

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

MONTHLY PAPER.

OFFICE: 40, MUSEUM STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Chairman of the Executive Committee: HERBERT JACOBS.

Hon. Secretary: J. MALCOLM MITCHELL.

Telephone: 9953 Central.

Hon. Treasurers: GOLDFINCH BATE, H. G. CHANCELLOR.

Hon. Literature Secretary: A. I. G. JAYNE.

No. 2.

NOVEMBER, 1909.

Price to Non-Members, 1d. monthly (including postage).

EDITORIAL.

WE have received a large number of letters on the subject of the *Monthly Paper*, both from members of the League and from friends belonging to other societies. The general opinion seems to be that, despite the large number of Women's Suffrage papers now in circulation, there is a distinct place for such a record. A large number of non-members have arranged to be supplied with it regularly, and have sent generous donations towards the expenses. A very gratifying feature has been the unanimous support shown by our branches, which welcome the paper as a means of conveying to their friends (and to opponents) the fact that the League is not a Mrs. Harris.

Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. Spencer Leigh Hughes have during the month received very satisfactory castigation from Mrs. Fawcett, Lady Grove, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst for their pitiful disloyalty to a principle which they have erstwhile claimed to uphold. Both of these well-known Liberals have withdrawn from the cause of Women's Suffrage because some of its adherents have been guilty of what their tender consciences regard as unique crimes against law and order. We pass over as wholly extraneous to the argument the merits of the case, and earnestly implore Mr. Churchill and Mr. Hughes to be logical and to leave the Liberal party because adherents of the Budget have broken up Budget Protest meetings and imperilled that palladium of liberty, the sanctity of free speech. What party men of such tender consciences and limited logic will find worthy of them we do not know. What we should most enjoy would be a "Sub Rosa" column by Mr. Hughes on one of his political foes who had deserted a cause on a similar pretext.

MR. ASQUITH AND THE MEN'S LEAGUE.

THE Prime Minister has replied that he is unable to receive a deputation from the Men's League, owing to pressure of business, on which account he has declined to receive any further deputations this Session.

Our request to be received was supported by representatives of the branches, including Canon Hicks (Manchester), Canon Kempthorne (Liverpool), Canon Talbot (Bristol), and also by Sir John Cockburn, Sir Edward Busk, Israel Zangwill, H. Y. Stanger, K.C., M.P., Sir Victor Horsley, J. Forbes Robertson, and Herbert Jacobs. We are much indebted to Mr. Stanger for the efforts which he has made to induce the Prime Minister to receive from us the information for which he has publicly made demand. As the Executive Committee meets on November 2nd, no statement can be made in this issue; but it may be taken for granted that the matter will not be allowed to rest here.

While negotiations were proceeding, Prof. J. H. Muirhead of Birmingham University expressed his willingness to join in our

demand. Prof. Muirhead has now become a member of the League, and the Committee will no doubt confer with him and the other members of the deputation as to future movements.

THE PREMIER'S RESPONSIBILITY.

THE LEAGUE'S LETTER TO THE PRESS.

THE following letter was issued to the press on October 6th. The Committee, abstaining, in conformity with the expressed policy of the League, from expressing opinion on the tactics controversy, is profoundly convinced that the Prime Minister has no reason sufficient to justify his continued refusal to receive a deputation from either wing of the Suffrage forces. In another part of these columns it will be seen that he has refused to receive a deputation from our League.

SIR,—On behalf of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, we desire at this juncture to express our conviction that the Government's continued refusal to hear the women in support of their claim to the Parliamentary Franchise has produced a situation which is not only deplorable to-day, but to-morrow may become dangerous.

More than a year ago Mr. Asquith asked to be convinced that that claim was supported by numbers. Numbers there were, acting quietly and constitutionally; but he ignored them, and has ever since persisted in denying a hearing to those who would have laid before him the proofs that he demanded. The numbers that are now being swept into the movement are largely and not unnaturally of a different temper; and for that change of temper who is mainly responsible? Surely the man who, in his most responsible position as head of the Government, asked for proofs and obstinately refused to receive them. Say what you will of the evils of violent tactics, it is the temper of the Government that has produced the temper of the women. We all know to what lengths that contemptuous repulse has already driven them; but no one can predict what it may lead to in the immediate future. One thing is certain, that the Government's present course of action can neither pacify nor deter those in whom it has once roused the spirit of revolt. Neither the men nor the women who are sincerely devoted to this cause are going to abandon it because some of its adherents have been provoked beyond endurance and have shown by violent actions the bitterness of their resentment. The force behind the movement is greater than ever, and it is a force increasingly difficult to control. That force may, in some of its manifestations, be as blind, as perverse, as impolitic as admirers of our present political system pronounce it: but the grave fact is that it is an impatient force. It needs but a little more impatience to bring about a position which this country, and in particular this Government, must presently view with bewildered consternation, and which none of us will be able to think of hereafter without shame. The danger is real and imminent; unless we take warning quickly it will be too late.

(Signed) HERBERT JACOBS,
Chairman of Executive Committee.
J. MALCOLM MITCHELL,
Honorary Secretary.

This letter was generally refused by the London Press, but appeared in several of the provincial dailies. It has provoked some correspondence in *The Manchester Guardian* and *The Sunday Times*.

SOCIAL GATHERING OF THE LEAGUE.

THE Men's League will hold a Social Meeting at the Inns of Court Hotel, High Holborn, on Wednesday, November 10th, at 8 o'clock. Members of the League will be admitted free by ticket, and they are specially invited to bring male guests, especially men who are opposed or indifferent to our cause. Tickets to London members are enclosed with this "Monthly Leaflet": members who do not receive one may obtain it on application to the Hon. Secretary. Tickets for guests, 6d. each.

It is hoped that Major-General Sir Alfred E. Turner, K.C.B., will be the speaker of the evening, and other short speeches will be delivered.

Members who have but recently joined are specially asked to be present, in order that they may have an opportunity of making the acquaintance of their fellow members, and discussing the work of the League.

Light refreshments will be obtainable at a moderate cost. Friends are specially urged not to lose this opportunity for the interchange of ideas.

OPEN-AIR CAMPAIGN.

HYDE PARK MEETINGS.

THE decision of the Sub-Committee to carry on the work in Hyde Park until the end of the month was rewarded by a series of magnificent meetings—the audiences not only being extremely large in number, but also very interested in the subject under discussion. A welcome feature was the increased number of speakers who put in an appearance at every meeting.

Speakers during October were:—

Oct. 3rd.—Messrs. Mitchell, Macpherson, E. Duval, Yaldwyn.
Oct. 10th.—Messrs. Gugenheim, Yaldwyn, Mitchell, and Miss C. Corbett (N.U.).

Oct. 17th.—Messrs. Jacobs, Mitchell, Gugenheim, and Stafford Whitby.

Oct. 24th.—Messrs. Gugenheim, Stafford Whitby, Mitchell, and Mrs. Fagan (W.F.L.).

Oct. 31st.—Messrs. Mitchell, Gugenheim, Kenneby, Manson, and Pooley.

THE SEASON'S CAMPAIGN.

The meeting on October 31st ended the organized campaign of the Open-Air Sub-Committee for this year, although it is intended to hold some meetings during the winter should the weather permit. It seems desirable, therefore, to review the work done since March 26th, when the first Hyde Park meeting took place.

During May, June, and July, not only Hyde Park, but also Finsbury Park and Brockwell Park, were energetically worked by our speakers, and a great deal of interest was evoked. The work was obviously twofold in character—it was necessary to carry on the ordinary Suffragist propaganda, and, at the same time, equally desirable to insist upon the fact that it was a league of *men* who were thus engaged. From the very first, in all these places, the idea seemed to stimulate interest, and explains why, with so few really *trained* open-air speakers at our command, so much should actually have been accomplished.

It is impossible to give the exact number of meetings actually held. Some of the suburban ones were not reported, but an unbroken series of Hyde Park meetings were held, notwithstanding all conditions of weather, and meetings have taken place under the auspices of other societies, at which the majority of the speakers were members of this League.

The culminating point of the half-year's work was the great Trafalgar Square demonstration on September 18th, which was fully reported in last month's issue, and which was in every way a great success. It seems desirable here, also, to point to the invaluable assistance the League has obtained from other societies, notably the W.F.L., which has sent some of its best speakers to our platforms, and by advice and co-operation smoothed down many of our difficulties.

The Committee has also done useful work in providing

speakers for the important Westminster and London Constituency Campaigns organized by the W.F.L., and for many local W.F.L., N.U., and W.S.P.U. meetings. This proved, indeed, to be one of the most useful duties of the Hon. Secretary.

It remains only to thank the many speakers and members of the League who have contributed to the success of the work.

TH. G.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

THE demand for our two new leaflets for free distribution has been considerable. Branches and other societies can obtain them at the cost of 2s. 6d. per 1,000. There is also a steady demand for the verbatim reports of our two Queen's Hall meetings, 1907 and 1909, price 3d. each, and also for Dr. Drysdale's pamphlet on the economic aspects of the cause, "Why Men should Help Women in their Claim for Enfranchisement," price 1d.

A REVISED edition of the 'List of Eminent Men in favour of Women's Suffrage' is now on sale, price 1d. A lady who has been circulating this pamphlet in her district says that nothing has so powerfully influenced reluctant men as the consciousness that they are following men of eminence in all walks of life.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

WE are glad to announce that the Club is now registered, and has taken temporary premises at 66, Russell Square for the winter. Intending members are asked to communicate at once with the Honorary Secretary, Miss Cicely Deane Corbett, 75, Victoria Street, S.W. Annual subscription, One Guinea.

TREASURERS' APPEAL.

IN response to the Treasurers' Appeal the following donations have been received during October, and are hereby gratefully acknowledged. We reprint below a portion of the letter, in the hope that members will bring the immediate needs of the office before their friends:—

A. R. Heath	..	..	..	..	..	£1	0	0
P. Narracott	..	..	..	..	..	0	5	0
Giles Pilecher	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	0
Anonymous	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	0
F. A. Bather	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Sir V. Horsley	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	0
Mrs. Kayser	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0

£11 2 2

TREASURERS' LETTER.

DEAR SIR,—May we bring before your notice the claims of this League on the support of all who desire to help bring about that long-delayed act of justice, the enfranchisement of women.

The Men's League during its short existence has done much to prove that large numbers of men sympathize with the desire of women for the full rights of citizenship.

Whilst not confining its members to any rigid line of policy it has assisted all the women's organizations by providing speakers, also stewards to maintain order in their meetings, and carry banners in their processions.

It has held two great demonstrations at Queen's Hall, besides numerous meetings in London and many provincial towns.

This League recently had the pleasure of giving a reception to the Delegates of the International Congress, which was attended by many hundreds of men and women Suffragists, who were addressed by representatives from twenty-two countries.

During this summer it has carried out a vigorous Open-Air Campaign, holding large and successful meetings weekly in Hyde Park, Finsbury, Victoria, and Brockwell Parks.

It has published and circulated a number of Pamphlets

and Leaflets, and has others in preparation for issue as soon as funds will allow.

Vigorous branches have been started at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bristol, Brighton, and other places.

The League has also set on foot the International Women's Franchise Club.

Inspired by its example, Men's Leagues have already come into existence in Holland and the United States, so that its influence already is more than national.

The work is growing so fast as to necessitate removal to much larger offices, which have become absolutely essential if it is to avail itself of the numerous opportunities now opening out in all directions for popularizing the movement and reaching voters who are as yet untouched by other agencies.

Only one thing stands in the way—the lack of funds.

If you have not yet joined the Men's League, may we earnestly appeal to you to do so. If already a subscriber, will you increase your subscription or make a donation towards the general fund or to any branch of the work to which you prefer to allocate it?

To prevent any sympathizers being debarred from joining, the minimum subscription was fixed at 1s., but this is barely sufficient to pay the postage, and for funds to carry on a vigorous campaign we have to depend on larger sums from those willing to help in this way even if they are unable to give time and personal effort.

May we venture to hope that you will, by subscription or donation, enable us to enroll you as a member, or, if you do not wish to be so enrolled, as a practical sympathizer. All amounts, large or small, will be gladly received and acknowledged by

Yours faithfully,

GOLDFINCH BATE.

H. G. CHANCELLOR.

THE FOLLIES AND "FORCIBLE FEEDING."

MR. PÉLISSIER has thought fit to introduce into the new programme at the Apollo Theatre a verse satirizing the "Hunger Strikers." Political satire is all very well, and in general no one can take exception to Mr. Péliissier's quips. But whatever view we take of the action of the prison authorities, the Home Secretary, or the women themselves, we shall agree that public mockery of women who are willing to ruin their health, if not actually to sacrifice their lives, for a cause, is against all the canons of decency. When we remember further that this is done for the amusement of a company of people in a West-end theatre, many of whom are laboriously digesting a comfortable dinner, preparatory to a supper or a dance, and would not undergo physical discomfort for any cause whatever, we must recognize that the song is intolerable. It is a very warped sense of humour which, picturing the facts, could find food for mirth. The old Roman arena can furnish a parallel!

Several members and friends have protested by letter, so far with no effect, and on Saturday, October 23rd, a number of men protested when the song was sung and immediately left the theatre. The audience appears to have been largely indifferent, though a number joined in the protest, while others counter-demonstrated. As we go to press we have not heard whether Mr. Péliissier has made any change.

MEN'S LEAGUE AT BATH.

A MEETING convened by the Men's League for Women's Suffrage was held in the Banqueting Room of the Guildhall, Bath, on September 29th. The Rev. Geoffrey Ramsay presided, and among those present were many of the leading residents in Bath and the neighbourhood, including Col. Blathwayt, Alderman E. E. Phillips, Councillor Valentine Evans, Messrs. Robertson, Venning, Shaw-Phillips, the Hon. Mrs. Paley, Miss Tolle-mache, Miss Hope, and Mr. F. W. Rogers (hon. sec. of the Bristol Branch of the Men's League). The chief speakers were the Hon. Sir John Cockburn (ex-prime minister of South Australia) and Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver, of London, barrister-at-law. The chairman, in opening the meeting declared that the grant of the

Suffrage to women was the next great necessary step in human progress. It was not simply a sex question—the existence of the Men's League seemed to him to contradict the belief that the movement was one of woman against man.

Sir John Cockburn, in a powerful address, recalled the part he had played in obtaining the Franchise for women in Australia, and predicted that in this country they were on the eve of the settlement they desired. The age demanded the woman's mode of thought and action, which was constructive, and not destructive; co-operative, and not competitive. As a sign of the position woman held in Imperial affairs, Sir John pointed out that the offers of Dreadnoughts for the British Navy came, and came alone, from those colonies where women had the vote.

Mr. Baillie-Weaver, in his address, dealt with various objections to Women's Suffrage, and declared that the best answer to the question, "Why do women want the vote?" was "Because they want to be citizens." Women bore the burdens of citizenship, and they should have the privileges of citizenship—sex should not be a bar either to duties or to rights. Admitting that at present the majority of women were not anxious for the vote, Mr. Baillie-Weaver said that it had nothing to do with the argument, that the vote was for the benefit of women and for the benefit of the State. The vote had been given to the agricultural labourer without any inquiry as to whether or not he wanted it. On the question which exercised many minds, namely, that by granting the Suffrage to women men would be outvoted, Mr. Baillie-Weaver states that on the basis of the present laws men voters would be in a majority of four to one, and if Adult Suffrage was carried, man would only have himself to blame for the result.

SPEAKERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Nov. 2.	Woburn Sands	Rev. Hugh Chapman
" 3.	Cambridge	Laurence Housman
" 7.	Southwark. Debate, Propaganda Society	Victor Duval
" 10.	Croydon (Pembroke Hall)	J. E. Raphael
" 12.	St. Mark's Hall, N. Kensington	Joseph Clayton
" 16.	Farnham	Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.
" 17.	Eastbourne	J. Malcolm Mitchell
"	Borough Polytechnic	R. F. Cholmeley
"	Barton-on-Trent	H. Baillie-Weaver
" 18.	Cheltenham	Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.

DEBATE AT MORLEY COLLEGE.

ON Saturday, October 2nd, about a hundred persons were present at the Morley College for Working Men and Women, at a debate on 'The Case against Women's Suffrage.' Mr. Keeling presided.

Mrs. Mortimore, of the Anti-Suffrage Society, said that she was principally opposed to the Suffrage because it would not benefit the working-classes. She contended that differences of physique and of temperament existed between men and women, which rendered them unfit to perform many things in common which nature intended for one sex alone.

Miss Sheepshanks replied with much spirit to the points raised by the Anti-Suffragists, and contended that these differences of temperament were only thought of when the Parliamentary vote was being considered.

A member of a Socialist organization demanded Adult Suffrage, and Mr. Yaldwyn (Men's League) pointed out the folly of refusing a little because of not being able to obtain a great deal. He wanted to know if a propertied woman was not as much entitled to a vote as any other woman. If they wanted the working girls to have votes, they should insist on their getting higher wages.

Mr. Drywood said if women were entitled to votes, why not animals? Nobody, male or female, had a right to a vote till the community granted it. To talk of elementary justice was to assume something which never existed, except in the minds of the persons assuming it.

Several speakers followed, mostly in favour of giving votes to women, and a resolution against doing so was lost by 49 votes to 17, amid loud applause.

BRANCH NEWS.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

At a meeting of the Executive, on Tuesday, October 12th, Mr. Brooks read a letter from Mr. E. W. Hendy, B.A., resigning his office as one of the hon. secs., a position which he had held from the establishment of the Society. The Executive, most reluctantly, accepted the resignation, under the circumstances, were exceedingly glad that Mr. Hendy was still continuing a member of the League, and most unanimously passed a hearty vote of thanks to him for the willing and most valuable services which he has rendered to the Manchester Branch from its very foundation. Mr. Hendy was one of the two original founders of the Branch.

Mr. W. Bentley Capper, jun., was appointed to the vacant secretaryship.

The question of militant methods was raised by Prof. Herford. Mr. Brooks explained that the position adopted by the Branch from the very beginning was one of absolute neutrality in regard to the question of "tactics." The League has refused to consider that it was its duty either to endorse or to condemn the "tactics" adopted by any other body of Suffragists with whom we have no special connexion, and for whose policy we are in no wise responsible. We, as a branch, are always willing to be responsible for our own policy and actions, but we cannot accept either praise or condemnation on account of the actions of any other section of the Suffragist army. Other sections are usually well able to defend their own particular policies and "tactics."

The meeting decided to ask Mr. Runciman (President of the Board of Education) to receive a deputation from the Branch, on the occasion of his visit to Manchester on October 19th, in order that we might lay before him our views upon the question of Women's Suffrage and make certain representations of an urgent and important character. Mr. Runciman telegraphed his consent to meet us (after his meeting in the Free Trade Hall) at 10 P.M., in the Manchester Reform Club.

The conference duly took place, and lasted for an hour, during which time the whole field of recent Suffragist controversy, from Mr. Asquith's "pledge" to "forcible feeding" and the "premature" release of Lady Constance Lytton, were discussed with the utmost frankness on both sides. The deputation were greatly pleased with the frank and open manner with which Mr. Runciman met them, and with the interest and animation shown by him in attempting to defend the Government, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. H. Gladstone, from the several charges laid against them by various members of the deputation.

The deputation consisted of Canon Hicks (president), Professors Alexander and Herford, D. M. Humphreys, Henry Barrett, Hugh V. Herford, Edmund G. Taylor, and Sam. Brooks (hon. sec.). I hope to forward a full report of the conference, issued with the sanction and approval of Mr. Runciman, for publication in your next issue.

Members are requested to look out for announcements in the local press of a series of monthly meetings for members and friends, on lines suggested by Mr. Uttley at the last Executive meeting.

S. BROOKS.
5, Hill Street, Radcliffe, near Manchester.

EDINBURGH BRANCH.

The first of the series of fortnightly meetings in the Café Vegetaria took place on October 14th, when Mr. Morley Fletcher gave an address on 'Suffragist Tactics.' There was a good attendance, considering the violent gale which was raging during the evening, and a most instructive and interesting discussion followed the address.

At the annual general meeting held on October 21st, the following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. F. Morley Fletcher; Vice-President, Mr. E. W. Rodbourn; Secretary, Dr. W. W. Taylor; Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Baird; Committee—Messrs. J. D. Easson, F. Gibson, G. K. Holmes, F. Maloney, and T. Shaw.

On October 22nd the President and the Secretary took part in a discussion of Women's Suffrage at the Outlook Tower. Representatives of the National Union, of the W.S.P.U., and of the Women's Anti-Suffrage Society, were present.

The meetings for November are as follows:—

Nov. 11th.—'Why Men Want Votes for Women,' Dr. W. W. Taylor.

Nov. 23rd.—'What are Militant Tactics?' A joint discussion with the Women's Freedom League.

The W. S. P. U. Procession and Mass Meeting, on October 9th, at both of which the League assisted, were highly successful. Our Captain of Stewards admirably carried out the stewarding of the mass meeting in the Waverley Market, at which 5,000 to 6,000 people were present. Since the demonstration we have gained several new members.

W. W. TAYLOR (Hon. Sec.).

Address—28, Findhorn Place,
Edinburgh.

BRISTOL BRANCH.

THE members of this Branch have resumed their active propaganda work after the summer vacation, and open-air meetings have been arranged to be held in the Horsefair and in the public parks of each of the four constituencies. A well-attended meeting was held in the Horsefair last week, and was addressed by Mr. H. Brydges-Barrett and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. W. Rogers. The members of this Branch have also been assisting their Bath friends, following a large public meeting held in the Guildhall and addressed by Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver, the Rev. Geoffrey Ramsay, and others.

An open-air meeting was held on the following Saturday in the Sawclose, a large and interested gathering of men was addressed by Mr. A. R. C. Fisher and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. W. Rogers. At the close many questions were answered, and a spirited discussion followed.

On Thursday last one of our most able and active members, the Rev. E. W. Lummis, M.A., took part in a public debate held under the auspices of the St. James Debating Society, Bath, and successfully championed the Suffrage cause against a well-known Liberal speaker. It is only fair to mention that he was ably assisted by Miss von Donop and other ladies, who share in the satisfaction felt, not only in winning the vote, but in keeping the discussion at a very high level throughout.

In view of the approaching General Election, arrangements are being made for actively working the four Parliamentary divisions of Bristol, and also to assist our friends in Bath, Radstock, Weston-super-Mare, &c.

SUSSEX MEN'S LEAGUE.

DURING the absence through illness of Mr. Adrian Brunel, the secretarial work has been carried on by Mr. Pearman, for whose services the Society is very grateful. On October 25th a successful performance of 'Man and Woman' was given at St. Augustine's Hall, Preston, under the auspices of a joint committee of the N.U.W.S.S. and the Men's League. A meeting will be held in the same hall on November 4th, to be addressed by Councillor Margaret Ashton, and Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver. Alderman Carden will preside.

The Society has lost an ardent supporter by the death of Mr. H. R. Mackeson on October 16th. He was a vigorous member of the Committee.

Address—Adrian Brunel, Esq., 61, Norway Street, Portslade.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BRANCH.

THE Cambridge Branch, having arranged with Mr. Laurence Housman to address the members on November 3rd, succeeded in arranging also for Mr. Housman to address the Cambridge Union Society in their Debate on November 2nd, on the subject of Women's Suffrage. It is hoped that the Debate will result in a large increase of the influence of the League in the University.

The local Secretary is Mr. A. F. M. Greig, of Peterhouse College.

[Other Branch News unavoidably held over.]