

Men's League for Women Suffrage.

MONTHLY PAPER.

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

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EDITORIAL.

THE "MONTHLY PAPER."

THE Executive Committee have decided to issue to all the members of the Men's League, at all events for three months, a monthly record of the doings of the League and its members. Each number will contain also a list, so far as it can be compiled, of forthcoming events both in London and in the provinces.

The decision to issue this leaflet is due to the discontinuance of *Women's Franchise*, a paper which for two years and three months has contained our official news. It was started and managed by one of our members, Mr. J. E. Francis, as the joint organ of all the then existing Suffrage societies. In time, however, the National Women's Social and Political Union and the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies decided to leave it, and with the decision of the Women's Freedom League to start a separate paper, *The Vote*, the Men's League was left alone.

The chief object of issuing this leaflet is that our members may be kept

CLOSELY IN TOUCH

with the doings of the society, and we most seriously urge them not only to read the news regularly, but to

SEND NEWS FOR INSERTION,

in order that the record may be as full as possible.

Members have from time to time complained that they have had few communications from head-quarters. They should, however, remember that circularizing our present large membership twelve times a year would mean that on the 1s. subscriptions we should reap an annual loss.

COST OF THIS LEAFLET.

This brings us to the cost of this monthly leaflet. Until definite arrangements can be made (which may not be till the Annual General Meeting next April) we must adopt some means of keeping in touch with our members. Therefore this leaflet will be sent free. Although much of the cost will be counter-balanced by reduction on other notices, none the less the League will be to some extent out of pocket. Members are therefore urged to contribute towards the cost. Donations for this object will be gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Secretary.

There can be no doubt that the time has come—nay, is long past—when men ought to be doing vigorous work for the cause, the cause not of women only, but of the community. When we consider how women in their various societies are devot-

ing themselves, their money, their wonderful organizing power, their sublime self-sacrifice of health and strength, in this cause wherein justice and the country's good are equally involved, the least ardent of male supporters must yearn to be doing something to help. The Men's League is, we believe, gradually becoming a useful agency, but its usefulness depends largely on the individual member. By reading this leaflet regularly every member will see what is being done by the League, and how he may contribute his share of the work. The political atmosphere is charged with big events. Let us see that we as voters do not allow Women's Suffrage to be forgotten wherever politics are discussed. In the club and the political association, in the press, in the train, we must

KEEP THE CAUSE TO THE FRONT.

Finance.—Treasurers' Appeal.

THE joint honorary treasurers are issuing an appeal for funds. We urge members to give it due consideration, and if they are unable themselves to assist, to do their best to obtain help from others. The circular, which we print below, speaks for itself, but we would urge our readers to pay special attention to the fact that the League is in urgent need of

LARGER PREMISES.

Office work is carried on under the greatest difficulties in our present quarters, and now the League has so large a membership it is high time that we moved to premises more worthy of the work we have in hand. As things stand we are compelled to hold one sub-committee in a room kindly lent for the purpose, and when visitors call at the office there is often scarcely room to receive them. This is particularly important in view of the approaching winter campaign, when we shall hold the annual Queen's Hall meeting and a number of others.

TREASURERS' LETTER.

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

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

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

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

This League recently had the pleasure of giving a reception to the Delegates of the International Congress, which was attended

by many hundreds of men and women Suffragists, who were addressed by representatives from twenty-two countries.

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

It has published and circulated a number of Pamphlets and Leaflets, and has others in preparation for issue so soon as funds will allow.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours faithfully,
GOLDFINCH BATE.
H. G. CHANCELLOR.

The following donations, already received, are hereby acknowledged with thanks. Further help, large or small, will be gratefully acknowledged.

W. S. B. MacLaren	£5 0 0
C. V. Drysdale, D.Sc.	2 0 0
Anon.	5 0 0
A. M. L. Langdon, K.C.	1 1 0
Commander Dugdale	0 9 0

NEW MEMBERS DURING THE MONTH.

Among new members who have joined during September are Sir William Hood Treacher, K.C.M.G., Rev. B. C. S. Everett, Canon of Windsor, and Major Arthur Wallace-Dunlop.

OBITUARY.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Commander the Honourable Spencer Graves, R.N., one of our most enthusiastic and hard-working supporters. For a long time he was a member of the Stewards' Corps, and was a regular attendant at meetings. We have lost by his death not only a vigorous Suffragist, but an honoured friend.

Open-Air Campaign.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE DEMONSTRATION.

The chief event in the open-air campaign—which has gone on without interruption since early in March—was the demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, September 18th. There were three platforms. Our Chairman, Mr. Herbert Jacobs, presided on the north plinth, while the east and west plinths

respectively were in charge of Mr. H. G. Chancellor (Hon. Treasurer and prospective candidate for Haggerston) and Mr. J. M. Mitchell (Hon. Secretary). In order that the demonstration might be representative, we had a speaker from each of the three women's societies—Mrs. Despard (Women's Freedom League), Miss Cicely Corbett (National Union), and Miss Tyson (National Women's Social and Political Union). The League was represented by Messrs. Edward Carpenter, Joseph Clayton, E. Duval, Th. Gugenheim (Hon. Secretary Open-Air Campaign), Laurence Housman, J. Y. Kennedy, Dr. Josiah Oldfield, Messrs. Stephens and Yaldwyn. There was a considerable attendance at each platform, both of Suffragists and of the general public, and there was practically no opposition.

THE RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was put simultaneously from the three platforms:—"That this public meeting, held in Trafalgar Square, recognizes that the welfare of the community urgently demands the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women, and calls upon the Government to introduce a Bill to this effect without delay." The resolution was carried unanimously at one platform and by overwhelming majorities at the other two.

Thanks to volunteers from the Women's Freedom League and some of our own members, a good deal of literature was sold or distributed free.

The demonstration was noticed in the press on Saturday evening, Sunday, and Monday, and the generally acknowledged success of this, the first men's meeting in Trafalgar Square in support of Women's Suffrage, will stimulate the Open-Air Committee to arrange another at the earliest opportunity.

HYDE PARK MEETINGS.

The meetings which were begun in March have continued every Sunday during September, and good audiences have invariably assembled. Perhaps the most striking features of the September meetings have been the presence in the crowd week after week of the same persons, and the fact that the questions are now uniformly of a serious character. Men have put one question one week, and having thought over the matter, have pursued it the week after, and produced others. The result has been that the ground has been very well covered, and a number of new members have joined.

We propose to carry on these meetings throughout October at all events, and we hope to have the help of several well-known speakers. Miss Cicely Corbett, acting honorary secretary to the International Women's Franchise Club, who was so successful from the East platform of the Trafalgar Square demonstration, will speak on October 10th. The meetings begin at 2.30 P.M.

The speakers during September were:—

- Sept. 5th.—Messrs. Gugenheim, Nefydd Roberts, and J. M. Mitchell.
- Sept. 12th.—Messrs. Mitchell and Gugenheim.
- Sept. 19th.—Messrs. Kennedy, Yaldwyn, Mitchell, and Gugenheim.
- Sept. 26th.—Messrs. Yaldwyn, Mitchell, E. Duval, and Pooley.

Dearth of speakers has unfortunately prevented the Open-Air Secretary, Mr. Gugenheim, from keeping on the Finsbury Park and Brockwell Park meetings during the holiday months, and it appears improbable that they will be taken up again this year. On the other hand, if speakers can be obtained in sufficient numbers, the work will be resumed at once. Those who, having returned from holidays, are able to help, are urgently asked to send dates to Mr. Gugenheim.

BRANCH NEWS.

BRANCH secretaries are specially asked to send in news regularly not later than the 24th of each month. They will greatly assist by sending in short paragraphs ready for press. Newspaper cuttings will also be welcomed, and further space will be allowed for excerpts from these whenever possible.

LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

Mr. Allerton reports that the summer months have necessitated some slackening in the work owing to the absence of members on holiday. We are glad to say, however, that Mr. Beaumont has practically founded a new branch on the other side of the Mersey for the Birkenhead and Wirral district. In this connexion thanks are due to Mr. Morgan also, who ably argued the case for sixteen ladies who applied to be placed upon the Parliamentary register. *The Wallasey News* gave a very full report of the proceedings.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

We in Manchester were all sorry to hear that *Women's Franchise* was to be discontinued. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Francis and his wife for the time, money, and energy which they have so willingly given to it. It was the first Suffragist weekly, and has done splendid service and acted as a most efficient medium of communication at a moment of great and peculiar need. Mr. Francis and his wife have our heart-felt thanks for excellent service rendered to the Suffrage movement.

We think your proposal of a monthly bulletin a most excellent idea, and indeed absolutely necessary at this juncture. As to the activities of our branch, I have little to record at the moment, owing, to some extent, to the fact that the executive and officers are (for the most part) busy men with very little time to devote to the movement.

What the Manchester Branch need is a secretary who could devote some amount of time to the work of the League, but up to the present we have been unable to come across such a desideratum. During the past week we have provided stewards to a Women's Freedom League meeting at Swinton, which was addressed by Mrs. Despard.

We have arranged and held an open-air meeting at Radcliffe (Manchester), under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party, which was addressed by Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A. (of the Women's Social and Political Union), who spoke to a big crowd. Our Secretary, Councillor Sam. Brooks, took the chair.

The newly formed Bolton Branch, which we look upon as an offshoot of the Manchester Branch (seeing that its foundation is due, chiefly, to the efforts of Mr. J. Darbyshire, Mr. J. Shufflebottom, and other Bolton members of our branch), is likely to do much good work for the cause in that great industrial centre.

It began its public career by a conference of representatives from various local industrial, social, and political societies, and although the attendance was not large, a good meeting was held, presided over by Mr. F. W. Coope (a well-known local solicitor), who spoke very strongly and to the point in support of "Votes for Women." The meeting was also addressed by Mr. J. Darbyshire (of Bolton), and Sam. Brooks (Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Branch).

The meeting considered the question of providing stewards for Mrs. Fawcett's great meeting in Bolton on October 12th, and the advisability of requesting Mr. George Harwood, M.P. (one of the members for Bolton), whose public statements upon the subject of Women's Suffrage have been somewhat scrappy, inconsequent, nebulous, and unsatisfactory, to attend a public meeting and give the electors of Bolton some definite idea as to his real views upon this question, and adduce some reasons for

those views. It was thought all the more necessary in view of the fact that a prominent name in a recent published list of supporters of the Anti-Suffrage League was Mrs. George Harwood.

We are pleased that the President of our (Manchester) branch, Canon Hicks, has consented to form one of the deputations which is to seek an interview shortly with the Prime Minister. May I beg Manchester members to note that in connexion with the Literary Union of the Mill Street Free Church, Bradford, Manchester (the minister of which, W. E. Atack, is a strong Suffragist and member of the Manchester Men's League), a debate has been arranged upon the question 'Should Men Support the Women's Suffrage Movement?' Mr. Sam. Brooks will take the affirmative against Mr. Chas. P. Hough (of the Executive of the Manchester Anti-Women's Suffrage Society). The debate is to take place on February 4th, at 8 P.M.; admission (by ticket), 2s. Mr. T. W. Zimmerman, J.P. (a prominent Manchester Radical), has promised to take the chair. S. BROOKS.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH.

We have not much news to give you this month, as in Bournemouth all these activities take a rest during the summer months. Our branch has held three open-air meetings, which were fairly successful.

Our winter's work has not yet been settled, but we are negotiating for speakers. We find it difficult to get speakers so far from London, and that handicaps us. We should be delighted to receive help from London members in this way. We are hoping to get a public debate next month between local men "Antis" and some of our members. W. L. HULL, Hon. Sec.

BRISTOL BRANCH.

The Bristol Branch entertained Mr. Forbes-Robertson to lunch at the Victoria Rooms. The president of the Branch, Canon Talbot, took the chair, supported by a large number of members of the branch, including the honorary secretaries, Colonel Haig and Mr. F. W. Rogers. In responding to his health, proposed by Mr. W. H. Cross, Mr. Forbes-Robertson made an admirable speech, congratulating the men of Bristol on their vigorous work, and alluding humorously to his sufferings at the hands of the London press. The luncheon was well reported, and was a great success.

The open-air meetings throughout the season have been productive of good results. The branch numbers over 130 members.

EDINBURGH MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

(Affiliated to the M.L.W.S.)

At the request of the Women's Social and Political Union our League has become responsible for the organization of the men required to assist in the great Scottish Demonstration to be held in Edinburgh on Saturday afternoon, October 9th, leaving Bruntsfield Links at 2.30 P.M. The procession is to include men and women, and we are most anxious that there should be a good representation of the male sex in the procession. It is also very desirable that we should have a large number of men to act as stewards for the procession and in the meeting to be held in the Waverley Market, and also as bearers of the large banners which will head each detachment of the procession. Already some have promised to help, among them several from Glasgow and other towns in Scotland, but we must look principally to our own members and friends in Edinburgh for support in this way. Names of those willing to assist should be sent at once to Dr. W. W. Taylor, Women's Social and Political Union Offices, 63, Princes Street, who is meantime acting as secretary.

It has been arranged to hold a series of meetings fortnightly during the winter, if sufficient interest is displayed in these. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14th, when

Mr. F. Morley Fletcher will open a discussion on 'Militant Tactics.' At the close of the meeting we shall hold our annual business meeting for the appointment of office bearers and other business. The second meeting will take place on Thursday, October 28th, and we expect then to have Miss Arabella C. Scott and Miss Muriel Scott, who were imprisoned during the summer for picketing in Downing Street, to address us.

These meetings will be held in the Café Vegetaria, 3, Nicholson Street, at 8 o'clock each evening, and both men and women are invited. Our members should make a point of bringing not only friends, but opponents, so as to increase the interest of the discussions, and also our membership! J. D. E.

Beside the above, certain branches have not sent news for this issue. We have, however, to report that the Cambridge University Branch of which Mr. A. F. M. Greig (Peterhouse College) is Honorary Secretary, looks forward to a very vigorous work during the autumn term. Mr. Laurence Housman will probably speak at a meeting early in November, and Mr. Greig hopes, in the event of a general election, to cover Cambridgeshire with meetings. Several well-known Union speakers will be available. The Oxford University Branch also has excellent prospects under the guidance of Mr. J. Drummond C. Monfries of Trinity.

MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN AT BATH.

On Tuesday afternoon, September 7th, Lady Hobhouse presided over a large and enthusiastic meeting held at the Suffrage Garden Party given by Mrs. Tollemache. In spite of the inclement weather a large gathering collected in the marquee to hear Miss Edith Wheelwright (National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies) and Mr. Laurence Housman (Men's League).

LADY HOBHOUSE, in opening the meeting, pointed out that the women's demand for the vote on the same terms as men depended upon the possession of property. By granting the Municipal Vote the law had decided that propertied women were capable of exercising the vote; why not then for Parliament? Woman's status had advanced during the last fifty years, and modern legislation concerned both sexes alike. She strongly disapproved of so-called militant tactics, but she knew that many of those ladies, whom she knew personally, practised such tactics against their own inclinations, believing no others of any use. She approved still less of those women who, being opposed to militant tactics, condemned the whole movement.

MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN pointed out that the influence of the Men's League was increasing, as evidenced by the attitude of open-air audiences. As a man, he could hardly condemn the militants, who were acting as they did because men had refused them justice for so long. They asked for votes for women on the same terms as men, whatever those terms might be. The speaker traced the gradual development of the Franchise, and showed that, as Government was supposed to be representative women should have the vote. If woman's place were the home, women should have a voice in legislation affecting the home—but they had not. If an ideal Government could only be elected on intellectual qualifications, let them ask, why were intellectual women excluded, while many ignorant men were voters? Men and women being different, neither could properly represent the other. It was complained that women underwent men's wages; of course, for they had not the vote to help them raise them, and they had to live somehow. At elections women were asked to wheedle votes out of men, yet they were called incapable of voting. Strange logic! Political power and responsibility should go together. Mr. Housman, who spoke brilliantly and at great length, dealt with the "Physical Force Fallacy," the "White Slave Traffic," and other sides of the question. He concluded by saying that there were other things, which it was unfortunately impossible to discuss, which called even more urgently for Women's Suffrage.

Miss Wheelwright also spoke, and after questions had been answered, the following resolution was put, and carried by a large majority: "That this meeting approves of the granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men."

PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

MR. H. G. CHANCELLOR, one of our joint Honorary Treasurers, has been formally adopted as candidate for the Haggerston division. If in the coming General Election he should be returned, the comparatively small number of really energetic Suffragists in the House will receive a notable reinforcement. We have in the League no more determined and hard-working advocate of the cause. Both in North Islington, where Mr. Chancellor is President of the Liberal and Radical Association, and in the London Liberal Federation, he has steadily kept the cause to the front.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

THE work of the Provisional Committee and the Sub-Committees is going on steadily. The chief, or indeed the only, problem that still confronts them is the selection of premises. A very large number of houses have been investigated, and the full report of the Premises Sub-Committee will be considered at a meeting of the Provisional Committee on Wednesday next, October 6th.

In the meantime our readers are requested to do everything they can to induce their friends, both men and women, to give in their names to the Honorary Secretary, Miss Cicely D. Corbett, 75, Victoria Street, S.W. The advantage which the cause will derive from a well-situated club in London can scarcely be over-estimated. Not only will it serve as a central head-quarters, where members of all the Suffrage Societies can meet and discuss, but it will be of great use as a bureau of general information on Suffrage matters. The scheme provides for a large room in which debates and social meetings can be held, and also for the usual refreshments at a reasonable price. Miss Corbett will be glad to send information and leaflets for distribution.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

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

All inquiries to Mr. A. G. Jayne at the offices of the League.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

EVERY Sunday in October we shall have a platform in Hyde Park, by the rails opposite the Marble Arch. The meetings begin at 2.30. Next Sunday, October 3rd, we shall have the help of Mrs. Mayer, who will speak on Women's Suffrage in Australia. On October 10th Miss Cicely Corbett, Honorary Secretary of the International Women's Franchise Club, will speak.

QUEEN'S HALL MEETING.

THE annual demonstration at the Queen's Hall will take place early in February, all being well. Preliminary arrangements are in hand.

THE LEAGUE'S SPEAKERS.

SPACE forbids our giving a list of our members who will speak for other societies during the month. Among those who have promised are Mr. H. Baillie-Weaver (Shrewsbury, Oct. 26th), and the Honorary Secretary (Carlisle, Oct. 7th; Keswick, Oct. 9th). The same reason prevents our giving a list of those who spoke during September.

Readers and local organizers are specially asked to keep us informed of all such meetings, in order that this record may in subsequent issues be made complete.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Sec., the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, 40, Museum Street, W.C.