

Mrs. Fawcett's Manifesto.

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

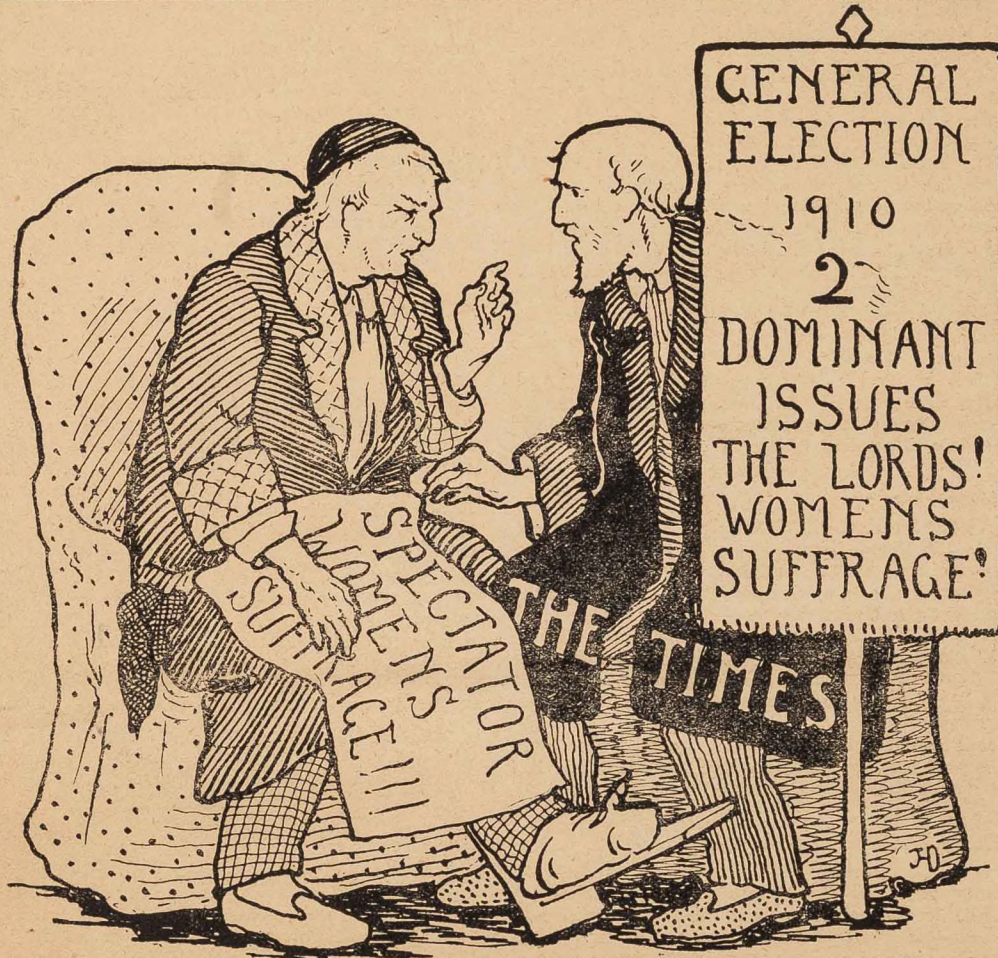
Women's Suffrage

Societies.

VOL. II. No. 86. Registered as a Newspaper.

DECEMBER 1, 1910.

ONE PENNY.



TWO DOMINANT ISSUES.

The Times : "Woman Suffrage and Woman Suffrage on a democratic basis is an issue at this election, and if the election confirms the Government in power, the new Parliament will be considered to have received a mandate on the subject of Woman Suffrage." (Nov. 24th).

The Spectator : "The electors have a right to know exactly what will be the result of returning the Liberals to power. Will it, or will it not mean the enfranchisement of women, and in what form?" (Nov. 26th).

Both together : "It is too awful! We may as well put up the shutters of the Empire."

The News of the Week.

Mr. Birrell's Injury.

We regret to hear of the injury to Mr. Birrell, and particularly regret the circumstances under which it occurred. Mr. Birrell is the last man in the world to wish that capital should be made one way or another out of the incident or that it should be exaggerated. We regard all personal assaults on public men or women as stupid and cowardly, and they seriously injure no party but that of the assaulters.

Election Policy.

The National Union is remaining steadfast in its old policy which has proved so serviceable,—that of helping friends and opposing enemies, to whatever party they may belong, and we hope that every one of our thousands of members in the country will remember how much depends on his or her actively furthering this policy. There are independent Women's Suffrage candidates to work for in East St. Pancras and in the Camlachie Division of Glasgow, and Sir Victor Horsley for London University is another man to try to get into the House.

That graduates who have earned their degree and their vote precisely like men should be refused the vote is a monstrous injustice that makes this University misrepresentation particularly galling. As will be seen elsewhere, the candidature in South Salford has been withdrawn, because complete victory had been won before the fight really began. The moral is "Lay down your Dreadnoughts at once. You may never even have to fire a shot."

The London Graduates' Union.

The following memorial has been addressed by the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage to Mr. Walter Runciman, and signed by forty-five distinguished names:—

Sir,—We, the undersigned, representing the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage, desire before Parliament reassembles to place before you the fact that at a general meeting of the aforesaid Union held to consider the Conciliation Committee's Bill to Extend the Parliamentary Franchise to Women Occupiers, the Bill was accorded enthusiastic and unanimous support. The London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage consists of 702 graduates of the University of London (men and women). The members recognise that the Bill at present before the House will not extend the University franchise to women, but they regard the removal of the sex disability which it would bring about as of paramount importance. We therefore urge the Government to grant facilities for the further stages of the Bill. And, moreover, as members of an academic body, we request that you will receive a deputation on this matter, and will name a date convenient to yourself.

Sir Victor Horsley.

Sir Victor Horsley, the Suffragist Liberal candidate, writes to Sir Thomas Barlow:—

"The question of the political enfranchisement of women, which affects so directly the interests of many graduates of the University, is one which is before the electorate, and, in fact, time for its consideration in the next Parliament has already been promised by the Government. I shall strenuously support any measure which will help to bring about this much-needed social reform."

There is no doubt that the remonstrances made by the London graduates at Sir West Ridgway's attitude last January have had effect.

The Home Secretary Loads the Dice.

There is a nauseating quality about Mr. Churchill's particular brand of cant which positively makes the gorge rise. We have had a taste of this in his manifestoes. He is now "travelling for" democracy and representative institutions and praising them in the most approved cheap-jack fashion, while in practice behaving absolutely autocratically.

In his speech at Bradford on Saturday he went out of his way to suggest that the Referendum might be an appropriate institution with which to deal with the question of Women's Suffrage, but, "believe me, the general adoption of a system of Referendum would not be a satisfactory method of conducting the government of the British Empire." No one in his senses supposes it would. But what is the sympathetic Mr. Churchill's reason? "I think it would be unfair to great local minorities which have a special point of view in which they are passionately interested, to be brushed aside by the abstention or indifference of the large majority of other parts of the United Kingdom." He can see so clearly the possible injustice to "local minorities"; he is willing to throw dust in our eyes concerning the injustice to a whole sex whose lack of representation is to be made the subject of a referendum of men whose ignorance of and indifference to women's needs is the main reason for giving women direct representation.

We quote Mr. Churchill again: "Is it not all a dodge to perpetuate the old injustice under the new disguise?"

A trick in order to gain time to load the dice again? A fair pretence to strike a fatal blow? And we answer in his own words: "We (women) are not prepared to hold our rights at the favour of any unrepresentative institution. We are a free people. We have the right to vote. We are not Hottentots. We are not children in schools."

Mean Trickery.

The regrettable violence of members of the W.S.P.U. in assaulting the police and Cabinet Ministers and in breaking windows has been made the subject of much reprobation. We have not a word to say in favour of even the mildest form of physical violence at the present juncture. It is, however, a peculiarly mean trick, even in a peculiarly mean man, to repeat in the House falsehoods about the actions of the women; it is a mean trick to order a large number of plain clothes policemen to assault women in the crowd; it is a mean trick to refuse to charge women with offences of which they are either guilty or not guilty, so that they have neither redress nor punishment; it is unspeakably mean and despicable to use the position of Home Secretary, a difficult and responsible post, to play to the gallery in a coming election.

A Silly Old Custom.

Our readers will note that in our reports of the election in East St. Pancras reference is made to the organized bands who come to break up our Suffragist election meetings. These are no casual droppers-in. The rowdism is organized, and organized by the agents of the Liberal party who are so pious in their horror when a man even mentions Women's Suffrage at a Minister's meeting that they will break his leg (this was done at Bradford by Liberal stewards on the 26th) or his collar-bone, and who, when it is a woman, do unmentionable things to her. We wish from our hearts that this bad and barbarous and unspeakably silly old custom of breaking up meetings should be abandoned by all men and women. Men have done it for centuries, but it is surely a relic of barbarous times.

A Distinguished Frenchwoman.

Madame Curie, the discoverer of Radium, is a candidate for the *fauteuil* of the Academy of Sciences left vacant by the death of M. Gernez.

Not a Bit of Difference.

The Anti-Suffragists had a long letter in the "Times" on November 22nd giving the results of their canvass in fifteen places and making out that this canvass was enormously unfavourable to the Suffrage. A letter of the same date, signed "Beatrice Hartley," stated that in Hampstead, which was one of the places canvassed, "all known Suffragists were left severely alone."

From Southampton, another of the places canvassed, we have received the following description of "how to do it," learnt in Southampton from the Anti-Suffragists there:—

"You take a sheet of paper and write a list of Municipal Women Voters' names and addresses, with spaces opposite them in which to put crosses. A large part of your work is now done. Find an old man out of work; combine charity with business and tell him to get the paper filled up and explain its meaning. Then sit down and await results. The casual labourer returns, worthy of his hire, having filled in most of the blanks somehow, and you can do the rest yourself by filling in the remainder 'indifferent.' One lady terrified the canvasser by saying 'You are a naughty old man! What are you doing?' and he replied, 'Oh, Mrs. H., don't go and talk to the ladies or I shan't get a single name, and I'm earning a bit of money.' To which the tolerant Mrs. H. replies, 'Well, go on and earn your money. It won't make a bit of difference!' And so say we.

The A. B. C. of Women's Suffrage.

We are fighting to-day for the COMMON CAUSE of women's freedom, symbolised by the Parliamentary vote, that "badge of self-respecting citizenship."

We call it "the Common Cause" because it unites us all, men and women of every class, party, and sect, meeting on the common ground of our love of justice and sense of fair play. It is "the Common Cause," too, because we hope and believe that through the improvement in the position of women which will follow their recognition as CITIZENS will come a bettering of the social life of the whole nation.

We are often asked—Why have not women got votes long ago, seeing that their claim is so obviously just and has been

ADMITTED TO BE JUST

by the majority of thinking people for so many years?

They have not been able to get votes because

THEY HAVE NOT GOT VOTES

to get them with.

The men in the House of Commons are there "not as representing women, but as representing the men voters of the country, and to do what they wish," as an anti-suffragist M.P. stated in the House of Commons.

THEREFORE

the women's claim, although its justice has been acknowledged in Parliament after Parliament, is still played with and put on one side.

THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE WOMEN

has therefore been how, without votes, to bring pressure to bear on a House of Commons which pays attention only to voters.

TO WORK THROUGH THE VOTERS has been obviously the only way, and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has taken part in elections, urging the men to support that candidate who would promise most effective help to their cause if returned to Parliament. By this means it has obtained public promises of support—given not to the women but to the electors—from Members of Parliament, most of whom have kept their word loyally.

Besides this, the National Union has worked hard in the constituencies converting the electors, so that when a man in favour of Women's Suffrage was returned to the House of Commons he knew that he went there with a MANDATE FROM HIS CONSTITUENTS to forward the cause. This work reached its summit in the last General Election, when

several hundred members returned to Parliament bearing petitions for Women's Suffrage signed by *their own electors*, the signatures in all numbering about 300,000.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS PROMISED

facilities in the next Parliament for the passage of a Women's Suffrage Bill into law; but that may mean delaying the question for FIVE OR SEVEN YEARS.

We have therefore to get into the House of Commons men who will press for the settlement of the question *early* in the first session. We must support *only* men who promise to do this, and we must remember that as in the past, so in the future (until we are enfranchised) it is THROUGH THE MEN VOTERS that we must work.

TRY TO INDUCE YOUR MEN-FOLK

to make their support of any candidate *conditional* on his support of the Conciliation Bill—get them to ask questions about the candidates' views on Women's Suffrage, both by letter and at their public meetings. For months past the women have been putting the question before the country (40 meetings a day since July 12!). Now let us try to get the men to do it.

It is THE ONLY WAY. Our plea for votes would be less urgent if we could get listened to without them—but *we cannot*. We must make the men realise our helplessness, and if they understand they will surely help. I spoke to a young man at a Men's meeting in connection with a Congregational Church the other night, and asked him whether he would not question the candidates at their meetings about their attitude on Women's Suffrage, and he replied: "Of course I will; I'D NO IDEA THAT WOULD BE ANY HELP TO YOU. It's easy enough to send up a question. I'll do it at every meeting I go to." Numbers of men would do this, and gladly, if they only knew.

Let the Government once realise that the men, as well as the women, mean business—that the men as well as the women are tired of "shuffling and delay," and THE VICTORY IS OURS.

MOTTO.

" . . . Gentlemen in England now a-bed Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, And hold their manhood cheap, whiles any speaks That fought with us upon St. Crispin's day." HENRY V.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester.

ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday.

LONDON AGENT.—Communications referring to advertisements may now be addressed to our London agent, Mrs. H. A. Evans, 10, Adelphi Terrace, London, W.C. Friends in London desirous of helping to get advertisements will kindly communicate with her.

THE PAPER WILL BE POSTED to any address in Britain or abroad for the following prepaid payments:—

3 MONTHS	1 9
6 MONTHS	3 3
12 MONTHS	6 6

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, accompanied by a stamped envelope addressed if it is desired that they should be returned. The Editor accepts no responsibility, however, for matter which is offered unsolicited.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE that this paper goes to press on Tuesday. The latest news, notices, and reports should, therefore, reach the Editor by first post on Monday. The Editor reminds correspondents, however, that the work is made much easier if news is sent in as long beforehand as possible. Monday is only mentioned as the last possible day, not as the one upon which all news should arrive.

NOTICE.—This paper should be obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by mid-day on Thursday. If people have any difficulty in getting it locally they should write to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester, giving the name and address of the newsagent or bookstall from which they wish to be supplied.

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Mrs. Fawcett's Manifesto.

TO ALL THE SOCIETIES IN THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

The Special Council meeting on Saturday last to consider our policy for the General Election resulted in a vigorously worded resolution to support Women's Suffrage candidates where such are being run, and (to use, for the sake of brevity only, the more general terms) to support the friends and oppose the enemies of the Conciliation Bill, irrespective of party in the electoral contest upon which the country is just entering.

At such short notice as we were compelled to give, it could not be expected that all the Societies in the Union should be represented at the Council on Saturday. There are a few special points brought forward then which I am particularly anxious to press upon all my friends and colleagues in the National Union.

The first is this: Do not let anyone persuade you that Mr. Asquith's declaration of his future position towards a Women's Suffrage Bill is of no value. It is not all that we want; but it is of very great significance and practical political importance. His exact words were: "The Government will, if they are still in power, give facilities in the next Parliament for effectively proceeding with a Bill, if so framed as to permit of free amendment."

Of course, what we Suffragists desired was a pledge for "next session" instead of "next Parliament." We also desired a specific pledge for facilities for a Bill, like the Bill of the Conciliation Committee, drafted on non-party lines, because we believe that such a Bill is the only one

which has a chance of getting through all its stages in the House of Commons.

But though Mr. Asquith's statement was unsatisfactory in not giving a promise for next session, and was vague as to the kind of Suffrage Bill for which facilities would be given, yet the promise of the Prime Minister that if returned to power he would enable the House of Commons to deal effectively with a Women's Suffrage Bill is of the very greatest practical political importance, and advances the whole status of the Women's Suffrage question as a definite issue before the country at the coming General Election.

What did our old enemy "The Times" say on November 24th on this very point? After quoting the text of Mr. Asquith's statement it adds:—

"In other words, Woman Suffrage . . . is an issue at this election, and if the election confirms the Government in power the new Parliament will be considered to have received a mandate on the subject of Woman Suffrage."

A letter on the same lines from a Liberal Anti-Suffragist who was defeated at the last General Election appears in the same issue, and reiterates that there is not now one single issue before the country—namely, the conflict between the two Houses of Parliament,—but two issues, the Constitutional one and the admission of women to the Parliamentary Franchise.

This confession of Anti-Suffragists that Women's Suffrage is a living political issue before the country at this election is of the utmost importance, and advances our question a long way in the direction of practical success.

I deeply deplore the futile silliness and the want of political instinct which led, at such a moment, to window smashing and assaults on Cabinet Ministers, one of whom is a strong and outspoken supporter of the Conciliation Bill and has publicly expressed his personal desire that full facilities should be afforded for it next session. But for this folly the Conciliation Committee might have entered into negotiations with the Prime Minister with the view of clearing up the ambiguity of his words regarding the kind of Suffrage Bill to which his promise applied. There is reason to suppose that he did mean the Conciliation Bill, because no other Women's Suffrage Bill has ever been before Parliament which was drafted in such a manner as to foreclude free amendment in Committee; but the unfortunate follies of last week rendered it impossible that such *pourparlers* could take place. No one can negotiate with a man and "bash" his hat over his eyes at one and the same moment. The sane Suffragists and the whole movement have to suffer for these absurdities.

But we must not for a moment relax our efforts; and we must more than ever make clear to the public the methods to which we are pledged. We are, and shall continue to be, non-party and non-militant; and we must exert ourselves as never before in this electoral contest to secure the election of members who are pledged to ballot for a day for the Conciliation Bill or some similar non-party Bill, and to vote straight for it in all its stages.

The fact that we had so large a body of convinced Suffragists in the House of Commons saved the situation on July 12th of this year. With the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer thundering against the Bill, the second reading was yet carried by a larger majority than any purely Government measure obtained in the late Parliament. If we can get as far as this point again in the new Parliament we have the word of the Prime Minister that, if he is in power, we shall not stop where we were stopped in 1910.

I must add a word about finance. The policy of running Women's Suffrage candidates has already succeeded to a degree which surpasses our expectations; full details will be found on another page. We need money badly; for this, though an excellent policy, is a costly one. I want to back up our honorary treasurer's appeal and to urge our friends to send us money generously and at once.

MILlicENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

Two Dominant Issues.

It is not easy to follow the minds of people who suggest that we ought to be grateful to Mr. Asquith for the slow and grudging manner in which he yields step by step to the pressure of undeniable right. As an admirable article in the "Nation" said recently: "To find time this year would have been easy. To make it next year may be difficult. But it is the Government itself which has set its own conscience the more heroic task." Mr. Asquith might have earned the gratitude of women and the relief of his own party from a heavy incubus by giving time for the passage of a simple Bill, at a time when all other questions were in abeyance. He has chosen instead to put Women's Suffrage before the country at a General Election when it must jostle and compete with party interests. This was not our choice. It was the choice of the Liberal Prime Minister. Yet now, when of course we are driven into this competition, many politicians are raising their ridiculous cry of "One Dominant Issue!" It is too late. They cannot wipe the women off the face of the earth for the time being, because it does not suit their book to consider the women. They will find it cheaper in the long run to pay their debts in a reasonable time and not allow them to run on with compound interest. If the question of Women's Suffrage inconveniences them, let them set to work seriously to answer the question. The women intend to put it with ever-increasing insistence and determination.

The "Times" has at last recognised this, and in an interesting article by its Parliamentary correspondent on the 24th states that, by the Prime Minister's announcement in the House, "*Woman Suffrage and Woman Suffrage on a democratic basis is an issue at this election, and if the election confirms the Government in power, the new Parliament will be considered to have received a mandate on the subject of Woman Suffrage.*" Further on the article proceeds: "*It has now become a vital fact that the new Parliament may, by implication, receive a mandate to change the basis of the electorate by granting Woman Suffrage on a democratic basis.*"

In a letter published in the same issue from the Anti-Suffrage Dr. John Massie, that best of friends to the Suffrage cause states that it is "of no use for Liberals to profess that at the coming General Election there will be one issue and one only before the country," and he even goes so far as to follow our example and "put Suffrage first," for he "fails to see how any opponent of Woman Suffrage can support a candidate who is in favour of it."

Well, well, times (and the "Times") change, and we seem to be having the tiresome "mandate" question settled for us most satisfactorily by our friends the enemy. It is almost a pity we can't get Dr. Massie into the House again to tell members next session that they now have a mandate!

What is the work of the Suffrage Societies in the coming fight? Surely to speak for women and work for women, since very few men will do so. Men are for the most part not hostile; they are for the most part absorbed in themselves, and merely forget the women. When reminded and courteously and reasonably approached, they are quite willing themselves to be courteous and reasonable. But they will forget the women the moment the women are silent! Therefore, women must not be silent,—lest men forget.

At a meeting of the Conciliation Committee on the 23rd, the following resolutions were passed:—

(1) That this committee deeply regrets the action of certain women of the Women's Social and Political Union who yesterday committed acts of violence; it entirely disapproves of such conduct, and points out that it can only make more difficult the work in Parliament of members who are endeavouring to secure facilities for dealing effectively with the question next Session.

(2) This committee, accepting the reply of the Prime Minister as an undertaking to grant facilities to its Bill in the next Parliament, pledges itself to do its utmost to secure these facilities next Session under the conditions specified by the Prime Minister.

(3) That in order to secure the passing of such a measure next Session, this committee calls on all women to endeavour to secure the election of members pledged to ballot and vote for the Conciliation Bill.

With these resolutions we are in absolute agreement, and it is one of the first duties of Suffragists to help the return to Parliament of all the members of the Conciliation Committee who are standing for re-election. This Committee has, fortunately, a chairman and an hon. secretary independent of the vicissitudes of the polls, and it will resume its beneficent work on the re-assembling of Parliament. Voteless women can do no better work than that of strengthening the hands of this Committee, and adding to the number of members of Parliament who will be willing to join it.

Losses and Gains.

In common with other reformers, those who work for the enfranchisement of women experience periods of depression. Young workers look back on the long warfare for the recognition of political existence, and declare impatiently that the struggle is ineffective and that the work of past years is fruitless. Those who have given the best of their life to the fight fear they will never see the triumph, and are apt to look upon the actual enfranchisement of women and the entry to the polling booths as the reform above all others which is necessary for the development of womanhood. The public, on the other hand, appear to consider that when a Suffrage Bill is thrown out or smothered all is lost, and after reading a short paragraph in a newspaper relating the last defeat of the Suffrage Societies, smile in a superior manner, and rest in comfortable trust that the feminists are wholly defeated. Incidentally they are considerably annoyed when another Bill rises, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the last. The Anti-Suffrage League preaches from the same text, and declares that while the nation declines to give the vote to women, all is well; but should the franchise be extended to women, all would be lost. They endeavour to prevent this progressive reform, and urge women to stay at home. They are, however, inconsistent, for which they can hardly be blamed. Early in their warfare they discovered that it is difficult,—almost impossible,—to rouse enthusiasm on negative grounds. It is easy to preach reform: it is difficult to preach prevention of reform, and therefore, while they heatedly implore women not to sully their garments by descending into the mire of politics, they urge women to offer themselves for election to the Municipal Councils. By this means they obtain a positive propaganda, which in practice quite unintentionally, converts a good many Anti-Suffrage wobblers into good Suffragists. It is somewhat illogical for a lady to stand up at the Queen's Hall and passionately implore her audience to stop the Suffragists from getting the vote, and at the same time to be quoted approvingly as a strong Imperialist, and a valuable member of a political organisation. The many valuable social workers amongst the ranks of the League certainly do appear to the casual observer to have stepped out of their own homes, while imploring others to stay there.

In the eyes of many, the vote is becoming a shibboleth. To the Anti-Suffragists, it is a deliberate blow to the constitution of the British Empire. To quote the somewhat frequent remark of their speakers, it "puts the Constitution into the melting pot." To the indifferent spectator, the failure to gain the vote means total failure. To the Suffragist, weary with fighting and seeing one Bill after another destroyed, it seems that all is lost, and that no progress has been made. But to those who will stand aside for a moment and contrast the present with the past, and who will look back on the steady improvement in the status of women caused by the ceaseless efforts of all who are interested in this social question, despair does not exist and depression passes away. The vote must be gained: of that there is no doubt: but the struggle has already brought far more than its wildest advocates hoped.

What are we fighting for? Not only for the vote. That is one step in the direction of liberty, but it is not the only one. We are fighting for the liberty of self-expression in its widest sense. If we are denied the vote for another fifty years we should still advance; we should still develop, and, above all, we should further impress upon a public who loves fair play, the inherent right of all human beings to live their lives free and unfettered. Therefore, let no one think that the failure of one Suffrage Bill after another and the derisive triumph of the Anti-Suffragists mean serious failure. Bring in another Bill. Keep the ball rolling, and leave the Antis to their smiles. Women who form a league to belittle their own sex have not much about which they can triumph. For about sixty years we have failed to get the vote. What have we gained?

To begin with, certain professions and openings hitherto shut to women, are already opening their doors, and this not because they were forced, but—significant fact,—because those in possession were convinced of the injustice of refusal. Again. Sixty years ago, women who wished to write or paint, did so either under men's names or anonymously. Let a critic of the early Victorian era discover the sex of a woman writer, and, as Charlotte Brontë complained, he did not treat her as an author, but insulted her through her sex. In Art of every kind women are now free from this sex tyranny.

Except where property and titles are concerned, boys are no longer taught that "because they are boys" they are entitled to the best of everything, and that a girl is, like poor Floy Dombey, "only a sort of counterfeit boy," and is greatly inferior to her brothers. Healthy competition has knocked this theory over, and though it is by no means dead, it shows signs of rapid decay. When a brother and sister are at the same university, and the girl reads for Honours while the brother is content with a pass Degree, it must be difficult to patronise the inferior female.

In municipal politics progress and advancement are obvious and satisfactory. A short time ago an Act was passed enabling women to sit on Town and County Councils. Hitherto they had sat on Parish Councils, Boards of Guardians, and School Boards, but they were turned off the Vestries when these were converted into Borough Councils, and were unable to continue their work on the School Boards when the national education was put under the care of the County Councils. Despite these throw-backs, the labours of those who devoted their time and substance to reinstating women and throwing down the barriers which deprived them of seats on the larger Councils have seen fruition. Women can now, if duly elected, sit on all Municipal Councils, and though amendments are necessary to the Act, and though the voting power is marred by certain disabilities, sex is no longer a barrier.

These few instances form excellent material for optimism, and the list could be satisfactorily prolonged, but to my mind the most valuable achievement of the feminists is the improvement they have wrought in the relations between the sexes. Sixty years ago the frank equality of comradeship that is so pleasant a feature of the ordinary life of to-day was impossible. Girls were assiduously brought up to think of "what would please

the men." They were even fed with this purpose in view. Miss Frances Power Cobbe tells an amusing story of her girlhood, and says that on Ash Wednesday at church, the girls of the congregation were exhorted to fast during Lent, and were told it was "good for their faith and their figures!" Read "The Newcomes" and the account of the rupture of Ethel's engagement with Lord Kew, and contrast the curious sympathy shown to Lord Kew by Thackeray with his strictures on Ethel. There is not the smallest indication that public opinion backed the girl in her indignation against her allotted husband's sins. It probably did not. "Sowing wild oats" was the correct employment of young men in the public opinion of the day, and not a soul criticised a man who had spent his life in this form of agriculture when he married a good young girl and brought her a contaminated mind, if not a contaminated body. When such marriages are made now, public opinion does not endorse them. The women who have fought for their own sex have demanded a higher morality, and though there is more to be done yet, much has been attained.

If then Bill after Bill is destroyed: if achievement seems yet far off: if some of us will not live to use the coveted vote for which we have worked, there is yet no need for depression,—much less for impatient despair. In struggling for one thing, others have been granted. As has ever been the case, the preparation and the fight have developed the fighters, and brought spoil un hoped for. The attainment will be good, but the discipline necessary to the struggle is better. The young woman of to-day is stronger, better balanced, and more independent than the young woman of Jane Austen's day. If she has annoying faults she has splendid qualities. Loyalty to her own sex is one of her notable characteristics, and when she gains her freedom she will have fitted herself to use it.

MILDRED RANSOM.

In Parliament.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

With Mr. Asquith's statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 22nd, our interest in the dying Parliament ceased. In reply to a question from Mr. Keir Hardie, the Prime Minister said:—

The Government will, if they are still in power, give facilities in the next Parliament for effectively proceeding with a Bill if so framed as to permit of free amendment. (Cheers.)

Mr. Keir Hardie: In the event of such a Bill going through second reading and Committee stages in this House, will the Government be prepared to make it a Government measure so as to improve its chances of success in the House of Lords? (Laughter.)

Mr. Asquith: I very much doubt whether that would improve its chances. (Renewed Laughter.)

THE PROROGATION.

On Monday Parliament was prorogued. The writs were issued on Tuesday, 29th November, and the first polls will be taken on Saturday, December 3rd.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

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

Hon. Secretaries: Miss EDITH DIMOCK. **President:** MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. **Hon. Treasurer:** Miss BERTHA MASON (P'vo Tem.).
Miss BERTHA MASON (Parliamentary).
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London." **Secretary:** Miss T. G. WHITEHEAD, M.A. **Telephone:** 1960 Victoria.
Office: Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee met immediately after the Council rose to consider ways and means of carrying out the resolutions, and decided that the most effective way of disposing of their forces, after urging every available

helper to work for the Suffrage candidates, would be to send the other workers to help those favourable members who had only been returned at the last election by a small majority; and also to work against opponents with small majorities.

Further constituencies for running Suffrage candidates were also under consideration, and a sub-committee was appointed to deal further with this matter.

EDITH DIMOCK.

The Council Meeting.

The Special Council summoned to consider the policy of the Union during this General Election met on Saturday, 26th, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster.

The following resolutions embody this policy:—

1. "That the Societies be urged to do all they can to insure the return (1) of Women's Suffrage candidates where such are being run; (2) of those Members who supported the second reading of the Conciliation Bill and who promise further support; (3) of all candidates who give satisfactory assurances that they will press any Government which may be in power for early facilities for the passing into law of any Women's Suffrage Bill on the lines of the Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee or in accordance with the object of the Union; and (4) that the Societies be urged to do all they can to oppose the return of the Members who voted or paired against the second reading of the Conciliation Bill."

Two urgency resolutions were also passed, one moved by Miss Mason, ran:—

2. "That it be an instruction to all Societies to put this question to all candidates: 'Will you ballot at the opening of the new Parliament for a Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee or for a Bill in accordance with the object of the National Union?'"

The other, moved by Mrs. Swanwick, ran:—

3. "That, while welcoming the Prime Minister's announcement, as making Women's Suffrage one of the principal issues at this General Election, this Council holds that it is unsatisfactory on two points: (1) That it does not make it clear that the pledge is for next session. (2) That it is for the Bill promoted by the Conciliation Committee; and it urges the Prime Minister to make these points clear to the electors."

Other resolutions passed by the Council were:—

4. "That if possible the Societies of the National Union should avoid overlapping the work of any other Suffrage Societies in any constituency during the election."

5. "That all Societies should make the selling of 'The Common Cause' an important feature of their propaganda work during the election, selling at meetings, in the streets, at polling booths, and in shops, and that they should always wear the colours when doing this."

Treasurer's Notes.

APPEAL.

Once again a General Election is upon us.

Once again (we hope for the last time) we call upon our affiliated Societies to carry the message of "Votes for Women" to Parliamentary electors and candidates.

Once again we appeal to our friends and supporters, and to all who believe in the justice and righteousness of our cause, to rally to our standard and prove the strength of the demand for Women's Suffrage and the earnest determination of its supporters.

To ensure the success of our campaign, FUNDS (as well as workers) are URGENTLY NEEDED.

Time is short, need for financial assistance is great.

Please help us at this crisis by sending a contribution to our funds.

Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to Miss Bertha Mason, National Union Offices, Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

BERTHA MASON, Treasurer.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1	1	0
Miss Celia Wray	5	0	0
Mrs. Sangar	1	0	0
Mrs. Gillett	20	0	0
Miss G. B. Thresher	1	0	0
Miss M. A. Corvell	5	0	0
Miss Bertha Love	1	1	0
Mrs. LeLacheur (for W.S. candidates)	7	0	0
Anonymous (for W.S. candidates)	20	0	0
Miss Dally (for W.S. candidates)	5	0	0
Miss A. L. Embleton	2	2	0
Mrs. Collin	2	0	0
Mrs. Aubrey Dowson (for W.S. candidates)	1	0	0
Mrs. Hess	0	10	0
Mrs. Heitland	10	0	0
	£81	14	0

The Call to Women.

THE POLICY.

The Conciliation Committee has pledged itself to do its utmost to secure facilities for its Bill next Session. It has also called upon the women to help in the coming election. How? BY ENDEAVOURING TO SECURE THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS PLEDGED TO BALLOT AND VOTE FOR THE CONCILIATION BILL.

We are happy to record that the National Union, at its Council Meeting on Saturday, resolved to adopt every possible course in furtherance of this object. We do not abandon our object. The Conciliation Committee is the only body of serious politicians actively furthering the Suffrage cause within the House, and the National Union holds that the way to attain its object is by steadfastly supporting and strengthening these men.

The resolutions passed were few, and were made rather general with set purpose. They will be found on page 555. In coming to some agreement as to a national policy, there is always a desire for uniformity and precision, but it is found that, in practice, since it is our chief aim to bring on as many men of varying parties, temperaments and ideals as possible, to be precise and uniform is to be embalmed and shelved. In the rush and hurry of an election, with party cries and the pressure of votes to contend with, we women must use our wits to sift the false from the true, to use our power where we have it, and not let it run to waste. Happily, we all trust one another. The cry of "traitor" is not raised within our camps. We can afford to give the members of our Union a free hand to make the best bargain they can in accordance with local conditions and the queerness of individual tempers. This is far better and wiser than a cast-iron formula, and how much more interesting and living a policy!

HOW TO CARRY IT OUT.

The most strenuous efforts must at once be made to approach all candidates. Of course in many places this has already been done, with the request that they should mention Women's Suffrage in their election addresses. But now endeavours must be made to secure personal interviews wherever it is felt that something might be gained. It may be felt that some of the following suggestions are counsels of perfection. They are only given as guides. Let the deputations be made up and act as best they can.

DEPUTATIONS.

Obviously general rules cannot be made with regard to deputations. It is well, however, to remember certain things:

(1) The candidate is certainly desperately busy, and very likely tired and cross. Therefore meet his convenience; put yourselves at his disposal. If you can possibly get some good workers of his own party to secure you the interview, do so.

(2) Only a few should speak, and they should carefully arrange their points beforehand so as to make sure that all shall be said and no time wasted in repetition.

(3) The names of those going on the deputation should include people of standing in the neighbourhood and the local press should be informed of the whole proceedings.

(4) The speakers should all be familiar with the candidate's history, his politics, his speeches, and his temper, and should direct their remarks in accordance with this knowledge. If he is an old friend, shew that you are sensible of his past services, and that you rely on his continuing them.

(5) If he is uncertain, try to understand and remove his objections. Of course you must be familiar with all the arguments for and against the Conciliation Bill, with its provisions and history.

(6) If he is vacillating and fickle, try to make him see that it is bad policy.

(7) If he is ignorant, enlighten him. He is not likely to find time to read. Hundreds of candidates all over the country really require elementary education in Women's Suffrage.

(8) Be brief, courteous, and persuasive, and, if possible, not dull. Don't, on any account, read your speech.

(9) Don't forget your object is to secure pledges:—

- (a) that he will ballot for a Bill on the lines of the Conciliation Bill or for one in accordance with our object;
- (b) that he will press for full facilities for that Bill;
- (c) that he will vote for such a Bill;
- (d) that he will put Women's Suffrage before the electors in all possible ways, by speech and writing.

HECKLING: MEN'S WORK.

The next thing to do is to make sure that the question shall be brought forward at as many public meetings as possible. Some candidates, having promised to speak on the subject, redeem their pledges and do so frankly, like Mr. Charles Russell. Others, like Mr. Winston Churchill, promise but never perform except under compulsion. Orderly questioning in question-time should be carried out everywhere by electors, and women should do all in their power to use the sympathy of their men-folk in this work, which is men's work. These questions should be simple and should take the form of asking either whether the candidate will press forward Women's Suffrage in the House or whether he will try to get the vote for women ratepayers. The latter is well understood by audiences of working men.

THE COLOURS AND THE COMMON CAUSE.

All through the election all members of the National Union should wear and distribute the colours as much as possible. If shops are taken, the colours should always be used in decorating the windows, and if a determined effort is made to sell and give away "The Common Cause," a wider circle will be reached and educated than by any other means. It is essential that the public should read some paper which fully recognises that this great issue is before the country now.

CANVASSING AND SUBSCRIPTION.

Of course everyone realises that our most effective work is being done in the running of candidates. Help of all sorts is needed. But there are two things most needed: steady, persistent canvassers and money. We hope every Society will send help to the candidates, in either or both of these ways. Open-air speakers are also needed, and people to steward and sell "The Common Cause." Anyone who has motor-cars or carriages should make a point of lending them.

Women's Suffrage Candidates.

EAST ST. PANCRAS.

Central Committee Room: 106, Camden Road (five minutes from Camden Town Tube Station).

Other Committee Rooms: 246, Kentish Town Road, 169, York Road, 69, Pratt Street.

Agent: P. Strachey.

Polling Day: Monday, December 5th.

THE CANDIDATE.

Mr. Jacobs, the Women's Suffrage Liberal candidate for East St. Pancras, is causing a great sensation. I will not say, as the advertisements say, he is "the talk of London," but he is certainly the talk of East St. Pancras. As the "Daily Telegraph" puts it: "Mr. Martin has incurred the wrath of the Suffragists. While professing himself in favour of Women's Suffrage, he has gone out of his way to condemn the Conciliation Bill. The position is unequivocal—if Mr. Martin does not speedily declare himself for this Bill, Mr. Jacobs will go to the poll."

THE WORK.

The constituency which we have already begun to regard affectionately as "ours" is curiously interesting. In spite of an immense amount of more or less organized opposition from the supporters of the official Liberal candidate, the electors show themselves to be intelligent and fairminded, and such hooliganism as exists is the direct result of incitement from officials who should be above such methods, and whose action can only injure their own cause, not ours.

We have had one crowded indoor meeting addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, and a large number of open-air meetings are held each day, at which fair, open discussion is allowed. Interest in our position grows. Even some of the less sympathetic admit that they understand our point of view, and that we are gaining sympathizers is shown by the conversation of three working men in a train. No. 1: "I mean to vote for Jacobs. I like the man." No. 2: "Me, too. Now, No. 3, you don't leave this train till you've promised to vote for Jacobs." No. 3: "Right you are, I'm with you." And two official Liberals, in a colder vein:—A: "They'll help Martin, because they'll bear a share of the returning officer's expenses." B: "That's all very well, but you know they'll get a lot of votes, and that won't do Martin any good!"

The Artists' League have produced a most striking poster, a delightful group of children writing on a wall, "Votes for Mother; she's worked for us since father died." They have also published a choice little map of the constituency and a leaflet: "The Tax-paying Dress-maker."

Mr. Brailsford's "Conciliation Bill Explained" is invaluable, for it is the key to our position. Mr. Martin says he is in favour of votes for women, but in August last he wrote to "The Times" expressly to state that he opposed the Conciliation Bill. The Adult Suffragists of the type to which Mr. Martin belongs, who so earnestly desire a whole loaf for starving women that they cannot bring themselves to give half a loaf, are our worst enemies, but their incessant and hostile heckling only enables us to make clear the position of the true progressive who supports the Conciliation Bill. By the end of this week there will be few voters in East St. Pancras who will not have learnt that a Bill to give votes to women on such terms that eighty out of every hundred who receive them will be working women, is a democratic measure worthy of their consideration.

Mr. Hopkins, the Conservative candidate, is most satisfactory. He is known in the district as a sincere supporter of Women's Suffrage, and he has stated in writing his intention to vote for and support the Conciliation Bill, or a Bill on a somewhat wider basis, if such should be introduced.

THE WORKERS.

Miss Strachey fills her rôle as a pioneer woman election agent to perfection. She acts and walks and talks as if she had been an agent from infancy (at least, some people say she is like one with a difference and the difference all on the right side). Splendidly equipped Committee Rooms have been secured at 246, Kentish Town Road; 169, York Road; and 69, Pratt Street; in addition to the Central Rooms at 106, Camden Road (five minutes' walk from Camden Town Station on the Hampstead and Highgate Tube). All workers should come to this last address.

The work is going on apace. Splendid "gangs" of members have worked in season and out of season at

centres provided by Miss Emily Davies, Mrs. Spencer Graves, Mr. Hogg, Lady Strachey, and Miss Thomson, and the inhabitants of South Kensington, South Paddington, and Hampstead especially have surpassed each other in producing great bundles of addressed envelopes and cards, with which the hearts of those in charge of the Committee Rooms have been gladdened.

Canvassers, too, are showing up well, but hundreds more would be welcome. Mr. Jacobs has made a magnificent sacrifice in coming forward on our behalf, and the honour of the National Union is concerned that we should give the best we have to his support. Open-air speakers are needed, but canvassers above everything else. It is heavy work, but we have confidence that our members know that women will never win their enfranchisement unless they are prepared to make great sacrifices of convenience, of time, and even of health, as fighters for freedom have ever had to do. Skilled and unskilled, experienced and inexperienced, are all welcome. Even a bad canvasser is better than none, and the most modest are not always the worst.

CONVEYANCES.

Polling day is (provisionally, at least) fixed for Monday, December 5th. On that day, in addition to workers, a large number of private conveyances will be required at the Central Committee Rooms, and if possible full particulars as to these should be sent to Miss P. Strachey immediately, at 106, Camden Road, N.W.

FUNDS.

The London Society hopes to raise the necessary £700 without applying for a grant to the National Union. Many most generous contributions have been received, of which particulars will be given later. A large sum, however, still remains to be raised this week, and it is earnestly hoped that gifts will be forwarded without delay to the Hon. Treasurer, London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

A. H. WARD.

MR. HERBERT JACOBS' ELECTION ADDRESS.

106, Camden Road, N.W.

TO THE ELECTORS OF EAST ST. PANCRAS.

GENTLEMEN,

In offering myself as a Liberal Candidate for election to the House of Commons as your representative, I do so mainly with the object of helping women to obtain their political rights. If returned I shall consider it my first duty to do all in my power to bring about the political enfranchisement of women, and so to give effect to the great Liberal principles that the people should only be governed by their consent and taxed only through their representatives. The importance of this question is recognised on all hands, and for over forty years some of the best women in England have striven patiently and untiringly to induce Parliament to grant them their just rights. As, however, neither political party has officially recognised this demand, and as voteless women cannot themselves put any direct pressure upon candidates, it seems to me essential that men should come forward and make the women's cause their own in grim earnest. I feel quite sure that if a constituency like East St. Pancras should return a **Woman Suffrage Candidate**, the question would be settled immediately; no Government could afford to disregard so significant a message. Such a success would reflect honour upon the electors of East St. Pancras, and make the election a landmark in the history of progress towards freedom.

I will support legislation which will make it impossible for the **House of Lords** to obstruct reforms demanded by the people. I am also strongly in favour of the reform of the House of Lords itself. I hope and believe that this great constitutional change can be brought about in a manner that will secure the assent of all reasonable men.

As regards the **Osborne Judgment**, I shall support the proposals of Mr. Asquith. I have no doubt that any bill which is introduced will safeguard the rights of minorities, and in my opinion it would be a national

calamity if working men were not always adequately represented in the House of Commons.

I am in favour of **Home Rule** for Ireland, the objections to which seem to me to be based on distrust of our fellow citizens.

I am a **Free Trader**.

On other questions I feel that I shall be able to support the **Liberal Party**.

(Signed) HERBERT L. JACOBS.

November 22nd, 1910.

GLASGOW—CAMLACHIE DIVISION.

Office: 58, Renfield Street, Glasgow.

Polling Day: Thursday, 8th December.

It has been decided to run a Women's Suffrage candidate in the Camlachie Division against the sitting member, Mr. H. J. Mackinder (Unionist), who is a determined opponent of Women's Suffrage. As there are already three candidates in the field, it was felt that the split Progressive vote might help Mr. Mackinder to get in. Mr. Mirtlees, a gentleman of Scotch extraction, who has lived in South Africa, will stand as a Women's Suffrage candidate, and as he is an Imperialist Tariff Reformer, it is hoped that electors of his way of thinking, who are also Suffragists will be glad to have a candidate who more fully represents their views than Mr. Mackinder.

Mr. Brailsford and South Salford.

We have won a great victory in South Salford, a victory for Suffrage and for the National Union which is an ample vindication of our policy of running candidates. Yet we know very well that many Suffragists will regret the withdrawal of Mr. Brailsford, because they will not now have the immense satisfaction of fighting for their own chosen champion, the man who has done more for them than any man living.

Mr. H. N. Brailsford has withdrawn in favour of the Hon. Charles Russell, and there will be no Independent Women's Suffrage candidate in South Salford.

The following is a brief statement of the transactions. Last March the South Salford Liberal Association was informed by the North of England Society that unless Mr. Hilaire Belloc was withdrawn, he would be opposed at the next election by a Suffrage candidate, but that if they would adopt a Liberal favourable to the Suffrage we would leave them alone. The Liberals said they could not entertain the offer. Accordingly an Association was started and clubrooms taken, local work was prosecuted with vigour under the able organization of Miss Darlington, and Mr. Clayton consented to be the candidate. The King's death caused delays and changes, and though work was steadily continued by public and open-air meetings, socials and meetings for women only, it was necessary to find another candidate. The offer to the Liberals was renewed, and the name of a candidate who would be acceptable to us was suggested. This time no reply was forthcoming, and it was decided to put our candidate in the field. On Saturday the news became public that Mr. Belloc had withdrawn, loudly protesting that the Suffragists had nothing to do with his retirement. Mr. Brailsford consented to stand for us, came down, was adopted, and made his first public appearance in the constituency on Monday, November 21st. Next day, Mr. Russell made his first appearance in the constituency as official Liberal candidate, and declared publicly that he was a Suffragist. There were some who made themselves heard in the Liberal Press saying that *now* we must at once withdraw our man. But we did not see the matter in that light. We had gone to great expense and trouble; we had made overtures which had been rejected; we were first in the field with a strong candidate and far ahead in our preparations; we were not going to give up our candidate, and he would only consent to withdraw with the most handsome guarantees.

These guarantees Mr. Russell gave. He called upon the South Salford Election Committee at its Committee

Room in Oldfield Hall and he offered to send out the following letter with his election address:—

To the Electors of South Salford.

Gentlemen,—I understand that the South Salford Women's Suffrage Association wish to hear from me my views as to the Women's Suffrage question.

1. I am in favour of Women's Suffrage.
2. I am prepared to vote for the Conciliation Bill or any other Bill giving votes to women on equal terms with men.
3. I will use my best endeavour to bring about the early consideration of these questions in the first session of the new Parliament, and I should have been pleased to mention the matter in my address had I known any considerable number of residents in the constituency had the matter at heart.—I am, your obedient servant,
(Signed) CHARLES RUSSELL.

Mr. Russell also promised to make a statement to the same effect at his first public meeting in the Central Mission Hall on Thursday night.

This promise Mr. Russell handsomely fulfilled in the spirit as well as the letter, and he had the generosity also to recognize publicly that the women had shown some "fortitude in bearing what must have been to them a very serious disappointment in not being able to fight for their own special candidate."

After all, the matter lay in Mr. Brailsford's hands. If he had wished to go on, he would have had the most enthusiastic backing. But he was thinking of nothing but the advancement of our cause, and he recognized that we had won all and more than all we had contended for. Let Mr. Belloc say what he likes now. He has entered into private life. His coarseness and misrepresentations are no longer a blot on South Salford: the men and women of that constituency need no longer blush to hear him speak for them. Mr. Russell has acknowledged the feeling for Women's Suffrage in his constituency, and will, if elected, honourably represent it in the House. We have, by our preparations, shown ourselves formidable: Mr. Belloc had not the ghost of a chance against us, nor would anyone but a good friend to us have had any better. We showed ourselves reasonable: ours is not a wrecking policy, and no pettiness of injured dignity or spoiling for a fight was allowed to overrule reason.

We have taught the caucus a lesson and we have made no bad blood. Mr. Russell will keep his word and so shall we, and Mr. Belloc may disappear into the region of bad dreams.

The Paper and the Election.

Many Societies (we hope all) are setting to work to insure that "The Common Cause" shall be very prominent during the election campaign.

The *Sunderland Society* opened a shop in Vine Place for the sale of "The Common Cause" and other Suffrage literature on November 26th. Although the work was not started until four o'clock, there were so many helpers that the shop was papered and decorated by eight o'clock, and then a band of members went down to sell the paper at the various meetings.

The *Blackheath Society* has arranged for an Exhibition by the Suffrage Atelier opposite Blackheath Station from 3 to 7 p.m. on December 10th. It is intended to make "The Common Cause" a very prominent feature at this exhibition.

SELLING IN LONDON.

Those who wish to sell the paper in London during the elections can always get copies from Messrs. Vickers, Angel Court, Strand, or from the offices of the National Union, Parliament Chambers, Great Smith Street, Westminster.

Work in the Constituencies.

Darlington.

The Liberal candidate is Mr. Fred Maddison, who is an opponent of Women's Suffrage. On this account Miss Lucas, a member of the executive of the Liberal Association (Men's) declined to vote for the adoption of Mr. Maddison, and also refused to give him any assistance during his election campaign.

Southport.

The candidates have been interviewed, and as both are entirely satisfactory in their views on the Suffrage, the Society is taking no side, but will devote its energies to doing propaganda work by distributing literature during election week.

Campaign in Dundee.

We are preparing a vigorous propaganda campaign in the Home Secretary's constituency. Mr. Churchill has promised to receive a deputation of Suffragists during his stay in Dundee. The other four candidates are to be interviewed. A great meeting is to be held in the Gillfillan Hall on 5th December, three days before the poll. Out-door meetings at mid-day and in the evenings are also to be held, and a special leaflet, applicable to local conditions and candidatures, is to be circulated. An attempt will be made to canvass some of the women municipal electors, to obtain facts as to their democratic character, to increase our membership, and to rouse interest in the cause. Electors also will be urged to heckle candidates at their meetings.

ALICE CROMPTON.

Federation Notes.

Manchester and District.

BURNLEY'S FIRST MEETING.

A meeting organised from headquarters in Manchester was held on September 21st, 1910, in the Co-operative Hall, Burnley. Alderman Hough, the ex-Mayor, occupied the chair, and the principal speakers were Councillor Margaret Ashton, of Manchester, and Miss Margaret Robertson, B.A. The hall was well filled with an interested audience, and over 100 signatures were obtained of both men and women who intended to join the new branch of the North of England Society. A Provisional Committee was nominated at a subsequent meeting of the members, but there has been some difficulty in forming a full working committee. So far, the following have kindly consented to be vice-presidents:—G. A. Arbuthnot, Esq. (M.P. for the borough), Mrs. Arbuthnot, Philip Morell, Esq. (Liberal candidate), Lady Ottoline Morell, Alderman Hough, Mrs. Hough (a supporter since the days of Lydia Becker), Rev. A. B. Edelstone, and Rev. B. Winfield. The following accepted nomination, and were duly elected members of committee:—Rev. R. M. Julian, Mrs. Peregrine Thomas, Mrs. Schofield, Mrs. Birtwistle, Mrs. Crossland, Miss Hewitt, Miss Veivers (last two named being co-secretaries), and Miss L. J. Wood, M.A. (treasurer).

As both the Liberal and Conservative candidates at the forthcoming election are in favour of the Suffrage it has been decided that until that event is over quiet propaganda work by the existing members shall take the place of any formal programme of meetings for the coming winter.

So far thirty-three subscriptions have been received.

Surrey, Sussex, and Hants.

We have been working during the past fortnight in Horley and Dormansland. Horley has for some time had a small nucleus, and Mrs. Morris has kept things going almost single-handed for about two years, and has, with a few helpers, given her attention to petition work in the neighbourhood. After some visiting two drawing-room meetings were arranged for Thursday, November 24th. One, by the kindness of Mrs. Ross, was in the afternoon, where we gained some fresh support both for the committee and the Society, and another in the evening at Mrs. Morris' invitation, when we enrolled eight new members. Mrs. Auerbach came over and spoke at the afternoon meeting and Miss Cronfield at the evening meeting, and at both we had delightful gatherings.

At Dormansland Miss Robinson set out very pluckily to break ground and organise a public meeting, and at once found warm supporters in General Sir Edward Chapman and Lady Chapman, who gave us a delightful drawing-room meeting, to which Mrs. Cecil Chapman came and spoke. Both sides were represented in the audience, and a useful discussion followed. Next day, Wednesday, November 23rd, we had a public meeting, and in spite of terrible weather we had a good audience. Sir Edward Chapman took the chair, and Miss Frances Sterling and Mr. Cecil Chapman came and spoke most convincingly. We enrolled several members, and already they have planned missionary work in the neighbouring village of Lingfield. I may mention that there is a "strong" Anti-Suffrage Society in this place, which perhaps accounts for our success.

BARBARA DUNCAN.

On the eve of the Council to discuss election policy the committee of the Federation and some of the delegates of the S.S.H. Societies met at Parliament Chambers to discuss some of the issues which would be at stake the next day and all through the election campaign. We regret that other business prevented Miss Mason from coming. Miss Merrifield was in the chair, and Mrs. Heitland gave us a most interesting and concise account of matters at the present moment and the work before us.

A most interesting discussion followed on many points raised by Mrs. Heitland, who explained many difficulties which are apt to occur at these times. We are very

grateful to her for the time she gave to us that evening. No attempt was made to take a vote on any subject, as elucidation and knowledge was what we sought.

Mrs. Auerbach spoke on the advisability of resisting the payment of taxes, and Miss Bregan gave us a great many reasons why this form of putting pressure on the Government is no more the one road to success than all the other paths by which women travel towards the goal of citizenship. The Federation has to thank the National Union for lending us the room after office hours. To many of it is was a most valued occasion.

The Federation is issuing an address to electors for the use of any of its Societies who may not be issuing one of their own. It is based on the election policy decided upon in Council on Saturday.

The Federation is also issuing posters giving electors information upon the views of a prominent Conservative, a Liberal, and a Labour candidate. These the Federation will have on sale, as they may be useful to other Societies. In fact, copies of either address or posters can be obtained from Miss M. O'Shea, Cosham, Hants., at cost price.

North and East Ridings Yorkshire.

At a meeting held at Robin Hood's Bay in support of the candidature of Mr. Pynan for the Whithy Division, Mr. Arnold Rowntree, M.P., said that before long women would be enfranchised. The announcement was hailed with rounds of applause.

Mrs. Merivale Mayer is now working in Hull. Whithy has been holding a market stall for three Saturdays, and it was found that very successful propaganda work was done through this. E. BATESON.

West of England.

A deputation from the Bristol Branch waited on Mr. Weston Stevens, Liberal candidate for Bristol W., on November 24th. The deputation consisted of Canon and Mrs. Talbot; Professor and Mrs. Barrell; the hon. secretaries of the Bristol Branch, Mrs. Cross and Miss Tancer; Mrs. Bone, hon. secretary Liberal Women; Mr. Rogers, hon. secretary Bristol W. Liberal League; Mr. A. Daniell, hon. secretary Canon Talbot and other speakers put the views of the deputation before Mr. Weston Stevens. The candidate's answers were thoroughly satisfactory. He is in favour of Women's Suffrage generally, and of the Conciliation Bill in particular, has put this in his address, and will mention it at his meetings. Moreover, he promised, if elected, to press for the introduction of a measure next session. The warm thanks of the deputation were given Mr. Weston Stevens for his courteous reception and sympathy.

Nine out of the twelve Bristol candidates have declared themselves in our favour, but we do not as yet know how many have mentioned it in their addresses. Mr. Peel, Conservative member for Taunton, has also been interviewed. Though he voted against the Conciliation Bill he is now prepared to support any "workable" measure.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT TAUNTON.

On Friday afternoon, November 4th, a meeting was held at the Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium, Taunton, when Miss Abadam gave a stirring address, showing how at each constitutional crisis in English history men had gradually won their liberty by insisting on the principle that there shall be no taxation without representation. The meeting was arranged by the Federation, but it is hoped that a branch will now be established in Taunton, as many of those present promised to join, and a Provisional Committee was formed, for which the Rev. F. Percy kindly promised to act as hon. secretary *pro tem.*

Eastern.

WORK IN NORTH HERTS.

I began my campaign on November 1st in Buntingford, a remote little village at the end of a branch line. I paid many personal visits, and found a good deal of interest in the work, though the tradespeople are timid, and fear offending their customers and landlords. I could not arrange a meeting of any sort, but I enrolled ten members. I moved on to Letchworth on the 5th. The campaign was carried on vigorously there. The committee took a cottage in the industrial part of the town, and under the management of their very capable and energetic local secretary, Miss Sugden, we had a series of very interesting meetings intended especially for working people. We had good gatherings of factory girls in the dinner hour, one time getting as many as thirty-seven. They were very attentive and intelligent, and many were keenly interested. They brought their dinners, and Miss Sugden provided coffee.

In the afternoon we had "tea and talk" for women. All these were invited personally. These meetings were very successful, and it was pathetic to see how eagerly some of them took to the idea of their own political importance and responsibility. Miss Sugden held one meeting for boys, which was very successful in making these lads see reason and justice. Almost every evening we had a more formal public meeting. These were addressed by different people. I had two meetings for men only. The attendance was small, but the audience most appreciative. We enrolled altogether forty-seven members and associates. One of the meetings

was addressed by an Anti-Suffragist. He had no support from the audience, and at the end we enrolled several new members.

We had a public meeting at Baldock, at which we passed a resolution urging the sitting member to do all in his power to forward the cause. Miss Cecily Corbett and I were the speakers, and we were very well received.

I went on to Hitchin on the 19th. The secretary, Mrs. Smithson and I canvassed vigorously for two days for meetings of women householders on the 23rd. I think we succeeded in interesting a good many people. Unfortunately heavy snow came on on the day of the meetings, and we had very small gatherings. I was the more sorry, as Miss Barbara Foxley had come over from Letchworth, and spoke very well. The few we had seemed very much interested.

That ended my work in the constituency, and I am glad to have left them with an increased membership of nearly sixty. GERALDINE COOKE.

Work in Devonshire.

As a result of a week's work I have been able to form a small new branch of our Union at Ottery St. Mary. On Monday afternoon, thanks to the kindness and energy of Mrs. Metcalfe, we were able to have a meeting at the vicar's house. Mrs. Metcalfe presided, and at the close of the meeting fifteen people gave in their names as willing to join the new Society.

During the week I paid a great number of calls, and on Friday Mrs. Haughton very kindly lent her drawing-room, so that the people of the West Hill district might hear about our aims and ideals. Many who were present that afternoon had never heard anything about our movement before other than the newspaper accounts of militant action. During the tea which followed the meeting quite an animated discussion arose, and many people said they were deeply interested and would probably join a little later.

Ottery St. Mary responded very well to our appeal, and the branch promises to be keen and energetic.

On Saturday evening I went out to the Heavitree district in Exeter to hold an open-air meeting. Owing to Miss Montgomery's splendid energy in making the meeting known we found quite a small group of people already assembled when we arrived. Despite the fog and dampness we had a most attentive audience, numbering about 200, who stood for an hour. The Tariff Reform League had arranged to have a meeting at Heavitree that night, but when they found we had advertised our meeting they very kindly postponed their meeting until an hour later. Mr. A. Ferrers Howell took the chair at our meeting. I asked for questions at the close, but none were forthcoming. I appealed a second time, and then a woman in the crowd said, "It's all so reasonable we haven't anything to say." The resolution was passed unanimously. M. NORMA-SMITH.



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Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association.

CORK BRANCH.

We have received a correspondence which took place in "The Cork Constitution" with reference to two organisations working for Women's Suffrage in Ireland. The correspondence is too long to publish, but we should like to call the attention of our readers to the fact that the Cork Branch of the "Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association," whose hon. secretary is Mrs. Elizabeth Christie, is, and wishes to remain, distinct from the Irish Women's Franchise League, on account of the "militant sympathies" of the latter.

Southport Town Council.

In conjunction with the W.S.P.U. the Southport Society got up a petition to the Town Council asking it to pass a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill. The result was most gratifying, as the Council passed the resolution with no dissentients.

Bangor Alive.

Last week the following telegram was sent to Mr. Lloyd George:

"We, your undersigned constituents, pray you will use your influence to pledge Government to give full facilities next session for reasonable and moderate Woman Suffrage measure on lines certain to secure majority in the House."

Among those who signed it were the Rev. T. Gasquoine, Prof. J. Gibson, Prof. W. Lewis Jones, Alderman W. P. Matthews, Dr. K. J. P. Orton, Mr. Price White, Prof. T. Hudson-Williams, etc.

The Bangor Suffragists have proved so active that the "North Wales Chronicle" now prints a Suffrage column weekly.

Reviews.

A SUFFRAGE CHRISTMAS CARD.

The Nottingham Society has issued an attractive Suffrage Christmas card. The card consists of an outside cover of rough green paper, with the lutzer girl and the word "Xmas" in red, and an inside leaf which has quotations from Meredith and Browning, and an excellent little reproduction of G. F. Watts' "Promises." The cards are 2d. each, or, with calendar, 3d. Sixteen will be given to the dozen, 150 to the 100. All profits will be given to the cause. The cards can be had on application to Mrs. W. E. Dowson, Felixstowe, The Park, Nottingham.

A SUFFRAGE CALENDAR.

A pretty little calendar in book form has been edited by Miss Edith Palliser, and is published by the National Union (price 6d.). It is got up in the colours of the Union, and has an appropriate quotation for every day in the year.

Lady Strachey's entertaining little skit, "Reduced to the Absurd," has been reprinted from "The Englishwoman," and published by the National Union, price 1d. on rough paper, with the colours. We think it would be quite a nice Christmas card for people with a sense of humour.

The new *Artists' League Poster* is appropriate to the election, and should be ordered at once by those who have shop fronts, stalls, or meetings to decorate. Address: Brittany Studio, 259, King's Road, Chelsea.

Correspondence.

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

Correspondents are requested to write on one side of the paper only.

WOMEN AND PUBLIC OPINION.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Referring to "A Male Waverer's" letter, which appeared in your issue of Nov. 17th, to me it appeared that the letter on the whole embodied "the man's point of view." Your correspondent urges upon Women's Suffrage speakers the necessity of being always "just and fair," accurate and truthful. Having read his letter carefully I find that he is himself lacking in all these essentials. To begin with as a matter of "truth" and "accuracy," I imagine many would challenge his statement, that—"We all draw our origin from animals," there are many of us, a very large number, I trust, who believe in the existence of a Divine Creator, who in the first instance created man "In His own image."

Again he questions the "accuracy" of a statement made by the speaker, in reference to existing laws which govern workhouses and their "rules," and advances as a proof of its inaccuracy the ejaculation of "Fibs," "Fibs," uttered by another woman in the audience. May I point out to "A Male Waverer" that in this instance he was merely accepting without question the statement of the woman whose assertion tallied with his own belief? This surely was "unfair" to accept one woman's word against another's without a shred of evidence to support it.

Further, he writes that Mrs Swanwick "shocked" her audience, which consisted of men, women, and young girls. The men were shocked no doubt that Mrs. Swanwick knew of these things, and moreover had the courage to handle them and lay their ugliness bare. To many of the women and girls, he avers, their grim truths were a revelation, but at least from thenceforward they became knowledge, and "knowledge is power." Personally I sincerely trust that one of the first acts of enfranchised women will be to remove the shroud of mystery and secrecy which encompasses the horrors of life that a mistaken sense of delicacy has hitherto wrapped closely around them. I believe that extreme innocence, which after all is only extreme ignorance, is not one of the best equipments for a young girl with which to fight the battle of life, for where knowledge would naturally hesitate and carefully pick her way over dangerous ground ignorance would wander aimlessly and helplessly, and as an almost inevitable result fall headlong into the mire.

"Waverer" pointedly asks whether women believe they can bring about "lightning reforms." No, they don't think, but they believe, some of them, that they may prove more helpful in guiding and safeguarding the interests of their own sex, whose needs, whose safety, whose weakness, and whose strength, they, as women, surely best know.

Let "Waverer" dismiss from his mind at once and for ever that women wish to put one sex against the other, and let me assure him that the aim and object of Suffragists is to do, as he desires, simply to "work together with mankind, combined and united for the common weal" but—with equal rights. Further, if Mrs. Swanwick *did* blame the whole of mankind for the sins of a few, then I agree with him that she certainly was "unjust," but did she? Was it not rather a vehement protest against the few and the apathy of the many who moved so slowly in endeavouring to prevent such things, but who possibly did not, and could not be expected to feel as keenly as "mothers" about them, nor yet the urgent need for prompt action, which as a voiceless section of the community we as women are practically unable to take. The "cat," however, would, I believe, with women be the last punishment to be desired, and for a nature already brutalised would, in my opinion, serve to aggravate and accentuate rather than diminish their "brute force." The Editor's idea of permanent detention I consider excellent. In confinement their brute strength might be turned to account in labouring at some honest work which might prove a source of revenue to the State.—Yours,

M. WILLIAMS.

75, West Parade, Rhyl, November 10th, 1910.

WHAT IS FITTING?

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—May I call your attention to the following sentence in Friday's issue, November 18th, of the "Morning Post"? Writing of Mr. Balfour's speech at Nottingham and referring to the scanty accommodation in the Albert Hall for such an important meeting the reporter says: "It was for lack of room perhaps (?) that the number of ladies, who had seats, was so small, scarcely more than a score, but at a time like this, on the eve of a great political fight, it seems fitting that the Leader of one of the Armies should face a packed mass of males."

Why "fitting"? Because at present only males are voters? Yet in his address Mr. Balfour dealt with the urgent necessity of Poor Law Reform; a matter of interest to so many women, a problem to which very many women are devoting their time and energies on various Boards of Guardians; a subject that even the anti-Suffragists allow is suitable for women's consideration!

And yet scarcely more than "a score of ladies" were allowed to hear Mr. Balfour speak on this subject, although as Conservatives hundreds of them will be asked, both privately and by the "Morning Post," as the great Unionist paper, to work during the coming election.

Comment is needless.—Yours,

(Mrs.) K. H. ARMITSTEAD,

Conservative and Suffragist Poor Law Guardian,
39, Albion Street, Hyde Park, November 20th, 1910.

MR. BALFOUR AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Would it not be advisable to apply to Mr. Balfour, and ascertain from him whether he would be willing to pass the Conciliation Bill into law should he be returned to office?

In a crisis of grave national peril such as we are now facing I think that no national or patriotic person would wish to hamper leaders by clamouring for

WEST HEATH SCHOOL, HAMPSTEAD.

A School where Boys and Girls are educated together, and where they learn the respect for each other and gain the wholesome and natural knowledge of one another which is a foundation for all that is best in the mutual relations of men and women.

West Heath School is a day-school, with accommodation for a certain number of Boarders, where children are received from the ages of six to eighteen; thus obviating the disastrous break, at 13 or 14 years of age, in the continuity of their intellectual work, which is a necessity (for moral reasons) in schools where boys and girls are separated from one another.

At West Heath School the boys and girls share each other's pursuits, whether in work, games, or leisure. They have, in fact, in this respect the freedom of a large family, in conjunction with the help due to the supervision of a staff of experienced educationists. At the same time, the even proportion in the staff of men and women gives ample opportunity for the association of boys with men and of girls with women which must be an inherent characteristic of any true system of co-Education. Where boys and girls are thus brought up, false ideas as to predominance find no acceptance, and a standard, honest in being alike for all, is upheld.

PARTICULARS FROM THE PRINCIPAL.

Reference allowed to:—

The Rev. Canon Scott-Holland, St. Paul's, E.C.; and Dr. Jane Walker, 122, Harley Street, W.

pledges on points of minor importance. But if, as I firmly believe, Mr. Balfour recognises the injustice of denying representation to women-taxpayers, it would be a simple matter for him to give an assurance which would hearten the members of this and other Women's Suffrage Societies to work for his party in the coming elections.—Yours,

DAISY HUGH PRYCE.

[We understand Mr. Balfour is being approached.—Ed. "C. C."]

TAXES AGAIN.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—It is not always possible to resist the tax-collector. Something physical or moral may turn us back if we attempt to use that path when "with dauntless breast" we would seek to withstand the tyranny of power.

But if we must, when January comes round, stand and deliver for King's taxes or for licences, I think we should send the amount by post, and with it a statement that, being disfranchised, we pay it under protest. From my experience someone reads the protest, as you are politely informed your protest will be forwarded to the proper quarters. Into whose waste-paper basket the protest goes is not disclosed. At all events, if all Suffragists did this, many officials at least will have evidence of women's discontent, and officials are sometimes electors. And if they are women, they may be usefully instructed.

I shall always regret not protesting against one's ignominious position on Form IV. A friend of mine described her position as desired to, by saying "married and has no vote, though she ought to have one." Form IV. came back to her because of a clerical error, and in his note the official added: "He hoped all women who could understand would have votes granted them."—Yours,

M. O'SHEA.

INTIMIDATION OR INDIFFERENCE?

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Women have been so keen on politics lately in Warrington that they have turned up in great numbers at Conservative and Liberal meetings. At a recent Conservative meeting it is said that some women arrived as early as five o'clock, and that when the men arrived they had to take back seats. The consequence is that at Mr. F. E. Smith's meeting on Saturday, November 26th, no women were admitted. We are told by Anti-Suffragists that women have

such immense power already in politics. If they believed what they say, is it possible that they would exclude women from political meetings. The anger of Warrington women is excessive. Evidently it is not considered of practical consequence in politics.

Take another instance. I was working recently in a town in the North of England, and it fell to my lot to visit the matron of the infirmary with a view to persuading her to come to a Women's Suffrage meeting, at which Lady Frances Balfour was to speak. The lady in question doggedly maintained that she had not studied the Women's Suffrage question, and would not take sides on it. I suggested to her that going to a meeting committed one to nothing. She then told me that she had told the secretary of the Hospital Committee that she would not go, and that he had given her to understand that the Committee did not wish it, as it would encourage other people to take an interest in the subject. I said that this was intolerant on the part of the Committee. The matron was obviously alarmed, and said that she had great respect for her Committee, who were "kind, nice gentlemen." I said then that they would not have done this to a man. She doggedly maintained that they would if a man was neglecting his duty for politics. It was all rather pitiful. Here was a woman, evidently of intelligence and culture, who could practically not call her spare time her own, answerable to men for her private as well as her public life. And then Anti-Suffragists tell us that women do not want the vote. Are women really at liberty to show whether they do or not? Hoping that these facts may be of interests.—Yours,

L. F. WARING.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S INNUENDO.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—Among the various interjections from members of the audience during Mr. Lloyd George's remarkable speech at Mile End, there appear from press reports to have been a few, quite inoffensive but singularly apropos, alluding to the Government's treatment of Woman Suffrage. In reference to one of the first of these interrupters, Mr. Lloyd George is reported to have said—"There are many ways of earning a living, and that is one of the most contemptible of them." Knowing the facts of the case, I can see only three explanations for this remark. First, that Mr. Lloyd George did not understand it to be a cowardly lie; such ignorance would not befit a man for the profession of politician. Secondly, that he lost his head and his temper; a want of balance regrettable in one having charge of Imperial finance. The third alternative

may be left to the perception of your readers and to Mr. Lloyd George's own conscience.

It may be remembered that the right honourable gentleman permitted himself a similar remark at Newcastle last year, and that its lack of foundation was speedily brought home to him. He must not be surprised if other honourable men place upon his own earnest efforts the same value that he is so ready to place upon the efforts of others.—Yours,

F. A. BATHER.

THE ALBERT HALL MEETING.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—I was much struck with one thing when I attended the mass meeting of Suffragists on November 12th, at the Albert Hall. It seemed to me to show how absolutely all sense of proportion has been lost in this struggle for the vote. Sir Alfred Mond spoke of all the "dirty work" which men ask women to do for them, although they withhold the vote. He said, among other instances of this "dirty work," that women were asked to tend the sick and to go down into the slums to look after the children. Both these things which we all—Anti-Suffragists and Suffragists alike—do regard as eminently woman's work, were specifically spoken of by Sir Alfred as men's dirty work, which they asked women to do! And from that vast audience of women arose no dissentient voice, only enthusiastic applause.—Yours,

THE ONE DISSIDENT AT THE MEETING.

[Our correspondent misunderstood Sir Alfred Mond, and one would have supposed the fact that thousands of her fellow-women raised no dissentient voice might have made her hesitate as to whether she had understood. He was making fun of the Anti-Suffrage position that women should be "saved" from hard and disagreeable work. All the women present probably knew as well as the dissentient that the hardest and most disagreeable work is glorified by the spirit in which it is performed.—Ed. "C.C."]

THE "TIMES" WOMAN SUPPLEMENT.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—It is a little unfortunate that you should pillory the "Women's Supplement" of the "Times" immediately after it has inserted a long article on the position of women students at Oxford. You refer to a poem in the last number, but it would have been more encouraging to persons who care for women's education at the universities if you had not

included everything else in your contempt, and so diverted attention from the account of an important advance.—Yours,

ANNIE M. A. P. ROGERS,

Secretary, Association for the Education of Women in Oxford.

[The extraordinary silliness of most of the supplement causes the small amount of sense to be overlooked. We thank our correspondent for drawing attention to this article.—Ed. "C.C."]

ASSAULTS ON MINISTERS.

To the Editor "The Common Cause."

Madam,—As a constant reader of "The Common Cause" I venture to express the earnest hope that its issue this week will contain an editorial paragraph condemning the recent violent actions of our fellow Suffragists, and especially the assault on Mr. Birrell and the attempted assault last night on Mr. Churchill.

I am much disappointed that the National Union Conference on Saturday did not pass a vote of condolence with Mr. Birrell, but I know that pressure of very important business may have prevented this being done. But this being the case, I feel it all the more important that "The Common Cause" should not ignore the subject. I know it has been denied that the suffering in Mr. Birrell's knee was caused by the Suffragettes, but in that case he must have been walking lame and as though in pain when he was first hustled by them, and to knock about a defenceless man who is already lame is as inhuman as to kick one who is in perfect health. Such actions are, of course, contrary to all decent and humane feeling, but what is perhaps even more important, they must inevitably lead to the still further lowering of our political tone.

If you cannot write a paragraph in agreement with this letter, will you kindly print it in this week's issue.—Yours,

A. DOROTHEA SANGER.

58, Oakley Street, Chelsea, 28th November, 1910.

[We had already written a short paragraph concerning the attack on Mr. Birrell. It is surely well known by now that the National Union not only discountenances all assaults of this nature, but suffers severely by them. We are bored to death by the whirlwind which follows the sowing of the militants.—Ed. "C.C."]

Reports of Societies within the National Union.

Secretaries would simplify the work by sending in notices of FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, endorsed with those words, with time, place, and speakers legibly written, on one side of the paper only, and on a sheet of paper separate from other matter.

(The following were unavoidably held over last week.)

LONDON—MIDDLESEX, N.

A large public meeting was held on November 2nd at the Byculla Atheneum, Enfield. The hall was crowded; about 500 people listened with close attention to the splendid speeches of the Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Ruth Young, and Sir Victor Horsley. The chair was taken by Mrs. Pretzman Newman, the wife of our local M.P. She spoke of the vital necessity of women themselves taking an active interest in Women's Suffrage. She then introduced Sir Victor Horsley. He spoke at some length on the prominent position women are now taking in educational movements, often with lack of proper recognition in the right quarters. Lady Frances Balfour gave the audience a brief outline of the movement. She held her audience with forcible arguments, at the same time lightening the serious side by many clever witticisms. We all hope this will be the first of many visits paid by Lady Frances to Enfield.

Miss Ruth Young spoke with great pathos on the struggles of the industrial women of this country to live at all on the paltry wages they are able to earn. A most successful open-air meeting was held outside the Lock Gates, Enfield Lock, on Monday, October 31st, during the dinner-hour. Miss Ward held the close and interested attention of between 300 and 400 men for more than half an hour.

MACCLESFIELD.

This branch held its first annual meeting of members at the Y.M.C.A. on Saturday, November 5th, when Mrs. Russell presided. The Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary presented their reports. The former showed a balance on the right side of over £3. The Member, Colonel Brocklehurst, received a deputation, but declared himself antagonistic to any extension of the Suffrage to men, and, as far as women were concerned, would not promise to vote for a third reading of the Conciliation Bill.

The officers and Committee were all re-elected, and the names of two university men added—Mr. B. Leech, M.A., and Mr. Arnold Merrick, B.Sc.

It was decided to join the National Union in January, and then to affiliate with the Manchester and District Federation. A women householders' petition was entertained and voted upon favourably, more with the idea of spreading principles than that a petition to Parliament is of much use.

Mr. H. G. Barclay, a new councillor, gave the meeting the benefit of his advice as to how to approach the Council with the idea

of getting them to send a resolution in favour of the Conciliation Bill.

The Hon. Secretary reported a membership of sixty-seven members, with an income from their subscriptions of £11 3s. 9d.

PERTH.

A meeting was held on the 18th October in the Guild Hall, and was addressed by Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P. The Chairman, Mr. D. B. Nicolson, spoke of the value of our work, in reaching young people, enlisting their sympathies, and broadening their outlook on life. Mr. Whyte, who has given the Conciliation Bill his hearty support throughout, gave his reasons for supporting Women's Suffrage, and replied to some of the Anti-Suffragists' arguments. He also dealt with the present Bill, and spoke of its passage in Parliament. Votes of thanks brought a most successful meeting to a close.

The first of our fortnightly meetings to be held in the Grand Hotel took place on November 3rd, when Mrs. Scott Murray gave a paper on the "Evolution of the Home." The ideas were original and cleverly thought out; they dealt with women's work from primitive times to the present day. Mrs. J. S. Saunders was in the chair.

RUGBY.

Through the kindness of a member a small hall was taken for a meeting on Friday afternoon, November 4th, to hear Miss Ashton. She spoke with her usual vigour and intensity of conviction, pleading eloquently with her well-to-do hearers to join our movement in order to help their poorer sisters, thousands of whom were always being forced lower and lower down in the social scale, till they reached the lowest stratum of all.

Three new members joined the Society. An appeal was made for further support for "The Common Cause," and copies of that and other literature were sold.

In the evening Miss Ashton addressed a good-sized audience in the Market Place, appealing to the working-men to help their sisters and daughters. The chairman, Mr. R. B. Anderson, had pointed to the fact that in Norway and our own Colonies as soon as women had the vote the wages of women employed by Government had at once risen.

At each of the meetings a resolution calling on the Prime Minister to grant facilities was passed with one dissentient.

We are looking forward to Miss Palfrey's visit in two or three weeks' time.

SEAFORTH.

A drawing-room meeting, which was well attended, was held at the residence of Mr. Watson Rutherford, M.D., in Waterloo, on Thursday, November 10th. Mrs. Rutherford, after welcoming her guests, requested the Hon. Secretary to take the chair; he introduced the speakers—Mrs. Allan Bright and Mrs. Stewart Brown—in a few well-chosen remarks.

Mrs. Allan Bright then, in her usual clear and concise manner, explained the terms of the Conciliation Bill; she touched upon the starvation wage of working women, many of whom were employed by the Government, and said, "If women had a vote, no Government would dare to give other than a living wage." The fight was for freedom and justice. She was listened to with rapt attention.

Mrs. Stewart Brown then, in a most convincing speech, explained how the movement had spread to other countries—Finland, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand had enfranchised their women, and left democratic England behind.

A resolution in favour of the Bill was carried unanimously.

Several new members joined the Society.

SEVENOAKS.

A public meeting on Women's Suffrage—the first ever held in Westerham—took place in the Town Hall on the afternoon of November 4th, when Lady Frances Balfour kindly came to speak to us. Many were our qualms beforehand. Greatly to our surprise the large hall was almost filled, and over 150 people listened with interest and attention to the speaker's quiet and thoughtful address and to Archbishop Everett's earnest support of it. Indeed, so successful was the meeting that a resolution thanking our Member, Mr. H. W. Forster, for his vote in favour of the Conciliation Bill, was carried by an overwhelming majority. Literature and "Common Causes" were sold and distributed, and Westerham realized that a woman may have been an ardent Suffragist for years and yet remain essentially womanly and dignified.

We have formed a Debating and Discussion Society in Sevenoaks, which bids fair to be a great success and which will enable us to develop that power of accurate and ready expression which is half the battle when called upon to give a reason for the faith that is in us.

Just now we are busy visiting the women on the Municipal Electors' Register and discussing the Conciliation Bill with them. Some of us took part in the Suffrage Week demonstrations in London.

SOUTHPORT.

This Society began its winter's work by a public meeting in the Town Hall on the 26th October. We had hoped to have Miss Eleanor Rathbone on the platform, but as a candidate was opposing her for her place in the City Council of Liverpool she could not spare the time. Though we were sorry not to have her with us, we are glad to learn her candidature was successful.

Lady Betty Balfour addressed the meeting, representing the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, and Mrs. Cooper, of Nelson, who has long worked for the cause, spoke from the point of view of a trade unionist, representing the mass of working women. Lady Betty's eloquence was most persuasive, and much applause. There was a good attendance.

Miss Brooke Clarke, a member of our Committee, is at Home every Monday afternoon to all interested in Women's Suffrage. November 7th was the first day, and a very pleasant time was spent in her studio. Rev. F. A. Russell gave a short address. We expect to find this arrangement very popular, and are much indebted to Miss Brooke Clarke. We are to have the pleasure also of another visit from Mrs. Cooper on the 28th November.

NOW READY. Demy 8vo., 6/-

"Well worth reading by both friends and opponents."—Liverpool Post.

THE EMANCIPATION of WOMEN

By W. LYON BLEASE

A History of the Woman Suffrage Movement, its Origin and Progress during the past Two Hundred Years in England. A well-reasoned and temperate account of the Feminist Movement, written in an easy, clear, coherent style such as should effectually appeal to all desiring information on this much-discussed topic.

Chief Contents:

From the Restoration to 1750.—The Beginning of Reform.—The Education of Sentiment.—The Great Revival.—Woman Suffrage, etc.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS

Scotsman.—"Few books give a more interesting or stimulating account of the movement than is to be found in this able essay. Well informed, well-reasoned and interesting, the book cannot but prove instructive to readers who wish to have clear ideas on its subject."

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

On Wednesday, November 2nd, Captain Spender-Clay, Member for the Tonbridge Division of Kent, received a deputation from the local branch, consisting of Mrs. Tillard, Miss Scott (Poor Law Guardian), Miss Matthews (Hon. Sec.), Dr. Abbott, Colonel Rosseter, and Colonel Tillard. Captain Spender-Clay stated that he was not opposed to Women's Suffrage—in fact, he considered it ridiculous that a woman paying rates and taxes should have no vote whilst her gardener was entitled to one,—but he hesitated to support the Conciliation Bill, as in his idea it would inevitably lead to Adult Suffrage. He said, however, he would give the matter his earnest consideration.

We held our first public meeting here on November 4th, Mrs. Hedges in the chair. The hall was packed, about 560 being present, many standing. The Lady Frances Balfour spoke and moved the usual resolution regarding the Conciliation Bill in a brilliant speech which has established the cause in Tonbridge and brought many new members to the Society. The resolution was seconded by E. C. Goldberg, Esq., M.A., in a short and witty speech. A few questions were asked and answered; and then the resolution was put and carried with two dissentients, many remaining neutral. The platform was filled by influential local supporters. "Common Causes" sold well on the whole. Public opinion has since pronounced the meeting to have been a remarkable one. People who came to see some fun went away impressed by one of the most orderly and crowded meetings Tonbridge has ever seen.

BIRMINGHAM.

On Wednesday a good speakers' class was held by the members of the Franchise Club; and on Thursday a very delightful drawing-room meeting at Harborne, where at least one Anti-Suffragist was converted by Miss Helga Gill's interesting and well-reasoned address. Eight copies of "The Englishwoman" were sold at this meeting.

A class for Social Study has been formed in connection with the Franchise Club. Mrs. Ring, who has had wide experience in social work of various kinds, has kindly undertaken to conduct the class. The first meeting was held on November 18th, the subject being "Sweated Home Industries." The condition of the home workers was described, with special reference to the sweated industries in the Birmingham district. Emphasis was laid on the heavy cost in which sweating involves the nation, both financially and in the moral and physical degeneration of the workers.

At the next meeting of the class, the subject of "Sweating Inside the Factories" will be dealt with, and this will be followed by a discussion as to how the vote will be used to combat these conditions.

BLACKPOOL.

The Society held a meeting on November 15th in the West Street Café. In spite of a very stormy night about seventy women assembled to hear the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, of Oxford, give an address on "Mothers and Babies." Dr. Thomas Carr was in the chair; he emphasized the importance of helping mothers, especially those of the working class, to understand how to rear and train their children.

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The Hon. Mrs. Russell spoke of what is being done in the St. Pancras School for Mothers—a work with which she is intimately associated. She concluded her address with a brief survey of how women are treated under the law, and pointed out the necessity for the franchise in order that women may protect their own interests.

BOURNEMOUTH

The Bournemouth Society held its annual business meeting for members only in the Assembly Room, Town Hall Avenue, on November 17th. After tea and half an hour's friendly intercourse, the Chairman, Miss Kemp Furner, made a few remarks, and then called on the Secretary for the minutes of the last annual meeting, and her report of the year's work. This was considered very satisfactory. It included a week's campaign, held early in the year, besides the usual routine of well-attended public monthly meetings, and a series of weekly At Homes, held in the Town Hall Avenue during the spring and early summer. Altogether 100 new members had joined the Society since the last annual meeting. The Hon. Treasurer's report was also well received, and appreciation expressed for her (Mrs. Lane's) services to the Society generally. The election of officers for the coming year was then proceeded with. One new member, Mrs. Lobley, was elected on the Committee.

The Lady Frances Balfour, President of the Bournemouth Branch, is expected to address a public meeting in Bournemouth at an early date.

The business completed, Mrs. Eddison gave a helpful address. A good collection was taken.

BROCKENHURST

On November 12th we held our first public meeting in the Church Room by kind permission of our vicar, the Rev. Arthur Chambers. In the absence, through illness, of our Chairman, Dr. Hibberd, Mr. Chambers took the chair. Miss R. le Clerc Phillips gave a very able and interesting address, dealing with the Suffrage Societies, and the Conciliation Bill; at the close of her address she proposed the resolution asking the Government to grant facilities for the passing of the Bill during the coming session. This was seconded by the Vicar and carried by the meeting.

CARDIFF

There was a decided note of determination in the speeches delivered on the Women's Suffrage platform at the Whitehall Rooms, and that note found a willing echo in the audience.

We missed the Chairman chosen for that evening, Mr. Joseph Davies, a member of our Women's Suffrage Society, and a staunch supporter, who was unavoidably absent on business concerning his candidature for Hereford. Mrs. Lewis, our President, took his place at a moment's notice.

Miss Chrystal Macmillan, after reviewing in a few words the history of the movement, showed that no Parliamentary measure could be deemed more important than the granting of Parliamentary

votes to women, as no measure carried without the women's help and sanction could claim to represent "the will of the people." She condemned the Government's suggestion to appeal to the country before passing a Women's Suffrage Bill.

Miss Barke, M.A., seconded the resolution, turning Mr. Winston Churchill's manifesto of November 14th into a Women's Suffrage manifesto by merely altering a very few words.

The resolution was carried unanimously. Votes of thanks to Miss Macmillan and to those speakers who had consented to speak at the eleventh hour, were proposed by Miss Collin and seconded by Mrs. C. Morgan.

A copy of Mr. Brailsford's letter to "The Times" was given to everyone present. At the close of the meeting several sympathizers became members, and the indefatigable literature sellers handed heavy bags of money to the literature secretary.

An office has now been taken at 35, Windsor Place, which we hope will be of great use to our Society.

EDINBURGH

Our meeting for Councillor Margaret Ashton, held in the Society's offices, was the most crowded and enthusiastic we have had this autumn. A great many of the general public, as well as of our members, were present, and Miss Ashton's moving address made a profound impression. After describing the Manchester Corporation's new lodging-houses for women with the development of which she is so closely associated, Miss Ashton pointed out that the erection of such houses in all our large cities is an essential part of any scheme to improve the moral atmosphere in which our poorer sisters live. She laid stress on the difficulties which the promoters of such schemes encounter, owing to their lack of direct political power; and she pointed to the urgent necessity of having more women on our Town Councils.

A special conference of members of the Society was held on Thursday, the 10th, when Mrs. W. P. Scott spoke eloquently on the question of the Suffrage Festival which it is proposed to hold next May. The object of the Festival is to raise money for running our Suffrage candidates, and each Society in the Scottish Federation is being asked to contribute a share of the initial expense, which is estimated at £1,000. The Edinburgh Society hopes to give £300, and as a result of Mrs. Scott's appeal £52 was immediately promised.

Our special thanks are due to Miss A. L. Balfour, Mrs. Gargill-Knott, and Miss Matheson, for the splendid work they have done in connection with the jumble sale. This sale took place on Saturday, and realized the sum of £21 6s. 6d. The order with which the arrangements were carried out left nothing to be desired, and we are especially grateful to Mr. Hare, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Ballantine for all the help they gave.

On Tuesday evening, November 15th, Edinburgh witnessed another large Suffrage Demonstration. The five Societies took part, each having a lorry to speak from, placed close to Princes Street. A resolution was put simultaneously from each lorry "calling upon the Government to grant facilities for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill."

The speakers for the E.N.S.W.S. were Miss Mein, of Newcastle, and Miss Lamond. Both spoke most vigorously and convincingly, holding the sympathetic interest of the crowd to the very end, when there was much applause. Their crowd numbered fully 500.

On Wednesday, 16th, Mrs. Turnbull, 27, W. Maitland Street, gave a largely attended evening drawing-room in her house. Miss Mair, President, and Miss F. G. Matheson, Hon. Secretary, were the speakers. Mrs. Turnbull took the chair. Miss Mair spoke upon the inner or spiritual side of the movement, and Miss Matheson followed with many instances of hardships endured by women, both in their homes and in the labour market, from unequal laws. The meeting resulted in some new members for the Society, and in a large sale of "Common Causes."

On Friday afternoon at 40, Shandwick Place, Miss Parker, of the Edinburgh University Society, gave a most interesting address upon "The Vote in New Zealand." Dr. Inglis taking the chair. Herself a New Zealander, Miss Parker could speak with personal practical knowledge, and gave many facts which were new to the greater part of her audience. At the close a resolution was unanimously passed protesting against the action of the Government in its treatment of the Conciliation Bill, and calling upon it to promise that facilities will be granted for such a Bill next year, if the Liberal party is returned to power. Miss Lees thanked Miss Parker for her very interesting address.

HASTINGS, ST. LEONARDS, AND EAST SUSSEX

A very successful meeting was held in the Public Hall on Friday evening, the 18th inst. Mrs. Strickland presided over a crowded assembly and was supported by Mr. Cecil Chapman, Miss Corbett, and the Rev. Sidney Wicks. The following Societies were represented on the platform: The Women's Social and Political Union, the Women's Freedom League, the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage, the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, the Women's Liberal Association, the Church League for Women's Suffrage, the Free Church Federation, the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, the Local Government Association, and the British Women's Temperance Association.

Mrs. Strickland, in her opening remarks, referred to the large number of men who were present, and rejoiced that they were coming out and fighting shoulder to shoulder with the women in the cause. She emphasized the fact that this is not merely a political movement, but a moral movement.

Mr. Cecil Chapman moved the resolution: "That this meeting, in view of the announcement of an immediate dissolution, calls upon the present Government, if returned to power, to give facilities for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill or any similar Suffrage Bill next year." He pointed out various anomalies in the laws of the country which would be removed by the granting of the vote to women.

Miss Corbett, in seconding the resolution, said that the time had come when no one could afford to ignore the question of Women's Enfranchisement, and she called upon the opponents of the cause to come out and fight against them, and supporters to come out and help them. The Rev. Sidney Wicks supported the resolution, which was carried by a large majority. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speakers. Suffrage literature, including a number of "Common Causes," was sold in the hall, and new members joined the Society.

LEICESTER

A meeting was held on November 17th at the Great Meeting Schoolroom. The Chairman was Mr. J. M. Grinson, J.P. The following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Bernard Ellis, seconded by Miss M. C. Gittins, and carried unanimously: "That this meeting respectfully requests that further facilities be afforded for the Conciliation Bill. In the event of an immediate dissolution, the meeting asks for an assurance that should Mr. Asquith find himself at the head of a new Administration, the facilities which he has been unable to grant this year may next year be accorded for the passage into law of the Conciliation Bill, if introduced under a general title."

LLANDUDNO

On November 14th a debate was held on "Is the Conciliation Bill a Democratic Measure?" Mrs. Marks opened the discussion with an able paper demonstrating the democratic nature of the Bill, and incidentally laid stress on the determination of Welsh Liberal women not to work for any Member of Parliament who had voted against the Bill. This declaration, coming from one of our most active and prominent Liberal women, gave great satisfaction. It is gratifying to know that Mrs. Marks is to read her paper in the near future before the local Liberal Association. A discussion followed the paper, and the motion was passed by a majority.

LONDON—EPSOM

A public meeting was held on Thursday evening, November 10th, at the Town Hall; the hall was very well filled. Much disappointment was caused by the announcement that Lady Frances Balfour was unable to come, but the audience listened with keen interest to Mrs. Homan's address from the chair; also to Miss Watson, who spoke most ably at very short notice. Mr. Cecil Chapman followed with a speech which must have been a great surprise to those who believe that there is nothing new to be said on the subject of Women's Suffrage, and his arguments and apt illustrations were much appreciated by his hearers. A few questions followed, and a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill was carried.

LONDON—ESHER AND E. MOLESEY

By kind permission of Mrs. C. W. Earle, a crowded and successful drawing-room meeting was held in her pretty house at Cobham on the afternoon of November 17th. Lady Frances Balfour gave an earnest and moving speech, setting forth the lofty ideals of the Suffragist cause—such a speech as must have deeply impressed even those it failed to convince. We secured some new members, and met with kindly expressions of interest from all, even from our friends the Anti-Suffragists, who however did not make use of a fine opportunity for pressing questions, as we had hoped they would.

Mrs. Earle, in thanking Lady Frances, heartily endorsed all she had said, and the Secretary of the Esher and East Molesey Committee invited Cobham members to join that branch of the London Society.

MACCLESFIELD

On Monday, November 14th, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, and presided over by the Rev. J. G. Elstob, M.A., Rural Dean.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, declared himself strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage.

Miss Abadam moved a resolution urgently calling upon the Government to grant facilities during the autumn session for the further consideration of the Representation of the People (Women's) Bill, 1910, and for its ultimate passage through both Houses of Parliament. Miss Abadam in a brilliant speech advised the women present to resist to the utmost all injustice that issued from the Government. Three of our Cabinet Ministers came in deservedly for heavy censure.

Mr. B. Leach, M.A., seconded the resolution, which was passed with acclamation, only two voting against it.

PENARTH

The above Society held its first public meeting on November 14th at the Paget Rooms, Penarth. In spite of the terrible weather about three hundred people assembled, and we gained several new members and sold thirty-eight copies of "The Common Cause," besides other literature.

The Chairman, Mr. S. Thomas, J.P., told us that he had been a Suffragist for about forty years—ever since he read the works of John Stuart Mill.

Miss Josephine Barrett, hon. secretary of the West of England Federation, gave a most lucid explanation of the aims and methods of the National Union, and Miss Chrystal Macmillan (who arrived from Edinburgh just in time to speak for us) seconded the resolution proposed by the Chairman, in a clear, convincing, and forceful speech. The resolution: "That this meeting urges the Government to give immediate facilities for the passing of the Women's Suffrage Bill now before the House of Commons," was carried with only one dissentient, and copies were sent to the Prime Minister, the Member for South Glamorgan, and the Unionist candidate.

ST. HELENS

A public meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall on November 10th. P. Sharpe, Esq., B.Sc., took the chair, and Miss Royden was the speaker. The audience, though not large, was most sympathetic and interested in Miss Royden's lucid explanation of the Conciliation Bill, and the present position of the Women's Suffrage question.

SHEFFIELD

Two meetings were held at the Cutlers' Hall on Thursday, November 17th, at 3.15 and 8 p.m., at which the principal speaker was Miss Blanche Leppington. Her subject in the afternoon was "Josephine Butler and the White Slave Traffic"; in the evening, "The Women's Movement and Moral Reform." Dr. Helen Wilson also gave some interesting details of the great Conference in Madrid, described in her article in "The Common Cause" of November 10th. No resolution on the Suffrage question was put at either meeting, as an invitation was extended to all women, whether Suffragists or not, interested in the question of social reform; and a subject was read from the President of the local Anti-Suffrage Society, regretting her inability to be present and expressing entire sympathy with the object of our meetings. The attendance was good, especially in the afternoon, and much interest was shown.

SUNDERLAND

On Friday evening, November 18th, a most successful drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Walford Common. Mr. V. A. Mundella took the chair, and Miss Gladys Fenwick, of Newcastle, was the chief speaker. A resolution in favour of Suffrage legislation was moved by Mr. Andrew Common in an excellent speech, and seconded by Mrs. Mundella. A very lively and interesting discussion followed on Mr. Eustace Charlton's assertion that the Suffrage would not do nearly all that women claimed for it. The Rev. C. Aldridge, Miss Farquhar, Miss Johnson, and others spoke. Mr. Common's resolution was passed with two dissentients, and votes of thanks closed an unusually interesting and stimulating meeting.

THREE TOWNS AND DISTRICT

During the past week-end we have had a small campaign in support of the Conciliation Bill, for which Miss M. P. Willocks, B.A., most kindly and freely gave her services. She spoke eloquently at Plymouth, and all of her hearers went away with something to think about—a new point of view given to an old subject. She said women did not meddle with politics until politics meddled with them. The laws affected them, and therefore they ought to have something to say in the making. They wanted female magistrates and juries—someone to represent women in the courts. She also made an appeal for all to fight against the double standard in morality at the present day. This was a highly successful meeting, and all the "Common Causes" were sold.

At Stoke Public Hall, Miss M. P. Willocks again spoke, mainly to Suffragists, but there were one or two new faces, and we succeeded in interesting two new members.

The next meeting was held at St. Budeaux, Devonport, at a Council Schoolroom, at twenty-four hours' notice, and again Miss Willocks charmed her audience by her clear and logical speech. At this meeting Dr. Howard Slater presided. Our campaign gained ten new members for the Society. Both Stoke and St. Budeaux are new battlegrounds.

Dr. Ramsay criticized a postcard poll made by the Torquay Anti-Suffragist Society, at the Plymouth meeting. The Anti-Suffragists stated that out of 1,640 women voters on the municipal register, 468 were against the Suffrage, 200 in favour, and 970 had sent no answer. The "Western Morning News" had a leaderette on the above report, and decided that "the majority of women are either hostile or indifferent." A correspondence has now started on the "Torquay Poll and Female Suffrage." Dr. Ramsay amplified her reasons in a further letter which has now appeared in both local papers.

We have now held nine meetings in support of the Conciliation Bill since July 15th twelve since June 28th.

WALLASEY AND WIRRAL

We held our second monthly At Home on November 17th at 3 p.m. at our Suffrage Shop, New Brighton. Miss Eskridge presided, and Miss McOrindle, of the Victoria Settlement, Liverpool, gave a most interesting address on the need of the vote to forward social work. There was an interesting discussion, in which several ladies joined.

We are having a busy week preparing for the Actresses' Franchise League performances on November 25th, and making arrangements for the election.

It is a great advantage having opened a Committee Room early in October, for already we are well known in the neighbourhood, and we expect to make ourselves felt during the next three weeks.

WARRINGTON

There was a rummage sale on Saturday, November 12th, which realized £8 14s. It was organized by Miss Pemberton. Miss Johnston managed the tearoom which was arranged in connection with it.

On Monday, November 14th, Mr. James Ball, representing the Society, made a ten minutes' speech on Women's Suffrage at a Liberal Women's meeting in Bold Street.

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BANGOR.

The first annual general meeting of the Society was held on Friday, November 25th. The balance-sheet and annual report were presented and adopted. The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Price White, in presenting the report, outlined the work of the Society during the year. The membership, which began with ten, is now well over one hundred and is continually increasing. The propaganda work of the Society during the year has been most effective. Two public meetings have been held in the largest hall in the town—the first on February 8th, addressed by Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., the second on October 10th, at which Mr. Brailsford spoke on the Conciliation Bill. Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Phillips addressed other successful public meetings held in a smaller hall. On September 28th a deputation to Mr. Lloyd George at Cricieth was organized. Five members of this Society, together with three representatives from the neighbourhood of other Suffrage Societies, waited upon Mr. George. That deputation was fully reported in "The Common Cause."

On November 9th the Society's representations on behalf of Women's Suffrage resulted in the City Council of Bangor passing a resolution in support of the Conciliation Bill. Much excellent work has been done in circularizing and canvassing women municipal voters. To do this effectively the Conciliation Bill leaflet was translated into Welsh and printed at the expense of the Society. The Society is proceeding with the translation and printing of the fourteen Reasons.

At the instance of the Hon. Press Secretary, Mrs. Hudson Williams, the local paper, the "North Wales Chronicle," now prints a Suffrage column weekly. The Society is about to start a Suffrage column.

The Hon. Secretary appealed to all members and sympathizers to help this movement. She strongly urged upon members the duty of taking in "The Common Cause," and of passing it on to non-members. It was reported further that the leading newspapers and booksellers in the town had been asked to stock "The Common Cause" and other Suffrage literature, and had consented to do so. Future work was outlined. It is proposed to hold a series of At Homes for non-members during the winter. In order to increase our funds a jumble sale is being organized.

The officers and committee for the ensuing year were elected. Several well-known ladies, including the Mayoress, were invited to become vice-presidents.

BRISTOL.

An invitation from a Men's Adult School Study Circle to supply a speaker for their fortnightly gathering was thankfully accepted, and on November 22 Miss Barrett gave them an address, in which she confuted Lord Curzon's fifteen Anti-Suffrage arguments. The audience was most attentive, and a sympathetic discussion followed the speech. The Chairman had signed the petition at the last General Election, and while owning himself not much in favour of the Conciliation Bill, declared he was prepared to take "well-nigh anything" in order to get our principle established. On the 24th the usual fortnightly debate took place at our shop. The advisability of tax-resistance was discussed, and a majority voted in favour. We are finding these small and most informal trials of strength a very valuable means of getting new recruits.

CAMBRIDGE.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 24th ult. the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"The Executive Committee of the Cambridge Women's Suffrage Association desires to record its entire disapprobation of the occurrences which led to the regrettable injury to Mr. Birrell on November 22nd. Recognizing as it has done with the fullest appreciation the valuable support to the cause of Women's Suffrage which Mr. Birrell, as a Minister of the Crown, recently rendered by the speech in which he condemned the 'shuffling and delay' that have characterized the Government's treatment of this question, the Committee feels that whoever (accidentally or otherwise) has prevented the Chief Secretary for Ireland from fulfilling some of his political engagements, has, in injuring Mr. Birrell, incapacitated one of the most powerful advocates of women's enfranchisement at a time when his help was greatly needed."

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EDINBURGH.

The Earl of Lytton and Miss Abadam were the principal speakers at a meeting held in the Music Hall, George Street, on November 25th. Miss S. E. S. Mair presided. There was a large audience.

Lord Lytton moved a resolution protesting against the action of the Government in refusing facilities for the Conciliation Bill, and calling again upon the Government to give a pledge that, if returned to power, they would give facilities in the first session for passing the Bill in all its stages. He said that Women's Suffrage was one of the living political issues in this country. He said he often deplored the action of the militants, but that he held that their policy in the first place had made the movement a living issue. He said no one had a right to criticise the action of the militants except those who had proved their own service to the cause. The question was one which should if possible be settled on non-party lines.

Miss Abadam, in seconding, poked fun at "our funny little friends, the Anti-Suffragists." She urged Liberal women to go on strike—to work for Suffrage, not party. The resolution was carried with acclamation. A collection of £24 3s. was taken, and promises of donations amounting to £12 15s. were also received. Three hundred "Common Causes" were sold.

HERTS. W.

For a week we are fortunate in having the services as organizer of Miss Geraldine Cooke. She is speaking principally at drawing-room meetings in Bushey. These meetings are partly intended to prepare the way for Mrs. Fawcett's meeting at the Congregational Hall, Bushey. She will speak on "Women and Representative Government." Everybody is going. The hall promises to be more than full. We have arranged a meeting at King's Langley, and a public one at the Masonic Hall, Watford, so we are active, and we need to be. It is not necessary to remind Suffragists of our Conservative candidate's (Mr. Arnold Ward) views on Women's Suffrage. Our Liberal candidate (Mr. Micklethorn, K.C.) makes no reference to the subject at all in his election address beyond alluding to "a certain incomplete measure of representative government" which the people of this country have gained. We have been continuing to hold our meetings for working women. The last one showed a great increase in attendance, and the women are always interested.

LEEDS.

November has been a busy Suffrage month in Leeds. During the first week Miss Fielden spoke to an excellent meeting of the Men's Brotherhood at Salton Institute. On the following evening she addressed the Nethergreen Girls' Club. On the 10th, by the invitation of Mrs. Connon, our president, Miss Fielden attended the annual social meeting of the Leeds W.L.A. The following evening Mrs. Parrish took the chair at Lidgett Park Congregational Schoolroom, and the resolution, moved by Miss I. O. Ford and seconded by Miss Fielden, was carried without dissent. A contingent from Leeds attended the Albert Hall meeting on the 12th, and some of our members helped with stewarding and selling "Common Causes" at the Men's League demonstration, and again in the evening. Before returning home on Monday we walked in the Church League procession.

Mrs. Parrish spoke on the 15th to the Women's Co-operative Guild at Bundenell Grove, and the following day Miss I. O. Ford addressed the Burley Women's Labour League, while Miss Fielden went to Wakefield to speak at the Conservative Club. On the 18th an excellent meeting had been arranged for Miss Fielden by the Burley Liberal Club, and the resolution was passed with one dissentient. The following evening Dr. Guest presided and Miss Fielden spoke to a most interested audience at the Headingley Wesley Guild.

Some most interesting engagements have been cancelled owing to the election. On the 22nd we had a very busy day. Mrs. Parrish debated at Chapelton, and carried the vote against Mr. Seed, a good Anti-Suffrage speaker. Mrs. Leo Potter gave a drawing-room meeting at Batley in the afternoon. Miss Amy took the chair, and Miss Fielden moved and Miss I. O. Ford seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Miss I. O. Ford stayed on in Batley and took the evening public meeting in the Town Hall, and carried the resolution without dissent; and Miss Fielden went on to Morley, Mr. Asquith's native place, and spoke at the St. Mary's Fellowship to an enthusiastic audience. The Rev. Wilton Rix presided. The following day Miss Nicholson had a meeting, at which Miss I. O. Ford and Miss Fielden again spoke. On the 24th, in the afternoon, they addressed a gathering of university women students on the political situation. "Common Causes" sold very well. In the evening an excellent public meeting, organized by Miss Foster, was held at the Clayton Hall, Roundhay Road. Mr. J. R. Cross kindly presided owing to his wife's absence through illness, and the resolution was moved by Miss Fielden and seconded by Miss I. O. Ford, and carried without dissent.

On Sunday, the 27th, Miss Fielden spoke to the Pudsey Socialists at the Labour Church. Many members have joined during the month at the different meetings. A meeting of Suffragists has been called for the 28th, and on the 29th we open our committee rooms at 25, Cookridge Street, Leeds, and shall be very glad to receive offers of help for the election campaign. As many outdoor meetings as possible will be held.

LEICESTER.

On Monday, November 21st, the members of this Society and the Leicester Branch of the W.S.P.U. met to hear an address by M. Paul Hyacinthe Loyson, of the International Institute for Co-operation in Social Reform. The subject chosen was "Women and the Religious Crisis in France." A discussion of the attitude of women on any particular subject almost necessarily involves a discussion of the whole position of women. M. Loyson showed that the demand for the Suffrage is less pronounced in France than in England, owing to the different character and education of Frenchwomen, and to their taking a less active part than their English sisters in the work of the world outside their own domestic circles. Nevertheless he was convinced that in France, as in England, Women's Suffrage would be highly beneficial not only to women but to the whole community.

LEIGH.

A meeting of the members and friends of the new Leigh Society was held on Friday, November 25th. Between fifty and sixty were present. Miss Walshe was the speaker, and after her speech she answered several questions raised by ladies in the audience. The Secretary read a report of the inauguration of the Society, and the

rules of the Society and the list of the provisional officers and committee were adopted. A dozen copies of "The Common Cause" were sold, a few copies of Mr. Cholmeley's booklet on Women's Suffrage, and twenty-six badges. Several new members were enrolled.

LONDON—EALING AND ACTON.

At the At Home on Tuesday evening, November 22nd, held by kind permission of Miss Debat at 37, Uxbridge Road, Mrs. Colchester read most instructive paper on "Two Pioneer Women"; the similarity in the character and work of Queen Hatsue, one of the great builders of Egypt's prosperity, and that of Dorothy Beale, the maker of Cheltenham College, were shown. Miss Deacon sang two songs in her delightful contralto voice. Mr. J. Y. Kennedy pleaded for renewed effort amongst all Suffragists at this important crisis. All are looking forward with pleasure to Miss Ransome's address on December 6th on "Women's Work and Wages."

LONDON—ESHER AND E. MOLESEY.

A meeting was held in the Conservative Hall, E. Molesey, on the evening of Wednesday, November 23rd. In spite of the shocking weather, we had a very fair gathering, and a most attentive one. Dr. Langdon Down, who is a sympathetic friend of the cause, took the chair. Lady Frances Balfour spoke with her usual power and conviction, and Miss Cicely Corbett made a delightful speech. A satisfactory collection was made in the hall, and some literature was sold. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Barlow, of E. Molesey, for the successful organization of this meeting and for kindly entertaining the speakers at dinner.

(We are again obliged to hold over some reports.)

Forthcoming Meetings.

SECRETARIES, KINDLY NOTE.

Will the Secretaries of Societies, in sending notices of forthcoming meetings, kindly state clearly the PLACE (name of hall, drawing-room, etc.), TIME, and date of the meeting?

Table of forthcoming meetings with columns for date, location, speaker, and time. Includes entries for December 1st through 16th across various locations like Bradford, Dublin, Blackpool, Leeds, Whitby, Leeds, Stockfield, Cambridge, Sunderland, Nottingham, Colwyn Bay, Nottingham, Bristol, Nottingham, Scarborough, Nottingham, Carlisle, Birmingham, Cardiff, Bournemouth, Nottingham, Leicester, and London.

Table of meetings with columns for date, location, speaker, and time. Includes entries for December 7th through 16th across locations like Epsom, St. Pancras, London, Sutton, Norwood, Wimbledon, Perth, Edinburgh, Dundee, Edinburgh, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh.

186, REGENT ST., W.

Advertisement for Daud Barham featuring a large stylized logo and text: 'ARTISTIC and ORIGINAL DRESS for all occasions. HAND EMBROIDERIES. DJIBBAHS. COATS. HATS.'

Advertisement for Sweet Lavender: '10% TO N.U.W.S.S. FUNDS ON ORDERS. SWEET LAVENDER. What could be more in keeping with merry Xmas time of old-world customs than a gift of the charming and artistic Chalef Lavender Preparations? Special Xmas parcels are being made from the following: PERFUME, fragrant and sweet, 1s. 9d. and 2s. 6d. per bottle. SOAP, the finest quality, 2s. 3d. per box of 3 tablets. SHAMPOO POWDERS, very beneficial to the hair, in dainty box of 6, 1s. 3d. BATH SALTS, an inexpensive luxury, adding greatly to the pleasure of the bath, 1s. 3d. 4lb. tin. SACRETS, for dress or cupboard, dress hangers, veil rolls, etc. MISS LIGHTMAN, Speldhurst, Kent.'

Advertisement for Suffrage Atelier: 'SUFFRAGE ATELIER. New Pictorial Designs for Election and Xmas-POSTERS, HANDBILLS, CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, POSTCARDS. Send three stamps for samples to E. B. WILLIS, 4, Stanlake Villas, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.'

Table titled 'ADVERTISERS' INDEX' listing various businesses and their page numbers, such as 'Clothes: Bonnets Corsets', 'Debenham and Freebody', 'Clubs: Queensberry Club', 'Dentistry: Old False Teeth', 'Furniture: House Furnished', 'Household Requisites: Globe Metal Polish', 'Hotels: London, Thackeray', 'Manchester, Deansgate', 'Nursing Homes: Country Nursing Home', 'Nursing Home for Surgical', 'Printing: The William Morris Press', 'Restaurants: Edinburgh, Cafe Vegetaria', 'Leicester, Cafe Vegetaria', 'Schools: West Heath School', 'Suffrage: South Kensington', 'Suffrage Christmas Card', 'Single Girl Boxes', 'Suffrage Calendar', 'Suffrage Atelier', 'Sports: Alpine Sports', 'Toilet Requisites: John Knight's Soap', 'Lavender', 'Typewriting: Miss McLachlan', 'Miss Phillips', 'Miss Morris', 'Where to Live: Bloomsbury', 'Bournemouth', 'Hostel for Ladies', 'Oxford'.

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London Society for Women's Suffrage.

The South Kensington Committee has taken a room at 7, Stratford Road, Kensington, where information and literature can be obtained. Weekly meetings on Fridays, 8.30 p.m. All interested in Women's Suffrage invited to attend and bring friends.

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Not exceeding 10 words: 1 insertion, 3d.; 2 insertions, 1s. 3d.; 3 insertions, 1s. 6d.; 6 insertions, 2s. 9d.; 13 insertions, 5s. 6d. Every additional ten words, 6d. extra per insertion. All payments for Advertisements should be made to the Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade.

NURSING HOME for Medical, Surgical, and Chronic Cases. Terms from 3 guineas. Sunny, sheltered position.—Woodmancote, Woodland Vale Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CALENDAR FOR 1911, with a quotation for every month. Price 10d. each, 1s. each post free; 9s. per dozen, 9s. 6d. post free. Apply Miss Tanner, St. Ulrich, Downs Park West, Bristol.

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SUFFRAGE XMAS CARD, 2d.; with Calendar, 3d. Charming reproduction of Winged Child, called "Promises," by G. F. Watts. Quotations, Meredith and Browning. Bugle Girl (11s.) embossed inside. 16 to the dozen; 150 to the 100. All profits to Cause.—DOWSON, Park, Nottingham.

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FOR SALE.—25 per cent. to SUFFRAGE FUNDS. NEW TWEED COAT AND SKIRT, and stitched hat to match, from good London tailor; rainproof; suitable for Winter Sports; £4 4s. SLIGHTLY WORN WHITE BLANKET COAT. £1 1s.—Particulars from Miss Marshall, Hawse End, Keswick.

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