.Sc., "The Evolution of Altruism."

GLASGOW.

Fri., Dec. 9.—East Renfrewshire. Speaker Mrs. Gordon, 7.30 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 12.—Partick. Speaker: Mrs. Gordon, 7.30 p.m. Govan. Speaker: Mrs. Gordon, 7.30 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 14.—St. Rollox Locomotive Works. Speaker: Mrs. Gordon.

WALES.

Thurs., Dec. 8.—Bangor.

Fri., Dec. 9.—Carnarvon.

Sat., Dec. 10.—Carnarvon Boroughs Polling Day.

Mon., Dec. 12.—Public Hall, Newtown, 8 p.m. Mrs. Cleaves, char. Mrs. Despard, Miss Clark, Miss Marguerite Sidley.

Tues., Dec. 13.—Newtown, Fair, 1 p.m. Miss Clark, Miss Marguerite Sidley. Welshpool, open-air, 7 p.m. Miss Clark, Miss Marguerite Sidley.

Torquay Election Campaign.—Meetings daily. Committee Rooms, 3, Torwood-street, Torquay.

"THE VOTE" BIRTHDAY COMPETITION.

A prize of £1 1s. 0d. has been awarded to Mrs. Powell, 9, Fitzroy Street, W., for the largest total during the period specified, her total net sales amounting to 642 copies. We regret the delay in announcing the result of this competition, which has been due to the fact that the necessary details required in connection with this competition have only just been completed. We congratulate Mrs. Powell on her success, and will have pleasure in forwarding to her, in due course, a cheque for the amount stated.

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