

THE VOTE.
September 26, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

SMOULDERING FIRES.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men ;
to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between
the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

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The Antysuffragyst or Prejudicidon. This curious animal has the smallest brain capacity of any living creature. Its sight is so imperfect that it cannot see further than the end of its nose; but it has a wonderful capacity for discovering the stupefying plant called "Humbugwort," on which it feeds voraciously. It is closely allied to the Lunaticodon, and it is a fierce enemy of the Justiceidon.

WOMEN WANT THE VOTE

BECAUSE it is their duty to attend to the welfare of other women and of humanity; and if they will not take their share of responsibility they are shirking their duty.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

All Freedom Leaguers will have been grieved to hear of the death of Mme. Mirovitch, an old and tried friend of the Cause, and an active member of our League. Her absence, on the ground of health, was noted at the Congress at Budapest, that being the first gathering of the International Alliance at which she had not been present. Few, however, realised that the end was so near, and that she would so shortly follow the other famous feminist, Mme. Orea, on her last long journey. Her support and her constant encouragement in the fight will be sorely missed by many friends and fellow-workers.

"One Sinner that Repenteth."

Irish Suffragists are immensely taken up with the "Votes for Women in Ulster" development, and are drawing unflattering comparisons between Sir Edward Carson and his rival John Redmond. One hardly knows how anyone can take the situation seriously, seeing that it is not in Sir Edward's power to give or withhold any real franchise; nevertheless, we may opine that the rebel leader has been seized with a tardy appreciation of the justice of other people's objection to government without consent, through his own rejection of that form of constraint! He certainly cut a very comic figure so long as he demanded the indulgence of rebellion for himself but refused it to others; and on the principle that there is joy over one sinner that repenteth more than over ninety-and-nine just men, we welcome Sir Edward into the Suffrage fold. While agreeing with the constitutional Suffragists of Ireland that the "distressful country," in its present throes of violence, is hardly likely to have been greatly intimidated by the threat of an incursion of militant women, we must, however, beg them to preserve a little sense of humorous appreciation. The suggestion that constitutional propaganda and quiet spade work have effected this conversion is almost too diverting. Sir Edward's plans and constitutionalism hardly strike us as likely yoke-mates!

How They Look At It.

Dear Madam,—General interest has been aroused in Suffrage circles by the news contained in Friday's Irish papers that the Unionist leaders in the North of Ireland had decided to recognise the principle of Votes for Women. This news was contained in a letter from Mr. Dawson Bates, secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council, to Mr. John Hamil, secretary of the Women's Unionist Association. The letter stated that the draft articles for the Provisional Government of Ulster included the franchise for women on the basis of the municipal register. Further, they provided for the representation of women on the committees which will be formed immediately for the purpose of arranging the details of the new elections. The writer adds that this step is to be taken as a token of appreciation and recognition from the Unionist Council. The women of Ulster have co-operated with the men with such loyalty and self-sacrifice that in return this concession is offered to them.

From the Suffrage point of view the matter is entirely satisfactory. As Suffragists we have, of course, no concern with the question of Home Rule. We have our individual opinions on it—very strong in some cases—but as Suffragists we stand outside the domain of party politics. Only we recognise with satisfaction that for the first time in Ireland a political party has acknowledged that women are citizens. They desire to ensure that those who have so heartily supported us in the past shall take their proper share in the management of the affairs of Ulster.

Now for a further point. The letter gives all credit for this to the Unionist women of Ulster. We in the North of Ireland know how hard these women of Ulster have worked for the Unionist cause, and we grieve them no thanks that may come their way. They have laboured with a single-heartedness and a devotion often trying to the ardent Suffragist who would fain

convert women to the creed of "Suffrage first." But as the secretary of the Northern Committee of the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation I feel it only due to the non-militant societies in Ireland to enter a statement on their behalf.

I must just note, in passing, that our friends the militants will, no doubt, consider that the threatened establishment of the W.S.P.U. branch in Belfast has worked this miracle. If they knew Ireland a little better they would realise how utterly impossible such a thing is. The North of Ireland at present is not in a mood to be affected by broken windows or threats of disturbed meetings. Such attempts would merely end in the temporary defeat of the Suffrage movement. Rightly or wrongly, the North just now is prepared to risk more than broken windows for the sake of its political creed; and men who are openly prepared to face civil war are not afraid of a burnt house or two.

What, then, has done this thing, apart that is from the work of the Unionist women? Why, nothing else but that quiet, steady, constitutional work which meets with so little recognition, and which has so often served as a butt for the ridicule of the militants. We are long-suffering, we Northern Suffragists. For years we have been lectured by friends and foes. We have been told by our friends that we ought to force the creed of "Suffrage first" on all our societies, regardless whether in four years we could have educated women to that point. We have been told by the Anti-Suffragists that we were working secretly against the interests of the Union, that we were in the pay of the Nationalist party. We have been told by the militants that our want of an election policy and our reluctance to interrupt public meetings and annoy public men were signs of that general inactivity and want of energy which render constitutional work so fruitless. We listened to everybody, and went on our way. We founded more societies—there are ten affiliated with the Northern Committee to-day—we kept the Suffrage cause to the front in the Belfast papers, we sent deputations where we thought such would be of use. And so we have won our reward, and Votes for Women has been officially recognised by the Unionist party. For once, we non-militants allow ourselves a gleam of self-satisfaction, and then we go on our way. It is not the work which makes the most noise that is always the most effective; digging is a more silent process than knocking down a wall, but is sometimes more fruitful in results. Ten societies, where four years ago there were but two; the vote under the Provisional Government to be on the basis of the municipal register. We are content to have our work measured by that record; we are glad that in the North as in the South the Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation is becoming a power.—Yours sincerely,

DORA MELLONE.

Hon. Secretary Northern Committee Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation.

The Sensitive Sex.

After indulging for centuries in abuse and restraint of women, the other sex has suddenly discovered that there is something it calls "sex hatred" about. Not seeming to realise that he has "asked for it" in every imaginable way, poor, injured Man is pouring out an immense number of quite ingenious suggestions and explanations of the phenomenon in his Press organs, and appears to be vastly concerned. It is extremely interesting to find how sensitive the masculine sex is to the criticism it is so lavish with towards others. The latest protest emanates from the Approved Societies, and has been roused by the burning question of the Maternity Benefit. Man, it would appear, has been wronged. The decision that mothers should themselves own the reward of their work is an undeserved slur upon those who do not and cannot do it. Cases of abuse of the Benefit by fathers are so rare, and by mothers so frequent, that the distinction is an invidious one, and entirely superfluous. The Hearts of Oak, the Sons of Temperance, and divers other Associations of sensitive persons have risen up in protest. Better that a few mothers should be robbed than that the delicate feelings of male parents should be wounded; if there is to be any wasting of the nation's money, it is more satisfactory that the waster should be a father. The ladies who "captured" the House of Commons Committee had given, in the minds of these shrinking creatures, an indication of the "war of sex hatred" which was being carried on, and a "slur" had been cast on the manhood of the country. The decision of the House was "unnecessary and uncalled for"; and the principle was affirmed that the benefit "logically" belonged to the insured person—the father. It is well that women's feelings are not so susceptible of affront as those of the sensitive plants who aired their injured emotions at the recent gathering. What would have become of us had we felt like this?

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

To-night we are holding an Indignation meeting at Caxton Hall, the indignation expressed to be generally against the Government, non-representation, misrepresentation and imprisonment of voteless women, and particularly against the sentence of two months' imprisonment in the second division, which Mrs. Harvey is now serving in Holloway because of her refusal to comply with the regulations of the Insurance Act passed over the heads of women without consulting women. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Kineton Parkes (of the Women's Tax Resistance League), Mrs. Mustard, and Mr. John Scurr. The chair will be taken by Miss Nina Boyle at eight o'clock. Admission is free, and there will be no reserved seats. This is the first of a series of political meetings to be held by the Women's Freedom League during the Parliamentary recess. The second of the series will be held on Friday evening, October 31, at Caxton Hall.

Next Wednesday afternoon at Caxton Hall the programme will be of special interest. Mrs. Despard will deal with "The Policy and Work of the Women's Freedom League," and Mr. J. Cameron Grant will speak on "The Economic Wrongs of Employer and Employed." This is a subject on which Mr. Grant can speak with every authority, and we cordially invite all who take an interest not only in Woman Suffrage, but also in the difficulties which beset the industrial world, to come to this meeting. The chair will be taken at 3.30.

The following Monday evening, October 6, Mrs. Walter Galliehan will give her lecture at Caxton Hall on "Woman in Her Relationship to Man." Mrs. Galliehan has won for herself a prominent place in the literary world, and her recent book, "The Truth about Woman," has been more comprehensively reviewed than, perhaps, any other woman's book during the year. We understand that there will be a good deal of controversial matter in her lecture next Monday, but ample opportunity will be given afterwards to members of the audience for questions and discussion. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock, and tickets for the meeting can be obtained from the W.F.L. Office at 6d. and 1s. each. A few free ones can also be sent to our members if applied for at 1, Robert-street.

Mrs. Despard's Tours.—Our Scottish branches are arranging a series of meetings which Mrs. Despard is to address. October 18 she will be speaking at Edinburgh, October 20 at Dundee, October 21 and 22 in Glasgow and district. Next month our president will speak at Liverpool on the 12th, Chester on the 13th, and Manchester on the 14th and 15th.

Miss Boyle's Engagements.—Miss Boyle will speak at a meeting arranged by our Grays Branch, October 8, at Gravesend October 9, at Aintree (Liverpool) October 14, and at Birmingham October 15. We should be grateful to hear from sympathisers in Birmingham who would help us in the campaign we have planned there during the first weeks of October.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

At a public meeting held in Market-place, Bromley, Kent, on September 22, 1913, at 7.30 p.m., the following resolution was put and carried with one dissentient:—"This meeting expresses deep indignation at the imprisonment of Mrs. Harvey for non-payment of Imperial taxes, demands her immediate release, and further demands that the Government act in accordance with its own principles, and introduce a measure for Votes for Women without delay."

POLITICAL NEWS.

Masculine Privilege.

Mr. James Connolly, the first non-suffragist hunger-striker, was released from Mountjoy last Saturday, after seven days' fast, on the terms which he had offered to the authorities before his hunger-strike began. No attempt was made to feed him forcibly, or to apply the "Cat and Mouse" Act. Whereas in the case of Suffragist hunger-strikers, all "privileges"—visits, letters, books, &c.—were withdrawn immediately on the commencement of the hunger-strike, Mr. Connolly was permitted to receive visitors for the first three days of his fast, until his weakness necessitated his removal to hospital; and his supply of newspapers and letters does not appear to have been interrupted.

Sir Edward Carson in Ireland:—"We will set up that Government. I am told it is illegal; of course it is. (Laughter.) Drilling is illegal. I was reading an Act of Parliament the other day forbidding it. The Volunteers are illegal, and the Government know they are illegal. The Government dare not interfere. Therefore, do not be afraid of illegalities. They are illegalities which are not crimes; they are not sordid or mean. They are illegalities taken to assert what is the elementary right of every citizen, namely, the protection of his freedom, the handing down what he himself has inherited, and if any man tells me I ought to be ashamed of doing it, I tell him that it is the one thing worth living for, and if I am threatened I am determined to defend myself."

Sir Edward Carson in England:—"He returned to Ulster," he continued, "next week, to perfect all that had been so much advanced. They would call the Council together, and have the provisional Government ready to take over, he hoped in trust for the Empire and under the King, such parts of the Government as would protect them from the machinations of a Home Rule Parliament. If we are allowed to do that," he said, "there will be no riots. If we are not allowed we shall not be the authors of the collision."

Sir Edward Carson on Mandates:—"All this question about a mandate was a sham. Mr. Birrell wrote to his chairman that they could not have a referendum on the subject, for the main reason that the people might vote, not on the question of Home Rule but on the misdeeds of the Government. The question of mandate is done for," continued the speaker. "I have no doubt it will be paraded before us to the bitter end, but it is only a dressed-up corpse."

The Daily Chronicle on Sir Edward Carson:—"There is a sharper and more effective way of dealing with Sir Edward, and that is by removing his name from the list of Privy Counsellors. The Privy Council is still in theory a council of the King's advisers. A man who threatens to levy war against the decrees of Parliament, that is, against the Crown—for the King acts through and by his Ministers—is unfit to sit on that most honourable body."

Elections and Candidates.

In view of reports that Lord Dunedin is to be appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, and that the Lord Advocate, Mr. Alexander Ure, is to succeed him as Lord President of the Court of Session, electioneering activity has already begun in West Lothian, says *The Globe*. The Unionist candidate (Mr. James Kidd) has opened a vigorous campaign in the county, and Lord Linlithgow, as president of the West Lothian Unionist Association is engaged in meeting and addressing the various committees of the party in the chief centres of the county. It is now confidently believed that a bye-election is imminent. The Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. A. M. Anderson, K.C.) is named in the division as the Radical candidate.

Mr. Cyril Winterbotham, selected as Liberal candidate for the next election in the Cirencester Division, says:—"I wish to say a word about the thorny question of votes for women. This is a non-party question at present, and we know that Liberals and Conservatives are divided among themselves on this point. Now, there is one section of those who advocate votes for women for whom I have no sympathy, but a very decided abhorrence. I regard the militant Suffragettes as one degree less dangerous than their disciple, Sir Edward Carson. They, too, are trying to coerce the Government by threats of violence; only whereas they menace and damage private

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property with cruel wantonness. Sir Edward Carson is deliberately preparing to sacrifice human life. They may disclaim any wish to be treated with chivalry or respect on account of sex, but working women, and for the matter of that working men in the poorer parts of the great cities, cannot afford to lose the ideal of chivalry that a man owes to a woman. I do not consider, however, that their conduct should shut the eyes of reason to the claim of those women who have been patiently working by legitimate means to secure women the Parliamentary vote. I confess I have always felt a strong prejudice against granting women the vote; but I have never heard an argument against it that convinced me. I feel, however, that militant tactics must cease before the franchise can be granted, and I feel this for the same reasons that make me think it imperative that the Government should carry through Home Rule in the teeth of Ulster threats. I do not advocate giving women votes on the present qualification. However, if in the future it is possible to consider the question together with the entire re-organisation of the franchise, I should be ready to support a practicable measure which admitted women to the vote. I wish to go further. The argument that has weighed most strongly in my mind is that admission to a political career is likely to give the nation more politicians, but less good wives and mothers. If I thought the giving of the vote would have that effect I should oppose it. Politicians are, no doubt, valuable to the nation, but able wives and mothers are much more valuable in my opinion. I do consider that this argument applies strongly to the further step of electing women to Parliament, and, therefore, I wish to add that I am most strongly opposed to the further step that leads to women M.P.'s.

[There are only 670 M.P.'s possible, or under 1,000 including Ireland's new arrangements. If there were 1,000 women candidates, 1,000 canvassing and organising women each with supporters or competitors, it still would leave a fairly large proportion of the "surplus" one and a half millions of women who have no chance of being "able wives and mothers!" Ed.]

Church Congress.

In the discussion which took place upon the general arrangements, Mr. Arthur Day said he had received a large number of letters as to the exclusion of a speaker of the League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, although two or three prominent Suffragists had been placed upon the official programme. He particularly referred to Miss Maude Royden, who is to address meetings for men and women, and asked, if her theme was the Suffrage, would she be allowed to deal with it in any way she pleased, and would discussion be allowed upon it? He said

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that a strong feeling existed against Woman Suffrage because of the criminal outrages, and the League for Opposing Women's Suffrage were very much disappointed that none of their representatives had been allowed to appear on the official programme.

The Bishop of Winchester at once explained that the subjects of manhood and womanhood ideals were not in any way connected with Woman Suffrage. The matter, coming incidentally into the discussion as to what women should be and do, could not be ruled out of order, but he hoped that a deep and serious discussion on the ideals of womanhood would not be transformed into a controversial debate about the Suffrage. Miss Royden had readily complied with a request that there should be no discussion of that question. As to the disappointment of the League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, he could only say that he had not asked for representatives of societies or leagues of any description. He had sought speakers whom they desired for their personal character and knowledge.

The Parties and Votes for Women.

Sir Edward Carson's action may have an important bearing on the future of the Suffrage movement in another way. It may prove a step towards the adoption of Votes for Women, on a limited basis, as part of the official programme of the Unionist Party as a whole. If that were done, the Liberal Party could not, dare not, refrain from putting Votes for Women on its programme also—probably on a wider scale, in order to outbid their rivals. The precedent of Ulster should certainly be employed as forcefully as possible in this direction.

Across the Water.

The greatest indignation is expressed by American Suffragettes at the reported decision of the authorities to hold up Mrs. Pankhurst on her arrival here from Paris on October 18, and to take her to Ellis Island, where she would have to face a special board of inquiry.

A monster meeting to greet the leader of the English Militants is being organised, and American Suffragists threaten vengeance against the authorities if they prevent her landing.

Mrs. Harriet M. Johnstone Wood, the Suffragist lawyer, declared:—

"If the United States Government attempts to deport Mrs. Pankhurst we will create a revolution such as the world has never before seen—a battle to the death between men and women."

"If Mrs. Pankhurst is held at Ellis Island I will lead the women of New York there, and we will free her by force, throwing the Government guards into the bay."

To refuse Mrs. Pankhurst entry would be to hold up America to scorn and ridicule. Mrs. Pankhurst is in the same class with our revolutionary heroes, with Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. And she shows more bravery, because she has endured ridicule and condemnation for her principles."

Miss Mary Coleman, also a lawyer, declares that if Mrs. Pankhurst is detained at Ellis Island she will secure her immediate release by a writ of *habeas corpus*.

Mrs. Nora Blatch de Forest, questioned on the matter, said that if the deporting of Mrs. Pankhurst was attempted the case would be carried to the highest courts of the United States.

At the opening of the Dutch States General (says Reuter) the speech from the Throne stated that a Bill for revising the Constitution in such a way as to extend the franchise to all Dutch subjects of a certain age, with exceptions to be determined upon later, and to remove the constitutional obstacles against the granting of the suffrage to women, would be prepared without delay.

A demonstration in favour of Women Suffrage, in which 800 women took part, was subsequently held at The Hague as a protest against the fact that the Speech from the Throne recently did not set forth the principle of complete equality of women with men, but merely foreshadowed universal male suffrage and the removal of the constitutional bar preventing females from exercising the vote.—Reuter.

In Philadelphia the city has just appointed a married woman to be inspector of street cleaning, at a salary of £260 per annum, but she had to pass a very stiff Civil Service examination on the subject first, and came out at the head of a list of eight women. In the same city a woman has been appointed chief market clerk at £200 a year. In Utah a woman doctor has been appointed as city physician and quarantine officer of Ogden.

In Wyoming, one of the Western States of America, where women have voted for forty-four years, there are two women members in the House of Representatives—the Lower House of the State Legislature or Parliament. One of them has done excellent work as chairman of the Legislative Committee in the House, and the other, a lady who has succeeded her own son in the Legislature, has introduced a Child Labour Bill, a Child Abandonment Bill, Bills for medical examination of school children, besides several educational measures. She is a thorough Westerner, despite her Kentucky birth, for she has lived in the West for thirty years, and it was she who introduced a Bill for the marking of the old Oregon trail—as historic and significant a highway as many another "road to Rome."

Lady-folk are taking enthusiastically to aviation in the United States. Miss Ruth Law is now at Hempstead Plain flying a Wright two-seater, a twin to that of George W. Beatty. Mrs. Mary Sims, of New York (a pupil of Alfred Hoinrich, who runs a school at Hempstead Plain), is very nearly ready for her

brevet; she was pinned under her machine in a recent accident but little things like that do not disturb the budding aviatrix. Miss Katherine Stinson, who flies a Wright biplane, is exhibiting at Helena, Montana.

"Equal Rights."

Why women are not satisfied with their Local Government powers:—The Lambeth Board of Guardians, who make a feature of training Poor Law girls for domestic service, recently suggested that as the girls render great assistance to the staff they should each have an allowance of pocket-money amounting to one shilling weekly. A letter was received from the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns) yesterday prohibiting such payment on the ground that there is no legal authority sanctioning the payment of pocket-money.—The Globe.

Ireland and the Movement.

The Women's Social and Political Union, in a statement to the Press, hails as a great victory the announcement that the draft articles of the Ulster "Provisional Government" provides that women shall have a vote on the same terms as men in the election of an Ulster Parliament, and that women are to be included on the committees which will manage the affairs of Ulster until such a Parliament is elected. The refusal of the Government and their ally, Mr. Redmond, to grant votes to women, either in Ireland or in any other part of the kingdom, is in shameful contrast, the Union says, to the readiness of the Men of Ulster to share the political rights with women, and the Union will henceforth oppose the Government and Nationalist Party with more vigour than ever.

A Suffrage organ asks:—What does the Duchess of Abercorn—the two Duchesses of Abercorn—think of the situation in Ulster? The Dowager Duchess was first president of the Irish Branch of the Anti-Suffrage League; the present Duchess is also an anti. Both of them are staunch supporters of Sir Edward Carson and the Provisional Government. How will they swallow Votes for Women as part of its programme? Will they fly for refuge to the arms of Mr. Redmond, and accept Home Rule for the sake of avoiding Votes for Women? We think not. Ladies of this type will reconcile themselves to the inevitable—and take seats on the Committee of the First Provisional Government without any election.

Our clever little contemporary, *The Irish Citizen*, comments with much good sense on the criticisms concerning the invasion of Belfast by the W.S.P.U. It puts the Irish point of view thus:—

In the first place, it should be noted that whatever we may say on this point has no connection with militancy. We object to the W.S.P.U. entering Ulster, not because it is militant, but because it is not Irish: and we should object equally to an active campaign by the National Union, to the supersession or ignoring of the Irish societies. Secondly, our objections have nothing in common with that of those Nationalists who blamed the W.S.P.U. for intruding last year at the time of Mr. Asquith's visit. The Premier, with whom they were in fierce conflict, having been invited to Ireland, they were clearly entitled to follow him. Similarly, if the W.S.P.U. should choose to follow Mr. Bonar Law or Mr. Lloyd George on their visits to Dublin in November, we should have nothing to say against that. The Irish organisations which invite these statesmen must bear all responsibility. After the Asquith visit, again, the presence of W.S.P.U. prisoners in Ireland made it imperative for them to maintain a centre here until the prisoners were released and removed. Finally, it goes without saying that we raise no objection whatever to members of the English organisations coming over to Ireland under the auspices of the Irish societies. The visits of Mrs. and Miss Pankhurst, of Mrs. Despard, of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, of Miss Abadam, of Mr. Lansbury, of Mr. Housman, have been of the greatest value to the Irish movement. They have kept it from insularity. The most successful Irish Suffrage Societies are those which have no affiliation with English organisations, but which are entirely native to Irish soil. From every point of view, it is better to leave the task of awakening the Irish masses to Irish women or women permanently resident in Ireland, who understand the people and can influence them in a manner of which English workers, with the best intentions and with the most strenuous exertions, would be incapable.

It is for these reasons that we deprecate the establishment of permanent headquarters in Ireland, whether north or south, by any English Suffragist society, whether militant or non-militant.

The W.S.P.U. and the Law.

In consequence of the Suffragette fire outrage on Wednesday, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley has issued orders that Panshurst Place is to be closed to the public until further notice. It has been open on four days a week.

An attempt to destroy Panshurst Castle, near Tonbridge, the historic seat of Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, was made by Suffragettes about midnight on Tuesday. The timely awakening of the housekeeper alone prevented a serious fire. Two women, in company, it is believed, with a man, were seen to make a hasty departure. It was discovered that petrol rags had been forced round the framework and ignited. Suffragette literature was strewn about the lawn. The flames were soon extinguished.

Theobalds, Waltham, the beautiful historic mansion which Admiral Sir Hodworth Moux inherited from the late Lady Moux, was destroyed by fire in the early hours of this morning. The family were not in residence at the time, and consequently

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many treasures, along with the principal part of the valuable furniture, were stored elsewhere. But for this fortunate circumstance the loss, great as it is, would have been much heavier. Twenty-five rooms were completely gutted.

Two golf-links have been damaged by cutting the turf. Damage estimated at £20,000 was done at Seafield House, Seaforth, taken over by the West Derby Board of Guardians as a home for imbeciles. It had just been renovated. A fire was started at Warren Hill, the residence of Sir D. Hamilton.

For the fourth time Mrs. Edith Rigby, Preston, who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment for a bomb outrage at Exchange-buildings, Liverpool, was on Saturday released under the "Cat and Mouse" Act from Walton Gaol, where she has been hunger-striking. She was extremely weak, and is now recuperating at her home. The petition for her release is being extensively signed in Preston.

Another Triumph.

Reykjavik (via Copenhagen), Iceland, Saturday. The Alting has passed the Bill bestowing the general franchise on women. The measure incurs an alteration in the Constitution of 1874, and must, for this reason, receive the approval of the King of Denmark. The Minister for Iceland, who has a seat in the Danish Cabinet, will lay the Bill before the next Council of State, to be held at the Amalienborg Castle, Copenhagen, under the presidency of the King. In the meantime, the Alting (Parliament) is to be dissolved to-day to make the necessary preparations for the new elections.

WOMAN'S ENTERPRISE.

CHAUFFEUR, capable of driving small two-seater Bleriot monoplane (Gnome engine) for private owner.—Reply, stating experience and salary required, X., &c., &c.

The above advertisement, which appears in the current issue of *Flight* and in the "Situations Vacant" column, proclaims a new stage in flying—the advent of the private owner. Hitherto flying machines have been owned by professional airmen or by aeroplane firms for whom they have acted as pilots. Now we have arrived at the day of the private aeroplane for family use, and driven by a professional chauffeur.

The advertiser, a lady resident in a northern town, yesterday explained the advertisement. "It means," she said, "exactly what it says. I am buying a monoplane, and I require a pilot for it. Years ago I had a carriage and kept horses. When the motor came I gave up horses and bought a car. Now that the aeroplane provides a quicker and more pleasant means of locomotion than the car I am buying an aeroplane. Many people think it odd, but in a few years' time I shall merely be one of hundreds of private owners."—*Daily Mail*, September 8.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Women's Trades.

An Act of Parliament passed last Session brought the following trades under the Trade Boards Act, 1909:—

Sugar confectionery and food preserving.
Shirt-making.
Sheet-metal, hollow-ware trade,
Tin-box and canister trade.

The Trade Boards Act provides for the fixing of minimum rates of wages for work-people, and the Board of Trade will establish Trade Boards for the foregoing trades. Each Board will consist of equal numbers of persons representing employers and persons representing workers in the trade concerned, together with a smaller number of persons who are not connected with the trade.

When fire broke out at the Great Western Cotton Works, Bristol, recently, it spread at such an alarming rate that many women employed upon the premises had to be rescued by the means of long ladders. Several hundred employees were in the building at the time of the outbreak, and of these ninety have been thrown out of work.

Had it not been for the promptness and the efficiency of the fire brigade there is little doubt that the building would not have been saved. As it is the greater portion is unaffected, and work was resumed at once.

Strikes.

About forty "Cabin" restaurant girls went on strike, but the dispute only lasted an hour and a half. At the "Cabin" restaurants in Piccadilly and Oxford-circus all the waitresses refused to start work, and held up the restaurant service until ten o'clock, to show their disapproval of changes that have been made in the service. The managing director promised to look into the girls' alleged grievances, and then they resumed work.

A hundred girl netmakers are on strike at Lowestoft against the introduction of men into a department where girl labour has hitherto been employed.

Why they Strike.

Considerable discontent prevails among the women workers employed by Messrs. John Shields and Co. (Limited), Wallace Works, Perth. A demand has been made for an advance of 10 per cent., with 2s. per week of an increase to women workers having a set wage. Miss Sloan, representing the National Federation of Women Workers, has had several interviews with Mr. Harry J. Shields, managing director of the firm, but beyond a statement that the request made would be considered by the directors in October these have had no satisfactory result. A ballot of the workers was taken, when it was agreed by an overwhelming majority to hand in notices. Between 300 and 400 workers will be affected should a strike ensue.

At St. Helens, Barron Walton, proprietor of a shirt-making factory in Barrow-street, was summoned by Miss Tracey, Chief Inspector of Women Factories, of Manchester, for unlawfully deducting 9d. from a girl's wages.

Miss Tracey said that Miss Pearson, on visiting the factory on July 21, found that a girl of sixteen, named Agnes Ford, had been fined 9d. for cutting some shirt neckbands too short. There was no notice of any kind posted in the factory, and about thirty young girls were employed. This girl had to pay 3d. per week for power, 3d. for insurance, 3d. for needles, and was fined 9d., all out of a total wage of 6s. 8d. for the week of fifty hours. Her wages were thus reduced to 5s. 5d. This 9d. was a serious matter to her, and in the opinion of the inspectress was not fair or reasonable. It might be that the defence would be that the girl was careless. She did not look it, but it was one of the commercial risks that some people took. They employed young people and took the risk of their work not being right, whereas if they paid higher wages to more experienced people they would be sure of better work. This was a branch of a large factory in Manchester, and it had been going eighteen months.

Defendant said it was very rare indeed that they fined anyone. He did not know of any other case. The fine was inflicted by the manageress.

The Clerk: Do you charge all your workpeople 3d. a week for power?

"HIAWATHA."

(DRAMATISED BY MRS. K. HARVEY.)

A DRAMATIC REPRESENTATION

OF
Longfellow's famous Poem, "HIAWATHA,"

WILL BE GIVEN AT

Cripplegate Institute,

On TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th, 1913,

AT 3 AND 8 P.M.

TICKETS 4s., 2s., and 1s., all Reserved and Numbered to be had at W.F.L., 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C.; or Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, Kent.

Nearest station to Institute, Aldersgate, on Metropolitan.
The Proceeds will be given in Aid of THE VOTE, the organ of the Women's Freedom League.

Defendant: All the wage-earners. It is done in every machine place.

The magistrates imposed a fine of £3 and costs.

Home, Sweet Home.

Notable facts with regard to housing in Scotland were disclosed at the Congress of the Scottish Sanitary Association at Glasgow yesterday. Dr. McConnell, chairman of the Glasgow Health Committee, said the Glasgow poor mostly lived in 21,000 tenement houses, where they passed their lives in misery and hopelessness. Yet it would be criminal to dishouse them without preventing a house famine. Their struggle was terrific, and their children, from their environment, were debarr'd from developing into healthy, moral human beings.

Women Clerks' Protest.

A feeling of resentment and protest is manifesting itself among women Post Office clerks regarding the proposals as to hours of duty in the recently-issued Report of the Select Committee on the Post Office. At present women and girl clerks work a seven-hour day, and out of this they are allowed half an hour as a meal relief. The recommendation of the Select Committee is that the hours of duty should be forty net per week, all meals to be taken in the officers' own time. The increase in the scale of pay, it is contended, is thoroughly inadequate in comparison with the increased work which this alteration in the hours would impose, and every effort is to be made to prevent the recommendation being put into operation. At the Holborn Hall, a meeting of women clerks was held to protest against the recommendation, and the protest was certainly accorded the force of numbers. Some twelve hundred women clerks attended, and the officials of the Association of Post Office Women Clerks, who organised the gathering, found it necessary to hold an overflow meeting in one of the smaller halls. A resolution denouncing the Select Committee's proposal and instructing the Committee of the Association to approach the Postmaster-General with a request that he should reject it was carried unanimously.

Responsible Officials.

Wives and daughters of signalmen on the Italian railways are allowed to do relief duty, and are paid a separate salary. They carry signal flags, and many stories are told of how these have been used as weapons against men who have attempted to wreck trains or damage the lines.

THE NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Very largely attended and successful meetings, indoor and outdoor, have been held by this Federation in Edinburgh during the last week. A large and enthusiastic audience was gathered together at the Livingstone Hall on Friday evening, September 19. Councillor Bruce Lindsay occupied the chair, and speeches were delivered by Councillor Crawford, Councillor Barrie, Mr. T. P. Gordon, Mr. Trainer, Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett, and Mrs. Roy Rothwell. An interesting incident of the meeting took place when Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett at the close of her speech asked Liberals present to turn their votes against Mr. Asquith's Government if Women's Suffrage was not put on the Liberal programme, and five men in the audience rose and declared their intention of doing so. At the weekly meeting of the Federation on Sunday in the meadows, a crowd estimated at about a thousand people surrounded the speakers who were accorded a perfectly quiet and sympathetic hearing. On a show of hands being requested at the end of the meeting from those opposed to the principle of Women's Suffrage, not a single hand was raised. Two of the male speakers announced their intention of voting against the Liberal Government if Women's Suffrage was not put upon their programme. The Federation promises to be a very large one.

WHETHER THE SUN SHINES OR THE RAIN DESCENDS, you will do well to visit Messrs. A. and P. Kuchemann, 1, Arundel-place, Coventry-street, London, W. (near the top of the Haymarket), and supply yourselves with both sunshade and umbrella. You may be sure of excellent value for your money, and an old umbrella can be re-covered for 3s. 6d. or mended while you wait.

The Women's Freedom League

HOLDS

PUBLIC MEETINGS AT CAXTON HALL

Every Wednesday Afternoon at 3.30.

SPEAKERS: OCTOBER 1st—

Mrs. DESPARD: "The Policy and Work of the W.F.L."

J. CAMERON GRANT, Esq.: "Economic Wrongs of the Employer and Employed."

Chair - - - Miss NINA BOYLE.

ADMISSION FREE.



A group of inexpensive Autumn Tailor-mades.

The "STRATHEARN." A practical Tailor-made Suit in navy and black suitings. The Coat is cut with the fashionable V at throat, for wearing open or closed, and is finished with large self material buttons. The new shaped Skirt has the folds and strap at back. Coat lined satin. In three sizes:—S.W., W. & O.S. 79/6
Made to special measures 10/6 extra.

The "LOCHEARN." Dressy Coat and Skirt in reliable navy suiting. The Coat is fashioned with the new sash and ends of black satin. Coat lined satin merveilleux. Available in three sizes:— S.W., W. & O.S. 84/-

Also in black at the same price. Made to special measures 10/6 extra.

The "SELKIRK." A smart Tailor-made in navy and black suiting. Coat cut with short-waisted effect, and finished with neat collar and revers of serge. The Skirt is well-cut, slashed at side, and finished with buttons and button holes. Coat lined Silk. In three sizes:—S.W., W. & O.S. 69/6
Made to special measures 10/6 extra.

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Peter Robinson, Ltd.



THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, September 26, 1913.

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, 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

United Kingdom ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
Foreign Countries ... 8/8 " " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

SMOLDERING FIRES.

Every conflagration has its history, though in many cases it is impossible to trace it to its origin. Where a house is large, of good age and solidly built, it has sometimes been discovered that the apparently sudden outbreak of fire is due to the overheating of flues or chimneys, behind which are solid beams of some hard, well-seasoned wood. In one case, where an ancient and very beautiful mansion was just saved from destruction by the wakefulness of a guest in the night when the flame became visible, careful examination proved that fire must have been smouldering in some heavy woodwork for days, perhaps for weeks.

A weird picture for vivid imaginations! Night after night the family and guests in this great house, noted for its hospitality, had gone cheerfully to rest, with no thought of danger. Yet there was not one of all those nights that might not have brought them suddenly into the grim presence of death or incalculable loss. And, at the last, it was only an accident that saved them.

No one can look thoughtfully upon Society to-day without feeling that it is out of such danger-sleep it is awaking.

Perplexed Cabinet Ministers; old-world Magistrates and Judges; employers who have made themselves rich by shamefully sweating women and child-workers; loyal party-politicians, some of whom are without a programme; nay, even the big public, the paying and voting part of which has been hoodwinked into the belief that Governments live by their will and live to serve them—these and many others who belong to the old, sleepy order of things, are being aroused out of their slumber. Rubbing eyes unaccustomed to the light, they are asking, How is it? Where did it break out? Who is responsible for this awful influx of what appear to be living flames?

For, look what way they will, the same word greets them. Discontent in the cities, discontent in the country; industry after industry breaking out into revolt; women-workers up to this the most submissive of all wealth-making machines, organising themselves, asking questions, daring to assert that their lives are at least as valuable as those of men; here and there, as in Hoxton, brave women striking against the hideous conditions of their work; men threatening the complete withdrawal of their labour until there can be established a fairer understanding between themselves and their employers. We make no comment; we neither praise nor blame. Merely we point out that this is what is going on.

The ordinary person, unfrightened, of sound sense and judgment, when faced with abnormal happenings, seeks to discover the cause in order that it may be removed.

The so-called Liberal Government of to-day, as we have had occasion to remark over and over again, concerned for its own safety and the comfort of those to whose money and influence they owe their elevation,

does nothing of the kind. It would be unwise, it would be impolitic. Therefore, gain time by temporising on the one hand; do not shrink from severity on the other! Strict and stern repression may still save the situation.

It is needless to recall some late and glaring instances. They have been sufficiently commented upon. The Government, it is true, has so far suffered defeat; but it continues on the same lines. Possessing material wealth, being able to control the resources of the state in fighting-men and weapons, it is ready to use them all to crush out this dangerous independence.

No one, for instance, can have failed to notice the peculiar protection accorded to the police by the authorities. If, as in the late labour troubles in Ireland and Wales, they are indiscreet, or even brutal, in the exercise of their duties, natural irritation and dread of disturbances through which the innocent public might suffer are held to be a sufficient excuse. When called upon to give evidence before magistrates and a civilian happens to be against them, their word is always taken. Even when brought before the courts for offences under the common law, they are sheltered.

Whence does this arise? Unhesitatingly we answer: The Government and its myrmidons dare not quarrel with the police force, because, in a very real sense, they are at its mercy. Moreover, it knows too much. If the heads of the police army—such persons as superintendents and inspectors—were to begin to make revelations, there is no saying where it might end.

All this shows a pitiful inability to consider the real issues.

Tolstoy, in one of his parable stories, relates how, while two brothers in a family were fiercely fighting for possession of some trinkets that had been thrown out upon a lawn by one who wished to save them, the house of themselves and their ancestors was burning. When they turned and saw what was going on, the fire had gained the mastery. The house was doomed to ruin.

Here, in our nation, such an awful drama is being acted out. For many years the fires of revolt have been smouldering, especially in the souls of women. They have seen the sorrow of their sisters. The oppression, the misery, the cutting short of innocent life, the nameless humiliations of womanhood have wounded them to the quick. In the past many of them have suffered in silence. They have done what they could. On the Poor Law, amongst the children in the elementary schools, on the streets of our cities in the sad and shameful night they have toiled and striven, sorrowfully conscious that all they could do was of little avail.

Their work meant more than they knew. They kindled the fire which smouldering for long years, has, in our Woman's Movement and in the Labour Movement with which it is of kin, broken into flame. And now those who count themselves our superiors are looking one another in the face and asking, What is to be done?

How strange it is that they cannot see! The one and only way to allay the fire of discontent and indignation that is spreading through the nation from end to end is to give up temporising, to cease from clap-trap and the making of promises which no one intends to keep, and to act straightly and justly. Women are asking for political representation; men and women are asking for the right to combine and the recognition of their Trade Unions. For the children, who cannot plead for themselves, all who care for their country and race are demanding such home conditions as will enable them to develop in freedom and beauty, and such protection by the law as will secure them from hurt until they are able to take their lives into their own hands.

All this seems plain sailing enough. And much of it has actually been, and is now, on the programme of the Liberal Party, while what is not on the programme is, undoubtedly in accordance with its professed principles. Yet, since 1906, when the Liberal Party came into power, there have been more meetings of indignant protest against injustice and oppression than ever before in the history of our nation. This was stated clearly by

TWO POINTS OF VIEW.

THE CONVENTIONAL CLERGYMAN—THE EDUCATED WOMAN.

There is a fluttering of wings in the male dove-cots. Some of the elderly birds are saying with solemnity and reproach, "We told you so! When higher education for women came in, when the men of my time were bullied or cajoled into admitting the other sex to male privileges, we knew what the result would be. And here it is, in chapter and verse. During the last three years 76 per cent. of American girl-graduates in one university have either refused to marry or had marriage refused to them! What do you make of that?"

We do not profess to make anything out of it. To us woman, as well as man, is a human being. If, having seen something of society as it is at present constituted, she thinks it wise to turn her attention to other things than bringing unwanted babies into the world; if, in particular, having studied psychology, physiology, and a few other kindred sciences, she prefers independence to the drudge-life which, in these days, marriage too often is, I, for one, do not blame her. If, on the other hand, the man she could marry—the healthy, pure, sound and reasonable human being—does not appear, and though wooed by a man, or men, of the other type, she declines their offers, so far from blaming, I commend her. The affair is her own.

I have been interested, however, in reading some of the comments made on this astounding revelation.

Reasons are asked for! A manifestly conventional clergyman, the Rev. C. H. Grundy, gives two reasons. The first is physiological. "As examinations become increasingly difficult, the greater becomes the tax upon the student's energy."

Therefore, the woman student ceases to make herself attractive; therefore men do not choose her. "There is no doubt about it," says this Solomon, "clever wives are not wanted!"

And yet has not the biography of great men shown us again and again that they owe much of their ability to clever mothers?

Ah, but the husband! And here we have Mr. Grundy's second reason. A clever wife bores him. He is not jealous, oh, dear no; but he likes sympathy in his life-partner. How about the unutterable boredom of the self-styled "clever man," especially the man who does not find people outside the home circle able to appreciate his cleverness? Have we not all known such domestic centres? The clever writer who cannot get himself published; the minister of religion whose preachments are not understood by his congregation; the politician who cannot get a hearing. Sons escape. "Father is really *too* awful!" they tell their mother. They spend their evenings out. But wives and daughters, in the past, have had to sit at home and endure. Possibly to-day they are beginning to get their own back. Can we wonder if the Rev. Mr. Grundy and his ilk are hurt?

Here is a comment by an educated and a clever woman, Miss Margaret Douglas, known to many of us as the secretary of that useful and successful society, the Insurance Act Resistance Defence Association.

"The college girl," she says, "finds 'Varsity men, as a rule, frivolous and mentally poor. There can be no gainsaying it, the average 'educated' Englishman is not exactly what we may term intellectual. So it is that the mind of the university girl gradually comes to devote itself to the work of bettering the conditions of her fellow-women. All big works entail sacrifice. Many college women to-day sacrifice their natural desire for marriage."

Poor Mr. Grundy! It would appear that the university man is being found out, and is being put into his proper place; and the secret is being passed on! What does Mr. Grundy say to that?

C. DESPARD.

Mr. Nevinson in our late indignation meeting at Trafalgar-square.

How strange it seems that the Members of the Government and the Liberal Party generally, cannot see whereto these things are tending. They have slept at their posts. They have dared to deny that there was any cause for discontent. When women, many of whom had been their adherents, appealed to them for settlement of age-long grievances they were, at first, cynically silent—the matter was too trivial to be dealt with by their magnificence—when rebellion followed upon righteous indignation, they were surprised and became outrageously unjust. So with industry. When the workers, men and women, asked for such laws as would stop the gross exploitation to which they were being subjected, asked to exercise the right to work and to receive a proper reward for their labour, no substantial steps were taken to relieve them. Instead of this, they were given an Insurance Act, told to be of good behaviour, and assured by the smiling Chancellor of the Exchequer that a day of universal peace and joy was opening before them. Since, in spite of all that was done for them, the dumb were becoming volubly insistent, free speech and the right of combination for political purposes were threatened. And then, at last, the smouldering fires broke out, and there is alarm. The little tin gods run about with their half-filled pitchers. "Stop the fire at all costs!" they cry. Shut out! lock out! keep out! Cool the rebellions by the whip of hunger. Let them know that until they give up the game of agitation and submit, nothing will be done for them."

Alas! while before they were speaking to dumb, driven cattle, they are speaking now to flame, and, perchance to the Lords of the flame, awake and ready, they also, for action.

Let the principalities and powers beware; for fire, in the spiritual, as in the physical order, follows its own laws, makes its own track, and feeds on all that obstructs its progress. Caring nothing for creed, or party, or conventions, or individuals, it sweeps forward on its triumphant progress. Devastating, it also cleanses. Hence its glory! To those who would stay it—and here too we have the spiritual and physical analogy—one course only is open. They must clear away the impediments that block its advance, and so leave nothing for it to feed upon.

Abuses of power, injustice, uncleanness, dominations! Are there to be found in our nation heads and hearts able to do society the service of sweeping these away? If there are, social redemption is still possible. If not—we dare do no more than leave it there.

C. DESPARD.

E. W. D.

Around a bend of time, in a dim wood,
I crept a-tiptoe, stirring the young grass
Less than a cricket's wing; for I had heard
The country of the prophets lay beyond,
And opened but to those of silent tread.
O joy! There lay a city fair, built round
A glimmering, open green, where children trooped
To lay bright flowers—that no brighter were
Than their gay, eager selves—upon a mound,
Whence rose a shaft that bore a carved name.
I read, and turned in silence to a lad
Who gently answered my amazed eyes.
"She was a saint who heard the children's cry,
And died for them. So once a year we give
Her flower-praise." "But she was mad," I cried,
"And troubled much the wise men of the world,
Who served mankind, and kept old England sane.
Where are your thanks to them?" Across his face
Where morn had been, a shamed shadow passed.
"We do not speak of them. They are forgot."
Then with an older look, as one whose glance
Falls on a dungeon where he might have died,
He shuddered and half-drooped; but shortly pressed
With lips of rose the fairest rose he held,
And laid it on the grave. "Ah, she was mad,"
I cried again. He lifted up proud eyes
That held no more of night. "We know," he said,
"She fought for us, and fell. We are her flowers."

OLIVE TILFORD DARGAN.

SUPPORT THOSE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT US.

WOMEN'S TAX RESISTANCE LEAGUE.

The Women's Tax Resistance League has decided to hold a protest meeting in Hyde-park at three o'clock on Sunday, September 28, to express indignation at the imprisonment of Mrs. Kate Harvey, who has for conscientious reasons refused to subscribe to the tyranny of unrepresentative government. The speakers will be Mrs. Kineton Parkes, Mr. H. W. Nevinston, and others.

IN THE PARKS.

Hyde Park.

The Mid-London Branch held its weekly meeting on Sunday in Hyde Park, and was fortunate enough to have Mrs. Marion Holmes as speaker. She in a masterly manner retraced the history of the Woman's Suffrage movement during the last forty years, and mentioned many of the illustrious names connected with the agitation. She pointed out where mistakes had been made, and the logical position of the present militant movement. There was some interruption from two Antis in the crowd, but they were soon silenced by the audience, who were evidently bent on hearing the speaker. Mrs. Hyde took the chair, and after the meeting sold a fair number of VOTES at the park gates. VOTE sellers for Sunday work are badly needed.

Regent's Park.

Miss Rogers presided at the Mid-London branch meeting in Regent's-park last Sunday at noon, which was addressed by Miss Nina Boyle. There was a large and sympathetic crowd, which gave the speaker an enthusiastic reception.

Brockwell Park.

An excellent meeting was held in Brockwell Park on Sunday morning, September 21, Mrs. Tanner being the speaker. A large audience listened with evident sympathy to her address, which was mainly an exposure of the present Government in its dealings with women and a demonstration of the justice of our cause. There were many questions, and Mrs. Tanner's hearers evidently enjoyed her witty and skilful replies. THE VOTE was sold out.

THE THREE ESSENTIALS

of a good boot are—

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2. Elegance.
3. Durability.

All of which are found in Boots and Shoes supplied by

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Shapely Shoes for Suffragettes.

Agents "LOTUS" for BOOTS & SHOES.

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Smart Walking Shoe in black glaze, 14/6; patent, 16/6, post free.

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Russian and all other Art Embroideries Traced and Finished.

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PLEASE MENTION "THE VOTE" WHEN ORDERING GOODS.

THE WETHERALL CASE.

A meeting was held at Homerton last Friday night to protest against the miscarriage of justice in the case quoted at length last week. Some twelve dozen copies of THE VOTE were sold during the afternoon by Mrs. Parrott and her mother-in-law, and great sympathy was expressed locally by residents and neighbours.

Mrs. Watson presided, and gave the legal details of the trial and the evidence allowed; and Miss Boyle made an appeal to the public to support them in a demand for justice. "Public prosecutors who will not prosecute, and police who will not protect the public, must go," was the text of her discourse; and the following memorial to the Home Office was handed round for signature, many willing friends and sympathisers undertaking to give it circulation:—

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

MEMORIAL TO THE RIGHT HON. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT IN RE THE CASE OF VIOLET PARROTT.

(REX v. WETHERELL, Old Bailey, before the Common Serjeant, September 10 and 11.

"We, the undersigned residents of the district and neighbourhood of Homerton, indignantly protest against the startling miscarriage of justice in the recent trial of Police-Constable Wetherall (for criminal assault on a girl under sixteen) through the unwarrantable interference of the Bench with the duties of the jury, and the scandalously careless conduct of the case by the Public Prosecutor.

We demand the immediate dismissal from the Police Forces of the two police constables (Wetherall and Hillier), who stated on oath that they and their comrades knew of a case of criminal relations with a girl of fourteen and did not report it; and of Police Constables Perkins and Whately, stated by their comrades (on oath) to have also known of it.

We demand that these men be placed on their trial for being accessory to a crime; we demand that the Common Serjeant be reprimanded for the altogether improper evidence that he admitted on behalf of Wetherall; and we demand that Mr. Bodkin be relieved of his duties as Public Prosecutor.

We respectfully beg you, sir, to bring these matters to the notice of the right authority, should any part of our request lie outside the duties of your own department."

The infant child of the poor girl victim was born last Saturday morning, prematurely. It only survived twenty-seven hours, being the victim of hopeless immaturity. The medical attendant was satisfied that the circumstances of birth were a complete vindication of the child's story. Indignation runs high in the neighbourhood, and much satisfaction is felt at the action of the Women's Freedom League.

Further details of the preposterous administration of justice are to hand. The accused man was never arrested. He was only summoned. He was admitted to bail—on a criminal charge—in the sum of £5, and allowed to return to duty. His superior officer practically threatened Mrs. Parrott with an action for false accusation, before the case came on for trial. The public prosecutor only saw his clients once before taking the case into court, and during the whole preparation of the case, persons representing the defence were present, listening to the matter which was to be used for the prosecution. The Common Serjeant, in stopping the further hearing of the case, said that a verdict of "Not guilty" would not prejudice the bringing of an action to secure an affiliation order against the accused man for maintenance for the infant—a statement so extraordinary as to be almost incredible.

And finally, after supporting her home by her honest work for a number of years, and having it visited by a police inspector once a month to testify to its complete respectability and cleanliness, the police authorities—not satisfied with the ruin of her daughter—have endeavoured to ruin her, too, by ordering the immediate removal of all her police boarders, as if she, and not the offending man, were not respectable.

The caravan meeting on Tuesday was held at Battersea, to which district Wetherall has been moved, and the campaign was renewed there, with Mrs. Tanner in the chair. Mrs. Despard invited all friends and helpers to take refreshment at her house subsequently. Another meeting will be held at Homerton in the course of the week, and arrangements for presenting the memorial will be made.

Now that the autumn season is in full swing, will our members please notice that the majority of our Advertisers have renewed their advertisements in THE VOTE. We look to all Freedom Leaguers and readers to support them loyally, and to make it worth their while to support us. Quote THE VOTE when purchasing.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces me that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

THE OLD BAILEY.

MONDAY.—BEFORE MR. JUSTICE RENTOUL.

Walter Roots, married, charged with abducting May Violet Darby (15). He persuaded her to leave her situation, promising to find her another in Margate, where he had met her while she was on a holiday. The girl said she did not want to go home to her father as he was always drinking and demanding money from her. Roots and the girl wandered about London for two days until their money was spent. One night they slept in a bakehouse while bread was being made. One night he applied at a boarding-house for one room, saying the girl was his sister. He was told he must have two rooms. Later he asked a policeman to find a shelter for the girl, and the police took charge of her. Counsel said there was "no suggestion that he had harmed the girl." **Acquitted.**

BEFORE THE COMMON SERJEANT.

Ernest Arthur Jones, while drunk, tried to cut his wife's throat. He does very little work, his wife earning 25s. a week and practically keeping him. This was the third attempt on her life. **Nine months.**

George Bunting (18), demanding money with menaces from Eliza Dillely. **Three months.**

Compare: Louis Kremerskothen (20), demanding money with menaces from Lord Rothschild. **Fifteen months' hard labour,** and recommended for deportation.

BEFORE MR. LUMLEY SMITH, SEPTEMBER 4.

Fountain Ernest Winter (29), charged with the abduction with evil intent of Alice Baker (17). He had had immoral relations with her and some time later induced her to go to Scotland with him. When her baby was a fortnight old he deserted her, telling her she could go to the workhouse. His own wife had been killed by neglect and worry. **Six months,** to be served in the second division so as not to affect his Army pension.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE ROWLATT, SEPTEMBER 6.

Richard Laurence (39), immoral relations with his daughter Catherine (15). **Four years.**

CLERKENWELL (September 9-12).

BEFORE MR. ROBERT WALLACE, K.C.

William Sharp, inflicting grievous bodily harm on his wife, Charlotte Sharp. **Six months.**

Compare: Peter Platt (30), coster, inflicting grievous bodily harm on Harry Williams and assaulting two police officers in execution of their duty. **Twenty-one months.**

Frederick Roberts, inflicting grievous bodily harm on his wife. **Bound over in £5.**

Compare: Thomas Mallett, stealing one pair of boots. **Twelve months.**

Henry Metz (45), hairdresser, indecently assaulting Beryl Palmer (16), in the lion's house at the Zoo, on August 8. He is engaged to be married. **Found guilty. Six months, second division.**

Compare: Peter Murphy (53), stealing one can of milk. **Nine months' hard labour.**

Ellen Radcliffe, stealing three brooches. **Eighteen months.**

Maud Price (25), servant, stealing money 6s. 6d. and other articles. **Nine months.**

Compare: Frederick Roberts (60), stealing a bale of chamois leather from G.W. Railway. **Bound over in £5.**

BEFORE MR. LUMLEY SMITH.

Charles Victor Dupont (36), married man with two children, charged with criminal assault on Gladys Ireson (15), a servant in his employ. The girl said that on June 2, at 10.30, Dupont committed the assault upon her in his bedroom, putting his hand over her mouth to stop her screaming. When leaving the room she saw prisoner's wife, who told her husband he ought to be ashamed of himself. Later the wife communicated with the police. Prisoner put a series of insulting questions to the girl unchecked by judge or counsel, with the intention of proving that other men, including the child's own father, had abused her. These allegations were denied. The prisoner's wife was the chief witness against him when first indicted, although she subsequently retracted her statements. **Acquitted.** This case gave further proof, if it were necessary, of the attitude taken up if a child is supposed to have been led into immorality, regardless of the age of consent legislation.

WHAT WE OMITTED TO SAY.

MRS. KINETON PARKES, Secretary of the Women's Tax Resistance League, reminds us that Miss Sargent, the first woman to be appointed president of a section of the British Association, is a keen Suffragist, and has worked for the National Union for many years, being president of their Tunbridge Wells Branch. She is also a tax-resister, and had goods seized and sold by public auction in Cambridge this spring, and is sister to Mrs. Sargent Florence, the well-known decorative artist, one of the founders of the Women's Tax Resistance League.

Will members kindly send all receipts they hold from firms who advertise in THE VOTE, or the amount of their purchases, to the Advertisement Manager, as it is most important?

THE MILITANT SUFFRAGETTE IN RURAL ENGLAND.

A Militant member writes:—

"Dear Editor,—In this our world such are the conditions of progress, that sauntering along a country road in Herts on the palms of an Anti-Suffragist's house the strange device appears:—

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

TO THE POLICE FORCES OF GREAT BRITAIN.

IN RE THE PRISONERS' TEMPORARY DISCHARGE BILL.

We hereby urge and entreat all members of the Police Forces throughout the Kingdom, &c.

(Signed) C. DESPARD. KATHLEEN TANNER.
E. KNIGHT. JULIA WOOD.
C. NINA BOYLE. K. SMITH.
F. A. UNDERWOOD. E. M. WATSON.

Votes for Women.

Continuing along the same road one eventually reaches the innocent-looking police station of Aldbury village, on the notice board of which, amongst bills describing things lost or stolen, persons missing and wanted, was another appeal to police as above. After vigorously rubbing one's eyes and recalling the trouble and victimising of the man who distributed the "Don't Shoot" pamphlets, one had to acknowledge the bill really was on the police notice-board, and to wonder if its remaining there was due to the sympathy of the police of the district, or to the indifference of villagers and passers-by as to what was lost, stolen, or wanted.

On returning along the same road just after dusk there was a disturbed atmosphere. Round the police station one caught sight of an excited group of people peering with half-daring half-fearful interest at the placard by the aid of a candle-lantern, a close study being necessary because the bill was partly destroyed. The person or persons who perpetrated the dark deed clearly meant it to be a lasting one, for its "stick" would beat a professional bill-poster, and the adhesive was evidently on the side of justice and right by the way it had resisted the efforts of the destroyers. Now the whole village, from squire to publican, is feverishly awaiting fire, floods, or sudden death.

G. BALLAM.

[Our members will, doubtless, remember the bill-posting campaign, and the summonses, some of which are still unexecuted, which followed.—Ed.]

A NEW DEPARTURE.

The following were unanimously elected members of the Croydon Chamber of Commerce at its recent monthly meeting, with the President, Mr. Louis Turtle, in the chair: Miss Edith B. Purnell, 108, High-street, Croydon, printer and publisher; Mr. A. Worman, High-street, Croydon, bank manager; and Mr. Bertram Batchelder, 50, London-road, Croydon, wholesale stationers' printer. Miss Purnell is the first lady to become a member of the Croydon Chamber of Commerce, and the hope was expressed by several members that other ladies would also become members.

"THE VOTE" BLOTTERS.

The above in the colours of the League, cloth bound, and with six pages best green blotting paper, formerly 1s. 6d. each, have now been reduced to 6d., plus postage, 4d. Branches ordering not less than twelve copies can have them at 5d. each carriage free.

THE GREAT UNREST AMONG MODERN WOMEN.

In *The Christian Commonwealth* next Wednesday (October 1) begins a series of articles setting forth the causes and consequences of the Great Unrest Among Modern Women. Each article will deal with a special phase of the question, supported by facts and figures and the authority of experts. The inquiry raises a number of important questions bearing upon industrial life, home life, religion, education, and the professions; the physique of the nation, the physical and mental nature of women, and the production and care of children; the future of womanhood and the protection they need by means of the vote, legislation, and an enlightened public conscience. As it touches modern life at all points, the inquiry will have great interest for all men and women.

The "CHRISTIAN COMMONWEALTH."

Every Wednesday, 1d. (with Supplement, 1½d.) Order of your newsagent.

By post, per annum: with supplement (inland and abroad), 10s. 10d.; without supplement, inland, 6s. 6d.; abroad 8s. 8d.

Send a postcard for a specimen copy, mentioning this advertisement.

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NATIONAL FUND.
(Branch and District Funds Not Included)
Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to
December, 1912, £17,272 4s. 11d.

£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Amount previously ac-			Miss Buntin	2	14	0	
knowledged	934	15	4	Dr. Dick (per Mrs.			
Special Political and			Julia Wood)	2	2	0	
Militant Fund—			Mrs. Fisher	1	2	6	
Madame D'Erment	1	0	0	Mrs. Clarkson Swann	1	0	0
"A Constitutional			Mrs. W. Kincaid	1	0	0	
and Constant			Mrs. Tippett	0	14	0	
Reader of THE			Mrs. Beatrice Gilbert	0	10	0	
VOTE	0	10	0	Miss M. I. Saunders	0	10	0
Mrs. Fulton	0	10	0	Mrs. F. M. Edmunds	0	5	0
Miss E. E. Gill	0	10	0	Miss Mary Hargrave	0	5	0
Miss K. Holmes	0	10	0	Mrs. Tudor	0	5	0
Miss K. A. Raleigh	0	10	0	E. B. Lloyd, Esq.	0	4	0
Hackney Branch	0	10	0	Mrs. Alice Park	0	4	0
Mrs. C. Bryant	0	5	0	"A Nurse"	0	2	6
The Misses Haward	0	5	0	Miss J. D. Thomson	0	2	6
Per Miss Eunice			Miss A. J. F. Wood	0	2	6	
Murray—			Miss Mary Burn	0	2	0	
Mr. John Cameron	0	2	0	Miss Leslie Arnold	0	1	0
Mrs. Cameron	0	2	0	Mrs. Cuppin	0	1	0
Mrs. Fraser	0	2	0	Miss M. Forbes			
Miss Hunter	0	2	0	Robertson	0	1	0
Mr. Peter Macdonald	0	2	0	Miss A. Gates	0	1	0
Mrs. J. Macdonald	0	2	0	Miss Godfrey	0	1	0
Mrs. Peter Mac-			Miss G. E. Hart	0	1	0	
donald	0	2	0	Mrs. Mattieson-Smith	0	1	0
Mrs. McInnes	0	2	0	Miss Hope Mattieson-			
Mrs. McKimmon	0	2	0	Smith	0	1	0
Mr. McLay	0	2	0	Mrs. F. Mockford	0	1	0
Mrs. McLay	0	2	0	Mrs. Eugenie Myles	0	1	0
Mrs. MacLean	0	2	0	H. Krauss Nield, Esq.	0	1	0
Miss Kate McLeod	0	2	0	Miss E. E. Willis	0	1	0
Miss Mary McLeod	0	2	0	"Man in the Street!"	0	0	6
Mrs. McLeod	0	2	0				
Mrs. Mary McLeod	0	2	0				
Miss Macpherson	0	2	0				
Mrs. Macpherson	0	2	0				
Mrs. Murray	0	2	0				
Miss Jean Thompson	0	2	0				
Mrs. Young	0	2	0				
Captain and Mrs.			£968	10	10		
Walter Carey	5	0	0				

SCOTTISH MEMBERS' GIFT.

At the meeting of the Scottish Council held in Glasgow last Saturday, Miss Murray reported that the gift from Scottish Freedom Leaguers to Miss Anna Munro on the occasion of her marriage was to take the form of a set of "Freedom League" china. The china will be specially made, and will have the Freedom League shield stamped on each piece. The Scottish Council for the Scottish members send warmest congratulations to Miss Munro, and wish her every happiness in her married life.

Chapter 6

A Bar of Fels-Naptha soap,

costing 2½d. is almost as good as a charwoman for a day.

It saves all the scrubbing and most of the rubbing.

The Fels-Naptha does nine-tenths of the work while the clothes are soaking. The dirt is quietly loosened between every thread and all comes out in the rinsing.

Fels-Naptha 39 Wilson street London E.C.

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C. A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

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

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Anerley and Crystal Palace.

We propose to hold a Jumble Sale at the end of October, so will all our members do their utmost to contribute in order that we may realise a nice sum for "The Birthday Fund." The idea will have to be abandoned if they do not respond. The hon. secretary urges all members to get more subscribers for THE VOTE, the sales at her pitch in Upper Norwood are most encouraging since her return from her holiday.

Croydon.

The open-air meeting, at Morland-road, on September 19, was addressed by Mr. Bostock and Mrs. M. Holmes. Both speakers were greatly appreciated and a good many questions were asked and answered. THE VOTE sold well. At the second "At Home," fixed for Thursday, October 2, there will be an address on "Tax Resistance," given by a speaker from the Tax Resistance League. Two new members have joined since the holidays.

Harrow.

A successful working party was held at Kynance, the residence of Mrs. Bach, on Thursday, September 18. Many tasteful articles are in course of construction for sale at the Freedom League Shop, Lowlands-road, where orders are taken for all kinds of plain and fancy needlework. These meetings are held every Thursday, at 3.30 p.m. Tea is provided, and all sympathisers are cordially invited. On October 2, the rendezvous will be at 23, Butler-avenue.

Mid-London.

Will all members please make a very special effort to attend the Indignation Meeting arranged for Friday evening (September 26), at Caxton Hall, at 8 p.m.? Names of speakers will be found in Forthcoming Events, and it is hoped that as many of our members as possible will come, bringing friends, to support our speakers on this occasion. The secretary will be glad to receive names of volunteers for VOTE selling, and the treasurer subscriptions from members who have not settled for 1913. She will also gratefully acknowledge donations (large or small) towards the expenses incurred by the Mid-London Branch in running open-air meetings in Regent's Park on Sundays.

Stamford Hill and Tottenham.

Attention of members of committee of both Branches is drawn to date of next committee meeting. It will be held at 7, East Bank, on October 2, at 3.30 afternoon. Special attendance is requested to consider special business of various kinds now needing settlement. Please keep date open.

West Hampstead.

The members who organised the "Hard-up" socials, which were so much enjoyed, are now busy arranging a "Merry-making," to be held for the benefit of the West Hampstead Branch, on Thursday evening, October 30, at Oriol Hall, Hampstead. Promises of gifts of cakes, &c., for the refreshment booth will be gratefully appreciated by the hon. sec., 23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead.

PROVINCES.—Burrage.

The Burrage Branch resumed its weekly meetings last week. One new member was enrolled. The attendance was not so good as was desired, but in spite of that a very good attempt at a sharp practice debate was made. The method adopted is to call upon a member to answer an objection to Woman Suffrage—which is read out by the chairman—from one of the Anti-Suffrage leaflets. This is not always so easy as it appears, but with a combined effort answers are found, to the distinct advantage of all present. By this means our position will be strengthened when facing the enemy. Branch meetings every Monday, 7.45.

Chester.

The little village of Guilden Sutton, accorded a good welcome to our representatives on Wednesday, September 17. Miss Trott spoke on the League's policy and the lack of logic in excluding women from Parliamentary franchise. The next speaker was Mr. A. Jones, of Chester, who dealt mainly with Anti-Suffrage arguments, and begged the audience to read and consider both sides of the question. On Saturday a good meeting was held in the Market-square, Chester, Miss Andrews being the principal speaker. There was not the slightest interruption, neither were questions forthcoming at the close. We are indebted to all our members who attended both these meetings and gave their help. A good programme has been arranged for the next few weeks. We hope to have our Shop open early next month; please, members and friends, bear in mind that its success chiefly depends on your patronage; any who have a spare hour at any time will serve the League well by putting it at Miss Woodall's disposal.

Ipswich.

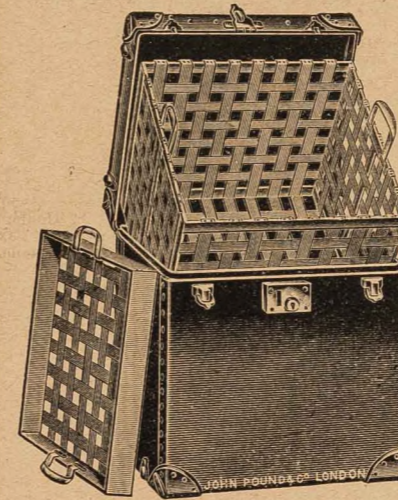
Our first autumn meeting took place last Saturday, when the programme for the coming winter was discussed and several interesting items arranged. A social evening will, it is hoped, be held in a few weeks, and we trust all friends will do their best to make it a success; also that they will save all they can for our Jumble Sale. Several members of the Committee undertook to look up members so that our meetings may be well attended. We were very glad to welcome a new member at this our first meeting after the holidays. We hope for a paper by Mrs. Hutley next Thursday.—M. T. HORSACH (tem. porary Secretary).

Manchester.—46A, Market-street.

Members will be pleased to know that arrangements are being

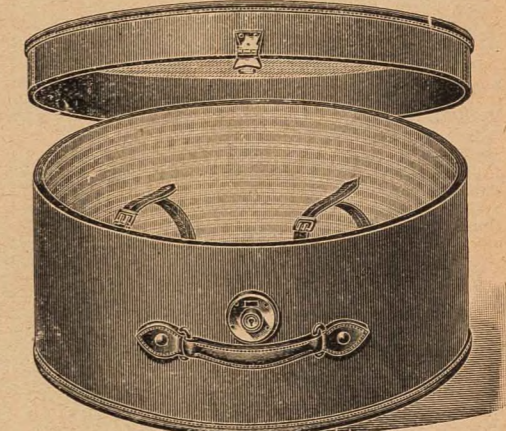
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DRESSING CASES, TRUNKS & BAGS, HAT BOXES, &c.



Ladies' Best COMPRESSED FIBRE Hat Case, with removable Webbed Cage and Tray. Fitted with Leather Corners, Strong Lock and Clips.

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46/- 50/- 55/-



The CIRCULAR Hat Case, covered Brown Painted flax canvas and bound with leather. Especially useful for Motor Car use.

For 1 Hat ... 20 x 9 **30/-** 22 x 9 **33/-**
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made for visits from Mrs. Despard and Miss Andrews, and that therefore we have every prospect of an interesting and successful session of work. It is essential that we commence our campaign unhampered by financial worry, and members are urged to make the jumble sale a record success. On or before October 17, parcels may be addressed to the Secretary, care of Mrs. Sharples, 9, Hughes-street, Brook-street, Charlton-on-Medlock.

Middlesbrough.

A committee meeting was held on Wednesday last, at 35, Albert-terrace, to discuss further arrangements for forthcoming meetings. The secretary reported that Madame Belle Richardson and her pupils would give a sketch and furnish the musical items of the programme for the "At Home" on October 9, and that Madame Belle Richardson would also sing Suffrage songs at the Town Hall meeting on October 7.

There will be a short business meeting on September 29, at 35, Albert-terrace. Members are asked to make every effort to attend, as their services will be required for distribution of bills, chalking of pavements, sale of tickets, &c.

Waterloo (Liverpool).

The speakers' class made a very successful start on September 18. Miss Appleton presided, and Mr. M. Guffie read a most interesting paper on "The Fallacies of the Antis." An animated discussion followed, about a dozen people taking part, the knotty point being "Equal pay for equal work." Two members who admitted the principle, but doubted the expediency, were met with perfect volleys of argument. And the silent members, no less than those who voiced their opinions, all admitted that "it was good to be there," and felt strengthened to meet the opposition of the man and woman in the street. We look forward now to Miss Andrew's visit on October 2.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee.

Dundee Branch resumed their meetings on September 11, in the Dundee Art Society's Rooms. Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Allan dispensed tea, and afterwards Mrs. Allan gave a general outline of the work of the League during the summer months.

Sympathetic reference was made to the severe illness of Miss Husband, our president, and also of Miss Grant, who has been seriously ill for several months.

Dunfermline.

Through the kindness of Miss Eunice Murray a very enjoyable reception was held in the Masonic Hall, Dunfermline, on Friday evening, September 19. A good attendance sat down to tea under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. M. Watt. Solos with auto-harp accompaniments were given by Miss Baird and Miss Hird, and a recitation by Miss Jean McCallum, after which a most eloquent address was given by Miss Murray, who interestingly traced the movement and its developments and increasing progress in many lands, and the need for such an effective weapon as the vote to promote the interests of women as mother and worker in the various industries. Dealing

with the difficulties of making an impression on the Government, she urged perseverance, instancing the fact that all great reforms had been wrung from opposers by zealous self-sacrificing efforts.

Votes of thanks were proposed by Mrs. Beck to all those who had helped the local secretary to make the meeting a success.

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

A splendid open-air meeting, to protest against Mrs. Harvey's imprisonment, was held on Saturday at the Mound. We were fortunate in having in the chair Dr. Grace Cadell, who is herself at this moment a "concrete example" of the form of militancy for which Mrs. Harvey is suffering. Dr. Cadell's inability to "appear personally" in court, as she is not a person, has been greatly appreciated locally, but fortunately it does not extend to Suffrage platforms! Miss Eunice Murray's forcible and racy explanation of the purpose of the meeting was listened to with great interest. She was followed by Mrs. Ancliffe Sennett, who is organising the Northern Men's Federation, and who made a special appeal to voters to help at this juncture. Mr. Andrew Young made a rousing speech in his usual vigorous style, and the resolution of protest which he put was carried with only three dissentients. Thereafter questions were dealt with by Mr. Young and Miss A. B. Jack. Miss Jack's answers so delighted one heckler that he informed the audience that he had only heard one better speaker—Mr. Keir Hardie—and he hoped she would soon be in Parliament! THE VOTE was sold out and a good collection taken. A large proportion of the crowd consisted of teachers in Edinburgh for the Educational Institute meeting.

Regular indoor meetings begin on October 1. A jumble sale and a sale of work are both proposed for the autumn session, and contributions can be received at any time. We hope to be able to give at an early date particulars of a whist drive to be held in October.

Glasgow.—Organiser, Miss Ada Broughton.

During the past week the local members had arranged several interesting outdoor meetings for Miss Ada Broughton. On Monday last the first was held at Anderson's Cross, when Miss Broughton outlined the aims and policy of the W.F.L. Owing to the "drunks" being much in evidence, there were several interruptions. The speaker was ably assisted by local members.

A large and successful meeting was addressed by Miss Broughton on Tuesday evening at Govan Cross. The audience was most sympathetic, and several interesting questions bearing upon women's votes and foreign affairs were put to the speaker, which were answered to the entire satisfaction of her hearers.

On Saturday afternoon a meeting was held at Ruther Glen. Miss Broughton presided, and Miss Shennan in her address referred to the attitude of the respective political parties in the House towards Woman Suffrage.

Kilbirnie.

In response to a local appeal, the organiser revisited Kilbirnie on Friday evening. Once more the net-workers, both old and young, turned out in good numbers. The chair was taken by Mr. Munro,

chairman of the local I.L.P. Miss Shennan, of Glasgow, in a convincing and eloquent address, stated the case for Woman Suffrage. Miss Broughton also assisted in the speaking. Interest was well sustained for nearly two hours, and THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature sold well. The women requested the organiser to "come again" and arrange for one or two indoor meetings for the winter months. Kilbirnie is hopeful ground, and the Scottish Council hope to form a Branch there before very long.

Neilston and Barrhead.

Two interesting and successful dinner-hour meetings were held at Neilston during the week. Neilston is a small town with one large thread mill, employing several hundreds of women workers, who are forced to work on an average ten hours a day for insufficient pay. As a good proportion of the girls live good distances away, some as far as Glasgow, to be in time at the mill for six o'clock they are obliged to rise each morning about four o'clock. These long hours do not leave the workers much leisure either for innocent recreation or mutual improvement. Several hundred women workers crowded round the organiser, and with rapt attention listened to her address, which dealt with the exploitation of the woman-worker in the labour market. The amount of literature and badges sold, and the earnest request to visit them again, were tributes of their keen interest in "Votes for Women."

On Thursday Barrhead was again visited. The meeting, although larger than the previous one, was not so good. This was owing to an organised attempt by some of the bigger boys present to rush the platform several times while Miss Broughton was addressing the crowd. With the assistance of the police, the workers were able to overcome the boys, and when order was restored the speaker was able to proceed without further disturbances.

Paisley and District.

The report for the previous week, crowded out in our last issue, was—

On Monday evening a meeting was held at the West End Cross, Paisley. It is unusual to have women the worse for drink at any of our meetings, but unfortunately on this occasion the organiser was constantly interrupted in her address through the vagaries of two drunken women, and at each interruption the children who were present made it an occasion for hilarious behaviour. No sooner had order been restored when it commenced to rain heavily, which made it impossible to proceed with the meeting.

The following day the organiser decided to conduct a dinner-hour meeting at Coats' Thread Mill. She had been previously warned and advised not to make the attempt, as on every occasion when speakers from the National Federation of Women Workers visited the mills to organise the women-workers, the girls refused to give them a hearing, while the last time a speaker came she was roughly handled and was forced to take refuge in a neighbouring house. Notwithstanding this, single-handed, Miss Broughton visited the mill the previous day, distributed a number of leaflets, "Why Women Want the Vote," had a friendly chat with several of the older girls, who promised to advertise the meeting and help all they could to secure a good meeting. This had a beneficial effect, for the next day Miss Broughton found the girls eagerly waiting for her arrival and quite friendly. For over twenty minutes she addressed several hundreds, explaining how the vote would benefit the women-worker. The girls gave her a most attentive and sympathetic hearing, and from the remarks overheard she knew the girls appreciated her address. At the close of the meeting, while distributing some leaflets, a number of the younger girls became rather boisterous in their eagerness to obtain them, and in the attempt several girls were knocked down; fortunately, no one was hurt.

Another successful dinner-hour meeting was held on Thursday, when the girls again gave Miss Broughton a sympathetic hearing.

On Wednesday evening, at the Abbey Close, Paisley, a large and interested audience listened to Miss Broughton's exposition of the Woman's Movement. An encouraging feature of this meeting was the large number of mill-girls who were present, and who showed their appreciation by remaining behind to take part in the Branch meeting which was held at the close.

On Thursday, the organiser visited the Kilbirnie net-workers who have been on strike for twenty-one weeks, but which was settled last week. The net-workers have scored a splendid victory, most of the points in dispute being conceded. Great satisfaction is felt in the district at the settlement. Our meeting had been previously advertised, and we held the best outdoor meeting of the week. The women turned out in a body and gave the W.F.L. a most enthusiastic reception. This large and sympathetic audience listened to Miss Broughton's address for nearly an hour with rapt attention, in spite of a chauffeur who persisted in driving his car through the crowd of women and men, although there was sufficient room for him to steer his car round the outskirts. The audience resented his conduct, and showed their resentment by breaking a window of the car. The police had witnessed the whole proceedings, but they never offered any interference. THE VOTE sold out, more copies could easily have been disposed of. At the close there was a general cry of "Come again soon," and there was a great demand for membership cards. The organiser and Mrs. Glen, who kindly helped in superintending the sale of THE VOTE, were escorted to the station by members of the recent Strike Committee and others, who gave them an enthusiastic send-off.

Barrhead was visited on Friday evening, and another very successful outdoor meeting was held. Again a request was made to the speaker to arrange another meeting for next week. A parish councillor promised to preside. At a Branch meeting held during the week, officers and committee were elected, and it was decided to hold regular Branch meetings every first Monday in each month. The winter's work will commence with a tea meeting which Miss E. Murray has so generously promised to give on Wednesday, October 1.

During the week the organiser devoted part of her time to visiting, which resulted in securing nine new members.

SUPPORT MINERVA PUBLISHING CO.—Will members pay a visit to our Merchandise Department, where they will find a number of useful articles on sale?

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Fri., Sept. 26.—Caxton Hall, Westminster, Indignation Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Mr. John Scurr, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss Nina Boyle. Admission Free. MORLAND-ROAD, CROYDON, 7.30. Mrs. Tanner.

Sat., Sept. 27.—LOUGHBOROUGH JUNCTION, Caravan Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Read and Miss Spriggs.

Sun., Sept. 28.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Nina Boyle. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard and Mrs. Hyde. BROCKWELL PARK, 11.30 a.m. Miss Read.

Mon., Sept. 29.—RUSHCROFT-ROAD, BRIXTON, Caravan Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner and others. BROMLEY, MARKET-SQUARE, 7.30. Pro-test Meeting. Miss Boyle and Miss Underwood.

Tues., Sept. 30.—CORNER BLACKBURN-ROAD AND WEST END-LANE (near West Hampstead Station, Met.), 8.15 p.m. Mrs. Mustard. ST. LUKE'S-ROAD, CLAPHAM, Caravan Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner and others. 1, IMPERIAL MANSSIONS, BROMELLS-ROAD, CLAPHAM, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 1.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. DESPARD on "The Policy and Work of the W.F.L.," and J. CAMERON GRANT, Esq., on "Economic Wrongs of the Employer and Employed." Chair: Miss Boyle. Admission Free. HANOVER PARK, PECKHAM, Caravan Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner and others.

Thurs., Oct. 2.—23, BUTLER'S AVENUE, HARROW, Working Party, 3.30 p.m. 7, EAST-BANK, STAMFORD HILL, Committee Meeting, 3.30 p.m. CROYDON W.F.L. OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, High-street. Weekly "At Home," 3.30. Speaker on "Tax Resistance."

Fri., Oct. 3.—MORLAND-ROAD, CROYDON, 7.30 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle.

Sun., Oct. 5.—HYDE PARK, noon. REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Nevinson, Mrs. Nourse.

Mon., Oct. 6.—CAXTON HALL, WESTMINSTER, 8 p.m. LECTURE by Mrs. WALTER GALLIGHAN on "Woman in her Relationship to Man." Admission by ticket, 6d. and 1s., from W.F.L. Office.

Tues., Oct. 7.—MID-LONDON BRANCH MEMBERS' QUARTERLY MEETING, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, 7.45 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 8.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. E. M. MOORE on "A Woman's Utopia." Admission Free.

Sun., Oct. 12.—HYDE PARK, noon. Miss Munro REGENT'S PARK, noon.

Wed., Oct. 15.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. NOTT BOWER on "Heroines of the French Revolution." Admission free.

Mon., Oct. 20.—CAXTON HALL, 8 p.m. LECTURE by LAURENCE HOUSMAN, Esq., on "Petition Government." Admission by ticket, 2s. 6d., 1s. and 6d., from W.F.L. Office.

Wed., Oct. 23.—CAXTON HALL PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30 p.m.

Tues., Oct. 28.—WESLEY GUILD, New North-road Chapel, N., 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard on "Woman as Helpmate."

Wed., Oct. 29.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson.

Mon., Nov. 3.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C., Lecture, 8 p.m. Miss Dorothea Tudor, M.B., B.S., "Women's Work in the Bulgarian Medical Department During the Recent War in the Balkans."

Tues., Nov. 4.—Dramatic Version of "Hiawatha," by K. Harvey (in aid of "The Vote"), Cripplegate Institute, two minutes' walk from Aldersgate-street Station (Metropolitan Railway), 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Mon., Sept. 29.—Middlesbrough, 35, Albert-terrace, Branch Meeting, 6 p.m. Burnage. Branch Meeting.

Tues., Sept. 30.—Liverpool, Aintree Institute, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Andrews. Chair: B. Bernard, Esq.

Thurs., Oct. 2.—Liverpool, Waterloo, Drewhurst's Café, 7.45. Miss Andrews.

Tues., Oct. 7.—Middlesbrough, Town Hall, 7.45 p.m. Public Meeting. Speakers: Mrs. Pethick Lawrence and Mr. Henry Harben. Chair: Mrs. Despard. Suffrage Songs, Madame Belle Richardson.

Thurs., Oct. 9.—Middlesbrough, Hinton Café, "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Songs and duologue, Mdm. B. Richardson and pupils.

Wed., Oct. 13.—Middlesbrough, Hinton Café, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray.

Oct. 25 to Nov. 1.—Middlesbrough.—Miss Janet Heyes.

Mon., Nov. 10.—Middlesbrough. Annual Meeting.

Nov. 16 to Nov. 22.—Middlesbrough. Miss Anna Munro.

Mon., Nov. 24.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Rev. A. Scruton, "Women's Fight for Freedom."

SCOTLAND.

Wed., Oct. 1.—Edinburgh, Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m., opening "At Home." Speaker: Miss A. C. McLaren. Paisley. Miss Eunice Murray.

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KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Women Teachers' Franchise Union.

Hon. Secretary: Miss TOWNSEND, 27, Murillo-road, N.E. The autumn campaign of the W.T.F. Union was opened on September 17, when Mrs. Despard was the chief speaker at a very successful local meeting at St. Anne's Hall, Clapham, organised by Miss Rosa Cox.

The president, Miss Agnes Dawson, was in the chair, and in her opening address said that women teachers were asking for the vote because they were interested in the welfare of the children. They were proud to have Mrs. Despard amongst them; they all knew of her splendid work, and her care and love for the children. Mrs. Despard, who received a very warm welcome from the audience, expressed her pleasure that a Women Teacher's Suffrage Society had been formed; they might be a minority, but the impossibility of to-day becomes the majority of action to-morrow. They must go on pushing and driving, and not mind the bitterness of the fight. Mrs. Despard further said she believed in the future growth and success of the W.T.F.U., and that it would be a pleasure to help the Union in any way.

Mrs. Despard was followed by Miss Bonwick, B.A., who showed how the National Union of Teachers felt the need of voters in its ranks to influence Parliament. She asked for equal opportunities of service for girls and boys that they might work hand in hand for the good of all.

New members were made at the close of the meeting; numbers of THE VOTE were sold both inside and outside the hall.

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Extract from the Report of the Directors.)

AN examination of the details of the Trading Account has shown that a fairly creditable average has been maintained in the Advertisement Department, but in order that the accounts may be held and increased, it is necessary that the Advertisers shall be well patronised, and the Directors appeal to all members to support those firms who support the paper, to regard the Advertiser not merely as an ordinary trader knocking at the door of the consumer, but as one of the most important factors in building up "THE VOTE."

OUR SHOPPING GUIDE.

For Addresses see Advertisements near Reading Matter & on Cover.

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Another local meeting was held on September 18 at Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, by the kindness of Mrs. Harbord. It was arranged by Miss Sim, the local organiser for Tottenham, and the chair was taken by Miss Chapman, and was addressed by Miss Agnes Dawson, the president of the Union. She showed how closely the question of the franchise affected women teachers, and gave a short account of the events which lead to the formation of the Union, and explained its objects.

STATUS OF TEACHERS.

The women teachers of Edmonton have recently achieved a success, which has had the effect of raising considerably their professional status. It will be remembered that at the Easter Conference of the National Union of Teachers, resolutions dealing with the importance of education of raising the status and salaries of teachers, were passed with the greatest enthusiasm. Accordingly, when a proposed new salary scheme for Edmonton added to the maximum salaries only, and thus affected a very small number of women teachers' salaries, and when, moreover, that maximum for women teachers was less by £10 annually than the maximum approved by the National Union of Teachers, over ninety of the women teachers, emboldened by their faith in their Education Committee, signed a petition, which was laid before the said committee. Later, a deputation of women teachers waited on the members, and laid the case before them. The committee received the deputation most courteously, and as a result of the representations made, not only were the maximum salaries of the women teachers raised, but also their minimum salaries and increments.

The fear of some men teachers that this would endanger their own rise in salaries was proved to be quite unfounded by the fact, that the men teachers were also generously treated, their increments being raised in addition to their maximum salaries, thus enabling both men and women teachers in Edmonton to obtain their respective maximum salaries of £190 and £150 sooner than any men and women teachers in England. It is probable that other committees would prove as sympathetic and understanding as did the Edmonton Education Committee.

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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-street, Adelphi, London, by the First Post on Tuesday Morning.

INSURANCE ACT PROTEST MEETING, BROMLEY MARKET SQUARE, Monday, September 29, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss NINA BOYLE. Chairman: Miss UNDERWOOD.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.—INDIGNATION MEETING against the Government, Non-Representation, Mis-representation, and Imprisonment of Voteless Women, CANTON HALL, Friday, September 26, 8 p.m. Political speeches by Mrs. DESPARD, Mrs. KINGTON PARKES, Mrs. MUSTARD, Mr. JOHN SCURR. Chair: Miss NINA BOYLE. Admission Free. Special Collection.

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