

The Common Cause

THE ORGAN OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF

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Women's Suffrage

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REGISTERED AS

SOCIETIES

A NEWSPAPER

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

A GREAT BAZAAR AND ORIENTAL FETE

In Support of the Funds of
THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (58, Victoria St., S.W.)

Will be Held at the
EMPRESS ROOMS, Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington,
Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Dec. 5th, 6th and 7th, 1912.

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**Please assist the Bazaar with gifts for the stalls and
donations towards the Bazaar Fund.**

All communications to be addressed to MISS NORAH GILDEA, Bazaar Secretary, London Society for Women's
Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

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All Business Communications to be addressed to The Manager,
The Common Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.Advertisements must reach the Office not later than first post on
Tuesday.Literary Contributions should be addressed to the Editor, The Common
Cause, 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor however, accepts
no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be
returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.Correspondents are Requested to Note that this paper goes to press on
Tuesday. The latest news, notices and reports should, therefore, reach
the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents,
however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long
beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last day
possible, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.NOTICE.—This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by
mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally
they should write to the Manager, The Common Cause, 2, Robert
Street, Adelphi, W.C., giving the name and address of the newsagent or
bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.**Notes and Comments.****Practical Politics.**

The *Daily News* had a passage in a leader on July 29th which we should like our readers to compare with a statement by Mr. Gordon Hewart in the course of the election in North-West Manchester: "Test Liberalism and Labour," says the *Daily News*, "on any specific issue of immediate practical politics and they will speak with the same voice. It is unthinkable that they will continue for the sake of some vague difference to destroy each other for the advantage of the common enemy." Here, you see, is a plea for the theory that the Liberal and Labour parties are at one for all matters of practical politics. Now, mark Mr. Gordon Hewart alluding to the demand of the National Union that he should oppose the passage of a Franchise Bill which gave votes to men who had not asked for them and refused votes to women who had: "Is it not perfectly preposterous? Here we have great national and international issues hanging in the balance; and if that kind of argumentation is to be allowed, votes are to be lost and the result is to be imperilled because of some—I do not want to use a strong word—some difference upon what is at any rate a minor, and may be not, at the present moment, an extremely actual question."

Now the Franchise Bill is not any longer "in the dim and speculative future"; it is here and now before Parliament in this session, and will be considered in Committee as soon as the House re-assembles. While the Labour men say they will stand by the women, the Liberal men say it is a "minor" or "not an extremely actual" question, and it is "perfectly preposterous" to expect them to treat it as one which must be dealt with within the next few months. Men are rather fond of telling women "Well, he's entitled to his opinion!" We will not admit that, when his "opinion" involves the placid contemplation of the subjection of women; but at any rate, women are "entitled" to their own opinion too, and the opinion of Suffragists is that if you "test Liberalism and Labour" on the specific issue of Women's Suffrage, there is not the possibility of disputing which is the better friend, and that it is the obvious duty of Suffragists to make it an "extremely actual question" to those who are not yet aware that it is so.

Three-Cornered Contests.

At Crewe Mr. Murphy frankly admitted that his defeat was due to the presence of a strong Labour candidate. Mr. Holmes, speaking after the event, said, "It is the intention of the Labour Party to fight all the industrial constituencies they can find the money for without fear of the consequences." Mr. Ramsay MacDonald in the *Labour Leader* plainly declares the intention of the Labour Party to fight as many three-cornered contests as possible; Mr. Snowden, Mr. Henderson, and Mr. Keir Hardie have all made speeches to the same effect, and there was a statement in the *Manchester Guardian* on August 2nd to the effect that it was in contemplation to contest a number of Scottish seats; these include Lanarkshire (Mid and N.E.), Govan, Partick, Glasgow (Camlachie and Bridgeton), Perth, East Fife, Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy, Leith, South Edin-

burgh, North Ayrshire, North Aberdeen, the second seat at Dundee, and one or two seats in addition to the three already held by the Labour Party.

It is also stated that the Liberal Whips' office is introducing a carpet-bagger to oppose Mr. O'Grady, the present Labour member for East Leeds.

Signs of the Times.

The Executive of the Women's Liberal Federation has sent a resolution to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the First Lord of the Admiralty stating that it "regards with increasing apprehension the vast and continuous expenditure in naval armaments, and expresses the belief that the ruinous rivalry in armaments in which the Government is sharing is not only contrary to the great traditions of the Liberal party, but is a serious and growing peril to the nation."

A Lady Rip Van Winkle.

It is stated in the *Standard* that Mrs. Gladstone Solomon has been addressing a meeting at Golder's Green where the following resolution was passed:—"That this meeting earnestly appeals to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald not to put Woman Suffrage on the Labour programme without the consent of the labouring classes." We think this resolution must have caused Mr. MacDonald to smile and ask himself where Mrs. Solomon has been sleeping, not to know that he has not frivolously—and of his own initiative—and recently—"put" Woman Suffrage on the Labour "programme." The Labour Party does not indulge in the peculiarly futile form of window-dressing called a "programme," but if Mrs. Solomon could persuade herself to read the *Labour Leader* she would see from the articles of Mr. Anderson, Chairman of the I.L.P., that it is no new thing for Labour to be more concerned about women's enfranchisement than any other party and she would see, if she studied the votes in the House, that the Labour Party, as a party, has been more staunch than any other in support of the suffragists, voting always for the suffrage Bills even if these did not go as far as it wished. She would also realise that the men's "Labour Party," from its close association with the "Women's Labour League," is not likely to refuse the earnest demand of its own women for enfranchisement at the bidding of a middle-class woman who has no general sympathy with the Labour movement. Mrs. Solomon should really appeal elsewhere than to Labour men for the subjection of Labour women.

Playing with Fire.

We have received the following communication from the Women's Social and Political Union:—

Several letters, including one from a member of the Government have been sent to the Women's Social and Political Union headquarters, and to its local organisations, accusing the women who made the Dublin protest of "trying to burn a theatre full of people." The W.S.P.U. has made careful inquiry into the facts of the case, and is able to state positively that the women who made the Dublin protest were careful to wait until the end of the performance before taking action, in order that there might be no question of danger to the audience.

Responsibility and Character.

In Sir Sydney Lee's article on King Edward VII. in the recently-published volume of the Dictionary of National Biography he dwells repeatedly on the unfortunate determination of Queen Victoria to exclude him from all political counsels and so far as possible (till nearly the end of her life) to keep him in ignorance of political affairs. On page 57 we find the sentence: "The Prince suffered somewhat in moral robustness through the denial to him of genuine political responsibility and his exclusion from solid and settled occupations." Anti-suffragists should be asked to note this. If an acute observer can plausibly attribute certain defects in a man's character to "an entire denial of genuine political responsibility," it should not be marvelled at if the same causes produce the same results in women. One of the strongest reasons for desiring women's suffrage is that there is reasonable cause to hope that political responsibility will have a good effect on character.

Help for the Victims of the Strike.

In addition to the £8 is. already acknowledged, we heard last week of two more sums sent to Dr. Tchaykovsky for help in the East-end, on account of Miss Ransom's article in this paper. They were £1 from Mrs. Tillard (Southborough) and £3 3s. from Alice R. Duncan (Harrogate). This makes our total £12 4s. Dr. Tchaykovsky has been organising holiday camps for the children and will, we are sure, be glad of more help to enable the survivors of this industrial war to recover health.

THE ELECTION FIGHTING FUND.

Hon. Treasurers:
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MISS JULIET RECKITT.
MRS. PHILIP SNOWDEN.
MRS. STANBURY.
MR. C. E. S. STREATFIELD.

THREE MONTHS' WORK.

With the memories of the successful campaign at Crewe still fresh in our minds, we are called upon to turn our attention to the constituency of East Carmarthenshire, where there is the possibility of yet another trianguar contest. At the time of writing only the Unionist candidate, Mr. Mervyn Peel, has been adopted. There are some half-dozen competitors for the position of Liberal candidate. Several names have been mentioned in connection with a Labour candidature, but it seems unlikely that any of them will be officially endorsed by the Labour Party. Owing to the fact that this number of the paper goes to press early, on account of Bank Holiday, we are unable to state this week what action the National Union will take, though this will doubtless have been made public by the time the paper appears.

We propose, therefore, to devote the page to a survey of the financial aspect of the Election Fighting Policy.

A NON-PARTY POLICY.

The enthusiasm which the policy is evoking on every side is a clear proof, if any were needed, of the fundamentally non-party character of the National Union. Drawn from every political party, and holding the most diverse views on every other subject, its members realise that the question of Women's Suffrage rises above the claims of every political party, and that, unless its members act upon this belief, Women's Suffrage has no chance of becoming law. Hence it is that we have women and men of all shades of political opinion not only endorsing our election policy, but subscribing generously to our funds. Here is an extract from the letter of a former Liberal woman. "I feel we ought all to do something at this critical stage, and the new election policy appeals to me strongly. I used to be a Liberal, but the hesitation shown by the Liberal Party in carrying out its own principles of self-government and trust in the people, where women are concerned, has alienated my sympathies. It seems to me that women Liberals will be forced to join the Labour Party should the so-called Reform Bill remain a Manhood Suffrage Bill." Another sends £1, explaining that she is in "hearty agreement with the new policy, though I still call myself, and am a Liberal." Another keen Suffragist writes: "I am a Conservative, and quite approve of the present policy of backing the Labour candidate."

To many people the ties of party feeling seem to be almost as strong as those of personal affection, but we cannot but feel that the following words from a supporter whose subscription has been diverted from the coffers of her party association to those of our fund, must represent the case of a party woman to-day.

"I am unwillingly compelled to believe that a woman's politics must now be 'Votes for Women.'"

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

Throughout the Suffrage movement to-day there is a feeling that the next few months will offer a supreme opportunity of success; and this feeling is reflected in the efforts which are being made throughout the Union to contribute every possible penny towards the funds, in order that the work which lies before us may not be hampered by lack of money. One keen supporter makes a point of giving "three times as much as she can afford to the Suffrage." Two more send a donation of £2, and hope to send more later "by doing without a summer holiday."

All these gifts are accompanied by expressions of hearty appreciation of the new policy, and earnest wishes for its success.

There is still one consideration which is causing certain people to give less to the Fighting Fund than they otherwise would do.

The quieting effect of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's letter to the Press is revealed in the communications of several generous supporters of the new development of our policy. The writer of a letter enclosing a cheque for £25 says that her contribution has been delayed owing to this letter, and she admits that her mind is not yet set entirely at rest. Another would have given more if "Mr. MacDonald's attitude on the Franchise Bill had been more pronounced."

Some members of one of the Women's Suffrage societies some time ago proposed to give up wearing hats, in order to make their protest against the defeat of the Conciliation Bill felt by the members of a trade supported entirely by women. A member of the National Union has hit on another device, by sending a contribution to the Election Fighting Fund out of her "boot and shoe money." She now fights in her "stocking feet."

HOLIDAY MONEY.

The Election Fighting Fund has been in existence for less than three months. Already over £4,000 has been raised; by October that £4,000 must be brought up to £10,000. We are told that money never comes in in large sums in August and September. However that may have been in other years or with other funds, it must not be the case this year with the Election Fighting Fund. It cannot wait till the holiday-makers return, because £6,000 must be raised by the end of the holidays. This is a time of year when money flows easily in some directions. Let some of it at least flow into the Exchequer of the Fighting Fund or of the National Union General Fund. When the Christy minstrel comes round, remember that the Financial Secretary at the National Union office, eagerly watching for each post and anxiously counting her funds, has a prior claim on your pennies and sixpences, and keep them for her.

It will perhaps be asked, what are the plans for which the money is so urgently needed?

Ever since its formation the Committee has been involved in one by-election after another, and the ordinary routine work of preparatory organisation in certain selected constituencies has hitherto scarcely been embarked upon. Now, however, the Committee has a most promising list of constituencies where a successful three-cornered contest would be particularly fruitful to the Suffrage cause. In some of these work has already been begun, in the others it will be set on foot immediately. In the elections hitherto fought by the Committee the ground had not been in any way prepared for putting the policy into practice. Yet two of these campaigns, although the Labour candidate did not actually win the seat, may justly be regarded as having been well worth while. In both cases the Labour man nearly doubled the vote previously polled by his party. At Holmfirth his candidature caused obvious anxiety among Liberals, while Crewe saw this anxiety justified by the loss of the seat to the Government.

When these satisfactory results are obtained with no previous preparation of the ground, are we not justified in believing that in an electoral campaign in the constituency of an unsatis-

factory Liberal, which had been worked up by Fighting Fund organisers, the policy must meet with brilliant success?

TREASURER'S NOTES.

The subscriptions and donations recorded above have almost all been from women, and this is the case with the overwhelming proportion of the money received. Naturally the cause of Women's Suffrage must be nearer to their hearts than it is to those of men, and they will be more ready to make sacrifices on its behalf. Nevertheless there must be many amongst our numerous men sympathisers to whom our fighting policy appeals, and who would be ready to support it with funds. To such as these we would commend it in the hope that they may see their way to contributing towards the £6,000, which must be raised between now and October.

We publish below our eighth list of contributions. For want of space we are unable to give more than a certain number of names each week. Up to the present £2,716 2s. 4d. has been announced in the COMMON CAUSE, so that there remains over £1,000, already received, the particulars of which have not yet been announced.

All cheques should be made payable to one of the Hon. Treasurers, Mrs. Auerbach or Mrs. Anstruther, and addressed to them at the National Union Office, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

EIGHTH LIST (TO JULY 15TH.)			
Already acknowledged	£2,425 12 10	Miss Isabel Gwynne	£1 0 0
Mrs. Hugh Thompson	10 10 0	Mrs. Brailsford	5 5 0
Miss A. Bateson	50 0 0	Mrs. Hodgkinson	0 5 0
Miss H. M. Martin	1 1 0	Mrs. G. E. Stout	2 2 0
Mrs. F. A. White	1 0 0	Miss Eleanor Garrett	10 0 0
Miss B. C. Staley	0 5 0	Miss Miller	2 0 0
Olton, W. S. S.	1 0 0	Miss Finké	0 5 0
A Sister	15 0 0	Mrs. A. B. Gillett	15 0 0
Mrs. F. J. Wathien	2 0 0	Miss J. H. Drew (2nd donation)	2 0 0
Miss F. Mitton	0 10 0	Dr. Edith Goodrich	1 0 0
Miss A. Mitton	0 10 0	Miss N. Nachbar	1 1 0
Mrs. S. E. Maltby	1 0 0	Anonymous	20 0 0
Mr. E. H. Smith	2 0 0	Anonymous	5 0 0
Mrs. Hecht (2nd donation)	5 0 0	Mrs. Sayers	25 0 0
Mrs. Norah Scott	0 2 0	Mrs. V. H. Patterson	0 5 0
Mrs. Spencer Thomas	2 0 0	Dr. H. B. Hansen	12 10 0
Miss M. O'Shea	5 0 0	Southport, W. S. S.	0 10 0
Miss N. O'Shea	10 0 0	Mrs. A. H. Green	0 10 0
Hon. Lily Montagu	2 2 0	Miss Fanny Johnson	0 10 6
Mrs. L. G. Rose Innes	0 5 0	Anonymous	3 3 0
Mrs. G. Murray	0 5 0	The Misses Balley	0 10 0
Mrs. Mundella	1 0 0	Miss T. W. Powell	50 0 0
Sir Owen Roberts	10 0 0	Mr. J. A. Perry	1 1 0
Mr. H. A. Whitting	1 0 0	Mrs. Dowson	1 0 0
Mrs. J. Spring Rice	5 0 0	A Civil Servant	2 2 0
Miss E. C. McKee	2 10 0		
		Total	£2,716 2 4

"An Onlooker."

It was early-closing day and townspeople and holiday makers had gathered round a lorry from which a woman was speaking. Heer van der Merve and his wife stopped to listen.

Visitors from the Orange Free State and refugees from the heat and stress of London, they had arrived that afternoon at Westbourne. After tea they had strolled along the sea-front to the downs beyond, noticing with the receptive eyes of strangers in a strange land, the trim pleasure boats on the turquoise sea and the gaily-dressed crowds on the sands and the cliffs. They had enjoyed themselves immensely. There had been too many houses and too many people in London. Here there was room to move and sweet air to breathe and yet the scene was unlike their home as heart of tourist could desire. Here, also was something new, something that, vrouw van der Merve had read about but never seen—a woman speaking in public, speaking fluently, too, in spite of interruptions from her audience.

"Do not women pay taxes?" the speaker argued. "Do they not share the burden of citizenship? Why should they not have the rights that citizenship confers?"

A well-dressed man who stood on the outskirts of the crowd interrupted. "You don't share men's burden in war."

"We pay the taxes," the woman retorted, "most men do no more."

"If England were invaded it would be a question of paying lives, not taxes, and it's our lives, not yours, that would be given."

The crowd cheered applause. The superiority of the male had been asserted triumphantly. "Yes, that's the point," a smart youth remarked to the girl at his side.

"You go home and get the tea and ask for your vote when you can let off a gun. We go out and get shot and you stop safe at home. We do the work so we gets the pay."

The speaker's utterances were drowned. From the martial ardour of the crowd war appeared imminent if not already declared. Heer van der Merve's interest had been awakened. He looked for his wife—at first he looked for her in vain. Then he saw her—she was close to the lorry; she was speaking to one of the women; she was climbing on to it. Surely his eyes deceived him; she was going to speak. "Allemaekter," he gasped, and pushed his way through the mass of people. Yes, she was certainly going to speak.

She stood looking down upon the crowd with calm blue eyes. She was a big woman, full bodomed, wide of hip. If a sculptor had needed a model to pose as "woman, the mother," no other woman present would have made so good a model.

"Go 'ome and mind yer children!" a youth shouted. "We ain't goin' to give women votes when they can't fight." He was small and weedy, a shop assistant in a small city shop. He was twenty, and Vrouw van der Merve thought he was fourteen.

"Why do you say women can't fight?" she asked. She spoke English well, and in her level tones and in her bearing could be read the pride of a ruling race.

"Cause they can't—'cept by scratchin' and slappin'. Do you ever hear of one that could fight like a man?"

"I've heard of many and one was my grandmother."

The crowd shook with laughter. The new speaker promised sport.

"My grandmother was a voortrekker, a Boer woman as I am. She was at Vetchtkop where sixty white people held their laager against four thousand Zulus. Women and men fought side by side that day—yes, and beat back Moselekatse's impis—sixty women and men armed with muzzel loaders. There were no magazine-rifles then."

Vrouw van der Merve's audience was silent, only the man who first interrupted answered. "That was against savages. Women don't fight in civilised warfare; they stay safe at home. They don't suffer themselves; they are only onlookers."

Slowly the colour rose in her cheeks. He had touched the raw that would never heal.

"Do you think that in war it is the men only who give their lives?" she asked in bitter scorn. "Did not we give our lives? Were not more children motherless than fatherless when our war ended? Was not our death roll longer by a third? Many a woman could have handled a mauser, but the orders came—men's orders—the women must not fight. You say that in war it is the men only who pay; your women didn't pay in your last war, but we, the women of the country, did, and if there is war in England your women will pay—yes, to the uttermost farthing. On whom do you think the heavier burden falls when the houses are burned and the country is laid waste and the children cry for their ruined homes and for the food we cannot give them?"

She looked at the men and women below her and wondered at herself. Why did she speak to them, she who hated the English? She saw her husband's face, troubled, amazed, and she knew that sex bitterness was awake in her and had slain that of race.

What had the war cost her husband? He had won fame, praise from his countrymen, respect from the enemy. United South Africa to-day numbered him among its leading men. And its cost to her? She thought of the day when her house had been destroyed and the children had clung to her skirts; she thought of the jeering Kaffirs, the march with the column, the squalid misery, the sick children, the prison camp where they had died; the ruined homestead, desolate, memory haunted, to which she had returned. She thought of the long empty years. Her husband's burden had been light to hers. He had grieved for the children, but not as she had, they were so young, and he had forgiven. "It was war," he told her; "we must forget, must put the past behind us, must work to build anew." The man's view! What work had been given her that could fill the void in her heart?

Her thoughts barbed her speech. Then she spoke to the women of what war means to them. "Never let your men tell you you won't pay, for in the train of war come famine and fever and a ruined land. They will claim you as their victims and you will give, not your own lives alone, but your children's." She read fear and pity in the eyes of a girl who stood below: the girl understood and she was afraid—afraid for a fat, sun-

burnt baby who played on the sands with the other babies. "No, you won't fail if the day comes, now you think you may, but you won't, for this is your country and whatever your country asks of you you must give. Don't be afraid, don't let your men tell you you'll be afraid, and never let them tell you you'll be an onlooker. You won't be that and you won't want to be. The land is not the men's alone, it is yours, too, and you will not betray it. Strength will come to you as it came to me in the hour of trial. The enemy offered to set me free if I would beg my husband to surrender. I was tempted, for I had a child left then and I feared he would die in the camp as the others had done; but I answered as the other women did, as you would do, that no deserter should call me wife. A boy told me to go home and mind the children. I have no child to mind; I paid the war tax with their lives. Could a woman pay a heavier tax than that?"

She turned to the other occupants of the lorry: "Thank you for letting me speak." Then she put her hand in her husband's and climbed to the ground.

"My dear, my dear," the man said as they stood outside the crowd, "I did not know; do you want a vote like these English women?"

She smiled at him a little twisted smile, and her blue eyes were misty. "I paid for it, Louis, I and the other women."

D. P. J.

Votes and Wages: A Reply to Miss Gladys Pott.

By A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

I.

With regard to the criticisms levelled against my little pamphlet "Votes and Wages," I am obliged to rely on a report of Miss Pott's speech, and if she has not been correctly reported, I regret but cannot help it. If the report is correct, I will say at once that Miss Pott has confined herself to facts and figures which, even if her criticisms were justified, would only modify my illustrations without touching my argument. The argument itself is only once, and that very briefly, attacked—the attack being based on an unusually gross error.

I would also add that, in my opinion, Miss Pott has done me a great service, since it is of the utmost importance that my little book should be not only absolutely accurate, but perfectly lucid also. When my critic has misunderstood me, others may have misunderstood also. Certain points, it is now clear to me, do require re-stating or amplifying, and in my next edition this shall be done.

I propose, first of all, to deal with the points which have been attacked in the press, and to depart from the actual sequence of argument in my pamphlet, for reasons which will be obvious.

Miss Pott asserts that the barmaids were not "threatened with dismissal." Anyone who knows the history of the agitation knows that they were. Moreover, in 1903, "the Glasgow magistrates, through a misconception of the law, exceeded their powers, and prohibited the employment of barmaids. . . . They did not try to distinguish between good and bad. What they did was to abolish the employment of every barmaid in every public-house in the area under their jurisdiction in an absolutely sweeping and wholesale way."

Agitation against these proposals prevented the dismissal of barmaids becoming a part of the Bill. Moreover, it was found that to leave them in possession was far more politic, since (1) it deprived the women of a powerful incentive to revolt, and (2) it blinded a kind-hearted but short sighted public to the fact that the ultimate abolition of barmaids would have precisely the same effect on female labour—i.e., to cut off the demand and increase the supply, and thereby bring down wages.

Miss Pott states that there are not 100,000 barmaids, but less than 30,000. But the Bill was directed against all women "employed on licensed premises." Barmaids, waitresses, and attendants who combined the work in the bar with other services, women in railway buffets, even typists and cashiers working on licensed premises, were to be prohibited.

Miss Eva Gore-Booth, who organised the resistance to the proposed legislation, and presented the case of the barmaids in so masterly a manner as to defeat the Bill, writes:—"There were over 100,000 licenses in England, and it was really an under-statement to allow one barmaid for such licenses, as in

many places there are 50 waitresses and barmaids." She adds: "All the waitresses in . . . big restaurants are 'barmaids.' The 27,000 is an absurd figure, taken from those who put themselves down as 'barmaids' in the census. . . . Heaps of people would put themselves down as 'assistants,' not thinking of themselves as 'barmaids.'"

With regard to the proposed legislation against women acrobats, I point out that it was not directed against women who appear in the census as acrobats but against *dangerous performances* by women. A woman would hardly find it an adequate plea that she had not registered herself as an acrobat, if a magistrate decided that her work on the stage was dangerous. Miss Gore-Booth writes: "It is a very difficult matter to decide where danger to life and limb begins. . . . The individual cases will be decided by magistrates probably ignorant of the laws of physical training and development, especially in their application to women. The obvious result of this will be that theatres and music halls will cease as much as possible to employ women sooner than risk the inconvenience and expense of a prosecution and fine, and then number of workers will be turned out of employment . . . and the labour of the 10,000 involved will go to swell the ranks of the unskilled workers in one of the already crowded trades open to women." ("Certain Legislative Proposals," p. 5.) I would remind my readers again that it was Miss Gore-Booth who organised the successful agitation against this Bill also," she writes. "The figures about 'dangerous performances' were perfectly correct, as they were given by the Secretary of their (the women's) Society." Miss Pott objects to the expression, "The women on the pit-brow are to go." It was not intended to convey that the women actually employed were to be dismissed, or I should have said so. I think anyone conversant with such disputes would agree that the phrase "having to go" used of female labour means that no more women are to be employed.

Anti-Suffragist who persistently explain the low rate of wages current among women on the ground that marriage makes them less permanent and therefore less valuable, to their employer, will not deny that the new element of "precariousness" introduced by the attempt to exclude them by law from certain employments must also bring down their wage-values.

Miss Pott also complains of my reference to the fact (which she does not deny) that the London County Council provides short courses in cookery for girls and long ones for boys. I must here point out that the whole of my pamphlet is directed to the question of wage-earning. Had I wished to complain of the general education of girls compared with boys, I should have had much more to say; but I confined myself to the question of earning a living. The elementary and even higher elementary school teaching in cooking is not a technical training for domestic service, any more than a boy's school arithmetic is a technical training for a chartered accountant. Indeed, such cooking is constantly criticised as being unsuited to the girl's probable surroundings at home, as it is held that these should indicate the lines on which teaching should proceed. As Mrs. Herbert Bennett says (*Englishwoman*, March, 1910): "The technical schools must by no means be confounded with the evening classes. The principle is entirely different. The evening classes only aspire to help the home-worker to make the most of things; the technical schools teach their pupils to *work for the trades. . . . The result is the wide and far-reaching difference between the amateur and the professional.*" (The italics are mine.) Now let me quote (as the *Englishwoman* does) from the *Illustrated London News*, to clinch my point:—"Here is the L.C.C., incited by the Universal Cookery and Food Association, proposing to establish for boys precisely what I have been begging for on behalf of girls this many a year—namely, a school of cookery in which this remunerative and important occupation shall be taught as work, thoroughly, and in its higher branches. It is true that there are many rate-aided cookery classes and schools for girls, but not one exists such as this now designed for boys alone—to give a thorough and lengthy course of instruction, and the necessary repeated practice. . . . Now, why is such a splendid opportunity to be offered to boys, who have a thousand other occupations open, and not to girls, who are traditionally entitled to domestic employment?"

Let us grant, by all means, that those girls who have some knowledge of cookery, even of a different class altogether, have a start in the race, as the boy who knows a little arithmetic has for an accountantship; the fact remains that the boys' course reaches a far more advanced and scientific level of teaching, equipping them for highly-paid posts. One can only echo in amazement—why?

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

British Crown Colonies and the White Slave Traffic.

To the Editor of "Common Cause."

MADAM,—The general consensus of opinion at home in favour of Mr. Lee's White Slave Traffic Bill contrasts strangely with the general policy pursued by some of the British Governments abroad. The British Crown Colonies, dependencies and protectorates form a network extending, *via* the Mediterranean, across Asia and around the globe in the very line of the world's traffic—white slave traffic included. It is within the power of the Governments of Crown Colonies to put a formidable barrier in the way of the passage round the earth of this human merchandise. In a report of the debate in the House of Commons on the second reading of the Bill, Mr. Handel Booth is reported to have said: "This international traffic in commercialised vice exists largely in novels and is a figment of the imagination." I do not know whether it exists largely in novels, but it has been my lot to make myself acquainted with the conditions existing in various parts of Asia, and I think it is true to say that the facts exceed in horror the ordinary man's power of imaginative writing. To deny the existence of the traffic is to dispute the incidence of the trade winds or the rise and fall of tides. Mr. Booth or any one else can be supplied with proofs both of the existence of the white slave traffic as an international fact, and also of the way in which the ports can be cleansed when the governing body is determined on the cleansing.

Here in Ceylon, Britain's largest and fairest Crown Colony and not the least prosperous, is a street full of women of Russian, German and French nationality, "permitted" by the Inspector-General of Police to carry on the trade of prostitution. These women do not come here by accident or of their own initiative. Most of them do not appear to know so much as the name of the next large port. They are brought here or sent hence to another place according to the demand and the goodwill of the local authority. They are so much merchandise. Some of the women here were formerly in Egypt, under French or other protection. When the British administration under the late Sir Eldon Gorst made a clearance, those women came east, and are now established as mistresses of houses of ill fame, under the British flag at Colombo. From this port the traffic passes on to Singapore, and thence to the Portuguese and French settlements in South China. Another line of this human traffic used to be five or six years ago from the United States to Manila and thence to Hongkong, Shanghai, Tientsin and Peking. The traffic manager of the Peking-Shanhaikwan Railway told me that between Tangku and Peking—that is to say, between the coast and the capital—special trains were sometimes ordered and paid for by the men who carried on this traffic. The men in question, usually Americans in name not by birth, were constantly to be seen, in the days of the Chinese monarchy, in reserved first-class carriages; no class of persons was more active. Five or six years ago the American traffic became so fully established that a large Stars and Stripes in front of a house in Shanghai or Tientsin was taken to denote that it was a house of ill fame. The expression "American house" meant the same thing, and to speak of an "American girl" was scarcely possible in a lady's presence. These things were in due course made known in America, and as there was, I believe, no American legal instrument similar to our "Orders in Council" by which to stop the abuse, Mr. Roosevelt, then President, sent out a special officer, Judge Wilfry, who "made law" to fit the occasion, and in a few months there was a complete clearance of the American flag from dishonour and a stoppage of the traffic as far as America was concerned.

After Judge Wilfry's visit to north China, the American traffic being stopped, the caterers drew recruits from another source, namely, Siberia. From Irkutsk and other centres, *via* Harbin, came young women of Russian and semi-Mongolian type, induced by promises of engagement as actresses or musical singers. No sooner had they passed Harbin and reached non-Russian territory than they were introduced to a life of shame. The Russian Consul at Tientsin in 1907 was murdered by one of the men engaged in this traffic, from whom he had taken a young girl. At the frontier station of Manchourie, on the Siberian border, I saw enacted a little scene which is being repeated in one form or another in many parts of the world. A fair-haired Russian peasant girl, aged about 14, jumped out of the train and ran crying along the platform. A soldier-policeman stopped and questioned her. She said a man was taking her away from her home, she did not know where to, and she was afraid. The girl was asked to point out the man, which she did. He was an unkempt Russian Jew, aged about 65, of the

class to be seen in the slums of Warsaw. He repudiated the idea that he was running away with the girl and said she was his daughter. This ludicrous statement he did not adhere to, but he hung back in the carriage, willing to let the girl go. She was taken away in someone's care, and the policeman dismissed the old man with a contemptuous kick. There the matter ended. While in Tientsin I became acquainted with several Russian Jews engaged in this trade and began to suspect that after all there was some ground for the periodical outburst of ferocity displayed by Russian mobs against the Jews. Further experience has shown me, however, that the Jews have no preponderance in the traffic, but men of all nationalities and races are concerned, while the Hebrew race is a terrible sufferer in the large number of Jewess victims.

In Ceylon, so well able is the Government to regulate the traffic to a nicety that English prostitutes are excluded, for the sake of British prestige, but Englishmen sit out publicly on the balconies of the "permitted" houses and the motor-cars of leading firms and offices are conspicuous in front of the doors. The profits of the houses are chiefly shared by Mahomedans (descendants of the Zanzibar slave-traders), Singhalese and Germans, and the principal sufferers are the native children of the island who are brought down to the coast from the villages at the age of 12 and 13 and thus early begin a short and cruel life of prostitution. This is done with the knowledge and consent of the Government of the Colony. Friendly representations on the matter have been made to the Governor and the head of the Police for several years past, but without avail. The Vigilance Committee of Colombo invited me here in May last, from Calcutta, and I have spent nearly all the intervening time in examining the state of things. I do not think the people of England will easily believe the state of affairs that exists to-day unadmitted and unashamed under British rule. I think I myself would not have believed it if I had not seen it. Along the China coast, in the Treaty ports and the British possessions, the British flag stands always foremost for purity and decent living—this in spite of such difficulties as that of contiguous foreign jurisdiction and extra-territorial limitations. In the Crown Colony of Ceylon no such difficulties exist. The law is simple and clear. Ordinance No. 5 of 1889 provides for the complete suppression of houses of prostitution, and makes their managers, assistants, tenants, leasees, occupiers and landlords each and all liable to fine and imprisonment. Ordinance No. 12 of 1907, passed in Sir Henry Blake's governorship, prohibits the entry into Ceylon of foreign prostitutes or of persons living on the prostitution of others, and provides for the removal from the island of such persons found there. No further legislation is required. There is no doubt about the power of the Colonial Government, but this Government simply declines to act. "We think it better not to enforce these ordinances," said the Acting Inspector-General of Police to me in answer to my questions. "Then you set up a law of your own above the ordinances?" I asked. "If you choose to put it so," he replied. "On whose authority?" I asked. "That of the Inspector-General," was the reply.

The present condition of things is that the white slave traffic in southern Asia is carried on chiefly under the British flag, and with the knowledge and co-operation of British administrations. The co-operation is of an active and practical kind. Illustrations can be given if required. The position taken up by the Government of Ceylon appears to be that regulation is better than suppression. The fact that the law says the opposite counts for nothing. I appeal to you, therefore, not only on behalf of the "white slave," but because of the terrible corruption of the native children and the degradation of the British name. The principle fact I wish to emphasise now is that the Government can quash the whole business in a week, but insists that it is better to maintain things as they are. I enquired a few weeks ago at one of the "permitted" houses of this sort how many men visited the house in a month. The manager of the house said he thought about 400. I have roughly verified the figure as not far wrong. The number of females in the house at the time was four—(since doubled)—aged about 12, 13, 14, and 22 respectively—all Singhalese girls. Taking the 400 visitors (some of them young Englishmen fresh from the colleges and schools at home)—and dividing them among the four miserable inmates, we arrive at some idea of the inhuman depths to which Government "regulation" leads. The heads of police say they are satisfied that "Ceylon compares favourably with other Crown Colonies." My own opinion is that Colombo is becoming one of the worst ports in Asia, and compares unfavourably with that once notorious sink of iniquity, Port Said, a place which has now, happily, under better administration, greatly improved.

Colombo, July 3rd, 1912.

JOHN COWEN.

Proposed Memorial to Sir Percy Bunting.

A committee has been formed to promote a memorial to the late Sir Percy Bunting. It is proposed that it should take the form of an organ for the new Kingsway Hall, the headquarters of the West London Mission. This would be particularly appropriate for Sir Percy took the strongest interest in the mission from its foundation to the day of his death; he was also devoted to music and no inconsiderable performer. It is believed he might have become an eminent composer had he given his whole life to a musical career. Readers of the COMMON CAUSE will always hold his name in grateful remembrance, for he was an earnest and faithful champion of Women's Suffrage and also of the equal moral standard for men and women. As Editor of The Contemporary Review he not only opened his pages to the advocates of our cause, but himself sought them out and stimulated them to write for him. This often needed both courage and the sacrifice of immediate popularity. These things are remembered by us now with gratitude, and I think that contributions to the memorial fund will probably be sent from many of our readers. £1,500 is needed for the purchase of the organ. Of this sum £750 has been promised by Sir Andrew Carnegie on condition that the other £750 is subscribed by September 20th. Contributions may be sent to Rev. J. Scott Lidgett, D.D., or to Mr. Henry Northcroft, Bunting Memorial Fund, 337-51, Birkbeck Chambers, Holborn, London, W.C. MILLCENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

The Conciliation Committee and the Home Rule Bill.

The Conciliation Committee has issued the following statement with regard to Mr. Snowden's amendment to the Home Rule Bill:—

This amendment, which follows Mr. Birrell's Irish Council Bill by including women who have a local government qualification among the electors to the Irish Parliament, originated with the Conciliation Committee, on whose behalf Mr. Snowden and Sir John Rolleston acted when they placed it on the Order Paper. No proposal to withdraw this amendment in any circumstances has been made either by Mr. Snowden or by the committee, nor was the committee guided by tactical considerations in adopting it. Suffragists cannot consent to the creation of a new Legislature without an effort to include women in the electorate. A number of Liberals are already pledged to support the amendment, which will also commend itself to many Unionists, whose objection to woman suffrage is based solely on a reluctance to trust women with a share in Imperial affairs. The committee have no reason to suppose that the Government will in this instance depart from its habitually neutral attitude towards suffragist proposals.

Notes taken from Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, 1830-1831,

On Parliamentary Reform and the French Revolution.

A correspondent sends us the following notes she has made from Blackwood's of the time of the great Reform Bill. It will be seen how Antis of the present day are repeating almost word for word what was said of the extension of the franchise to men: "The future historian, when he relates that a total alteration of the British Constitution was carried by a majority of 136 in the House of Commons, will ask what were the experienced grievances, the acknowledged faults, the irremediable defects, which called for so prodigious a change and justified the repeal of institutions which had withstood the shock of a thousand years? He will be told this Constitution was admitted, even by its adversaries, to be the most perfect form of government which ever appeared on earth . . . that it had been moulded by the hand of time, according to the successive wants of forgotten generations; that under its provisions the interests of all classes were adequately attended to, and to liberties of the people never so considerable as at the moment of its abrupt dissolution.

"There is in the outset a very great danger in the sudden extension of political power to so prodigious a class as this numerous body of householders. They are incapable of forming a rational opinion on public affairs, because their necessary labour precludes them from acquiring the requisite information; and while nature has been prodigal to all of passion, she has been sparing to most of reason. These dispositions being eternal and immutable, must be calculated upon as fixed principles in human affairs. Nature has given to all the passion for power; she has given to few the means of using it. She has given to all the power of reading, to few the power of thinking; to all leisure for the daily press, to few the means of reading works of superior utility.

"But is it not extraordinary that, in the present case, where so many weighty interests are involved, men can be persuaded to risk so much positive good for merely speculative advantages? History, equally with recent experience, demonstrates that large bodies, even of the most intelligent men, never look beyond present consequences; and it is not to be supposed the 710 householders will form an exception to the rule.

"It is painful to see how exactly, in all its stages, the progress of English Reform has been parallel to that of French anarchy. The disorders which disgrace England, say the Reformers, are not owing to reform, but to the factious opposition which it has experienced.

"Bristol, a city of first-rate commercial importance, has been the theatre of rapine, conflagration, and bloodshed—property to an incalculable amount has been destroyed. Upon whom are all these deplorable evils chargeable? Upon the Reformers, and the Reformers alone. We would be the last to insinuate that either the administration, or the leading reforming characters in the country, have had the remotest hand in exciting or abetting these excesses. The evil they have done was not in encouraging these excesses or conniving at them, but in promulgating principles and forcing on measures which necessarily led to them. The leading Reformers will say they do not approve of these things; that the

cause of Reform has nothing to fear but from the violence of its friends. This may all be perfectly true, but it does not in the least meet our argument.

"The magnitude of this evil will appear still more striking when the present tendency of our population is considered. From the return of the people in 1831, it appears that while the rural population has seldom considerably increased, the manufacturing towns have, in the last ten years, generally added 50, in some places even 100 per cent. to their numbers. It is this silent and unnoticed increase of the manufacturing freeholders which has been one among many of the causes which produced the present Reform tempest by gradually turning the scale of the country members and bringing at last almost the whole of that important body into the class of reformers. Two-thirds of the whole inhabitants of Great Britain are even now engaged in trade and manufactures, and, to all appearance, the number will soon be three-fourths. That the majority of this great body will always be democratical may safely be predicted from the experience of every age and country; and how its influence is to be withstood when its members are returned by the most inflammable and least opulent of its number, is a question which it is painful to contemplate.

"The fatal doctrine that the demands of the people cannot be resisted, is the most dangerous principle which can possibly be propagated, and though not intended with that view, is of itself amply sufficient to account for all the violence which has been perpetrated under the banners of Reform.

In Parliament.

BELFAST RIOTS.

A debate on the Belfast riots took place on July 31st, when Mr. Devlin read reports detailing the most revolting brutalities and quoted Mr. Bonar Law as having incited and condoned them. Mr. C. Craig said he "long ago foresaw that during the two years when Home Rule was before this House and was being discussed in the country [unfortunate incidents would be certain to arise," and he asked the House to remember the "insults and provocation that were given." Sir Edward Carson regretted that descriptions of the sufferings of children in the Castledawson riot had been treated in the House "with jeers and laughter." Mr. Ramsay Macdonald maintained that the disorders were engineered by Unionists and quoted Sir Edward Carson's remark to the Unionist women that he "intended over there to break every law that was possible." Mr. Bonar Law defended his Blenheim speech and said that if he had found any considerable number of his supporters disapproved what he said he would have resigned, but they did not. Mr. Asquith, in his reply asked Mr. Bonar Law how he proposed to apply his doctrine of forcible resistance to law if "in the whirligig of political fortunes he and his friends should become responsible for the Government of the country," to which Mr. Bonar Law replied that "we would in that case have gained power by clearly stating what our intentions were, which he has not done."

A QUESTION OF FINANCE.

On July 30th Mr. Pease, on the second reading of the Elementary School Teachers (Superannuation) Bill, explained that whereas the average pension received by the elementary teacher was at present £39 3s. 8d. for men and £29 9s. 2d. for women, and the maximum £68 10s. for men and £46 4s. for women; it was proposed to increase the Government grant by 10s. to 20s. yearly so that the maximum would ultimately be £92 6s. for men and £68 14s. for women. Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Charles Bathurst pleaded that the age of superannuation should be 60 and not 65, Mr. Bathurst quoting one teacher who said she had been a teacher for twenty-four years and dreaded having to go on for another thirteen years. Mr. Pease said in reply that it was a question of finance and that if they had a sufficient sum he would be willing to consider the proposal especially in the case of women of 65.

A POOR MOTHER.

On July 29th Mr. Wedgwood drew the attention of Mr. Burns to the case of attempted suicide of one Julia Neil who had been parted from her children in the workhouse. Mr. Burns pointed out that it was all in accordance with the regulations: the child had ringworm rather severely and the mother had to be separated from the child. When asked whether she was now allowed to have the child, Mr. Burns replied "No; I am sorry to say that this poor woman has had to be sent to Long Grove Asylum."

LIABILITIES OF THE EMPLOYER.

On July 30th, in reply to questions, Mr. Masterman made it clear that where the husband is the employer of a domestic servant the husband is liable for the legal penalties for not complying with the provisions of the Insurance Act, even if the wife usually acts as the husband's "agent."

BRUSSELS SUGAR CONVENTION.

On August 1st Mr. Buxton announced that the Government had decided to give notice before 1st September next of its withdrawal from the Brussels Sugar Convention, to which England will cease to be a party in September, 1913.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES. Non-Party. Non-Militant.

OBJECT: To obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. METHODS: (a) The promotion of the claim of women to the Parliamentary vote by united action in Parliament and by all constitutional methods of agitation in this country. (b) The organisation of Women's Suffrage Societies on a non-party basis.

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(Parliamentary).

Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

Offices: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

From Headquarters.

An effort is being made to develop the foreign press work, and to arrange for fuller interchange of news with the colonies and foreign countries. For this purpose numerous correspondents abroad, of either English or foreign nationality, are necessary. If members going abroad for the summer, or those having friends on the Continent would kindly bear this in mind and put us into touch with suitable correspondents, we should be very grateful. Communications on this subject should be addressed to Miss N. S. B. Atkinson, c/o Miss E. Leaf, at the National Union Offices. It is hoped to have some kind of complete organisation for foreign press work before the Budapest Congress in June next year.

The following new societies have been admitted to the Union:—

West Lancs., etc., Federation—Dolgelly, Eddisbury.

Scottish Federation—Kinross, Alva.

West Midlands Federation—Church Stretton.

By-Elections.

EAST CARMARTHENSHIRE.

Candidates: Rev. Towyn Jones (Liberal). Mr. Mervyn Peel (Conservative).

National Union Organiser: Miss Waring, Aclybryn, Crescent Road, Llandilo.

The constituency has been divided into five districts as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: District, Organisers in charge, Committee Rooms, etc. Rows include Llanelly, Ammanford, Llandilo (Furnished House), Llandovery, Golden Grove.

To some extent the East Carmarthenshire by-election still hangs fire. The Liberal candidate, the Rev. Towyn Jones, was chosen only on Saturday, and the Labour man will not be nominated till Thursday next. Meanwhile a truce exists between the Liberal and Conservative camps. It is to-day Bank Holiday, and a regatta at Burry Port is the centre of attraction. Five of our organisers are concentrating there in the hopes of a meeting, or series of meetings.

During the last week the weather has both damped and chilled us; but in spite of it our meetings have been good.

On Thursday four of us spoke at Ammanford to an audience of about 600 people, mostly men.

On Friday we opened a stall at Llandovery market, and a meeting was held after business was over. The same evening we had meetings at Llangadock and Felinfoel. At Llangadock, when we suggested closing the meeting at about 10 p.m., we were asked to go on, although the night was bitterly cold. On Saturday it rained cats and dogs, and I got on to a box at Llandovery to declare the meeting "off" to a small audience of children chiefly. However, I had only said a few words when grown-ups began to collect from the four corners of the little old town, and we decided to go on with our programme. In the middle of my speech the box tilted and upset me, but it is significant of the politeness of a Welsh audience that no one seemed even to smile.

We have divided the constituency into five parts for organising purposes.

Next week it is hoped that we may have stalls at Llanelly and Llandilo. Llanelly is one of the Carmarthen boroughs, and a separate constituency, but on market day people collect from distant parts outside the borough boundary. Organising in the North part of the constituency can hardly be continued any longer without motor cars. Will kind friends help us? This is the second time of asking.

Mr. Mervyn Peel, at his first meeting as Conservative candidate, spoke of farmers' wives as the better men of the two, and someone in the audience asked him, if that were so, whether he believed in women's suffrage. He answered that he did, and said that he had been paid a visit by suffragists. He was then asked if he had had any windows smashed, and he said that he would answer any sensible questions.

Our doings here seem to be watched with friendly interest. Miss Chambers has only to go to Llanelly to hear what all the rest of us are doing along the line.

One old lady the other day demanded a COMMON CAUSE in Welsh! May she have a paragraph?

The help we are getting locally is gratifying. Llanelly has

M. P. STANBURY (Chairman of Finance Committee).

mustered about 14 helpers, who will be of great use at the Burry Port and Ammanford committee rooms. Miss Minnie Davies, hon. secretary of the Lampeter Society, is working with us from Llandilo, and we hope soon to be able to call in other help already suggested by members of the Lampeter, Carmarthen and Newport Societies.

Miss Annie Harry, just from Newnham, is Miss Chambers' right hand at Llanelly.

So far, we have sold about 13½ doz. COMMON CAUSES. We are aiming at selling 50 doz. of this week's issue.

L. F. WARING.

SPEAKERS AND MOTOR CARS WANTED!

It is not certain yet whether polling will take place this month or be postponed till September, or how many candidates there will be in the field. Means of transit are the great difficulty. The Division is large, the population scattered, there is only one railway line, and trains are few and far between. It will be necessary to hold a number of meetings in outlying places, and there are no evening trains to convey speakers back to their headquarters. Motors or carriages are an absolute necessity, and the hiring of them is very costly. The loan of a motor would be the most valuable kind of help that could be given in this election. Speakers are also greatly in request, especially for village meetings. Helpers should write at once to Miss Waring at the address given above.

C. E. MARSHALL.

NORTH WEST MANCHESTER.

Candidates: { Sir John Randles (Conservative).
Mr. Gordon Hewart (Liberal).

National Union Committee Rooms: 15, St. Ann's Square, Manchester.
National Union Organiser: Miss D. Darlington.

The N.W. Manchester by-election is now in full swing. Both candidates are declared friends of some measure of Votes for Women. Sir John Randles when in Parliament was a member of the Committee of M.P.'s which promoted the Conciliation Bill. "I stand to that," Sir John informs the Manchester Society, "and on this question my action will be directed to secure the main lines of that Bill, and votes on other Bills will be in view of this attitude." In reply to the specific questions of the National Union Sir John gives no pledge to support any amendment to the Franchise Bill, but he states that he will do anything he can to promote the end sought by the Conciliation Bill, and that he will vote against the Government Bill, as it stands.

Mr. Gordon Hewart, on the other hand, definitely promises to vote for an amendment to the Franchise Bill on the lines of the Conciliation Bill with the addition of married women, or, failing the passing of that amendment, to vote for one on the lines of the Conciliation Bill. He mentioned his support of Women's Suffrage in his Election Address, but he will not pledge himself to vote against the Third Reading of the Franchise Bill should no Women's Suffrage amendment be carried, though he feels very strongly the injustice. "I do not think that any great measure virtually settling the question of the franchise for a generation ought to be passed which did not admit women to the franchise. But I must decline to pledge myself in advance in regard to the action which I may deem it right to take in the grave emergency contemplated by this question." Considering all the circumstances, the National Union is unable to give the support of its speakers and workers to either candidate for the North-West Division. It will therefore confine itself to propaganda among the electors. It is satisfactory to know that whatever be the result, the by-election cannot diminish the overwhelming majority which the Parliamentary representatives of Manchester and district gave last March to the Conciliation Bill.

One of the largest shops in St. Ann's Square has been taken, and splendid propaganda work is being done. Large crowds are attracted, not of merely curious people, but of people eager to hear and to learn. Since Monday about thirty meetings have been held in the open air and in the Committee Room. At the moment of writing a meeting of girls from the restaurants and shops in the neighbourhood is being held. Dinner hour meetings draw great audiences of business men. The members of the Society have banded themselves into a strong army of workers, and there is no lack of speakers or helpers. A great quantity of literature has been distributed and the COMMON CAUSE sells well. New members are being enrolled, and it is felt that the by-election will have served a good purpose in stimulating suffrage work in Manchester.

Typewriting and Shorthand.

(Miss Mildred Ransom.)

Educated Women trained as Private Secretaries.
Careful attention given to each pupil.

Second-hand Typewriters bought and sold.

Meetings reported; MSS accurately copied. First-class work.

195-197, EDGWARE ROAD, LONDON, W.
Telephone - - 6302 Paddington.



Please mention "The Common Cause" when answering Advertisements. It will help us.

A Splendid Profession for Women.

By ELIZABETH STEWART.

"Men must work, and women must weep," says the old song, but the reason assigned for this arbitrary division of effort is unconvincing.

For the weeping woman stands to-day at a discount. Our penniless heroine no longer dabs her eyes with a delicate morsel of cambric and lace—she looks stedfastly into the stern face of necessity, expresses herself not only willing to work, but, what is a great deal more to the point, *willing to learn to work*; and, given the opportunity, and the insight to recognise that opportunity, she succeeds to-day as she has never been able to succeed before in convincing the world that "when a woman *will*, she *will*."

"What to do with our daughters?" has long been a familiar question. Is it not time to change the query to, "What will our daughters do with themselves?"; for surely nothing worthy the name of work can be forced from unwilling hands, much less wrung from an unwilling brain.

The writer speaks, therefore, to the daughters—to those who have not yet chosen their work; to those also who, having had their work chosen for them, are finding in their daily tasks a species of penal servitude.

To the former I would say, "The world is certainly all before you, but the world is pretty full. Look well about you, and choose for your work-place a field where you will have room to sow and to reap." To the latter my word is more emphatic. "Discontent may be the seed of salvation. To 'be content with such things as you have,' is a command that can only be rightly read in the light of reason. Contentment is doubtless a grand virtue, but its grandeur depends on the quality of your possessions."

Remember that it is your duty to see to it that the things you have are the best you can get through the careful expenditure of your talents.

Get this BEST, and then be content.

There are false economists abroad who rail at our bitter bread, offer to glut us with the fat of the land—and thrust into our hands, at a given price, a stone. Bitter bread there is in plenty, and stones there are in almost equal abundance, gilded, sugar-coated stones, fair enough to the eye, but stones all the same. "Be famous," "Be rich," cry the tempters, and, judging by results, there are many thousands of discontented men and women ready, at all times, to snatch the false opportunity.

The writer does not invite you to be famous or to be rich; but she offers sweet bread for bitter, and suggests that you be reasonable.

The sweet bread takes the form of good, honest remunerative work, work which awaits you as soon as you are equipped for it, work for which the Practical Correspondence College, 84, Thanet House, Strand, is able and ready to equip you.

The work is Advertisement-Writing and Designing, and you would do well to give earnest attention to these four statements with regard to this new Profession for Women:—

- (1st) The field given over to this work is not crowded.
- (2nd) The supply of capable, thoroughly trained advertisement-writers does not meet the demand.
- (3rd) The profession is one in which a woman can earn exactly as much money as a man.
- (4th) You may enter this profession with absolute exemption from risk.

The work, too, is most particularly suited to women. *What, after all, is clever advertising-writing but skilled talking on paper?* And has not man, since the days of Job, twitted woman, often most unkindly, with her power of talking?

Learn now, to make *Capital of Infirmity*. Use your mother-tongue with that delightful anonymity which is one great charm of advertisement-writing, and be sure that man will read, mark, learn—and never dream that his instructor is a woman.

You can learn to write advertisements if you have a mind to. The writer is as sure of that as of the fact that the Practical Correspondence College can teach you. What is needed is that you have faith in yourself and in the Institution; that you put your heart into the work, giving up a portion of each day's spare time to the necessary study, and that you keep ever before you, as an end worth attaining, the eventual *getting the best money-value out of your brains*.

I am not theorising, but am giving readers of THE COMMON CAUSE the benefit of my own personal experience. I have been through the P.C.C. Course, and was fortunate enough to be awarded their first-class diploma. Within six months of

completing the course I was earning £250 a year as an advertisement-writer. I proved that the P.C.C. fulfils every claim it makes.

If, after you have enrolled as a student, the Directors should be forced to the conclusion that you would not make a successful advertisement-writer you may be quite sure that they will tell you so. And, in that event, they would return your fees, deducting only a strictly reasonable amount for such instruction as you had actually received. This is absolutely fair to you, and absolutely essential to the unsullied reputation of the College.

Is it not at any rate worth your while to write to the Secretary, Practical Correspondence College, 84, Thanet House, Strand, London, W.C., investigating these claims?

Inquire of the College, and about the College. The Directors have nothing at all to fear from your investigations; and I hope to gain you as a fellow-student in a field where I *know* the possibilities are many and great. [ADVT.]

Address Wanted.

The Editor will be much obliged if Miss ANNIE BEAL who wrote the article on "Municipal Work for Women," in our issue of July 25th, will communicate her address, as it has been lost and the Editor has a letter to be forwarded to Miss Beal.

Business and Frivolity.

"Business first and pleasure afterwards" has so often been impressed upon my mind that it is quite refreshing to set to work to bowl over the time-worn adage. In the matter of our forthcoming Bazaar, we mean to change it to "Business principally and pleasure all the time," and we will gladly adopt it in such an amended form as a motto which shall inspire the efforts of all members of the London Society till this event is an accomplished and successful fact. The Society's demonstrations have always been original and successful, thanks to the great exertions of those who organise them and the cheerful and clever co-operation of the local committees and the members of the Society, and this festival must top them all. Although the idea was, of course, greeted with a wail of dis-



Are YOU Sure You are not Paying TOO MUCH TAX TO JOHN BULL? We have recovered or saved Large Sums for Women Taxpayers. WHY NOT CONSULT US? IT WILL COST YOU NOTHING. Women Taxpayers' Agency (Mrs. E. Ayres Purdie), Hampden House, Kingsway, W.C. Tel. 6049 Central.

Suffrage Holiday Conference on Dartmoor.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN ON AUGUST 10TH AND BE CONTINUED UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER.

The Lecturers from the 10th to the 23rd of August will be:—

DR. GILBERT SLATER (Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford), on "Women and Local Government; and the REV. HATTIE BAKER, on "Henry Ibsen and his Views on the Women's Movement"; "Robert Browning: His Views Regarding Woman"; and "The Religious Aspect of Suffrage."

A Conference on the present position of the Suffrage will be opened by the Rev. Hattie Baker and Miss Alison Garland.

Other Lectures will be arranged later. ALISON GARLAND, Hon. Sec., Heather Tor, Dousland, Yelverton.

THE NATIONAL UNION

Is the great Non-Party, Non-Militant Women's Suffrage Society. If you approve of our methods and objects, please fill in the accompanying Form and send it to the Secretary.

I approve of the objects and methods of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and desire to be enrolled as a member of the affiliated Society in my district.

I herewith enclose cheque for £ s. d., the amount of my annual subscription.

Name _____ (Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other title.)

Address _____ (in full.)

To the Secretary _____ Society for Women's Suffrage

Or the Secretary National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Please mention "The Common Cause" when answering Advertisements. It will help us.

21 5/3

SPECTACLES & EYE-GLASSES

RIMLESS EYEGLASSES.

Rimless Glasses have quickly leapt into popularity because they are scarcely visible on the face, thus doing away with the old idea that the glasses were disfiguring. Rimless Glasses reveal the natural beauty of the eye, and give the wearer that pleasing alertness of expression, and absolutely eliminate that suggestive old appearance which is the impression given by the people wearing the old style.

We are the pioneers of this popular style of glasses. Rimless glasses are especially appreciated by doctors and scientific people who understand the value of a wide field of vision combined with lightness, which of course with the heavily rimmed glass is practically impossible. TRY a pair NOW; you will be more than delighted with the result.



10-ct. Gold-Filled Rimless Eyeglass, with best-quality spherical lenses, and your eyesight examined by a qualified Optician, and a guarantee for life, is what you get for 5/3. Oculists' and Hospital Prescriptions made up correctly for 3/6 extra. If you can't call to have your eyesight thoroughly tested, send for self-test chart.

BLOOM'S, Qualified Opticians,
53, BEDFORD ST. (Strand Corner),
LONDON, W.C.

AUTOMOBILES, TYRES, Etc.

MR. HENRY HILLCOAT will be pleased to advise, or personally attend to all enquiries for the purchase, sale, or hire of any MOTOR CAR, CYCLE, COMMERCIAL CAR, or ACCESSORY of any description.

BUY YOUR TYRES AND ACCESSORIES FROM HIM, MENTIONING THIS PAPER.
NEW AND SECOND-HAND CARS at MODERATE COST.
Telephone Gerrard 6929. C/o ARTHUR TURNER & Co., Ltd.,
Opposite Burlington Arcade. 173, Piccadilly, W.

CHURCH LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Monthly Paper (July) contains special articles by Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.—"THE VOTE BEYOND THE SEA." Monthly 1d.

Free grants made to districts in which it is hoped to organise new Branches.

11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

approval and despair, this was not unexpected. I never yet met the person who, when a bazaar was mentioned, did not at once exclaim "How awful! I hate bazaars." It is, of course, the obvious conventional attitude towards those orgies of sham shopkeeping when most of the rules of honest commerce seem by common consent allowed to sink into abeyance.

First of all, its setting is to be beautiful. This, I think, we can promise. The Artists' Suffrage League, under the guidance of Miss Lowndes, has always created effects at our demonstrations whose charm haunts our memories—and Miss Lowndes is on our Decorations Committee. This committee, following the spirited suggestion of Miss Emmeline Dean, the artist, intend to build up in the Empress Rooms miniature Oriental scenes as backgrounds to our saleswomen and visitors.

And now to business—quite interesting business. We have got to reconcile ourselves to the knowledge that we shall all have to spend money, and incidentally I may say that we shall be most grateful for guarantees in the form of cheques for preliminary expenses. We have all of us to expend time and money on our stalls and to persuade our friends to come to our sale and buy. If every member of the Society (and there are between 3,000 and 4,000) comes, and brings only one friend, our gate money would amount to a respectable sum.

The "White Elephant" stall to which Mrs. Brown sends something she particularly detests and which, strange to say, Mrs. Jones has always hankered after secretly is a specially useful institution. It gets the round peg into the round hole to everyone's relief and the enrichment of the Suffrage cause. Let us burrow into our dark store cupboards where we have hidden those despised objects, which are, nevertheless, "too good to give away."

Offers of flowers, greenery, etc., are asked for the flower stall. Also, anyone having large dealings with florists and seedsmen would do well,

West Midland Federation Summer School.

In spite of adverse weather the twenty ardent suffragists, who have assembled at Great Malvern, have managed to cover a large part of Worcestershire with visits and meetings, and have spent many profitable hours in exchanging ideas on organisation and kindred matters. The school was opened by Miss Royden on July 31st, who gave a most interesting address on "Women in Industry," pointing out that the woman worker is not the novel feature of society that many people think.

Owing to a tremendous rainstorm no visiting or speaking could be done that day. Since then we have had two lectures and a speakers' class every morning, and three meetings have been

held in different villages every night. A warm welcome has everywhere been extended to the suffragists, even in Hanley Castle, where the "Antis" held a meeting to which the school furnished a large contingent of hecklers. The audiences were very good, even though Miss Walford on one occasion was obliged to address a duck on the subject of the vote.

Next week Miss Helen Fraser will give a course of lectures, and we shall finish the week with a visit, at Earl Beauchamp's invitation, to the gardens at Madresfield.

The West Midland Federation desire to express their warmest thanks to the anonymous Reader of the COMMON CAUSE at Wadebridge, for her generous donation towards the funds of the School

Special Summer Number

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15th,

Next week we publish a Special Summer Number for sale on the seashore and in holiday resorts. It will contain :-

A POEM BY FLORA ANNIE STEEL,

which has a particular bearing on the need of enfranchising woman as the guardian of the race. This will be illustrated by a

COLOURED SUPPLEMENT,

from a

WATER-COLOUR SKETCH BY THE AUTHOR.

There will also be a Special Article on

THE GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL UNION,

by the Hon. Secretary, and simple propaganda articles, as well as others of general interest.

The number is designed to be of special interest to those who

Have not seen the Paper before,

and we hope that volunteers will make a special effort to buy large quantities, and organize sales and secure subscribers. There will be

AN ORDER FORM,

and people should be urged to fill it in.

while recalling past transactions, to suggest a timely gift. Now, too, is the moment to plant bulbs in pretty bowls and pots, in order to have them ready to flower in December. The flower stall will be a paradisaical Persian garden presided over by the usual peri.

And then the curiosity shop. This, too, must depend greatly on the generosity of friends. It is hard to part with treasures, but we hope for spoils in the autumn. Treasure seeking is good sport in the holidays. There is an excellent competition on foot, organised by the Hackney, Holborn, Islington, and St. Pancras Committees. Two prizes are offered for the two best articles made out of materials costing only one shilling. This must include cotton, buttons, etc. Such creations appeal to feminine ingenuity and economy.

Hampstead and Highgate, Kensington and Fulham, and South Paddington have organised entertainments, lectures etc., to raise money for their Bazaar funds. It is hoped that other local committees will follow their example. Finally, I should like to remind friends that the "English-woman" sale will take place at the Maddox Street Galleries early in November, and that beautiful things can be bought there and presented to our stalls.

B. NEWCOMBE.

and the interesting exhibit of sweated work sent to us per Miss Macmillan.

IRENE MEYER, E. J. D. MORRISON.

Contributions to the General Fund.

Table listing contributions to the General Fund, including names like Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Grey, Mrs. Hawker, etc., and amounts.

Federation Notes.

South Wales.

WORK IN THE IRONDDA VALLEY. Rhonda division, in which Miss Waring and I have been working, is a wide area. Our meetings were well attended, and the audiences seemed most anxious to hear the speeches. There was generally a marked difference in the attitude of the women after hearing the speeches, and we were told that they were beginning to discuss the question.

We had staunch supporters amongst the I.L.P. members, several expressed the desire that we should come back and form societies in the different towns.

We held meetings at Penre, Treherbert, Troerky, Pontypridd, Tonypanny, Penygraig and Clydach Vale. Mrs. Jameson-Williams and Mrs. E. T. Davies proved able local speakers, and most valuable helpers. Without them and other helpers we could never have done the good work we have done in the Valley.

Owing to Miss Waring's departure for Carmarthen, several meetings had to be cancelled, which caused disappointment; however, faces brightened upon our promise to come again soon.

One prominent man said it was a pity to leave unfinished the good work already done.

E. DAVIES.

West Midland.

The work of the Federation this month has been very varied. The Executive Committee met at Queen's College, Birmingham, on July 4th, to discuss the final Agenda of the Provincial Council, and was preceded by a meeting of Press secretaries. An appeal was sent to all the societies in the Federation to send helpers to Hanley, and some were able to go, though not as many as one could have wished owing to the suddenness of the call.

The Summer School at Malvern was duly opened on the 31st by Miss Maude Royden. A good start has been made with 21 students under the charge of Miss Morrison and Mrs. Meyer, and we anticipate a great success for the new venture.

A new Society has been formed in Church Stretton, where two excellent meetings took place on July 6th. The afternoon meeting was held at the Yeld, by kind permission of Mrs. Stevens, when Miss Matters and Mrs. Harley spoke, and Mrs. Wood Acton presided.

In the evening a large crowd gathered at the "Fountain," and were addressed by Miss Matters, who was so greatly appreciated that a vote of thanks was spontaneously proposed by a man in the audience.

BIRMINGHAM.

This Society has held three cottage meetings in pursuance of the "Friends of Women's Suffrage" Scheme, as well as various other meetings for propaganda work. Both personal and financial help was sent to Hanley by-election. Councillor Margaret Pugh gave a donation of £20, and Mrs. King rendered valuable service as speaker, while two other workers assisted in various ways.

On July 2nd a meeting was held, by the kind permission of Mrs. Bulmer, at Adam's Hill. The attendance was good in spite of wet weather, and Miss Matters gave a most interesting address, after which several of the audience promised to write letters to the M.P.'s of the county asking their support for the Women's Suffrage Amendments in the Reform Bill.

On July 5th a drawing-meeting was held at Sunnycroft, the Rev. Ingham Brooke presiding, and Lady Isabel Margesson and Miss Matters being the speakers. The same evening an

open-air meeting was held at Henley-in-Arden, at which Mr. Brooke and Miss Matters also spoke, and after which six men joined as "Friends of Women's Suffrage." After a strenuous effort, this Society has been able to raise sufficient funds to pay, jointly with Leamington, the salary of an organizing secretary, Miss Judith Sharpe, who took up her duties on the 15th, and was sent directly to Crewe to help at the By-election.

The "Friends of Women's Suffrage" Scheme has been taken up very warmly by the members, and canvassers are at work in different parts of Shropshire, after which the country districts will be worked. The Shropshire members of Parliament have been approached as to their attitude with regard to the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill, and have consented to receive deputations some time during the autumn.

On July 4th a meeting for school teachers was held at 34, Foregate Street, by kind permission of Mrs. Carleton Rea, Mrs. Moore Ede (president) took the chair, and Miss Muriel Matters gave the address.

A most enjoyable tennis tournament was kindly arranged by Miss Shepard, who also provided tea for the players and their friends. Favourable weather, added to the general success of the afternoon, which resulted in the sum of £22 being added to the funds of the Society.

WEST BROMWICH. On July 17th the local Committee gave a garden party at the residence of Mrs. Pearce, which proved a great success. Mr. Pearce, A.R.C.A., gave a short address dealing chiefly with the urgent need of women on juries when young girls are on trial for infanticide or other similar cases.

By kind invitation of Miss Banister and Miss Bennett, members of the Malvern Committee, a meeting was held at the "Westminster Arms" on July 4th. The Rev. F. Robson, vicar of the parish, presided, and proposed a resolution to enfranchise women on the ground that it would be for the good of the State.

On the 6th Mrs. Roll's spoons were sold by auction at Rothfield for tax-resistance. Several hundred people afterwards passed a resolution supporting that policy, with one dissentient. The local committee bought the spoons and returned them to Mrs. Roll the same evening.

On the 13th Dr. Margaret Todd had a garden meeting at Mark Cross, Miss Hannaden presiding. Miss Abadarn and Canon Todd, of Canterbury, spoke, and the Chairman mentioned that Dr. Sophia Jex-Blake, a constant supporter of women's education and political liberty lived at that house.

On the 25th Miss Pickworth and Mr. Ingham, of the I.L.P., presided at large outdoor meetings, addressed by Miss X. O'Sullivan, on Brighton front, on the I.L.P.'s pitch. Many questions were asked.

Camberley organised a deputation to their member on the Reform Bill Amendments. On the 25th Mrs. Brook Chambers had an American tea and sale, with a silhouette artist, and music and a duologue contributed by ladies.

A splendid meeting was also held at the Town Hall, Bishop Auckland, under the auspices of the Trades' and Labour Council. Dr. Ethel Williams presided in a packed hall, and an excellent speech was made by Mr. Philip Snowden.

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opportunity of putting up a candidate for the diet. Now, at last, they have actually carried an election. At the second by-election held in Mlada Boleslav and Nymburk in June, Madame Vikova-Kuneteicha, a writer, was elected almost unanimously.

At the first ballot the Social Democrats had also put up a woman candidate, who polled 415 votes. At the second ballot these were all given to the other woman candidate, thus giving her a majority over the Mayor of Boleslav, who had received only 769 votes at the first ballot, as against the 1,265 cast for the two women, retired before the final ballot.

In other parts of Bohemia women, of course, still have a vote, and lest the attempt to "reform it away" should succeed here, as it has done in other parts of the Austrian Empire, the suffragists of Bohemia have, or late years, taken every

President of the Trades' and Labour Council, seconded by Alderman House, prospective Labour candidate, and carried with one dissentient.

Surrey, Sussex and Hants.

CENTRAL SUSSEX. This Society is having a Home Science Tent on Lindfield Common during Lindfield Fair on Thursday, August 8th, when there will be addresses on Home Management and all sorts of competitions for cakes, dinners, etc., as well as a baby show.

Mr. Douglas Hall said he was inclined to vote for such amendments as would secure free discussion in the House of the principles and the views put forward by the deputation. He could not, however promise at this stage to act upon all the suggestions put forward. What they had said should receive his consideration, but he felt the cause had received a check from recent circumstances within the memory of them all.

Mr. John Marsh thanked Mr. Hall for his reception of the deputation, and pointed out how the trend of modern legislation was to interfere with women, and to instancing the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Old Age Pensions, the Payment of Members, the Insurance Act and the Welsh Church Bill.

Guildford has held meetings with tea at Shalford, Normandy, Ripley, Clandon, West Horsley, Ewhurst and Cranleigh, and outdoor ones at Cranleigh and Ripley, besides one at Ash on July 1st in conjunction with Farnham, when Miss Corbett addressed three or four hundred. Numerous friends and thirty-three new members resulted.

Mrs. Morris held a drawing-room meeting at Horley on July 2nd; Miss Busden presided, and Miss Norah O'Shea proposed a resolution appealing for their M.P.'s support. This was seconded by the Rev. H. R. Cripps, and carried unanimously, and many members joined. The M.P. will receive a deputation on October.

On the 5th Woking initiated the Friends of Women Suffrage Scheme at a members' meeting, and literature was sold. On the 20th and 27th large, attentive outdoor meetings took place there, the speakers being Messrs. Gugenheim and Kennedy, of the Men's League. The Federation Secretary presided the second time. Much literature was distributed, and thirty-five copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold.

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On the 26th Miss Rance had a garden meeting at St. Leonard's, Mrs. Timpany speaking. The same day Mrs. Dixon's meeting for working women at Witley on Women's Suffrage and the White Slave Traffic. Tea followed, and eleven members joined and nineteen friends.

Lady Chance read a similar paper at Mrs. Overton's at Godalming on June 7th. Captain Carey presided, and Mrs. Dempster spoke at Mrs. Bamforth's, Bishop's Waltham. Mr. Hogg, of the Men's League, addressed an out-door meeting at Godstone on the 29th, where Mrs. Dempster has been organising.

Kentish. Correction.—The hostesses for the last "At Home" of the Tunbridge Wells Society were Madame Sarah Grand and Miss Tindall (not Tillard as printed).

among the supporters of women, who are willing to put their cause above party.

United States. The effect of the women's vote at the Presidential election is being eagerly watched, for this is the first occasion when any large number of women have had this right.

At the first presidential conventions there have, for the first time, been women delegates: at the Republican two from California, both strong for Roosevelt, as were most of the men from that State.

At the Democratic convention one woman was from Washington and one from Colorado. We learn from Jus Suffragii that they were received with all possible courtesy, were cheered every time they entered the hall or rose to vote and were interviewed and photographed by all the papers.

How great was the interest in the election shown by the women, may be gathered from the fact that a great many cut short a holiday in Italy in order to return in time for the election.

Bolton Trades' Council and Suffrage.

The Bolton and District United Trades' Council last week passed a resolution in favour of an amendment to the Electoral Reform Bill giving women the vote on the same register as that of local government electors.

Foreign News.

Bohemia.

The most startling news comes from Bohemia, where owing to the anomalous election laws women can be elected to the Diet, though, in the chief city, Prague, they may not vote for it. In other parts of Bohemia women, of course, still have a vote, and lest the attempt to "reform it away" should succeed here, as it has done in other parts of the Austrian Empire, the suffragists of Bohemia have, or late years, taken every

Reviews.

THE ENGLISHWOMAN.

The August number contains an article on "Suffrage Prospects," by Lady Selborne, which should be pondered by politicians. It is delightful to read anything by one so independent-minded and vital as Lady Selborne. No shibboleths cramp her; she speaks the truth as she sees it, even though it be unpalatable to some of her own party. Having alluded to the calculations and estimates of the two great parties in the State with regard to the women's vote, she concludes with these noble words:—"The spectacle of the two parties calculating what arrangement of the women's vote will most benefit their own group is not an edifying one. They have left what the French call the "beau rôle" to the Labour Party, which has announced its intention of voting for every amendment that will confer the Parliamentary franchise on women, whether many or few. To working women it will seem that these are their real friends: people who are anxious to do them justice, without counting up the exact electoral profit they may hope to make out of them. To working women it will seem that Tory gentlemen make fine speeches and profess great admiration for the virtues of the fair sex, but that no compliment is so real as the Labour member's confidence in the good sense of his women folk. To them it will seem strange that Liberal suffragists are so much more anxious that the measure of enfranchisement for women should be democratic than the men drawn from the people themselves. If the members of the two older parties desired to enlist the sympathies of women for the Labour Party, they would act in no other other fashion.

"Women have not yet got the vote, but they have already a real influence on elections. The candidate who wins their good opinion has a considerable asset in his favour. They are slow to move, but once they have formed an opinion they are obstinate in holding it. The probability is that in the future the Labour Party will eat up the Liberal Party, and Labour will certainly gain an advantage over Liberalism if it can convince the women of the people that it is their disinterested friend, while Liberalism merely helps them for what it can get out of them.

An article by Mr. Coote on the "Criminal Law Amendment Bill" declares emphatically that the alteration in committee of Clause I. makes it of none effect, and eloquently gives the re-statement of the original clause. Mr. James Haslam draws attention to the profoundly social nature of the work of women factory inspectors (one cannot help thinking that the pioneer work of Miss Anderson would have entitled a man to all sorts of public honours). Mrs. Re-Bartlett tests the work of Brieux by a spiritual standard, showing some of his omissions. There is an amusing article called "The real peril" which shows an anti-suffragist coming to the same conclusion as the General in "Press cuttings"—that women must be given the vote in order to destroy their influence. A large number of articles of general interest go to make up a number of the high quality we have learnt to expect.

Letters to the Editor.

Correspondents are requested to send their names and addresses, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. The Editor is not responsible for any statement made in the correspondence column.

Correspondents are requested to write on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

MR. DICKINSON, M.P., ON THE WOMEN'S DEMAND.

A reference in a recent speech by Mr W. H. Dickinson (M.P. for North St. Pancras) to Suffragists who only wished votes for a few privileged women has caused us a good deal of heart-burning. I am glad to be able to state that last week Mr. Dickinson assured Mrs. Garnett (Chairman of the Highgate Branch), and myself, that he did not intend his words to apply to the National Union. He is quite clear that we desire the Suffrage on the same terms as men, and says he had the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association in mind, and considered it most necessary that they should be urged to take a broader point of view.

AUGUSTA E. HARRINGTON.

3, Holly Terrace, Highgate, N.

VICTIMS OF THE STRIKE.

There must be many who, while sympathising with the terrible distress caused by the Dock Strike, have hitherto refrained from helping from a sincere belief that such help would merely prolong the struggle. Now that the strike

Please mention "The Common Cause" when answering Advertisements. It will help us.

is broken, we venture to appeal specially to these to come forward and do what they can to repair the damage to the physique of the children.

Besides the collection of money for distribution of food, our League has succeeded in placing temporarily some eighty children with foster parents in the country villages round London, and we now propose to make a further appeal to the generous public to enable us to send as many children as possible from the slums of Dockland into the country for a spell of fresh air and fresh food.

Five shillings will keep a child for one week, and the sight of our lucky youngsters will not be easily forgotten by those who have helped to place them in their happy temporary homes.

We appeal to all who are resting by sea and mountain to maintain the wonderful wave of sympathy that has spread throughout all classes of society and to spare many a shilling for the children.

JANE GORDON URWIN (Hon. Treasurer Children's White Cross League), BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY (Hon. Sec. White Cross League), 15, Adam Street, Strand. 2nd August 1912.

How to Reduce Your Boot Bills.

In calling the kind attention of the readers of COMMON CAUSE to the advertisement of "Semely," appearing on the back page of this issue, I beg to add a few facts and figures to a previous article on this subject setting forth what Semely is, does, and results to be expected from its use. In giving figures I dispel all doubt, and my statements become dead matter of fact. Not being a man of means I have every reason for studying the utmost economy, and as my calling necessitates me to traverse daily from 10 to 15 miles of the streets of London in all weathers I regard boots as part of my tools or stock in trade, and as such used to allow myself two pairs of new boots per annum for daily or walking wear, and one pair of lighter boots for Sunday wear. I now give the copy of my expenditure in this respect for the year before I started to use Semely, and my expenses since

WEST END DRESS AGENCY. SMART SEASON'S MODELS IN EVENING AND DAY GOWNS BY VERY BEST MAKERS in perfect condition. ONE FOURTH ORIGINAL PRICES. Inspection invited. 24, MARGARET STREET, OXFORD CIRCUS. Two doors from Great Portland Street. Telephone No. 6788 City.

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Under the Personal Supervision of the Proprietorship.

The New Electro-Therapeutic Institute.

PINE ANTURIC AND SEA BATHS, MASSAGE, VIBRATORY TREATMENT, MANICURE, &c.

NOTE ADDRESS—

53, SOUTH MOLTON STREET, W.

Hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

LITERARY.

Criticism, revision, etc. Cambridge graduate author, with considerable experience as literary agent, will criticise literary work and advise as to best direction for placing. Fees:—Novels, about one guinea; short stories, articles, etc., at rate of 1/- per thousand words. A list of most likely publishers or periodicals sent with each criticism. Address:—"ADVICE," Tan-y-seulan, Llanfairfechan, N. Wales.

Clear your Complexion

PURIFYING YOUR BLOOD. PURIFY YOUR BLOOD BY TAKING BRAGG'S CHARCOAL. It eradicates all impurities by absorption, thus removing the CAUSE of Eczema, Blisters, Pimples, Spots, and the like. Highly recommended by Doctors. Sold by Chemists and Stores. Biscuits, 1/-, 2/-, and 4/- per tin; Powder, 2/- and 4/- per bottle; Lozenges, 1/3 per tin. CAPSULES, 2/- per box. Free Samples sent on receipt of this advert. and 3d. for postage in the U.K. J. L. BRAGG, Ltd., 14, Wigmore St., London, W.



Soap in Flakes THE PUREST FORM OF SOAP PRODUCED.

For use with all fine fabrics such as Laces, Blouses, Silks, etc., or with Flannels and Woollens usually liable to shrinkage.

To be obtained in 1d. and 3d. Packets from all Stores, Grocers or Oilmen, or send 1d. stamp to Dept. C.C., for Free Sample.

JOHN KNIGHT LTD.,

Soapmakers by Appointment to H.M. King George V. The Royal Primrose Soap Works, London, E.

Buy the Royal Primrose Soap from the Suffrage Shop, 54, Long Row, Nottingham. Send for Price List and Samples. All profits to the cause.

Forthcoming Meetings.

ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION

(The meetings are given only a fortnight in advance.)

- AUGUST 8. Lindfield Common—Home Science Tent at Lindfield Fair. 8.0
AUGUST 9. Jedburgh—Mission Hall Friars' Chair, Treasurer Jack, Speakers Mrs. Hope, Miss Emily Foggo. 8.0
AUGUST 9. Brasted—garden meeting—hostess, Mrs. Hyland; speaker, Miss L. M. Portlock. 8.0
AUGUST 9. Cambridge—Open-air meeting, Swavesey—speakers, Mrs. Rackham and Mrs. Bowes. 7.15
AUGUST 10. Woking—in front of Council Offices—open-air meeting—chairmen, Prof. Vovick and Dr. C. V. Drysdale. 7.30
AUGUST 12. Cambridge—"At Home" Downing Street Assembly Room—Chair, Miss Montgomery, Speaker, Rev. C. F. Andrews. 3.30
AUGUST 12. Woodside Village—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 3.0
AUGUST 12. Pennington Common—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 7.30
AUGUST 12. Cambridge—open-air meeting, Stretham—speakers, Mrs. Rackham and Mrs. Stevenson. 7.0
AUGUST 13. St. Andrews Annual Fair—Suffrage Demonstration. Milford Green—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 7.30
AUGUST 14. York—Garden meeting—Mrs. Theodore Rowntree—"Friends of Women's Suffrage". 3.0
AUGUST 14. St. Andrews—Annual Fair—Suffrage Demonstration. Huddersfield—Honey House—annual meeting; hostess, Miss Siddon; speaker, Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. 3.30
AUGUST 14. Brookhurst—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 7.30
AUGUST 15. Lynton—High Street—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 8.0
AUGUST 16. Pilly Green—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 7.30
AUGUST 17. Sway—open-air meeting—Miss Sylvia Clark. 7.30
AUGUST 19. West Southwark—Bath Street Mission, London Road—speaker, Miss A. Coles. 3.0
AUGUST 19. Cambridge—"At Home"—Downing Street Assembly Rooms—Chair, the Master of Selwyn; Speaker, Mrs. Heitland. 3.30

Before using Semely. October, 1910, to November, 1911.

Table with 2 columns: Item, £ s. d. Four items of soling and healing at 3s. 6d. ... 14 0. Two pair of working boots at 12s. 6d. 1 5 0. One pair of light boots at 10s. 6d. 10 6.

To complete this year's account to October 12th, 1912. I must add a further 3s. 6d., allowing part of a pair of working boots and a tube of Semely. Thus bringing the total amount to 10s. 5d.

Saving by using Semely ... 1 19 3 or my boot bill for the year brought down to one-fifth. Quod erat demonstrandum! Try it for yourself, dear reader you will regret it!

C. C. DE WATERFORD.

Items of Interests.

We would especially like our readers to note that Madame Charlton, at her lingerie showrooms, 1, Lower Seymour Street (corner of Duke Street) is making very exceptional reductions on her remaining "sale stock" during the present and next week. Perhaps the most remarkable reductions are in the direction of smart cotton and other washing frocks, which are marked down to merely nominal prices, and are, moreover, of the latest models. Madame Charlton makes a special feature of trousseaux, and we saw some attractive items much reduced, notably some exquisite nightdresses of finest quality at 10s. 6d.; also charming muslin blouses are to be found at 8s. 6d., and many other fascinating bargains.

To those of our readers who have to study economy in dress, the West End Dress Agency, of 24, Margaret Street, W. (near Oxford Circus), should prove an enormous boon. It is true that at many places one can get dress at more or less inexpensive prices according to value; but at the West End Agency you find gowns and other articles of wear, of real value, that are in perfect condition, at merely nominal prices. I saw a range of beautiful evening gowns from 25s. to 2 guineas and some at less even than the first price named. Readers who, for professional or social reasons, have to be well dressed and yet study the utmost economy should lose no time in paying a visit to the West End Dress Agency and see how easily their wants can be supplied to perfection. Telephone 6788 City for particulars.

We would like to draw our readers' attention to a very unique "sale" of millinery, which is taking place at Miss E. M. Fritch's smart little establishment at 20, Brook Street, Bond Street, W., on Monday and Tuesday only, August 13th and 14th. This is a very special opportunity of securing absolutely first-class hats at really nominal prices. Dare we say that there are some charming hats marked as low as 5s. to 7s. 6d.? Miss Fritch's telephone number is 4493 Gerrard.

Other Societies.

FREE CHURCH LEAGUE.

Secretaries—Rev. and Mrs. C. Fleming Williams, 2, Holmby View, Clapton, N.E.

In order to raise money for more extended organisation, a Fair and Fete will be held in the early part of next year. Helpers should apply to Mrs. E. D. Williams, 218, Evering Road, Stoke Newington, N.E.

A branch of the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage has been started in Oxford.

Two inaugural meetings were held on Tuesday, June 26th, at Manchester College, by kind permission of Dr. Estlin Carpenter. At the afternoon meeting Mrs. Hughes took the chair, and Rev. C. Fleming Williams spoke. In the evening Mr. A. Gillett took the chair, and the speakers were Rev. C. Fleming Williams and Mrs. Lindsay.

The number of members reached 22 that evening. The President is the Rev. J. Estlin Carpenter, M.A., D.Litt. D.D., and a strong committee was formed.

PREPAID ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not exceeding 10 words: 1 insertion, 9d. 2 insertions 1s. 3d. 3 insertions, 1s. 6d. 6 insertions, 2s. 9d. 13 insertions, 5s. 6d. Every additional ten words, 6d. extra per insertion. All payments for Advertisements should be made to The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

SUFFRAGE NOTICES.

MRS. MERIVALE MAYER at liberty. Address, care of 168, Belsize Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.

MISS MURIEL MATTERS will be in Wales (August), Lake District (September), and has free dates. Address, Poste Restante, Towyn, Merioneth.

TWO SUFFRAGE DIALOGUES, 3d. each. Comedy, 6d.—"S," Fordel, Glenfarg.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

DAINTILY Furnished Sea-side Cottage, 2-3 bedrooms, bath, piano, gas-cooker. Beautiful neighbourhood. Month, 8-10 guineas. Kelmscott, Colwyn, N. Wales.

LAKE DISTRICT. Two Paying Guests received in private house. Good position, view, touring centre. Y.Z., Box 1301 "Common Cause" Office.

PROFITABLE HOLIDAY.—Learn possibilities in Poultry-keeping by attending five weeks' course—Lovegroves' Poultry Farm, Woodcote, Reading. Prospectus.

WELFORD—Combe Down, 500 feet above Bath. Visitors in pension.

WEST KIRBY.—Comfortable, clean apartments near promenade and stati n. Terms moderate. Mrs. Edmunds, 17, Grove Road.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL.

COUNTRY REST-CURE HOME. Rest in bed. Massage. Generous diet. Healthy, bracing influence. No mental cases. Miss Driver, Cranleigh, Surrey.

COUNTRY NURSING AND CONVALESCENT HOME. Penn's Lane, Erdington, near Birmingham. For Paying Patients. (Under the distinguished patronage of the Countess of Bradford.) Medical, Surgical, Massage. Permanent Patients received in Homes. (Care of one delicate child.) Fully certificated. Hospital-trained Nurses sent out on application.—Miss O. Fallows, Matron. Telephone: 117 Erdington. Telegrams: "Nursing, Erdington."

DISPENSING. The best profession for women. Salaries up to £130; short training; post after qualification. "The Westminster Classes", Mr. Carson's, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

LOVEGROVES' Dairy and Poultry Farms, Chiltern Hills 100 acres; pupils received for dairy, poultry and general farming. Prospectus on application.—E. Kale le Lacheur, Checkendon, Reading.

MARY McLAOHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk, Manchester.

OPEN-AIR TREATMENT on the Surrey Hills. The Children's Home, Tatsfield, Principals, Miss Mitcheson and Miss Bourdon. Medical, Surgical or Convalescent cases from 3 to 12 years of age. Fees, from 10s. 6d. weekly. A few adults also received from £1. weekly. Nearest stations, Westerham (S.E. & O.R. and Oxted (L.B. & S.C.R.)).

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

BONELESS CORSETS. Unbreakable. Illustrated List Free.—Knit-d Corset Company, Nottingham

CAN'T AFFORD BIG ADVLS. "Common Cause" Cigarettes, 50 Virginia, 2s. 6d.; 50 Turkish, 3s.; lovely. Write Berlyn, King Street, 34, Manchester.

FREE!—Over 200 patterns of charming Irish linen Summer Costume Fabric, "Flaxzella"; light, cool, washable; wears for years. Scores of beautiful designs, fascinating shades. Write to-day.—Hutton's 159, Larne, Ireland

GLOVES cleaned, 3jd. long, 2d. short.—"Isabel," Inglesant, St. George's Road, Aldershot.

MISS ELLIN CARTER invites inspection of her Artistic Leather Work. On view Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. No obligation to purchase.—Address, No. 3, Studio, Stratford Court, Gess Court, Oxford Street, W.

OLD FALSE TEETH.—We give highest possible prices for above. Offers made; if unacceptable, teeth returned. Dealers in old Gold and Silver in any form. Bankers' references. Straightforward dealing.—Woolfall and Company, Southport.

PERSHORE Plums, splendid Jam-making and Bottling; direct from grower; 12 lbs. 3s. 9d., 24 lbs. 6s. 6d., CARRIAGE PAID; ask for my price list and cookery recipes.—D. Tower, Fruit grower, Pershore.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash. Costumes, skirts, boots, underclothing, curtains, gents' suits, trousers and children's clothing of every description. Parcels sent, will be valued and value sent by return. Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby St. Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

HOUSES, FLATS, ROOMS, etc., TO LET AND WANTED,

FURNISHED FLAT TO LET until October. West End. Accommodation for two; moderate.—Box 1293, COMMON CAUSE.

ONE OR TWO UNFURNISHED ROOMS, use Bath; top floor; very pleasant outlook over Polo Grounds; quiet house; suit business lady; moderate rent.—L., 35, Napier Avenue, S.W., 2 minutes from Putney Bridge Station (District Railway).

WHERE TO LIVE.

APARTMENTS.—Miss Edwards, Whitethorn Villa, Pilmer Road, Crowborough, Sussex.

CHANGE-OVER-SANDS, LANCS.—Miss Alice E. Passavant receives Paying Guests at 2, Newlands. Terms on application.

HOSTEL FOR STUDENTS, Professional Women and other Ladies. Near British Museum, University College and Women's School of Medicine. Central, quiet. 9, Burton Street, Tavistock Square W.C.

HOSTEL FOR LADIES.—Central. Highly recommended. Miss Sullivan, 50, Osnaburgh Street, Portland Road Station, W. Terms moderate

PAYING GUESTS RECEIVED in country cottage, Miss Smith, Low Green House, Thoraby Aysgarth, S. O. Yorks.

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WOMEN OF ENGLAND!

NOW IS THE ACCEPTED MOMENT

to prove your innate common sense, your sense of economy, and your progressive spirit. We ask you to vote for us. We offer you an entirely new article, something that supplies a long-felt want, and the price of which is RIGHT. "Semely" will treble the wear of every boot in your house, it will render them all waterproof and heat-proof, and it will give you a sense of foot comfort such as you have never before experienced. The coupon in the corner explains itself.

Read what a correspondent of the "Common Cause" writes on page 314. See article "How to Reduce Boot Bill."



V
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On receipt of this coupon and 1/6 to cover postage and packing we will send two Tubes of "SEMELY" such as we sell for 1/- each.

ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURE FREE.

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Cut down your Bills, increase your Comfort.