

# The Common Cause

## The Organ of the National Union of WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE Societies.

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### Notes and Comments.

#### The Stimulus of Hope.

Before another number of the COMMON CAUSE can appear the fortunes of Women's Suffrage will be in process of decision as a Parliamentary issue for some time to come. Victory will not diminish the need for vigilance, nor will defeat be followed by enervation. But precisely because we all know what unremitting toil, what ungrudging self-sacrifice a temporary mishap would impose on the thousands of women and men who are working in this cause, we are the more impelled to achieve, if need were, the impossible now. Those who spare themselves now are passing on the whole movement a sentence of several years' hard labour. This mood has already made a perceptible change in the atmosphere within the House of Commons. No one, it is true, can look forward gaily to the sort of success that the Conciliation Bill met with in 1910 and 1911. The enemy is thoroughly aroused. Party egoism has done its devastating work. The irritation caused by mistaken tactics remains. But the omens of success multiply, and the hope of victory grows steadily brighter. No one to-day heeds the rumour of the Prime Minister's resignation. A truce, brief and belated indeed, has been won from militancy. The Irish Party is undoubtedly deliberating before it makes its move. One need not be an optimist by temperament to realise that one or other of the Compromise Amendments bids fair to succeed. We may work with the stimulus of hope.

#### The End of the Scares.

The history of this year has been in the annals of the Suffrage movement a long record of scares and alarms. They chased each other breathlessly, and before one had run its course another had overtaken it. The Bill would never be produced. It would be promptly withdrawn. A Referendum would be imposed. Mr. Asquith would resign. The Suffrage amendments were all out of order. On these scares the tactics of wrecking lived and thrived, and those of us whose will was set on turning a good occasion to account, had to lay phantoms with the left hand while the right engaged the enemy. The last of these rumours is dissipated at length. It was said that if the Suffrage amendments could only be defeated at the start, the Bill would be dropped, and Mr. Harold Baker's Plural Voting Bill substituted for it. The Government—so ran the tale—having arranged in this way at once to keep its pledge, and to save its own time, would secretly urge Liberals to defeat

the amendments in order to shorten the labours of a weary session. As usual, the scaremongers have been much more ingenious than the open enemy. Mr. Pease has now tabled certain amendments to the Bill which will lighten and shorten it. The obvious inference is that the Government is resolved to proceed with it, and it is unlikely that it would gain even a day by suddenly reviving Mr. Baker's Bill. It is a straight fight before us, and our sole task is to rally our majority.

#### The "Conciliation" Formula.

The course of the debate is now clearly outlined. The main battle lasting for a day and a half, will be taken on the single issue of principle raised by Sir Edward Grey's amendment to delete the word "male." We could ask for nothing better. If the House decides that women shall not be excluded, it must go on to say that some women shall be included. There will follow a series of rapid debates and divisions, each occupying half a day, and each dealing with one of the actual proposals to confer the vote on the equal suffrage, "Dickinson" or "Conciliation" basis. In a leading article these various amendments are discussed, and reasons are set forth to explain why we urge our friends in all parties to concentrate on the middle course of the "Dickinson" amendment. It is a proposal neither undemocratic nor yet ungenerous to women. When it is remembered that it will enfranchise those women who have that most steady and responsible of all "stakes in the country," a household and a family, there seems to be no reason why Conservatives should dread it. But it would be a grave mistake if Suffragists were to neglect the Conciliation amendment, which in default of a large measure of Irish support has probably the best chance of the three in the lobbies. It is numerically a niggardly proposal from the Suffrage standpoint, but it secures our principle. With its passage our cause would be victorious, and a stimulus would be felt by the whole broad movement of enfranchisement, not only here but in every country of the civilised world. We are satisfied, as the result of several carefully organised canvasses, that of the women whom it would enfranchise, about 80 per cent. would belong to the working class. The wording of the amendment deserves attention. It lays down the principle that every woman who has the municipal vote shall be entitled to exercise the Parliamentary vote also. There are at present certain well-known anomalies and local variations in the municipal franchise in the Three Kingdoms. Speaking in the debate on the Second Reading of the Franchise Bill, Mr. Harcourt promised on behalf of the Government a Bill in a future session to amend the existing municipal franchise. This will react automatically on the Parliamentary franchise also, if women are admitted now on the "Conciliation" basis.

#### The Irish Vote.

It is, we believe, a mistake to assume that the tactics of the Irish Party on our question are irrevocably fixed. They are realising that there are pro's and con's. Their vote against the Conciliation Bill brought unpopularity to them and embarrassment to their Liberal allies. Its repetition would certainly mean a danger to Home Rule. Any flagrant breach of the promise of a "free vote" will be resented by the whole body of Liberal Suffragists, and we confidently expect that this resentment would be shown on the Third Reading Vote. Sir Edward Grey in particular is deeply pledged that all the



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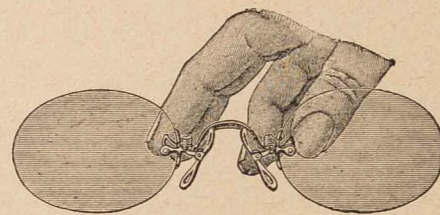
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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

## Our Chances.

Once more, before the Committee stage of the Reform Bill is entered upon, it may be worth while to run through the official amendments bearing on women's suffrage, noting the character and significance of each.

On the first sentence of the first clause, Sir Edward Grey moves to delete the word "male." This will not in itself enfranchise any women, but will make possible their enfranchisement by subsequent amendments. On this amendment it is understood that the great battle on the principle of women's suffrage will be fought; and a day and a-half may probably be occupied by this debate. As to the result of the division on this motion there should be no room for doubt; it must unite all the suffrage forces in the House, and its defeat could only be brought about by such a wholesale breaking of pledges as we have never had any reason to fear.

The principle of the inclusion of women being established, the House will then proceed to discuss which women shall be admitted; and Mr. Arthur Henderson will move the insertion of the words "of either sex" after the word "person" in Clause I.

The effect of this amendment, if carried, would be to place women on an equality with men, so that all the future provisions of the Bill would apply to both alike. The six months' residential qualification, if accepted, would then be the qualification for both men and women, and we should have complete adult, instead of manhood suffrage. This amendment, of course, embodies the demand of all the non-party suffrage societies for "equal suffrage" and is recognised by them all as the logical and the ideal thing. At the same time, it is no good blinking the fact that, so far as we know, the majority of the House of Commons are not prepared to take so great a step, and the chances of the success of this amendment are exceedingly remote.

Should it be defeated, however, it will be followed by an amendment which, though hard to defend logically, would, practically, enfranchise a very useful and representative electorate. This is the so-called "Dickinson" Amendment to give votes to women over the age of 25 who are inhabitant occupiers or the wives of men who are inhabitant occupiers. This would enfranchise six or seven million women, many of whom would be the wives of working men, and it is valuable in its recogni-

Government's undertakings shall be honourably fulfilled. If the Irish Party were to break the general obligation of good faith, the consequences would fall upon the whole coalition. We note with particular satisfaction two evidences of the determination of the Women's Liberal Federation to play its part in winning the vote. It has decided to give its emphatic support in the last resort to the Conciliation amendment. It has also arranged to meet after the event to consider what its work shall be, if all the amendments fail. That means, we imagine, that it will be prepared to confine itself thenceforward to Suffrage propaganda.

## The Truce.

Among the new elements of hope in the situation we welcome none more heartily than the decision of the W.S.P.U. to suspend its militant activity until the fate of the amendments is known. Mr. Lloyd George has consented to receive Mrs. Drummond's deputation of working women, and by that friendly act has done more for the cause than he could achieve by the most eloquent speech. We need no longer fear a demonstration which would revive that unreasoning, instinctive irritation which helped to kill the Conciliation Bill. Mrs. Pankhurst is good enough to say that she will now give constitutional Suffragists their chance to carry the amendments. The chance would have been fairer, and our work would have been lighter, if throughout this year the section of the movement which she leads had consented to help or had even refrained from hindering the effort to turn this opportunity to the best advantage.

## Spade Work.

We print on another page a striking summary of the work done during the past two years by four only of the Federations within the National Union. The results collected in some other areas have been no less striking. These impressive lists of Town Councils and Liberal, Conservative and Labour organisations which have declared for Women's Suffrage are conclusive proof that public opinion is with us in the industrial North. In Scotland both the Liberal and Conservative party organisations have declared for us. In Leeds, to take only one instance, all the more important Trades Unions have passed Suffrage resolutions. No Member need hesitate to accept such a mandate as this. Some idea of the comparative standard of work done for this and other causes may be reached when we remember the congratulations of the *Freeman's Journal* because 500 meetings had been held from January to August of last year in the whole United Kingdom for Home Rule. During the autumn campaign of 1910 for the Conciliation Bill the total of meetings exceeded four thousand.

## The Labour Supplement.

We are distributing with this number a special supplement printed by the *Labour Leader* at the suggestion of the Election Fighting Fund Committee. We need say nothing to commend the vigorous articles which our own members contribute. Our peculiar gratitude is due to Mr. Holiday for his cartoon, as inspiring in its lesson as it is graceful and decorative in its design. We do not forget, when we turn with peculiar confidence to the Labour Party, the splendid service which our friends in other parties are rendering in the House. Nothing could exceed the devotion with which Mr. Acland and Lord Robert Cecil, to mention only the leaders in the two groups, are forwarding our cause in the House. In such service the non-party attitude of the National Union finds its recognition and reward. But there is aid which only a united party can render, and we confidently appeal to the Labour Party to realise the expectations which its fine record and spirited policy have encouraged.

## Women Geographers.

We remind ourselves with difficulty that women are still debarred by its constitution from membership of the Royal Geographical Society. But here, as in greater communities, the opinion of the general body of citizens is in advance of written constitutions. Anti-suffragists will note with dismay that the referendum cannot invariably be trusted to serve as a bulwark of male privilege. The proposal to admit women has been submitted to the general body of the Fellows, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* learns that the *plébiscite* has resulted in a vote of 1,796 for, with only 578 against. The absurdity which forbade the recognition of the late Miss Mary Kingsley's work in West Africa, and of Miss Durham's services to knowledge and to the literature of travel in the Balkans, had grown too flagrant for perpetuation. The vote very fairly reflects the present division of opinion among educated men on the demand of women for equal treatment. The old-world policy of exclusion can no longer reckon on a minority of one in three.

tion that the household is not fully represented unless the point of view of both partners is considered.

We have very good hopes that this amendment may be accepted by the House of Commons. It is the ground upon which sincere suffragists whose personal predilection is for a wider or for a narrower basis, have agreed to meet; and we expect so much concession from those of all parties who desire not merely to assert a principle but at last to put that principle into practice.

But should the "Dickinson" Amendment, too, be defeated, we shall have to fall back on the "Conciliation Amendment" to give votes to women on the register for municipal and local elections. It is useless to try and throw a glamour over this proposal, or to pretend that it is anything but a very poor makeshift. It would enfranchise under two millions of women, whilst ten million men would then have votes, and it would enfranchise mainly widows and spinsters (though they would not be, as is often suggested, "propertied women," but, to the extent of four-fifths of their number women of the working-class). It is a last resort; of comparatively little value in itself, but of enormous importance in that it would assert the principle that sex should not disqualify, make all women potential voters and hold the door open for future extensions.

This we would urge on those men who are inclined to think this amendment not worth voting for. We would ask them to consider what is the *only alternative*. The alternative of wider measures of enfranchisement would have been defeated; the only alternative left would be the absolute exclusion of women, which would be an assertion of sex inequality, of the natural incapacity of women, which no man believing in the equal citizenship of men and women could possibly acquiesce in making. Moreover, it would be a barrier raised in the women's path. Some men suggest that the "Conciliation" amendment would prove a "barrier." How? "These women are reactionary," they say, "and will refuse to extend the franchise to their sisters." This is unproven, but even were it true, the ten million men voters will have power to extend the franchise to whom they will, whether the majority of the little band of one and a-half million women voters (scattered through all constituencies, classes, sections of society) like it or not; and they certainly will extend it if they think they will get a more satisfactory electorate thereby. But manhood suffrage! On obvious practical grounds this would be a barrier indeed. There would be no anomalies, as in the case of a limited measure of women's suffrage, crying for removal. All would be definite, orderly, beyond criticism, so far as it concerned the men electors. It would be, for the men, a final settlement, and must be followed by a re-distribution Bill. And when all this had been done, what superhuman force would be needed to push the franchise system back into the melting pot! Of course, we should do it, but at what needless repetition of work, struggle, sacrifice—what waste of money, years, energy, and enthusiasm withheld thereby from other great movements. The suffrage cause has devoured enough—and this fresh demand need never be if our friends prove loyal.

## Big Minds and Little Minds.

BY MRS. HENRY FAWCETT.

Magnanimity is a grand quality, and we have lately had a grand example of it from one of our own countrymen. I wonder how many of the millions who read of the attempted assassination of Lord Hardinge just before Christmas realised what a lesson it conveyed to politicians at home on the Women's Suffrage question.

Everyone knows what happened. On Monday, December 23rd, the Viceroy was making his State entry into Delhi as the representative of the King-Emperor, to open the Durbar, for taking formal possession of the new capital; a bomb was thrown from an adjacent housetop, and exploded on the howdah of the elephant on which the Viceroy and his wife were seated. The attendant who held the umbrella over their heads was killed on the spot; Lord Hardinge and several other persons were severely wounded; his wife, seated by his side, fortunately escaped. Before he lost consciousness he ordered that the whole ceremony should go on exactly as if nothing had happened, and directed that Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson should act in his place. The wounded man, with three slugs in his back, and

innumerable smaller injuries, first asked his wife, "Are you hurt?" When she answered "No," he ordered the procession to go on, but Lady Hardinge said, "We cannot go on, there is a dead man behind." Then the elephant was halted, and the Viceroy reeled and fainted, and remained unconscious for a long time. But in the evening of the same day, the papers told us that he said to those who were with him, that "the outrage had made no change in his feelings towards India and her people, and would make no difference in his policy. He felt only sympathy for the shame and horror with which India would be filled, and was depressed at the thought."

There is something very spirit-stirring in the story, and one feels proud to belong to a nation which can produce a man of such a great mind. He displayed no petty personal wish for revenge, or punishment; no sign of irritation even. He felt, chiefly, for the pain and shame with which India would be filled by the dastardly and cowardly outrage. Lord Hardinge's order that the procession should go on, and the whole ceremony proceed unaltered, save by his absence, reminds one of the gallant conduct of M. Charles Dupuy, President of the French Chamber, who, when a bomb was thrown from the gallery and exploded on the floor of the House, said, as soon as the dust and tumult had subsided, "The House will now proceed with the orders of the day." But he had had the training of a school-master; besides, he was himself untouched, so that the palm remains with our own countryman.

Now, if our nation can, and does, produce men of the type of Lord Hardinge, serene, imperturbable, steadfast in pursuit of principles once laid down, cannot other men, even if of smaller minds, emulate this magnificent example? Look at the fuss, tumult, and hysteria caused by the recent tactics of petty annoyance adopted by "militant" suffragists. According to the Postmaster-General, speaking in the middle of December, the whole net destruction brought about by weeks of "outrages" on pillar boxes was of thirteen letters and seven postcards!

Is it not unworthy of the dignity of the House of Commons to attach so much importance to such trifling events? We heartily rejoice to hear that these tactics have been suspended; but is it too much to hope that if they should ever recur, Members of Parliament will regard them more or less in the spirit which Lord Hardinge has shown towards his assailants.

There are some signs that a change in this direction is taking place; Mr. McCallum Scott has already discovered another line of attack, and he says (see *Standard*, January 10th), "that Liberals who believe in a cause are not likely to have their opinions changed by the criminal folly of a small section of other people who support the same cause." He now attacks Women's Suffrage, not on principle at all, but because he says its success would be "humiliating" to Mr. Asquith. He bases his case for this statement on one isolated phrase in Mr. Asquith's speech to the Anti-Suffrage deputation in December, 1911. But if he had taken even a moderate degree of pains to master Mr. Asquith's speech to the Suffrage deputation of November of the same year, he would, I think, be entirely relieved from the dread of seeing his Chief humiliated by the passing of the Women's Suffrage amendments. Mr. Asquith then said that he could not himself (with his well-known opinions on the subject) initiate and propose a Women's Suffrage Bill; but that the great majority of his colleagues in the Cabinet were in favour of some form of women's enfranchisement; and he added he was quite prepared to bow to and acquiesce in the settled judgment of the House of Commons in the matter, and that to do so was in accordance with the best traditions of English statesmanship. Therefore, surely Mr. McCallum Scott's anxiety to protect his Chief from humiliation is a little superfluous, even a little insulting. A big-minded man can face the facts and see when he is in a minority that he must accept the consequences. There is no humiliation about this. As long ago as 1908, when he was first Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith had said to a deputation of Liberal suffragist M.P.'s that his Government could not resist a Woman's Suffrage amendment to the Franchise Bill, for the very good reason that two-thirds of his colleagues were in favour of it; he quoted this to the Anti-Suffragist deputation in November, 1911, without modifying or withdrawing a word of it. If Mr. Asquith has magnanimity enough to act as the Duke of Wellington and Peel acted in 1829 about Catholic Emancipation, he does not need Mr. McCallum Scott or any one else to protect him from humiliation. The verdict of posterity will be given in his favour. We suffragists are contending for a great principle, the principle of representative government. We urge Liberals to be true to that principle, and to recognise the fact that a democracy is no true democracy which shuts out half the people from any share in the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship.

## Election Fighting Fund.

Whilst interest centres, at the moment, on our Parliamentary work, and our main concern is as to how each M.P. is going to vote in the approaching fateful divisions, numbers of our workers are steadily occupied in the Fighting Fund constituencies, whence the strongest "pressure" will come, should the future demand it.

In Rossendale, Mrs. Aldersley and Mrs. Chew have been at work for some time, addressing meetings, organising societies, and getting resolutions passed by Trade Unions and other organisations, and we hear that now a deputation of working-men is going up to interview Mr. Harcourt in London. Perhaps he will give them a more respectful and intelligent reply than he vouchsafed to the working-women from his constituency who asked him why he was opposed to women's suffrage—"I am, because I am." In Accrington, Mrs. Tozer has been doing similar work, although Mr. Baker has refused to meet the deputation of prominent Trade-unionists who proposed to wait upon him. There have been some fine meetings, and on Sunday, December 15th, Miss Robertson addressed an Adult School in the afternoon and the famous Accrington Men's Discussion Class in the evening. The latter, held in Dowry's Picture Palace, affords a grand opportunity of propaganda. The Hall holds many hundreds, and on this particular evening all the standing space was also full and the interest and sympathy evinced were immensely cheering. There is no doubt that women's suffrage has got a good hold in Accrington, especially amongst many of the fine Lancashire working-women who resent the attitude of a young college gentleman like Mr. Baker, who, whilst professing to represent a great industrial constituency "refuses to discuss the question" of women suffrage with adult workers in his division.

In Crewe, the society is being re-organised with a view to active political work. Miss Entwistle has spent some weeks there, and another organiser is shortly following her.

In the North-Eastern Federation, Gateshead is well under way, with Miss Sheard in charge, and work is being schemed in Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland. Miss Gordon has also Miss Dring to assist in E.F.F. work, and Miss Entwistle, too, has just joined her.

Plans are now matured in East Bristol, and Mrs. Townley is about to begin work there. This will give suffragists especial satisfaction in view of the fact that Mr. Hobhouse is advertised to speak at the anti-suffrage meeting on January 20th. In Scotland, too, work is in progress, which will be detailed another week.

But it is from Rotherham that the fullest and most satisfactory reports have come. Mrs. Townley's visit there has resulted in the passing of strong resolutions, which were then sent to Mr. Asquith and Mr. Pease by (1) Rotherham I.L.P., (2) Co-operative Women's Guild, (3) Rotherham Trades Council, (4) Rawmarsh Trades and Labour Council, (5) Rotherham No. 1 Branch Stove Grate Workers, (6) Rotherham No. 2 Branch Stove Grate Workers, (7) Silverwood Branch of Miners' Union, (8) Parkgate Branch Machine-Engine and Electrical Workers, (9) Rotherham Blacksmiths, (10) Swinton Working-Men's Club, (11) Steel and Iron Workers (Parkgate), (12) Rotherham L.R.C. (special meetings), (13) Steel Smelters (Parkgate), (14) Amalgamated Society of Engineers (Rotherham Branch), (15) Ryecroft Working Men's Club, (16) Rotherham Shop Assistants' Union, (17) General Railway Workers, (18) Rotherham Main Miners' Branch, (19) Railway Servants' Union, (20) Tinsley Engineers (Amalgamated), (21) Rotherham Branch of Railway Servants (No. 2), as well as by various public meetings, indoor and outdoor.

In addition to this, a deputation consisting of Mr. A. Hutchison, general secretary of the National Union of Stove Grate Workers, Mr. Brooks (carpenters and joiners), Mr. Outram (gasworkers), Mr. Ellison (Silverwood miners), and Mr. Pearson (shop assistants), went up to London to see Mr. Pease at the House of Commons, all sacrificing a day's work and wages to do it. The deputation, although it failed to get any satisfactory pledges from Mr. Pease, was eminently successful in exposing to the Rotherham public the ludicrous inconsistency

of its member's attitude. Mr. Pease had the assurance to state that his "main reason" for not supporting the movement for the vote was that women "are physically unfit to stand the serious strain of public life in the House of Commons." This was taken up by the local *Liberal* paper, the *Rotherham Advertiser*, and its able and witty writer, "Vulcan," devoted more than a column to badinage, which must have made the Rt. Hon. A. J. Pease smile a little awry. He concludes by hoping that Mr. Pease, "if he still has faith in the non-enfranchisement of women, will, at all events, give the next deputation that waits on him a better reason for that faith than he did in this case." From beginning to end the deputation had him "on the hip." He tried to scare them by the bogey of the "majority of women," but they were not in the least afraid, and told Mr. Pease that they trusted their women, and recognised that on some questions they were far better fitted to give an opinion than they were themselves. In many ways the deputation must have been an enlightenment and an education to Mr. Pease. When they left the House of Commons the men went on to the National Union offices, where, fortunately, they found the Executive Committee sitting, and were able to give them an account of the proceedings. This was listened to with keenest pleasure—the Committee feeling immensely cheered at the evidence of enthusiasm, sincerity, and devotion to the cause of freedom and justice shown by the Trade-unionists.

Naturally, the degree of popularity of the E.F.F. policy with our members varies very much in different parts of the country, according to the extent to which organised Labour has locally shown itself active in support of our claims. Where the local representatives are lukewarm, naturally, there is little enthusiasm at the idea of co-operation, and those who have had this experience hesitate to believe that we can safely rely on the sincerity and keenness of the Parliamentary Labour Party. If the experience of Rotherham were universal, so would the enthusiasm be; and we hope and believe that we are travelling in that direction.

## Mr. Asquith and Sir Robert Peel.

In our leading article last week, we stated that Mr. Asquith had taken the same course with regard to Women's Suffrage as that taken by Sir Robert Peel with regard to Catholic Emancipation. This sentence was rather misleading, as Sir Robert Peel introduced a Government Measure for Catholic Emancipation, whereas Mr. Asquith has excluded women from the Government Franchise Bill. By "the same course," we meant that each of these Statesmen decided, after strenuous resistance, that his personal opposition to the measure in question must not stand in the way of the clearly-expressed will of the House of Commons. In the case of Sir Robert Peel there was no doubt what was the will of the House of Commons, and he embodied that will in a Government measure which he introduced himself.

In Mr. Asquith's case there is no doubt that a majority of the House of Commons stands for the *principle* of Women's Suffrage, but there is considerable doubt as to what form of Women's Suffrage has most support. Mr. Asquith has, therefore, laid on the House the responsibility of declaring plainly what its will is; he will then give effect to that will in a Government Measure, by incorporating in the Franchise Bill whatever amendment the House may pass, and giving it the same benefits thenceforward as if it had been part of the Bill from the first.

In taking this course, Mr. Asquith is consistently carrying out his own maxim, so often repeated during the controversy with the House of Lords, that "the will of the House of Commons must prevail." If all suffragists, militant and non-militant, concentrate their efforts on securing a satisfactory expression of "the will of the House of Commons" next week, next Session will see the introduction of Women's Suffrage as part of a Government Measure.

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## Public Support for Women's Suffrage.

[Being evidence of Public Support collected during the past two years in the areas of the East Midlands, West Riding, Scottish and Manchester and District Federations.]

In a previous number of the COMMON CAUSE, we published a capital Table compiled by the West Lancashire, West Cheshire and North Wales Federation, showing the evidence of support for Women's Suffrage in their area, obtained in the last two or three years.

This week we publish *resumés* of similar Tables which have been furnished by other Federations; we say advisedly *resumés*, for if this evidence of support were to be set out at length, and if the reports from all the Federations were to be included, the COMMON CAUSE itself would certainly not contain the pages which would be required. These four Federations have been selected, partly because of the excellent record they have sent in, and partly because they represent constituencies and areas of very different characters.

Next week we hope to publish the evidence from some other Federations, but it must be borne in mind that these summaries can only be representative, and merely give an idea of the vast amount of work for women's suffrage which is being carried on all over the country, and of the widespread support for the enfranchisement of women amongst organised bodies of all kinds. We have, besides, records of Women's Suffrage Meetings held by the N.U.W.S.S. alone in no less than over 1,000 places during the last two years, and in some of the larger places not one meeting has been held but twenty or thirty. In the face of such evidence as this, it will be difficult for the League for Opposing Women's Suffrage to make good its claim to represent the opinions of the majority of the women of this country. What can it show but a few sporadic outbursts of activity (mostly organised from headquarters) to set against the steady work carried on uninterruptedly by suffragists in every district of England, Scotland and Wales, and the genuine popular demand expressed in the resolutions passed by organised bodies of men and women?

Surely work and sacrifice enough have been claimed for the Women's Suffrage Movement. Every fresh demand for evidence of support has been met by fresh efforts. It is clear that the country is converted, it remains for the House of Commons to show that it represents the country.

### Public Authorities which have passed W.S. Resolutions since 1910.

Town Councils.		
Arbroath.	Hamilton.	Montrose.
Barnsley.	Hawick.	Nelson.
Bonnyrigg.	Heywood.	North Berwick.
Broughty Ferry.	Huddersfield.	Oldham.
Burton-on-Trent.	Hyde.	Peebles.
Crieff.	Innerleithen.	Perth.
Cumnock.	Inverness.	Prestwich.
Derby.	Inverary.	Raddcliffe.
Dumfries.	Kilmarnock.	St. Ola.
Dundee.	Kilwinning.	Saltcoats.
Edinburgh.	Kirkcaldy.	Stornoway.
Elgin.	Kirkwall.	Stromness.
Forfar.	Kirriemuir.	Tain.
Fraserburgh.	Leicester.	Thurso.
Galway.	Leigh.	Tranent.
Glasgow.	Lerwick.	Wakefield.
Goole.	Macclesfield.	West Bridgford.
Haddington.	Middleton.	Wick.
City Councils.		
Leeds.	Manchester.	Sheffield.
	Nottingham.	
Parish Councils.		
	Adel-cum-Eccup.	
Urban District Councils.		
Altrincham.	Hale.	Romiley.
Bowden.	Heaton Norris.	Shipley.
Bredbury	Prestwick.	

### Rural District Councils.

Bucklow. Flixton. Urmston.

### Boards of Guardians.

Bucklow. Hyde.

### County Council.

Cheshire.

### Convention of the Royal Burghs, Scotland.

(Consisting of the Lord Provosts and Provosts).

### Organisations and other Public Bodies which have passed W.S. Resolutions.

Trades and Labour Councils.		
Accrington.	Chesterfield and	Huddersfield.
Bolton.	District.	Keighley.
Burnley.	Goole.	Leeds.
Castleford.	Halifax.	Sowerby Bridge.
		Wakefield.
Independent Labour Party.		
Accrington.	Farnworth.	Nelson.
Altrincham.	Heywood.	Normanton.
Bingley.	Huddersfield.	Oswaldtwistle.
Bolton.	Halifax.	Peterborough.
Brierfield.	Keighley.	Pontefract.
Burnley.	Leeds.	Raddcliffe.
Blackburn.	Leicester.	Rishton.
Chesterfield.	Lincoln.	Rochdale.
Goole.	Long Eaton.	Romiley.
Grantham.	Manchester and	Stockport.
Grimsby.	District.	Skelmanthorpe.
Eccles.	Macclesfield.	

### Men's Liberal Federations and Associations.

Lancashire and Cheshire Federation.	Hale Association.
Manchester Federation.	Huddersfield (Club).
Scottish Federation.	Knutsford Executive.
Barnsley Association.	Knutsford Local Association.
Bolton Association.	Kearsley (Club).
Bredbury Association.	Little Hulton (Club).
Eccles Association.	Leeds Association.
Farnworth (Club) Association.	Lincoln Association.
	Wilmslow Association.

### Women's Liberal Federations and Associations.

Derby Association.	Northampton Association.
Grantham Association.	Northants (N.) Association.
Grimby Associations (2).	Northants (E.) Association.
Huddersfield Association.	Pontefract Association.
Keighley Association.	Nottingham Association.
Leeds Association (2 Wards).	Nottinghamshire Association.
Leicester Association.	Scottish Federation.
	Wakefield Association.

### Conservative Associations.

Bolton Working Men's.	Little Hulton.
Bolton North Ward Primrose League.	Oldham (Junior Unionist).
Farnworth.	Scottish National Union of Conservative Associations.
Kearsley.	

### Women's Co-operative Guild.

Accrington.	Keighley.
Barrowford.	Leeds.
Bolton.	Nelson.
Brierfield.	Sheffield.
Clayton le Moors.	Shipley.
Didsbury.	Sowerby Bridge.
Eccles.	Wakefield.
Huddersfield.	Long Eaton.

### Trade Unions.

Chesterfield Nat. Union of Shop Assistants.  
 Chesterfield Nat. Union of Clerks.  
 Chesterfield Life Assurance Agents' Union.  
 Derby Railway Women's Guild.  
 Derby Nat. Union of Women Workers.  
 Huddersfield Textile Workers.  
 Keighley Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees.  
 Ilkeston Nat. Union of Gas Workers.  
 Leeds Amalgamated Union of Clothiers' Operatives.  
 Leeds Amalgamated Society of Engineers.  
 Leeds Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.  
 Leeds Nat. Union of Gas Workers and General Labourers of Great Britain and Ireland.  
 Leeds Nat. Union of Gas Workers (Branch 2).  
 Leeds Nat. Union of Shop Assistants and Warehousemen.  
 Leeds Nat. Union of Dyers and Finishers.  
 Leeds Nat. Union of Clerks.  
 Leeds Nat. Union of Carpenters and Joiners.  
 Leeds Typographical Society.  
 Leeds Parliament and Debating Society.  
 Leicester Nat. Union of Teachers.  
 Normanton Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.  
 Normanton Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.  
 Normanton Nat. Union of Shop Assistants and Warehousemen.  
 Sowerby Bridge Nat. Union of Teachers.  
 Wakefield Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants.  
 Wakefield Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

### Number of Places in which Meetings have been held

Scottish	111
West Ridings	32
E. Midlands	56
Manchester and District	47

It will thus be seen that meetings in support of Women's Suffrage have been held in 246 places in the above areas.

### Friends of Women's Suffrage.

The F.W.S. Committee has received a very interesting letter from Mrs. Thomas Wells, secretary of the Women's Suffrage Party of the city of New York.

The Women's Suffrage Party is, as will be remembered, the American organisation from which the idea of the Friends of Women's Suffrage scheme was partly taken. The name "party," as used by American suffragists is a little misleading to the British ear. The Women's Suffrage Party is not a "Party" in the British sense, but a suffrage organisation.

It is described as "a Union for the Political work of the existing Equal Suffrage organisations." In this it will be seen that it is unlike the Friends of Women's Suffrage, which is chiefly intended for propaganda. The conditions of American politics differ so much from ours that there must necessarily be a considerable difference in the methods of suffrage work. It must be remembered also that whereas the Women's Suffrage Party is a separate organisation, the most active members of which probably devote their whole time to it, the Friends of Women's Suffrage Scheme has been, as it were, super-imposed on an existing organisation, and those who are working it are also working for the suffrage in many other ways. This makes it all the more gratifying to know of the thousands of "Friends" who have already been enrolled in parts of Great Britain. It will be seen from the letter that the actual methods of enlisting and organising the members of the American W.S. Party are not unlike those used by the National Union Societies in dealing with their "Friends."

The "districting enrolments" described in this letter is precisely the work which has to be done by every N.U. Society, whose area embraces several constituencies, when it collects "Friends" at public meetings and then portions them out into the several constituencies to which they belong. The same work was done on a large scale by the London Society in the summer, when it collected "Friends" at the Earl's Court Exhibition and sent out the names of those who did not live in London to the other societies and federations.

Mrs. Well's letter was written in reply to one from the

Friends of Women's Suffrage Committee asking various questions, the answers to which might, it was hoped, prove interesting to the societies working the F.W.S. scheme. The Sub-Committee takes this opportunity of publishing the answers. Mrs. Wells writes:—

"You collect names as sympathisers, but we collect names of sympathisers, and, in the case of men, actual voters whose votes we shall have to have when our great questions is 'put to the voters' in 1915 (we hope!) You probably know that here we have to gain the Suffrage through constitutional amendment in the different States.

"In New York State the question has to pass two Legislatures before the referendum can be put to the Voters. A new Senate goes in this winter, and as it stays in two years, this means that if we succeed in getting our amendment through the Legislature this year, we shall have to wait until the year after next for the new Legislature in 1915, and then, in case of victory, the voters will finally decide at the polls on Election Day, November, 1915. This is the first possible moment for success in New York State, 1915! The Woman Suffrage party by that time hopes to have the signatures of a big majority of men in every Assembly District, and that is what we are working for. So, of course, we are trying to enroll as many names as possible, for we have a definite end in view. Now for your questions:—

"(1) We enrol members *everywhere*, meetings, street meetings, house to house canvassing (done by the Captains in their Election District), in casual conversation, etc. All names are sent to Headquarters where they are catalogued and sent to the Assembly District Leader in whose district the enrolled member lives.

"(2) Leaders and their captains keep in touch with their members by visiting them, inviting them to meetings of all kinds, and trying to interest them in active work.

"(3) The officers of the Party are all voluntary workers—city officers, Borough officers, and the Assembly Leader, with their Election District captains in the 66 districts of New York City. We have paid organisers and, of course, stenographers, an Executive Secretary in charge of Headquarters, and the Editor of *The Woman Voter* (to which we pay a small salary in no way corresponding to her work). The office force varies. . . . We also have a large force of voluntary workers here at Headquarters, districting enrolments (they come in by the hundreds every week, and we must have about 70,000 names now, I think), addressing envelopes, sending out *The Woman Voter*, etc.

"(4) We enrol, as I have already said, as many names as possible, but we also try to keep in touch with the members we have, and to draw them into the work whenever possible. . . .

"The party idea is being taken up in many States, and the New York State Association has just decided to use it in the Assembly Districts all through the State. It is the most effective form of organisation for us, for we use the plan already laid out by the State for its political work. . . . With all good wishes for the great success of the Friends of Woman's Suffrage.

HARRIET WELLS.

### Flint Boroughs By-Election.

MOLD COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Mold has been chosen for the centre of operations owing to the fact that a certain number of friends were made here during the caravan tour in the summer. The weather being Arctic, it is hopeless at present to plan many open-air meetings as was intended, and we shall have to rely upon obtaining Halls.

Though very short of workers and speakers, only two being here at the present moment, a successful meeting was held in the Committee Rooms this evening.

Both candidates are in favour of the franchise. The Conservative, Mr. Hamlit Roberts, is prepared to support the amendment enfranchising Women Ratepayers, whilst Mr. Thomas Parry has answered favourably all but the first and last questions, and would have put Women's Suffrage in his election address "had he been requested to do so in time."

The feeling in both political camps is decidedly friendly, but the constituency has not been much worked, as the late member was considered safe. Having only been here for a few hours, it is impossible to give more than a brief prospective report.

### The Actresses' Franchise League.

The Actresses' Franchise League are organising a peaceful picketing of the House of Commons during the time the House is discussing the Reform Bill. Being a neutral society they are asking the help of all the other societies, and the idea is being splendidly taken up. The pickets will represent women of every profession and occupation demanding the enfranchisement, and this constitutional method of bringing the fact home to the House of Commons is being organised by the actresses in order to show how widespread is their demand.

## Suffrage in Foreign Countries in 1912.

The past year has been one of marked progress in those countries where the question of women's enfranchisement is to any extent a living political issue. Although effort has not yet always culminated in success, the foundations for success in the not far distant future have, in many lands, been surely laid.

THE UNITED STATES leads the way with three States—Oregon, Kansas and Arizona—won for Suffrage, making nine States in all, where both voting power and eligibility have been granted to women on the same terms as men. Defeat was experienced in Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan. Victory had been too hastily claimed in the last named State, where a full count showed a majority of 760 against Suffrage. Rumour has it that several thousand uninitialled adverse ballot papers were counted, and that the matter may, in consequence, be taken before the Supreme Court. The procedure for introducing an amendment to the Constitution is not identical in the different States, but in all cases such an amendment must be submitted to a Referendum. Success, therefore, represents the expenditure of a vast amount of energy, and when it is considered that of the 48 States at least half either have gained, or are agitating for the franchise, the vitality of the movement in America becomes evident.

One of the features of the year was the abandonment of the non-party attitude by numerous women in favour of Mr. Roosevelt. Opinion was divided as to the wisdom of this course. On the one hand, the matter of the Presidency is not of vital importance to suffragists, since, for many years to come, decisions on the Suffrage claim must rest with the States, while on the other, the action of the women in adopting the progressive policy must have alienated many Democrats and Republicans in those States where Suffrage was about to be put to the vote.

DENMARK.—The situation in Denmark has been noted in detail from time to time in these columns. It therefore suffices to state that the Electoral Reform Bill, which would give Parliamentary franchise and eligibility to women, passed the Lower House by a large majority. The measure is already before the Upper House, and has there reached the Committee stage. Since it contains drastic proposals for the reform of this Chamber it is bound to meet with great opposition. Opinion, however, is unanimous as to the justice of the claim made by the women, who are, therefore, full of hope that some way may be found out of the difficulty.

SWEDEN.—Although defeat must be chronicled in this country, Women's Suffrage entered during the year upon a fresh stage. The Government itself, which is a coalition of Liberals and of the Liberal Socialist Party, introduced a women's enfranchisement Bill which was carried through the Lower House by a majority of 74; the measure, however, was rejected in the Upper House by 28 votes, the entire strength of the Conservative Party being against it. The year 1913 will see the closing session of this Parliament, and in that which follows a new Bill will probably be introduced. In their ability to convert the Conservatives, and in the slight power they possess to influence the composition of the Upper House, lies the women's hope of success. The Upper House is elected by the members of the five municipal bodies and by 25 Landstings or County Councils. Women have not

only voting power, but are eligible to the former of these bodies, while for the Landstings they possess only an electoral qualification.

PORTUGAL.—Women have not remain untouched by the spirit of freedom which found an outlet in the Revolution of 1910. Portugal has now two feminist Societies both having Suffrage on their programme. An Electoral Reform Bill, which is under consideration, was some months since amended by the Senate so as to confer the franchise on women having an educational qualification. The decision of the Lower House on this point is now awaited. It would appear as if the chances for women may be greater under the new Socialistic Prime Minister, Dr. Alfonso Costa.

HUNGARY.—A wave of feeling in favour of women's enfranchisement, which found echo in the Press, spread over Hungary last summer, and Hungarian women cherished a reasonably founded hope that their claim would be recognised in the projected Electoral Reform Bill. All political parties had made sympathetic pronouncements with the exception of the Social Democrats. These latter, although without representation in Parliament, are extremely powerful. For the purpose of obtaining their support, the Prime Minister, Dr. Ladislaus Lukacs, has seen fit to omit women from the new Bill which was introduced on December 31st. The reasons he adduces for the omission have a ring of familiarity to English women. He explains that to enfranchise women on the same terms as men would give them an undue preponderance, that to enfranchise only the self-supporting would exclude a large number of intelligent women, who are not dependent on their own exertions, while to enfranchise the intelligent on an educational qualification would exclude those upper classes who produce no school certificates.

Although in other European countries women's claim for the Parliamentary Franchise is not yet a question of practical politics, considerable advance has been made in the public responsibilities and privileges accorded them.

In Norway, in particular, a signal event was the opening to women, on the same conditions as men, of all state offices, with the exception of ecclesiastical, military, diplomatic and certain juridical posts. All Norwegian women have already the municipal franchise, and the majority possess the Parliamentary suffrage and eligibility.

No review, however slight, which touches on women's progress can afford to omit all reference to the wonderful signs of changing opinion in India, China and Japan. The demand in these countries for increased opportunities for women's education is being made by men and women alike, and it is clear that the influences which are so rapidly achieving the intellectual and spiritual emancipation of the women of the West are destined to penetrate before many generations even to the most backward of the Eastern races.

### Miss Florean's Concert.

Our readers will doubtless remember that a short while ago we called attention to a forthcoming concert in the Taal language, to be given by Miss Floriel Florean. The concert will take place in the Bechstein Hall on January 21st (tickets, 10s. 6d., 5s., and 2s. 6d.).

We hope suffragists will support Miss Florean, as there is reason to believe that anti-suffragists are refusing to buy tickets, because Miss Florean is giving some of her profits to the Suffrage Cause.

### Note the date

JAN. 23

IS

POODLE-WOMAN  
DAY

## In Parliament.

TREATMENT OF UNCONVICTED WOMEN.—On January 7th, Mr. Wilkie asked the Secretary for Scotland about the treatment of women under arrest, but not convicted, in police cells at Aberdeen. It appeared that such women have to sleep on plank beds, and although not allowed to leave their cells at all during the night, are inspected in them by a man. Mr. McKinnon Wood's endeavour to put a better face upon the matter was not very successful. He was "informed that wooden beds are, as a rule, provided for prisoners under detention," but that in the case to which Mr. Wilkie "presumably" referred the prisoners were allowed the use of rugs or blankets. A female attendant is in charge of the "female block" of cells, but all cells are under the supervision of the male superintendent, and in the course of the night referred to this man paid two visits to the cells, the female attendant being on duty close by on each occasion. "Such visits," Mr. McKinnon Wood understood, "are in the ordinary routine," but he proposes to make further inquiry into their necessity.

We protest emphatically against the whole procedure employed in the case of unconvicted women, and against the visiting of any women's cells during the night by men. Persons detained in prison before conviction are, in the eye of the law, innocent, and the application to them of any penal treatment whatever is improper in the highest degree. The provision of "wooden beds" and "allowing" of the use of rugs or blankets show that the authorities who permit such things entirely misunderstand their own position.

As to the visiting of the cells, even of convicted women, during the night by men, we submit that such procedure is indecent, and that affronts to her sense of decency ought to form no part of any woman's punishment.

MALE SERVANTS AND LICENCES.—Mr. Peto made an inquiry on January 9th concerning a demand note issued by the local taxation department at Taunton with regard to male servants, in which it was stated that the age of the servant was immaterial, and that boys engaged in gardening or similar work must be paid for; and suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, considering the discouragement to the employment and training of boys in useful work caused by the imposition of a tax of 15s. per year, should fix some age, such as 18, at which the tax should become payable.

Mr. Lloyd George replied that the responsibility for the administration of the Licence Duty on male servants rested with the county and county borough councils; that he was not satisfied that the tax would discourage the employment of boys, and that he could not undertake to introduce any such legislation which would involve a loss of revenue to the local authorities.

The sharp practice of the Taunton local authorities will, therefore, no doubt, be imitated all over the country, and the employment of knife and boot boys will undeniably be largely diminished. We venture to think that the general irritation aroused will be out of all proportion to the increase of revenue.

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Coke, per Chaldron, 15/-.			

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## Notes from Headquarters.

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MISS CATHERINE MARSHALL }  
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MISS L. B. O'MALLEY (Literature).

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#### Secretary:

MISS GERALDINE COOKE.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

### Literature Department.

Our beautiful picture-poster "Justice at the Door," was designed for display at this time, and it is much hoped that Societies and members will take every opportunity of showing it. Its size is only 30 inches by 20 inches, so that it is not expensive to post, and it can be displayed in rooms, in shop-windows, on sandwich-boards, on small hoardings, etc., etc. Perhaps in some cases it might be possible for members to give copies of it to working men's clubs, or other gathering-places where it would be seen by voters.

The literature suitable for giving away at this time is as follows:—

### Pamphlets.

THE TRUE END OF GOVERNMENT. By A. M. Royden (1d.)  
WORKING MEN AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE. By Margaret Robertson, B.A. (1d.)  
WOMEN AND THE REFORM BILL. By H. N. Brailsford (½d.).

### Leaflets.

MINISTERS' PLEDGES (1s. 4d. per 100).  
HOW TO GET WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE INCLUDED IN THE FRANCHISE BILL (6d. per 100).  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AMENDMENTS TO THE REFORM BILL (1s. per 100).  
THE LABOUR PARTY AND THE REFORM BILL (6d. per 100).  
THE QUESTION OF THE MOMENT (4d. per 100).  
The pamphlet published by the Joint Campaign Committee, and containing the speeches of Sir John Simon, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Acland, and Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is also very useful. It is stocked by the National Union, and costs 1d.  
I. B. O'MALLEY.

### Press Department.

The Labour Papers have combined in a splendid rally this week for the support of the enfranchisement of women in the Reform Bill. The appeal comes from the most influential quarters on all sides of their press, from the *Daily Citizen* and from the excellent supplement to last week's issue of the *Labour Leader*, of which a description appears elsewhere. The *Daily Citizen* is urging the Irish not to chill the enthusiasm of many of their warmest friends by unnecessarily arousing the definite opposition of those whose sympathies are entirely with Ireland.

An excellent article by Miss A. M. Allen on January 11th on the "Sex Equality v. Conciliation" was followed by Mrs. Henry Fawcett's striking article on January 14th, entitled "The Mighty Current in Human Affairs." Other contributions of great interest may be expected during the week.

In addition to the strong support we are receiving from the Labour Press, this week's *Christian Commonwealth* (January 15th) contains a special Suffrage issue. It includes an interview with Mrs. Henry Fawcett (accompanied by a reproduction of Ford Madox Brown's picture in the National Gallery of Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett); "Women's Suffrage and the Reform Bill," by Philip Snowden, M.P.; "The Inwardness of the Present Position"; communications from many leading people, including the Bishop of Hereford, Archdeacon Wilberforce, The Rev. R. J. Campbell, Canon Cremer, Canon Peter Green, Canon Simpson, The Rev. H. Scott Holland, The Rev. T. Rhondda Williams, Dr. Scott Lidgett, The Rev. F. B. Meyer, Mr. Walter Crane, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, and Abdul Baha Abbas.

A copy of this issue is being sent to every Member of the House of Commons and many other public men and women, and all suffragists should make a point of studying its contents.

E. M. LEAF.  
(Hon. Press Secretary).

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. All Readers are earnestly urged to give preference to OUR ADVERTISERS.

## READ AND CONSIDER AND HELP NOW.

THE International Suffrage Shop holds an unique position. It stands for all the Societies, and as such is emboldened to make petition to members of all parties.

It has had, and is still making, a hard, uphill fight—its expenses are extremely heavy—every addition to its work entails increased expenditure.

A Lending Library is being opened this month in response to repeated requests—and this has necessitated the appointment of a Librarian—in addition to the regular staff.

The following items are now urgently required and the I.S.S. calls upon its friends and friends of the movement generously to supply these or the where-withal for their purchase:—

Index Card Cabinet.  
Writing Desk.  
Book Shelves.  
Roneo Duplicator, and  
Books for the Library on Political,  
Economic, Industrial, Legal and  
Other Questions affecting the  
Woman's Movement.  
Nothing Need be Absolutely New.

Women Suffragists of all shades of opinion are urged seriously to consider the work of this Shop, and to do all in their power to increase its influence and scope.

Our rent till September is guaranteed, but that in no way covers our expenses, and a further increase in our staff is even now required if our work is to be carried on successfully.

Up to the present, inclusive of this rent, our £900 Continuation Fund has only realised £380 1s.

The weekly expenditure amounts roughly to about £16 per week. This, including rent, lighting, salaries, printing, office expenses, postage and telephone, etc.; no charge, be it noted, being made for management and general organising.

The business done this last quarter shows a most satisfactory increase over last year, but before even present expenses can be met this increase will have to be trebled.

In order to assist our Funds a great **Mi-Careme Carnival Party** will be held at Caxton Hall on Saturday, March 1st next. Expense guarantors and offers of other help invited now.

Regular Voluntary Helpers are needed all the time at the Shop.

Help must be given at once. What will you do to give more effective life to the International Suffrage Shop?

15, Adam Street, Strand.  
Telephone 5202 Gerrard.

# VICTORIA

AUSTRALIA'S GARDEN STATE.

Land of **SUNSHINE,**  
**FRUIT & FLOWERS.**

Guaranteed Employment and High Wages

for

**DOMESTIC SERVANTS.**

£3 Passages.

For Particulars apply—

Lady Superintendent,  
Women's Emigration Department,  
Victorian Government Office,  
Strand, London, W.C.

**W. W. BELL & CO., of 170, Strand, W.C.,**

are Specialists in

**WOMEN'S EMIGRATION,**

And will be pleased to ADVISE AS TO OPPORTUNITIES in the Colonies. Special schemes for advanced and assisted passages for experienced Domestic workers with good characters. Call and see the Lady Superintendent or write for information, mentioning this paper

**THE SUFFRAGE CLUB,**  
**3, YORK STREET,**

St. James's, S.W.

The Board of Management have decided, in view of the very deep interest shown in the objects of the Club, to enrol a further 200 Founder Members at £1 1s. 0d. Subscription and no Entrance Fee.

**EARLY APPLICATION ADVISABLE.**

Members are notified that Table d'Hôte Lunch (1/6) and Dinner (2/-) are served daily. Application may now be made for bedroom accommodation.

The Club has been formed as a Social Club for

**MEN AND WOMEN**

interested in the Suffrage Movement.

CONSTANT LECTURES ARRANGED.



**Typewriting and Shorthand.**

(Miss Mildred Ransom.)

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

Second-hand Typewriters bought and sold.

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

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

### Parliamentary.

The circular letter issued on January 14th did not contain the usual note saying to whom it was addressed. It was sent to all Secretaries of Federations, Secretaries of Societies and Organisers, who are requested to act upon it; and to Members of the Executive Committee for information only.

C. E. MARSHALL.

(Hon. Parl. Sec. pro tem.).

### Treasurer's Notes.

Our activities—and, therefore, the claims on our Treasury—are so varied that we have to appeal for special donations for some of the more important. Who will give for some of the following purposes?—

- (1) The formation of new Societies.
- (2) The free distribution of literature.
- (3) Grants to new and struggling Societies.
- (4) Public meetings and demonstrations.
- (5) By-elections.
- (6) "Friends of Women's Suffrage."
- (7) Salaries of organisers.
- (8) Press work.
- (9) Election Fighting Fund.

(1) Though we admitted over 100 societies to the Union during the nine months ending with October, and have formed 15 more since, yet the need is still great in many Federations.

(2) There are many new openings for placing our literature to good effect. To give only one instance; the committee recently voted £15 for the distribution of free literature among working women.

(8) Our Press department, as may be seen by the reports from week to week, has done brilliant and invaluable work during this last year, and could, with some further expenditure, do even better.

(9) The Election Fighting Fund speaks for itself elsewhere, and the other headings speak so plainly for themselves that they need no further words from me.

F. M. STERLING

(Treasurer, pro tem.).

### Contributions to the General Fund.

Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1912 ... 366 1 3  
Received January 4th to January 11th, 1913:—

Subscriptions.		£	s.	d.
Mrs. A. Bright	...	1	1	0
Mrs. Luxmoore	...	0	10	0
Miss M. Peake	...	0	1	0
Miss A. M. Addison	...	1	0	0
Mrs. H. B. Taylor	...	1	1	0
Mrs. Bertram	...	0	2	0
Mrs. Heitland	...	2	2	0
Mrs. J. Ritchie	...	0	5	0
Mrs. Macdonald	...	1	0	0
Mrs. Overton	...	0	10	0
Miss C. Cochrane	...	0	10	0
Mrs. Pears	...	0	5	0
Miss Baverstock	...	0	2	0
Mrs. C. M. Eales	...	0	1	0
Mrs. Mitchell	...	1	0	0

Donations.		£	s.	d.
Miss E. M. Macnaghten	...	1	0	0
Miss Henriques	...	1	1	0
Mrs. Bertram	...	0	3	0
Mrs. Pears	...	0	5	0

Affiliation Fees.		£	s.	d.
Altrincham W.S.S.	...	1	15	0
Wokingham W.S.S.	...	0	9	9
Pangbourne W.S.S.	...	0	17	6
Carlisle W.S.S.	...	2	13	9

£383 16 3

**LONDON SOCIETY OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.**

58, Victoria Street, S.W.

**PUBLIC RECEPTION To-day, FRIDAY, JANUARY 17th, 3.30 to 6.15.**

**WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.**

Chair: Miss EDITH PALLISER. Speakers: Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D., and Miss MAUDE ROYDEN.

scu sion Invited. Tea. Next week (Jan. 24): Mrs. FAWCETT, Miss K. D. COURTNEY (Hon. Sec. N.U.W.S.S.) and others.

News from the Societies and Federations.

The Federations.

Yorks : N. and E. Ridings.

The Federation Office is at 10, Museum Street, York. The Hon. Press Secretary's address is 60, Marygate, York. The C.C. Correspondent's is 14, Royal Crescent, Scarborough, and she sends in her report in time for it to be received at the COMMON CAUSE Office on the second Saturday of every month, so that news should reach her not later than the previous Thursday and as much earlier as possible.

REPORT.—The Annual Meeting took place on January 9th at York, Mrs. Edwin Gray presiding. Miss Courtney and Miss I. O. Ford were present.

The Hon. Officers for 1913 were elected as follows:—Chairman, Mrs. Edwin Gray, York; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. E. R. Cross, Scarborough; Hon. Press Sec., Mrs. K. E. T. Wilkinson, York; COMMON CAUSE Correspondent, Mrs. A. M. Daniel, Scarborough; Hon. Secretary (pro tem.), Mrs. G. Scarbrough; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Thornton, Whitby; Representative to Organisation Sub-Committee, Miss Thornton, Whitby.

Miss Bateson's resignation of the Hon. Secretaryship was accepted with great regret and the meeting expressed its deep sense of her devotion and generosity to the Federation work.

Mrs. Meyer was appointed Secretary and the services of Miss Dutton were retained for Organisation work.

BRIDLINGTON.

DEPUTATION TO MR. LLOYD-GRAEME.—On December 30th, 1912, Mr. Philip Lloyd-Graeme, prospective Conservative candidate for the Buckrose Division, received at Severby House a Woman Suffrage deputation, consisting of Mrs. Southcott (President of the Bridlington Branch), Mrs. Overbury, Miss Brigham, B.A., and Mrs. Meyer (Organising Sec. of the North and East Riding Federation). Mrs. Lloyd-Graeme, Miss Ward, Captain Hannay and Mr. Lambert were also present.

Mrs. Meyer explained at some length the reasons for their presence there that day, saying that they wished to ascertain Mr. P. Lloyd-Graeme's views on Women's Suffrage and what he was prepared to do for their cause if returned to Parliament. She pointed out the beneficial results of Women's Suffrage in Australia where one State after another had enfranchised their women. It was idle to tell women to stay at home when 6,000,000 women would have no home if they did not go out and earn the money to provide that home. Mrs. Overbury asked the National Union questions. Mr. Lloyd-Graeme thanked the deputation, and said he was in favour of Women's Suffrage being submitted to the electors, and if a majority were in favour of it, he would put Women's Suffrage in his election address and vote for a Women's Suffrage Bill if returned to Parliament. Mr. P. Lloyd-Graeme asked the deputation if it would be possible for them to bring evidence of the electors' wishes in the Buckrose Division.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Suffrage Stall at the Market was re-opened for the Christmas Market (December 23rd) by Miss Wilks and Miss Stephens. The latest literature was distributed and the new poster of "Justice at the Door" was greatly admired, and there were many inquiries as to the progress of the Cause.

YORK.—Miss Dutton addressed a meeting in the York office on January 8th. Mrs. Dike took the Chair. An interesting discussion followed. Copies of THE COMMON CAUSE were sold, and a new member joined.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

REPORT.—December was a strenuous month in Glasgow for the friends and members of the Women's Suffrage Association. The greatest effort was the St. Andrew's Hall meeting on December 9th, at which the Lady Frances Balfour took the Chair and Lord Lytton, Miss Maude Royden, Lady Castlereagh, Professor Latta and Sir William Robertson were the speakers. As already reported, the meeting was a triumphant success for all concerned. On December 6th and 7th a Dramatic Entertainment was given in the Athenaeum, a report of which was given in THE COMMON CAUSE of December 20th. Work is proceeding apace in the formation of Suffrage Committees in the Parliamentary constituencies. One has recently been formed at St. Rollox, and Bridgetown and Tradeston are still in the making. The Partick committee, as already recorded, gave a most successful "Give and Take" tea at 43, Kersland Street, by the kindness of Mrs. Robertson, when the sum of over £10 was realised. The College Committee gave a reception to their friends on December 12th in the Queen's Rooms, Mr. Parry Green presented Miss Hamilton's "How the Vote was Won." The play was very well received and although we may think it slightly too militant in tone, it is to be hoped that it gave the audience "furiously to think." Later in the evening the Lady Frances Balfour, who was the guest of the evening, gave an admirable speech, of which the only fault was that the audience found it too short.

Owing to the pressure of engagements there was only one "Office Tea" in December, at which Miss M. S. Kerr read a paper on "The Institutions of the Glasgow Parish Council." A sale of work was also held at the Office, at which a sum of over £16 was realised. Several drawing-room meetings were addressed by Miss Watson and Mother's Meetings and Women's Co-operative Meetings by Miss M. Kerr. We said good-bye to Miss Watson with much regret shortly before Christmas. At a tea party in the Office, given by Miss Morrison and Mrs. Taylor, a gold wrist watch on a leather strap was presented to her as a remembrance of her friends in Glasgow, where her work has been invaluable. At the same time Miss Kerr, our new organiser, was given a fitted attaché case. We are looking forward to splendid results from our new organiser.

Altogether in December, 62 new members joined the Society and considerably over £100 was collected from various sources.

M. A. BRAMBE.

North-Western.

BARROW.—Barrow has been fortunate in having had a visit from the Election Fighting Fund organiser, Miss Margaret Robinson, who rouses enthusiasm for Women's Suffrage wherever she goes. A successful meeting was held under the auspices of the local Women's Suffrage Society on November 30th. On December 1st Miss Robertson addressed a meeting of 600 or 700 Labour men, the outcome of which has been that a very representative memorial has been sent to the member, Mr. Charles Duncanson, begging him to support the amendments to the Reform Bill. A resolution thanking Mr. Duncanson for all he has done for Women's Suffrage and assuring him of the enthusiastic backing in every effort he may make for securing women's enfranchisement during the present session has recently been passed unanimously by the Barrow Labour Party and Trades Council consisting of 45 branches of 36 different Trade Unions, with a local membership of 10,500. A kind reply has been received from Mr. Duncanson assuring us of his continued support.

Miss Robertson also addressed a meeting of the Women's Labour League on December 1st, to which best thanks are due to Mr. Egerton Wake, the L.L.P. organiser for his assistance in getting the Memorial signed and this resolution passed.

LANCASTER.—On December 11th the Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Friends' Hall, Mrs. Cardwell, Deputy Mayress, presided, and there was a good attendance.

Mrs. Helms presented the report and said that the Society started a year ago and had now 82 members. Several meetings had been held and various efforts made to raise money. Miss Mellor, Hon. Treasurer, presented the financial report and the Officers and Committee were elected. Mrs. W. Croft Helms being unanimously re-appointed Treasurer. Miss Leadley Brown (Liverpool) gave an interesting address in which she traced the enormous strides made by the Women's Suffrage movement in the last few years, and mentioned that the Amendment to the Reform Bill, known as the "Norwegian" had the best chance of adoption. A Memorial signed by about 600 electors and residents in the Division has been drawn up and presented to Sir Norval Helms, thanking him for his support of the Conciliation Bill, and asking him to use influence to secure further support of the Amendments to the Reform Bill. The Society has been assured of his continued support to the Cause.

LONSDALE (N.).—In the N. Lonsdale division of Lancashire work has been specially directed towards getting evidence of support of Women's Suffrage, sufficient to induce Mr. Haddock, M.P. for the division, to vote for the Amendments to the Reform Bill. Miss Norma Smith has spent some time in getting up a representative Memorial, in which work she has been much helped by members of the Caraforth Society. The Memorial has been presented to Mr. Haddock in London, by Miss Marshall and Miss Henderson. Mr. Haddock was evidently impressed by some of the signatures to the Memorial, and said he had always been a believer in Women's Suffrage. He would give no specific promise of support, but said he would study the amendments and promised that no militant outbreak should cause him to alter the conclusion at which he had arrived. A post-card canvass of the whole district has been undertaken by the four Societies in the division (Carnforth, Conistown, Hawkhead and Ulverston), and some hundreds of signatures have been obtained. These are now being gradually posted, and it is much hoped that this avalanche of requests to vote for the Amendments following on the Memorial will help Mr. Haddock to make up his mind in the right way.

WHITEHAVEN.—On December 4th a successful meeting was held in the Oddfellows Hall, under the auspices of the local Society. Mr. James McGowan presided and amongst others on the platform were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marshall, Mr. T. Reed and Mr. J. W. Nicholson, Hon. Secretary of the local branch of the L.L.P. Mr. McGowan made a spirited speech and said that he had read and thought a good deal on the subject of Woman's Suffrage and had come to the conclusion there was no logical reason why women should not have the vote. He thought that this agitation was following the usual course, no great political change had been brought about without years of struggle, etc. Miss Margaret Robertson followed by a stirring appeal to men and women to come forward and join in the struggle and proposed a resolution thanking Mr. Richardson, M.P. for Whitehaven, for his consistent support of Women's Suffrage. Mr. T. Reed seconded this resolution, which was carried unanimously. Eight new members joined the Society. A representative Memorial has been presented to Mr. Richardson thanking him for his support of Women's Suffrage and begging him for all the help he can give to the Amendments to the Reform Bill. A reply has been received from him promising his continued support.

Oxon, Berks and Bucks.

ASCOT.—At a members' meeting on November 19th, given by invitation of Miss Grant at Farnwood, Mrs. Robie Unacke was the speaker. She dealt with the work and policy of the N.U.W.S.S., and described the great progress made in East Berks during the last 18 months. Miss Violet Eustace, who was introduced to the members as vice-chairman of the Society, expressed the great regret of all present at Mrs. Unacke's approaching departure. Both speakers also dealt with various arguments which had arisen as a result of the Suffrage meeting recently held at the Cordes Hall.

GERRARD'S CROSS.—On Thursday, December 12th a successful drawing-room meeting was given by Lady Pay at Woodham Hall. Mrs. Miss James was in the Chair, and an interesting speech was made by Mrs. Berney, Hon. Treasurer of the Federation.

KING'S SUTTON.—The monthly meeting on January 7th at the New Schools was well attended, a marked increase in the numbers being noticeable. Mr. Woodward was in the Chair and the speakers were Mrs. Haver-

field and Miss Dora Mason, M.A. The resolution: "That Parliament should include some form of Women's Franchise in the Franchise Bill" was carried unanimously. On the same day a Jumble Sale in aid of the funds took place, the proceeds realising £5 7s. 1d.

LUYTON.—On December 17th, Mr. Cecil Harnsworth, M.P., received a deputation at his private house. The object was to try and obtain his support to one of the amendments to the Franchise Bill. The deputation consisted of Miss Isabel Edwards, of the W.L.F. (Home Counties Union), Mrs. Garrett, President of the Luton and Dunstable Suffrage Society, Mrs. Pilling, Hon. Sec. Luton W.L.A., Mrs. Burditt, Hon. Sec. Luton Suffrage Society, Mr. Edward Brown representing the Adult Schools, and Mr. Patterson, Committee of the League of Young Liberals. Miss Isabel Edwards introduced the deputation and discussed the amendments, and each one of those present addressed Mr. Harnsworth in turn. Although he appeared impressed by the arguments brought forward, Mr. Harnsworth explained that he was pledged not to support any measure of Women's Suffrage during the present Parliament, and that the most he could promise would be to abstain from opposing either amendment. Those present failed to ascertain to whom the pledge referred to had been given. On Thursday, December 12th a meeting was held at the Pictorial Palace, Dunstable. Mrs. Gutteridge, late Mayress, took the Chair, and Mrs. Rackham gave a clear and well-reasoned address. The attendance was good, and the speakers' arguments were given close attention. The resolution, seconded by Mrs. Pilling of Luton, was carried nem. con. Several new members joined. In the evening Mr. Rackham addressed a meeting in the Council Chamber, Luton. Mr. Murray James, a local leader of the Labour Party, was in the Chair. The audience, though not large, was appreciative. The resolution, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, was carried unanimously, and eight members joined the Society.

MAIDENHEAD.—On January 3rd, Miss Marie Coleman, a member of the Committee and also of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, held a meeting at St. Joseph's Mission Room, Miss Smith Pigott spoke, and all present signed cards to the local member of Parliament, claiming their sympathy with the cause and asking him to vote for an amendment to the Government Reform Bill. On January 9th, Miss Duncanson, the Hon. Sec. gave an "At Home," primarily for the principals of shops and their assistants. Mrs. Robie Unacke spoke successfully. This was breaking new ground, and several new members and sympathisers were gained.

PANGBOURNE.—On December 17th, Miss Irene Cox, Sec. Industrial Law Committee, spoke to a member's meeting on "The Industrial Position of Women." She explained the working of the Factory Acts, their effect on women workers, and some of their defects. Much interest was shown and some questions asked. Thanks were moved and seconded by Miss Hilda Jones and Mrs. Lempiere, which, from his own experience, extended from London to Peking. Miss Maude Royden, who seconded the resolution, said that women wanted to purify politics, and they asked for the vote as a means of fulfilling a great responsibility. A number of questions having been asked and answered, the resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

NORTH HACKNEY.—On December 16th at Kingsland Congregational Hall, Kingston Road, Miss I. O. Ford spoke. The Rev. I. A. Quail, M.A., B.D. (Minister of that congregation), was in the Chair, and spoke as an ardent Suffragist. A resolution demanding votes for women this session was proposed by Miss Ford, seconded by Mr. Bolton, Sub-librarian of Stoke Newington Public Library, and carried with one dissentient and sent to Mr. R. Green, M.P. The meeting was very well attended, one new member joined and 30 signed "Friends" cards. A great many copies of the "North London Guardian" were sold. This paper has printed five consecutive articles on Women's Suffrage. North Hackney has now 180 "Friends" all had notices of the above meeting, and copies of Mrs. Fawcett's letter with regard to letters to Members of Parliament are now being circulated. Many of the members of this Society have promised to write to the Member of Parliament for their division.

A debate is being arranged at the Devonshire Square Debating Society (February 25th) as a consequence of the above meeting.

WOKINGHAM.—A meeting of members and sympathisers was held on January 8th in the Girls' Club Room, when Mrs. Robie Unacke was the speaker. One new member joined.

West Lancs., West Cheshire and North Wales.

BANGOR.—A debate had been arranged for December 11th, with Mrs. Corbett-Asby and Miss Moir representing respectively the Suffrage and the Anti-Suffrage standpoint. Miss Moir, however, disappointed the organisers of the meeting at the eleventh hour on the ground that the debate had not been arranged jointly with the local Anti-Suffrage Society.

A lecture was, therefore, substituted for the debate, Miss Asby addressing a large and interested audience on "The Urgency of Women's Suffrage." Sir Henry Lewis took the Chair.

LIVERPOOL.—This Society organised last week another series of dinner-hour meetings on the Exchange Flags, at which Miss Matters was the speaker. She is extremely popular amongst the business men, and attracted large audiences. The energies of the members are being concentrated on the Mr. Bell meeting which will be over by the time this report is printed. The office, which is shared jointly by the Liverpool Society and the Federation, has been a centre for much active work even during the holiday season and has already proved itself a boon in attracting free workers.

LLANDUDNO.—A very successful meeting on December 10th at the Free Library, when Mrs. Corbett-Asby was the speaker. Mr. J. F. Saeson presided. A good many non-members were present who were charmed with Mrs. Asby's speech, and it is hoped that most of them will join the Society.

SEAFORTH.—With the aid of the Federation, the Seaforth Society opened a shop in Litherland for the week beginning January 6th. Open-air meetings were held when possible and the postcard campaign carried on. Miss McPherson was in charge and with the assistance of Mrs. Bell made all the arrangements. The Chorley Society, assisted by Miss Eskridge, also held a week of meetings from January 6th. Miss Leadley Brown came down to assist the speakers. The crowds addressed were large and a number of postcards were signed.

London Society.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB.—By permission of Mrs. Douglas Garrett an excellent drawing-room meeting was held on December 18th at 2, Reynold's Close. Mrs. Abbott took the chair and Mrs. Fawcett was the principal speaker.

Mrs. Fawcett spoke of the impossibility of setting wrongs right without political power, and of the love of liberty inherent in us because of our forefathers. She dealt with several of the stock Anti-Suffrage arguments, and showed how some of them were really arguments for, and not against, the Suffrage. That "men are men and women are women" only proved the necessity for representing both points of views. The belief that suffragists sought to put enmity between men and women was dispelled when we looked for testimony from other countries where women had the vote. The effect really was a deepening of the sense of national responsibility in both men and women. A great deal of Anti-Suffrage feeling was based on a deep-seated contempt for women; Mr. Curzon had said that women have no gift that they can bring to the Empire. It was possible that women might not be intellectually so gifted as men, but if intelligence were a qualification for the franchise it might now be so restricted as hardly to necessitate the erection of polling booths! But women had other gifts to bring, first and foremost the great gift of mother love. Was that nothing to bring to the Empire?

Mrs. Fawcett also spoke of the Anti-Suffrage arguments which really are beside the point, instancing a "little girl" she had known of at a by-election, running around and asking the women in the constituency, "Do you wish to give up your baby and take charge of the Government of India?" It was ridiculous to believe that if women had the vote they would require to control the Army and Navy or to settle such affairs as the Balkan Question. These matters were settled by experts, not by the ordinary voter. Government did not rest on physical force, or money, or on any material thing whatsoever. If it was to be substantial, it must rest on wisdom, justice and goodness. Mrs. Fawcett also explained the possibilities for Women's Suffrage with the Reform Bill, and dealt briefly with the present political situation.

An interesting discussion followed, and after votes of thanks to the speaker and the Chair, new members joined and promises of help in the immediate work to be done were given.

KINGSTON AND SUBURBION.—In the afternoon of December 15th, 1912, Mrs. Longsdon gave an "At Home" at St. Andrew's House, Suburton, at which Miss Royden spoke on the "Friends of Women's Suffrage" scheme. In the evening a public meeting was held at St. Paul's Parish Hall, Kingston, under the presidency of Mrs. J. Stuart Horner. The Chairman said the subject had been described by a very eminent authority, no less a person than the headmaster at Repton, as the profoundest and most far-reaching question which now confronted European civilisation. The whole nation was practically divided into two camps on it. The speaker deprecated the extreme militancy of a section. The Rev. G. Hunsell, secretary of the Church League for Women's Suffrage, moved a resolution advocating the extension of the Parliamentary vote to women. He said that the movement among women was a world-wide movement, one which, from his own experience, extended from London to Peking. Miss Maude Royden, who seconded the resolution, said that women wanted to purify politics, and they asked for the vote as a means of fulfilling a great responsibility. A number of questions having been asked and answered, the resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

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A debate is being arranged at the Devonshire Square Debating Society (February 25th) as a consequence of the above meeting.

Irish Notes.

A number of meetings are being held in various parts of Ireland this week. Under the auspices of the Irish women's Suffrage Federation, Miss Day, P.L.G. (Cork), will address meetings in Belfast, Lisburn, Galway and Ballinasloe. Her subject at each meeting will be the women's amendments to the Reform Bill. Miss Moser and Miss Cheney are busily engaged in organisation work in County Galway. It is hoped that in a week or two meetings can be organised also in Tullamore and Roscrea.

The Federation held a Council Meeting in Dublin yesterday. It was decided to carry out electoral campaigns in Londonderry and Waterford. Delegates are to be sent to London this week to "lobby" Irish members with regard to the Reform Bill. Sincere efforts are being made to secure promises of support of the women's amendments from the Nationalist members who have formerly proclaimed their faith in women's suffrage.

The Irish women's Franchise League are holding meetings this week in Westport, Ballina and Castlebar.

LOUIE BENNETT.

"White Elephant" Sale.

Brighton Society.

The Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation, being one of those that undertakes electoral work in its own area, and has its own organiser, is weighted with expenses greater than can be met out of the 10 per cent. levied on the subscription list of its component Societies. From time to time, therefore, it holds sales, the proceeds of which are added to its funds. On January 30th next (3 to 5.30 p.m.) the Brighton and Hove Society is holding a White Elephant Auction at 42, Preston Street, Brighton, and as two-thirds of the profits will go to the Federation, it is hoped that all National Union members in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, will send to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Merrifield, 14, Clifton Terrace, Brighton, something "which they are sure their friends would value more than they value it themselves." Brighton members are specially urged to attend, but if those from other parts of the Federation will come in person or induce a Brighton friend to attend and bid even for one object, the entire success of the sale will be assured. Particulars will gladly be forwarded on application. Among the articles for disposal will be a good modern Dresden violin and bow (reserve price £3), a fine specimen of wood-carving, etc., down to 7d. books and penny postcards. Tea can be procured on the premises. Admission is free.

A correspondent, who has watched the development of the Brighton Society closely, sends us the following account, which will doubtless be of great interest to all workers and well-wishers of Suffrage in this district.

"To Miss Merrifield the idea of forming the Federation (then called Organisation) is due. She carried out much of the initial work herself, and held the preliminary meetings at her home. She has brought her own Society into all the work of the Federation by the strictest loyalty and by acting in a constitutional way to all its resolutions and work.

"Considerable financial help was given by the Brighton Society and its Hon. Secretary from the first moment of its existence to the whole work of the Federation, and scarcely any new Society has been formed in Sussex that has not had at its initiation personal assistance from some or other member of the Brighton and Hove Society.

"Miss Merrifield has worked as zealously for every part of the Federation as for her own special division, and I have no hesitation in saying that without her devotion, not only in Sussex but in the other two sister counties, the cause would be in a far worse state than it is at present."

Deputation to Mr. Sutton, M.P.

On January 11th, at the Caxton Hall, Manchester, Mr. J. E. Sutton, M.P., received a deputation, who desired to impress upon him the urgency of the women's demand to be included in the Franchise Bill. Among the members of the deputation were Councillor Margaret Ashton, Chairman of the Manchester and District Federation of Women's Suffrage Associations; Councillor Tom Fox, a member of the Executive of the National Labour Party; Mrs. Hiller, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage; Mr. Wilson, representing the Bradford L.L.P.; Mr. S. Robinson, Mr. Westerby, Mrs. Annot Robinson, and Miss Darlington.

In introducing the deputation, Councillor Fox said that his experience in Municipal and Parliamentary affairs had convinced him of the urgent need for the women's vote, and he asked Mr. Sutton to do all in his power to obtain the Parliamentary franchise for women as soon as possible. Councillor Margaret Ashton stated the position in regard to the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Franchise Bill. Mrs. Hiller, Mrs. Annot Robinson, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Westerby, also spoke on behalf of their associations.

Mr. Sutton, in reply, said he had always supported the women's cause, and he was prepared to vote for all the Women's Suffrage Amendments to the Franchise Bill. He felt there was every prospect of one of the Amendments being carried if the sympathy in the House of Commons was not alienated by militant tactics. If, however, women were not included in the Bill, Mr. Sutton could not say at present what his action on the third reading would be. He would be guided by the decision of the Labour Party. Mr. Sutton assured the deputation he would do anything he could in the House of Commons to help women to get the vote.

"At Home" at Ramsgate.

An "At Home" given by the Ramsgate branch of the N.U.W.S.S., was held in the Royal Sailors' Rest, Ramsgate, on the afternoon of January 8th, under the Presidency of Mrs. Channing Pearce. There was a large gathering, and the speaker was Miss Bertha Kennett, M.A., Head Mistress of the Perse High School, Cambridge. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting calls upon the Government to accept amendments to include women in the Franchise Bill shortly to be brought before the consideration of Parliament, and emphatically protests against any extension of the vote to men, without some measure of Parliamentary representation being conferred on women."

Women's Tax Resistance League.

The Committee of the Women's Tax Resistance League have asked us to announce that, owing to increased membership and pressure of work, they have now opened an additional office at the same address, 10, Tabbot House, 98, St. Martin's Lane, W.C., where they will welcome all callers and be glad to answer all questions on the subject of resisting Imperial Taxation. New literature is always on sale in the office.

A Day of Prayer.

We have received the following letter with regard to the celebration of St. Bride's Day, as a period of special meditation:—

"By arrangement with various bodies interested in the Suffrage Question, February 1st, St. Bride's Day will be held as a day of special meditation and intercession in Westminster Abbey, in St. Paul's, and in various cathedrals, chapels and churches throughout Great Britain.

"The day falls this year on a Saturday. Men and women, however they may feel with regard to the solution of the present crisis, are asked to join in this common approach of the ultimate and innermost consciousness of the world may be so heightened that clear light may be gained on the difficult path, and increase of wisdom and power to achieve.

"Men and women specially interested in the matter are asked to keep five minutes at noon for silent remembrance and prayer, wherever they may be, during the week January 20th to 27th, during which days the suffrage question will be before the Commons.

BASIL WILBERFORCE, D.D.

(Archdeacon of Westminster).

- JOHN CLIFFORD, D.D. (REV.)
C. FLEMING WILLIAMS (REV.)
MURIEL COUNTESS DE LA WARR
KATE MACDONALD (MRS. DAVID)
PERCY DEARMER, D.D. (REV.)
FLORENCE BRAMWELL BOOTH (MRS.)
ALICE MARY BUCKTON (MISS)
EDITH M. HANBURY BIGLAND (MRS. P.)

I do not know if January 2nd last was the first day ever set apart for prayer by the various suffrage Societies, but many will be hoping it may not be the last.

In 1886, on the day upon which the debate on the amendments to the Contagious Diseases Act took place in Parliament, Mrs. Josephine Butler and her fellow-workers and sympathisers engaged a room in Westminster, and there women of all classes spent that day and part of the night in prayer. Mrs. Butler afterwards testified to the sense of responsibility awakened or deepened in politicians owing to the women's action.

Could not a similar meeting be arranged by the combined Suffrage Societies on the day fixed for discussing the women's amendments to the Franchise Bill, and might we not hopefully anticipate that history would repeat itself?

Let the militants for the time being lay down their arms, and all suffragists forget whatever of thought or method divides, and unite in showing the world, especially the little world in the House of Commons, that we dare to proclaim our conviction that the Eternal and Righteous One is working in and through us, and who can say but that the long waiting and working may not be turned to victory!

I think it should not be very difficult to convene a meeting of this character, with frequent intervals for singing and very short addresses, so that friends may come and go throughout the day without causing a break or interruption.

Most of us need to be constantly reminded that our campaign for "Vote for Women" is one part of a great spiritual and religious movement, and I believe such a gathering together would serve to clear the sight and enlarge the hearts both of those who are entrusted with the power of giving and those who ask. (MISS) LAURA SMALLEY.

An all-day Devotional Meeting arranged by the Free Church League for W.S. will be held on Monday, the 20th inst. (the expected day of the Reform Bill) at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. The hours of service will be 12 noon to 1 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.; 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. The services are open to all.

At St. Saviourgate Chapel, York, a special service will be held on January 19th, on the expected eve of the Introduction of the Reform Bill, at 6.30 p.m., by Miss Davies, M.A., of Wakefield. The subject of the sermon will be "The Social and Intellectual Significance of the Woman's Movement."

Memorial from Cambridge Electors.

The Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) has addressed a memorial to Mr. Almeric Paget, M.P., signed by over 300 electors in his constituency, urging him to do all in his power to secure the inclusion of women in the Franchise Bill. This memorial has been signed by the Masters of Downing and Selwyn Colleges, Sir Francis Darwin, F.R.S.; Professors Bethune-Baker, E. C. Clark (with the reservation that the vote be given on the lines of the Conciliation Bill), H. M. Gwatkin, T. McKenny Hughes, J. S. Reid, James Ward, and Sims Woodhead; two Aldermen, eleven Borough Councillors, and many well-known residents and members of the University, including the Revs. C. J. M. Child, J. W. E. Conybeare, A. S. Duncan-Jones, R. St. John Parry, E. G. Selwyn, E. F. Stewart, and R. H. Strachan; and Drs. W. M. Fletcher, J. W. L. Glaisher, Alan Gray, and J. E. McTaggart.

The memorial has also received the support of members of the Cambridge Branch of the Independent Labour Party, which is unanimously in favour of the enfranchisement of women.

## Memorial to Mr. Bentham.

On December 18th, at the House of Commons, a most influential memorial was presented to Mr. Bentham by Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Lidgett, of Gainsboro', Mrs. Swanwick and Miss Henderson (two members of the Parliamentary committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) were also present at the interview.

Mr. Bentham expressed his pleasure at receiving the petition, and said that he would vote for the "Male," Dickinson, "Conciliation," and Adult Amendments to the Reform Bill. The petition had 283 signatures, most of whom were leading supporters and workers in the constituency—Gainsboro', Epworth, Haxey, Kirton, Lindsey and Lincoln. Mr. Bentham has always been a supporter of the law-abiding suffragists, for which many Liberal women and others are most grateful.

In Gainsboro' only two councillors refused to sign, and all signed at Lincoln who had a vote in the constituency. 70 signed from the Men's Liberal Association and 53 from the Women's Liberal Association, more men than women.

## Women's Co-operative Guild.

The following resolution was passed by the Croydon Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild:—"The Croydon Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild demand equal citizen rights with men, and expect that the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Franchise Bill will be carried."

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

MR. McCALLUM SCOTT IN ERROR.

My attention has been called to the following remarkable words occurring in an article contributed by Mr. McCallum Scott, M.P., to "The Woman's Platform" of *The Standard* of January 10th:—

"The Bow and Bromley by-election was a revelation to many Liberal Suffragists of the unpopularity of Woman Suffrage among all classes of the electors. . . . Those of them who went down to assist him brought back the most gloomy accounts, etc."

As a *suggestio falsi* this paragraph is not to be surpassed. I was at Bow during the whole election, and being organiser for a non-militant Union, which has never, up to the present, adopted the Anti-Government policy, I was in very close touch with Liberal suffragists. Neither from them nor, so far as I can recollect, from any single suffragist worker, man or woman, in the constituency did I receive a report that they were finding woman suffrage unpopular. On the other hand, our speakers were appearing nightly at Mr. Lansbury's indoor meetings, including several of the largest and most important, and on every occasion their message was greeted with the heartiest cordiality, as was each reference to the prime importance of the enfranchisement of women from Mr. Lansbury himself and from his own speakers, and these references were neither few nor brief, nor academic. Typical of the tone throughout the election was our great N.U.W.S.S. demonstration at the Bow Palace, where the suffrage resolution was carried with apparent unanimity and amid loud applause by an audience of some two thousand, chiefly working men, and was followed by three ringing cheers for the National Union. The reception given to Mrs. Paveett personally when she visited the constituency on the eve of the poll, as well as some considerable experience of local conditions previous to the election possessed by the London Society of N.U.W.S.S., also bears out what I say.

What can the Anti-Suffragists show on their side? So far as I am aware, they never once put the matter honestly and straightforwardly to the test of a vote, while it is common knowledge that the Unionist candidate avoided to the utmost of his power any reference to the question in his public speeches.

A. HELEN WARD.

## WOMEN UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT.

The following may be of interest to those who are anxious that women be not deprived of their right of free choice of doctor of their own sex:

The owner of a large private hotel, at a well-known watering place, whose female staff has up to the present been attended by a medical woman, wrote to the Clerk of the County Commissioners inquiring what steps these women could take in order to retain the services of their present attendant. It was pointed out that the lady declined to go on the panel though she was prepared to make private arrangements with the girls should they be allowed to contract out, and that, further, no other medical woman was available. She was informed that such reasons were quite inadequate.

Of course those of the upper servants who can afford it say they will simply forfeit "the doctor's money" and pay ordinary fees to the lady in question. Unfortunately this is impossible for the under-maids, who are, as a rule, young country girls away from home, to whom it is a great comfort to have one of their own sex to whom they can speak freely. The injustice to all concerned is manifest.

In the same practice there are about 200 cases of shop assistants, companions, etc., who are in a similar position. These apparently are to be forced to accept the unwelcome service of one of the few men on the panel. One wonders if it would have been considered "an inadequate reason" if "an insured male person" who happened to have only one panel doctor within his radius, and that a woman, objected to her professional attentions being forced upon him under certain circumstances. It cannot be too widely known that section 15, par. 3, of the Act allows insured persons to make their own arrangements with doctors not on the panel.

Those desirous of so doing should at once consult the practitioner whose patients they desire to become in case of need.

HELEN GORDON CLARK, M.D.

"CATCH ANOTHER."

Mrs. Henry Kingsley, of Hythe, Kent, writes:—"At this very critical time, may I suggest to my numerous fellow members that they endeavour each to get a new member before the 20th of this month?"

"A large addition to our N.U.W.S.S. will not only cheer our much loved President, whose patient toil for many long years we much appreciate, but also be a witness that there exists a strong force of women who approve of quiet constitutional methods of action?"

A flourishing Temperance Society is called "Catch Your Pal"; can we not imitate its work and each catch another?"

## Leith Burghs.

Work has been begun in Leith Burghs, and we hope that very soon there will be a flourishing Society in this constituency. On January 8th the Leith United Trades and Labour Council passed the following resolutions in favour of Women's Suffrage:—

(1) That this meeting of the Leith United Trades and Labour Council call upon the Labour Party in the House of Commons to do all in their power to obtain the enfranchisement of women this session.

(2) That this meeting of the Leith United Trades and Labour Council call upon Mr. Munro Ferguson to abstain from voting against the Women's Suffrage amendments to the Franchise and Registration Bill.

Similar resolutions were also adopted at a meeting of the Women's Labour League held on January 7th. On January 13th a meeting of "Friends" and Members is to be held in Smith's Rooms, Duke Street, to discuss plans of work. Several other meetings are also being arranged.

M. A. PRESSLEY-SMITH (ORGANISER).

## Work in East Cambridgeshire.

A Memorial of Voters in East Cambridgeshire has been sent to Sir Charles Rowe, M.P., calling upon him to do all in his power to secure the inclusion of women in the Franchise Bill.

A branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has been recently started in East Cambs., and the signatures were collected by its members.



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## Forthcoming Meetings.

(ARRANGED BY THE NATIONAL UNION.)

DATE	MEETING	TIME
JANUARY 17.	Manchester—Albert Hall, Lecture Hall—Annual Meeting of Manchester Society—Miss Frances Sterling	7.30
	Kendal—Public Meeting—Miss Helen Fraser	3.0
	Tunbridge Wells—Christ Church Parish Room—Meeting—Miss Eva Macnaughten	3.0
	Ormskirk—Church House—The Rev. Canon Woodrow, Miss Eleanor Rathbone	
JANUARY 18.	Hawkehead—Town Hall—Annual Meeting, followed by Public Meeting, Miss Helen Fraser—Chair: Mrs. Omliffe—Supported by Mrs. W. L. Turner, Mrs. Fowkes, Miss Satterthwaite	
	Eccles—Suffrage Shop, 41, Liverpool Road, Patricroft. Meetings Jan. 18—25. Speakers: Jan. 18, Miss Therza Potts, M.A., Nurse Johnson; Jan. 20, The Rev. N. Anderson, B.A., Miss Janet Heyes; Jan. 21, Miss Therza Potts, M.A., Miss J. Theopold; Jan. 22, Mr. George Benson, Miss Janet Heyes; Jan. 23, Mr. J. H. Hudson, M.A. (See also under Jan. 24.)	
JANUARY 20.	Topsham—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Mrs. Bush. Speaker, Miss Walford	3.0
JANUARY 21.	Maidenhead—Abbotsleigh, Cookham Road—Annual meeting. Silverdale—Church House, Drawing-room meeting. Hostess, Mrs. Sleigh. Speaker, Miss Norma-Smith	11.0
	Whitby—Lecture Hall, Silver Street—Miss Helen Fraser	8.0
JANUARY 22.	Llangollen—Pavilion—Public meeting. Chair, Miss Eleanor Rathbone. Speaker, Mrs. R. S. Haugh	8.0
	Normanton—Drill Hall—Mrs. Sanderson, Miss I. O. Ford	7.30
	Manchester—Didsbury Public Hall—Mrs. F. T. Swanwick, Councillor E. D. Simon. Chair, Professor Herford	8.0
	Llandudno—Cambridge Restaurant—Annual meeting. Chair, Mrs. H. Rathbone	8.0
	Gateshead—Suffrage Shop, 115, High West Street—Social Meeting for women. Speaker, Mrs. Spence Watson (Weekly)	2.30
JANUARY 23.	Mobberley—Hall Bank Room—Chair, Mr. E. G. Lyeoester, J.P. Speaker, Mrs. F. T. Swanwick	8.0
	Paignton—Drawing-room meeting—Hostess, Miss Sturdy. Speaker, Miss Walford	3.0
	Gateshead—Cottage meeting, 17, Irwin Street, Councillor Tibbens, Miss Sheard	7.30
JANUARY 24.	Southborough—Victoria Hall—Debate. Miss Gladys Pott, Mrs. Corbett Ashby	3.0
	Burnham—Town Hall—Public meeting. Mr. Baillie Weaver. Chair, Dr. Clifford Last	7.30
	Eccles—Congregational Schoolroom, Patricroft—Mr. F. Hewick (Wilmslow), Mrs. Barp (Rotherham) Chair, Councillor Thomas Grindle, J.P.	
	Guisborough—Public meeting—Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Dutton	3.0
JANUARY 25.	Littlehampton—Drawing-room meeting. Pellern House, Norfolk Road—Speaker, Miss Helen Wright. Chair, The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell	3.0
	Ripon—Drawing-room meeting, "Skelfield"—Miss Helen Fraser	3.0
	Easingwold—Town Hall—Chair, Mrs. K. E. T. Wilkinson, Miss Helen Fraser	8.0

## LONDON.

JANUARY 19.	Battersea—Trades and Labour Council, 455, Battersea Park Road, S.W.—Miss Helen Ward	11.30
JANUARY 20.	West Southwark—Borough Polytechnic, Borough Road—Mrs. Stachurski	8.15
	S. Kensington—Annual meeting, 56, Iverna Court—Hostess, Miss Lake. Miss Lowndes	8.30
JANUARY 21.	Ealing—"At Home"—Hostess, Miss Kyne Wright, 23, Somerset Road, Ealing—Speakers, Miss Corbett and Professor de Smitchraat	3.30
	Islington—St. Peter's Institute, Vincent Terrace—Literary and Debating Society—Miss J. H. Thomson, M.A.	8.30
JANUARY 22.	Walham Green—Meeting at Elbank House, Barclay Road, Walham Green—Speaker, Mrs. Corbett Ashby	8.30
JANUARY 24.	N. Hackney—50, Clapton Common, N.—Social evening—Suffrage dialogue and recitations	7.30—10
	Wandsworth—Drawing-room meeting—Speaker, Miss Thomson	evening

## SCOTLAND.

JANUARY 16.	Edinburgh—Inverleith Hall—Chair, Parish Councillor Easson, Miss Muriel Matters	8.0
JANUARY 17.	Glasgow—Office, 203, Hope Street—Hostess, Mrs. Wood. Speaker, Miss Irwin, "Sweating and the Vote"	4.0
	Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—Chair, Mr. John McMichael, J.P., Miss Muriel Matters	4.30
	Edinburgh—Lauriston Hall—Dramatic Entertainment, "Just to get Married"—Miss Carmouche and Miss Jean Pagan	8.15
	Winchburgh—I.L.P. Meeting—Miss Muriel Matters, Miss Lisa M. Gordon	8.0
JANUARY 18.	Edinburgh—Outdoor Demonstration—Miss Muriel Matters	
	Ayr—Cafe Chantant	
JANUARY 20.	Aiva—Meeting—Dr. Elsie Inglis	
JANUARY 21.	Edinburgh—Drawing-room meeting—Miss Bell (Fettes Row)—Miss Alice Low	3.30
JANUARY 23.	Tranent—Wishart Church Hall (Women's Liberal Association)—Miss Alice Low	7.30
JANUARY 24.	Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Miss Alice Low on "The Political Situation"	4.30
	Glasgow—Office, 203, Hope Street—Chair, Miss M. C. Morrison. Speaker, Miss Helen Waddell "Women under the Law"	4.0

## MEETINGS ADDRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

JANUARY 20.	Gateshead—A.S.R.S.—Miss Sheard	8.30
JANUARY 17.	Chesterfield—Fabian Society—Mrs. Cowmeadow	7.30
JANUARY 22.	Dronfield—Council Schools—Mrs. Cowmeadow	7.30
	Birmingham—Women's School, Acocks Green—Mrs. Ring	8.0

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DEMONSTRATION,  
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demand the inclusion of women in  
the Reform Bill.

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

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To the Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Society for Women's Suffrage

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

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If this were a  
mustard pot

on your table, it would be the first thing to ask for directly the meat is served.

It is just as necessary to have a touch of mustard on your plate as it is to have a knife and fork in your hands.

Colman's Mustard puts a keen edge on the appetite; it intensifies the flavour of the meat; ensures a sound digestion, and increases the enjoyment of the meal.

Be sure it's

**Colman's**  
D.S.F. Mustard

Don't leave it in the mustard pot—use it!

S.H.B.