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THE VOTE.
April 3, 1914.
ONE PENNY.

THE MEN WHO GOVERN US. C. NINA BOYLE.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

VOL. IX. No. 232.

[Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.]

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1914

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes, and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE AND THE DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CAXTON HALL, LONDON, MARCH 28, 1914.

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WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. CAXTON HALL, LONDON, MARCH 28, 1914.

The annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, held last Saturday at the Caxton Hall, London, was satisfactory from every point of view. The keynote of the President's address, of the reports presented by the officers of the League, and by those in charge of the various departments, was that the year had been one of steady progress which made us more determined than ever to increase the scope and influence of the League during the next twelve months.

The following is a list of Branches represented, with their delegates:—

BOWES PARK, Miss Ashley. BROMLEY, KENT, Mrs. Harris. CLAPHAM, Miss Read. CROYDON, Mrs. Teffy and Mrs. Ridley. EAST LONDON, Miss F. E. Adams. HACKNEY, Mrs. Catmur and Mrs. Mustard. HAMPESTEAD, Mrs. Nevison or Miss Lawrence. HARROW, Mrs. Johnson. KENSINGTON, Miss White. MID-LONDON, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Tritton. NINE ELMS, Mrs. Harvey and Miss Watson. NORTHERN HEIGHTS, Miss Mitchell. TOTTENHAM AND STAMFORD HILL, Miss Harbord. BOURNE-MOUTH, Mrs. Hull. BRIGHTON AND HOVE, Mrs. Nicholls and Mrs. Slater. BURNAGE, Mrs. Dean. SCOTTISH SCATTERED, Miss Murray. CHESTER, Miss Lowe. GRAVESEND, Mrs. Taplin. GRAYS, Mrs. Tunstall. IPSWICH, Mrs. Hossack. LETCHWORTH, Miss Lee. MANCHESTER, Miss Neal. MIDDLESBROUGH, Miss Hotham and Misses L. and A. Mahony. PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT, Mrs. Speck. SHEFFIELD, Mrs. Roberts. SOUTHAMPTON, Mrs. Rothwell. WATERLOO (LIVERPOOL), Mrs. Evans. WINCHESTER, Mrs. Eastman or Mrs. Singleton. DUNDEE, Mrs. Mitchell. EDINBURGH, Miss Jack. GLASGOW, Miss Bunten and Miss Normanton. ROTHESAY, Miss Gilmour. CARDIFF, Mrs. Keating Hill. MONTGOMERY BOROUGH, Mrs. Frances Lewis and Miss A. M. Clark. SWANSEA, Miss C. Neal.

A vote of sympathy was sent to Miss Husband, of Dundee, who, through illness, was absent for the first time from a W.F.L. Conference.

The first business of the Conference was to hear the Presidential Address, and Mrs. Despard was received with great enthusiasm as she rose to speak. The address is as follows:—

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

It is my duty and also my very great pleasure, in my own name and in that of the National Executive, heartily to welcome the delegates from all parts of Great Britain who, sent here by their respective Branches, represent the League on the occasion of our ninth Conference. There are some from Branches that have been with us since we started as a League nearly seven years ago; there are others from newly-formed Branches, and to these last we tender a special welcome, and couple it with the hope that they will go on bravely, and in spite of apparent discouragement, doing the good work they have begun. I cannot but feel that, apart from their value as evidence that we ourselves believe firmly in the democratic principles which we desire to see adopted in the nation, these Conferences are useful and interesting because they bring us together and enable us to understand better than we should otherwise do our relations one to the other, and the duty we owe to the great Cause we serve.

Reports of the various departments will be given to you in due course. The often-harassed treasurer will tell you of our resources and our needs. I wish they could square a little more nearly. But we have worried through, as you will hear, and we hope you will take back to your various localities the expression of our earnest hope that opportunities will be given to us largely to expand our work during the year, momentous as it seems likely to prove, upon which we have entered.

The secretary will be able to tell you of our growth in numbers, and of the work which is being done at Headquarters with a very limited staff. The head of our Political and Militant Department could keep you all day with the romantic and intricate story she has to tell of what we have done and what we propose to do, but I think you will find that she is not satisfied. If indeed we are to continue to be militant in our own

special way, we want a far larger number of women to undertake what we have generally called "danger-duty," though, as a fact, the danger is not anything like so great as it was. A few days after this Conference we shall ask for no less than a hundred women ready to help us in the scheme of which you will presently hear.

In looking back to the past and forward to the future of the League, I think we may congratulate ourselves on two counts. We have held together. Over and over again our extinction has been predicted; but we are still here, still hopeful, still united; the public are beginning to understand our position and to take count of us as a force. Our literature, as you will hear, is widely bought and we hope, as widely read, and our little organ, THE VOTE, is making its way. We shall hear in the various reports that will be put before us of the really splendid work done in this League by voluntary workers. But I wish to take the opportunity of myself thanking them. To me this is peculiarly gratifying, because it is a good indication of the sort of spirit that animates the women in our Movement. We are ready to work, everyone of us, and it is our joy whether we work voluntarily or whether we are obliged to live by our labour, that we have something to offer, and that we are working together. So far good. Of that which lies outside, of the circumstances over which we have no control, what, you will ask, have I to say?

Looking at the Women's Suffrage Movement from the surface, this has certainly been a disastrous year. The trick played by Mr. Asquith and his followers when, with the help of the Irish Members and the lawyer element in the House of Commons, they accepted the Speaker's ruling on the women's amendment may be said, so far as the present Parliament is concerned, to have killed our hopes. But it has, I think, in a double sense, recoiled upon those who dealt the blow. They have been unable to pass their own Manhood Suffrage Bill, which, as they think, would have had the effect, with the concurrence of Labour, of establishing their party indefinitely in power; and the confidence of the country, especially of the men workers, in the Liberal Government has been considerably weakened. I may, of course, have miscalculated, but it is my belief that this will tell when the General Election comes round. On the other hand, we find every one of the Suffrage Societies is agreed that no more trickery can be tolerated. We are out for a Government measure, and that only. I think this unity of aim on the part of the whole body of Women Suffragists augurs well for success.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that there is a quite extraordinary change of feeling with regard to our question on the part of the men, and especially the men workers of the country. Our aim should be to strengthen this by every means in our power, so that, when the elections come round, a mandate of unmistakable force and volume may be given. We have demanded pledges from candidates. Over and over again they have failed us. Now we must demand from our friends amongst the electorate—and they

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE: PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PRESIDENT AND DELEGATES. REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS. POLITICAL AND MILITANT: ARREST OF PICKETERS, &C. THE MEN WHO GOVERN US. C. NINA BOYLE. POLITICAL NEWS. THE "PROTECTED" SEX. PARLIAMENTS. C. DESPARD. INTERNATIONAL COLUMN. CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAYS." OPENING OF THE FIRST STEAD HOSTEL IN LONDON.

are many—that they will demand, and demand with a voice which no political party can ignore, that Women's Suffrage shall be given the first place in their party's programme. A few days ago, when I was in the North of England, I had the satisfaction of hearing from a well-known Liberal that, within the party itself, a Men's League for Women Suffrage had been formed, and that on the day of its initiation it was joined in Manchester by a hundred men. And it came to me to wonder whether the fine work done by our women in Bethnal Green and Leith Burghs may not have quickened the consciences of some of the Liberals. I think we may congratulate ourselves on having made our power felt.

This is one of the signs of the times. Another, to which it is right that I should refer, is the splendid deputation of the strong men of the North, whom Mr. Asquith refused to see. If Scotland stands where it did, the Prime Minister will be made to suffer for his stubbornness when election time comes round.

These are encouragements; but, friends and colleagues, let us not minimise the fact that opposition, though it may be less virulent, is not dead. We are still face to face with hard, strenuous and self-sacrificing work if another generation of women is not to go down to the grave in subjection. Therefore, we must go on fighting. Let in the Asquith government again with a free hand to hold the women down and to filch away one after the other the few liberties the workers of either sex possess, and the result for the country will be disastrous.

I must not, however, at this opening of a new year of work, strike the note of pessimism. I do not fear myself, and I am sure you do not fear; only I wish that each one of you who is here—representative women—should realize the tremendous responsibility that at the moment of crisis rests upon us.

Resolutions from various Branches will be brought before you for your consideration. You will be asked to elect those who, during the coming year, will be the executive hand of the League. We, the present, executive, have worked together happily and harmoniously, and I believe, whatever you may feel as to our shortcomings, you will all acknowledge that some excellent work has been done since last we met in Conference.

Finally, let me beg you to take back to your Branches our congratulations on the good work that has been carried through by them, and our earnest hope that, if our scheme is approved by the Conference, they will give us the full support we need to give it success.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

The Conference then considered resolutions to be sent to the leaders of the Parliamentary parties, and passed the following unanimously:—

To the Prime Minister.

That this Conference indignantly protests that matters relating specifically to the interests of women should be dealt with in the Government programme before women are directly represented.

To the Leader of the Opposition.

That this Conference indignantly protests that the Opposition should be preparing to force a General Election and take office with the intention of forcing on women legislation without their consent.

To the Leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

That this Conference indignantly protests that the Parliamentary Labour party should continue to support the Government after the Prime Minister's definite refusal to provide for the true representation of the people—men and women.

Each resolution was signed by C. DESPARD (President), F. A. UNDERWOOD (secretary), C. NINA BOYLE (Head of Political and Militant Department), and E. KNIGHT (hon. treasurer). Copies were also sent to the Press.

The Agenda contained resolutions submitted by the Branches on political and militant work, organisation, constitution, finance, and THE VOTE. The resolution passed concerning the policy of the League at a General Election was that no candidate of any party would be

supported. At by-elections, until a General Election, it was resolved that the policy be purely anti-Government, supporting no candidate. This rescinds the former policy of supporting a third candidate at by-elections. A resolution on the militant policy declared that "We continue our policy of resistance to taxes and to the Insurance Act until a measure for Woman Suffrage is on the Statute Book; that Suffragists refuse subscriptions to churches and organised charitable institutions till the vote is granted, with a view to women making their power felt and to show the difference their withdrawal from religious and social work would make; and that in furtherance of our claim to the Parliamentary franchise we persistently call attention to and resist:—

- Inequalities in the law and its administration;
- Gross miscarriages of justice in cases of criminal assault;
- The exclusion of women from the law courts in spite of the declaration of the Lord Chief Justice."

FINANCE.

On the important question of finance, the honorary treasurer's report showed that upon the whole the receipts of 1913 compared favourably with 1912. A larger income is very urgently needed to take up much important work which has now to be neglected.

This year a very special interest will attach to the birthday of our beloved President, who in June will become "seventy years young." The whole League is put upon its mettle to present £1,000 complete as a birthday gift for the work of the League. To win success we must start our preparations at once.

Next December a special fund-raising "Christmas Presents Sale and Fête" will be held, and all Branches will be called upon for the same enthusiastic support which they gave so willingly to the splendid International Fair. The influx of new members open up fresh localities and call for many new organisers, and will bring fresh strength to the League. Demand creates supply, and local sympathisers should combine to raise in the district the £100 necessary to provide an organiser for their own neighbourhood.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary reported an increase of 1,200 members and the formation of 18 new Branches. Under the proposed new organisation scheme, to be in charge of Miss Eunice Murray, hon. organising secretary, there

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is every prospect of at least 10,000 members being added to the League before our next Conference. Good reports were given of Headquarters work in London, summer coast campaigns, the work of the members of the National Executive Committee, of organisers and other workers, and of the Branches.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT DEPARTMENT.

Attention was called to the many successful protests which have been made and to further plans for future protests; also to the fact that at the time of the Conference eight of our members were in prison for picketing outside the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions with regard to the Wetherall case.

THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The National Executive Committee was elected, but it was agreed that only the names of Mrs. Despard, as President, and the officials of the League would be made public.

RECEPTION TO DELEGATES ON SUNDAY.

In spite of inclement weather, many of the delegates and their friends assembled at the Caxton Hall last Sunday afternoon. The programme included music and brief addresses from Mrs. Despard and Miss A. B. Jack. Our President gave a beautiful and impressive speech, in which she urged women to work as they had never worked before to secure their political enfranchisement. Younger women must be ready to take the place of the veterans in the struggle for political freedom. Mrs. Despard rejoiced to note the new spirit now so prevalent among women—the spirit of love and loyalty of women to women which had taken the place of the old spirit of sex rivalry. Miss Jack, who had earlier in the day, with other Scottish members, held an enthusiastic and successful meeting in Hyde Park—so successful, indeed, that an Englishman in the crowd asked if the Women's Freedom League was a true-born product of Scotland—made a welcome and encouraging speech in which she warmly thanked the National Executive Committee for the way in which it had steered the Women's Freedom League through the gloomy waters of the past year. Both Mrs. Despard and Miss Jack received a splendid ovation from the audience.

POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

All Our Picketers Arrested.

On Thursday and Friday last week the following members were arrested for picketing outside the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions:—Miss Alice Vincent, Mrs. Lilian Ball, Miss Elsie Cummins, and Miss Gertrude Balham. When brought before the magistrate at Bow-street they spoke out strongly against the protection of criminals by the law. The Court was crowded. Miss Vincent, as a first offender, was sentenced to 40s. fine or seven days in the second division; the others to 40s. fine or fourteen days. Needless to say, all refused to pay.

On Monday Miss Trott and Miss Isaacs continued the picketing. After they had been at their stations outside the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for upwards of an hour they were arrested. At the

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Police Court they both made excellent protests. Miss Isaacs said the League had taken this step because such dangerous men as P.-c. Wetherall are allowed to remain in the Force. Miss Trott gave a list of the authorities to whom we have appealed, and stated that as they have taken no action the League, in the interests of the Police Force as well as of the public, was compelled to call attention to the grave misuse of his office and neglect of his duty on the part of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Both were ordered to pay a fine of 40s., or to serve fourteen days in the second division.

On Tuesday Mrs. Hull and Miss C. E. Andrews went on duty; they were arrested and brought up at Bow-street. Attempts were made to obtain information with a view to distraint, but no goods were available. Mrs. Hull provoked a general smile by saying: "Certainly not. I am a married woman."

Mr. Hopkins talked insolently of "cranks," and Mr. Musket complained that this "latest form of annoyance" was organised and deliberate. In spite of plain evidence to the effect that Miss Sidley was doing the organising, she remains unarrested. Mr. Hopkins professes himself as "getting anxious" about the continuance of the annoyance, and wonders "which will get tired first?"

Excellent protests were made in Court by all the prisoners, who pointed out that it was the callous attitude of the Government, the House of Commons, the Church, and all public officials towards a grave piece of maladministration that had forced on the Women's Freedom League the necessity of taking militant action in the matter.

Most of the cases have been heard before Mr. Hopkins, and several of the prisoners called Miss Sidley as a witness. She became, in fact, the "official" witness for the League, and appeared to be recognised as such by the Bench. Several sharp encounters took place with Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Musket, both of whom seemed to take the picketing campaign as a personal affront.

Miss Smith, whose health broke down, and who refused to see the prison doctor, demanding to have Dr. Knight sent for, was unconditionally released on Tuesday. She went home with Dr. Knight, who is taking care of her until she is better. She gives excellent accounts of all the other prisoners, who are in good health and spirits.

Tax Resistance.

Dr. Knight has not yet been consigned to Holloway to serve the sentence inflicted on her for her courageous resistance of Mr. George's extortions. In the meantime, the Waggon was once more seized for taxes at Woodbridge, and Mrs. Tippett and Miss Munro took charge of the protest, which was made last Tuesday.

Hyde Park Demonstration.

On Saturday, members are urged to assemble at Headquarters Office for a poster parade with banners, to take advantage of the Anti-Home-Rule and *Herald* demonstrations. Suitable posters will be prepared, and members should be at the Office by 2 p.m.

Premier's By-Election.

The Scottish Branches of the Women's Freedom League will take charge of the By-election work at East Fife to oppose the Prime Minister's candidature.

Easter Holidays.—Will readers kindly note that the Women's Freedom League Offices, at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, will be closed from Thursday afternoon, April 9, until Wednesday morning, April 15? Also, that no letters will be opened during that time. All communications for THE VOTE must be addressed to The Editor (Room 28), 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London. The Offices of the Minerva Publishing Co. will be closed from Thursday, April 9, at 1 p.m., until Tuesday, April 14, at 10 a.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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Hon. Head of Merchandise Department—Mrs. SNOW.
Head of Political and Militant Department—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.
VOTE Street Sales Organiser—Miss P. LEAHY.

THE MEN WHO GOVERN US.

If anyone understands what is the actual situation that the shrieking, hysterical men who govern us are trying in their own devious and peculiar fashion to deal with, it is not the fault of the newspapers. Seldom have greater pains and less intelligence been devoted to obscuring the issues and blinding the public—and themselves—to anything in the nature of real truth than in the campaign of mendacity now being carried on by the party Press, with a fanatic zeal worthy of a better cause. Not one single fact stands out clearly. We do not even know if Sir Edward Carson really will not have Home Rule (on any terms), or whether Mr. Asquith really wants him to at all.

It is difficult to imagine any object to be gained that will make all this effort worth while for the men who manœuvre it. The public is a steady loser. The shameful waste of time and salaries—salaries expended on these frenzied, incompetent disputants—is a dead loss to the country, and one that it can ill bear at its present high pressure of competition and in its sore need for many measures of domestic and industrial reform. The question is—how long is this sort of thing to go on?

Mr. Asquith's theatrical *coup* has been cleverly arranged for him to be absent from the stage during the next act of the Parliamentary farce. Safely in retreat among the accommodating constituents of East Fife, he will be able for some little time to evade questions about his new office and about the peculiar views of Army officers. By the time he returns, the party hounds may be off on a fresh scent after a different herring. One thing seems certain in all the welter of recrimination, the younger men lose their heads; it is the Old Parliamentary Hand that keeps cool.

For the second time this century the Unionists have given disorganised Liberals a rallying cry with which to go to the country. On the former occasion it was Free Food. Now it is the integrity of the Army. We are not concerned with the truth or good sense of either. What we want to draw attention to is the utter foolishness of the party person who thinks he can manage national affairs. He cannot even manage party affairs with common prudence and ability; the presumption, therefore, that he is entitled to sole control of the State is a trifle audacious. We have as object-lesson several glaring fatalities. Had Mr. Asquith administered the law unflinchingly, and not made the jejune mistake of underestimating the capacity of his foes, the Ulster position could never have become menacing. Had the Unionists not had the fatal inspiration of monkeying with the integrity of the Army, they could have continued to score. Had Mr. Ramsay MacDonald put up a resolute fight over Lord Gladstone and the deportations and put the Government out at the first opportunity, he might have gone to the country with credit and been spared the humiliating bargain he has been forced to conclude. And side by side with all these lost opportunities and *faux pas*, the spectacle of the peers extracting halting admissions from Lord Murray, unnoted and unwanted, adds the last touch of farce to the entanglement. When we commented on the strange fact that six years ago Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Cobden Sanderson got weeks of hard labour for going to Downing-street, and that the other day the

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raiders in that classic thoroughfare were only "bound over," our interpretation was: If you want to commit breaches of law or propriety with the minimum of penalty, get someone else to go and do something worse. This must be precisely what Lord Murray is thankfully considering now. It is the moral our law-makers and law-breakers present to us.

Were equal justice administered Sir Edward and his merry men would be undergoing penal servitude now. We do not know whether, under those depressing circumstances, he would continue his clever understudy of Mrs. Pankhurst and be a Cat-and-Mouser. Nor do we know or care whether the Government would let him out or let him die. We only know he is a greatly privileged person—privileged to set statute and regulation aside and to reduce the country to that anarchy which has been so persistently screeched about as being the result of militant suffragism. We want to know *why* he has been allowed all this rope. What secret tie binds him to Mr. Asquith, or what paroxysm of folly affected the Old Parliamentary Hand in that the Ulster rebel is still at large. The Anti-Home-Rulers are having a great demonstration on Saturday. We shall hear a great deal about the volume and enthusiasm of the gathering—all the things that are discounted when they apply to women's demonstrations—and it is the intention of the League to be present also, and to put the irrefutable case for women's suffrage to the public at the same time.

C. NINA BOYLE.

FAMILIAR.

"O, ladies dear," the statesman cried,
"Please do not bother me to-day!
Too long, I know, you've stood aside
As only those with patience may.
You need not stay to ask or plead,
I wish you well, I do, indeed,
I learned to love you long ago;
But just now I'm so pressed for time,
And worried over Mexico."

—S. E. KISER, in *Chicago Record-Herald*.

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POLITICAL NEWS.

Men's Liberal Suffrage Society.

Mr. W. H. Dickinson, M.P., presided at a meeting held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on March 25, to form the Men's Liberal Suffrage Society, which consists of Liberals who are anxious that when the Government has completed its present programme the Parliamentary enfranchisement of women should be made part of the Liberal programme. A resolution approving the formation of the society was proposed by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. F. D. Acland, M.P., and carried unanimously.

The Attorney-General on Woman Suffrage.

Sir John Simon, M.P., the Attorney-General, spoke at Manchester Reform Club on March 28 as the guest of the Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage, of which he has become vice-president. He explained that he spoke in his private capacity, and not as a member of the Cabinet. He made a strong protest against woman's militancy, but said that militancy was no reason for a man to disavow the faith that was in him.

He expressed detestation of the argument that politics were degrading and should not be shared by women. Referring to the talk of physical disabilities of women, he laughed to scorn the dictum that force ruled the world.

"We should do our utmost," he insisted, "to see to it that women should no longer be regarded as mere camp-followers in the Liberal army, but that they should take their place, not as irregulars, or even as auxiliaries, but as fully enfranchised citizens, marching side by side with us in pursuit of the causes which modern politics specially exist to explore and the solution of which we are all most concerned in securing. . . . I appeal to you to band yourselves together in order to secure that as soon as may be and as thoroughly as may be the principle may be recognised that it is the plain and obvious deduction from the principles of Liberalism itself that the vote should be conceded to women."

Lord Selborne's "Conciliation" Bill.

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association has issued an appeal to Conservatives to support the Woman Suffrage Bill on "Conciliation" lines which Lord Selborne is introducing into the House of Lords.

The Women's Freedom League and the Insurance Act.

On March 26, in the House of Commons, Mr. Jowett asked if the Women's Freedom League are openly boasting in their official weekly paper that they have not paid as much as 1d. in respect of their employees under the National Insurance Act, 1911, and whether Suffrage societies are exempt from charges imposed by Statute on other employers?

Mr. Benn, in reply, said I was not previously aware of the fact to which my hon. friend draws my attention in the first part of his question; the answer to the second part is in the negative.

The I.L.P. "Coming of Age" Conference.

For the Conference at Bradford, beginning on April 11, strong resolutions in favour of Woman Suffrage stand on the Agenda; the Plural Voting Bill is declared to be inadequate; a Reform Bill to include women is demanded; also opposition to any Franchise Bill not including women, and to end militancy and torture by introducing a Government measure. Other resolutions advocate Parliamentary elections on one day, to be a general holiday, without loss of pay; married women to be qualified for Local and Borough Council elections; proportional representation.

THE OPENING OF THE FIRST STEAD HOSTEL.

The first International Stead Hostel for Women was opened at 131, St. George's-road, London, S.W., on March 30. Subscribers were invited to meet the Council of the Stead Memorial Fund at the Hostel on Tuesday afternoon; it was also open for the inspection of friends from April 1-3, 4.30-6.30 p.m. To commemorate Mr. W. T. Stead, the great champion of women, Miss S. Gertrude Ford wrote the following poem—which we are able to quote through the courtesy of the editor—for *The Westminster Gazette*, in which it appeared on March 30:—

The Open Door.

Open—another port from those dark waters
Where drift dim wreck and drowning wail;
A Home where every land may know her daughters
At rest and safe.

Open—and in his name whose heart for ever
All tribes and kindreds housed as one,
Who, looking on one goal of his endeavour,
Here sees it won.

Open—a refuge from the desolations
Vexed with grim shapes of want and sin;
A door whereat the women of all nations
Shall enter in.

Open, yet wider! set the beacon burning
Till none shall fear the treacherous foam;
Sail in, lone ships from desert waters turning
For here is home.

S. GERTRUDE FORD.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

Killed.

Mrs. Bromberg, Lambeth, aged twenty-two, found dead in three-roomed flat on March 24. Wound on the face and head; said to have been killed with a flat-iron. Husband, who appeared to be in a dazed condition, charged with murder.

Mrs. Jaques, Sheffield, found with skull fractured and an axe lying near. Husband found hanging from banisters, also dead. Quarrelling had been heard, and the neighbours called the police. The couple had only been married six months, and were aged sixty-eight and fifty-two.

Ethel Beck, Chatham, found with her throat cut; her mother, also with throat cut, was not expected to recover; has since died. James Daly, a previous lodger, also dead. The assaults appeared to have been committed with a razor. Daly must have forced an entrance to the house. The mother rushed out, bleeding profusely, and screamed for help. When help arrived, her daughter and Daly were dead.

Mrs. Moyes quarrelled with husband after having had some drink. "She kept on nagging," was the explanation, and he kicked her. The result of the injury was that she bled to death. Before Mr. Justice Atkin, at the Old Bailey, Tuesday, **nine months' hard labour** for manslaughter.

Annie Brown Tokin, Armadale, housekeeper to Edward Ramsay assaulted by Ramsay on the road and in his house, being kicked and beaten so that she was found dead the following day in bed. She had been the worse for drink, and he escorted her home with brutal violence, neighbours hearing the noise of his assaults on her in the house for a considerable time. The charge of murder was reduced to a charge of assault. The post-mortem examination showed terrible bruises all over the body, death being the result of the kicks. Before the Sheriff, Linlithgow Sheriff Court, last Tuesday week, **six months' hard labour**.

Assault and Robbery.

Jessie Mary Angus, Sandwick, attacked by Donald Drummond on February 9 on the public highway. Assaulted and felled to the ground and robbed. Before Sheriff Squair and a jury at Stornoway, **nine months**. (We presume that the severity of the sentence in this and the following case is directed at the robbery, not the assault.)

Mrs. Jane Scott, Edinburgh, waylaid and assaulted on the highway near Colinton, and robbed of 1s. 10d. Was knocked down and bled a good deal, and was robbed of her purse. Before Sheriff Macnochie in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court, **nine months**.—*Glasgow Herald*, March 23.

Miss Walters, Southampton-row, assailed at night in her flat on March 20 by unknown man. Her cries brought help, and she was found with severe wounds in the head and a broken life-preserver, loaded with lead, lying close by. Her condition is precarious. The man escaped.

Morality Cases.

William McClymont, Govan, indecently assaulting a child of four years on a stairway, having enticed her into a yard Friday morning of last week. Before Police-Judge Paxton, who said, "This is a very bad case, there has been far too much of this going on lately," **two months' hard labour**.—*Evening Citizen*, Glasgow.

James Campbell, ex-soldier, Glasgow, charged with living on the immoral earnings of his wife, a girl of twenty, who told a dreadful story of degradation and persecution. Had escaped from him with another woman, but he hunted her down and intimidated her, and in fear of his violence she gave him more money. When she appealed to the police he escaped, and was only found after an exciting chase. He stated in Court that he made his living not by trading on his wife, but by keeping a brothel and stealing. Before Bailie James Stuart, at the Western Police Court, Glasgow, **six months**.

Elizabeth McKenzie, Glasgow, Thursday in last week, charged with keeping an immoral house. The women frequenting the house were not of the ordinary prostitute class, and the men were of good social standing in the town. As usual, none of these well-to-do clients were cited for aiding and abetting, nor were they subpoenaed as witnesses, nor were their names mentioned in the proceedings. Before Baillies Morton and Young, Northern Police-court, Glasgow, **ined £20 or two months**.

To all SUFFRAGISTS & LOVERS of SOCIAL JUSTICE & FREEDOM.

COME TO TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Next SATURDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 4,

AT 4 O'CLOCK.

TO PROTEST AGAINST the Privileged Treatment by the Cowardly Liberal Government of Tory Politicians and Army Officers over the Ulster Question, compared with the Vindictive Punishment of Suffrage and Labour Rebels.

AGAINST Militarism, and the Use of Soldiers in Labour Disputes.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE—

GEORGE LANSBURY, ROBERT WILLIAMS, FRANK SMITH, CAPTAIN WHITE, REV. N. E. EGERTON SWANN (C.S.L.), JOHN SCURR, and others.

Read the "Daily Herald."

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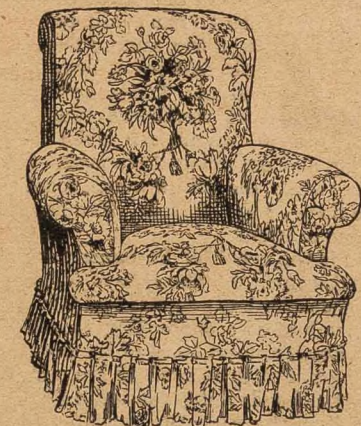
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THE VOTE.

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Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, April 3, 1914.

NOTICE.—Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.
Offices: 2, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

PARLIAMENTS.

The Annual Conference of the Women's Freedom League, Our Parliament, has just been held. So far as the business of the League is concerned, full reports will be published later. We have no intention, therefore, of giving here any account of what happened on Saturday. Those who love our great Cause, and who, being members of the League, take a special interest in all that concerns it, will rejoice to hear of its vigour, its tenacity, its expansion—rejoice also, we hope, to learn of the further opportunities for effective service opened out to them in the year that is before us.

What we desire to deal with is rather the more general question—Parliaments (of which our nation is said to be the mother), that from which they grow; that towards which they tend, with the ideal of free citizenship for man and woman, which, in much tribulation, is being born amongst us.

Looking back to the history of our race, bred as it was in forest-glades, on mountain-slopes and wild lake shores, in the village, communities of central Europe, we find very early that civic spirit which demands, for the individual, freedom in and through an ordered law, to the making of which he has consented.

The Witenagemote of the ancient Germanic Nations, from which no free citizens were excluded, was the germ of the modern Parliament. There the simple rules that regulated the life of the community were decided upon. There, also, those to whom was given the business of administering and enforcing these laws—the Duke, the Chief, after, when the tribes came together in larger groups, the King—were elected. The hereditary principle only came in later.

This then is the origin of Parliamentary institutions; free men and women, for the sake of other free men and women, to ensure order, progress and tribal and national prosperity, voluntarily consenting to self-limitation.

We have abundant evidence of the fact, that in these dim beginnings of modern national life, women took their part, not in the family only, but in the State. It is known to history, that the rude Goths who sacked and held Rome, were astonished by the low estimation in which women were held in the centre of that, then crumbling, Empire. On the other hand, Mrs. Stopes in her admirable book, "British Freewomen," has written: "Nothing impressed the Romans more than the equality of the sexes among the northern nations; the man's reverence for womanhood, the woman's sympathy for manhood, and the high code of morality that was the natural outcome of this well-balanced society."

Our modern effete politicians, while admitting, with some reluctance, that in what they are pleased to call domestic affairs, woman's counsel and experience might prove useful, claim that in the higher politics—international relations, peace and war, army, navy, police—she cannot, on account of her natural limitations, be allowed a place.

The history of those simpler and, in a sense, better days, which saw the beginning of democracy, gives the lie to such a manifestly absurd theory. If we had space, many instances might be given. We quote here from

the venerable Plutarch, in his treatise (*De virtutibus Mulierum*):—

"Concerning the virtues of women, I am not of the same mind as Thucydides. For he would prove that she is the best woman, concerning whom, there is least discourse made by people abroad, either to her praise or dispraise, judging that as the person, so the very mind of a good woman ought to be retired and not to gad abroad. . . . How extraordinarily modern Thucydides is! We recommend this as a text to our anti-friends; but Plutarch has more than individual opinion to back him in his contention. "Seeing," he goes on, "that many worthy things, both public and private, have been done by women, it is not amiss to give a brief historical account of these that are public in the first place."

He proceeds to give various examples of public service rendered by women. Amongst the most notable, as affecting the life, probably the continued existence, of their nation, is that of the Continental Celts, kindred to the British, some of whom wandered North and some due South.

There arose a very grievous and irreconcilable contention among the Celts before they passed over the Alps to inhabit the tract of Italy they now inhabit, which proceeded to a civil war. The women, placing themselves between the armies, took up the controversies, argued them so accurately and determined them so impartially, that an admirable friendly correspondence and general amity ensued, both civil and domestic. Hence, the Celts made it their practice to take women into consultation about peace and war, and to use them as mediators in any controversy that arose between them and their allies.

That is to say, these Celtic women in those old days, when the race, destined to such great achievements, was young, did actually take a leading part not only, as we may well assume, in home-administration, but also in the larger life of nationalism.

When we read about these things it sets us thinking. Such were the men, such were the women who built up the kingdoms and empires of the West. That, in all sorts of material achievement we, their descendants, have run ahead of them, no one will gainsay. But how about the larger and fuller life of political action? Sometimes it seems to us that here we have actually degenerated. So far as our party public men are concerned the ancient ideals appear to be dead.

Take our Parliaments. No one can impartially follow our modern political history through the nineteenth century to the present time without noting the disastrous change that has come over that once fine institution. We allude specially to the House of Commons, for that is supposed to be the hearth and home of democracy.

While for men the area of representation has grown, while classes and industries that were once excluded are now politically enfranchised, while talk about liberty and opportunity has gone on until, literally, it hypnotises the people, so that they believe themselves free, real freedom, meaning the power of self-expression, has bit by bit been filched away from them.

In our little Woman's Parliament every Branch of our League is represented, and each delegate comes with instructions from those who sent her, which she translates into words and affirms by vote. In the House of Commons, representatives vote not according to the will of their constituents, but in obedience to the command of a party, who, for the sake of power and continuance in office, have given themselves over to fulfil the behests of one man.

We might well despair; we might prepare ourselves "to follow the corpse of British liberty to her tomb," were it not that, through apparent defeat we have the promise of victory.

"Watchmen," we ask, "what of the night?" And the answer is, "The morning cometh." Distinctly we can perceive two outlets for hope. Ever the spirit of revolt is rising. We rebel, righteously we believe, against the arrogance, the selfishness, the hypocrisy, the miserable one-sidedness of modern politicians who presume to rule us. Could anything have been more

OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

Head of International Department: MRS. HARVEY,
4, Cleveland-gardens, Ealing, London, W.

(News from China has been delayed.)

Woman Resumes Her Old-time Profession.

In bygone ages there was the primitive architect and interior decorator of the stone cave, the leather wigwam and mud lodge, and this forerunner of the designer of the modern skyscraper was doubtless a woman. It was only in comparatively modern times that architecture, like agriculture or cooking and catering, was taken over by men. Miss Martini, of Illinois, architect, can be called a pioneer, because there are so few women occupied with architecture, and these still have to combat the prejudice which dogs women re-entering their old-time profession. At her final examination she was one of the successful twenty-eight out of the eighty-six who competed—and the only woman. The daughter of a poor Congregational minister, she has had to exercise unswerving perseverance to attain her professional ambition. She earned some of her fees by peddling books and by giving lessons in German for ten cents a month! When training at the Pratt Institute, New York, she worked for her board and earned part of her tuition by working as a chambermaid in the summer.

Five years ago she went to Chicago with the idea of going into an architect's office, but prejudice was so strong she could not get work. She wrote to dozens of offices and her prospective employers were always ready to engage one with her experience until they made the fatal discovery that she was a woman. Their reason was conclusive—to themselves! "We wouldn't under any circumstances allow a woman in the drafting room." In spite of a timid and guileless manner, Miss Martini is a very Goliath in persistence. She insisted on the reason for this, but elicited nothing beyond the fact that if women were around men would have to be more careful of their language and behaviour—further evidence of men's chivalrous desire to obstruct women in the mission of elevating politics, business, society, &c. She sat for an examination for a draftsman to be employed by the city, and was second of the three who passed. The other two were men and were appointed, and when other draftsmen were needed the authorities took two other men who had never taken the examination. Miss Martini complained and was informed that the head of the department had a right to discriminate in sex; that when a requisition was sent in for a draftsman, a man is a man, in no case is he a woman! (N.B.—A draftsman's pay is good and the hours are short.) At last she got into an architect's office (he was most likely rushed for help); he said she could only stay a week, but when she had been there two weeks her salary was raised and she remained until a better position was open to her.

Miss Martini is enthusiastic about architecture as a profession for her sex, especially the designing of dwellings, in which branch she means to specialise. As women have to work and live in houses she very logically maintains that they know best what would fit their comfort and happiness. She says when a woman designs pantries and kitchens, all the shelves and sinks will not be up near the roof and down near the floor, and altogether too widely divorced for convenience.

—From "Life and Labour."

Massachusetts Marches On.

On March 27 the Massachusetts House of Representatives, by 164 votes to 39, concurred with the Senate in adopting an amendment to the State Constitution by which the word "male" will be struck out from the provision describing the qualifications of a voter. The Senate had passed the same amendments a fortnight before by 34 votes to 2. The amendment has now to be submitted to a vote of the existing male electorate.

Nebraska: a "Campaign State."

Nebraska became a "Campaign State" on March 14, 1914, when Mrs. Draper Smith, President of the Nebraska Woman Suffrage Association, filed with the Secretary of State initiative petitions containing 42,523 signatures. There are 50 per cent. more counties represented and 5,000 more names than required by law. As a result, the equal suffrage amendment will come before the voters of Nebraska in the autumn of 1914, as it does before those of Nevada, Montana and North and South Dakota.

Progress in Canada.

The Liberal party of Manitoba has pledged itself to grant the vote to women.

Open-air Suffrage Demonstration in Paris.

According to *The Times* Paris correspondent, "a demonstration in favour of Woman Suffrage was held last Sunday afternoon in one of the quieter squares in the centre of Paris. The meeting was awaited with a good deal of curiosity, as French Feminists had not previously made use of street processions and open-air gatherings to advertise their Cause. The result was a pleasant gathering of some hundreds of ladies, who exchanged congratulatory remarks and signed their names in the presence of several score of policemen and a large concourse of Sunday idlers. Several enthusiastic ladies made speeches of admirable sincerity from a balcony and were listened to in courteous silence. The weather being admirable and everybody apparently contented, the meeting may be pronounced a great success."

illustrative of what public life is than the scene in the House a week ago to-day? Noble Peers flocked into the Gallery to hear Mr. Asquith's statement on Ulster and the Army. It was not forthcoming. While it was being waited for Jowett, of Bradford, brought forward two important amendments to the Children's Meals Act. Immediately the Peers' Gallery cleared and the House thinned. The amendments passed their second reading; but will time be found to place them on the Statute-book? Probably not. Little wonder if the mothers of the children rebel!

There is another hopeful sign; although on the Front Benches of the House of Commons high ideals of citizenship seem to be dead, they are alive in the country. Like a blind force still unconscious of itself, they are moving men dissatisfied with the present order; women, learning through tribulation and bringing to the help of their nation the experience they have sorrowfully won, are building up that conception of citizenship, its meaning and its responsibilities, which is destined sooner or later, to rule the world. To the first Adam, man and woman, it was said, "Replenish the earth and subdue it." To the second Adam, man and woman, the command is given—make of your earth "not a playground for the materialist, but a fit abode for the human spirit in its glorious youth."

If we are to fulfil that behest we must, as a nation, reform and redeem our national Parliament.

C. DESPARD.

TAX RESISTANCE AT IPSWICH.

On Tuesday, March 31, Dr. Knight and Mrs. Lane had a waggon sold for non-payment of taxes, Mrs. Tippett came to speak. The auctioneer was very sympathetic, and allowed Miss Munro to make a short speech before the waggon was sold. He then spoke a few friendly words for the Woman's Movement. After the sale a meeting was held, and Mrs. Tippett and Miss Munro were listened to with evident interest by a large number of men. THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature was sold.

In the evening a meeting was held on Cornhill. A large audience gathered, and listened for an hour. At the evening, as well as the morning meeting the logic of tax resistance was appreciated. Ipswich may congratulate itself on a good demonstration. We are very grateful to Dr. Knight and Mrs. Lane for giving us this opportunity of declaring our faith in "No Vote No Tax."

THE HON. TREASURER'S IMPRISONMENT.

Special Appeal.

In another day or two I shall be shut up in prison for four weeks and stopped from working for the League.

Money will be wanted just the same, £50 a week at least for necessary expenses; I therefore urgently appeal to all friends and supporters to send a donation for each of these weeks, and make up this amount. I shall be most grateful to all who will help in this way to remove anxiety and secure for me a peaceful month. Please send promises to me, c.o. Mrs. Fisher, at the Office. We also require very urgently and immediately an extra £30 to put up a really effective fight at East Fife to defeat Mr. Asquith and all his works, and overthrow the present Government.

E. KNIGHT.

Women's Victory at Millwall.

Through the intervention of the Mayor of Poplar, the strike of workgirls at Messrs. C. and E. Morton's, Millwall, was settled on March 27. The terms were signed by the president, secretary and treasurer of the newly-formed Branch of the Women Workers' Union, in the presence of the Mayor, and taken by him to Messrs. Morton's offices. The firm thereupon gave the Mayor a written document, informing him that the factory would be open as usual on March 28. The terms are as follows:—(1) No present worker to be dismissed; (2) Present wages will not be reduced; (3) Young girls will not be employed on the drawing presses; (4) Young girls will only be taken on so that experienced workers may be available at eighteen, and then only as vacancies arise; (5) No present worker to be penalised on account of this dispute.

GLOVES

THE practise of making Gifts to one's friends at Easter is an old one, waxing strongly at the present moment, and we respectfully submit that in view of the proximity of the warmer days, light summer gloves form the ideal present for this season. We illustrate three examples, all of which will be sent post free.

M34.—Ladies' Tan NAPPA GLOVES, self and Black braid points. Best makes for hard wear. Special Price. **1/11** 3/4 A pair.

E66.—Ladies' Washable Doe finish FABRIC GLOVES in Beaver, Grey, Chamois, Black and White. **1/0** 3/4 Special Price. A pair.

L181.—Ladies' 3-button real KID GLOVES in Grey, Beaver, Brown, Tan, Black and White, Special Price. **1/11** 3/4 A pair.

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

A Shameful Case.

The refusal of the Lord Chief Justice to grant an appeal to Julia Decies is as shameful a piece of wickedness as has been perpetrated yet by a prejudiced and arrogant bench. Within the last few days men who have actually murdered their wives and housekeepers, not in fits of provoked anger but in outbreaks of sheer brutality, have been found guilty of "assault," "manslaughter," and other less serious offences, and have received sentences of 15, 12, 9 and 6 months. The wronged woman whose act did not cause death gets seven years, and is not allowed to appeal. And we are required to show submission and respect to this perversion of justice!

None So Blind As—

The National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage has just clasped to its womanly bosom representatives of the Massachusetts League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, who have arrived in this country and have been warmly entertained by Lady Haversham and a goodly crowd of other Antis, who supplied the visitors with a platform. Whilst these visitors were putting their views before an English audience, however, it very awkwardly fell out that the representatives of the other people of Massachusetts were passing a warm resolution in the House of Assembly, carried by an overwhelming majority, to the effect that the constitution of their State should be altered so as to admit women. The Senate had previously done the same thing, and it now remains to submit the matter to a referendum of the citizens of Massachusetts. The two pieces of news became journalistic property on the same day, and, under the circumstances, it strikes us as rather rash of the delegates from the N.L.O.W.S. to venture so far from the field of action in Massachusetts, when there is so much work for them to do at home.

OUR TREASURY.

NATIONAL FUND.

(Now Including Branch and District Funds.)

Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	19	320	5 5
Special Levy for General Election—			
Mrs. E. D. Fox Bourne	10	0	
Miss E. T. Fox Bourne	5	0	
Miss Keen, per Hackney Branch	4	0	
Brighton Branch	2	6	
Croydon Branch	1	14	6
East London Branch	12	4	
Gravesend Branch	6	8	
Portsmouth and Gosport Branch	3	5	
Scattered Members' Branch	2	0	0
Sheffield Branch	1	12	9
	71	11	2
Organisers' Fund—			
Mrs. Walter Carey	25	0	0
Leith Burghs Bye-Election—			
Per Scottish Council	1	3	6
Political and Militant Fund—			
Per Miss Eunice Murray	18	3	
Mrs. Schofield Coates	3	19	6
C.T.O., per Miss Woolf	1	11	0
Mrs. Tippett	14	0	
Miss Boyle	10	0	
"E."	10	0	
Mrs. Huntsman	10	0	
Mrs. Stebbing	5	0	
"Subscriptions stopped till women have the Vote," per Mrs. Tritton	5	0	
Mrs. Gush	2	0	
"Cecilia"	1	0	
P. Lucas, Esq.	1	0	
Miss G. A. Moore	1	0	
"A Gift to a Picketor"	6		
Collections	8	14	1
Office Sales	1	2	3
Branches—			
Liverpool	3	6	0
Swansea	7	7	
Wellingborough	1	0	0
Capitation Fees—			
Cardiff	6	0	
Chester	1	11	0
Gravesend	1	6	
Montgomery Boroughs	2	17	0
Rothsay	6	0	
Sheffield	11	6	
Branch Funds—			
Bowes Park, Jan. and Feb.	13	8	
Bromley, Jan. and Feb.	17	11	
Edinburgh, Nov. to Feb.	66	15	7
Gravesend, Jan. and Feb.	14	7	
Kensington, Jan. and Feb.	19	8	
Mid-London, Jan. and Feb.	8	15	1
Winchester, Jan. and Feb.	1	1	8
	79	18	2
	£855	11	1

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd." To BRANCH TREASURERS.—In future, Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treasurer.

"VOTE" BRIGADE.

Owing to the picketing protests several of our VOTE sellers are in Holloway Gaol, but we must not let THE VOTE sales suffer in consequence. Will ALL Freedom Leaguers, whether they have sold before or not, start now, and for the next few weeks take the place of their comrades in prison, so that they may know their work is being done and that THE VOTE sales are greater than ever?

Our Special Campaign.

A most successful poster parade left Headquarters last Friday evening, but in spite of the disappointment caused through the unavoidable absence of our marshal, Mr. Bell, the numbers were excellent, and great enthusiasm prevailed. Our best thanks are tendered to Mrs. Bell, who although in ill-health, entertained the paraders to tea. According to arrangements, some members of THE VOTE Brigade and their friends drove through the city on top of an omnibus last Monday displaying the Freedom League colours and posters advertising our paper. Great interest was aroused; everywhere sympathy was shown, and hearty cheers were given by the Man in the Street.

P. LEAHY.

A HOUSEHOLD WORD.—Experienced housewives know the value of the household linens, curtains, &c., to be obtained at Messrs. Grant Brothers, High-street, Croydon. They know, too, that they can take a leisurely stroll through the various departments and receive answers to questions without being pressed to make purchases. Just now many novelties for the holidays are being shown, among them very chic lace jabots and collars. The costume and blouse departments repay a visit, but everywhere quality, style, and value are assured.

SUPPORT THOSE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT US.

CONFERENCE CAMPAIGNS.

Will all who can help in the campaign at the National Union of Teachers' Conference at Lowestoft, April 8 to 16, communicate immediately with Miss Alix M. Clark, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs; and in the campaign at the I.L.P. Easter Conference with Miss Underwood, at Headquarters? All help will be most welcome.

CAXTON HALL "WEDNESDAY."

Last Wednesday afternoon the chair was taken by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, who stated that women were working to get the Parliamentary vote that they might the more easily fight for the welfare of children. Mrs. Sanderson said that we could not allow officers of the law to condone offences against mere children or to screen their fellow officers or anyone else from the consequences of such offences.

Miss Nina Boyle denounced the Press for the hypocritical attitude it had thought fit to adopt towards woman suffrage and its advocates. At the present time, everyone saw that the position of Ulster was a triumph of militancy. Why had not Sir Edward Carson been arrested? Miss Boyle indicted Mr. Asquith and his Government on a charge of slackness and cowardice for not arresting Sir Edward.

Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., gave a very interesting address on "The Century of the Child." She claimed that the development of the child was bound up with the Feminist Movement. Woman was the guardian of the life force, and she should have the right of selection for the future of our race. Women will have to get back that right for the child of the future.

An animated discussion followed Mrs. Baillie's address, many members of the audience taking part.

IN FIGHTING FORM AT BOWES PARK.

On the occasion of the first visit of our President to the Bowes Park Branch of the Women's Freedom League, Avondale Hall was the scene of an enthusiastic gathering. "I am a rebel against injustice," said Mrs. Despard, and rebellion against injustice characterised the speeches of Mrs. Mustard from the chair, Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Nevinson, and awakened a kindred spirit in the audience. Mrs. Mustard explained the aims and objects of the League. Mrs. Despard enlarged upon this subject: "We are militants," she declared; "we defy the Government." Referring to the damage to the "Rokeby Venus," Mrs. Despard spoke of the damage to children who are flesh and blood, and the leniency of the law towards those who are guilty of this moral and physical damage. "The League stands, not only for the enfranchisement of women," she said, "but for a higher and better life for man, woman and child."

Mrs. Nevinson spoke of the Law as it regards and affects women. She pointed out that a woman is an alien if she marries a foreigner, and thus loses her rights to the so-called privileges of Englishwomen: a woman belongs to her husband much as does a piece of his furniture. She can be detained in the workhouse according to the wish of her husband, yet, under the Habeas Corpus Act no one can be detained without trial. An effort is being made to remedy this injustice. The audience responded to the appeal to support women fighting for justice and equal laws for man and woman.

WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC: FACTS, NOT FANCIES.

A very successful afternoon meeting on the subject of the White Slave Traffic, organised by Miss Bessie Hatton on behalf of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, was held on March 26 at the Medical Society's Rooms at 11, Chandos street, Cavendish-square, which were crowded to overflowing by a deeply interested audience. The Bishop of Kensington, who was in the chair, said that economic conditions were at the root of the question. Dr. Flora Murray, in a speech of moving eloquence, described the dangers to the community of the terrible diseases ravaging the victims of this traffic, and stated that to her knowledge kidnapping was still attempted in England. There were 1,000 houses of ill-fame in London alone. Miss Elizabeth Robins told how, when writing her book, "Where Are You Going To—?" she was amazed to find that a police inspector accepted the fact of the two decoyed girls as quite likely to have occurred recently, and offered his help in trying to trace them, proving that these awful things do happen in police experience. Mrs. Nevinson spoke of the difficulty of the unmarried mother in getting an order made on the father of her child of even 1s. a week for its support, and the trouble she now has to find a foster-mother for it, when she wishes to earn her own living respectably, the result often being that she has to remain in the 'workhouse' or go on the streets.

Talk!

They talked of disabilities—a long array of these, Till one would think that womankind was merely a disease. —C. J. PERKINS GILMAN.

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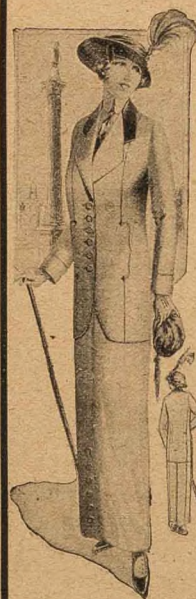
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BRANCH NOTES.

NATIONAL OFFICES, LONDON, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.—Croydon.—Office, 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

The poster parade on March 23 was very successful. Unfortunately the evening was wet, so that the attendance at the public meeting was not so large as we expected, but the audience greatly appreciated the speeches, and warmly applauded both Miss Boyle and Mrs. Tanner. Mrs. E. M. Moore presided, and introduced the speakers in a short but very interesting statement of the aim and objects of the League. Our fortnightly meeting on March 27 was well attended. Mrs. Cobden Sanderson spoke on "The Unmarried Mother," dealing with her subject in a most able and sympathetic manner. Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., occupied the chair, and an interesting discussion followed. Mrs. Abbott acted as hostess. The office will be closed at 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, until Monday morning, April 20, except for one hour on Friday, April 17, when Miss Stericker will attend from 11.30 to 12.30 for the convenience of members and friends who require THE VOTE or merchandise. On Monday, April 5, a committee meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m., and at 8 p.m. a branch meeting to receive the report of the Annual Conference and to consider future work. Mrs. Ackroyd will speak at our afternoon meeting on April 24.

Tottenham and Stamford Hill.

A members' meeting was held at 91, Mount Pleasant-road, Tottenham, on March 26. The forthcoming jumble sale was fixed for Saturday, April 25. Will all friends please collect their goods and send them to Mrs. Harbord at the above address, who will be most grateful for any contributions, however small? The question of securing the return of Suffragists on municipal councils was discussed, and members present promised to canvass various candidates, and it was arranged to picket the polling booths in the district.

PROVINCES.—Brighton and Hove.

A study meeting was held on March 23 at 19, Norfolk-terrace, when Lady Constance Lytton's book, "Prisons and Prisoners," was read by Miss Hare, and discussed by those present. The next meeting will be on Friday, April 3, at 8 p.m., at 19, Norfolk-terrace, when the delegates' reports of the Conference will be given. Will those members who have not yet paid their subscriptions kindly give them to Miss Hare or Miss White?

Middlesborough.

A business meeting was held on March 23 in Hinton's Café, at which Mrs. Schofield Coates presided. Reports from Headquarters were read and discussed. Three delegates for Conference—Miss Hotham, Miss A. Mahony, Miss L. Mahony—were elected, and resolutions were discussed. The secretary reported that the Victoria Hall had been booked for the third week in October for the Anti-Sweating Exhibition. There had been another alteration in the date of the production of the plays owing to unavoidable circumstances, and it has been decided to produce them on April 29 and 30.

Ipswich.

Owing to Dr. Heath's illness his lecture, announced for March 26, has been postponed. A few members met at the office on that evening, and held an impromptu meeting. The delegate to the Conference has returned with new ideas for the Branch, and full of the desire to pass on the inspiration of the beautiful words of our President last Sunday afternoon at the social gathering.

Portsmouth and Gosport.

A members' meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, at 7.30 p.m., at 17, Lombard-street. Mrs. Speck will give her report of the Annual Conference.

Reading.

An open-air evening meeting was held in St. Mary's Butts on March 24, when Miss Read spoke to a very interested audience. Mrs. Penrose was busy advertising the Cause with leaflets and THE VOTE. On March 26 Miss Munro addressed a meeting in the Assembly Rooms, Bridge-street. Dealing with the political situation, she said: "The Woman's question may be overshadowed, but sooner or later woman's co-operation is inevitable. The present Government have no time to attend to people who are quiet, but persistent agitation demands attention." An interesting discussion followed, and hearty thanks are given to Miss Munro for her address. Miss Read presided. Thanks are also given to the friends who contributed to the success of the meeting.

Southampton.

A very successful afternoon meeting was held at the Clock Tower on March 27. Mrs. Singleton (Winchester Branch) kindly acted as chairwoman, and in a few well-chosen remarks spoke of the need for the Parliamentary vote for women. Mrs. Leigh Rothwell followed up with forceful and convincing arguments which were very well received by the large and attentive crowd. It is proposed to hold these meetings throughout the summer months. Notice will be given in THE VOTE.

SCOTLAND.—Dunfermline.

A very successful social evening was spent in the Masonic Hall, attended by upwards of one hundred members and friends. Mrs. J. Beck presided, and Miss Alexia B. Jack, of Edinburgh, gave an interesting and enjoyable address on the "Aims and Policy of the League." An excellent programme of music and recitations of the League was given by the following friends:—Miss May Donovan, the Misses Keith, B. Philp, M. Beveridge, Mr. J. Meldrum, Miss J. McCallum, Mr. T. Waters, and Mr. W. Cook; Miss N. Philp was an able accompanist. Games and dances were also included and much enjoyed. Miss M. Stevenson, Miss J. Simpson, and Mr. W. Cook supplied the music, and Mr. John Cook acted as master of ceremonies. Will members please note that secretary is anxious to make up a good party to go by tram-car to Mrs. Despard's meeting at Cowdenbeath on April 16? She will be pleased to hear from anyone willing to join the party. Tickets for reserved seats for meeting (6d. each) are to be had from her or from the members of the committee.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop: 90, Lothian-road.

On Tuesday Dr. Aimée Gibbs brought to a close her lectures on

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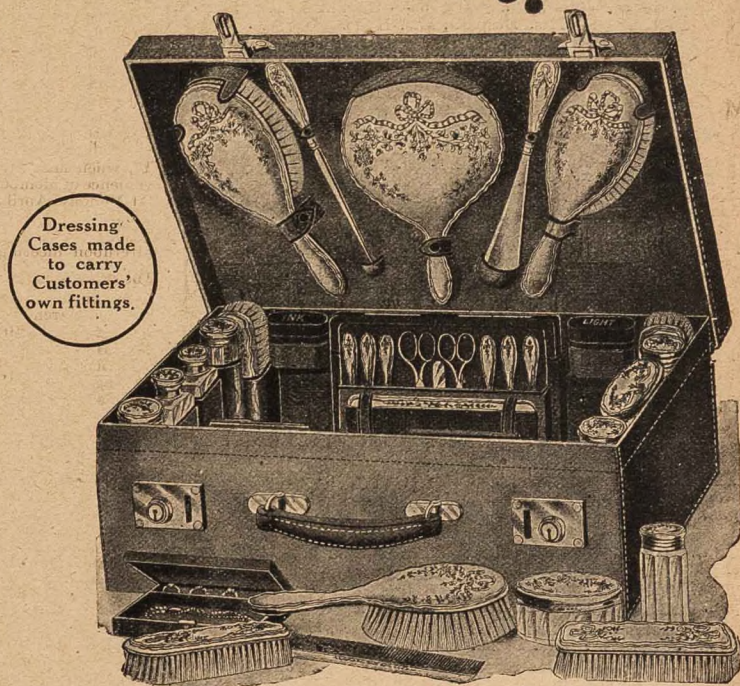
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OTHER SOCIETIES.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

Miss Kate Raleigh gave a most interesting lecture on the "Daily Life of a Taxpayer in Ancient Athens" at Dr. Alice Corthorn's drawing-room meeting held under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League, on March 26. Miss Raleigh held her audience spellbound as she showed the man's day to be full of interests and life, while the woman had nothing beyond her weaving and spinning, even marketing being an excitement denied to her. The chair was taken by Mrs. Cecil Chapman, who concluded her short speech with this advice to her audience: "It's dogged that does it—you must keep on and worry, worry, worry." A keen discussion followed, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to Dr. Alice Corthorn and Miss Raleigh.

WOMAN SCIENTIST'S PROTEST.

On March 24 scientific instruments and book-cases belonging to Miss Ethel Sargent, Botanist of Girton College and President of the Botanical section of the British Association at the Birmingham Conference—a unique distinction—were sold at Girton as a protest against being taxed for national expenditure while she was denied a vote. The sale attracted wide attention, and Miss Sargent's dignified speech, maintaining that resistance to taxation without representation was "the only resource for voteless women," made a deep impression. Her speech was reported at length in the Press.

FORTHCOMING SALES.

Friday, April 3. Mrs. Bacon and Mrs. Colquhoun will have goods sold for tax-resistance at 3 o'clock, at Messrs. Westgate and Hammond, 81, South-street, Romford. Procession from auction room to open-air protest meeting. Speakers, Mrs. Kington Parkes and Miss Nina Boyle. **Monday, April 6.** Drs. Ede and Sheppard will have goods sold for tax-resistance at 2 o'clock at Messrs. Hawkins, 26, Lisson-grove. Procession from Marble Arch Tube at 1.30 p.m. sharp. Speakers, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Kington Parkes, and others.

Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.

A Public Meeting will be held on April 30 at the Caxton Hall, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. F. Snowden and the Rev. R. J. Campbell, M.A. Mrs. Strickland will preside. Tickets, numbered and reserved, 2s. 6d.; unreserved, 1s. and 6d.; admission free. To be obtained from the Free Church League for Woman Suffrage, 13, Bream's-buildings, Chancery-lane, E.C.; International Suffrage Shop, 11, Adam-street, Strand, and from Branch Secretaries.

Irish Women's Franchise League.

At a large meeting held in Dublin on March 17, in the Ancient Concert Rooms, the following resolution, proposed by Mrs. Palmer and seconded by Mr. Lausbury, was passed with one dissentient:—"That this Meeting of Dublin citizens declares that no settlement of the Home Rule question can be satisfactory which denies the Parliamentary Franchise to the women of Ireland, and is of opinion that Irish women are justified in actively rebelling against any system of Government which perpetuates their exclusion from citizenship." The League has since issued a manifesto demanding the inclusion of women in the Home Rule Bill.

"Healthy Homes and a Healthy State," the subject for the day being "Woman's Place in the State." In giving these lectures Dr. Gibbs has rendered a most valuable service to the Branch as well as to her audiences. We are greatly indebted also to Miss Sara Munro, who has presided at the meetings, and whose eloquent appeal brought us five new members at Tuesday's meeting, and to all who have undertaken the arrangements for tea, &c., at the various meetings of the series.

Wednesday's meeting was an occasion of great interest, as we had the pleasure of hearing from Miss Nannie Brown and several members of the Northern Men's Federation an account of their experiences on their recent visit to London, and of the impressions made upon them by the great meetings in the Memorial Hall and in Trafalgar-square. Specially interesting was the description of the "lobbying" of Members at Westminster. As one after another spoke we could not but feel that the energy and enthusiasm of these "men of the North" will be no small factor in the winning of the vote. Miss Brown, besides speaking herself, had kindly arranged for the speeches by Councillor Crawford, Ex-Bailie Gordon, Mr. McMichael, Mr. Bell, Mr. Trainer, &c.

Glasgow.—Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road.

Under the auspices of the Camlachie Branch of the Junior Imperial and Constitutional League a debate was held in the Unionist Rooms, David-street, Camlachie, on Friday evening, March 27. The case for Woman's Suffrage was ably stated by Miss Shennan, her opponent being Miss Gladys Potts, of the National Society for Opposing Woman's Suffrage. Camlachie may be said to be the home of Anti-Suffrage, as the sitting Member of Parliament, Mr. H. J. Mackinder, is a strong opponent of Votes for Women; but, despite the presence of a strong Anti-Suffrage element, our side won by the narrow majority of three votes.

Leith.

A short but successful evening meeting was held at the Foot of Leith-walk on March 27. Miss McLauchlan presided, and explained the militancy of the Women's Freedom League. Miss Broughton spoke of the unjust treatment of women in the labour market and strongly advocated equal pay for equal work.

WALES.—Bryn-mawr.

On Wednesday evening, March 25, a public meeting was held under the auspices of the W.F.L. at the old Town Hall. A good audience listened with the utmost sympathy and interest to Miss Anna Munro's clear and eloquent address on the reasons for extending the Franchise to women; she also answered the various objections raised against this needed reform. The members of the Branch were delighted with the address, and it has had an excellent effect in the town. Four new members were welcomed into the Branch, and others will join. We are looking forward to a return visit from Miss Munro at no very distant date.

Cardiff.

The Branch is grateful to Miss Munro for her very helpful visit. She returned to us on March 24 from Swansea, and a most successful meeting was held at the Labour Institute, Cathays. We are looking forward with keen interest and pleasure to Mrs. Despard's visit on May 1.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Fri., April 3, to Tues., April 7. Special "Vote" Campaign in London Continued.
 Fri., April 3.—Caxton Hall, Political Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Nina Boyle, and Mr. John Scurr. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray.
 Sun., April 5.—REGENT'S PARK, noon, Mrs. Despard, Mrs. Hyde.
 Mon., April 6.—CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Wall Cousins.
 Tues., April 7.—CLAPHAM, 1, Imperial-mansions, Bromells-road, Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
 Sun., April 12.—REGENT'S PARK, Noon, Miss Nina Boyle.
 Sun., April 10.—REGENT'S PARK, Noon.
 Mon., April 20.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m. Subject: "The Awakening of Women: British Dominions Overseas." Open: Miss H. Newcombe, Admission free. Discussion and questions invited. CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m.
 Wed., April 22.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, "Chivalry and the Wage-Earning Woman: Fact and Fiction," and others. Admission free.
 Fri., April 24.—CROYDON, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Ackroyd. Chair: Miss Bennett.
 Sat., April 25.—TOTTENHAM, The Institute, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m.
 Sun., April 26.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mr. Kennedy.
 Mon., April 27.—CLAPHAM, St. Luke's-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Tanner.
 Wed., April 29.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. The Rev. C. Baumgarten, "Justice and the Franchise from the Church Point of View," and others.
 Fri., May 15.—AT HOME, Lady Barclay, 60, Nevcrn-square, Earl's Court. Speaker: Miss Lind-of-Hageby. Chair: Mrs. Despard. 4 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Fri., April 3.—Hove, 19, Norfolk-terrace, Branch Meeting, 8 p.m. Delegates' Report of Conference.
 Mon., April 6.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Business Meeting, 8 p.m. Burnage, 22, South-avenue, Branch Meeting.
 Tues., April 7.—Southsea, 17, Lombard-street, Members' Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Speck.
 Wed., April 8—Thurs., April 16.—N.U.T. Conference at Lowestoft. Open-air Meetings daily. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and others. Organiser: Miss Alix M. Clark.
 Tues., April 14.—Lowestoft, St. Aubyn's Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro, Mr. John Scurr, and others.
 Mon., April 20.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Miss A. Mahony. Subject: "Why Women Teachers Demand the Franchise."
 Thurs., April 23.—Ipswich, Suffrage Shop. Miss Harrison on "Prison Reform."
 Sat., April 25.—Chester, The People's Hall, Jumble Sale, 3 p.m. Admission 2d.
 Mon., April 27.—Middlesbrough, Hinton's Café, Business Meeting. April 29 and 30.—Middlesbrough, Victoria Hall, 7.45 p.m. Two Plays by Winifred M. Jones, *Noblesse Oblige* and *William the Conqueror*. Tickets, 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d.
 Mon., May 4.—Middlesbrough, President's Birthday Party.

SCOTLAND.

Tues., April 14.—Lochgelly, Co-operative Hall, "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. W. Watson, 8 o'clock. Glasgow, Public Meeting, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Hall not fixed.
 Thurs., April 16.—Cowdenbeath, Co-operative Hall, Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Despard, 7.30 p.m.
 Fri., April 17.—Kothesay, Good Templars' Hall, 8 o'clock. Speaker: Mrs. Despard. Chair: Rev. J. M. Dickie, B.D.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Sun., April 12.—KINGSTON-ON-THAMES HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, Meeting, Fife Hall, Fife-road, 7 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Tanner. Subject: "Women's Fight Against Prejudice and Ignorance."

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At the close of the morning service on Sunday, March 22, at the City Temple, London, following a sermon upon "Bearing the Cross," a woman arose and prayed in the name of the Lord of Love for the women who are suffering now and that others might suffer less. The Rev. R. J. Campbell omitted the usual Benediction, and the choir reverently led the singing of the Threefold Amen.



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SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

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MONDAY, APRIL 20.—W.F.L. Office, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. DISCUSSION MEETING, 8 p.m. Subject: "The Awakening of Women: British Dominions Overseas." Admission Free. Discussion and Questions Invited.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22.—CAXTON HALL, PUBLIC MEETING, 3.30. Speakers: Mr. J. Malcolm Mitchell, "Chivalry and the Wage Earning Woman—Fact and Fiction," and others. Admission Free.

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