

11-2-14
THE VOTE.
February 6, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

THE PIOUS MEMBER. G. COLMORE

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. IX. No. 224.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1914.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

THE NEEDED CLEANER.

POLITICIAN:

I assure
you, Madam,
the Political
Arena is
too dirty and
untidy to be a
fit place
for you.



WOMAN:

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high time
I came
and showed
you how
to clean it.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

The Opening of Parliament.

The opening of Parliament will bring all the forces of the Suffrage movement into open action again; and it is the intention of the Women's Freedom League to bring up a number of questions in regard to which comment has been made and action taken lately. These questions will, of course, be met with the usual official lie, denial, or suppression of the truth; but that is so much a matter of course that we can afford to smile while countering the lies and denials and digging out the truth.

We note that from Feb. 9, to Feb. 17, continuously, the Labour Party are sending deputations to Cabinet Ministers, besides the deputation of the Miners' Federation to the Prime Minister on Feb. 8. The subjects to be discussed range from the Workmen's Compensation and the Miners' Acts, Employers' liability, the awards made by Lord Mersey and Sir Robert Romer, Trades-Union policy, compulsory classes, abolition of half-time and maintenance at secondary schools, nationalisation of railways, Civil rights of Civil servants, armaments, and conscription, Insurance Act, Eight hours' day for bakers, ventilation of ships, piece-work, and abolition of competition between civil and military bands; to Plural Voting and Electoral Reform. Not one single thing in the long list, for women alone; not one of the working-woman's problems touched! Women's suffrage lumped in with men, as Adult Suffrage. It makes rather painful reading for our friends of the National Union. When our Conference sits in March, we shall make it our business, also, to approach in our turn the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Admiralty, the Minister for Education, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, the Local Government Board and the Prime Minister again, and see if, in that gentleman's own words, "members of the House (and the Government) are even more tender of the interests of unrepresented women" than of the men directly represented.

The Political Situation.

The Daily News is almost hysterical in its protests against a general election; and its newest recruit from the Opposition ranks, Mr. A. P. Nicholson, strains himself to point out how inevitable such an election would be if Liberals allow themselves to be beguiled into a Referendum on Home Rule. The mere fact that a Liberal organ should devote space to trouncing the referendum at this time of day, shows to what straits the Government is reduced; and we read in Mr. Nicholson's article—were we a party paper and *The Daily News*, it would never have appeared in our columns—how openly and helplessly the Government is in the hands of the Irish party, which according to *The Daily News* and its new prophet, will throw the Government out whenever it is not pleased with Home Rule progress. The Cabinet is evidently in deep waters; and the dangers of naval estimates, Labour troubles, South Africa, and rebellious Ireland, stand four-square threatening the stability of the Coalition. It should not be difficult for Suffragists to drive a wedge in somewhere. The Opposition are full of high hope, and according to Mrs. McKenna, speaking at Bournemouth, are more active than ever they have been. This being the case, we marvel at the insolence of Mr. Bonar Law, who, while actually preparing to take office, refuses to give any idea of his possible stewardship to the women whose governance he will not hesitate to take over.

Trained Nurses and Prisons.

A Southampton paper quite recently gave an account of the inquest held at H.M. convict prison, Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, on the body of Thomas Coe, under sentence of three years' penal servitude, who died from cancer. The deceased had been employed in the laundry and at Camp Hill Prison as a labourer.

"Dr. Staney," says this local paper, "said that the malignant disease from which deceased suffered was

of a rather uncommon kind. It commenced in the bones of the nose, and spread to the other bones of the body, with the result that the bones became as thin and brittle as egg-shell. Whilst in this condition deceased was walking on crutches last August, when he accidentally fell and broke both legs and arms; but that in no way hastened his death, and the bones grew together again. The jury returned a verdict of death from exhaustion following cancer."

We have already drawn pointed attention to the fact that there are no trained nurses in His Majesty's prisons; yet the prison authorities have the infamous cruelty to keep this wretched creature, suffering from so awful a scourge, and reduced to such a shocking condition, in a convict prison. We wonder how long he was allowed to "work in the laundry" or as a labourer before he took to crutches, and what comforts were provided for his affliction? We recollect some time ago that a well-to-do business man of Hull, by name Cargill, sentenced to several months for criminal assault on a little girl, was released after five weeks, because he had an incurable disease that must end fatally. Why was not this labourer released too, so that he might die in some measure of comfort or freedom? And what is done for the number of women—it must be a very large one—who suffer from malignant and other troubles during imprisonment? We left this question in the hands of the Prisons Commission, trusting they would attend to it without delay. If we hear nothing of action taken, we shall attend to it ourselves.

"Traffic in Souls."

It is worthy of note, and a significant sign of the times, that a remarkable cinema film is being shown at the Holborn Empire twice daily, entitled: "Traffic in Souls." Melodramatic it no doubt is, but such a story as this film has to tell could not, perhaps, be set forth in any other way. Its value for the public, men as well as women, arises from the fact that it places before them in pictorial form facts of which many, even now, are unaware. It has one other advantage: it may serve to warn young, poor, and unprotected women of the dangers they run, through ignorance, of the ways of the world as the world is at present. It is sad beyond expression that such revelations should be necessary. Since they are necessary, we give honour to those who are bold enough to put them forward in a way which is impressive, though it cannot fail to be painful. Quite rightly no one under sixteen is admitted.

Welcome Help.

Heartily do we congratulate *The Daily Herald* on the excellent enterprise of its "Suffrage Week." It is the more welcome because at the moment the Party Press—while it cannot completely ignore the Woman's Movement—gives it only the briefest and biased notice. The Liberals are disturbed at the thought of embarrassing their "incomparable captain," and the Tories are waiting to see which way the wind blows. The rebel daily, demanding better conditions for workers, recognises the rebel woman demanding justice, the right of effective self-expression, and service. We trust that its efforts will rouse many voters to a sense of their immediate duty—to put forward an irresistible demand for a Government measure for Woman Suffrage.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

CARTOON: THE NEEDED CLEANER. JOHN LEIGHTON.
OUR POINT OF VIEW.
THE MILITANCY OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
AT HEADQUARTERS.
THE PIOUS MEMBER. G. COLMORE.
"ALL THE WINNERS." C. NINA BOYLE.
POLITICAL NEWS.
JUSTICE. C. NINA BOYLE.
FETTERED OR FREE? C. DESPARD.
"THE HAND OF GOD." OLIVIA DIGBY SMITH.
THE "PROTECTED" SEX.
MEN AND MUDDLES.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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MILITANT POLICY OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The question is frequently asked, What is the actual policy of the Women's Freedom League, and how do we stand with regard to militancy? It may be well at this critical moment to make our position perfectly clear.

We are militant, and in so far our methods differ from those of the constitutional Suffragists. We believe that there have been moments in the history of every nation when laws had to be broken in order to prove that they harked behind the conscience of the people. That the law which prevents woman from taking her place as citizen is unjust and tyrannous we believe, and therefore we are in rebellion against a Government that refuses to give the nation an opportunity to redress that injustice. Therefore, we resist taxation, we refuse to submit to the Insurance Act, we make protests in public places against the orders of authorities; we do everything we can to emphasize our conviction that we are being treated as outlaws.

But we use no violence, and we do not, at any time or in any way, either damage private property or inflict suffering and loss on our fellow citizens.

This, briefly, is our policy. I wish also to make it perfectly clear that it is adopted by the whole of the League, and has not been imposed upon it by its leaders. Over and over again, in our yearly conferences, two resolutions have been passed by large majorities—that we ourselves shall abstain from violence, and that we shall not criticise those who follow other methods.

C. DESPARD.

ORGANISERS' FUND: APPEAL FOR £500.

With the certainty of a General Election at no distant date, we have organised a general weekly levy upon all members, so that we shall have a sum of money ready for our election expenses.

Now is the time to prepare the ground in the constituencies, and make the special work of the election campaigns effective.

Our organisers are hard at work ploughing up the land, but there is much work to be done. More organisers we must have, and for this £500 must be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Many thanks to all the kind friends who have already contributed to this fund. Further donations will be gratefully received.

E. KNIGHT.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

London Meetings.—We shall have two special meetings at Caxton Hall next Wednesday, February 11, in the afternoon at 3.30, and in the evening at 8 o'clock. Mr. John Scurr has promised to speak at both, and we also hope to have speeches from Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, Miss Eunice Murray, Miss Anna Munro, and others. We urge our readers to make both these meetings, the latter of which will be our regular King's Speech meeting, as widely known as possible, so that we shall have good crowds on each occasion to

hear what the Women's Freedom League thinks of the King's Speech.

Political Poster Parade.—Mrs. Huntsman is organising a parade round the House of Commons, Tuesday afternoon, February 10, at the reopening of Parliament. We want a really big contingent of the Women's Freedom League on this occasion, and shall cordially welcome all volunteers at this Office at 2.15.

Scottish Activities.—We offer our congratulations to our Edinburgh Branch for the fine series of meetings it has arranged at the Suffrage Shop, Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday evenings, throughout February and March. We have also encouraging reports from Broxburn, Dundee, Dunfermline and Lochgelly, and confidently expect that the meeting to be held by our Glasgow Branch at M'Lellan Galleries, when the speakers will be Miss Nina Boyle and the Rev. Canon J. O. Hannay, and the chair will be taken by the Very Rev. Provost Deane, will be a great success.

N.U.T. Conference.—Miss Alix M. Clark will be in charge of the Women's Freedom League's campaign at Lowestoft during Easter week at the National Union of Teachers' Conference, and we shall be glad to receive at this office promises of help for this work from members and sympathisers attending the Conference.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE PIOUS MEMBER.

It was the evening before the meeting of Parliament. One of the members had come up to town that day, and he was dining in company with a woman friend at a restaurant. The member was pious and the woman was pretty. He liked pretty women, because, so he said, they were especially feminine. He also liked a well-cooked dinner for the righteous reason that it was more easily digested than a messy one, and he had therefore chosen a fashionable resort at which to entertain his feminine friend.

Now the member had a double aim in courting her society; he wished to enjoy her company and to convert at least so much of her soul as was vested in her convictions. For feminine as this woman was in her outer form, she was inwardly a ravaging rebel; that is to say, that she had set herself against the dictates of the august body of which he was a part; that is to say that she was a suffragette. The member was not against giving votes to women; oh no, he was in favour of granting them to certain of the sex—those he called feminine and moderately intelligent (for in the scheme of things as ordained by a beneficent Providence, the intelligence of no woman could be more than moderate.) "If all women were like you, I would give it without hesitation," he had said more than once. He said it again now.

"If all women were like me, they wouldn't want it—at least not yet. They would slumber on for a while."

"Slumber? Surely you don't mean to say—Stop! Hold hard there!" The last words were addressed to a waiter who was about to remove a plate on which there still remained a delicious morsel.

"But now," said the ravaging rebel through the

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mouth of the feminine friend, "now, you see, we are awake."

"But I don't see."

"Well, look!"

She glanced round the room and the member followed her glance; then his eyes returned to her face, his eyebrows slightly raised.

"See that woman in the yellow cloak?" she asked. "She's that man's mistress."

"My dear lady—"

"And that one? and that? and that? The one over there drugs, and that one's clothes and gambling debts are paid for—not by her husband, and that one, there, with the diamonds, has an illness, that—we she had not got it when she married."

The member held up his hands and shuddered. "Really, to talk—to know—"

"It's the knowing has waked us up. Look again—at the window!"

At the window a face showed, wan, drawn, terrible, the face of a wolf looking in upon food beyond its grasp. Instantly a waiter drove it away.

"All these women are asleep," said the rebel. "Those who think themselves happy, dream; those who suffer, are in a nightmare. We who are awake, know that there is but one thing which will give us the power to help them."

"Dear friend," said the member, "surely you limit your powers, and fail to perceive your opportunities. Materially speaking the vote may count; but religion—that is essentially the woman's sphere, and if you desire to work amongst the idle, the pleasure-loving, the outcast, you should go forth, so to speak, with the Bible in your hand."

"I don't mind taking the Bible in one hand if you will give me a vote in the other."

"You shock me," he said in a voice that was truly pained, "you, whom I have always looked upon as influenced by the spirit more than—"

"The spirit has a sword, and these women, blind or starved or degraded or helpless or all these things have drawn it from its scabbard."

"You distress me. You so feminine so—so—"

"So nice looking," she suggested in a gentle voice, "and still fairly young. You wouldn't mind half so much would you, if I were blear-eyed or had lost my front teeth?"

"I beg you," the member gasped. "Waiter, a liqueur—Maraschino—" "I beg you not to be flippant. I assure you that my reverence for all women, for—er—womanhood, is deep, and my desire to help is—is—"

"Is deep too—like the desire of those members of the Cabinet who talk big at public meetings; so deep that it is out of reach. If only it would come to the surface!"

"You mistake your best friends; you disappoint me. Some grapes?"

"No, thank you. I must be going. I have an appointment."

As he paid the bill he seemed to hear her murmuring something about grapes and thorns. That at least was comforting, for it came out of the Bible.

Outside, in Piccadilly, while they waited for the taxi, she asked him if she had really shocked him.

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Well, he must confess that—er—somewhat. Certainly her words had given him pain.

"I want you to remember the shock," she said, and the pain, to-morrow, at the meeting of Parliament."

"My effort would rather be—" he began, and then the taxi drew up.

"I may not see you home?"

"No thanks, because I'm not going home. I have an appointment with two unwomanly women. I wonder where the flat is!"

"What flat?"

"The raided one—Queenie Gerald—where the names were hushed up." She held out her hand. "Please remember that too, to-morrow, at the meeting of Parliament."

G. COLMOORE.

"ALL THE WINNERS."

The Women's Freedom League has recently brought off a very successful event at Bournemouth, where a Branch is steadily working its way to strength. Coincident with this event was another event, of almost equal importance and far greater pomp. We allude to the social event inaugurated by the local Liberals, where a charming galaxy of political talent was arrayed, and where Mrs. McKenna, who touchingly alluded to "my husband, the Home Secretary," was one of the speakers.

Bournemouth has many advantages. It has a salubrious climate, a lovely sea-front, and is the last resting-place of Mary Shelley. But besides these manifest advantages, it has another, not so evident. It shares a portion of the services of Captain Guest, M.P., in Parliament. This gentleman is a kind of Suffragist, we believe. His other claims to special regard we were unaware of until Mrs. McKenna told us of them at Bournemouth the other day.

The Home Secretary, we were informed, cherishes an ambition. It is a worthy ambition, and if persevered in may yet lead him on to greatness. His desire is, to be oftener in the Division Lobby than any other member. Not for him the soft seduction of the smoking-rooms, the distractions of the Terrace, the calm of the library, or even the sweet seclusion of those bath-rooms for which the competition is said to be so keen. The Division Lobby for Mr. McKenna, every time. He aims at getting in more divisions than any other member of the House. Like the old-fashioned voter—now only a cherished memory in the hearts of Old Parliamentary Hands—who was urged and very often managed to vote early and vote often, Mr. McKenna sprints for the poll and has established a record in recording his convictions.

The artless tale, told with all simplicity, was warmly received by rejoicing Liberals, who felt that even the handsome wages paid to the least indispensable of our Cabinet Ministers were compensated for by such zeal. But the lady, glowing though she was with pride in the prowess of "the Home Secretary," had yet more glad tidings to announce. Mr. McKenna, it was true, had attended more divisions than any other member; but there was one member he had not managed to beat, and that was Captain Guest.

The thought of this honourable emulation will gladden all hearts. Bournemouth will be really proud of the member for the Parkstone Division, and all good people will feel that an example is being set. The knowledge that members of the Cabinet and members of the House feel it to be a creditable thing to be present at divisions will encourage many, who might otherwise be in danger of getting disheartened, to continue giving their support to representative institutions. And there is always the hope that the habit will spread. Always supposing that the hon. and right hon. gentlemen advance their view as an amiable hobby, and not as a principle or a practice enjoined by conscience, there is a possibility that it may be taken up as a fashionable fad, or a sporting novelty. And the taxpayers and the

people who are overtaxed, and the governed people and the people who are misgoverned may yet have the pleasure, even if they cannot get recognition for justice, decency, freedom, or common-sense, of knowing that at all events the all-too-expensive gentlemen who pocket their money and mismanage their affairs have one honourable impulse left, and will go on sprinting for a first place in the lists of the Division Lobby.

C. NINA BOYLE.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Australian Women Protest.

In reference to the rumour that Mr. C. E. Hobhouse would succeed Lord Denman as Governor-General of Australia, Miss Sheepshanks, secretary of the International Women Suffrage Alliance, has received the following cablegram from Miss Vida Goldstein: "The Australian Women's Political League protests against the suggested appointment of Mr. Hobhouse as Governor-General. The suggestion is an affront to the women of Australia. No member of the present Cabinet would be acceptable."

The Labour Party: Woman Suffrage and Plural Voting.

At the last sitting of the Labour Party Conference, at Glasgow, on January 30, the following motion was submitted by the Fabian Society: "That this Conference requests the Parliamentary Labour Party to vote against any Plural Voting Bill unless a Government Bill enfranchising women has been previously introduced."

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, speaking on behalf of the executive, said they would not have supported the Plural Voting Bill if they believed that it in any way debarred the reopening of the franchise question. As a matter of fact, they believed it would stimulate that question.

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., said he represented a minority in the House and on the executive upon this question. The Plural Voting Bill was intentionally brought in to postpone adult suffrage. He totally disagreed with Mr. MacDonald on the matter. The Bill was a purely party measure in the interests of the party in office. He refused to accept a Bill to help the Liberal party which, in his opinion, entailed the sacrifice of the whole question of adult suffrage. A card vote showed the following result: For the motion, 89,000; against, 1,856,000.

"A Calamity."

Replying to an influential deputation organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which waited upon him last week, at Brampton, Mr. Walter Runciman, commenting on the evidence given of the growth of opinion in the constituency in favour of Woman Suffrage, said: "The only way we can hope to get a Suffrage Bill through is to have private members supported by their constituents. I have no sympathy with members who declare themselves in favour of Women's Suffrage, but are afraid to open their mouths on the subject in their own areas. I do not agree with regard to the extra force which comes from a Government Bill. If the Government were to take up the Bill it would not go through, it would merely mean the defeat of the Government, and that I should regard as a calamity." Mr. Runciman said that there must be a solid body of opinion behind the demand. He had never wavered in support of it, and whatever his views might be on the precise details of the measure, he would be prepared to vote for the second reading of any Women's Suffrage Bill in order to break the ice.

The Bishop of London at Holloway Prison.

The permit of the Home Office for the Bishop of London to visit Miss Rachel Peace in Holloway Prison did not include the Bishop of Kensington. The Bishop had an interview with Miss Peace, but did not see the process of forcible feeding. She complained of indigestion and discomfort in her lower limbs, but was not emaciated; she said she had not shrieked or been in a padded cell. Mr. McKenna would not order her release under the Cat and Mouse Act as she refused to give an undertaking to refrain from militancy.

Ever-Increasing Vitality and Service.

Yet another Suffrage society, the United Suffragists, has come into existence, with a local habitation at 3, Adam-street, Strand, London. On the committee are Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. H. J. Gillespie (hon. treas.), Mr. Gerald Gould, Mrs. Agnes M. Harben, Mr. Henry W. Nevinson, Mr. John Scurr, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Elaine Whelen, Mrs. Ayrton Gould (hon. sec.), Mr. Charles Gray (sec.). Among the vice-presidents are Mrs. Hertha Ayrton, Mrs. Brailsford, Rev. Dr. Cobb, Mrs. Cobden Hirst, St. John Ervine, Esq., A. W. Evans, Esq., Dr. L. Garrett Anderson, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Hon. Mrs. Haverfield, Laurence Housman, Esq., Mrs. Ivory, G. L. Jessop, Esq., Rev. J. M. Maillard, Lady Oliver, Miss Gertrude Peppercorn, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Sir Ronald Ross, H.H. the Rance of Sarawak, Mrs. Julia Scurr, Dr. H. J. F. Simson, F.R.C.S., Professor Spurgeon, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Webbe, Mr. and Mrs. Baillie Weaver.

The members of the new organisation
(1) Believe that men and women can usefully co-operate on equal terms in one organisation for the enfranchisement of women.

(2) Regard Woman Suffrage as the foremost political issue

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COUNCILLOR BARRIE.

COUNCILLOR CAMERON.

COUNCILLOR CRAWFORD.

EX-BAILIE GORDON.

COUNCILLOR BRUCE LINDSAY.

COUNCILLOR MURRAY.

COUNCILLOR ROSSLYN MITCHELL.

EX-PROVOST PERRY.

Mr. ROBERT SMILLIE (Engagements permitting).

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MASS MEETING. TRAFALGAR SQ.,

FEBRUARY 15, 2.30 p.m.

Speakers' Names Announced Later.

of the day, and will work without considering the interests of any political party.

(3) Recognise various forms of Suffrage activity as of value, and are ready to contribute any kind of service according to their capacity and conviction.

Membership is open to all who agree with this policy, irrespective of membership of any other society, militant or non-militant.

Its objects are (1) To secure a Government Measure to enfranchise women on equal terms with men; (2) To organise a vigorous campaign of opposition to any Government that refuses or neglects to introduce and pass into law such a measure, and equally to oppose any party giving general support to such a Government.

In view of the importance of bringing pressure to bear upon the Government from the constituencies, one of the chief activities of the society will be to establish an election campaign in Parliamentary divisions. In pursuance of this policy a great point will be made of raising the question on all possible occasions, by demonstrations, deputations, heckling at public meetings of all kinds, and by following the advice of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to "keep on pestering." It will be the aim of the society throughout to avoid overlapping and to work in harmony with all existing Suffrage Associations.

JUSTICE!

A search through the weekly records of the administration of the Courts never fails to provide food for the most serious reflection; and the cases we deal with in this issue yield more than usual. It is a varied assortment, and gives a clear idea of how dangerously off the rails the male administrators of law have allowed themselves to drift—assuming, that is, that they ever were on the rails to any useful extent!

A remarkable case, dished up in the week-end press a fortnight ago as "Scene in a West-end Flat," was dealt with at Marlborough-street by that erratic genius, Mr. Mead. A "gentleman" carrying on business as a commission agent, met a corresponding "lady" carrying on another kind of business, in Piccadilly, where they fraternised and partook of wine and biscuits together, afterwards repairing to the lady's flat to admire the furniture. There, the gentleman "placed his arms round 'the lady,' and kissed her passionately on both cheeks"—we are informed he is of Dutch extraction, so possibly that is how they admire furniture in Holland—"gave expression to the beauty of her figure and used towards her terms of a very endearing character." (We are indebted to the Court reporter for this graceful account of the visit.) They also partook once more of wine; and of cigarettes. Unhappily the harmony of the proceedings did not endure; for, we are informed, "Later on they unfortunately quarrelled," and the gentleman, accusing the lady of taking his purse out of his hip-pocket—an extraordinary proceeding for even a playful lady to indulge in—gave vent to his outraged feelings by throwing the water-jug through the plate-glass window, smashing the valuable toilette set on the dressing-table, and "laying about him" in spirited style until taken into custody.

This gentleman's defence is remarkable. Suffragists, please note, "I broke the window and the toilette set in order to draw the attention of the police to the fact that I had been robbed of my purse and my money." Mr. Mead: "You are discharged."

There are two points about this illuminating story. One is, that it is acknowledged that the gentleman spoke to the lady in Piccadilly. That is solicitation. Why do the police not charge him with solicitation? If because a certain kind of lady does not mind solicitation or exists for that purpose, why should she, in her turn, be punished for solicitation, when clearly, but for the men who do not mind being solicited, there would be no such women? We will call the attention of the Hon. Trevor Bigham to this point at an early date. The other point is that the gentleman's protest of smashing things up to call attention to a grievance—instead of asking for a summons or an arrest—was singularly successful, and was accepted by Mr. Mead as, apparently, a proper and logical fashion in which to register a protest. This being so, why have the "smashing protests" of a sister society, which also objects to being robbed of its money and its rights, provoked such magisterial wrath and contempt? Will Mr. Mead please explain?

The number of children arbitrarily taken from their parents and committed to industrial schools for trivial errors such as truancy is alarmingly on the increase; and recently a most cruel and high-handed decision of that kind resulted in a shocking accident to a boy still little more than a baby. But when a mother, who has to work, is afflicted with a really bad and unmanageable child, she is sternly ordered to keep him. Mr. Jeffreys, about three weeks ago, was appealed to by a poor woman whose son, in the absence of his parents, sold their property—getting 3d. for his brother's bicycle;—burned the baby with a poker, cut off the dog's ear with a pair of scissors, poured paraffin about and set it alight. The boy was supposed to be mentally deficient, and the magistrate "hoped" the school authorities "would have a school ready for him." The mother, however, wished to charge him, in the usual way, with being beyond her control. For some inscrutable reason, the school officer interfered and is reported as saying that

"this would not solve the difficulty," and that she had better apply to the relieving-officer. Of all mixed-up, preposterous pieces of bumbledom, this is surely the most disgraceful. We are informed that "The matter ended there, and the boy stayed with the mother," and we heartily trust that if he murders his little brother or burns the family in their beds, that some National Society for the Protection of Women will proceed against the school officer and Mr. Jeffreys for manslaughter.

The further efficient protection of mothers was displayed in the hearing before Mr. D'Eyncourt, of a case in which Edward Butler, through his shameful treatment of his family, had practically caused or contributed to the deaths of seven of his twelve children from starvation, while he was able to earn and in receipt of wages. The wretched mother is on the verge of starvation also—"so weak I can hardly get about," is her piteous description of her case. Six months is considered enough for this creature, not in respect of the deaths of the seven children, but the neglect of the five living, and there is to be no responsibility attached to him for those who are gone. How different if it had been the woman who had left them to die!

Finally, we have had forwarded to us a report, from a West Somerset paper of Jan. 24, of a case against a middle-aged man, estate agent to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, of criminal assault upon a servant girl, or child, aged 13, employed in his household. The gentleman was a popular and important local personage, the girl obscure and unfriended; women were excluded from the Court, and the men present cheered when accused was acquitted. The child, whose evidence was unshaken under a stern cross-examination, was alone in the court with a number of hostile men, all anxious to support the accused. Of a large Bench, which included some extremely prominent county men, only a clergyman and a builder took their seats to try this very serious case. Had it been a case of poaching, there would have been a full Bench. These two gentlemen finally arrived at the verdict, which country Benches so often affect, that a *prima facie* case had not been made out, and there was nothing to put before a jury.

The serious points in this case are, that women were excluded from the court and that once again a girl-child was exposed to the misery of giving such a story to a court full of men—the majority of them anxious to discredit her; and the amazing nature of the medical evidence. Robert Stanley, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., of Watchet, stated that he examined the complainant on January 16, and "formed the opinion that she was not a virgin." In cross-examination, he stated that the child's condition "might have been caused by another doctor's previous examination." The previous examination, at the request of the girl's aunt in the first state of the inquiry, was by Dr. Fitz-James Molony, of Porlock. He afterwards gave evidence for the defence, saying that "there was no evidence that the girl had been intimate with a man."

We must point out the seriousness of this most extraordinary evidence. The condition referred to by Dr. Stanley is a question of fact, not of deduction; a girl is, or is not a "virgin" surgically. If this condition be the result of Dr. Molony's previous examination, then the sooner we have a law making it illegal for a male doctor to examine children in these cases, the better. But Dr. Molony does not say in his evidence that it was the result of his examination. How, then, does he arrive at the conclusion that the child had not been intimate with a man? What does he suggest as the cause of the surgical condition? What trick has been played with this child, and by whom? And how are we to protect other children? The usual procedure in these cases was also followed, of making attacks on the child's character. She was asked, had she not been fond of going about with boys? And it was suggested without a particle of evidence being adduced in support of it, that her behaviour with boys was improper. Again, a great point was made of her having taken a

girl friend, and not her aunt, into her confidence! No amount of oratory could make it so plain, as this simple bit of fact, that men have absolutely no knowledge or understanding of the thoughts and feelings of women and girls in these matters.

No woman who has any real knowledge of the dangers of girl-life can read these trials, and the abominable indecency, cruelty and ignorance manifested at them by otherwise well-meaning men, without being filled with consuming indignation. The way to keep the militant movement alive and alight is to let them go on. So long as they are tolerated by men, so long is it useless to expect women reformers to look on men as anything but enemies to reform, and tacit enemies to our sex. Nothing but a complete surrender of this position of arrogant sex domination in the Courts will convince us that there is a real desire in the hearts of our men fellow-citizens to see justice really administered, and wrong really redressed.

C. NINA BOYLE.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Branch and District Funds Not Included.)

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged				19	320	5
Additional Organiser's Fund—						
Mrs. K. Thomson	10	0	0			
"To Break the Ground"	10	0	0			
Dr. Patch	5	5	0			
Mrs. E. D. Fox Bourne	5	0	0			
Dr. Knight	5	0	0			
Mrs. Clarkson Swann	1	1	0			
Miss J. Barrow	1	0	0			
Miss L. D. Thomson	1	0	0			
Mrs. Vatcher	1	0	0			
Miss K. O'Halloran	10	0	0			
Miss B. M. John	10	0	0			
Mrs. Sutcliffe	10	0	0			
Mrs. Spiller	5	0	0			
Mrs. H. Thomson	5	0	0			
Miss E. G. Wood	5	0	0			
Miss Hurry	2	6	0			
Mrs. Lapidus	1	0	0			
Bowes Park Branch	4	0	0			
Hackney Branch	10	0	0			
				42	8	6
By-Election Fund—						
Mrs. Schofield Coates	2	10	0			
Political and Militant Fund—						
Hackney Branch	10	0	0			
Special Levy for General Election—						
Per Miss Eunice Murray—						
Mrs. Murray	10	0	0			
Miss Eunice Murray	10	0	0			
Miss K. Cochrane	6	0	0			
Mrs. E. Scott	4	0	0			
Northern Heights Branch	1	0	0			
				2	10	0
"To Fight Injustice"	30	0	0			
Mrs. Despard	10	0	0			
Mrs. Amy Guest (Homerton Campaign)	5	0	0			
Miss J. Barrow	1	0	0			
Miss Bennett	1	0	0			
Mrs. A. Sholl	1	0	0			
Miss M. E. Wall	1	0	0			
Mrs. J. Fitzgerald Ellis	10	0	0			
G. W. Thompson, Esq. (Homerton Campaign)	10	0	0			
Miss D. Allwork	5	0	0			
Miss L. How	5	0	0			
Miss B. Kent (Homerton Campaign)	5	0	0			
Miss G. E. Stubbs	5	0	0			
Miss Brett (Homerton Campaign)	2	6	0			
Mrs. B. Gilbert (Homerton Campaign)	2	6	0			
Miss Godson (Homerton Campaign)	2	6	0			
Miss Jacob	2	6	0			
Miss James	2	6	0			
Miss Barr	2	0	0			
Miss F. Howorth (Homerton Campaign)	1	0	0			
Miss L. D. Knight	1	0	0			
Mrs. H. Pascoli	1	0	0			
Miss Grace M. Ryde	1	0	0			
Mrs. Stanton	1	0	0			
Collections	3	13	4			
Collections, per Miss Read (Bournemouth)	3	10	8			
Tickets, per Miss Read (Bournemouth)	4	0	0			
Profit on The Vote, per Miss Read	4	6	0			
Office Sales	1	1	2			
Branches: Capitation Fees—						
Highbury	10	0	0			
Affiliation Fees—						
Woolpit Group	5	0	0			
				£279	18	3

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND.

A matter of interest to all Scottish Suffragists is the adoption of Mr. R. B. Cunningham Graham as socialist candidate for the Rectorial election in Glasgow University. Mr. Cunningham-Graham, who represented North-West Lanark in Parliament from the year 1886 until 1892 in the Liberal interest, is now well-known as a socialist. He is widely known as a litterateur, a traveller and a politician. Mr. Cunningham-Graham is an ardent supporter of Woman Suffrage, and the first result of his nomination is that the Liberal and Conservative parties who have not yet chosen their respective candidates are looking for men who will put Woman Suffrage on their programmes, otherwise they will stand a poor chance of election, as they will alienate the woman's vote, which is a large one. Mr. Cunningham-Graham has on more than one occasion spoken on the Women's Freedom League platform, and has shown himself no uncertain champion of the Women's Cause. We wish him all success in his coming campaign, and hope that he and "Votes for Women," will head the poll.

Another event of interest to suffragists is the ninth annual conference of the Women's Labour League, which has just concluded its sitting in Glasgow. Amongst the many subjects discussed, none was more enthusiastically received than that of the political emancipation of women. Mrs. Salter, the President, in the course of her address, emphasised the growing interest in this subject. She declared it to be a world-wide movement, one that affected woman in every country, in every clime. The whole country was today, suffering from the loss of the women's point of view, and she thought however great a leader Mr. Asquith had proved himself to be, in this matter he had shewn a lamentable want of common sense. He had displayed neither imagination nor statesmanship. Two resolutions bearing on this point were submitted and carried. The first asked "the Labour Party to consider the necessity of moving an amendment to the King's Speech if the subject of Woman Suffrage was not mentioned." The second resolution was put forward by the executive and asked "the party to raise the question at the earliest opportunity next session." The delegates responded most heartily to any mention of Woman Suffrage, and one imagined that everyone had studied the subject and considered it of vital importance to the nation. E. G. MURRAY.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald Cannot "Predict."

Miss J. A. Smart, Press secretary of the Dundee Branch of the Women's Freedom League, writes:—

"At last week's Labour Demonstration in Dundee, Miss Clunas so cleverly heckled Mr. Wilkie and Mr. Adamson that she was not allowed to enter Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's meeting. The Labour members of Parliament are so busy bolstering up the Liberal Party that they have no recollection of pledges made. Mr. Wilkie informed Miss Clunas that Labour M.P.'s were not bound by any resolutions passed at Conferences! "In reply to Mrs. Allan, who asked Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, as chairman of the Labour Party, to say what their policy would be as regards Woman Suffrage in the event of a General Election, Mr. MacDonald gave a very evasive answer; he could not predict what policy they might pursue, but would do their best for the women.' Their best, evidently, does not mean 'turn the Liberal Government out.' The members of the Branch consider this attitude most unsatisfactory."

To Vote Against the Government.

Miss Eunice Murray was the speaker at the Langside and Mount Florida Liberal Association at an evening meeting on January 29. Her audience was most sympathetic to the Women's Cause, and several gentlemen declared their intention of voting against the Liberal candidate for West Renfrewshire at the next election unless he gave a very distinct pledge about Woman Suffrage.

A LEGACY FOR THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

Mrs. Walter Carey, recognising the wisdom of Dr. Ethel Smythe's action, has made her will in favour of the Women's Freedom League until women are enfranchised. When the victory is won the property will revert to her family. We thank her most warmly for her practical and generous thought for the League.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, February 6, 1914.

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.

Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraph 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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FETTERED OR FREE ?

The Nemesis has fallen. Years ago when a professedly Liberal Government first used illegal methods to stop the women's agitation, we prophesied that if men persisted in their folly, if, bearing the proud name of democrats and boasting of their liberty, they allowed democracy to be a sham, that which they permitted to be done to others would recoil upon themselves; their own liberties would be threatened. They are not only threatened now. It has gone much further. For some considerable time insidiously the process has been working here. Right of free speech, right of legitimate protest, right, as in the case of Mr. Pethick Lawrence, of free disposal of a citizen's own goods—all these have been assailed. It has even been darkly hinted that if the disastrous strike-fever, which is beginning to make the ruling-class shiver, goes on much longer, means will be found to take away from men their right over the labour of their own bodies; and these things have been done by Liberals, by men who, with oiled tongues, speak blandly to the male electorate of their love of liberty, and devotion to democratic principles. And now a strong and autocratic man, having as his mouthpiece, that feeble person with a powerful name, who was so miserable a failure here, has set the British Government an example. They move slowly. They are not sure. They take away with one breath and give back with another. They let "I dare not, wait upon I would." Not so the Boer General who rules in South Africa. He knows the nature of modern law. Adamantine to the weak who must obey or suffer cruel loss, it is brittle as glass to the strong. Therefore, since men were refusing to work, except on their own terms, since the infection of independence was spreading, since Trade Unionism showed signs of broadening into Syndicalism out with the mailed fist! Martial Law: funds of trade unionists said to be confiscated: citizens and soldiers called out to quell riots, which seem never to have taken place; many arrests, and finally, when so far as we can judge from the accounts that reach us, all disturbance had died down, the high-handed act carried through at dead of night lest there should be any attempt to rescue them—ten prominent strike-leaders taken, under strong escort, to the shore and put on board a ship flying, we presume, the British flag. It is said that their identity was betrayed to certain citizens by their singing "The Red Flag."

We await explanations. That ship is now on the high seas. Has Botha any right to the exercise of martial law there? If not, if his dominion ceases at a certain distance from the shore, that ship, flying our flag is a pirate-ship and the prisoners in her hold will have legitimate cause for action against her officers. Again, has Botha or has any other Colonial magnate the right to deport to these shores, persons whom they may consider undesirable? These are some of the questions that will be asked. Justice Wessels, says

that these men have been "kidnapped"—a strong term for a Judge to use; and Lord Gladstone, apologising feebly for the measure "My ministers" had been forced to take, refuses to allow it to be discussed at all until an Act of Indemnity is asked for. We hope the South African Colonists will dismiss the Government that has degraded them and that our House of Commons, will recall the Governor-General. That would only be just. But meanwhile, certain questions arise which touch us, as women, very nearly indeed.

If, as we fear is likely, the Indemnity Act is passed, and if the majority of the House of Commons accept it we cannot but feel that a precedent of a most dangerous kind will be created. There will be "danger of relapse into the habit of appealing to force the moment that respect for ordinary liberties becomes in the least degree inconvenient to the governing classes." Women and their demands—their protests, their resistance of taxation—are becoming inconvenient to the Government, and physical force has been used against them. In the early days of the militant movement, terms of imprisonment were given to women, merely for pressing their right to present petitions to the Prime Minister.

Occupied with what, in fond illusion, they thought to be their own affairs, and failing to see that the whole of Society suffers when any section is hurt or injured, the great body of electors expressed no indignation against a Government that had so grossly abused its powers. They retained it in office; and now, given this precedent in South Africa—emboldened by the boldness of General Botha—would it be so very strange if they found the Ministers, whom they have kept in power, using physical force at home against British Trade Unionists? We offer this question to electors.

Look again at that which is being done. A few years ago we had a terrible and costly war. Two hundred and fifty millions of hardly earned money was spent, of which women, at the bidding of the Government of the day, had to pay their part. We are never consulted; but we are always called upon to pay. And we paid in coin far more precious than gold or jewels. In sorrow, in bitter anxiety, in bereavement, in cruel poverty, in loneliness, in misery, in costly service, our women gave as women at all times have given to their country in her need. And now, we ask, for what? The same actions, the same laws, the same methods as were applied against reformers before the war are applied against them now, and the Press that supported the action of reformers before the war is chortling to-day over their discomfiture. This indeed is Krugerism rampant. If the shade of the gruff old law-maker, visiting once more "the glimpses of the moon," should stray unseen through the streets of what was once the Boer capital, we could imagine it rejoicing grimly over the defeat of the British. Overriding the law and then getting an indemnity for action, justified by emergency, was precisely what he would have done.

But the serious question for us—for the men as well as for the women is—Where is all this to end? When those who are elected, those who are paid by the people to make and administer the law deliberately break it: when those who profess to respect the liberty of the individual, so long as he is not engaged in illegal action, do not hesitate to place fetters upon the limbs of political opponents, though innocent of any crime, we cannot but fear that we are drifting into anarchy.

It is time that we should, frankly and fearlessly, face the situation. Are we fettered or are we free? Are we a democratic nation, or do we profess a liberty which we cannot be said to enjoy?

If the men of the country are content to wear the fetters, let them in Heaven's name cease to prate about Democracy! That is the only consistent course. If not, then let them consider more carefully than they have done in the past what liberty means. In a few days' time the new Parliamentary session will open. Once more, there will be given to the Cabinet of the day the opportunity to set before the House of Commons a

policy that the nation—women as well as men—can gladly accept. Judging from the ever-increasing interest that is felt in the Woman's Suffrage movement throughout the country, we cannot but feel that if now, at the eleventh hour, the Prime Minister would include in the proposed legislation a Government measure for the enfranchisement of women, his action would greatly strengthen his position.

In any case—and whatever choice the men of the country may make—we are determined. Fettered we will not be. Sooner or later, we will stand free—politically, economically taking our part in the building up of the new world. Our opponents know this. Yet they delay. "Give us time: Wait and see!"

But we—the women—know that the sooner the first battle for political freedom is over, the better it will be for the country. It cannot be too often repeated, that a slave-generation of women means a slave-race of men and women, and if we look back to the mid-Victorian era, when, perhaps the subjection of women was at its deepest, we need not wonder that the present generation has given us statesmen impotent before the terrible problems that face them, lacking the imagination that would enable them to gauge the real needs of the Empire, and instinct with the subtlety and the spirit of compromise that characterise the timid lawyer-mind. Heaven is sending us women. Is it too far a cry to pray that it may send us *Men*? Let South Africa, the House of Commons and the Labour party, answer that question!

C. DESPARD.

"THE HAND OF GOD."

[We have pleasure in publishing the following graphic article from a woman on the spot, who knows the circumstances especially as they affect women and children, and puts forward, over her own signature, her suggestion for the remedy.—Ed.]

Three weary months have passed over stricken Senghenydd, and now the lengthy inquest is over, and the verdict of "Accidental Death" given. The jury found that "the explosion was caused by gas and fed by coal-dust"; that "there was no neglect by anyone"; but recommended an increase in the number of inspectors.

Closely following the verbatim reports of the inquest, one is appalled at the disclosures of danger in a normal mine, under normal conditions. Mr. William Brace, M.P. for South Glamorgan, and President of the South Wales Miners' Federation, continually describes the Senghenydd mine as "deadly dangerous," although he was unable in cross-examination to make the manager admit the "deadly." Yet a naked flame appears to have been in use for re-lighting the lamps!

Mr. Jacobs, expert mining engineer is reported to have stated, "Every colliery is open to disaster," and another expert, "There are all the elements necessary to an explosion in several spots in the colliery" (Senghenydd). Dr. Atkinson, Divisional Home Office Inspector of Mines for South Wales, stated in cross-examination that there were thirteen inspectors under his jurisdiction, to inspect 450 mines, in which no less than 250,000 men are engaged. It is estimated by a miners' leader, that one man in two is married. Hence 125,000 women and their children are affected. Dr. Atkinson stated that more inspectors were being appointed, but he admitted that it would require six inspectors to examine one large colliery in one day. Yet there are thirteen inspectors for 450 mines. It was pointed out also, that the inspection of one portion of a mine, did not guarantee the safety of the whole.

Following the proceedings step by step, one is impressed by the ability of Mr. Brace, and the respect he commands as an expert in mining matters. He has been down in the mine during the long hours of daily entombment, has earned his bread as the victims had done, has trusted as they that everything humanly possible had been done for his safety by the manage-

ment; and now, he has the interests of the miners at heart.

This is what we women are asking—that we who know shall be able to put forward our point of view at great crises which affect our lives. Who shall tell of the sorrow to women through such disasters as at Senghenydd?

The following is a quotation from *The Western Mail*, January 6, 1914:—

Mr. Brace (to witness, the manager of the Senghenydd mine). "Are the Coal Mines Regulations your maximum or minimum duty to the men?"

"My maximum."

(Later on—)

Mr. Brace. "I tremble to think what is a really dangerous mine if this is one not. It is dangerous, isn't it?"

"So is every other pit in the coalfield."

These are statements by men who are experts in the business of coal mining. What the outcome of the Home Office Inquiry will be, it is useless to surmise. The result of the inquest fixes the responsibility upon no one.

But who is responsible for the Senghenydd disaster? Not the manager, who, previously as a manager did his duty to the men, his maximum duty being fixed by Act of Parliament; and who, after the explosion, as a man, did far more than his duty, himself only fixing his maximum.

Who is responsible? You and I, and all of us who do not raise our voices to urge that the time has come for the State control of collieries. To say, in legal phrase, that it is "The Hand of God" will not suffice, but in the meantime we demand to know why adequate precautions are not taken and enforced?

At present, private enterprise is responsible for the safety of thousands of men, the widowhood of their wives, and the bereavement of their children. One asks again and again, what becomes of these widows and orphans? At Senghenydd, certainly, they will not long fill the miners' houses, which will be wanted for the successors of their dead. Housing was a vexed question before the last disaster.

Here are the official figures for the toll of life for 1913.

Deaths from explosions	461
Deaths from falls of ground	614
Deaths from accidents to shafts	96
Deaths from underground accidents	400
Total deaths underground	1,571
Total deaths on surface	171
Total	1,742
Estimated number of widows	871
Estimated number of orphans	1,742

Mr. Brace says he sees these 1,742 industrial martyrs tramping along in a silent procession to death. We women see upon the roadside along which they have travelled, the 2,613 women and children, left by the way.

Look at the short lives of miners. As early as possible, they leave school and are taken on as "boys," to help the older men. Say that they spend eight unless hours at their daily work, eight in which to sleep, and eight in which to walk to and from work, to wash, eat, bath, converse and read. The wonder is that they do any reading at all. Not much time for the fine arts, not much leisure for forming ideals.

Marriage, as young as possible, though there may be no houses available to which to take their brides. Lodgings have to satisfy a majority, until the babies are too numerous for comfort, and then the first available house, no matter what sort, is a necessity. Life is uncertain for all underground workers. Their joys and amusements do not rise far above the elemental stage. Their labour is so strenuous, that they must, of necessity have good food, and this is the extravagance of which we hear so much. Insufficient sleeping accommodation is often the cause of consumption, which is such a scourge in South Wales. Miners frequently have to sleep in beds which have only just been vacated, beds seldom sufficiently aired and never

long unoccupied. They descend to their daily work with a fatalistic feeling, which they sum up in the words, "What is to be, will be." They must perforce trust the management and sense of security is given by the existence of Government Inspectors—in itself a false security, the number of inspectors being so lamentably inadequate. Or, with a childlike faith and simple religion, incomprehensible to the man of the world, they put their lives in the hand of God, and trust that He will protect them. This spirit dominates the women.

The *Welsh Outlook* publishes in its first number, (January), photographs of the huts at Senghenydd—the homes of self-respecting and God-fearing men and women. A few weeks ago, the *Western Mail* published a long article, describing the design for a mansion to be built for Mr. — of the — Colliery. The magnificence and novelty of this beautiful residence with its lawns, terraces and cloisters made fine reading. It also, made the least thoughtful ask: Why this wide gulf between the maximum comfort of the poor, and the minimum of the rich? No one, least of all the miner himself, would wish to be taken with his family from their home and established in the mansion. Nor would he wish to inflict upon the coal-owner and his family residence in a hut. The situation is too grave for absurdities.

But if it is necessary to conquer the air, and if the Government is justified in spending large sums of money for that purpose, surely it is, at least, as necessary and as great a demand upon national resources, that the dangers of the mine engage the time, money, and brains at the disposal of a nation.

Cross-examined upon the removal of the dangerous coal-dust from mine walls and roof, an expert said, "You cannot control nature!" Is not that what scientists are always striving to do?

My faith is that if a nation is ever responsible for the well-being of its units, it is certainly responsible for the lives of the martyrs of the coal-fields, and that it is time to nationalise the mines. Women, I maintain, must join in demanding it. OLIVIA DIGBY SMITH.

THE HOMERTON CAMPAIGN.

Committee Rooms.—91, High-street, Homerton (nearest station, Homerton, N.L. Railway.)

Most excellent meetings are being held daily, our speakers, Miss Anna Munro, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Mustard, receiving excellent attention from large and increasingly interested audiences. We are hoping that Miss Boyle will speak for us on Saturday.

Mrs. Ball still requires more help in the shop, distributing leaflets and selling the pamphlet. "The Protection of Criminals by the Government and the Law Courts." Volunteers for all kinds of work should hasten to the shop, during this last week of the campaign.

Our pamphlet is arousing great interest, and from all parts of the country orders are pouring in every day. MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

Ask other Readers of "The Vote" what they think of "Achille Serre."



When the Advertisement Manager of THE VOTE shows us bunches of receipts for the Cleaning or Dyeing work we have done for VOTE readers, it proves two things. That advertising in this paper pays and that our service is really appreciated. We know that we can be of value to you, and we believe that the money we pay for this space is well spent. You can prove both—if you will.

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17

"VOTE" APPEAL: £100 WANTED.

Dear Fellow-members and Readers,—I desire to thank very heartily all who have contributed to our Fund for the enlargement of THE VOTE. Their help, with the kind and cordial letters we have received, testifying to the pleasure they take in our paper, have greatly encouraged us. But we must make a further appeal. The Fund is not yet large enough to enable us permanently to increase our columns. We remind those of our readers who may be able to help us, that the moment is critical in the history of the Woman's Movement. The League is increasing; we are making new branches and new members; work of all sorts is pressing upon us; never was there a time when a really representative paper was so urgently needed as it is now. Therefore I beg you to help us. I regard THE VOTE as the life-blood of the League.

I hope others will follow the example of those who have helped us, and so lighten our task. Yours sincerely,
C. DESPARD.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	78	13	6
Mrs. C. Bryant	0	2	6
A Sympathiser at 81	1	0	0

"VOTE" POSTER PARADE.

Rally Round Our Banner for the Poster Parade on Friday, February 6, Round the Theatre Queues.

Every parade must be a greater success than the previous one. Members of THE VOTE Brigade will welcome all friends as paraders. Meet at Headquarters at 5.30 p.m. During the poster parade at Croydon on January 30, a working man jumped off his bicycle and gave me 1s., saying he had long wanted to contribute to Woman Suffrage funds, and was glad of the opportunity to do so. It is unexpected incidents such as this which encourage us, and add to the interest of poster parading. Come and help!

Mrs. Walter Carey very kindly invites VOTE sellers to tea at the Office every Thursday from 5 p.m. onwards. P. LEAHY, VOTE Street Sales Organiser.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS."

Mrs. Tanner, presiding at our meeting on January 28 said that the Women's Freedom League intended to go on with the struggle for political freedom, however hard it might be, until victory was obtained.

Surgeon-General Evatt gave an inspiring account of the life of Florence Nightingale, whom he described as "a most masterful, powerful, fighting human entity." The secret of her success was that she insisted on knowing everything about anything she undertook. No detail was too insignificant for her consideration. She was efficient all along the line. Speaking of the chaos Miss Nightingale found at Scutari, General Evatt told how she dealt with the terrible suffering of the wounded owing to vermin, by establishing a laundry. It was no easy task to bring about cleanliness, but she pressed into service the wives of the soldiers, and enabled them at the same time to earn money for themselves. She started a school for the children, and was the practical reformer throughout, refusing to be daunted by difficulties. Suffragists will remember that when she was fighting ignorance and apathy at the War Office on her return from the Crimea, she advised a friend thus: "Don't be conciliatory. When I write civilly . . . nothing happens."

Mrs. Despard, who received from all present a very warm welcome after her holiday abroad, supported General Evatt in his estimate of this splendid pioneer, Florence Nightingale. She declared that she took a very hopeful view of the early chances for Women Suffrage.

MEN AND MUDDLES.

Mrs. Nevinson is an adept at coating a pill with humour, and the men in the audience at the Discussion meeting last Monday at Headquarters were obliged to confess, after a little demur, that they agreed with her arguments in support of the assertion that "Men, having sole political power, are to blame for the present muddle of Society." It was a formidable indictment. In the twentieth century, and under a Liberal Government, she declared the muddle was greater than ever. People—men and women—were imprisoned just for talking, an astonishing fact when it had been the proud boast that England was the land of the free, and a man could say what he would; there was terrible waste of the manhood of the nation for though trade was booming whole families were coming into the workhouses and it seemed impossible to apply the law of Elizabeth that

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Shooting.

Clara Webster, shot at by Joseph Howett, with whom she refused to keep up her engagement on account of his intemperate habits. Seriously wounded. At the Leicester Assizes Howett sentenced to five years. Mr. Justice Channell made the truly idiotic and superfluous remark that the crime "seemed to be the outcome of a species of madness called love." We congratulate this remarkable judge on his estimate of love.

Criminal Assault.

Pretoria Maud Hall, Maidstone, aged 13 last March, gave birth to a still-born child on December 11. No one had suspected her condition. Oliver Percy Purcell, friend of the family, who had often taken the child for walks and been alone in the house with her, admitted his guilt to the police. Committed for trial.—*Kent Messenger*, January 17.

John Shaw, Glasgow, middle-aged man, molesting little girls on their way home from school. Had dragged one child into a close, and her screams brought help. Pleaded drunkenness. Two months.—*Evening Citizen*, Jan. 22.

Assault.

Edward Marney, at the Guildhall Police-court, found guilty of brutally kicking a young woman who refused to buy him a drink. Three months.

James McNulty, found guilty at Greenock Police-court of having on January 20 assaulted a young girl by striking her with his fists and knocking her down. The man addressed her in the street, and then assaulted her. Fifteen days.—*Evening Citizen*, Jan. 24.

Daniel Betts, Ryde, before Isle of Wight County Bench, sued for separation and maintenance by wife. Married in 1901, seven children, three having died, youngest is 7½ months. He had 18s. 4 week pension, wife did laundry work. Persistent cruelty, charges of misconduct with her son of fourteen, blacked her eyes when she was bathing the baby, struck her just before the child was born, and had threatened her life, bringing a knife into the bedroom. No punishment; separation order and 6s. a week maintenance.

Living on Immoral Earnings.

Samuel Lamberd and Sarah Johnson, convicted at the Southern Police Court, Glasgow, with aiding and abetting in the conduct of an immoral woman for gain, at a house in Florence-street. Six Months' hard labour each.

Frederick McCoil, at the Northern Police Court, Glasgow, charged with living on the immoral earnings of a woman. Six months' hard labour.—*Glasgow Herald*, January 21.

Desertion.

Alexander Clouston, Glasgow, charged at the County Buildings with neglecting his two little sons, so that they became chargeable to the parish. Had frequently deserted them, been traced and had them handed over to him; then gave them into care of people who were sentenced for cruelty to them. Induced a woman to live with him and made her supply him with food and lodging to the amount of £40, deserted her, persuaded a young girl to go away with him, and tricked her by a bogus marriage. Three months.—*Glasgow Herald*, January 19.

Edward Butler, sentenced at Clerkenwell for neglecting his five children. Had had twelve, seven dead of starvation, mother almost dying. Woman had been his wife for sixteen years, he could earn good wages, but threw his work up and drank. Neighbours fed the children, who slept with mother in a bare room without coverings of any kind. But for school dinners must have died. In two months had only given wife 13s. Six months. No action against him for causing the death of the other seven children.

(Several of the above cases from *Reynolds's*, January 25.)

Divorce Court.

Mrs. Molyneux proved persistent cruelty on the part of her husband, who had been in the Royal Navy. Threatened her, assaulted and whipped her, and committed every sort of violence. Separation Order granted; no punishment for cruelty.

THE NORTHERN MEN IN LONDON.

Bring Voters to the Mass Meeting!

We publish with pleasure and all good wishes for success the following letter from Mrs. Arncliffe-Sennett:

To the Editor of THE VOTE.—Dear Madam,—May I appeal through your hospitable columns to your readers to do everything they can—to come themselves, and to bring VOTERS to the Mass Meeting of the Men of the North, which is to be held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on February 14th at 3 p.m. It is most important that the Mandate should get proper support from the Electorate of London at this critical and important time. I would also be very glad for offers of hospitality as near the centre of London as possible. The men will have a good deal of Parliamentary work to do, and must be located near the centre of affairs. Suffragists are always so kind and helpful that I feel sure they will respond to the occasion. Thanking you in advance, Yours truly,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE SENNETT.

work should be found for those who demanded it. Education has been in the hands of a few pedants who knew nothing of children, and thought that if babies of two years old and less were taught early they would become very clever even though compelled to sit on "a staircase" where they fell asleep and had to be prodded with a long pole to be wakened again! The seeds of insanity and mental deficiency were thus sown, and even when some improvement in age was made it never entered into the heads of the wisecracks to provide accommodation for drying the clothes of children who got wet in coming to school; so the seeds of consumption were sown; it took a long time and a great outcry on the part of women to bring about the feeding of hungry school children. The Poor Law and its administration was declared to be "a glorious muddle of waste and ignorance"; good food was thrown into the hog wash and women, provided with a dress and a shawl, were considered clothed; that they needed underclothing did not enter into the heads of men administrators." The present cartoon case, the facts about the Crimean and South African wars, showed the muddle in army affairs, and because so little thought was given to the fact that the men of the navy, when ashore, needed wholesome recreation, they got drunk from sheer boredom.—Mrs. Nevinson, recounted personal experiences at Weymouth in support of her statement. By special request she was asked to extend her lecture by explaining, instead of just mentioning, why the Insurance Act is the greatest muddle of all. She pointed out its anomalies and injustices, and said she objected to the constant direction of the nation's mind to sickness; that the treatment of women was most unfair, the married women who most needed attention were not deemed worth insuring; that it had become a veritable poll tax—even a burglar was identified by the insurance card he had dropped!—the workhouse infirmaries were now full of servants, when formerly there were very few genuine cases, that the sanatoria did not exist, but that unfortunate people who needed such treatment were crowded into the tubercular wards of workhouse infirmaries; that though benefits were promised it was in many cases most difficult to get them, and above all, the Act had been passed without consulting women who were required to obey it. The woman's voice and service, as well as the man's, was needed to prevent muddles, and ensure reasonable and satisfactory conditions of life.

Miss Winifred St. Clair presided, and in an interesting introductory speech, said that men, having been used to power, welcomed pleasant advice from women as influence, but unpleasant advice they declared was interference. Women's genius which should be spent in doing work that would live, was occupied in clearing away obstacles which ought not to exist. Many questions were asked and answered; a discussion followed, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Nevinson, for her able and enlightening speech.

THE W.F.L. IN THE SOUTH.

At Bournemouth.

Last Friday evening the Women's Freedom League carried war right into the enemy's camp by holding a crowded meeting in St. Peter's Hall, which had been let on the condition that the speakers should not advocate or express approval of militancy or lawlessness. The speakers were Mr. Laurence Housman and Miss Nina Boyle! In the local paper the next evening appeared two columns of their speeches under thick headlines—"St. Peter's Hall and Militancy," "A Satirical Speech by Mr. Laurence Housman," "Proposed Erection of the Public Stocks in Bournemouth." Mr. Housman's speech, a report of which appeared in last week's VOTE, met with long and enthusiastic applause, and Miss Boyle received a great ovation. Her contention that the lawyers, and not the law, kept women from exercising the Parliamentary vote, and her account of the muddle and disorder created by men, and of their waste of the country's time, money and resources, aroused the keen appreciation of her audience. A good collection was taken and large quantities of literature and THE VOTE were sold. A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Hume, and seconded by Mr. Stocker, to Miss Boyle, Mr. Housman and the Chairman (Miss F. A. Underwood), was carried with acclamation. We congratulate Miss E. J. Read for organising so successful a meeting, and record our warmest thanks to Mrs. Hume, Mrs. Lambert, Mrs. R. P. Underwood, and others of our friends who helped her.

At Winchester.

At a public meeting in the Masonic Hall, Winchester, on Jan. 29, Miss Nina Boyle, speaking on "The Women of To-day," declared that she is the suffragist, not the cipher, where decisions are concerned and the tool when work is the question; she is the true democrat, prepared to give everything in the cause of humanity; the true economist demanding to choose her own wares; the true architect, building ideals for humanity, and the true iconoclast breaking down idols which hinder their realisation. The Suffrage movement, she added, is like a stream which cannot be turned back; it is the duty of the nation to give it room to flow, carrying with it the usefulness and service humanity needs. Mr. H. Grove Jones was an able chairman and Miss Boyle's speech aroused great interest. Literature and THE VOTE sold well, and we anticipate good results through the addition of new members and the spread of a clearer knowledge in Winchester of the real meaning of the Woman's Movement.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

We thank Mrs. Bennett very warmly for the square of carpet, which she has given for use in the office. A Branch meeting was held on January 21, when resolutions for conference were discussed and passed. The third "Cottage" meeting was held at 59, Rymer-road, on January 22, when Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., addressed the meeting on "The responsibilities of women and their need for realising themselves for the good of the community." The jumble sale on January 19 was small but satisfactory. A whist drive will be held on Saturday, February 21, at 112, Marlow-road, Anerley, by kind permission of Mrs. Myers. Tickets at 1s. each, including refreshments, will be ready for sale at the end of this month. On January 31 Miss Leahy conducted a very successful poster-parade through the town. In the afternoon Mrs. Tanner gave an excellent address on "Woman's Fight against Ignorance and Prejudice" at the first fortnightly meeting of this session. There was a good attendance; Miss Dickson was in the chair. On February 13 the address will be on Divorce Law Reform.

East London.

We are holding a whist party on February 14, 1914, at Haydn House, Fairlop-road, Leytonstone. Please apply early or tickets from Miss Adams, 37, Wellington Buildings, Bow, E. Will someone kindly present the Branch with a dozen rosettes (in the colours) for stewards? All who are willing to give refreshments or lend cards please write to Miss Nixon, Glencoe, Queen's-road, Loughton. The next Branch meeting will be on Thursday, February 5, 1914, at 7 p.m.

Kensington.

Many thanks to those who send goods for the L.B.C. Jumble Sale. A meeting will be held on Monday, February 9, at 6, Argyle-road by permission of Mrs. Brend. Speakers: Miss Boyle and Mrs. Meeson Coates. Chair will be taken at 8 p.m. by Mrs. Meeson Coates. Tickets from Miss Reeves or office. The hon. treasurer would be glad to receive any outstanding subscriptions for 1913.

Stamford Hill and Tottenham.

A most successful meeting was held at 91, Mount Pleasant-road Tottenham, on January 22, when we had the pleasure of welcoming new members to our Branch, some of whom joined as a result of our public meeting in December. Miss Underwood gave us a most interesting account of the special work and aims of the League, and made us all feel how essential it is that there should be no slackening of our efforts at the present time. Fresh volunteers were forthcoming for VOTE sales, and a pitch has been started on Fridays at the top of Stamford Hill. Will all sympathisers look out for our VOTE sellers there? We hope to see a big rally of all members at 30, Lausanne-road, Hornsey, on Thursday, February 5, at 7 o'clock, to a social gathering to give an opportunity to new members to meet all fellow members. Will musical friends please bring music, and will all come full of plans for our next Branch effort, which should be about the third week in February?

Mid-London.

Our meeting on January 28 for Conference resolutions was not as well attended as it ought to have been. Though many of our members are busy women, and illness prevented others from being present, we ought to have had a larger meeting. Our next meeting, also for Conference business, will be on Thursday, February 19, and I hope we shall have a large and really representative meeting. Dr.

Chapter 10

The Best Friends of Draper Shops

The best friends of draper shops are common soaps, and the women who scrub and rub with them.

A quicker way of wearing out clothes could hardly be discovered.

Fels-Naptha soap was invented to make clothes cleaner and whiter and sweeter than with ordinary soaps.

Not only was the invention successful, but the only right way, the best way of using it, happened to be "the Fels-Naptha way."

So that the best way—"the Fels-Naptha way" happens to be the easiest and the cheapest way.

Fels-Naptha 39 Wilson street London E C

Lewin is kindly lending us her drawing-room for the afternoon of Monday, February 23. Miss Cicely Hamilton will be one of the speakers. Who will volunteer to help to send out the invitations?

PROVINCES.—Bournemouth.

On January 20, Miss Read, who is organising in the district, visited the Bournemouth Branch of the Shop Assistants' Union, to invite their presence and support at the St. Peter's Hall meeting on January 30, when Mr. Laurence Housman and Miss Boyle spoke. After the chairman had announced the meeting, he asked Miss Read to speak, and she explained the policy and methods of the Women's Freedom League. Mr. Stocker immediately paid a worthy tribute to our President, Mrs. Despard, who has at all times been untiring in her efforts for the emancipation of the shop workers.

Brighton and Hove.

The annual members' meeting was held on January 27, when the annual report and balance sheet were presented, the committee was elected, and arrangements made for meetings. The following dates have been booked, and members are requested to keep them free:—Saturday, February 14; Monday, February 23; Monday, March 9; Monday, March 23; Friday, April 3. Particulars will be given of each meeting, and all will be held at 19, Norfolk Terrace. On Saturday, February 14, at 8 p.m., a social has been arranged, with recitations, songs, music, &c. There will also be refreshments. All will be welcome, and it is hoped that many friends will be brought. Members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1914 are asked to send them either to Miss Hare or Miss White.

Chester.—Suffrage Shop: 45, St. Werburgh-street.

At our monthly public meeting on January 22, Mr. H. F. Brown, LL.B., a well-known Liberal and chairman of the Chester Education Committee, spoke on "Liberalism and Women's Suffrage." In a telling speech, he pointed out that a Government which opposed a measure so essentially akin to Liberal ideals could not possibly be called a Liberal Government, and declared that all true Liberals were determined that they would not support a Government candidate at the next election. He thought that, without such support the present Government could not be returned to power. *The Chester Chronicle* (Liberal), in reporting the speech, omitted the most telling hits against the Government; *The Cheshire Observer* (Conservative), however, lost few of them. We should be glad to see a large attendance at our monthly meetings, and hope that members and their friends will be present in good numbers at the Sale Rooms, St. John's-street, on February 19, when, with Mrs. H. Brown, M.A., in the chair, Mr. John Morris will explain "Why Men Should Support Women's Suffrage." An Entertainments Committee has been appointed by the Branch, and another whist drive has been arranged for February 3. It is hoped it will be even a greater success than the last.

The Women's Work Exchange, started in connection with the branch, is going ahead. Orders are coming in for knitted goods, cakes, sweets and jams, and people not yet converted to Suffragist ideas are evincing a lively interest in this latest phase of our activity.

Middlesbrough.

At our open meeting of the Spring Session on January 19, at Hinton's Café, Mrs. Schofield Coates gave an excellent address on "Suffrage Up-to-date," emphasizing the changed attitude of the Press towards the subject, and the pronouncement of judges that there was no law to exclude women from public courts when assault cases were heard.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

Owing to the untiring efforts of our members in advertising our public meeting on January 27 we had a splendid audience to listen to the Rev. G. W. Thompson and Miss Nina Boyle. To make the meeting more widely known we poster-paraded the principal thoroughfares of Southsea on the previous Saturday and Monday, to the great astonishment of the pedestrians. Mrs. Whetton from the chair explained the objects and policy of the Women's Freedom League. Mr. Thompson gave a rousing address, and Miss Boyle captured her audience by her witty and pointed speech. The dinner-hour meeting the next day at the Dockyard gates was equally successful, five or six hundred men listening most attentively to Miss Boyle for nearly an hour. The next members' meeting will be on February 10 at 17, Lombard-street. Mrs. Whetton will speak on "Are Women as Efficient as Men? And, if not, why not?" The business will begin punctually at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are invited at 8.15 for the speech and discussion. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Johnson, 4s.; Mrs. Casher, 2s.

Southampton.

A very enthusiastic meeting was held here on January 28, when Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. Laurence Housman were the speakers. Mrs. Rothwell chaired. Our thanks are due to the member who so kindly assisted in advertising the meeting. Miss Boyle addressed two good meetings, one at the Clock Tower and the other at the Dock Gates on Thursday at mid-day. THE VOTE sold out.

Winchester.

An open-air evening meeting was held at the West Gate on January 22, and in spite of the biting cold about 150 people gathered and remained to the close of the meeting to hear about Woman Suffrage. Mrs. Singleton, who proved a most able chairman, gave some of the reasons why women want the vote, and Miss Read dealt with the objections to votes for women. The resolution demanding a Government measure for Woman Suffrage was put to the vote and passed unanimously. Members attended the meeting in good numbers.

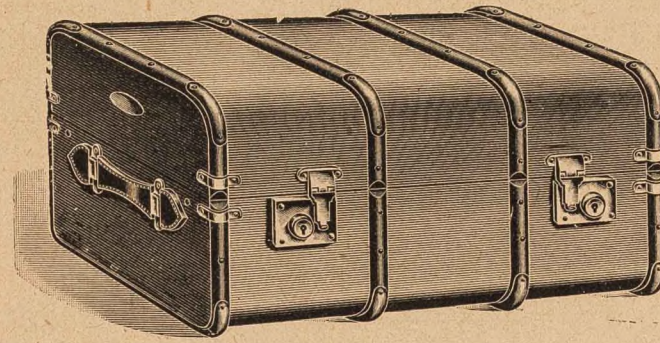
SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

A meeting of this Branch was held on January 29, Miss J. A. Smart presiding. Miss L. Clunas read a paper on "The Chartist Movement," tracing its origin and its development from 1835 onwards, and describing fully how the movement progressed in Scotland, and especially in Dundee. In many respects the Women's Fight to-day resembles the agitation of the Chartists, and the same spirit that led to revolt then is animating women in all parts of the world. Discussion followed, and Miss Clunas was thanked for her lucid and graphic address.

Correspondence from Headquarters was dealt with. Members will receive due notification of the jumble sale. It was intimated that Miss E. Murray was to be in Dundee on February 12, and it was left to committee to make arrangements.

John Pound & Co.

ACTUAL MAKERS



No. B 122.—Cabin Trunk, made of Three-ply Veneer, covered green proof canvas, hard wood hoops, double action locks, brass snappers, tray.

27 x 17 1/4 x 13	30 x 17 1/4 x 13
22/-	24/6
33 x 19 1/4 x 13	36 x 21 1/4 x 13
27/-	29/6

No. B 123.—Superior Quality, covered brown painted flax canvas, nickelled steel frame.

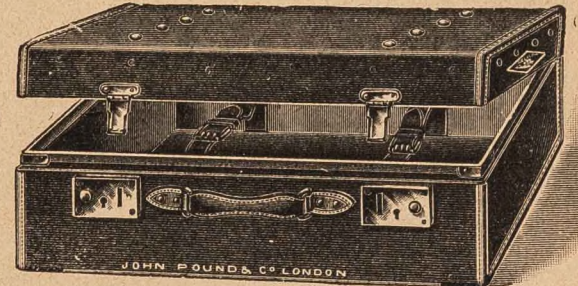
30/-	33/-	36/-	39/-
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Above measurements do not include hoops, for which 1 1/2 in. must be added.

No. B 124.—Lady's Visiting Case, made of Best Compressed Fibre, covered brown painted flax canvas, nickelled steel frame, two double action locks. (Light Weight.)

20 x 14 1/2 x 6 1/2	22 x 14 x 7 1/2	24 x 14 1/2 x 8	27 x 15 x 8 1/2
21/6	24/6	27/6	31/6

268-270, OXFORD STREET, W.
211, Regent Street, W. 67, Piccadilly, W.
177-178, Tottenham Court Road, W.
81-84, LEADENHALL ST., E.C.



Write for Catalogue.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

Mrs. Leslie McKenzie was, unfortunately, prevented by illness from addressing our last meeting, but we hope to have the pleasure of hearing her later. Miss Margaret Drummond, M.A., very kindly consented at short notice to read her paper on "Women and Education." The subject was treated in most interesting fashion from the historical point of view, and Miss Drummond showed how the inevitable outcome of something like equality in education is the demand for full equality in the State. Miss Sara Munro presided over a very good attendance. A series of afternoon meetings has been arranged for the Tuesdays of February and March. A small committee, with Miss Sara Munro as convener, is in charge. Among the lecturers are Dr. Aimée Gibbs on "Healthy Homes and a Healthy Race," and Dr. Alice Hutchison, by special favour, on "Woman's Work in the Ballans." Similar meetings were greatly appreciated last year, and we anticipate a large attendance. Tea will be served from 2.30-3 p.m., and admission 2d.

A few members have volunteered to keep the Shop open on Saturday evening from 8 to 10 p.m., and will be glad of the assistance of others who have a little time to spare. It is suggested that an informal club might be developed on these lines, and members are asked to bring friends who are not yet interested in the movement. We owe this idea mainly to Miss Berta Ireland, Miss A. Ross, and Mrs. and Miss Crabbe.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop: 70, St. George's-road.

At a special meeting of the Council on January 19 a proposal was agreed to for a two days' sale of work and Café Chantant in November next. It will be put before the members at the next Branch meeting on February 5. It was also arranged to hold a sewing party in the Shop on Monday evenings from 7 p.m. till 9 p.m., beginning January 26. It is hoped many will join this party. Miss Chalmers and Miss Findlay have offered to lend sewing-machines, and we have already received orders for work.

Lochgelly.

An open-air meeting was held on January 21 in the Knockhill Close, Lochgelly, when Miss Ada Broughton spoke to a very appreciative audience upon the economic aspects of the Woman's Movement.

Dunfermline.

A business meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A., Queen Ann-street, on January 22. Miss Ada Broughton presided, and spoke of Miss McCullum's resignation of the hon. secretaryship owing to pressure of her Trade Union duties, which demanded all her time, and thanked Miss McCullum for her willing help given at personal inconvenience. Miss Mysie Heigh, proposed by Miss McCullum, was unanimously elected to the vacancy. Mrs. Beck was elected chairman, Miss Hutson treasurer, and a committee of four members was also appointed. Plans for future work were discussed. A social evening was proposed for February 11. The delegates who had attended the Conference arranged by the recently formed joint Committee of the Women's Organisations in the town, explained that its objects are to organise and educate women municipal voters, and to secure the return of suitable women upon the local governing bodies. It was decided that the Branch should be represented on the Joint Committee.

Midcalder.

At our Branch meeting, on January 26, we expected to have a paper from one of our members, but business took up so much of our time that we had to ask our friend to favour us with her paper at some future date. The meeting decided not to send a delegate to Conference in March. Several members have agreed to let us have the use of a room in their houses for Branch meetings.

Paisley.

Instead of the usual Branch meeting, it was decided to have a social evening for members and friends on January 29. Tea was provided by some of the members, and an enjoyable time was spent together. Songs and recitations were given, and Mrs. Bell gave a short address, followed by an interesting discussion. Will members keep Thursday, February 26, free for the next meeting?

Scottish Scattered Members.

A large meeting was held to protest about the Wetherall case. Sixty of the pamphlets, "The Protection of Criminals," were sold and fifty copies of "Liberal Cant." The meeting showed great indignation over the Wetherall case, and was in entire sympathy with Miss Eunice Murray, who conducted the meeting and sold the literature.

LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.

At the request of several members we have arranged to start a dancing class for Ballroom dancing at 13, York-place Baker-street, W., on Wednesday, February 11, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. There will also be lessons on the two following Wednesdays—February 18 and February 25. Fee for the three lessons 6s. For further details please apply to Mrs. Huntsman, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Please note that there will be a dance, the profits of which will be devoted to the Headquarters, at the Caxton Hall, February 27, at 8 to 12 p.m. Tickets 3s. each.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM BY-ELECTION RESULT.

The result of the polling in North-West Durham to fill the vacancy caused by the appointment of Mr. Atherley-Jones as Judge of the City of London Court was declared last Saturday as follows:—

Mr. Aneurin Williams (L.)	7,241
Mr. J. O. Hardicker (U.)	5,564
Mr. G. H. Stuart (Lab.)	5,026

Liberal majority over Unionist	1,677
The figures at the last election in December, 1910, were:	
L. A. Atherley-Jones, K.C. (L.)	8,998
J. O. Hardicker (U.)	4,827
Liberal majority	4,171

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Fri., Feb. 6.—WARWICK HOUSE, Wood-lane, Highgate, N. Drawing-room Meeting (by kind invitation of Mrs. Simmons), 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard and Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. *Chair:* Mrs. Mustard. (Invitations to be obtained from Miss Mitchell, Merok, Great North-road, Highgate.)
Sat., Feb. 7.—CAXTON HALL, Tango Practice Class, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. under the auspices of the London Branches Council. Tickets, 2s. (including tea) from Mrs. Huntsman, W.F.L. Office.
SUN., FEB. 8.—REGENT'S PARK (weather permitting), noon. Miss Andrews and Mrs. Hyde.
Mon., Feb. 9.—KENSINGTON, 6, Argyle-road. Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Brend), 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Boyle. *Chair:* Mrs. Meeson Coates. **CATFORD, 35, Torrion-road,** Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Townend), 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Anna Munro.
Tues., Feb. 10.—Political Poster Parade round House of Commons. Leave Office, 1, Robert-street, at 2.15 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 11.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mr. John Scurr on "Go Home and Mind the Baby," and Miss Munro. **Caxton Hall King's Speech Meeting, 8 p.m.** Mrs. Despard, Miss Boyle, Mr. John Scurr, and others.
Fri., Feb. 13.—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade. Public Meeting, 3.30.
Sat., Feb. 14.—LEYTONSTONE, Haydn House, Fairlop-road, East London Whist Party, 7.15 p.m.
Mon., Feb. 16.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Miss Hodge. Subject, "The General Effect of the Women's Vote in Australia and New Zealand." *Chair:* Miss Rollinson.
Tues., Feb. 17.—CLAPHAM, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, Clapham Branch. General Meeting, 8 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 18.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. The Rev. Moritz Weston, D.D., on "Christianity and Mary Magdalene."
Thurs., Feb. 19.—1, ROBERT-STREET, Adelphi, Mid-London Branch Members' Meeting, 7.30. CHELSEA, 55, Glebe-place, Drawing-room Meeting (by kind permission of Mrs. Meeson Coates), 8 p.m. Speech on "The Case for Divorce Law Reform."
Mon., Feb. 23.—25, WIMPOLE-STREET, W., Drawing-room Meeting (by kind invitation of Dr. Lewin), 3.30-6 p.m. Miss Cicely Hamilton and others.
Wed., Feb. 25.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. M. Cunningham: "The Race-Bearers and the Falling Birth-rate in France."
Fri., Feb. 27.—CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade. Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Becher. **CAXTON HALL, W.F.L. Dance, 8-12 p.m.** Tickets 3s. (including supper). Proceeds to Headquarters Funds.
Mon., March 2.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Discussion Meeting. *Opener:* Dr. C. V. Drysdale. Subject: "The Population Question and Women's Suffrage," 8 p.m.
Tues., March 3.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of Madama Marcella, by Miss C. Maud, and *Courage* (a Dutch play), by K. H. (evening).
Tues., March 24.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of Hiawatha (afternoon).
Sat., Mar. 28.—W.F.L. ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CAXTON HALL, 10 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 29.—CAXTON HALL, Reception to Delegates, 3.30 p.m.

PROVINCES.
Fri., Feb. 6.—Liverpool, Dewhurst's Café, South-road, Waterloo. Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. **Sheffield, Stevenson's Café, Exchange-street.** "At Home," 7.45 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Anna Munro. Tickets 1s., including refreshments.
Mon., Feb. 9.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss Alice Dewhurst. Subject: "Child Study." **Burnage, Garden Village, Branch Meeting.**
Tues., Feb. 10.—Southsea, 17, Lombard-street, Members' Meeting, 7.30. *Speaker:* Mrs. Whetton.
Wed., Feb. 11.—Birmingham, Erdington Branch Whist Drive.
Thurs., Feb. 12.—Southampton. King's Speech Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, Mr. Perriman, and Dr. Stancombe.
Mon., Feb. 16.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mr. Kelsall. Subject: "Anomalies of Present System."
Thurs., Feb. 19.—Chester, Brown and Co.'s Sale Room, St. John-street, 8 p.m. Meeting. *Speaker:* Mr. John Morris. Subject: "Why Men Should Support Women's Suffrage."
Mon., Feb. 23.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, 7.30 p.m., "At Home." *Speaker:* Miss Winifred Jones: "Things That Count."
Wed., Feb. 25.—Manchester, Branch Meeting, 7.30.
Tues., Mar. 3.—Chester, Crane House, Drawing-room Meeting, 3 p.m. *Hostess:* Mrs. Crosland Taylor. *Speaker:* Miss Eunice Murray.
Wed., Mar. 4.—Manchester, Public Meeting. Mrs. Despard.
Thurs., Mar. 5.—Manchester, Public Meeting. Mrs. Despard.
Fri., Mar. 6.—Chester, Masonic Hall, Hunter-street, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard and Miss Eunice Murray.
Mon., Mar. 9.—Middlesbrough, Primitive Methodist Hall, Public Meeting, 7.45 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. James Reid.

SCOTLAND.
Tues., Feb. 10.—Glasgow, McLellan Galleries. Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Miss C. Nina Boyle, Rev. Canon J. O. Hannay, (George A. Birmingham). *Chair:* The Very Rev. Provost Deane. **Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 2.30 p.m.** Dr. Aimée Gibbs: "Healthy Homes and a Healthy Race." Tea, 2.30 to 3 p.m.
Thurs., Feb. 12.—Dundee, Miss Murray.
Tues., Feb. 17.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 2.30. Dr. Aimée Gibbs: "Healthy Homes and a Healthy Race." Tea, 2.30-3 p.m. Admission 2d.
Wed., Feb. 18.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Miss Paterson: "Woman and the Insurance Act," 9.30 p.m. Members' Meeting: Conference Resolutions.
Thurs., Feb. 26.—Paisley, Room in Central Halls (one stair up), Branch Meeting: Members and friends.

WALES.

Montgomery Boroughs Campaign.
Mon., Feb. 16.—Newtown, Public Hall, Women's Suffrage Demonstration, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., Miss Anna Munro, and Mr. John Scurr. *Chair:* Miss Alix M. Clark.
Tues., Feb. 17.—Montgomery, Town Hall, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Despard, Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Miss A. M. Clark. **Carno, Old Schools, Public Meeting, 7.30 p.m.** *Speaker:* Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Miss A. M. Clark.
Wed., Feb. 18.—Newtown, Public Hall, "At Home," 3-7 p.m. Miss Anna Munro: "White Slave Traffic." *Chair:* Mrs. Flora Annie Steel.
Thurs., Feb. 19.—Llanymynech, Church House, Public Meeting, 7.30. Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Mrs. Peplow Cartwright.
Fri., Feb. 20.—Llanfryn, Town Hall, "At Home," Miss Anna Munro: "White Slave Traffic." *Chair:* Mr. J. Lomax (Mayor).
Mon., Feb. 23.—Llanerfyl, Village Hall, Public Meeting, 7.30. Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Mr. C. Garfitt.
Tues., Feb. 24.—Barriew, Assembly Rooms, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Mr. W. Pritchard.
Wed., Feb. 25.—Oswestry, Horse Market, Open-air Meeting, 1 p.m. Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Miss A. M. Clark. **Kerry, Reading Rooms, Public Meeting, 7.30 p.m.** Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Miss A. M. Clark.
Thurs., Feb. 26.—Welshpool, Town Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. *Speakers:* Mrs. Wynne Nevinson, L.L.A., Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Mr. A. P. Busch-Michell.

(Continued on next page.)

The Women's Freedom League
 WILL HOLD A
KING'S SPEECH MEETING
AT CAXTON HALL,
WEDNESDAY, February 11, 8 p.m.
SPEAKERS: MRS. DESPARD, MISS NINA BOYLE,
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Fri., Feb. 27.—Llanbrynmair, Public Meeting. Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Miss A. M. Clark.
Sat., Feb. 28.—Newtown, Severn-square, Open-air Meeting. Miss Anna Munro. *Chair:* Miss A. M. Clark.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sun., Feb. 8.—KINGSTON HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, 7 p.m., Miss Munro.
Mon., Feb. 9.—BRITTON, St. John's Church Debating Society, Debate. Mrs. M. Wynne Nevinson v. Mrs. Gladstone Solomon, 8 p.m.
Tues., Feb. 10.—ST. ALBANS' DEBATING SOCIETY, Dear's Hotel, London-road, 8 p.m. Miss Munro on "Should Women be Eligible for Parliament?"
Thurs., Feb. 12.—MIDDLESBROUGH, Presbyterian Church Guild, Newton-road. Address on Women's Suffrage by Mrs. Schofield Coates.
Tues., Feb. 17.—WEST ESSEX WOMEN'S FRANCHISE SOCIETY, Buckhurst-hill Hall, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle, W.F.L.
Wed., Feb. 18.—HEDGE END, St. John's Rooms, Debate arranged by Men's Debating Society. *Affirmative:* Mrs. Leigh Rothwell.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Free Church League.—Office: 13, Bream's-buildings, Chancery lane, E.C.

The F.C.L.W.S. is making a forward movement, which includes the renting of an office at 13, Bream's-buildings, Chancery-lane, E.C., and the engagement of a secretary to take charge of the office and the business connected with it. This involves fresh outlay, and in order to meet it a meeting is to be held on April 30, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, with Rev. R. J. Campbell among the speakers, when it is hoped a hearty response will be made to an appeal for help. The League is very proud of its new office. It is in the building connected with *The Athenaeum*, and is in the ground floor opening out into the street; it has a fine window for the display of Suffrage literature and the organ of the League, *The Free Church Suffrage Times*. Miss Beatrice C. M. Brown, the new secretary, is already in possession, and will be pleased to receive visitors who may care to call, whether bent on inquiry about the League or to see the office, and she specially welcomes those who come to offer help—in work, money, or even the interest and sympathy shown by joining the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

As a sequel to the police-court proceedings at Feltham, on December 29, when Princess Sophia Duleep Singh appeared for refusing to pay her licences for carriage, man-servant and dogs, a string of pearls and a gold bangle were sold in the Tricakenham Town Hall on January 26. Members of the Women's Tax Resistance League and friends of the Princess went from London to support her, and when the goods were put up for sale the Princess protested at the injustice of women being taxed without being represented. The goods were knocked down to Miss Gertrude Eaton for £17, after which excellent speeches were made by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Louis Fagan.

On January 28, the Women's Tax Resistance League held its fourth annual general business meeting; Miss Raynsford Jackson kindly lent her rooms for the occasion. Mrs. Louis Fagan presided, and after the ordinary business of our annual meeting was transacted there was much valuable discussion in which members from different parts of England took part.

At a drawing-room meeting held at Felixstowe, on January 26, Mrs. Sudd Brown, of the Women's Tax Resistance League, pointed out the constitutional side of tax resistance, and showed to an interested audience how effectual it is as a form of protest.

Northern Men's Federation.

A very successful meeting of the Northern Men's Federation was held on Sunday afternoon at the Mound, when Mrs. Armcliffe Sennett, who is visiting Scotland in connection with the London Convention of the Federation, on February 14, read a letter from a constituent of Mr. Lyell, Member for East Edinburgh, saying that though he had fought for Liberalism all his life, he meant to try and turn Mr. Lyell out at the General Election, because of his attitude towards Women's Suffrage. This, said Mrs. Sennett, was the attitude of thousands of electors.

TO GIVE JUSTICE WHERE JUSTICE IS DUE, our thanks to Mrs. Catmur for a gift of baskets to the Merchandise Department should have been given to the Hackney Branch. We give them now and congratulate the Branch and Mrs. Catmur on the good work they are doing.

N.B.—Our International Column will be resumed next week.

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**SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES'
MEETINGS.**

We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be Prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi London, by the *First Post on Tuesday Morning.*

ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.—RECEPTION to the NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION, Caxton Hall, *Sunday, February 15th, 8 to 11.* Music, recitation, speeches, refreshments. Tickets 2s. 6d.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street W. *Wednesday, February 11, 8.30.* "The Women's Municipal Party." Prof. Caroline Spurgeon. Chairman, The Duchess of Marlborough.

IRISH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. LECTURE by Mr. JOSEPH M. CABE, *Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 8 p.m.,* at The Emerson Club.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, Sloane-square, S.W.—MATINEE, New Suffrage Play, **THE BETTER HALF,** by Alison Garland, *Saturday, February 14, 2.30.* Tickets: Stalls, 10s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 4s. 6d.; Dress Circle, 7s. 6d., 5s.; Upper Circle, 4s., 3s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Gallery, 1s. Telephone, GERRARD 348.

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