

# Women's League for Women's Suffrage.

## MONTHLY PAPER.

OFFICE: 159, ST. STEPHEN'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER.  
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No. 20.

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

MAY, 1911.

### THE SITUATION.

We must first remind members of the Dinner to be given next Thursday, the 4th, by the League, in honour of Miss Vida Goldstein, at Pagani's, 7.30 p.m. Mrs. Fawcett, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst have consented to speak, as representing two of the most powerful women's societies, and Mr. Laurence Housman will speak on behalf of the League. Mr. Pember Reeves will preside. At the time of writing there are still a few tickets to be obtained from the offices of the League, price 4s. each, for member or guest.

Concentrate on the Bill is now our motto. It is no good discussing other subjects or urging other demands. "Strike with all your force at one point. Upset the enemy's equilibrium and all is won." Those were Napoleon's maxims of war. "Now let everything go in." General Sheridan used to say at the crisis of battle. Such are the rules we must follow in fighting our antiquated and timorous, but still powerful enemy. Leave side issues alone; drop criticisms and discussions; let traitors and doctrinaires go as they please. Concentrate on the Bill.

The best way to concentrate on the Bill is to call on your member in the House. Tell him he must vote straight on Friday. If he is an Anti, call on him just the same. Show him the strength of the movement. A member fears the loss of votes, even if he fears nothing else in the world. If you cannot call, write. But the personal appeal has most weight and impresses all members more.

Unless your member is on the Conciliation Committee, you will probably find him very ignorant about the provisions of the Bill. Show him our post-card that gives at a glance the short and simple terms of the measure, combined with the changes introduced since last year's Bill. Give him a marked copy of the memorandum drawn up by Mr. Brailsford (a member of our Executive) as honorary secretary of the Conciliation Committee. He may say that he has received it already, but insist on explaining to him the chief points, for probably he has not mastered them. Explain that the new title now leaves the Bill open to amendment for widening its scope. It thus meets Mr. Lloyd George's chief objection, and one of the Prime Minister's objections. Remind him that, on the condition of this open title, Mr. Asquith has pledged himself to "proceed effectively" with a Woman's Suffrage Bill in the present Parliament, and that a Bill can be proceeded with effectively only in this Session. Next Session will be overcrowded with Government measures, and the Session after that will be too late to carry the Bill into law if there is strong opposition to it in the House of Lords.

Remind him that the Bill is necessarily a compromise, since it aims at obtaining the support of all parties in the House, and by its combination of justice and caution it has obtained that support. It does not alarm the Conservatives, because it contains none of the doctrinaire and excessive demands that adultists and other theoretic people put forward in their ignorance of English politics. Nor does it frighten the Liberals, for it is carefully drawn to exclude any possible increase of the ownership and plural vote. Its proposals rest entirely on the household basis, such as was adopted by Liberals and Conservatives alike in the Reform Bill of 1867 and the Municipal Bill (for both men and women) of 1869. Show him further that the household franchise draws no distinction between rich and poor, but will give the vote to a woman holding a tenement of even one room only, provided she has full control over it.

Point out to him that, in order to preclude the very shadow of faggot voting, the £10 occupier's qualification, which appeared in last year's Bill, has now been dropped, so that it will be impossible for any woman to obtain two votes; also that under the new Bill a man cannot create the semblance of a faggot vote because husband and wife may not be registered in the same constituency. Mr. Winston Churchill's objection to the "stable" vote is thus removed. On the other hand, the married woman is not excluded on account of marriage, but can be registered by arrangement with her husband, and this will probably often be done in the case of families in which the husband is much away from home, as a sailor, or for other business.

Inform him that the Bill will admit about one million women householders to the franchise, and that all these will be self-dependent women who already bear the full burdens of citizenship. The Bill, as we showed, imposes no property test and makes no distinction between rich and poor. But it is fair to all classes, and of the women enfranchised between 80 and 90 per cent will be working women, making their own living and keeping no servant. A very large proportion will inhabit only one or two rooms, and the voters as a whole will consist of the least "dependent" women in the country—those who stand alone, and are therefore in most need of representation.

Remind him finally, that at least 65 City and Town Councils have passed resolutions in favour of the Bill, and not a single council has condemned it. Among the 65 are the great cities of Birmingham, Bradford, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Dundee, Glasgow, Dublin, Cork, and Limerick. Tell him also that the Lord Mayor of Dublin is coming over soon after the second reading to plead for full facilities at the bar of the House of Commons, and will have such a reception from all the Suffrage Societies as no Lord Mayor ever had before. Tell him that more than 4,000 meetings were held last autumn in support of the Bill, and that not for three generations at least has any measure aroused so much enthusiasm, been maintained with such devoted industry, or made such rapid







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PLAYS PRODUCED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF EDITH CRAIG.

All particulars from THE SECRETARY, 2, Adelphi Terrace House, Strand.

**Concentrate on 1911.**  
**Concentrate on these Next Days.**  
**BUY A SUPPLY OF THESE POSTCARDS.**

(Wording as per centre of this  
Advertisement.)



Use them at once, to all your  
friends.

Give them to strangers.

Send them to M.P.'s and Cabinet  
Ministers, and let no one be able  
to say they do not understand  
what the Bill asks for.

### THE CONCILIATION BILL.

As revised 1911.

A Bill to [confer] *extend* the Parliamentary Franchise [on] to *Women Occupiers*.

1. Every woman possessed of a household qualification, or of a *ten pound occupation qualification* within the meaning of the Representation of the People Act (1884), shall be entitled to be registered as a voter, and when registered to vote for the County or Borough in which the qualifying premises are situate.
2. For the purposes of this Act a woman shall not be disqualified by marriage for being registered as a voter, provided that a husband and wife shall not both be *qualified in respect of the same property* registered as voters in the same Parliamentary Borough or County Division.

The alterations shown above have been made to allow of free amendment in Committee, and to overcome the objection that the Bill as it originally stood rendered the creation of faggot votes possible.

*The alteration in the above is signified by deleting the words in italics and adding the words in brackets.*

N.B.—In the actual postcard the alterations have been shown by drawing lines through the words in italics and adding the words in brackets.

Issued without profit by the Men's  
League for Women's Suffrage.



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SEND TO-DAY TO

**The Men's League for Women's Suffrage,**

159, ST. STEPHEN'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, S.W. (Adjoining the Station.)

Who will supply (free) copies of this advertisement for exhibition and distribution by Suffrage workers.

CUT THIS OFF.

#### ORDER FORM.

To the SECRETARY, MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, 159, St. Stephen's House, Westminster.

Please supply \_\_\_\_\_ dozen } Conciliation Cards by return, for which I enclose £ : :

PLEASE WRITE  
CLEARLY.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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