

The Common Cause,

The Organ of the National Union of

Women's Suffrage

Societies.

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ONE PENNY.

Notes and Comments.

The King's Speech.

Conjecture and rumour were very busy writing the King's Speech for him, and after all, Mr. Asquith has only carried his "wait and see" policy a step further. Except Finance and the Veto Bill nothing is forecast except the settlement of the Old-age Pension Scheme on lines already fixed, and the providing of sickness, invalidity and unemployment insurance. So no sort of Franchise Bill is promised (or threatened), not even the much canvassed Plural Voting Bill and the Payment of Members is not mentioned.

This Year is Next Year.

In his leader, Mr. Brailsford reminds us of the statements made in 1910 by Sir E. Grey, Mr. Birrell and Mr. Runciman, that we ought to be given full facilities "next year," and he holds out hopes that the Conciliation Committee will find a way to make it "this year" indeed. It is our business to back the Conciliation Committee by every means in our power, since they are the only body in the House really working for us. In the last resort it is after all upon the voting strength of the private Member that a non-party measure must rely, and we of the National Union have worked steadily to educate and influence the private Member. This work we must continue with unremitting zeal and increased ingenuity, so as to win to our side such a pressure of opinion in the House as will force the hand of the Government.

Friends and Foes.

Some weeks ago we quoted the figures in "Votes for Women," giving the number of Members of the new Parliament favourable and unfavourable to Woman's Suffrage. The National Union has been tabulating the replies but they are not yet all available. The answers

which candidates and Members make are frequently so ambiguous that those who are very scrupulous find the making out of reliable lists a very difficult matter. The Conciliation Committee considers that there are 408 Suffragists and 193 Anti-Suffragists and the remainder are either Adultists or of varying shades of opinion.

Three More City Councils.

Last week we had the good news of the passing of our resolution by the Liverpool City Council, and now Nottingham has followed suit, the vote being unanimous. Cardiff also has passed a resolution by 24 to 4, two of the

latter being Adultists. We hope to hear of several more very soon. These solid masses of opinion of responsible men, in part elected by women, are invaluable.

A Discordant Note.

Mr. Ginnell, on the 31st Jan., when the Speaker was elected, greatly shocked and distressed the House by some rude speaking concerning the gagging of unpopular Members. Not being a Member of either of the two great Parliamentary parties, Mr. Ginnell will not probably be so easily got rid of as a Liberal or a Conservative who refuses to toe the line.

Judge or Home Secretary.

It used to be our pride and safeguard that our judicature was independent of party. We used to thank God that we were not as other countries, and that our Judges were not at the mercy of General Elections. But certain tendencies in the present Home Secretary and among his fulsome admirers in the Press, make one wonder how long that pride will be ours. We hold no brief for Mr. Justice Grantham, but there are very grave dangers indeed in the line of thought suggested by a leader in the "Daily News," which ended with these words:—"Is there to be no check put upon this intolerable state of things, in which a Judge places himself in an attitude of what amounts to open defiance of the Minister



Photo., Elliott and Fry.

Miss Frances Sterling

CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, N.U.W.S.S.

responsible to Parliament for the credit of our judicial system? The Home Office takes a view of penal servitude which is supported by every enlightened and experienced mind which has examined the question. The Judge takes a view that has been riddled by incontrovertible evidence again and again. And the Judge is to be free to act upon his view, secure in his own irremovability. The farce is too ludicrous—and too fatal."

Many women are very uneasy and not a little indignant at the amount of power it is proposed to put into the hands of a volatile and emotional Home Secretary with one eye always on the gallery—of men.

The Labour Party's Pledge.

On Thursday last the Labour Party at its conference in Leicester abandoned the "pledge" for candidates and Members by a large majority. There is only one word changed, and candidates and members "must maintain" where, in the other form, they had to "accept" the constitution.

"Conscientious convictions," said Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, in speaking for the Executive, "can never be imposed by a machine. All you can make of a constitution is as perfect a mechanical contrivance as possible to eject the dishonest and bring in the honest. How can a man maintain a constitution to which he is opposed? I agree that he may do it, but I say that the same man will 'accept' the same constitution." What they had got to do more than they had done in the past was to use common-sense, and to rely less upon words which had very little meaning. "Build up your party loyally," was his advice; "build up a strong organization in every constituency, representative of all the societies affiliated to us; see that your men are true Labour candidates; and then leave the machinery in the hands of the Executive."

Many members of the National Union will see a parallel. It seems a common experience of living movements that there is first a screwing-up and then as boundaries enlarge and there is greater vigour, more latitude has to be given.

The Late Sir Charles Dilke and his Wife.

In an eloquent tribute to Sir Charles and Lady Dilke, "The Nation" says:—

"They were a powerful combination. There was no guile or affectation in their interest. Both had great social qualities, which were delightful enough to their new friends. She possessed, with her woman's heart, the literary gift, the power of clear unrheterical statement. He had his almost unexampled faculty for absorbing facts, his great experience, his love of Parliament, his tact, suavity, unruffled temper, his expert habit of mind, his methodical, devouring industry. Between them they unquestionably raised the labour question to a height in the thoughts and counsels of statesmen it had never acquired before. It happened in the tragedy of things that the full effect of their influence could not be felt till she was in her grave, and the lot had manifestly been drawn against him. But both of them must be counted fortunate in the choice that gave to him, who in his middle prime was freely talked of for the Premiership, a fuller and in many ways a happier and more real career than belongs to official middle-class statesmanship, and to her the knowledge that the man whom she had nobly chosen in the hour of his disaster was in touch with the vital movement of his times."

Mr. Harold Cox's Candidature.

We cordially endorse Miss McArthur's appeal in favour of Mr. Harold Cox's candidature, and we hope that all Suffragists who have friends or relations entitled to the

Cambridge graduate's vote will urge them to cast their vote for Mr. Cox, who has given us such satisfactory assurances.

Domestic Training.

The "Morning Post" of Jan. 3rd had an unusually enlightened article on the domestic training of girls, suggested by a recent report of the London Education Committee. Nothing could be of greater advantage to the status of women, the health and happiness of girls and a general increase in wages, than to raise domestic work to a skilled trade with proper conditions, freedom and honour. When domestic workers are adequately trained and protected by unions we shall begin to see that there is not a rooted objection to the work but only to the present often servile conditions of the work and its needless restrictions and inconveniences.

The Rev. Hatty Baker.

Miss Hatty Baker is making a ten days' tour in the Bournemouth district, beginning on the 12th Feb. She will speak on "The Extension of the Franchise to Women," and "The Religious Aspect of Woman Suffrage." On the 24th she lectures at Bexhill on "Religion and Woman Suffrage."

Emigrating Women.

We have received the prospectus of a new "Committee of Colonial Intelligence for Educated Women," which has as its object to assist the British Women's Emigration Association and the South African Colonization Society, and the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women "in the difficult and intricate task of finding suitable openings for educated women overseas." This will be done by establishing agents in the Colonies and it is also hoped to found settlements in the Colonies for training and for women to return to in the intervals of employment.

One is a little uneasy at seeing the names of Lord Curzon and Mrs. Moberly Bell among the promoters, but one is reassured by Lady Knightley, Miss Haldane, Miss Spencer and Lady Selborne. It is to be hoped that in promoting emigration they will do their utmost to keep up a standard of salaries adequate to the needs and sacrifices of the emigrants.

Occupation Diseases.

A humorous paragraph in the "Woman's Journal" of Jan. 21st, suggests that the Editor of the "Ladies Home Journal," who published Mr. Barry's silly article on "The Women of Colorado," is suffering from a condition akin to those which cause the various "diseases incident to occupation." He has, it is suggested, too long and too intently concentrated his mental vision on the point of a crochet needle to be able to see normally when attempting to fix his gaze on larger interests. "Heart-to-heart talks on pillow-shams are not a suitable training or preparation for the consideration of economic or political questions. Woman Suffrage is both of these and more."

Master in his own House.

A correspondent sends us the following extract from the catalogue of a picture gallery: "Portrait group: Master . . . his mother and sisters." These are grouped respectfully round the central figure, Master . . . aged about two, in a mail-cart. Our correspondent suggests that this is "How our electors are trained."

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

The picture this week gives an answer to those people who say that women should

STOP AT HOME.

This woman (and there are millions in the same case) would

STARVE

if she stopped at home. She has got to go out into the world, whether she will or no, to earn money for a roof over her head and bread to eat.

Well, then, we see her in the picture asking that, since she *must* go out, she should have the

IS THIS RIGHT?

SAME PROTECTION AS THE MAN HAS GOT—

the UMBRELLA which keeps off the rain. What does this mean? It means the VOTE, by means of which the man protects himself against unjust laws, and secures to himself fair conditions of labour. One of the most striking instances of his use of the vote to protect himself is the



WOMAN WHY CAN'T I HAVE AN UMBRELLA TOO?
VOTER YOU CAN'T, YOU OUGHT TO STOP AT HOME.
WOMAN STOP AT HOME INDEED! I HAVE MY LIVING TO EARN.

Printed and Published by the Artists' Suffrage League, 259, King's Road, Chelsea.

FAIR WAGES CLAUSE

in Government contracts, which applies to MEN ONLY. Men must have trade-union rates of pay—women may work for a pittance.

What can men find to say in reply when women make this just demand for equal protection? They say: "The vote doesn't do EVERYTHING. Though men have votes, they are often sweated and work under bad conditions." As if the man said: "The

umbrella does not keep off ALL the rain. My legs are getting very wet in spite of it." Would not the woman answer: "Perhaps so! But you are a great deal drier WITH the umbrella than I am WITHOUT?" And so the working women say: "Your conditions may be bad, but ours are far worse! Why, your average wage is 2s. 6d. Ours is 7s. 3½d.!"

But then the men, unable to deny that the vote has helped them, say that it is different with women, and that they would gain nothing by enfranchisement. As if the man said: "I know an umbrella keeps the rain to some extent off A MAN; but it wouldn't keep the rain off A WOMAN at all." The woman would doubtless reply: "Well, at any rate, just give me an umbrella, and

LET ME TRY!"

And the working women are maintaining their right to see whether they, like the men, cannot use political

power to better their industrial position.

The woman can say, "I've paid for an umbrella, for women are taxed exactly as men, and in this way PAY FOR REPRESENTATION, although they do not get it.

THE WEEK'S MOTTO.

"A worm must turn

If it would have its wrong observed by God."

THE RING AND THE BOOK.

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to The Manager, 64, Deansgate Arcade, Manchester. ADVERTISEMENTS should reach the office by first post on Tuesday. 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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The Session and the Bill.

The Editor has asked me to give some account of the prospects and present position of the Conciliation Bill. It is a request with which I gladly comply. The whole of our success during the past six months has been due to the confidence which Suffragists of all schools have so generously reposed in us. To retain this sense of comradeship and this unity in effort is the condition of our further progress. It demands a frank interchange of views.

FACILITIES THIS YEAR.

Our work is governed by the elusive pledge which Mr. Asquith gave on November 22nd. Facilities will be given for effectively proceeding with a Woman Suffrage Bill in some session of this Parliament. An inert and irresolute movement would hug that pledge and await events. It would be rewarded, if at all, by the grant of facilities in the last hurried weeks of the final session. The instinct, the spirit, and the hard experience of suffragists have taught them that there is no session like the present. Two hurried dissolutions in a year have reminded us that Parliaments are mortal. We understand that if party convenience requires it, the present Parliament, like its predecessors, will be dissolved with that pledge unfulfilled. A closer calculation will show the wisdom of this instinct. It will be of little use to pass a Bill in this Parliament unless women are enabled to vote at the next General Election. A Bill passed in the last session would almost certainly be useless, because the register would not be available. Another factor still further limits the time-table. We do not know how the House of Lords will treat our question, but we do know that with the exception of Lord Selborne, Lord Courtney and Lord Lytton, all the more prominent peers, both Unionists and Liberals, are Anti-Suffragists. It will probably be necessary to set in motion the new machinery for overcoming the Veto. That means that our Bill may

have to be passed not once, but three times. It follows then, that no session later than the second would be of much immediate use to us. But the second session, by all accounts, will be one of vast legislative projects. The Home Rule Bill will be long and complicated, and may even set up a federal scheme. There is talk too, of a Bill in this second session to reform the House of Lords. Clearly, time in the second session will be a very precious commodity. There is, in short, no session so safe or propitious as the first.

TIME TO SPARE.

It will be said that the first session must be devoted to the dominant issue of the Lords. The dominant sex always has some dominant issue. It is the business of politicians to make one. There never will come a year in which no section of men has a claim to press. It is for us to urge that if it be passion and earnestness and urgent need which cause an issue to "dominate," women have a claim which is second to none. The Parliament Bill will be out of the way by mid-summer at the latest. There will be slack months in the summer or autumn, when the later stages of our Bill may with ease be taken. The Government can find time for a Plural Voting Bill. It makes thereby a fresh aggravation of the women's position. It can find time to take votes away, but none to give them, time to reform the franchise for a partisan end, but none to extend it to satisfy a human demand.

A QUESTION OF METHOD.

For the moment the time-table of the House has been closed to us. By an unprecedented exercise of its omnipotence, the Cabinet proposes to rob the House of all the usual private Members' days. In order to fetter the Lords, it proposes to muzzle the Commons. The consequence is that there will be no ballot for the introduction of motions or the second reading of bills. If we are to obtain time it must be by the favour of the Government. Luckily, the opinions publicly expressed last autumn to deputations of women by Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Birrell and Mr. Runciman, stand on record. They all declared, with various degrees of emphasis, that facilities refused then ought to be granted next year. Next year is now this year. A member of our Committee will, at the first propitious moment, introduce our Bill, probably under the ten minutes' rule. That done we shall invite the Government to live up to the spirit of its undertaking that the House itself shall decide the fate of the Bill. The Government will be asked to give it a chance of declaring its will. If it will pass a resolution declaring its desire to "proceed effectively" with our Bill this session, the further exercise of the Cabinet's Veto would become too flagrantly indecent. To stake our fate on such a resolution may be daring strategy. But we have a right to expect the support of three Ministers at least. If private Members will not give the time we need, the lesson, one hopes, will not be lost on the party women who squandered their days and their weeks in working for them at the two last elections.

THE BILL.

Experience has taught us that while our Bill is the only one which can rally support from both sides of this evenly divided House, it must in some minor particulars be modified. Its title will be general—"A Bill to confer the Parliamentary Franchise on Women"—so that amendments may be freely moved. The amendment which Mr. Shackleton put down to the second clause last session will be incorporated this year in its text. One further change we have decided to make. We shall omit the £10 occupation qualification, leaving the household qualification only. The change is quite insignificant from the woman's standpoint, but it is important to the politician. We counted the women municipal voters in Leicester, and found that out of over 5,300 all were householders save 26. These 26 women were qualified in respect of warehouses, shops, etc. The probability is that all of them had, or could have had, a household qualification, but since the law allows only one vote within the same town they had chosen to be registered

for their business premises. The change we are now making will not in most cases disqualify them. They will simply register their names in respect of their houses instead of their shops. In counties on the other hand, it is obvious that this qualification might lend itself to the manufacture of faggot votes. A wealthy man may do what a poor man cannot do—he may for form's sake, make his daughter or his sister the tenant of a stable, a field, or a bit of woodland. This danger is probably much exaggerated, but it had a marked effect upon the House when Mr. Churchill played upon it last Session. We cannot afford to raise any unnecessary prejudice against the Bill. What remains after this elimination is the simplest and the most democratic of all the franchises—the household qualification. It is better understood than any other. It was the joint gift of Conservatives and Radicals in 1867. It will give a vote to every woman, rich or poor, who is the head of her house, and the mistress of her own affairs—to every woman who is the tenant even of one room over which she can prove that she has full control.

THE NEW HOUSE.

The new House is, we believe, slightly more favourable to us than the last. We have lost some obstinate opponents and gained some good friends. Of resolute supporters we have in all parties 246. There are about 120 less reliable supporters, the quality of whose conviction leaves something to be desired. There are 42 adult Suffragists of the type which is reluctant to enfranchise any woman until it can give votes to all. Few of these will vote against our Second Reading, but they will make a difficulty at our later stages. There are 65 members who are neutral, or as yet undecided. Finally, there are 193 declared opponents. Our task in the interval before the testing time arrives is to make the "wobblers" reliable, and ensure that at the worst the adultists and the neutrals will not vote against us. Every method is good which convinces these men that they have to face an urgent demand, and may serve a popular cause. It is essential to form Suffrage Societies in constituencies which still lack them. Our position in the House will be securer than it is to-day when every Member has a Suffrage Society to reckon with in his constituency. Surprisingly good results have followed from the deputations which have so far waited upon Members. The 33 Town Councils which have passed resolutions in favour of the Bill afford the best of all possible proofs of its popularity. Manchester, Glasgow, Dublin, Liverpool, Hull, Cardiff, Dundee and Cork, are sufficiently typical of the trend of public opinion, and the list of these towns will presently be lengthened by fresh accessions. The outlook has never been so bright, nor the rate of progress so rapid.

H. N. BRAILSFORD.

Our Parliament.

When large numbers of people meet at long intervals for discussion of questions which, to all of them, are of vital importance, and on which there are a great variety of shades of opinion, it is impossible to prevent what, to the impatient or the opinionated, will appear gross waste of time. Taking into account the varieties and vagaries of human temperaments and tempers, it is certain that from an idealist's point of view, there will be waste of time; but, regarded from a wider standpoint, which takes into consideration the psychological aspect of such meetings as our Councils, we shall see that the very slowness and contentiousness of the proceedings has merits. The Council is not a machine for automatically recording resolutions; it is, primarily, a body of workers from all parts of the Kingdom, come together to agree upon the greatest common measure of policy and work for the one object upon which they are all agreed. It is a necessary result of the non-party nature of our organization that its members should have widely divergent views, which necessarily colour their opinions of the best policy; it is also unavoidable that methods of work which

are admirably adapted to a sparsely populated rural district shall differ from those most useful in dense urban areas; and it is a sign of healthy life, not of a disputatious temper, that every resolution should be closely scrutinised and severely criticised, because such scrutiny and criticism shew that its critics are acutely aware that they will be expected to carry it out, and it is their duty to look all round it, and see whether it can be carried out, and whether it is really the most profitable work. We do not say that people are never carried away by the spirit of "amendment," and that they may occasionally become pernickety, and when once the meeting at large begins to suspect this, it is a bad thing, for it is then apt to become merely impatient of discussion, and not to realise that often, under a confused expression of dissatisfaction, there is a real cause, which is not yet quite articulate.

To some of us who sat out those long Council meetings, it may have seemed that one could scarcely see the wood for the trees, but now it is over, and the record is appearing, we hope and believe that the Societies will on the whole be satisfied that a good deal was accomplished. Wild schemes are not often proposed, but, if they are, they are not accepted; the Council decides generally with caution and good sense, and our readers will see that, quite apart from election work, a considerable number of resolutions were passed suggesting profitable pieces of work to be done in the near future, either in education or in putting pressure on the parties. These resolutions will be found on page 716, and we propose to draw attention to a few of them.

No. I. was the sort of resolution one may classify as a "protest resolution." It was probably too late for any material alteration in the King's Speech, and it was pretty well-known that such a promise would not be included in it. But, since we hold that a wanton and cruel piece of mischief was perpetrated by the Government in the destruction of the Conciliation Bill, we are bound to insist upon reparation at the earliest possible opportunity.

No. II. will, we hope, set on foot a practical agitation which should bring before men as well as women, in a striking form, the double standard now existing as regards wrongs to women and wrongs to men. If it is admitted on all hands that the Osborne Judgment has created a situation which must be met by legislation, because it is unjust to use the money of men for purposes not intended by them,—how much greater and more urgent is the need for legislation to remove the far greater and more injurious injustice done to women! We hope that this protest will be shortly inaugurated at a great meeting to be held by the National Union in London, and it should be taken up all over the country.

No. III. embodies the recommendation so ably expounded by Miss Catherine Marshall in our issue of Dec. 22nd. It must be remembered that this is only one of several ways in which the Union is recommended to work. It has always been one of our methods to use Suffragists of all parties, and it has appeared more and more plainly that, although no Society can, as a Society, work for anything whatever but Women's Suffrage, there are many societies which will find more useful allies in those party people who are willing to work for Suffrage provided they are not called upon to work against their party. The existence of the Federations has made possible a scheme of "general post," by which, at election times, Suffragists will be drafted (if necessary), into constituencies where they can work for Suffragist candidates on party lines. Taken in conjunction with No. IV. this would seem to promise to put pressure where it will be most felt. We must recognise that there are not many men who will put women first so far as to vote against their own party candidate because he is against women; but we believe there are a very large number of men who would be struck by the fairness of the proposal that they should oppose the selection of an Anti-Suffrage candidate.

With regard to No. V., it is scarcely necessary to point out what a considerable effect is created by the passing of Suffrage Resolutions by Town and other Local Councils. Partly because the members of such Councils are generally held to be people of business capacity and

plain common sense, and partly because they are the only bodies which are elected by women as well as by men, these resolutions have a value peculiarly their own.

Resolution VII. is most necessary in view of the truly shameful conspiracy on the part of the daily press, from which no reader could obtain any measure whatever of the amount of work done and support obtained in the country, nor of the length of time the agitation has lasted. On the 3rd January, at Bristol, Mr. Birrell lamented humorously that he had been saying, "One man one vote" since 1885, and that Mr. Gladstone had brought in his Home Rule Bill in 1885; but we women have been saying, "Votes for Women" since 1867, and the House of Commons has been our House of Lords, and the Liberal Cabinet has uttered the Veto against which we protest.

Perhaps some delegates were disappointed at the postponement of the decision on Tax Resistance. They would be less disappointed if they realized that a resolution adopting Tax Resistance had no chance of passing at this time. Mrs. Fawcett, who was one of its strongest advocates, held that it was not the policy to be adopted at the present moment, and the Executive did not recommend it. Upon the suggestion that it should come up again at the July Council, it was pointed out that its adoption would involve an alteration of the Constitution of the Union, and that therefore the Council would have to be a Special Council summoned for this purpose; this is the explanation of the fact that the July half-yearly Council will take place at the same time as a Special Council to consider Tax Resistance. The Executive is commissioned to come armed with full information, and we hope the Societies will hold full meetings of their members and endeavour to obtain something like a vote upon a matter of such great and far-reaching importance as the adoption by the Union of even passive resistance to administration.

This is a policy which should only be adopted with full knowledge and appreciation of consequences and with the most grave realization of responsibility.

In Parliament.

Only formal business was done last week. On Monday, the 6th, the King opened Parliament, and the forecast of business was contained in the following words:—

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

The estimates for the ensuing year will in due course be laid before you.

My Lords and Gentlemen:

Proposals will be submitted to you without delay for settling the relations between the two Houses of Parliament with the object of securing the more effective working of the Constitution.

Measures will be presented to you, in pursuance of intentions already declared, for carrying out and extending the policy initiated in previous Parliaments, by securing the permanent provision of old-age pensions to persons previously disqualified by reason of the receipt of poor relief, and by providing for the insurance of the industrial population against sickness and invalidity, and for the insurance against unemployment of those engaged in trades specially liable to it.

Bills dealing with other measures of importance will

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 K. D. COURTNEY.
Miss EDITH PALLISER (Parliamentary).
Telegrams: "Voiceless, London."

President:
Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Treasurer:
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Executive Committee.

We regret that Miss I. O. Ford's name was omitted last week amongst the new vice-presidents.

At the first meeting of the new Executive Committee on Thursday, 2nd February, a letter was read from Mrs.

be introduced and proceeded with as time and opportunity allow.

The Liverpool City Council and Women's Suffrage.

On February 1st the Liverpool City Council passed a resolution in favour of extending the Parliamentary Franchise to women householders and occupiers with only 19 dissentients.

Owing to pressure of business it was not until 5-45 that the debate began, by which time a great number of our supporters had left the Council Chamber, amongst them Mr. Harwood Banner, M.P., who had promised to second the motion. In proposing the resolution Councillor Eleanor Rathbone drew attention to the memorial asking the Council to pass the resolution, which had been signed by 1,500 women ratepayers (representing seven wards), and some prominent citizens, including the Bishop, and Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C. M.P.

She also stated that one-fifth of the women voters of Liverpool had now declared themselves in favour of Woman Suffrage on the lines of the Conciliation Bill. Alderman Meade King, seconding the resolution, hoped that the Council would prove itself as progressive as usual.

In proposing an amendment, to the effect that Parliamentary business should not be discussed by municipal bodies, Alderman Salvidge declared that he yielded to none in his desire to see women householders enfranchised, and said that he had never heard a good and sufficient reason why they should be debarred from voting. He objected, however, as a matter of principle, to extraneous matter being brought before the Council, and saw no reason why, if the resolution were passed, the Nationalists should not bring up a resolution in favour of Home Rule at the next meeting. (This remark was greeted with loud applause by the Irish members).

The amendment having been seconded, Alderman Taggart opposed it, and described Alderman Salvidge's action in proposing it as a "political trick and political dishonesty."

The amendment was lost by 30 votes to 39, and the resolution being put, resulted in its being carried by 43 votes to 19.

Nottingham City Council and Women's Suffrage.

Councillor Swain (Conservative), proposed the resolution in a very telling speech, pointing out that it was a very moderate measure, and would enfranchise only one woman to every seven men. Councillor S. Cook (Liberal), in seconding, alluded to the alteration in the position of women, and he instanced Queen Victoria—(applause)—as an example of public spirit and statesmanship in women. Councillor Foulds and several other gentlemen spoke in favour of the resolution, and amid cries of "Vote, vote," the Mayor, Sir Edward Fraser, D.C.L., J.P., rose and put it to the meeting. He declared it carried unanimously. There were between 50 and 60 women present listening to the debate, who joined in the applause that greeted the announcement.

Broadley Reid resigning her position on the Executive Committee and her membership of the National Union. The Committee passed a resolution deeply regretting her resignation and expressing their appreciation of her past services to the Union. Miss Frances Sterling was chosen

to be chairman, no one else being nominated, and Miss Ashton and Mrs. Rackham were re-elected vice-chairmen. The following sub-committees were appointed:—

Organization:—Miss Dimock, Miss Macmillan, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Rackham, Miss Tanner, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, Miss Royden.

Finance: Miss Dimock, Mrs. Corbett-Ashby, Mrs. Stanbury, Mr. Ivory Cripps.

Receptions & Meetings:—Miss Dimock, Mrs. Franklin, Mrs. Stanbury.

Literature:—Miss Royden, Dr. Bentham, Mrs. Heitland, Mr. Ivory Cripps. With a recommendation to co-opt Miss Howell and Miss I. B. O'Malley.

Press:—Mrs. Heitland, Mrs. Swanwick, and Mr. Ivory Cripps. With a recommendation to co-opt Miss I. B. O'Malley, Miss Chadwick, and Miss Catherine Marshall.

The affiliation of a new Society, S. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, was formally approved.

Delegates to the Annual Council Meeting will remember that an invitation from the Surrey, Sussex and Hants Federation to hold the next Provincial Council at Haslemere was cordially accepted. The date of the meeting has not yet been fixed, but it will probably take place at the end of the first week in April.

Mrs. Renton is doing excellent work in the Horn-castle Division. Committee Rooms have been taken at Waring Street, Horn-castle, and Lumley Road, Skegness. Miss I. O. Ford has interviewed both candidates, and sent a report to the Executive. Captain Weigall, the Conservative, is a strong opponent. Mr. Linfield will support a Bill on the lines of the Conciliation Bill, not one narrower, and promised if returned, to put himself immediately in touch with the Women's Suffrage Committee in the House. He is an Adult Suffragist, but does not desire immediate manhood suffrage and would not vote for an Adult Suffrage Bill which would destroy the chances of a Bill to enfranchise women.

The Committee therefore resolved to support Mr. Linfield, and urge members of the National Union to give all the help they can in the Division.

Mr. Harold Cox has given thoroughly satisfactory replies to questions as to his views on Women's Suffrage, as readers of this paper will have seen from Mr. Rackham's letter last week: he is accordingly to be supported by the National Union.

K. D. COURTNEY.

Treasurer's Notes.

I crave the sympathy and indulgence of all members of the National Union on behalf of that much over-rated article—the new broom.

As your Treasurer it will be my duty to make constant appeals to your generosity and ceaseless efforts to remind you of the great and ever-growing expenses of our vast organisation. With the practice which this work will, no doubt give me, I ought, before long, to acquire some of the dexterity of a professional begging-letter-writer, but until I shall have attained that proficiency, I must appeal to everyone to help the new and inexperienced Treasurer by sending in all subscriptions as soon as they fall due, and by inducing as many friends as possible to send donations to our funds.

HELENA AUERBACH.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND.

January 14th to February 3rd, 1911.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	217	3	8½
Subscriptions:—			
Mrs. Charles Dixon	5	0	0
Miss B. E. Thomson	0	2	6
Mrs. Overton	0	10	0
Mrs. James Ritchie	0	5	0
Miss E. S. Dugard	0	2	6
Miss E. M. Meade	0	2	0
Mrs. Heitland	2	2	0
Miss Lark	0	2	6

Miss A. K. Williams	0	1	0
Mrs. Macdonald	1	1	0
Mrs. Harries	0	1	0
Mrs. Hecht	0	5	0
Mrs. H. Pears	0	5	0
Dr. Eveline Cargill	1	1	0
Miss Frances Sterling	5	0	0
Miss A. K. Ellis	0	1	0
Madame Czene	0	1	0
Mrs. Hodgett	0	1	0
Miss Claire Hodgett	0	1	0
Miss Dora Hodgett	0	1	0
Miss Phebe Hodgett	0	1	0
Miss S. Chapman	0	2	6
Mrs. Hay Bell	0	2	6
Mrs. J. Day	0	2	0
Mrs. Gertrude Wild	0	1	0

Donations:—

Miss Lightman, percentage on sales of lavender preparations	0	6	2
Lady Margaret Hall W.S.S., proceeds of entertainment	2	7	0

Affiliation Fees:—

Irish Women's Suffrage and Local Government Association	1	1	0
Dundee W.S.S.	1	15	0
Driffild W.S.S.	0	16	9
Sutton Coldfield W.S.S.	1	3	0
Scarborough W.S.S.	0	12	6
Romley W.S.S.	0	17	6
Brighton W.S.S.	5	18	3
Orcadian W.S.S.	0	14	0
Cuckfield W.S.S.	3	2	6
North Wills W.S.S.	0	15	0
Godalming W.S.S.	1	14	6
Exeter W.S.S.	1	13	0
North Berks W.S.S.	1	6	9
Edinburgh W.S.S.	9	1	0
Wallasey and Wirral W.S.S.	2	13	6
Leigh W.S.S.	0	9	0
Berwickshire W.S.S.	1	5	0
Salisbury W.S.S.	0	18	0
Winchester W.S.S.	0	4	0
Sunderland W.S.S.	0	19	0
Pontypridd W.S.S.	0	15	0
Forsham W.S.S.	0	14	0
Woburn Sands W.S.S.	0	5	0
St. Hilda's Hall W.S.S.	0	5	0
Croydon W.S.S.	2	10	6
Blackpool and Fylde W.S.S.	0	9	6
Nairn W.S.S.	0	15	9
Leith Hill W.S.S.	1	19	3
Littlehampton W.S.S.	0	6	6
South Shields and Jarrow W.S.S.	0	13	0
Falmouth W.S.S.	0	10	6

£282 19 7½

Annual Report.

FINANCE.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement of the National Union should be read by everyone with the reminder that the National Union is a union of affiliated societies, all of them autonomous (within the lines of the common policy), raising and spending their own funds, and holding their own meetings. Miss Mason explained that, although the amount coming into the exchequer at headquarters was only between £5,000 and £6,000, the amount raised and spent by the affiliated societies and the Common Cause Publishing Co., would bring the total of money raised by members of the National Union to about £20,000 in the past year. This should be remembered when people compare the funds of the National Union with those of the Women's Social and Political Union, which are raised in a very different manner.

ORGANISATION.

The report refers briefly to the Voters' Petitions which were presented to the Parliament of 1910, and which numbered 300,000 signatures. The formation of fourteen Federations is chronicled, and it is stated that 67 new societies have joined the Union in the past year, bringing the total up to 199; these do not include smaller branch societies.

"The Committee have endeavoured to keep the staff of organisers up to ten, but could have employed double that number if only funds had permitted; for they have received so many requests for their services from societies that they have not been able to use them for pioneer work in new places nearly as much as should have been done. The Committee feel that this is almost the most important work of all, and would thankfully receive

donations towards it. Instead of £2,000, they would like to spend £10,000 on this item of work alone."

THE CONCILIATION BILL.

Political work during the past year, was directed entirely towards supporting the work of the Conciliation Committee in the House. Reference is made to the deputation at last received by Mr. Asquith, on June 21st, to the two great demonstrations in support of the Bill, one on June 28th, in the Queen's Hall (at which £1,500 was raised), and one in Trafalgar Square, on July 9th. The day after the Second Reading a meeting was held in St. James' Hall, and the arduous autumn campaign culminated in "Suffrage Week," when no fewer than fourteen other Suffrage Societies co-operated with the National Union in holding separate and daily meetings in London, with a great mass meeting in the Albert Hall to conclude with on Nov. 12th.

TOWN COUNCILS AND THE BILL.

It is recorded that 31 Town Councils passed resolutions in favour of the Bill, as follows:—

<i>England.</i>	<i>Scotland.</i>
Manchester.	Glasgow.
Barnsley.	Fraserburgh.
Southport.	Hawick.
West Bromwich.	Dundee.
Stoke Newington.	N. Berwick.
Devonport.	John O' Groats.
Huddersfield.	Thurso.
Hull.	Perth.
<i>Wales.</i>	Kilwinning.
Bangor.	Arbroath.
<i>Ireland.</i>	Hamilton.
Dublin.	Cummock.
Cork.	Inverurie.
Limerick.	Broughty Ferry.
	Brechin.
	Saltoats.
	Kilmarnock.
	Kirkwall.
	Lerwick.

DECEMBER GENERAL ELECTION.

Brief reference is made to the work done at the last general election, and a list of favourable Members is given, but we understand that this is not quite complete. It had not been possible to get all answers in.

Resolutions Passed at the Council Meetings.

January 26th, 27th, 28th, 1911.

The following are some of the resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting; they do not include the alterations of rules nor the amendments of election policy, which we hope to publish next week:—

I.

FACILITIES THIS SESSION.

That the Council of the N.U.W.S.S. calls upon the Government to include in the King's Speech a statement to the effect that facilities will be given for all the stages of a Women's Suffrage Bill in the coming Session of Parliament.

II.

PROTEST.

That in the opinion of this Council, as an effective means of arousing interest in women who have hitherto been untouched by the Women's Suffrage Movement, a great protest should be organised against the payment of Members of Parliament, out of the Public Funds to which women are forced to contribute, as long as women are without the vote.

III.

USING THE PARTIES.

That local Federations be urged to obtain from their affiliated societies lists of such of their members as belong to any of the political parties, in order that such members

may, during elections, be drafted into constituencies to work for candidates pledged to Women's Suffrage, in accordance with the object of the National Union, but whose views on general politics coincide with those of the workers sent to their assistance.

IV.

ORGANISING A SUFFRAGE VOTE.

That in the opinion of this Council every Society in the National Union should make it one of its objects to obtain promises from electors of all parties to vote against or abstain from voting for an anti-suffragist candidate, and that these promises be submitted to Selection Committees; this work to be done, where possible, in co-operation with the Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

V.

RESOLUTIONS FROM TOWN, COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS.

That in view of the fact that the Conciliation Committee is using every effort to win Women's Suffrage during the present Parliament, and that Mr. Brailsford has strongly urged the importance to the Committee of obtaining support in the form of resolutions from Town, County and District Councils, every Society in the Union be urged to secure such resolutions from the Town, County and District Councils in its area.

That, when necessary, this be done by a canvass of the Women Municipal Voters, with a view to getting a request to the representative of each ward from the voters in his ward, that he will vote in favour of such a resolution; and that where it is impossible to get such a resolution formally passed by the Council, the signatures of individual Councillors shall be collected, pressure being brought to bear through women voters.

VI.

WORK IN IRELAND.

That in the opinion of this Council, invitations received from Ireland to hold meetings and to organise Societies there, be accepted, and if such work proves successful that further organisation in Ireland be undertaken, in co-operation with Mrs. Haslam, when possible.

VII.

EDUCATION.

That in view of the widespread ignorance in regard to recent Suffrage action, due to the persistent boycott of the Press, this Council is of opinion:—

That a brief summary of the history of the Women's Suffrage movement, and a clear statement of the facts of the agitation for the last two years, including number of meetings held, demonstrations organised, of electors who have signed petitions, and a rough estimate of amount of money raised by the National Union, be printed and sent to all Members of the new House of Commons, such statement to include the resolutions passed by the Australian Senate on November 17th, 1910, and that all possible publicity be given to this statement.

VIII.

LITERATURE.

That in the opinion of this Council the Representative of the National Union Executive Committee on the Committee of each Federation, should collect all the literature (pamphlets, posters, etc.), published by the Societies within the Federations, and should submit it to the Literature Committee of the National Union.

IX.

A SPECIAL COUNCIL TO CONSIDER TAX RESISTANCE.

That a Special Council Meeting be held at the same time as the ordinary General Council Meeting in July, to discuss the whole question of Tax Resistance, and that the Executive Committee be instructed to obtain all necessary information bearing on the subject.

X.

LOYALTY TO THE UNION.

That the National Union urges the affiliated societies to put before their members the grave impropriety of supporting any candidate who is not in favour of Women's Suffrage.

XI.

THE BALLOT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

That the election of the Honorary Officers be taken at the first opportunity, after the appointment of Returning Officer and Tellers, and the result announced, as this result will affect the votes to be cast for the Executive Committee.

XII.

THE COMMON CAUSE.

The Council is of opinion:—

(a) That in order to keep the National Union in touch with the "Common Cause," a Consultative Committee be formed, to consist of the "Common Cause" Federation or Society Correspondents, and that the Directors and staff of the "Common Cause" be requested to arrange for periodical meetings between themselves and this Committee.

(b) That at least once a quarter the National Union should pay for the insertion of a list of Societies and Secretaries at the usual advertisement rates.

XIII.

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

That it be an instruction to the Executive Committee to draw up suitable Standing Orders for the Provincial Councils, and submit them to the Provincial Council for approval.

XIV.

VISITORS AT THE GENERAL COUNCIL.

That members of the affiliated societies be allowed to attend meetings of the General Council as visitors, as far as accommodation can be provided, but that admission be by ticket only, the names of those desiring to attend having first been submitted to the Executive Committee of the local Society and approved.

Cambridge University By-Election.

It scarcely seems to be realized by outsiders that the majority of the voters in the present Cambridge University by-election are not Cambridge residents, but are scattered all over the country. There are, indeed, few places in which Masters of Arts on the Cambridge University register are not to be found. These electors should, of course, be at once interviewed by Suffragists in the various localities (preferably by friends and relations), and urged to give their vote to Mr. Harold Cox, the only one of the three candidates who has declared himself in favour of Woman Suffrage. But the election is imminent and no time is to be lost. Mr. Cox's letter, quoted in last week's "Common Cause," shows him to be one of our very staunchest supporters; and since his candid and full declaration of his views has made him some enemies among Anti-Suffrage electors, the least we can do is to see that it gains him some friends.

We should like, in this connection, to draw attention to a somewhat amazing letter from Dr. Prothero (Editor of the "Quarterly Review," and a member of the Anti-Suffrage Society), which appeared in "The Times" on Feb. 1st. He wrote that in consequence of Mr. Cox's declaration in favour of Woman Suffrage, he had not only withdrawn from his Election Committee, but would no longer support his candidature in any way, since it "appeared to him that Woman Suffrage was more dangerous" (to the welfare of the Empire, we suppose) "than even Tariff Reform."

We do not know how this letter strikes the University electors, but to a mere woman, outside of and ignorant

of political life, it seems to be one of the most extraordinary confessions of irresponsibility and supineness in the discharge of political duty. For what is the acknowledgement? Dr. Prothero is an ardent Free Trader; yet, although he thinks the enfranchisement of woman would be a greater evil than Protection, he not only decided to vote for Mr. Cox, but actually went upon his Committee, before he had ascertained his views upon this matter of paramount importance! Moreover, how was it possible for anyone in Dr. Prothero's position to remain in ignorance up to last Wednesday of the fact that Mr. Cox has, time and again, both spoken and voted in the House in favour of Woman Suffrage?

Is it thus that a male electorate seeks to prove its exclusive fitness to enjoy the privileges of representative government?

In the brief utterances on the Suffrage of the two other candidates, Sir J. Larmor and Mr. Page, we find evidence of somewhat similar ignorance and neglect of public affairs. Mr. Page allows that Woman Suffrage is a "question of the greatest magnitude," but at the same time says that he has never had time (not in all these years!) to give any real thought to it. While all Sir Joseph Larmor can say is that he "has an open" (that is to say a *blank*) "mind upon the subject." Yet these men are eager to get into Parliament to direct the National affairs!

It may be, of course, that the minds of these candidates, and of many others, are only "blank" where women's concerns directly come in. In which case they remind one of the clergyman who attended the Church Congress in Cambridge last autumn and who, on being offered a pamphlet and asked if he were interested in Woman Suffrage, replied testily, "No; I take no interest in women whatever!"

But what then, we ask, becomes of the favourite plea of Anti-Suffragists that women are quite adequately represented by men, and that our legislators have the interests of both sexes equally at heart—and in head?

Cambridge.

MARY WARD.

The conditions which govern the election of University representatives are such, that we who live in Cambridge may justly appeal for the active help of Suffragists throughout the United Kingdom (and elsewhere if time permits), on behalf of Mr. Harold Cox, whose views were reported in last week's "Common Cause."

The election is one which requires more than local work, since every M.A. (non-resident no less than resident), whose name is on the University books, is eligible as an elector. Such electors need not attend in person to record their votes. Under the Universities Act, 1861, it became lawful for an elector to nominate a proxy competent to deliver a voting paper at the poll. It is only necessary that the nomination should be signed in the presence of a magistrate, whose attestation is required.

I would suggest that women Suffragists throughout the country should try to secure for Mr. Cox the votes of their Cambridge M.A. acquaintances. Surely it is not much to ask! The Cambridge Suffrage Societies can deal with local supporters who, however, form a very small portion of the constituency; the responsibility of ensuring Mr. Cox's return rests upon all suffragists and can be promoted by the efforts of individuals, many of whom would be glad of this special opportunity to serve the cause. Not a day should be lost by the willing worker.

In view of the probable introduction of an amended Conciliation Bill into Parliament, the importance of securing so good a speaker and so fearless a supporter of any cause in which he believes, cannot be over-estimated.

ELLEN A. McARTHUR.

Cambridge,

5th February, 1911.

The Common Cause.

HOW TO GET UP A "COMMON CAUSE WEEK."

There were many interesting and helpful resolutions on General Work passed at the last moment at the Council Meeting, some of them almost without discussion, and there was not any time at all for discussion on the use of "The Common Cause" for propaganda work. But a splendid idea has been sent to us by one of our readers, namely, that before we are again engulfed in the rush of demonstrations, every society should organize a special "Common Cause Week." Some societies have already begun to consider such an undertaking in a very sympathetic spirit, and it may be helpful to outline the scheme here. It would, of course, be modified by local conditions.

The first thing to do is to form a small committee of three or four active and energetic people who will each take one branch of the work, and be responsible for finding their own helpers. One will take charge of the local newsagents, and see that they are all coaxed into showing our poster and ordering a few copies in advance for that one week at least, for it is worse than useless to advertise anything that cannot be easily got. The second could organise a band of canvassers, each pledged to secure at least six new readers, and a prize should be offered to the one most successful. The third would look after advertisements, and approach all the leading local tradespeople, and everyone giving a lecture, concert, or other entertainment, and get them to advertise in "The Common Cause" for this one week. All the members of the local Society should be urged to send a miscellaneous advertisement.

Besides this, the special committee would carry out the wishes of the general committee of the local Suffrage Society and order large strip posters: "Read the Common Cause," and see that the billposters did their duty and posted them properly and at the right time. They ought to be posted on the Wednesday morning, and then everyone in the town would know the name of the paper by Thursday morning, and hundreds of men and women who are quite indifferent to the cause of Women's Suffrage would buy the paper out of curiosity.

The result of such a week could not fail to be a great temporary interest in the paper, and in the cause, and a resultant permanent increase in the number of constant readers to the paper. If any society wishes to try a "Common Cause" week, the Manager will be pleased to render every possible help in making the preliminary arrangements.

The Oldham Debate.

The great event of the past few weeks in the Manchester and District Federation has been the public debate at Oldham between an Anti-Suffragist from Manchester, Mr. Beaumont, and a local Suffragist and medical woman, Dr. Olive Clayton. The debate arose out of a remark made by Mrs. Councillor Lees (now Mayor of Oldham) at a public meeting in November last. She said that she had never yet heard an argument against Women's Suffrage, whereupon Mr. Beaumont wrote challenging her or any other Suffragist to public debate. This aroused the keenest interest in Oldham, and for some time before the date appointed the town was placarded with a striking poster—"Manchester Anti-Suffragist challenges Oldham Women's Suffrage Society."

And Oldham rose to the occasion. There was a splendid attendance—as many men as women; and a platform representative in every sense. All parties were represented; there were men and women, councillors, doctors (a fine rally!), and ministers of different denominations. The late Mayor, Mr. William Schofield, J.P., was in the chair, and the present Mayor, Mrs. Lees, arrived during the meeting, and was received with tumultuous applause.

The debate was well worthy of so good a gathering. Mr. Beaumont put his case with courtesy and a respect for women not always shown by our opponents, whilst Dr. Clayton, with her keen wit, readiness, and complete armoury of fact and argument scored triumphantly throughout (as the audience, by their applause, evidently felt).

There is not space here to do more than give a few points from the speeches—instances of the arguments used by Mr. Beaumont in his opening speech and Dr. Clayton's replies. To one of his "arguments," which, it is only fair to an Oldham audience to say, evoked considerable merriment, Dr. Clayton opposed no reply. We will quote it: "A man cannot be turned into a woman, nor a woman into a man."

Mr. Beaumont laid great stress on the fact that majorities must rule, and declared that women were in no harder case than the always unrepresented minority of voters. To which Dr. Clayton aptly replied that it was strange that Mr. Beaumont laid such stress on government by majorities considering that women in this country represented the majority and men the minority. She would like an explanation of this.

To his contention that the vote was not widely desired, Dr. Clayton responded that the persistent boycott of the women's movement by the press made it impossible that the people in general should be educated on the question. She also pointed out that nearly all women with wide experience in social and philanthropic work desired the vote, adding that those who did not would not be dragged to the polling-booth against their will. She evoked applause by a witty parallel, saying, "What would John Smith in one street say if he was told that he could not have a vote because Tom Brown in another street did not want it? John Smith would probably say nothing just at first, because his breath would be so completely taken away."

With an apology for introducing personal matters, Dr. Clayton mentioned, as an illustration of the absurdity of women's position, that she, earning her own living day and night in the sweat of her brow, paying rates and taxes, was debarred from voting simply because she was a woman, whereas the caretaker of her surgery had a service vote.

Mr. Beaumont attributed a decline in the birth-rate to the agitation for the franchise, but Dr. Clayton pointed out that in New Zealand, where women had votes, the birth-rate was rising; and she showed—judging by the applause, to the full satisfaction of her audience—what a beneficial effect the vote might have on home life by widening the outlook of the women and increasing their sense of responsibility.

The physical force argument did service, as usual, but Dr. Clayton swept that aside with the pertinent query: "Do you think that a millionaire, who has ten votes up and down the country, could knock down nine navvies with one vote each?"

In Mr. Beaumont's reply he rashly said that though Dr. Clayton had spoken of the good effects of Women's Suffrage in New Zealand and Australia she had not mentioned the four Suffrage States of America, which were, he said, the worst in the country. Her prompt reply that she had twenty type-written sheets in her hand to prove the contrary delighted the Suffragists who found their champion so well prepared.

No resolution was put, as the debate had been in general terms, but there was very little doubt where the sympathy of the majority of the audience lay. The Oldham Suffrage Society receives every day fresh converts made on that night.

One lady, moreover, was heard to say that she had never thought of joining a Suffrage Society before, but since Mr. Beaumont said that a majority of women did not want the vote, she intended at once to enrol her name to give clear evidence of one more who did.

Work in Mid Bucks.

We have just completed a very successful campaign in this district. Most of the work was done in Chesham, which has been almost neglected up to the present. One local Suffragist has been working almost alone for a long time, but various reasons, chiefly suspicion of militant methods, have held people back from any expression of sympathy.

The important event was Mrs. Philip Snowden's meeting. She was engaged to address the Co-operative Society, and hearing of our campaign, she took the Suffrage as her subject. She made a great impression in the place. Mrs. Stanbury and Mr. Kennedy came to one meeting, and Mrs. Robinson (Watford) to one for women only. The meetings were not large, but were very sympathetic. I addressed some well-attended drawing-room meetings and some open-air gatherings. The visible result is a largely increased membership and a very noticeable growth of sympathy. We feel that the ice is broken, and that the work in this neighbourhood will go steadily forward.

GERALDINE COOKE.

Federation Notes.

South-Western.

My fortnight's work in Falmouth has resulted in the formation of a splendidly keen and enthusiastic society of between forty and fifty members. The interest and response that was given to my appeal for members and workers made me go on my way rejoicing. I held three meetings—one a small meeting of mothers in the adult school, another a small gathering of Liberal women, and the third a large public meeting in the Town Hall.

Mrs. Fox's generous gift of £10 enables the new society to start with funds in hand, and Miss Naomi Fox has promised £5 for further propaganda work in the district.

For the splendid help Miss Naomi Fox gave me all the time I was there I am most grateful. The society owes not a little of its brilliant beginning to her energy and enthusiasm.

Mrs. Gilbert Stephens and Miss Naomi Fox have consented to undertake the work of hon. treasurer and hon. secretary, and the working of the society is left in the hands of a most capable committee. The membership of this society is likely to be considerably increased in the near future, as many people to whom I talked are in sympathy and are just "thinking it over" before coming to the point of joining.

The political parties are happily very evenly divided in their support. The chairman of the local Liberal party and the Mayor of the town, a staunch Conservative, both joined at our big meeting.

A society that begins its career with a small army of convinced and eager workers, backed up by the sympathy and keenness of those who cannot (owing to other claims) do much work, and last, but not least, a society with plenty of funds in hand, will, I am sure, accomplish much in the days before us.

M. NORMA-SMITH.

PUBLIC MEETING AT FALMOUTH.

The meeting held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, January 31st, was very well attended. The speakers—Miss M. Norma-Smith and Mr. C. S. Goldman, M.P.—were followed with close attention. Several "Common Causes" were sold, and five new members joined the Falmouth Society. Mr. Gilbert Stephens took the chair. Miss Norma-Smith, in an excellent speech, dwelt on the 5,000,000 women workers in England to-day who were forced out of their homes by modern economic conditions, and who needed the vote for the same reason as men needed the vote—as a protection. Mr. Goldman said women were pushed by man-made laws into competition with men, and men must see to it that they gave to women the same powers of protection as they had themselves. He appealed to women to take all the opportunities for public service that were at present open to them, so that they would rapidly make a commonplace of what had seemed an irreconcilable disparity of functions. The Mayor (Mr. F. J. Bowles) remarked, in proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, that women recorded their vote at municipal elections as thoughtfully as any man, and a great deal more thoughtfully than some. Mr. Mervyn Stewart seconded, and spoke of the beneficial effects of the women's vote in Australasia. Mr. F. Gilbert Stephens was cordially thanked for presiding. We felt ourselves very fortunate in having so many influential people who show practical sympathy towards the Suffrage, and also in our two local papers, which gave full and appreciative reports of the meeting. Miss Norma-Smith has done grand work in the last fortnight. We trust we may reward her by carrying it on in the same enthusiastic way.

Scottish.

FORMATION OF A SOCIETY AT CRIEFF.

New ground has been broken in Crieff by Miss M. J. Henderson, the lately appointed organiser to the Scottish Federation. Two meetings were held on January 31st—a drawing-room meeting in the afternoon, addressed by Miss Crompton, of Dundee; and a public meeting in the Porteous Hall at night, addressed by Miss Lamond, Canon Meredith in the chair. The Crieff Society, which already has a considerable number of members owing to Miss Henderson's successful work, will shortly affiliate to the N.U.

The Church League for Women's Suffrage.

President: The Bishop of Lincoln.

Hon. Sec.: Rev. C. Hinscliff.

Offices: 11, St. Mark's Crescent, Regent's Park, N.W.

Members who have not yet secured seats for the meeting at Steinway Hall, to discuss the Cause of Purity and Women's Suffrage, are recommended to apply to the Organiser without delay. (Reserved seats, 1s. 6d. and 1s. each.) The annual report and balance-sheet, which received the cordial approval of the General Council, will be issued at the end of the month. The Rev. C. Hinscliff is giving a series of addresses on social subjects at St. Mary's, Paddington Green, on Thursday evenings during Lent at 8-30 p.m. He will also conduct a Quiet Day at St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, on April 6th. The following meetings are announced:—

February 16—8-30—Debate. 11, St. George's Terrace, N.W. Opener: Rev. A. H. E. Lee, M.A., Cantab. Opposer: Lionel Irons, Esq., M.A., Oxon.

February 17—8-0—Debate. Steinway Hall. The Cause of Purity and Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Archibald Little, Miss Maude Royden.

February 20—8-0—Public Meeting. St. Augustine's Hall, Hove. Rev. C. Hinscliff, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Close Shipham.

March 3—3-0—Caxton Hall. Lecture on Joan of Arc. Miss Maude Royden.

March 6—8-0—Borough Hall, Greenwich. Public meeting.



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Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

RECEPTION AT THE CRITERION.

On Saturday, February 4th, the General Purposes Committee of the Men's League entertained members and their friends in the Grand Hall at the Criterion Restaurant, partly in order to advertise the Queen's Hall meeting on February 20th. Mr. Jacobs was unfortunately unable to be present, and the chair was taken by Mr. Reginald H. Pott, to whom the League owes much besides financial assistance in its present stage of development. All the Suffrage Societies, without exception, had representatives present. The principal speakers were Mr. H. W. Nevinson and Mr. H. N. Brailsford; short impromptu speeches were also made by Mrs. Despard, Mr. Malcolm Mitchell, Mr. Cholmeley, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Zangwill. Sir Edward Busk was on the platform, but resisted entreaties. "The Awakening" was splendidly sung by Miss Cunningham, and Mr. Frank Witty gave some admirable parodies of well-known songs. During tea three Suffrage catches were effectively performed. There were 200 or 300 guests, whose appreciation of the proceedings not even the inevitable collection seemed to spoil—perhaps some of them had left their money at home. Mr. Nevinson, claiming that Suffragists were the true pioneers of Freedom, spoke of the vote as the symbol of personality, of the right to be, in Henley's words, "the Captain of one's soul." We were fighting against a false ideal of chivalry; we had against us four types of opponents—the incurable Anti., the sluggish-minded, the slaves of fashionable respectability and the merely brutal. Our weapons were Reason—which they did not understand; Honour—which they flouted; and Passion—which would sweep away their opposition as a consuming flame. Mr. Brailsford gave a careful and, on the whole, an encouraging account of the present aims of the Conciliation Committee. He reminded his audience that everything that the Conciliation Committee had done so far had been done not merely against the chances but in the face of obstacles declared at every step to be insuperable. They must not be put off by the ordinary excuses about Dominant Issues—every session had its dominant issue ready to block the way,—for our Bill this session was the most appropriate, it was the one to ask for, and it was the one we meant to get. In this movement more was involved than in the honour of the most dominant of political issues, for in it the honour of men was at stake.

R. F. CHOLMELEY.

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