

THE VOTE

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

VOL. IV. No. 92.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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

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

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EDITORIAL.

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

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Change in By-Election Policy.

The Women's Freedom League has unflinchingly pursued its anti-Government policy at by-elections, and considers that events have amply justified its wisdom. A change, however, in the attitude of the Government necessitated a reconsideration of our position, and by a huge majority the members of the League have shown that they accept Mr. Asquith's statement as a pledge that full facilities will be granted next Session. The League will not support any candidate, and will oppose unsatisfactory candidates of any party.

Another Daisy Lord Case.

Particulars of a very sad case which is a disgrace to the community will be found on page 171. The N.E.C. has decided to take part in the agitation on behalf of the poor girl and to endeavour to bring home to the general public the cruel injustice suffered by many ignorant young girls and the particularly harsh treatment meted out to the unmarried mother by law and public opinion. Mrs. Nevinson, writing to the Press, to give her experience on a committee of aid, says that out of 110 such cases only four obtained help from the fathers of their children.

The Outlook.

The Parliamentary crisis has reached the acute stage, and it is impossible to foretell the final result. The focus-point of interest for Suffragists is the attitude of Members of Parliament towards the Conciliation Bill. During the past week both Unionist and Liberal Members have met to consider the question of woman suffrage. There was no dubiety about the Unionist attitude. Lord Selborne presided at the meeting, and the resolution passed was in the following definite and satisfactory terms:—"That this meeting supports the Conciliation Bill as the most practicable method of giving the suffrage to

women, and will resist any amendment which, under pretence of extending its provisions, will, in fact, prejudice its chances of becoming law." There was more diversity of opinion at the meeting of Liberal Members in favour of woman suffrage. Mr. W. H. Dickinson presided. The great danger which we have to face manifested itself—namely, "broadening amendments." It is a case of "Save me from my friends." Those who would give so much more than we ask are as dangerous as our declared opponents. Mr. Lloyd George addressed the meeting, and said he was in favour of a more democratic measure. He advised that if the first place were secured for the Conciliation Bill next Session, Liberals should adopt it and widen its scope. We learn with relief that the meeting broke up without arriving at any decision on the resolution in favour of introducing a democratic measure of women's suffrage next Session.

The Democratic Character of the Conciliation Bill.

The attitude of Mr. Masterman may be taken as typical of a certain section, and it is quite possible that others besides the Liberal candidate for Bethnal Green will refuse to pledge support to the Conciliation Bill beyond the Second Reading. These are the gentlemen who must be dealt with as Mr. Brailsford deals with Mr. Masterman. In a letter to *The Daily News* he protests against the description of the Bill as one which favours propertied women at the expense of the wives and mothers of the working people. He has no difficulty in showing by evidence gathered at Dundee, Bangor, and Carnarvon, and by house-to-house canvass elsewhere, and vouched for by independent authorities, that 82 to 91 per cent. of the women householders who would be enfranchised under the Conciliation Bill belong to the working classes. "A woman," he writes, "may acquire a household qualification by inhabiting any house or part of a house, however small and however low its rental." This is the vital point on which we must insist and spare no effort to bring home its force to those who desire "a more democratic measure," as well as to those who oppose the Conciliation Bill.

The Crying Need.

Every day proves the need of the enfranchisement of women; it is a commonplace, but true, and must be insisted upon even to the point of wearisome iteration, that the National Insurance Bill is a practical demonstration of the fact that women will never get just consideration until they get the vote. The restlessness in the Labour world, strikes and disturbances of all kinds, can only be regarded as evidence of the failure of legislation in which men alone have had a voice. Woman must enter into her citizenship, and the line of action at the present time is to make untiring effort to secure support in Parliament for the Conciliation Bill—the open door to our citizenship.

Scene in the House of Commons.

As we go to press we read of the disgraceful scenes enacted in the House of Commons, last Monday's debate being rendered impossible. It is so often flung at women that their emotional characteristics unfit them for public life. What shall we say of the hysteria which dominated the House of Commons on that memorable occasion?

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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W.F.L. BY-ELECTION POLICY.

The results of the voting in the Branches were reported to the N.E.C. on Saturday. By an overwhelming majority the members decided that the anti-Government policy should be suspended. This important step should show the public very clearly how anxious we are to do everything in our power to clear the way for an early fulfilment of Mr. Asquith's pledge. The anti-Government policy has been an important weapon in the fight which has succeeded in wresting from the Government the next best thing to a Government Bill—a pledge that full facilities will be granted next Session. Our chief work now lies with the general body of Members of the House, and we have to consider what policy will be most likely to secure the largest number of effective supporters for our Bill next Session. Some will say at once, Support those Members who support the Conciliation Bill and who are prepared to follow the lead of the Conciliation Committee with regard to widening amendments. If the Bill were actually before the House such would be the best and wisest course, but we have to remember that nearly a year will elapse before that condition arises, and meanwhile the House is attempting to pass the National Insurance Bill, which is so abominably unfair to women and which most certainly ought to be withdrawn and redrafted when women are represented. It also proposes to spend money partially contributed by women to pay the salaries of Members who will not represent them. In fact, legislation for women without their consent is to go on.

The committee, therefore, decided that in no circumstances could the W.F.L. support any candidate. With this decision we feel that our members will be in full agreement. Further, we decided to oppose all unsatisfactory candidates.

Each by-election will be considered separately by the committee, and a course taken which will best ensure the object we have in view—viz., a compact and solid majority to carry the Bill through all its stages next session. Remembering, too, that the Bill has to be thoroughly understood by everyone before next year, the unique opportunity for explaining it which a by-election affords must be used to its full advantage.

We lost no time in entering the fray. Arrangements were made at once for the League to work in S.W. Bethnal-green and in Middleton, Lancashire.

Bethnal Green, (S.W.).

Candidates—
Mr. Masterman (Liberal).
Mr. Hoffgaard (Conservative).
Polling Day, Saturday, July 29.
W.F.L. Committee Rooms, 341, Cambridge-road.
Organiser, Miss Sidley.

Mr. Masterman, while professing himself a Suffragist, will not promise to vote against all widening amendments which in the opinion of the Conciliation Committee would wreck the Bill. The utter insincerity of those Members who will not carry into law a Bill which, while not excluding wives and mothers yet does not expressly enfranchise them, is shown by their action in supporting a National Insurance Bill, from the benefits of which nearly all wives and mothers are excluded.

Mr. Hoffgaard, the Conservative, has promised his whole-hearted support to the Conciliation Committee. We, therefore, had no choice. We are opposing the return of Mr. Masterman on account of his unsatisfactory attitude. Miss Sidley especially wants help on Friday and Saturday, and makes an earnest appeal to

those members who are still in town to give her a few hours' help. The quickest way to get into touch with Miss Sidley will be to ring up the office.

Middleton, Lancashire.

Candidates—
Sir Ryland Adkins (Liberal).
Mr. W. A. S. Hewins (Conservative).
Polling Day, August 2.
W.F.L. Organiser, Miss Neilans.

Miss Neilans and Miss Turner went to this constituency on Thursday. Offers of help should be sent to Miss Neilans at Headquarters.

Any members who cannot help at either of the by-elections are asked to remember how very expensive such campaigns are and to send donations, however large or small, to the hon. treasurer without delay.

For all other information please write to me.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

National Executive Committee.—The Committee was in Session Friday and Saturday, when a great deal of business was arranged. Mrs. Sproson received a very hearty welcome from her fellow members, as she well deserved. In another column will be found particulars of our by-election policy, and it will be seen that we are carrying on a vigorous campaign against the return of Mr. Masterman for South-West Bethnal Green.

District Organisers.—The ideal of the Women's Freedom League is self-government on democratic lines, and now that our Branches have had considerable experience in self-government, the N.E.C. considers that District Organisers hitherto responsible to the N.E.C., should now be responsible to the Branches in their district. This means that Branches can be linked up together in districts, form a Council if desired, and appoint their own organiser, honorary or paid, as they themselves choose. This plan is followed in Scotland and in London, and does not mean that there will be any alteration of the work of the League in districts; but it means that the Branches themselves will have full control over their own affairs, and this, the Committee judges, should make our work more lasting and educative, and further, that it is in accordance with the true spirit of freedom.

Groups.—Since no Branch of the Women's Freedom League can consist of less than 12 members, and as there are many places in which we have less than this number, the Committee decided that in these localities Groups should be formed to carry on our work, make it more widely known, and ultimately form Branches. Will all those who are not members of Branches and are interested in this matter, communicate with Headquarters? Further particulars will then be forwarded.

"Vote" Sales.—Repetition in this connection appears to be inevitable, and the N.E.C. urges individual members to recollect their responsibility in regard to the sale of our paper. Its sale must be pushed and its existence advertised, and this can only be done by our members.

Stewarding.—Mrs. Fisher has resigned her position as Head Steward, and is now working hard in THE VOTE Sales Department. The Committee expressed its warmest thanks for her untiring work on behalf of the stewarding. As we cannot replace her in the position of Head Steward, it was decided that there should be a rearrangement, and those who are willing to steward, or work for the League in any way, are asked to write to the General Secretary, stating in which department they would prefer to steward. In this way stewards, or League workers, as we should prefer to call them, will allot themselves into the various departments.

With regard to work in London, we are pleased to know that a Branch of the Women's Freedom League

has been formed in the Hampstead Garden Suburb, with Mrs. Drysdale and Mrs. Betham as joint secretaries. The membership is 15, and there are also four men associates.

Although our regular indoor meetings are discontinued until the autumn, there is plenty of work to be done in the open-air by members of the Women's Freedom League. More speakers and more VOTE sellers are wanted in every district, and anyone who can help in either of these ways is urged to communicate with us at once. Miss Sidley is in charge of our campaign against Mr. Masterman, and all who can assist her should let it be known immediately at this office. We must make the influence of the Women's Freedom League felt in South-West Bethnal Green.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

THE CASE OF DAISY TURNER.

It would almost appear as if, just at the time when our work seems to be approaching fruition, even current events are pressing home the lesson of the need of the woman's point of view being represented in the country's Legislative and Executive. How selfish a cloak of personal comfort and well-being the majority of women Anti-Suffragists must have wrapped around themselves is illustrated by the fact that they can say so glibly that "women's interests are given every consideration," that "as a matter of fact women are favoured under British law." No woman who has the capacity of understanding the needs of other women, even though they may not be her own personal needs, can fail to have been impressed by numerous recent instances of how little the most well-intentioned of men can put themselves into the attitude of mind which constitutes the woman's point of view.

Our attention has been specially drawn by the hon. secretary of our Cheltenham Branch to the facts of the sad case of Daisy Turner, a simple servant girl of nineteen, who was forcibly taken advantage of by a married man. The child was born when she was alone, and utterly without help of any kind, and was found dead in a drawer with certain marks on its head which were attributed by a medical witness as the cause of its death. At the coroner's court a jury of men found the girl guilty of wilful murder, and she was arrested and placed in prison less than three weeks after the birth. The Cheltenham magistrates have committed her for trial at the Gloucester Assizes, which are not held until October. The case being *sub judice*, we cannot express any opinion on the question of her innocence, but it should be remembered that the law is not supposed to hold a person guilty until the ultimate trial condemns him, and yet for over three months this poor girl, little more than a child, is to be kept in prison, cut off from the care and sympathy she so obviously needs, faced with a trial for murder, and, owing to the conditions of the birth, utterly weak and ill.

Our Cheltenham secretary was instrumental in forming a committee of representative men and women (several of whom are well known in the Freedom League as Suffrage workers) to take up the matter, and the following letter was sent to, and inserted in, the local Press:—

SIR,—The recent Coroner's inquest, and magisterial inquiry concerning the sad case of Daisy Turner, have brought forcibly to our minds certain aspects of the law and its administration, which, we think, call for serious public attention and consideration. In this case, a serious charge was brought against a young girl, of whom one witness said that "she appeared to be simple minded," and who was obviously in no condition, mental or physical, to realise the purport of or rebut the charge. She was brought before the Coroner within nineteen days of her confinement, which took place under circumstances of exceptional risk and painfulness. She was, consequently, in a condition of bodily weakness and mental enfeeblement, which every woman can realise, and with which she can deeply sympathise. So speedy a trial in such circumstances would hardly commend itself to women. After her arrest and incarceration, she was so unwell that no reasonable opportunity of stating her case in the witness box could be afforded her, and it was therefore difficult to call any medical evidence on her behalf. A remand in prison would have been of little use, and a very different atmosphere is

surely necessary to restore the girl to her normal condition. Although she was thus physically and mentally incapacitated from giving her personal statement in evidence, the magistrates, under the present law, committed her for trial for murder at the next Assizes, which may not be held before October next, and no bail being allowed on a capital charge, the unfortunate girl, who in October may be proved innocent (and in whose innocence we have found that a very large number of people believe), must remain in gaol on prison fare—unless extra food is provided through the generosity of friends—and practically therefore in solitary confinement. After this ordeal superimposed upon her previous one, what will her mental condition be when her trial takes place? Undoubtedly the girl should have been sent, not to a gaol, but to a home, and the law (which does not at present allow of such a course) should be altered in this respect. Furthermore, at the autopsy on the child's body, no person (medical or otherwise) was present on behalf of the girl. Notice should surely be required by law to be given to her, or her representatives, of the proposed post-mortem examination, and of the advisability of her having a medical man to take part in it, or at least view it on her behalf, as well as her legal adviser if she so desired. Such circumstances as are disclosed in this case prove conclusively the vital importance of an expression of "the woman's point of view."

Yours truly,

F. L'ESTRANGE-FAWCETT, Rector and Rural Dean.
EDITH L'ESTRANGE-FAWCETT.
EVELINE A. CARGILL, M.D.
BEATRICE M. HARRISON.
E. L. ANDREWS.
JOHN SWINEY, Major-General.
CONSTANCE FERGUSON.
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L. M. McCRAITH-BLAKENEY.
H. B. FOSTER.
FLORA KELLEY.
ROSA FRANCES SWINEY.
J. E. NOOT.
FLORENCE HOW EARENGEY.

The committee are also memorialising the Home Secretary to have Daisy Turner put in the prison infirmary and properly looked after. A public appeal for funds to provide additional nourishment for the girl, and to protect her interests both before and at the trial has been issued. Subscriptions should be sent to Miss F. Kelley, hon. treasurer, Ireton House, The Park, Cheltenham. An application to the magistrates to assign a solicitor and barrister for the defence, under the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, was successful, and Dr. Earengy, the author so well known in Suffragist circles, of "Woman under the Law," was appointed as solicitor. But there are numerous expenses connected with the case which are not covered by the Act, and funds are therefore greatly needed. Mrs. How Earengy, our Branch secretary, is working with our members in Cheltenham to arouse public opinion on the question.

TREASURER'S NOTE.

At our meeting on Sunday I had the great pleasure of announcing that my appeal had been quickly and enthusiastically responded to. As an account of the meeting appears on another page, I will not enlarge further, except to say that I have promises of other amounts, so that we shall finally end with a considerably larger sum than I was able to announce on Sunday.

CONSTANCE TITE.

Owing to a clerical error in the Treasurer's Department, one fortnight's Treasury list was omitted from last week's total, which should stand at £1,834 10s. 6d.

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WELCOME TO MRS. SPROSON IN THE CAXTON HALL.

The Caxton Hall "At Home" last Sunday afternoon proved a very enthusiastic meeting of members and their friends, who came by invitation of the Women's Freedom League to welcome Mrs. Sproson to London after her five weeks' imprisonment in Stafford Gaol for tax resistance. Miss C. V. Tite explained, from the chair, the reason of the meeting, and Mrs. How Martyn, in the absence of Mrs. Despard, expressed on behalf of the N.E.C. and of the Women's Freedom League their appreciation of what Mrs. Sproson had done. It was her fourth imprisonment, and Mrs. Sproson had been among the first volunteers for "danger duty." She had always been among the firmest adherents to militancy. Our victory had not been won, although we hoped we should win it next year; but there must be persistency, and persistency in militancy had been the very brightest form of service in the League.

Mrs. Sproson, who was greeted with prolonged applause, declared that such a reception by her friends could only stimulate her to further work. She explained her reasons for taking up the women's Cause. At seven years of age she began to earn her own living as a "tatter" in Wolverhampton, grimly explaining that a "tatter" had nothing to do with work in drawing-rooms, but meant the picking out of waste bits of iron from burning heaps of slack. The children engaged in this toil often had little resemblance to human beings; in summer their sufferings were terrible, and in winter they frequently scraped out the ashes in which they sat to keep themselves warm. At an early age Mrs. Sproson had rebelled against these conditions, managed to pick up some scraps of education, and determined to fight the battle later on. The mother-heart within her broke all bonds—the lack of education, of position—but created a new influence which was continually exerted on behalf of women who were struggling for political power to right the wrongs which a purely masculine Government could not remedy. Mrs. Sproson referred to a picture in the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, of a woman going to the stake as a heretic. Shakespeare said, "A heretic is he who makes the fire, not she who burns in't." But the fact that such women were prepared to give their lives for a principle they held dear had paved the way for the freedom we now enjoy. We must be prepared to resist any and every authority until our cause was won; she herself would never hesitate to do all that lay in her power for that end.

After the applause had subsided, Miss Tite, speaking as honorary treasurer, said that Mrs. Sproson's imprisonment was more than a practical benefit—it was a moral help to the Cause. She, in common with other members of militant societies, had not only faced ridicule and calumny, but had confronted real hardships and cruelty, and had helped to make the question of Woman Suffrage one which had now to be considered seriously. It was our business to keep that question before the country until it was settled satisfactorily. The Women's Freedom League needed money to wage the women's battle for Freedom. It was not a rich society, but it covered a great deal of ground. She had this in mind when she decided to make a special appeal for funds. After the generous response of the Branches to the Census Protest and the Procession, the result of this appeal had shown splendid enthusiasm, solid hard work, and self-sacrifice. It gave her real pleasure to announce that the sums contributed by Branches, members and sympathisers amounted to £84 19s., and more money had still to come in.

Miss Jack paid a warm tribute to Mrs. Sproson on behalf of Scotland. Mrs. Sproson was no stranger in Edinburgh. In the early days of the struggle she had inspired the Branch there to harder work; indeed, its present flourishing condition was largely due to

her previous influence. Scotland had followed her example in tax resistance, and at the present time the Edinburgh Branch was at war with the authorities over an income tax of 2s. 4d., which represented a tax on money laid by for payment for the rent of their shop. How the matter would end was not yet clear, for the only goods in the shop that were not lent by members were literature and flags. These alone could be distrained upon, and Miss Jack delighted the audience by promising to tell them the end of the story on another occasion.

OUR OPEN COLUMN. "A STITCH IN TIME."

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—When women say that they want the vote to protect their interests, they are always told by Anti-Suffragists that "Men have done it for them, men will do it for them." In the amendment to the Insurance Bill, moved by Sir A. G. Boscawen, with the object of providing that where maternity benefit was given there should be also some medical benefit, Mr. Hills (Durham) said he was not at all sure that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was making the best use of this money, and when they came to discuss the amendment foreshadowed he should ask him to devote it to another purpose.

In a further amendment, moved to give a wage-earning mother sick benefit and maternity benefit, Mr. Hills offers remarks and objections, and ends up with these words: "When the wife of an insured man was a wage earner there would be help given where it was less needed, and a premium would be put on married women going out to work for wages. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to use the fund so that there would be an inducement to married women to stay at home." Presumably to starve! Mr. Hills is an Anti-Suffragist, and is, I suppose, one of the types who can be trusted to "look after our interests." And my observations teach me that the Anti-Suffrage man who fights us outside the House is always the man who fights against our interests inside the House.

It is impossible to read the discussions on the woman's part of the Insurance Bill with a level head and steady heart. A hot flush of anger surges to my brain as I wade through the frank brutality of those men who pretend to be framing this Bill in the interests of wretched British women. It is an insult to humanity and civilisation that we should be at the mercy of such a House and such a Government. The time is come, dear Editor, when we must demand the full control over our own bodies or die in the attempt to gain it.

George Lansbury, Philip Snowden, Keir Hardie, Walter McLaren, and a few others, are making a fight for us, but what are they among so many? This Insurance Bill threatens to be nothing more or less than another robbery of the henroosts of the starved hens, who have to go on laying eggs, unenriched though they be. I do hope, Madam Editor, that should it be deemed necessary later on—and not too later on—on the part of the societies to go down to Parliament, we shall all link up in a broad spirit of co-operation, that, come what may, it shall kill or cure the opposition. We are in no mood to be legislated for, as we have been for the last 6,000 years. To demand, at once, our freedom is not "emancipation in a hurry," it is a "stitch in time"!—Yours obediently,

MAUD ARNCLIFFE SENNETT.

6, Wellington-road, St. John's Wood, N.W.

HYDE PARK DEMONSTRATION.

On Sunday last Headquarters combined with the Mid-London Branch to give Mrs. Sproson a warm welcome at their meeting in Hyde Park at noon. There were two platforms, from each of which she spoke. Mrs. Vulliamy was chairman on No. 1 and Miss Neilans on No. 2. Other speakers were Miss Jack (from Edinburgh), Mrs. Drysdale, and Dr. Drysdale. On arrival Mrs. Sproson found a crowd awaiting her. In a very interesting and thoughtful speech she spoke of her five weeks' imprisonment. She told of the stand which she and her husband had taken, against the bad old law of coverture, and also dealt with the question of the difference between the treatment of a man and a woman in those cases where the woman has to pay all the price and the man escapes scot free. The story she told of the woman who, cruelly deserted and at her wits' end, killed her little child and at the police-court cried out: "I didn't want to hurt my baby; no, I didn't, but I was druv to it!" will live long in the minds of those who heard it. The woman was sent to prison on a charge of manslaughter, the man's name was not even mentioned!

E. L. N.

HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SELL?—If so, advertise it in our Bargain Columns. You will thus be doing yourself and the Cause a good turn.

THE INSURANCE BILL IN COMMITTEE.—III.

It is to be regretted that the Amendment moved on July 11, to relieve all workers in receipt of a minimum wage fixed under the Trade Boards Act from any contribution, was lost. We offer our thanks to the mover, who pointed out that his Amendment could gain "very few votes, because . . . the vast majority of those affected by it are women." The fact is, it only gained 28 votes, while 259 voted against it. Further, it appears to have raised no interest whatever. There was not a single speaker beyond the proposer himself, and the Chancellor against. It was negated without another voice being raised in its favour. It may be noted that though the proposer specifically referred to women, "widows working at the box-making industry," the Chancellor specifically replied for men, as is proved by his words, "they will get in return for their 1d. in the worst cases . . . 10s. a week." A widow in the box-making industry would not get 10s., and not even 7s. 6d., unless in full benefit, and if the sliding-scale clause were not applied.

The only concession to chronicle to July 10, is one allowing that "where there is a class of the community which has got special terms as part of its contract, whereby it receives during sickness a payment equivalent to the benefits of the Bill, then those cases, by special order, should be exempt from paying for temporary sickness." This affects domestic servants, nurses in hospitals, governesses in private families, all women "living-in," and clerks, typists, &c., who are paid by their firms when absent through sickness, provided they have made this special contract at the time of engagement. A clause is to be added to the Bill to cover this, and the reduction will probably be 1d., so that servants, &c., will pay 2d. instead of 3d., and care should be taken by all women "living-in" that their engagement terms do cover this point, so that only the reduced contribution may be deducted from their wages. The concession was not made for women, however; the Amendment moved was to relieve "those employed in agricultural industries," and women come in by accident, as an after-thought, as it were, because awkwardly enough their contract of service does often resemble that of the agricultural labouring man. No fewer than 33 gentlemen debated this Amendment; many speaking more than once. Out of these, 12 claimed to represent agricultural labourers. Agricultural labourers have votes, and, therefore, it is very important to remember that "the labourers, whether rightly or wrongly . . . believe that the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are not fair. They think burdens will be laid upon them heavier than they ought to bear . . ."

Now, here is the case in a nutshell, for women domestic servants and others, only instead of "believing," we know the proposals are not fair, and instead of "thinking," we are quite sure that burdens are to be laid upon us heavier than we ought to bear, but there was not one voice that insisted on the position of women in this direction. Nevertheless, the truth of the matter is that "the largest industry in England," numbered in the Census of 1901 "males above ten years and upwards engaged in agriculture in Great Britain, 1,240,170, and women domestic servants at the same date, 2,550,000. Compare the interest shown in 2,550,000 women as against 1,240,170 men, and also the case first cited of voteless women working in the sweated industries with enfranchised men in agricultural work.

On July 11, an Amendment was moved to extend medical benefits to the "wife or child under 16" of insured persons. The wording seems curious to us; we think it ought to have been "wife or child or children, &c." However, the Chancellor stated that it would "absolutely wreck the Bill," and it was negated by 105 votes; 62 voting for it. The position of the married woman can come up again on Clause 34, "to some extent," i.e., when she was an "insured person" before marriage, and, therefore, married women, who have not been workers, are totally excluded from the Bill for medical benefits.

On July 12, a similar Amendment was put forward to extend Sanatorium treatment to the "wife or child under 16," and also negated, being withdrawn, but the matter is to come up again under Clause 14. Neither of these proposals seem to have roused anything like the interest taken in the contribution of the agricultural labourer; only 13 members taking part in the discussion on the first and 8 on the second. They only affected some 6 to 7 million married women and their children, and 1,240,170 votes of agricultural labourers is quite another matter. Here is a remark made in the debate on the 11th. "The married woman who is not technically the wage-earner . . . is doing as great and valuable a part of the world's work as a man. She maintains and keeps the home. She toils and scrubs and carries on the whole business of the house, and by her labour enables the man to concentrate his attention upon productive industry outside the home. Apart altogether from the rearing of the family she, by her labour in the home, enables the man to go out and do the work. How does she get paid for that work; her husband's wage includes hers . . . this 4d. is paid, and paid in full, by the wife. The single woman is included; the married woman who does not care for housework and goes out to work is included; the unmarried mother who becomes a volunteer insurer is protected, but the married woman upon whom everything depends alone is neglected from receiving any benefit . . . this is not merely a negative, but a positive disability of the harshest kind."

LEAH ANSON.

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THE EASTBOURNE CAMPAIGN.

The members of the Eastbourne Branch are conducting a very vigorous campaign in this town, and large and attentive audiences have gathered on the beach and at the Fountain. We feel that we are winning support and sympathy for our Cause, and have a ready sale of literature and THE VOTE. Favourable press notices are given us and we are especially indebted to Mr. A. Beckett, proprietor of *The Eastbourne Gazette*, who intends to publish a flash-light photograph of one of our beach meetings. I am very grateful to my fellow-members, Miss Agnew and Miss Christie, for their splendid help. Through their influence we have had the support of the Rev. Joseph Osborne and the Rev. John Clennel; the latter took the chair on Friday, and made a most impassioned appeal to the men of Eastbourne. Mrs. Downs has also rendered yeoman service. Miss Sibella Jones took the chair last Wednesday. Next week the Rev. Joseph Osborne, the Rev. Mr. Church and Mr. Frederick Allen have promised to preside on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings respectively, at 8 p.m., on the beach near the Eastern Bandstand. On Tuesday and Thursday at 8 p.m. we are due at the Fountain. We are doing our best to make the electorate realise the necessity of seeing that their member votes for "The Bill—the Bill—and nothing but the Bill," and that he votes against all amendments other than those supported by the Conciliation Committee. As we are forbidden by the Town authorities to take collections we shall be deeply grateful for any donation towards the expenses of the campaign.

S. A. MUSTARD.

THE CARAVAN TOUR.

To the Editor of THE VOTE.

DEAR MADAM,—The Caravan Tour is to start next week, and affords an opportunity to help to many of our members who are unable to go on active service to the League. The three years' hard use of the Caravan has worn out some of our utensils. Amongst other things, we badly need two straight-backed canvas chairs, a camp-bed mattress, tea towels, dusters, floorcloths, dishcloths, small kettle and enamel saucepan, frying-pan, a Rippling oil stove, enamel teapot, milk jugs, tea, coffee and general groceries. The list of our requirements is so varied that most members can send something. Gifts should reach the office, 1, Robert-street, on Wednesday, August 2, when they will be gratefully welcomed by the caravaners, whose work will thus be lightened at the start.—Yours faithfully,

MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 1, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.

Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

Directors—Mrs. C. DESPARD, Mrs. E. HOW MARTYN, B.Sc., Mrs. J. E. SNOW, Mrs. L. THOMSON-PRICE.

SATURDAY, July 29, 1911.

CITIZENSHIP.

In many a way, and for a long time, the women of our country have been demanding the rights of citizenship. The answer has often been, "You are very comfortable as you are. What good is citizenship going to do for you that you should demand it so urgently?" To that question a number of answers have been given; but, I think, none so striking as the object-lesson afforded by the demonstration held on Sunday, July 16, in Trafalgar-square.

It was a protest against the unjust detention of an Englishwoman in a prison in Warsaw. The facts of the case are now fairly well known. Miss Malecka is the daughter of an English mother and a father who, though apparently of Polish origin, was a naturalised British subject. She was brought up in England and went to Warsaw as a teacher of music. Then, about four months ago, she was arrested. A domiciliary visit, such as, under the despotic Russian Government, is of frequent occurrence, was paid to her residence. No incriminating document appears to have been found, unless we except a single book which happened to be on the Government's black list. Miss Malecka, however, was carried off to prison without any reason being assigned, nor has she yet been brought to trial.

It is well known that outrages of this sort are frequently perpetrated in Russia, where to be even suspected of revolutionary tendencies forms a sufficient ground for imprisonment, torture, exile, and worse. But in this case the victim is not a Russian citizen; she was born and brought up in England. Until quite recently she had never set foot in Russia; and if, as we hear, her parents were married in an Anglican Church, their marriage would not be recognised in Russia as legal and their daughter would naturally belong to her mother's country.

We trust in this sad case justice will be done. We hope Miss Malecka's claim to British citizenship will be established and that she will be restored to liberty. In the meantime, some curious questions arise in our minds as to citizenship, its dignity, and its value.

One of the speakers on the plinth in Trafalgar-square on July 16 made a passionate address to the women of the nation. Better, he said, than any number of Suffragist demonstrations, would it be to agitate in such a cause. He proceeded to show how agitation might be carried out, and one of the methods he advised was appeals to their representatives. There happened to be a woman—a member of the Women's Freedom League—upon the platform. Addressing the crowd, in her turn, she asked: "Who are our representatives, and where are they to be found? If we—the women—addressed ourselves to your—the men's—representatives, what power have we to enforce attention to our demand?" The applause of the audience proved that they understood the difference between men and women in this important respect, and that they were in full sympathy with our demand. Furthermore, we are told that we lack patriotism; nay, but it seems to some of us that our patriotism is deeper than that of our Foreign Office. We desire that it shall be with the British citizen of to-day as it was with the citizen of Rome in the days of her greatness. A notable citizen of that world-wide empire was once arrested, plunged into prison, and beaten with rods. He stated quietly to his gaoler that, as a Roman citizen, he had the power of the Empire behind him, and he was abjectly entreated to go out from his prison free.

But Miss Malecka is a woman. Not yet can she claim the proud privilege of citizenship, and, therefore, the authorities go languidly to work, no strong representations are made, and week after week she is allowed to languish in prison.

Must we not see that this is a fresh instance of the urgency of Woman's Suffrage, which, indeed, becomes every day more apparent? It is not that women are now subjected to greater injustices than in the past, except in so far as the sum total of continually increasing wrongs exceeds any separate grievance; but that our eyes, open now to the anomaly of our position, are swifter to recognise the injustice which heretofore would have been unnoticed. Many of us, too, have learned from bitter experience that, without the vote, our hands are tied; our voices are powerless. We are as those who cry out in the wilderness. For the power behind the House of Commons is the power of the ballot-box. There the destinies of the nation are forged; and, in these momentous decisions, women have neither part nor lot.

At this time of day, it might seem unnecessary to insist upon the truth of such axioms; but ignorance, real or assumed, is still rife, even in quarters where one might least expect to find it.

The case of Miss Malecka is important to British women because it brings vividly before them the significance of that for which they are striving—the recognition of their citizenship.

Undoubtedly there are many women who, from a sense of self-respect, would insist upon their political emancipation as a symbol of freedom, even if the vote carried with it no material benefit. But these are few in comparison with the great hosts, growing in number as enlightenment spreads, who are prepared to sacrifice everything that may be dear to themselves personally in order to lift the heavy burden that oppresses their sisters and to gain for them the air and light of liberty. Nothing can be more intolerable to those who love freedom than to have brought before them not one but countless cases of outrageous injustice and to feel powerless to remedy them.

This is the position of the voteless women for whom we are working and striving.

For Miss Malecka we pray of the electorate to demand the Foreign Office to use at least as much vigour as would be exercised were the victim a man of fame and distinction. Nearly four months she has been in prison. We hear that her health is suffering. Let Sir Edward Grey insist on answers being given to his legitimate demands; or let the electorate see to it that he shall not again be permitted to pretend to represent free British citizens. This is how it looks to British women, who alas! are no citizens.

In the meantime, with these object-lessons before us, with these conflicts in the air, should we not redouble our efforts to obtain that constitutional weapon without which all our pleading for justice, either for individuals or classes, is but a beating of the air. Now is the time for action. All sorts of forces are combining against us. Throughout the country, in spite of the spade-work that has been carried on for years, there is still an appalling ignorance with regard to our agitation and its meaning. Not one of us who cares for that great woman-movement—that march forward of an enslaved section of the people—which is presently to be merged in the Human movement—the march forward of the Race—but must give herself, as she has never done before, to spread the light of liberty, so that when again the Conciliation Bill comes before the House of Commons there need be no doubt about the result.

C. DESPARD.

MISS CHRISTINE BONNEVIE is the first woman to whom the doors of the Norwegian Academy of Science have been opened. She occupies a post in the zoological laboratory of the Christiania University, and has written a standard work on biology. Miss Bonnevie has every chance to become the first woman professor in Scandinavia, since she has been placed first on the list to fill the chair of biology at the Christiania University.

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT: AMBASSADOR.



MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

sense of responsibility. I start to-morrow."

It was an encouragement, a joy, and an honour to hear from Mrs. Chapman Catt, whose name is held in highest esteem wherever the woman movement is felt, and who has just concluded her magnificent presidency of the great Stockholm Congress, something of her immediate plans for her ambassadorial tour when she visited THE VOTE office last Friday. Mrs. Catt speaks with the wisdom which has grown out of long experience of work in America, for that great country offers the most diverse conditions in its vast extent.

"What do you think is the special work of women in new countries?"

"You must realise that the men are all busy money-making in some way; it may be mining, ranching, railway building, or many other occupations. They pay little heed to such questions as education or the proper building up of institutions on which the future welfare of the community must be based. Now in every new country, whether civilised or semi-civilised, there are intelligent women. As a rule, they have leisure, and, at any rate, they see the needs of the growing community more keenly than the men. They must be used; their influence must be made real and effective. And this is the work which they can well do. South Africa ought to follow the lead of some of our States and give the women the vote while the country is in the making."

"And have you not found that the woman's influence makes for righteousness?"

"Assuredly. In the trail of every new development come many evils: drinking, gambling, prostitution. It is the woman's influence which can not only arrest but hinder these evils. I will give you but one instance of what happened in a small town in Idaho. The women had become municipal voters, but had not had the opportunity of voting. It was proposed by the City Council to take away drink licenses and close the gambling saloons. There was a great outcry on the part of the men, who declared that the place would be ruined commercially, for the farmers would go elsewhere to transact their business if they could not resort to the drinking and gambling saloons. The women took action; they got up a petition. And here the very thing happened which is often held up as a bogey; broadly, the men were on one side, the women on the other. The men 'prayed' that the licenses should remain; the women, 'we, the undersigned voters,' 'demanded' that they should be taken away. And the women won."

"Shall you tell that story in South Africa?"

"Probably, and many similar ones. I shall appeal to the men to be just towards the women and give

them the right and the power to join in the building of the new country. The vote means power, authority. When the women can say to a Member of Parliament, 'Do this, or we shall put you out!' they have a real weapon for righteousness in their hands. Yes, I expect to travel in all the States of the new Union and also to reach Rhodesia."

"And after South Africa, where shall you go?"

"My plans are that after South Africa I shall visit Egypt, an ancient country, yet one full of great possibilities to-day. Then I go on to another ancient land, India, with all its marvels and its mystery. It will be my first visit. I believe India has a great message for the world, but India has also something to learn; she will adapt to her own use the great modern movement for women, and will come to see that men and women must stand side by side if true progress is to be made."

"When do you expect to reach India?"

"I hope to be in Calcutta for the Indian National Congress which meets immediately after Christmas. I wish to attend the Congress and gather impressions from it. Then also, I believe the women have a Congress of their own about the end of the year. That will be of special interest to me."

"And when shall we have the pleasure of seeing you here again? Do you return home this way?"

"No, indeed. I go home *via* the Far East. I expect to visit China and Japan, and to return by the Pacific. I hope to be back in London in 1913."

"And you have been pleased with your brief stay in this country after the splendid demonstration of the Stockholm Congress?"

"I always enjoy even a brief stay in London; you know you are an inspiration to us in the great work you are now doing; we watch every movement with keenest interest. I was delighted to find that London now possesses an International Women's Franchise Club. This is a fine development in the right direction. The club was kind enough to entertain me a day or two ago and also to let me talk as well as drink tea!"

"I know that many members were very sad because they could not be present, but those who heard your helpful words were gladdened and encouraged."

"We must all help each other, and I think that our differing experiences are valuable all round. I was able to speak of our movement in the United States, and it seemed amusing to my audience that American women have no real grievance that lasts—except one. The women are in a minority, and the men are anxious to content them in every possible way, giving them all they ask—even to customs concessions on stockings and gloves—so long as it is not the vote. That is, you understand, in many of the States; in others the women have the vote. Even when the law is against women or children, it is interpreted so broadly that we come off very well. The position of women is much easier with us than with you in many ways; we have two hundred women lawyers in New York; there are women ministers of religion of twelve denominations; women are in the professions, and in the higher trades. You have done well to protest against your position here, and what you do strengthens us."

"And you are an ambassador! I am sure the Internationals were delighted to hear all this the other day."

"Well, I was able to tell them of one excellent development on the part of women which influences legislation. Out of the federation of women's clubs there has come a legislative committee, which takes up all matters affecting women and children, and is ready when the Parliamentary session begins. We scarcely have to do any lobbying; the men are only too anxious to please us and pass our measures. But there has also been an unexpected development. Do you know that the committee has to sit in its

official capacity one whole day every week in order that the men may come and lay their measures before us and get our support? This is an excellent way in which the women make use of their power."

"This was splendid information for the club—and beyond."

"I was delighted with my visit to the club and was specially touched when I was greeted as the just and impartial mother of twenty countries. They did me great honour which I deeply appreciate. I was glad to see Lord Lytton honoured for his fine service to our Cause. We must all remember that we have far more to do than to get the vote; when that is gained we shall stop talking of our rights and talk of the rights of the human race. Womanhood is now asking for its own, and it is the most international movement the world has ever seen. But the time is coming when man and woman, of all creeds and colours, will work side by side in the service of humanity. You are making a splendid fight for justice. Good-bye, once again. When I come back I expect to greet you all as voters!" A. A. S.

GARDENIA MEETING.

MRS. HOW MARTYN ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF MARRIED WOMEN.

On July 19 Mrs. How Martyn dealt with the important subject of "The Economic Status of Married Women." Mrs. Vulliamy, from the chair, drew attention to the value of these meetings as a means of discussing social, as well as political questions.

Mrs. How Martyn spoke of the lives of slavery led by women in bygone barbarous ages, quoting writers, "all men," as she pointedly remarked, to prove the facts, and showed that in Tasmania to-day the working woman's life is abject slavery. She gave, for comparison, a typical day in the life of a woman worker in an English jam factory. Her husband only earns 17s. 6d. weekly; they have nine children; she sweeps the room and gets the man's breakfast by 6 a.m.; she has to be at her own work by 7 a.m., but must have previously washed and fed the children. On her return she gets tea for all, does the washing, mending, making, not getting to bed till 11 p.m. Where is the great difference between the new and the old civilisations? Socially and politically the position of women is one of abject slavery still, because she is valued for her possessions rather than for her personality. "Man," writes Carpenter, "ended by enslaving his own mate; made it her province either to work for, or to please him."

Mrs. How Martyn referred to various suggestions for freeing women from their economic dependence. The Socialist State endowment of motherhood, she said, would only shelve the question, because woman would still be economically dependent, not only upon one man, but upon a body of men, which would be intolerable until the vote was won. Another suggestion that a woman should have a claim on her husband's income would only help the worst cases, tending to impose a commercial relationship, and confirming man's idea that, relatively, woman is inferior, incompetent, and a parasite. No general solution seems possible, she observed, no two lives are alike; but provisional suggestions may help to change the general attitude of the public mind and custom. Girls must be brought up to be self-supporting, and to consider no other course honourable, and marriage must not be looked upon as an easy solution of life's problems.

Motherhood, in future, will be very different from what it is now to a woman; she, and she alone, will decide when she is to become a mother; the rights of children and of community will have to be considered. Mrs. How Martyn concluded by saying that every married woman must wage this war herself. When women take the wider outlook every victory gained—and many husbands are willing to help—will hasten the time when woman will be "full of joy and laughter and action." Members and friends took part in the interesting discussion which followed.

E. L. N.

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A DILEMMA AND THE WAY OUT. SHOPPING BY POST.

There was consternation at the breakfast table at Poleford; the postman had brought an eagerly anticipated invitation to the garden party at the Doctor's for the very day on which Beth, Kate, and Rose had planned an important shopping expedition to London. "What are we to do?" sighed Rose. "We cannot miss the delightful garden-party, with dear old Darby and Joan making everyone happy; though their hair is white, they are both deliciously young; and then—ah! yes, they always do have such nice people! There's the jolly son, Jack, just arriving home from India, and the nephew from Canada, and—but really, our frocks and frills are important, too. I don't see a way out of the dilemma!"

There were other sounds at the breakfast table besides the pleasant bubbling of the coffee machine and the dismal despair of Rose. Beth was vigorously using a paper-knife while listening, to the talk going on. Then she chimed in: "I see a way out of the bother, a fine way; let's try it!" "Whatever do you mean? You can't have found a solution for shopping difficulties in that green paper, THE VOTE?" "Now, don't be sarcastic, Rose; there is more in THE VOTE than your philosophy dreams of. Listen: 'A word to Provincial members—me—you, if you like. Shopping by post saves time and trouble. Please take the hint, and buy your goods of VOTE advertisers.' Let us experiment!" "Well, I'm not particularly hopeful," says Kate. "What do you propose? I don't like buying a pig in a poke." "Don't be unbelieving. This is what we will do: I know you want a light, but warm travelling coat. Here's Maud Barham, 186, Regent-street, she always has just the sort of thing you are looking for, chic, and not too expensive. She studies her customers, too, and her embroideries for cloaks and gowns are lovely." "We shall have to send our photographs if she is to study us by post, but it would be a good plan to try her self-measurement forms." "I shall venture on one of Maud Barham's coats, and I know you'll all be green with envy," adds Beth.

"I'm just wondering about a hat for the party," observes Rose. "Then why not try the Ostrich Feather Emporium, 136, Theobald's-road, Holborn? I went there some time ago; they curled my feathers while I waited, and I filled in the time by looking at their feathers of all shades and lengths. They begin at 3s. 6d. With one or two of those your picture-hat will be complete! If I go to town I don't generally find myself shopping in Clapham, but here's J. H. Scroggie telling readers of THE VOTE that he has splendid shoes in 117 sizes, shapes and fittings—wonderful man! We cannot do wrong in trying his 'Lotus' shoes at 13s. 9d., or even the 'Combined,' at 6s. 11d."

"Really, you seem to find good ideas, Beth. What else can THE VOTE do?" "Now, if you put it like that, you run the risk of a serious lecture from me, and not on clothes! But as we are only thinking of outward decoration for the moment, I propose we try the blouse department at William Owen's, Westbourne-grove. If he can manage to please us, three of us, and mother as well, why, he'll make a fortune!" laughs Beth. "And, mother, now just look at these Axminster and Wilton squares, at wonderfully cheap prices, a special purchase, not to mention Turkey carpets and Persian rugs. It's worth thinking over, for William Owen may be relied on in this as in other departments." "You are right, Beth, I will think it over; and I shall, at any rate, send to F. Medhurst, High-street, Bromley, Kent, for some underclothing; the camisoles are splendid value; and you, Kate, might certainly try the 'Princess' petticoat for 3s. 11½d.—under 4s., remember that, as well as square-neck nightdresses from 2s. 11½d."

"Well, you girls seem to be having a fine time in getting your wants supplied through THE VOTE. Is there anything the enterprising paper can do for mere man? My watch needs to go to the doctor, but—" "Pray, dad, stop at 'but,' for here is E. Good, who does all sorts of clock and watch repairs. If he pleases you, then we can try him; and just listen to the last words: 'Cameos a speciality.' You know how one of your daughters dotes on cameos! I won't say more."

* * * * *

A week later: That memorable garden-party! Beth did not go shopping to London, but she will take a longer journey—to India with Jack! And the excitement of opening all the boxes that arrived as a result of shopping by post! "Three cheers for Beth! Your advice was excellent! May THE VOTE and the Cause prosper!" NANNETTE.

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BRANCH NOTES.

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

Herne Hill and Norwood.—Hon. Secretary: Miss B. SPENCER, 32, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.

At the demonstration in Brockwell-park, on Sunday, July 16, at which the local Suffrage Societies and Independent Labour Party were represented, the following resolution was carried without one dissentient:—"That this mass-meeting supports the Conciliation Bill for Votes for Women, which has been passed in the second reading by the House of Commons, and desires the Members of Parliament in the London area to support the Bill in all its Committee stages."

The next members' meeting will be held on Thursday, July 27, at 140, Rosendale-road, Dulwich, from 3 to 5 p.m., and the next meeting in Brockwell-park on Sunday afternoon, July 30.

Hampstead.—Hon. Secretary (pro tem.): Mrs. M. C. HYDE, 59, New End, Hampstead.

A meeting was held on Hampstead Heath on July 16. Mrs. Hyde, as chairman, introduced Miss Irene Millar, who held the close attention of her audience for an hour. Copies of THE VOTE were sold, and there was great demand for the pamphlet containing statements of the Colonial Premiers respecting the advantages conferred by the granting of woman's suffrage in their colonies.

Hampstead Garden Suburb.—Hon. Secretaries (pro tem.): Mrs. DRYSDALE, 49, Rotherwick-road, Hampstead Garden Suburb; Mrs. BETHAM. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. JOHN RUSSELL.

On Tuesday, July 18, a drawing-room meeting was held at the house of Dr. Alice Vickery, 47, Rotherwick-road, in order to form a Branch of the W.F.L. in the Suburb. Dr. Vickery presided, and made a forcible speech. Interesting addresses were given by Mrs. Drysdale and Mrs. How Martyn, B.Sc. The latter dealt with the present situation of the Women's Bill in the House, and explained the necessity of having a group of Suffragists actively intent upon getting Members of Parliament in every constituency to promise either support or non-opposition during the week to be granted for the Conciliation Bill next year. A resolution that the Branch be formed was moved by Mrs. Betham, seconded by Mrs. John Russell, and carried unanimously. Mrs. Drysdale and Mrs. Betham were temporarily elected Hon. Joint Secretaries, and Mrs. John Russell Hon. Treasurer. Fifteen names were given in for membership at the meeting, and others have since been received, with the welcome addition of four men associates. It is hoped that many more will follow.

Finchley.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. F. R. TINKLER, 3, Stanley-road, E. Finchley; Miss E. HEPWORTH, Rastrick, Nether-street, N. Finchley.

Will all members and friends please note that open-air meetings begin again on Saturday, July 29, at Church End, opposite the Station, at 8 p.m. If each member makes a point of being present, a nucleus for starting the meeting is formed, and this is an encouragement to the speaker.

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

A bye-election campaign is being carried on in Bethnal Green this week, and supporters and helpers are badly needed for the meetings each evening. Will all members who can possibly spare the time make a big effort to come to the W.F.L. Committee Room on Friday and Saturday—the last two days? The address will be found elsewhere in THE VOTE. A good meeting was held in Victoria Park last Sunday. Mr. McKinlay, of the Men's League, spoke to a large and interested audience.

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

Our weekly meetings outside the Gas Offices, Tottenham, still prove very successful. We have many regular attendants. Last week Miss Madge Turner was the speaker, and Miss Eggett took the chair. This week Miss Weir came from Ealing and gave a most able discourse on the Insurance Bill from a Suffragist's point of view. A collection was taken, and copies of THE VOTE sold. Will all local members and friends please support the speaker during the next five weeks, as most of our active members will be away, and we earnestly desire the meetings to be continued?

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

Mrs. Toyne's interesting speech attracted a good crowd last Monday at the Tram Terminus; at the end questions were asked, THE VOTE sold, and a collection taken.

Croydon.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue, Croydon. Office: 3, The Arcade, High-street.

During August the weekly "At Homes" and other meetings will cease, but the office will remain open, on account of the Reliance Agency, as domestic helpers are still greatly needed. Mrs. Pyart will be at the office daily. Literature, at a reduced price, may be had at the office. Will members fill up leisure time by selling or distributing THE VOTE? Specimen copies for distribution may be had from the office. Will every member try to get a new subscriber to THE VOTE during the holiday season, and then report progress to the secretary? Members are asked to see that their stationers display a VOTE poster, at least one day every week. Posters can be had by applying to

the secretary, or to the VOTE office. If members will take copies of THE VOTE wherever they go, to sell or give away, or leave them in trains, waiting-rooms, and all possible places that they may visit, they will have the pleasure of knowing that their paper is more widely spread, and that possibly strangers may be converted to the Cause.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND.

Cheltenham.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. EARENGEY, Ashley Rise, Battledown.

The local Branch joined with the other three Suffrage Societies of the town in a deputation to the local Member, Mr. Agg-Gardner, on the subject of the Insurance Bill and its effects upon women. The W.F.L. was represented by Mrs. Earengay and Miss Boulton (hon. treasurer). The subject was divided into sections, which were apportioned to the representatives for criticism. Mrs. Earengay dealt with the Bill as it affected the married woman and the widow, and said if the women had possessed the vote the Government would not have dared to treat the married woman as an inferior creature.

Mr. Agg-Gardner, after complimenting the members of the deputation for the clear and concise way in which they had placed their views before him, proceeded to express himself upon the various points which had been raised. He noticed that every speaker had dwelt rather forcibly upon the inequality between the treatment of the two sexes. With regard to women forfeiting benefits on marriage, that part of the Bill had not yet been reached, and he did not know which amendment Mr. Lloyd George would adopt. In principle they ought to see that married women did not forfeit benefits to the extent contemplated in the Bill as it now stood. He was in favour of reducing any inequalities that might exist between the sexes so as to render the Bill one of absolute utility, and it could not be so unless based upon principles of justice.

Portsmouth and Gosport.—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WHEATON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

Members are earnestly requested to attend a Branch meeting on Monday, July 31, at 7 p.m., to meet Miss Hoad, who is spending a week in Portsmouth to work up the circulation of THE VOTE. We are most anxious to make Miss Hoad's visit a great success, which we can very easily do if each member will give a little help. The meeting will be held at 6, Clarence-view, by kind permission of Miss Mottershall. Mrs. Bremner has most generously promised to pay for THE VOTE to be sent to the free libraries for another twelve months. I would like to remind members that the annual subscription is now due.

West Sussex.—Hon. Secretary: Miss CUMMIN, Easebourne Vicarage, Midhurst.

The third anniversary of the Branch was celebrated on July 19

at an "At Home" at the Easebourne Vicarage. Miss Cummin welcomed the many guests and gave an account of the past year's work, mentioning that seven members resisted the Census and that the October sale realised £16. Miss Neilans spoke on the Conciliation Bill and the attitude towards it of Members of Parliament, urging continuous work in all constituencies to ensure the support of the Member. Lord Winterton, the Member for the division, is not yet convinced that women demand the vote. The resolution urging him to support the Bill was passed unanimously.

EAST ANGLIA.

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

At a Branch meeting held last Thursday, the resolution in regard to the change of policy at elections was unanimously passed. A sale of work has been arranged for October 5, and we shall be glad of contributions of plain and fancy work. The offices will be closed during the month of August, and the weekly meetings will reopen on the second Thursday in September with a "Hard-up Supper."

Wales and Monmouth.—Hon. Organiser: Mrs. CLEEVES, "Chez Nous," Sketty, Glamorgan.

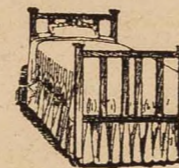
Swansea.—Hon. Corresponding Secretary: Miss PHIPPS, B.A., 5, Grosvenor-road, Sketty, Glam.

A very successful entertainment was given on July 20 in the college grounds by kind permission of Principal and Mrs. Salmon. Morris dances and games were performed under the direction of Miss Neal and Miss Samuel; Miss Holmes contributed three delightful recitations, Miss Clarke and Miss Thomas gave piano-forte solos, and the Misses B. Davies, Allen, Bullin and Gwynne arranged other interesting items. We have to thank Mrs. Ross for a donation of 10s. and Mrs. Joseph for the gift of a large box of chocolate, which found a ready sale.

THE SCOTTISH COAST CAMPAIGN.

The Clyde campaign continues to flourish. In spite of very bad weather this week, successful meetings have been held at various places on the Clyde. Miss Davey, of Dundee, and Miss MacIntyre, of Kirkintilloch, conducted meetings at Largs and at Dunoon; Miss McCallum, of Dunfermline, and Miss McLachlan, of Edinburgh, have joined us. Literature is selling well; fourteen dozen VOTES have been disposed of in less than two days, and we are increasing our order. Badges are seen everywhere. Very pleasant to the workers in this strenuous campaign is the kindness of the local people. Much of the success of the meetings held on the pierhead on the two Rothesays

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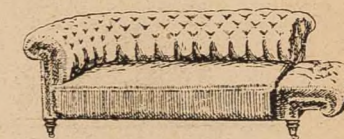
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.



Thurs., July 27.—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Toyne.
Tottenham Gas Offices, High-street, 8 p.m. Miss Leah Anson.
Members' Meeting, 3-5 p.m. (Hernehill Branch), 140, Rosendale-road, Dulwich. Miss F. A. Underwood.
Garden Whist Drive, 23, Terrace-road, South Hackney.

DARE TO BE FREE.

Fri., July 28.—West Norwood Fountain, 7.30 p.m.
Sat., July 29.—Church End, Finchley, 8 p.m.
Sun., July 30.—Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. Miss Palmer.
Hyde Park, noon. Mrs. Toyne, J. Y. Kennedy, Esq., Miss O'Brien.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m. Mrs. Mustard.
Mon., July 31.—Crystal Palace Tram Terminus, 8 p.m.
Tues., Aug. 1.—West Hampstead: West Fortune-green Fountain, 8.30 p.m.
Wed., Aug. 2.—23, Terrace-road, South Hackney. Sewing meeting.
Thurs., Aug. 3.—Highbury Corner, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Wheatley.
Tottenham Gas Offices, High-street, 8 p.m. Mrs. Duval.
Sun., Aug. 6.—Hyde Park, noon.
Sun., Aug. 13.—Brockwell Park, 3 p.m. Miss Neilans.
Tues., Aug. 15.—1, Robert-street, 8 p.m. Mid-London Branch members' quarterly meeting.
S.W. Bethnal Green Bye-Election.—Meetings daily. Committee Room, 341, Cambridge-road.

PROVINCES.

Wed., July 26.—Wolverhampton, Star and Garter Hotel, Victoria-street, 3.30 p.m. Reception to Mrs. Sproson. Mrs. Despard, Miss Manning, B.A., Miss Neilans.
Market-place, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Sproson, Miss Manning, B.A., Miss Neilans.
Thurs. July 27.—Wellingborough, 3 p.m. Mrs. How Martyn.
Sat., July 29.—Cheltenham, 3 p.m., Sirsa House, London-road, garden meeting and sale. Mrs. How Martyn, A.R.C.S., B.Sc., Miss Neilans.
Mon., Sept. 25.—Bournemouth. Lecture by Mrs. Despard at St. Peter's Hall, Bournemouth, 8 p.m.

SCOTLAND.

Scottish Council. West Coast Holiday Campaign. Meetings at Rothesay, Largs, Dunoon, Millport, and other West Coast holiday resorts. Miss Anna Munro, Miss MacIntyre, Miss McLauchlin. Noon, 4 p.m., 8 p.m.

THE SCOTTISH COAST CAMPAIGN.

(Continued from page 179.)

Fair days was due to the great courtesy and favour of the local police, and we are always indebted to the cabmen on the rank for their willing help in fixing our wagonette in position and tying up our banner for us. One of the institutions of Rothesay Pier is the heather seller, "Heather Jock," who, with quaint courtesy, presents a sprig of white heather to our leader, Miss Munro, whenever she is taking boat to some of the other Clyde resorts. Our crowds, our converts, and new members are increasing.
D. H. THOMPSON.

SHAKESPEARE AS SUFFRAGIST.

According to Miss Ellen Terry, Shakespeare was one of the pioneers of women's emancipation. This is one more reason for holding the great dramatist in still higher honour, if that be possible. At her second Shakespearian recital at the Haymarket Theatre, Miss Terry took for her subject, "The Triumphant Heroines," and after she had charmed her audience by incarnating the heroines whom Shakespeare had endowed with "a lion's heart," she declared that these women were prototypes of modern suffragists. "Portia, Beatrice, Rosalind, Volunnia have more in common with our modern revolutionaries," she observed, "than the fragile domestic ornaments of the early Victorian period." All honour to Shakespeare—and sincerest thanks to Miss Ellen Terry.

A WORD TO HOLIDAY MAKERS.

Are you wondering where to go? If so, write to the Secretary, The Recreative Holiday House Party, Winchester House, Deal, Kent, for particulars of this year's arrangements. "The happiest holiday you ever had," is the aim of the proprietors. Visitors become, as it were, members of a big family, and social enjoyment is assured. The food is strictly vegetarian, but very varied and attractive menus are provided, and many converts to a non-flesh diet have been made in this "Vegetarian Summer School." Terms are from 32s. weekly; week-ends from 9s. The house is open for six weeks only, July 29 to September 9. Readers of THE VOTE will be glad to know that at Winchester House they will find a most congenial suffragist atmosphere.

WOMEN AND THE UNIVERSAL RACES CONGRESS.

The organisers of the Universal Races Congress, to be held at the University of London, July 26-29, have wisely recognised that humanity comprises both men and women, and that any discussions relating to the future development and welfare of races and the promotion of race friendliness will be of little avail if the woman's outlook on life be excluded. On Wednesday afternoon, July 26, the discussion will be on Sister Nivedita's brilliant paper on "The Present Position of Women." Mrs. Pember Reeves will be in the chair. Two other Congress papers are from the pens of women leaders, one on "Religion as a Consolidating and Separating Influence," by Mrs. Rhys Davids, Hon. Special Lecturer on Indian Philosophy in the University of Manchester, and the other on "The Negro Problem in Relation to White Women," by Frances Hoggan, M.D., of London. Mrs. Annie Besant is to speak on Wednesday, July 26, on "Child Marriage in India"; on Thursday, July 27, on "India"; and on Friday, July 28, on "Social Intercourse Between White and Coloured People." Mrs. Sophie Bryant, D.Sc., will open the discussion in the final session on July 29.

In reply to a correspondent who writes asking whether any advertiser in THE VOTE can supply really comfortable and well made shoes for wear during a holiday in the country, we think she cannot do better than patronise Messrs. Hall and Sons, Ltd., 112, Strand, London, W.C., who make a feature of combining comfort and elegance in their footwear. At present they are showing some specialties in boots and shoes for seaside and country wear at very moderate prices. Those who are desirous of investing in high-class boots or shoes should certainly call on Messrs. Hall and Sons, or send for their catalogue.

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