

THE VOTE

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

VOL. V. No. 112.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

Published by W. SPEAIGHT & SONS, 98 & 99, Fetter Lane, E.C.

EDITORIAL.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Pit Brow Lassies, Rejoice—but Beware!

The House of Commons carried last week the deletion of the amendment to the Mines Bill which would have prevented any additions to the present ranks of women workers at the "Pit Broo." The debate showed that the House realised the injustice of interfering with women's work against their wish and without consulting them when that work was not harmful physically or morally. One of the most noteworthy impressions made by the workers themselves when they visited London was their overflowing health and gaiety. They all declared that women's work at the pit brow was more popular than long hours in the mills. They may be congratulated on the success of their protest. Yet the man-made Parliament felt called upon to do something. An amendment was introduced by the Government and was passed by a large majority that no boy, girl, or woman was to be employed in lifting, carrying, or moving anything so heavy as to involve injury. This is directed against the tub-shoving about which there has been considerable talk. The women, however, insisted that there was no physical strain in starting the tubs. It behoves them to see that their friends in Parliament do not legislate in such a way as to make a flank attack on their work while avowedly professing to leave them in possession.

Women Voters in California.

Most heartily do we congratulate the enfranchised women of California on the effect of their vote when exercised for the first time at the elections of last week. It is freely recognised that, apart from the sensational confession of those concerned in the bomb outrage, the women's votes largely influenced the return of the candidate who has stood out against "graft." It is expected that women will help to purify American politics, and we have faith enough in them to believe that they will put to shame the pessimists who prophesy the corruption of the women. Incidentally tribute is paid to the influence of the women in the unusual orderliness of the election and the chivalrous treatment

of the women by men. Fathers took care of babies whilst the mothers registered their votes. In view of the success we can afford to smile at the little joke of certain newspaper correspondents about the demand for mirrors by the women voters. The strength of the movement throughout the world is evidenced by the appeal of the Persian women to their European sisters.

Kipling Criticised.

From an American friend we have received an instructive criticism of Kipling's recent outburst regarding "The Female of the Species." The point specially noted is the "vengeance of the squaws" on the early Jesuit missionaries to the North American Indians. Kipling is proved to be at fault not only in his pronunciation of Choctaws, which does not correctly rhyme with squaws, but in his history. Proof after proof is cited to show that the Jesuit fathers received marked and self-sacrificing care from "the cruel sex." One heroic woman defended two missionaries "for weeks in her cabin at the risk of her own life from a blood-thirsty mob of the other sex raging outside." The squaws wept over the bleeding wounds of another and did their utmost to help him; when at length his last moment came it was a woman, "a dear old squaw," says the story, who before the hatchet descended on his head, "pleaded for his life with tears in her eyes and offered to die in his stead." Those were, of course, savage days, and, no doubt, there were, cruel women as well as cruel men; but *America*, an important Catholic weekly, published in New York, remarks that the records of the time prove "how very much superior woman is, whether red or white, black or yellow, over her male companions in those qualities which are inherently hers—gentleness, tenderness, mercy, and compassion." We suggest that Mr. Kipling should read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest these historic facts.

She Gives Well Who Gives Quickly.

The time is short, but not too short if our members will act without delay in making our "Christmas Present At Home" a great success. We may almost put into practice the amusing "Surprise Party" plan of our American cousins who, deciding to visit friends without warning on a certain evening, bring with them all the necessary supplies. Such parties often prove very successful from their sheer spontaneity. This is what we must ensure for Tuesday, December 19, at the Caxton Hall. We must make the Women's Freedom League Surprise Party both memorable and profitable. Each will bring a present in kind, or give an equivalent in money; the Present Stall will contain many gifts which will be "the very thing" we are looking for as Christmas mementoes for friends. There are times when acting on the spur of the moment brings surprising success. This must be one of them. Let every reader decide immediately what she can do and do it, whether the gift be great or small. In addition to helping by our gifts, we shall have the great pleasure of meeting our President and other friends in happy circumstances. Socially and financially the League will gain by the personal effort of each member. Friends, too, we doubt not, will stand by us in this special effort. We trust that the splendid example set by our able helpers of the Suffrage Atelier in undertaking all the decorations will prove infectious and inspiring.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI.

Telegrams—"TACTICS, LONDON." Telephone—15143 CENTRAL.
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AT HEADQUARTERS.

Conference: Hospitality and Amendments.—In view of the importance of our Conference to be held at Caxton Hall, Saturday and Sunday, January 27 and 28, we hope that not only Branch delegates but as many members of the Women's Freedom League as possible will be present. We shall be glad if those of our friends who can offer hospitality, and those members who will require it, will kindly communicate with this office at an early date. Nominations and resolutions received from the Branches have been sent to all Branch Secretaries; we hope they will be discussed at Branch meetings and returned with amendments not later than January 1, after which resolutions with amendments will be sent to secretaries to be discussed at a further Branch meeting.

Meetings of the League.—During the past week Mrs. Despard and Miss Munro have addressed meetings in Manchester, Mrs. How Martyn at the Lower Essex Hall and Hampstead Garden Suburb, Mrs. Vulliamy in Edinburgh, Mrs. Nevinson at Croydon and Midhurst, Miss Neilans at Southsea, and Miss Boyle at Ipswich, Tottenham and Kensington.

"Christmas Presents at Home."—London members and friends are very cordially invited to the "Christmas Presents At Home," which we are holding next Tuesday afternoon at Caxton Hall, at 3.30. Mrs. Despard and Mr. Geo. Lansbury, M.P., will speak; and the chair will be taken by Miss Nina Boyle; Mrs. Drysdale, 49, Rotherwick-road, Hendon, N.W., has kindly promised to take charge of the Presents Stall; she asks that members and friends will let her know what their gifts will be, and that they will send them addressed to her, care of the Hall-keeper, Caxton Hall, Westminster, before noon on December 19. The suggestion for the party was made by our President, Mrs. Despard, and no better proof could be given of the estimation in which she is held than the hearty co-operation of all members in carrying her suggestion into effect. A musical programme is being kindly arranged by Mrs. Labrousse.

Christmas Holidays.—Will readers please note that our office will be closed on Saturday afternoon, December 23, until Monday morning, January 1, and correspondence will not be dealt with during that week?

Literature Department.—We have ready the third edition (revised) of "Colonial Statesmen and Votes for Women," by J. Malcolm Mitchell. Price 1d. Will friends please note that we have sold out our Calendars, but that we have a few hand-made ones, pen and ink, sketched in by Miss Madge Turner, price 1s. net?

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

London Branches Council.—Hon. Secretary: ETHEL CLAYTON. The Council met on Monday, December 4, when Miss Underwood kindly acted as chairman. The financial statement showed the very satisfactory balance of over £20, of which £2 12s. 9d. resulted from the Café Chantant—a profit entirely due to the fact that the cost of the hall, refreshments and entertainment was given. Having money in hand, it was decided to hold a public meeting about the middle of February, provided arrangements can be made. An excellent programme has been arranged for the next Café Chantant on December 16, and it is hoped that there will be many members and friends present to make the evening a success. Single tickets, 1s. 6d. (no extras), or for the series of three (December 16, January 20, February 24) 4s., may be obtained from Mrs. Fisher, 1, Robert-street. Music, games (prizes). Several interesting Branch reports were read. The Anerley Branch has been very energetic; its literature secretary has sold, up to date, five dozen Christmas cards and about thirty calendars—to outsiders as well as members.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT WORK. GOVAN BY-ELECTION.

Candidates:—Mr. D. T. HOLMES, Liberal; Mr. GEORGE BALFOUR, Unionist.

In charge:—Miss GIBSON.

Miss Gibson has kindly consented to take charge and two Edinburgh members have promised to go over for the week-end. As polling-day will be December 22, it is hoped that every member who can spare a few hours or days will lose no time in sending word to Miss Gibson at the Centre, 302, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow, if she has not already done so. Should each candidate promise to support our claim, our campaign will be one of propaganda.

Lobbying.

As the House will sit probably for only two or three days more before Christmas, it behoves our members to make the best use of this time for interviewing Members. Two of our regular lobbyists, Mrs. Bertram Hobson and Mrs. B. H. Jones, are prevented by illness from giving help just now. Will every member of the League who can spare an hour or two send a post-card without delay to Mrs. How Martyn, giving date and time, so that directions may be sent her? Remember there are 670 M.P.s to be seen.

South London.

A meeting was held at Bricklayers' Hall, under the auspices of the Southwark I.L.P., on December 4. Mrs. Tanner spoke on "The Women's Freedom League and the Government Reform Bill." The audience was mainly composed of working-men, who listened with close attention, and when the resolution was put to the vote every hand, with two exceptions, went up in support. The resolution was:—"That this meeting calls on Mr. Strauss (M.P. for Southwark) to press for the inclusion of women in the Government Reform Bill, and to vote against Third Reading if women are not included." On December 14, at 8.0 p.m., Mrs. Tanner will speak on the same subject in Ruskin Hall, Akerman-road, Brixton.

Peckham.

The joint Hon. Secretaries of the new S.E. London Branch are working hard in Peckham, and would be glad to know of sympathisers willing to help in the district. A meeting will be held on January 8, at 23, Albert-road, Peckham, by kind permission of Mrs. Pickering. Warmest thanks are due to Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Deal, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Langley, and Mrs. Morgan.

P. and M. Group.

The last meeting for this year will take place on December 20, when it is hoped all workers will be present to report on what they have done.

Mrs. Sproson is in London until December 21. Branch Secretaries may like to arrange a meeting and invite her to speak.

THE BEWILDERING BILL.

The Insurance Bill has finished with the Commons, after dividing them into 303 Ayes, 21 Noes, and 325 Sitters-on-the-Fence. It has now gone to hustle the House of Lords, who have already announced their intention of letting it go through as it stands. They hope that the reaction in the country after a real taste of its "rare and refreshing fruit" will be such that the Liberal party will walk beneath its shade in the Opposition for twenty years—at least.

During the last weeks of its stormy passage it became a Herculean—nay, an impossible—task to follow its lightning changes. For example, one day employed persons from any age were included; the next, it became unlawful for persons under sixteen to insure; the next, this clause was again struck out, and as the Bill now stands all employed persons are covered, so that half-timers and children from fourteen upwards are

subject to this forced deduction from their wages, with reduced rates of benefit up to twenty-one.

It appears useless to comment. Further, I would not willingly mislead my readers, and there are 140 pages, containing 115 clauses, with endless sub-sections, and 10 schedules. As *The Times* remarked last week:—"They may not understand the details of the Bill; it would be very surprising if they did, because no human being can say with certainty what they are, and anyone who professed to do so would probably be wrong;" but I would like to ask why it is so important these young people should be brought in at 3d. per week, when it is indisputable that their benefits could be bought for 1d.? Mr. Belloc stated at the Albert Hall meeting in so many words that the "servants had been brought in to finance the measure." The Bill is certainly suspected of flagrant intentions in many quarters.

Further, the words regarding exemption have been tightened up. There was considerable debate on these words; they were amended and finally passed by the Committee, but the further amendments have been made under closure among 470 others in one night, and not a word was said or could be said concerning them. Yet this alteration makes an enormous difference to women by bringing in many who could otherwise have escaped. What is the good of a Committee if its work can be undone in this fashion? Why trouble to have a Committee stage at all—to debate, discuss, alter and agree in Committee if the whole of the work can be undone in this autocratic manner in one night and without comment? It is making a sham of Parliament and representative government, and the sooner we all realise this the better.

The Bill now insists that an employed person, without means who claims exemption must be "ordinarily and mainly dependent for his livelihood upon some other person," which is very different from the words accepted by the Committee, "ordinarily dependent upon some other person." The wording of this clause is entirely male; there is no reference to women, but possibly the words "for his livelihood" still leave a loophole open for women. Acts of Parliament are administered in exact accordance with their actual words, but it will be a most ridiculous position if certain clauses reading "his," "he," &c., are interpreted to mean both "she" and "he" while other clauses similarly worded refer to "he" or "him" only. The law is not to come into force till July 15, 1912, and the Health portion not till January 1, 1913; so it seems that a few more days might have been allowed to "lick" the Bill into something like understandable shape.

Persons with over £160 a year are entirely excluded; those with pensions or incomes from £26 yearly may also claim exemption. No married woman who has not been insured before marriage can be insured. The surrender value concession is to a large extent fraudulently deceptive. The insurance for such married women as may come in is mean and grudging in the extreme. A man earning under 15s. weekly pays 3d., and is entitled to 10s. weekly for twenty-six weeks; but a married woman paying 3d., is only entitled to 5s. for thirteen weeks, and for the second thirteen weeks, 3s. Disablement, 3s. instead of 5s. Those who earn up to 1s. 6d. a day pay no contribution; those having 2s. a day pay 1d. a week, but those earning over 2s. a day 3d., even if only one day's work per week is done, unless it is "casual" or "subsidiary."

The whole question of the Post Office Deposit Contributors is to come up again for consideration on January 1, 1915. If any readers would like to ask me questions, I shall be very pleased to answer them to the best of my ability.

LEAH ANSON.

NEXT WEEK WE SHALL DEAL with women workers in the Post Office and the danger confronting them regarding wages.

A FANCY DRESS BALL will be held at the Albert Hall on Thursday, December 20, in aid of the Three Arts Club, which is run for and by women, and should therefore appeal to women's societies. One of our members has undertaken to represent THE VOTE.

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JOINT CITIZENSHIP.

Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., addressed a large audience of Australian and New Zealand women, on December 6, at the Austral Club, on the subject of Joint Citizenship, under the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Women Voters' Committee. Remarkable on the unique character in London of the gathering he was addressing—a body of women voters—he dwelt on the beneficial effect on legislation and on social and domestic life of the extension to women of the Parliamentary franchise in Australia and New Zealand. It should be the pride of England, which first gave representative institutions to the world, to lead the way in restoring to one-half of her population rights which members of the other half had long enjoyed. In the case of Australia and New Zealand none of the evils freely prophesied to follow the exercise of the vote by women had accrued. Nothing but good had resulted from the change. It would be the same in England. There was not a single argument against woman suffrage and no danger except in persistent effort to resist it. Lady Stout also spoke in some detail of the differences between Australian and New Zealand laws and those of the Mother Country. Australian and New Zealand women are not only disfranchised on landing in Great Britain, but may, in certain cases, be de-nationalised as well. It behoved them to be thoroughly acquainted with the laws of their own lands, which are so admirably framed for their protection.

WOMAN'S PLATFORM IN "THE STANDARD."

"The Woman's Platform," in *The Standard*, was the subject at last week's Essex Hall Discussion Meeting. Mrs. How Martyn, dealing with this new departure in a thorough and at times most diverting fashion, dwelt specially on the impartial attitude of the "Platform" in giving both sides of the Suffrage movement and in calling attention to other developments of women's activity. This was valuable in preserving a sense of proportion. In the discussion Mrs. Clarkson-Swann said she feared that the calibre of the contributions was falling off and that the public interest would flag. This drew from others present expressions of feeling about the way in which letters and contributions were "edited" and "cut." A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. How Martyn, and much appreciation of *The Standard's* action was expressed.

THE WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

Mrs. Despard, speaking at a crowded drawing-room meeting in Hackney under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League, said she had always held very firm convictions in favour of offering resistance to unjust laws rather than submission. She firmly believed resistance to Imperial taxation on the part of women taxpayers of this country to be the most logical, as well as the most effective, form of protest they could make against existing legislation, which demanded taxation without representation, or against any new attempt to govern without the consent of the governed. Mrs. Kineton Parkes defined the aims and objects of the League. Mrs. Mustard presided and Miss Richards was the hostess. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting entirely approves of tax resistance as the most logical and dignified action which women can take as a protest against continued non-representation. This meeting further urges upon all tax-paying women the resistance of Imperial taxes until they are allowed to express an opinion as to how the large sums of money which they contribute shall be spent."

WOMEN ON IRISH BOROUGH COUNCILS.

As the Local Authorities (Ireland) Qualification of Women Bill has now passed both Houses (mainly through the vigilant piloting of Mr. Hugh Law in the Commons, and Lord Mayo in the Lords), and as it is certain to receive the Royal assent in due course, it will no doubt come into operation in January, when elections for our six boroughs—Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, and Waterford—will take place. There are so many sides of our municipal life in which women and children are especially interested, and which experienced women alone can fully understand, that it is eminently desirable that such women should offer themselves as candidates, and be elected (or co-opted) upon the respective Boards. There is not one of those boroughs in which such women are not to be found, if they can only be persuaded to come forward and face the onerous, and not always pleasant, duties which such offices impose upon them, as so many of them have already admirably done, as Urban and Rural Councillors and Poor Law Guardians. It is to be hoped that, where they do offer themselves as candi-

dates, they will receive the cordial support of the electors—men as well as women—and quite irrespective of party, so that they may be returned by large majorities, and may enter upon their duties with a well-founded confidence that their services will be appreciated, and that they will uniformly receive from their brother-councillors that measure of graceful courtesy which Irishwomen, as a matter of course, always expect from their fellow-countrymen. The elections to the County Councils will not take place until June, 1914, although there may be vacancies in the meantime when women might be co-opted.—ANNA M. HASLAM, Hon. Secretary Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

A GOOD IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

"Example is better than precept" was the sage conclusion of the letter of a VOTE correspondent the other day. The letter is worth quoting as a practical suggestion proving the value of THE VOTE. It ran thus:—

"Croydon.

"DEAR EDITOR,—I feel that I must tell what happened this morning. You know how the rain came down in torrents; it was most annoying, because I had planned to have a long day's shopping in town, and Marie had come up from Devonshire to join me. Whilst I was groaning over the prospect, Marie was reading THE VOTE, which had been delivered with the morning's paper. 'You seem to have excellent shops in Croydon,' she said, 'according to this paper; why not let us try them?' Was it a case of familiarity breeding contempt, or the fascination of the big establishments in town which made me overlook the value of the Croydon shops? I do not know. 'Why not?' said I. 'If we are not content with what we find we may hope for a fine day and London shops to-morrow.' So we sallied forth on our voyage of discovery in Croydon. Marie, living on the edge of Dartmoor, always needs a good coat and skirt that will stand wind and weather, and yet looks smart. I took her to Messrs. Jordan Brothers, and found that in their own workshops they produce excellent work. For three guineas Marie secured exactly what she wanted—good style and no wrinkles. On Dartmoor, too, boots are an important matter; Marie's distrust of the London shops—she calls Croydon London—in supplying boots fit for her needs—vanished when I took her to Messrs. Ford's in High-street; and she had a pair of their foot easers (7s. 6d. each) put into the light yet strong boots she bought, as being most helpful in supporting her recently sprained ankle. Having so far satisfied Marie, I began my search for Christmas presents at Shapcott's, where I scarcely knew how to decide in view of the pretty things to be had. I chose a big brass bowl for a plant and a charming china tea-service. Marie had to be dragged away at last from the household goods department, where she found some wonderful work and time savers, notably a hand-worked vacuum cleaner. We looked in at Messrs. Ebbatts and each bought one of their handsome screens, with gold embroidered panels at 10s. 9d.; at Messrs. Batchelar's our choice fell on an excellent folding table, and a most useful book-shelf. We simply could not pass by the attractive windows of Messrs. Bush and Co. Their 'wind and weather' hats were very appealing considering the drenching rain, and we found the blouse department well supplied with a good choice for day and evening wear. 'Now,' said Marie, 'I think we have done very well, and you ought to thank me for making you appreciate the shops which are close at hand; but, remember it is through THE VOTE that we have learned this lesson!'

"I felt the justice of her remark, and began to think how we might encourage others to follow the example. 'I shall talk about it at the W.F.L. Croydon Centre, and I have got another idea. I want to go to see the secretary of the Hackney Branch. Let us see if we can persuade the members there to patronise the Hackney advertisers in THE VOTE.' We were rewarded with sunshine the next day, so away we went from S.E. to N.E., making a brief halt in town on the way in order to call at Madame Steer's for some wigs and other things needed for the Suffrage play which Marie is arranging to give. Madame Steer has often helped us and took great interest in the Devonshire representation. Then at Manriev's, 42, Oxford-street, we got some cream which is admirable for the skin in this rough weather, and is not greasy; and I was able to recommend to Marie his Pinthol, which is quite magical in curing colds in the head.

"I must tell you briefly of our experiences at Hackney; we found our members quite enthusiastic over the local advertisers. In fact, before we could say whether we consented or not, we were hurried off to be 'cut, singed and waved,' and generally informed as to how we should take care of our hair by Messrs. Lemin and Wales, whose rooms and apparatus are excellent. We only had time for two other calls; while our Hackney friend was fitting on her new rimless eye-glasses at Mr. F. W. Dadd's, 378, Mare-street, we examined the many requirements for eyes which Mr. Dadd supplies, and were impressed by the scientific way in which he carries out his work. The last call was at Messrs. Varley's Stores, where Devonshire poultry as well as Christmas groceries were ordered."

"T. R. Y."

Will the Croydon and Hackney members note that local firms are advertising in THE VOTE? We trust they will be well supported.

OUR OPEN COLUMN.

* * * Letters intended for publication must be written on one side of the paper only, and authenticated by the name and address of the writer. It must be clearly understood that we do not necessarily identify ourselves with the opinions expressed.

EVOLUTION AND THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—Will you allow me a little space in THE VOTE to support the proposal of Mrs. Thomson-Price re throwing open the portals of the Women's Freedom League to men and women alike?

Mrs. Thomson-Price speaks of the oft-repeated remark—"The Woman's Suffrage movement is based upon sex-antagonism," which is flung at us by Anti-Suffragists. This is unfortunately only too true. I have heard that utterance very often, both in England and in Germany! The very fact of admitting men to membership would be most effective in refuting such assertions. If men worked side by side with women they would realise women's capabilities better, and greater respect would be the outcome, for men are too prone to think women are deficient intellectually. This was very forcibly brought home to me when acting as hon. secretary to a Women's Liberal Association in England. It was proposed that the men's Liberal Association should join hands with us, and work with us unitedly for the common cause. Some of the men on the men's committee objected on the ground that if women were admitted it would retard progress. But later, after we had worked together, it was acknowledged that the work was more efficiently done with the combined efforts of both sexes. Therefore, it behoves us to show what women can do, for by working with men the eyes of the latter are opened. Not that women have failed to show what splendid work they can do alone. The great organisations of the Suffrage Societies prove without doubt their capability of standing alone, and at first it was better that the pioneer work was performed only by women; but is the time now ripe for those men who sympathise so truly with us, and who are so desirous of helping, to enter our ranks and join their forces to ours? Surely, when the points of view of both men and women are given the opportunity of expression, the basis of the Women's Freedom League will be broadened. When men and women work side by side as comrades in a great cause, that cause nears its fulfilment quicker and better than when fought by one sex alone. The co-operation of both sexes is necessary. To quote Mr. Israel Zangwill:—

"The time is out of joint! Then what's the cure?
Joint work of men and women,
to be sure;
Joint work to foster every noble growth.
Joint work to make a better world for both."

In this little corner of Germany I learn of your brave fight through your excellent paper THE VOTE, which I get regularly each week, and endeavour to propagate the Suffrage ideas here. I often send loving thoughts to my sisters in my dear Homeland, and wish them God-speed in their battle for the right.—Yours sincerely,

LEONORA FAIRWEATHER,
Berlitz School of Languages,
Freiburg in Saxony, Germany.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

Dear Madam,—I have read with pleasure Mrs. L. Thomson Price's articles on Evolution and the Women's Freedom League, and heartily endorse her idea of admitting men members to the League. It seems to me to be a complete refutation of the old ideal evoked against women Suffragists, that they are "Anti-Man," a statement which we know to be untrue. To me the whole aim of the women's campaign is, after obtaining common justice for themselves—viz., rights of citizenship, to continue to work hand-in-hand with man for the common good and straighten out some of the tangles which press so heavily at the present time on women.—Yours truly,

ANNIE M. CLARK,
110, Thornlaw-road,
W. Norwood, S.E.

SUCCESSES BY WOMEN ARTISTS.

The "Blue Riband" of the Royal Academy School of Art was awarded last Saturday to a woman, Miss Margaret Lindsay Williams. Sir Edward Poynter, President of the Royal Academy, in conferring the honour, highly praised Miss Williams' work, and prophesied for her a brilliant career in art. In open competition with men and women students Miss Williams has won the biennial gold medal and the travelling studentship of £200 for historical painting; also a prize of £30 for a design for decorative painting. When the competition was instituted women were not able to win the distinction; they were only admitted to the schools half a century ago. A few years later Miss Louisa Starr, afterwards known as Madame Starr-Canziani, whose recent death is deeply regretted by her many friends, gained the coveted honour, and Miss Jessie Macgregor won it in 1891. Two years ago Miss M. H. W. Robilliard was awarded the prize, and now once more it is gained by a woman. Miss Williams' promising artistic career began at Cardiff, in the land of her birth; in London she studied with Mr. Cope, and afterwards entered the Royal Academy, where she has already gained notable prizes—always in open competition—including medals for painting from the nude and drawing from life, the Cresswell prize of £30 for landscape, and the prize of £25 for cartoon. Her latest success is noteworthy as coming at a time when the Royal Academy is likely to relax its policy of exclusiveness towards women artists. Women have also won ten other important Royal Academy prizes this year in open competition, including the Turner Gold Medal and Scholarship, which has been awarded to Miss Gladys M. Clark Kennedy.

READERS will do well to accept the invitation of the International Suffrage Shop to a CHRISTMAS PARTY on Saturday and Sunday next. For particulars see page 96.

WINTER SPORTS OUTFITS



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SATURDAY, December 16, 1911.

SPEEDING-UP.

† All who have travelled by steamship or railway know the process described as speeding-up. Time has been lost on the journey; it has to be made good, for on no account must the moment of arrival be delayed. And so there comes a rattle and a dash—a swaying of carriages by land, a fierce ploughing of the waters by sea; and the unaccustomed hold their breath in suspense. Can everything bear the strain? As a general rule nothing happens. They reach their destination, and forget the sense of risk until the next experience of the kind.

But let us suppose that the passion for speed makes vigilance sleep, so that a danger-signal is unseen or neglected: let us suppose, as has often happened, that there is a block in the way of the onward-rushing train or ship—then accident, loss of life and property; inquiry, blame accorded here and there; public indignation; and, in a short time, public forgetfulness.

As we look out on the present social and political situation; as we note the determination, on the one hand, to have something done; and, on the other, the feverish eagerness to do something—anything—to allay even for a brief space that growing clamour, it seems to us sometimes that we are in the throes of such a crisis.

Labour, woman, the sister-island, men and women who have felt themselves scorned and neglected, are presenting to those who rule the nation their long overdue claims, and the statesman's answer is not constructive legislation, nobly conceived and carefully thought out in every detail; but just speeding-up.

"You want," we hear our rulers say, "immunity from hard conditions, fair-play for the children, and for the workers such help in the time of adversity as will save them from despair and collapse. We will give you an Insurance Bill. And because the deluge is upon us, because the barbarians—the women and the workers—are knocking at our doors and threatening to batter them down; because, therefore, the need for haste is great, we will hurry it on."

Again. "You, the electors, who constitute the People, are dissatisfied with the Franchise Laws. They give representation to your house, your property, your position; they do not give representation to yourselves. Therefore, they shall be swept away at once. Simplicity shall be the watchword now. No meshes in the electoral net for men!" These are matters of the deepest importance, we are told. That oppressed classes, such as women-workers with children to support, shop-assistants, men and women, wearing out their lives under intolerable conditions, servants of the nation in the Post Office are crying out for immediate legislation, is no matter. They cannot turn out a Government or bring one in. They count for little in the sum of things.

The Post Office employées are demanding an inquiry. The conditions under which many of them work are affecting their health, making them old before their time. They are promised that their grievances shall be considered in 1913. No need for speeding-up now. Is there not an Insurance Bill to help those who break down under the stress of their poorly rewarded toil? As for the shop assistants, time has been found for a little Bill, so emasculated that its own backers are ashamed of it. "A legislative atomy" it has been called by a writer in *The Manchester Guardian*. Three-quarters of an hour for dinner, half-an-hour for tea, one

half-holiday a week. That is all. No compulsory early closing, no shortening of the long labour day. Possibly they will be given some of these good things by-and-by. Here, we are made to see, speeding-up would be dangerous. Before anything of that kind can be done, customers and employers, who form so large a part of the public, must be consulted. And in the meantime they will presently have the Insurance Bill. If, through long hours and bad and hard conditions, the health of the shop assistant suffers, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is at hand with doctor and medicine, and a weekly allowance. Why complain, then? Speed up such legislative reforms as may pacify the crowd of discontented skilled workers, and let these others wait. "When we have arrived, when the seats of the mighty are secure, we will do what we can for them."

But, alas for our statesmen! The clamour goes on. Unlooked for blocks and hindrances impede the rapid passage of their plans for satisfying everybody—that is to say, everybody who is anything in the political world. For truly a great thing has come to pass, which they fail to understand. The fatal weakness of the smug, material, man-made world, so brilliantly satirised in Mrs. Perkin Gilman's latest book, has been discovered. The Humpty-Dumpty of humanity's childhood has fallen, and not all the King's horses, not all the King's men, can restore to him his pristine splendour.

Spiritually, mentally, materially, woman is on the war-path. Mothers, teachers, shop-assistants, factory workers, middle-class women who are tired of make-believe, girls who demand opportunities and a place in the world beside their brothers—all these are pressing forward, are demanding to have a share in moulding the new order.

For, without doubt, in storm and in travail, a new order is coming to the birth. It is inevitable, for it comes through the working out of natural law, and no speeding-up of the statesmen can prevent it. As well might they stop the whirlwind and command the ocean. Therefore, we warn statesmen on both sides of the House to be careful. Through the darkness storm signals are shining. Let them be warned in time, for these mean danger. The voice of the oppressed, of the exploited worker—man, woman, girl, boy—has been heard in the land. The demand of unrecognised womanhood is growing more and more urgent. The speeding-up in one direction, if they continue deaf and blind, will mean disaster not to themselves only but to the State.

One great army of workers, by abstention for two days from their daily, miserably paid task, gave an object lesson last summer of the power of labour. Women constitute an army greater and of far more importance to the State. Their growing restlessness and discontent is a fact that cannot be denied. The most far-seeing of our statesmen admit it. The opponents of woman's emancipation in sorrow and bewilderment confess it.

There is one remedy, and one only. As for the woman, mother and worker, so for labour in its varying aspects, let justice be done!

Do they imagine that the entry of woman into political life will hinder salutary reforms? That is not so. In the days of their tribulation women have been learning. While the men have been making this material civilisation which has so many unspeakably ugly corners, she has been dealing with life. It is for that she cares; and it is because of the pressure upon her of this life which she cannot effectually save that she is making her demand now.

When the true humanity is heard, when man and woman stand together with just, well-thought-out schemes, not to mend, but to end the injustices and horrors that degrade our Society, there may be such a speeding-up of the chariot of progress as will make our country a joy and a hope in the earth.

C. DESPARD.

POLITICAL CANT.

Was it due to profound ignorance on the part of certain Members of Parliament, or to political hypocrisy, that they appended their signatures to the following manifesto?

We, the undersigned Members of Parliament, who have voted for women's suffrage in the House of Commons, record our protest against the campaign of organised rowdyism now being carried on by certain advocates of women's suffrage. We condemn this conduct as a degradation of public life. If persisted in it must make the organisation of an effective platform campaign in favour of women's suffrage difficult, if not impossible, and it generally imperils the Parliamentary prospects of women's suffrage in the coming Session.

It is stated that the names of the signatories are to be published later, so we cannot be accused of attacking any persons in particular in stating the indignation we feel at this latest example of cant on the part of those to whom we have to look for help in the coming Session.

In this manifesto there is no recognition of the steady work which has been quietly carried on since 1867, and the present organised campaign of propaganda all over the country. With one exception, all the societies are urging the same policy—namely, the inclusion of women in any Electoral Reform Bill or the passing of the Conciliation Bill. The campaign of organised meetings to advocate the above policy is bigger than any before, and it is safe to say that more meetings are now held in a single week than used to be held in a year. But in the minds of some politicians all these things fade into insignificance before what they term "organised rowdyism." Apparently they conveniently forget that since 1870 women have had to protest against the behaviour of honourable Members of Parliament who have over and over again talked out, blocked, or otherwise shelved Women's Suffrage Bills, and have managed for over twenty years to make our Parliamentary majority ineffective. If it comes to protesting against behaviour, we women have the better case.

The manifesto talks about a degradation of public life. We do not think that comes well from members of the House in which the Prime Minister was howled down a few months ago! No, let them remember that why we are so insistent in our claim for the vote is because of the knowledge we have of the very real degradation of the lives of many women to-day, and the desire we have to remove that degradation by altering the conditions which produce it. To raise the age of consent, to prevent the white slave traffic, to treat the unmarried mother with sympathy and understanding, to protect the lives of children, are a few of the reforms we want to bring about in order to get better opportunities of life for all.

We thought we had got beyond the stage at which people talked as though the vote was to be given to women as a reward for good conduct. We thought, too, that the time had passed when women were put on the level of children, with Members of Parliament taking up the bad ethical attitude of the teacher who would punish a whole class of unoffending children for what he considered the misdoings of one. Such a position is retrograde, and ought to be impossible. Such an attitude of self-righteousness is entirely out of place, and can only lead to misunderstanding and feelings of resentment.

Finally, we have the ominous sentence, "It generally imperils the Parliamentary prospects of women's suffrage in the coming session." We think the chief danger to our prospects lies in the ignorance of the ordinary Member of Parliament as to the strength and feeling behind this agitation and his disregard of the work which has been and is still being done. To inform him of this and much else in connection with our movement is the object of our lobbying campaign, and we meet with much encouragement in the course of "the perpetual suffrage meeting being held in the Lobby," as one Member of Parliament terms it. Our work in the country must be made so effective that there shall not be a shadow of an excuse for this half-veiled threat being put into execution.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

WOMAN'S POWERS.

THE IDEAS OF A FRENCH WOMAN BARRISTER.

France is ahead of England in recognising woman's right to enter the legal profession if duly qualified, and the visit to London last week of Mademoiselle Helene Miropowski, who ranks as one of the foremost of French advocates at the Palais du Justice, Paris, created a great interest in legal circles and beyond. Besides lecturing at the University of French Literature, Marble Arch House, Mademoiselle Miropowski had a great desire to see the Law Courts and the English way of conducting cases. Mr. Justice Darling arranged a luncheon party in her honour in his private room at the Law Courts, at which Mr. Justice Hamilton, Lord Coleridge, Lord Robert Cecil, and Mr. Hume Williams, K.C., were present, as well as Mrs. Darling and one or two other ladies. Afterwards she visited Mr. Justice Darling's Court and heard his summing-up of an important case; then made a round of other Courts. She was as much impressed by the dignity and majesty of the judges on their thrones as by the informality of the barristers rising from their seats to plead, instead of mounting a tribune as is the case in France. The daringness of making jokes in Court, however, she found a striking contrast to the deadly earnestness of French methods.

The visitor came to London to hear and to be heard. Those who had the pleasure of listening to her lecture will not easily forget the charm of her personality and the earnestness of what she said at Marble Arch House.

Mlle. Miropowski, speaking in French, observed that it had been denied that women had the qualities necessary to enable them to practise at the Bar, but she had not been willing to accept that negation of woman's capacities for the profession of the law, and, therefore, had sought admission to its ranks. Her first impressions on donning the robe and entering the Palais du Justice were a mixture of pride and timidity and confusion. The feeling, however, soon passed and the robe became to her the symbol of liberty—for was it not true liberty for a woman to be able to earn her living for herself? She loved the robe, and she was proud of it. She asked whether feminine intelligence was or was not incompatible with the qualities required by one who would follow successfully the profession of an advocate. Women were reproached with being too nervous, with not possessing sufficient self-control, and so forth. She protested against these accusations, and quoted examples to prove that women possess a large fund of practical common-sense, and that their intelligence is never better employed than when it is directed to the real concerns of life. There was no better field for the exercise of a woman's talents as an advocate than the large field occupied by cases relating to women and children. They had a Children's Court in Paris, and it afforded one domain in which a woman found her natural position. The defence of children and an interest in children such as those who came before this tribunal formed the proper mission of a woman advocate. And then there were divorce and judicial separation cases. In these cases a woman's knowledge of women, her tact and sympathy, were very valuable, and it was right that these qualities should be enlisted in the interests of justice.

She recognised that the qualities necessary to an advocate were different from those required by a judge. It was a question whether women were capable of rising to that view of the law which was essential to a good judge. She had, however, once been invited to sit as a judge. One day last year, owing to the sudden absence of one of his colleagues, the president of a tribunal, a man of enlightened and liberal views, had sent for her. She did not happen to be at the Palais that day, but had she been there she would have sat with the others, and the question would then have been raised of the competency of a woman to take part in deciding a case. The



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mere fact of her having been asked to act in this capacity made quite a little scandal among the men barristers of the Palais, and she would gladly have known what arguments would have been adduced against the validity of a judgment rendered by a tribunal one of whose members was a woman.

Mlle. Miropowski strongly urged the right of women to sit on juries. She believed that they had qualities which would be extremely serviceable if employed in this way. They had great powers of intuition, and it was essentially intuition which was needed by jurors. If they had also feelings of pity and compassion—well, in our day justice was not a thing of mathematics, and it would not be injured by a certain infusion of these virtues.

After speaking of the hostility which she had encountered in some directions in her efforts to make her way as an advocate, the lecturer said that women were steadily making progress in France in the legal profession, and their numbers were increasing.

She is an ardent supporter of the enfranchisement of women, but believes that gentleness is better than violence. It was clumsy, she said, to treat men as the irreconcilable enemies of women. Feminism, rightly understood, was less a blind hatred of the rights of man than the safeguarding of those of women by the aid of wise enactments. Along these lines woman would always triumph.

The French woman barrister met the qualified English woman who is not permitted to practise; but, said Miss Christabel Pankhurst, after their courtesy to the French visitor, the leading lights of the legal world here should be willing to admit the claims of English women applicants.

BRANCH NOTES.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace District.—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

Members who have not yet returned their collecting-boxes are asked to do so at once, as the special levies have to be sent in to Headquarters once a month. It is hoped every member will take part in this special effort.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon. Office: 32A, The Arcade, High-street.

Our office has received its first Christmas present—a W.F.L. writing-desk, for which we heartily thank the giver, Mrs. Labrousse. There was a good muster of members and friends on Friday, December 8, at our weekly "At Home," when Mrs. Nevinson spoke on "The Present Political Situation," emphasizing the more hopeful signs of the times, and commenting on the attitude of several M.P.'s towards Woman's Suffrage. In the discussion Mrs. M. Holmes pointed out the uncertainties and difficulties of the situation. At the Branch meeting which followed, the nominations for the N.E.C. were reconsidered and additional resolutions passed for Conference. It was decided that the details of the suggested social to take place early in the New Year should be left to the committee. It was also announced that the last "At Home" before Christmas should take place on the 15th inst., when Mrs. Fowler-Shone will give a reading, and Miss Sylvia St. Quenting will recite.

Hackney.—Hon. Secretary: Miss P. LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino Mansions, Dalston, N.E.

Cake and candy sale. It is hoped that every member of the Branch will send a gift of suitable goods, and help to make this occasion a success. In order to facilitate the work of the Committee, any gift, large or small, should reach the shop on Friday evening.

Herne Hill and Norwood.—Secretary (pro tem.): Mrs. PRESBURY, Oak Cottage, Dulwich.

On Wednesday afternoon a members' meeting was held at Oak Cottage. Matters affecting the coming conference were discussed, and a number of orders sent to Headquarters for W.F.L. books, cards, &c. More volunteers are wanted for lobbying: will others respond? Will members who have not yet paid their subscription for the current year, ending December 31, please do so at once, kindly bearing in mind that now, as there is a capitation fee of 6d. per member, nothing less than 1s. 6d. will cover expenses? Will any member of the South London Ethical Society volunteer to undertake the occasional sale of THE VOTE on Sunday evenings, so that the work now so kindly undertaken by Mrs. Kingsnorth may be kept up regularly?

Kensington.—Hon. Secretaries: Miss REEVES, 16, Bracewell-road, North Kensington; Mrs. WALL COUSINS, 7, Castelnau, Barnes.

Our At Home on December 7 was in every way a success. The hall was well filled, and the audience included a number of people who had never before attended a Suffrage meeting. We are indebted to Miss Underwood, who came at the last moment to take the chair in place of Miss Tite, who was prevented by a severe cold from doing so. The other speakers were Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. G. E. O'Dell. Mr. O'Dell, in a very interesting and instructive address, dealt with and showed the fallacy of many of the anti-suffrage arguments, and Miss Nina Boyle's witty and convincing speech was much appreciated by everyone present. A resolution calling upon the two Members of Parliament for Kensington to "press for the inclusion of women in the Government Reform Bill, and to vote against the third reading if Women's Suffrage is not included," was carried with only one dissident.

Mid-London.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing, W.

I hope a great number of our Branch members will be at the meeting arranged for Monday, the 18th, at 1, Robert-street. As the discussion of the Conference agenda, and business of making amendments to the resolutions in it, will take some time, we must begin punctually at 7 p.m.

Stamford Hill.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

Combined work is now suspended for the Christmas holidays. On Tuesday, January 16, at 4 p.m., a members' meeting will be held at Mrs. Cunningham's, to choose a delegate for the Conference and to discuss arrangements for the next three months in connection with the work accomplished by the Branch during 1911.

Tottenham.—Hon. Secretary: Miss M. SIMS, 3, Elmhurst-road, Bruce-grove.

(1) The annual meeting of the Branch will be held at 91, Mount Pleasant-road on Wednesday, December 20, at 7 p.m. Will all members send in collecting boxes before that date, as treasurer wishes to make up her accounts? (2) Wanted, "anything" for a Jumble Sale. Please send to Mrs. Harbord, 91, Mount Pleasant-road. (3) A social evening (whist and music), by kind permission of Mrs. Harbord, will be held at 91, Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, on January 20, 1912. Tickets, 1s. 6d. each. (4) Will all teachers who are members of the Tottenham and Wood Green Association of the N.U.T. do their utmost to be present on Friday next, at 7.30 p.m., at Bounds-green School, Wood Green, N., when the motion for Conference—*re* Woman's Suffrage—will be under discussion?

The Branch wishes to thank Miss Boyle for her inspiring address of Friday last. We have also been favoured by a visit from Mrs. Tanner, who spoke on the political situation and on "Lobbying." The Branch is trying to arrange to send a member weekly to do this important and efficacious work. Miss Eggett and Mrs. Harbord have been our representatives, and Mrs. Mitchell has promised for next week. A most successful whist party was arranged by Miss Eggett at 30, Lausanne-road, Hornsey, last month, and another at 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, arranged by Mrs. Todd last Saturday, was also a great success. By these means we are trying to fill the coffers of the League.—MARY A. SIMS.

THE PROVINCES.

Manchester.

The Eccles Branch met on November 30 to discuss district organisation and to draw up resolutions for Conference. On Tuesday, December 5, Miss Janet Heyes addressed the Literary Society in Litherland, Liverpool, on "Woman's Sphere: the Educational Phase." The debate which followed was entirely on "Votes for Women," and ground was broken for the development of Suffrage opinions later. On Wednesday, December 6, a joint meeting of the Manchester and Eccles Branches was held in the Milton Hall, Deansgate, with Miss Munro in the chair. It was decided to hold an evening "At Home" for Mrs. Despard on Monday, the 11th, at Mrs. MacMurray's, 302, Upper Brook-street, and a public meeting on Monday, December 18, in the Milton Hall. Leaguers in the district are feeling inspired and hopeful after the evening they had with Mrs. Despard on Friday, the 7th. They will do their best to extend these feelings to the general public on the two consecutive Monday evenings when we are privileged to have our President with us.—JANET HEYES.

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

In connection with Miss Neilans's visit to the Portsmouth and Gosport members, two successful meetings were held. The drawing-room meeting was a huge success. Between fifty and sixty people listened intently to a fine speech by Miss Neilans. Mrs. Blake, from the chair, spoke in words of esteem and ad-

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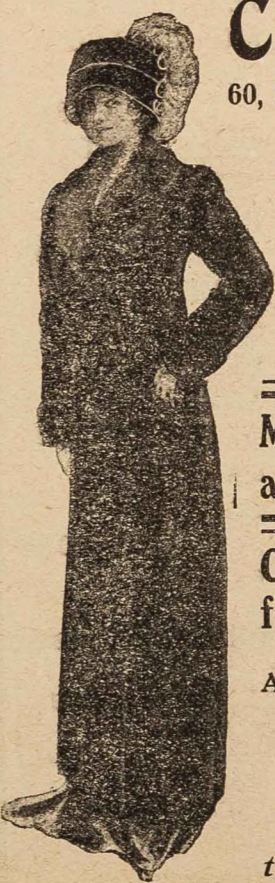
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miration for our President, Mrs. Despard, referring especially to the impression she made upon the Prime Minister at the recent deputation. Mrs. Johnson was an ideal hostess. Miss Neilans again made an excellent speech at the evening meeting, and the resolution proposed by Miss Hattrill was unanimously carried. Gratefully acknowledged: Mrs. Bremner, 5s.

Wellingborough.—Hon. Secretary: Miss V. SHARMAN, Ivy Lodge.

By the kind courtesy of Miss Lilley, a very successful whist drive took place at Archfield on Friday, December 1, at which about sixty ladies and gentlemen were present. During the interval Miss Lilley gave a short address on the Women's Suffrage movement, which was much appreciated. The gentlemen showed their sympathy in a practical way by making a collection in the smoke-room. The proceeds, after expenses were deducted, amounted to £5, which sum has been sent to Headquarters.

Sheffield.—Hon. Secretary: Miss BARNETT, 5, Victoria-flats, Glossop-road.

The annual meeting was held on December 4. The secretary reported a membership of sixty-two. Resolutions for Conference were discussed and voted upon, and Miss S. G. Barnett, our energetic secretary, was chosen as delegate. Arrangements were made for our social gathering on December 16. After a musical programme, to be rendered by prominent artists, the Suffrage play, *An Englishwoman's Home*, will be given. There will also be stalls with sweets, cakes, flowers, and fancy work for sale. Miss Neilans gave a stirring address, in which she explained the need for monetary help for the central fund, and all members present promised weekly donations for this purpose.—G. W.

Ipswich.—Hon. Secretary: Miss C. E. ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

Last Wednesday evening a small meeting was convened at a friend's house in Stowmarket, and a Group of the Women's Freedom League was formed. Mrs. Tippet has undertaken to be secretary *pro tem*. On Friday afternoon Miss Boyle addressed our Branch members in the absence of Miss Tite, who was prevented by illness from coming. Miss Boyle, after explaining the special levy and referring to the coming Conference, gave an excellent address on the present political situation. All present were unanimous in agreeing with the present policy of waiting the course of events and being ready armed for all emergencies.

Swansea.—Hon. Organising Secretary: Mrs. KNIGHT, 23, Walter-road; Hon. Correspondence Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road.

On Tuesday, December 5, at a meeting of the Brynmelin Ward Branch of the Swansea Women's Liberal Association in Cwmwrla Chapel, Miss Phipps moved a resolution calling on

M.P.s to refrain from voting for the third reading of the Reform Bill unless women are included in it. The resolution was seconded by Miss Milner, secretary of the W.L.A., and passed without a dissentient. This is a great advance, as many of the members had looked upon the Votes for Women agitation as a huge joke. Do not forget our Dramatic Entertainment at the College next Monday, at 8 p.m.

SCOTLAND.—Scottish Council.

The quarterly meeting of the Scottish Council took place on Saturday in Dundee. Delegates were present from Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, and Dundee. Excellent reports were submitted by the delegates, who particularly noted the great enthusiasm aroused by Mrs. Despard's Scottish tour. Arrangements were made for a similar tour in January for Mrs. Sproson. Meetings will be held in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Dundee, and Kilmarnock, at which she will speak on "The Philosophy of Robert Burns." Miss Gibson, Dundee, kindly undertook the organising work of the by-election in Govan, and the Glasgow delegate undertook to get Glasgow helpers for her. A very satisfactory financial report was submitted by the hon. treasurer, all the Branches being in a very flourishing condition.—ALEXIA B. JACK, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Hon. Secretary: Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place. Hon. Treasurer: Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary: Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

Mrs. Vulliamy's visit to the Branch this week has been a great pleasure. On Tuesday she addressed our afternoon At Home, when she spoke most encouragingly of the activities of the League. This meeting was also a farewell party to Miss Mary Jolly, M.A., who is leaving for Australia. Miss Wood expressed our thanks for the work Miss Jolly has done for the Branch, and our good wishes for her future career. The annual social meeting, held on Wednesday, was most enjoyable. Miss Sara Munro, who presided, gave a very interesting *resumé* of the work of the Branch in the past year. Mrs. Vulliamy spoke in hopeful strain, mainly on the political situation. Her reference to a passage in Morley's "Compromise" called forth an appreciative leader in *The Evening News*. A most interesting musical programme was contributed by Mrs. Kennedy-Fraser, Miss Margaret Kennedy, and Miss Patuffa Kennedy-Fraser, to whom most sincere thanks are due.

Miss Jack's letters to the Press and inquiries made by *The Evening News* have elicited the information that the figures recently telegraphed to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Bonar Law, though sent from Edinburgh by the Scottish Council of the Anti-Suffrage League, had been collected in ninety-seven districts of England,

and had no reference whatever to Scotland. Surely militant tactics are preferable to tactics such as these!—H. McLACHLAN.

Dundee.—Hon. Secretary: Miss L. CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent.

The Cake and Candy Sale proved very successful, fully £26 being realised. Miss Eunice Murray opened the proceedings in her usual happy and hopeful vein. The hall was made most attractive in its setting of green, white and gold, by the tea-tables, the flower stall, and work stall, and the cake and candy stalls, with their almost embarrassing choice of good things. Music was rendered by various friends of the Cause. At the Branch meeting on Thursday, Miss A. B. JACK, Edinburgh, spoke on the finances of the League. The local committee was requested to formulate some plan of assistance and present it to a meeting of the Branch members. At a public meeting of the Anti-suffrage Society several of our members attended and asked questions.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Centre, 302, Sauchiehall-street. Hon. Secretary, Miss M. STEVEN; Hon. Treasurer, Miss J. L. BUNTEN. There was a large and interested audience at the Branch meeting on Thursday to hear Mrs. Hunter speak on the work of the National Vigilance Society. The next item on the programme is the At Home on Saturday, December 16, at 7.30 p.m., when we hope to have Rev. M. Emmitt as speaker. The Exhibition of Women Artists' Work is now going on.

Income for November.

£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Donations and Subscriptions:		Mrs. Yule ..	0 5 0
Mrs. McTaggart ..	0 10 0	Mrs. McLeod ..	0 4 0
Miss J. L. Bunten ..	10 0 0	Collecting Boxes:	
Mrs. McCall ..	0 10 0	Misses J. and E. Scrymgeour ..	1 0 0
Miss Jamie Allan ..	10 0 0	Miss Baird ..	0 4 5½
Mr. Wallis ..	0 10 0	Mrs. Moore ..	0 0 11
Anonymous ..	0 1 0	Proceeds of Cake and Candy Sale ..	12 14 7
Mrs. I. D. Pearce ..	1 1 0	Proceeds of Jumble Sale ..	23 16 3
Anonymous ..	4 0 0	Proceeds of Fancy Dress Party ..	6 1 9
A Sympathiser ..	2 0 0	Collections at meetings ..	2 18 10
Mrs. Wilson ..	6 0 0	Proceeds of Public Meeting ..	9 12 9
Mrs. McLeod ..	0 10 0	Sales in Shop and Tea Room ..	9 11 6
Mrs. Murray ..	2 15 0	Membership Fees ..	1 8 6
Anonymous ..	0 1 0	Amount previously acknowledged ..	265 3 6½
Collecting Cards:			
Miss E. May ..	1 6 0		
Mrs. Church ..	0 10 0		
Miss Baird ..	0 3 0		
Mrs. Scrymgeour ..	0 9 0		
Miss Bunten ..	0 9 0		
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Sat., Dec. 16.—CAXTON HALL, Whist Drive and Cafe Chantant, 7-10 p.m. Tickets, 1s. 6d. (no extras), to be obtained of Mrs. Fisher, 1, Robert-street. CAKE AND CANDY SALE, 4, Clarence-road, Hackney, 3 p.m. CAKE AND CANDY SALE, at St. Anne's-road Schools, Hartow, 3-6.30 p.m. Admission (including tea) 6d.

Mon., Dec. 18.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEETING, 7 p.m., 1, Robert-street.

Tues., Dec. 19.—Christmas Presents "At Home," Caxton Hall, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mr. George Lansbury, M.P. Chairman: Miss Nina Boyle. WEST HAMPSTEAD BRANCH MEETING, 23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead, 8.15 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 20.—SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING, Minerva Publishing Company, at VOTE Office (Room 28), 2, Robert-street, 8 p.m. P. and M. GROUP, 6.30 p.m., 1, Robert-street. Mrs. How Martyn.

1912.

Mon., Jan. 8.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' MEETING, 1, Robert-street, 7 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 12.—FIRST CROYDON WEEKLY "AT HOME" in the New Year, at the Office, The Arcade, High-street, Croydon, 3.30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 15.—NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 1, Robert-street.

Tues., Jan. 16.—N.E.C. MEETING, 1, Robert-street.

PROVINCES.

Thurs., Dec. 14.—Middlesbrough: 3 p.m. Miss Octavia Kenmore and Mrs. Schofield Coates.

Sat., Dec. 16.—Sheffield: BRANCH "AT HOME," Y.M.C.A., Fargate, 6.30 p.m. Mrs. Nevinson.

SCOTLAND.

Dundee.

Sat., Dec. 16.—Y.M.C.A. Large Hall, 8 p.m., TEMPERANCE MEETING. Miss L. Clunas.

Thurs., Dec. 21.—Gilfillan Hall, 8 p.m. Miss A. M. McLeod, "A Glimpse Into a Newspaper Office," with limelight views.

Edinburgh.

Tues., Dec. 19.—SUFFRAGE SHOP, 33, Forrest-road, "At Home," 4 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 20.—SUFFRAGE SHOP, 33, Forrest-road, Business Meeting, 8 p.m.

Glasgow.

Sat., Dec. 16.—"AT HOME," at 7.30. *Speaker:* Rev. Mr. Emmitt.

Dunfermline.

Thurs., Dec. 14.—BRANCH MEETING, 8 p.m. Miss A. B. Jack, N.E.C.

Kilmarnock.

Sat., Dec. 16.—BRANCH MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Miss A. B. Jack, N.E.C.

MISS ETHEL RAYSON, A.R.C.M., who is an ardent worker for the Women's Freedom League, recently brought to a conclusion a most interesting series of lecture-recitals on "Musicians and Their Works," at 38, Hogarth-road, Earl's Court, S.W. Miss Rayson's gifts are very versatile. At these recitals she appeared in the triple role of lecturer, pianist and reciter. The manner in which Miss Rayson treats "Poetry Interpreted by Music," subject is unique, and has proved very popular in the provinces. By special request Miss Rayson is arranging to give another series of lecture-recitals after Christmas.

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