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THE VOTE.
December 19, 1913.
ONE PENNY.

DOWN PILLOWS AND SCREENS.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. IX. No. 217.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1913.

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.

AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE.

[SEE PAGE 129.]

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OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Lovers' Tears.

Oh! we fell out, I know not why—
And kissed again with tears.

Mr. Barton, M.P., and the Liberal Association of Oldham are no longer twain. They have kissed again, if not with tears, with an amount of emotion which is suitable to the occasion. The Liberal ladies of the division implored Mr. Micawber not to desert them; and Mr. Micawber, confident in the belief that something is bound to turn up for Women's Suffrage without his doing anything more to anticipate that happy consummation, has done a highly-artistic quick-change that does extraordinary credit to the versatility of his mental resources and the capacity of his party for swallowing humbug. For what did Mr. Barton say? That he had been placed in a position "in which, having acquiesced, I might have retained a seat in Parliament, but I should have lost my own self-respect." This distressed the Liberal ladies more than it appeared to distress the Liberal gentlemen. Quite a lot of soothing went on. Mr. Barton was comforted. He had said that Women's Suffrage, after Home Rule, was "the greatest thing in politics"; but after listening to the ladies on whose behalf he has so agitated himself, he saw there was a greater. He has realised that the comfort of his constituents must come first. "Until I have exhausted the authority they gave me," he declares—with quite as much fervour as he said the other things—"I must return to my duty in Oldham and in Parliament." Self-respect, by some mysterious process, has been restored intact, and those who hoped that another strong man had been found to stand by Lord Lytton and Mr. Lansbury, Mr. Harben and Mr. Nevinson, and the other *preux chevaliers* of the Cause, will be disappointed. And there are some of us who will be oddly moved by the resolution carried by the Liberal women of Oldham: "That this meeting heartily thanks Mr. Barton for his attempt to obtain seats for the women workers at Saturday's meeting, but earnestly hopes he will not sever his Parliamentary connection with the borough, as his loss would be irreparable."

No true daughters of Sparta, the Liberal women, who buckle on their knight's armour and bid him fare forth to victory or noble death. "His loss would be irreparable," so he had better not fight at all. Door-mats for carpet-knights might be their epitaph. And mark what it is they thank him for: his attempt "to get seats for women workers at Saturday's meeting," not his attempt to get Votes for Women Workers and the freedom of all meetings!

A "Zealous Friend"; Theodore Roosevelt.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt has played many parts in his time, and no false modesty or insufficient knowledge has prevented him from constituting himself, on occasion, adviser to the British Empire or to women. A big-game expedition in Africa brought forth glowing advice as to how Britain should govern India; and the bigger game expedition of life has prompted him to offer equally gratuitous counsel to women as to how they should fulfil their duties—principally maternal—undisturbed by events outside the home. Then came a sudden change. This acute politician was running for re-election to the Presidency of the United States, and it dawned upon him that women were not a negligible quantity even beyond the sphere of the home. He announced himself as a convert to Woman Suffrage and gained the platform support of a fellow-

countrywoman who is one of the makers of modern America—Jane Addams. Mr. Roosevelt has just published his autobiography and has attained that much-coveted honour of finding himself the reviewed of all reviewers on the day of publication. We note with some amusement that most reviewers who give him the benefit of columns of print are discreetly silent as to his championship of Woman Suffrage, but *The Daily News* permits itself a reference, and ventures to quote the following passages:—

The relationship of man and woman is the fundamental relationship that stands at the base of the whole social structure. Much can be done by law towards putting women on a footing of complete and entire equal rights with man—including the right to vote, the right to hold and use property, and the right to enter any profession she desires on the same terms as the man.

Mr. Roosevelt tells how his "tepid" adherence to the cause of Votes for Women—an adherence of which few women, or men, were aware until recently—became "zealous." He writes:—

Personally I feel it is exactly as much a "right" of women as of men to vote. . . . I always favoured Woman's Suffrage, but only tepidly, until my association with women like Jane Addams and Helen Keller, who desired it as one means of enabling them to render better and more efficient service, changed me into a zealous instead of a lukewarm adherent to the Cause.

We are glad that women have played an important part in the transformation of Mr. Roosevelt, but it seems to us that his fight against political corruption as he sees it in his own country is the strongest condemnation of man-made and man-administered law, and the best possible argument for votes for women.

"Full Equality," says Anatole France.

London, from the Prime Minister to the Socialists, from authors and journalists to—well, everyone who could get hold of him—has been busy doing honour during the past week to M. Anatole France, "the greatest French author of the day and the leader of modern thought," as one enthusiast describes him. Our distinguished visitor could only make a brief stay, otherwise he might have consented to appear on a Suffragist platform; probably the pleasure is only postponed, for he has very pronounced views in favour of equal rights for men and women, and is in no way biased with regard to militancy. Discussing this and other aspects of the question with a representative of *The Daily Citizen*, M. France observed:—

I am not quite certain which part violence must play in the struggle, revolt being one of the most frightful responsibilities that a man can take upon himself. If I were wise, I would say, "No violence," but if I were still wiser I would say, "Do use violence."

We are glad to note that so able a writer and thinker refuses to assume the hypocritical attitude of so many of our so-called statesmen—convicted out of their own mouths of cant in condemning women—and recognises that violence may in certain circumstances have to play a part that is "still wiser" than meekness. M. France laughed to scorn the Anti-Suffragist argument that women would not be able to use the vote properly if they had it. "The most characteristic fact about the modern Englishwomen," he observed, "is their struggle for emancipation. I am, of course, for the full equality of rights between men and women." We commend these excellent sentiments to those who have been belauding M. France and acclaiming his wisdom, and trust that the distinguished Frenchman will give his countrywomen his powerful help in their struggle for "full equality."

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ADDITIONAL ORGANISERS.

£500 WANTED.

Many thanks to all the kind friends whose contributions already received have given a good start to this special fund.

More organisers must be appointed at once. The League is growing and expanding so rapidly, so many new members are joining, so many new Branches are waiting to be formed, that we must not be hampered for want of workers.

A General Election may soon be upon us. The whole country—north, south, east and west—must echo and re-echo with the cry of "Votes for Women."

The Women's Freedom League is ready and able to take a full share in this work, and we confidently appeal to every one of our readers to do his or her own part, and send a donation at once towards the special £500 now being raised.

E. KNIGHT.
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

AT HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters sends greetings and the best wishes of the season to all our readers. The offices of the Women's Freedom League will be closed from Tuesday evening, December 23, until Monday morning, December 29, during which time most of our workers will be scattered far and wide; but before the New Year begins we shall have resumed work in earnest in London and the South of England, and the North will certainly not lag much behind us in the matter of dates. Between the New Year and the opening of Parliament we are determined to put in more strenuous work than we have ever done for the Cause which is so dear to our hearts.

F. A. U.

CONVICTED OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS.

MR. BAILLIE WEAVER'S INDICTMENT.

Taking for his subject "Male Cant about Female Violence," Mr. Baillie Weaver told "the cold truth" to a large audience at the Caxton Hall on December 10, and brought a serious indictment against those who declare that nothing can be done to enfranchise women till militancy ceases. His most able lecture was driven home by a series of quotations from speeches of politicians and others, past and present, showing that law-breaking and violence by men for the sake of justice and progress have not only been condoned by men but recognised as inevitable. Men, said Mr. Baillie Weaver, approve of violence in women when they approve of the object towards which it is directed, especially when that object is the helping of men. They applaud a woman who, going to the rescue of a policeman in difficulties, deals out violence to other citizens. They only disapprove of violence by women when it is directed to ends they dislike, especially political equality. They see in this equality the downfall of the right of men to exploit women, but are not straightforward enough to say so. They call upon women to do the dirty work, to accept sweated wages, to put up with shameful conditions, and to look pretty and say thank you. There are men who virtuously declare that they do not countenance violence in men or women, yet they demand that the Government shall put even greater penalties into force against

Suffragists. Violence, he added, does not cease to be violence when committed by Governments. Through the courtesy of Mr. Weaver we are able to give our readers the extracts by which, out of their own mouths, he convicted men of cant in condemning violence by women. They are as follows:—

The Rev. Sydney Smith, in an article on Catholic Emancipation, in *The Edinburgh Review*, 1827, wrote:—

The most common excuse of the Great Shabby is that the Catholics are their own enemies—that the violence of Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Shiel have ruined their cause—that but for these boisterous courses the question would have been carried before this time. The answer to this nonsense and business is, that the very reverse is the fact. The mild and long-suffering may suffer for ever in this world. If the Catholics had stood with their hands before them, simpering at the Earls of Liverpool and the Lords Bathurst of the movement, they would not have been emancipated till the year of our Lord four thousand. As long as the patient will suffer, the cruel will kick.

Lord Randolph Churchill argued that because there were "no disturbances" and "no riots" in 1884, this was proof that the existing electoral arrangements "do not excite any very general or deep dissatisfaction." And he further said:—

If I saw the agricultural labourers in a great state of excitement over this question; if I saw them holding mass meetings, collecting together from all parts, neglecting their work, contributing from their scanty funds, marching on London, tearing down the railings of Hyde Park, engaging the police and even the military, I should say to myself, these men have great and bitter grievances which have not been represented by Parliament or have been neglected by Parliament. They know that if they had the franchise those grievances would no longer be neglected, that they would be represented and remedied, and they have made up their minds to have the vote. The fact that they have made up their minds to have the vote shows pretty well that they will know how to use the vote, and that if we wish for peace, order and stability in the realm of Britain, we had better give them the vote. And on those grounds, and on those grounds alone, would I consent to equalise the political position of the agricultural labourer and the town artisan, and to destroy a wise inequality which has been created by Nature and reiterated from time to time in our history by custom, precedent and law.

From Mr. Joseph Chamberlain Mr. Weaver gave the following extract:—

The opinion of the streets has had a mighty force in our political history. It has shaken monarchs on their thrones. (A voice "And knocked them off.") (Laughter.) It has overturned Ministers. (Hear, hear.) In 1832 it carried a Reform Bill in the teeth of the House of Lords—(a voice "And will again")—more powerful than that with which we have to deal, after a conflict which had brought the country almost to the verge of revolution. We read that at that time there were 100,000 men in Birmingham and the surrounding districts who were sworn to march on London, if need were, in defence of their liberties. (Cries of, "We will again if required.") The peace was broken in many parts of the country, and there were at Derby, Nottingham, and Bristol fierce outbreaks of popular passion, accompanied by a great destruction of property. We had hoped that we had left those days of disorder far behind. But there are still evil counsellors. . . . These gentlemen presume on your love of order and hatred of violence. Unless this generation has lost other qualities which have made the name of Englishmen respected throughout the world, they will show a courage and resolution, a love of liberty and hatred of injustice, which will sweep away those puny obstacles which now, for a time, are barring the advancing tide.

It was on this occasion that Mr. Gladstone made his famous speech on methods, and said that if only instructions for patience had been given our liberties

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would never have been attained. He quoted Lord Salisbury as saying:—

I only hope that if Mr. Chamberlain incites the people to riot he will lead the riot himself. I only hope that if he is going, according to his threat, to march to London from Birmingham, we may see him at the head of the advancing column. My experience is that those who will have to receive him will be able to give a good account of him, and that Mr. Chamberlain will return from the adventure with a broken head, if nothing more.

John Bright, who was a member of the Society of Friends, and resigned from the Government because he disapproved of the bombardment of Alexandria, said:—

He believed that, however people might abhor the idea that political questions in this country should be settled by force, yet that there is something in our nature which, if evils are allowed to run beyond a certain period unredressed, makes it impossible for the most peace-loving of men to keep the peace.

Mr. Lloyd George's well-known words were quoted as follows:—

Democracy has never been a menace to property. I will tell you what has been a menace to property. When power was withheld from the democracy, when they had no voice in the Government, when they were oppressed and they had no means of securing redress except violence—then property has many times been swept away. Property has never been damaged by a pure democracy.

Lord Hugh Cecil, in a letter to *The Times* of August 19, 1912, on Breaking the Law, observed:—

No one condemns all rebellions. Some are righteous, some unrighteous. We all approve, I suppose, of the Revolution of 1688. . . . Everything depends on the circumstances; no general rule can be laid down; each breach of the law must be judged on its own merits.

Mr. McKenna's replies to questions in the House of Commons on male and female militancy were given thus:—

The Home Secretary was questioned in the House of Commons by Mr. Fred Hall concerning a disturbance at the Haydock Colliery, when three policemen were stated to have been so injured as to necessitate their removal to hospital. Mr. McKenna admitted in his reply that the police were stoned [not windows, be it observed, but human beings] and that three of them were "slightly injured." Then asked Mr. Hall: "Will the right hon. gentleman tell the House if he has taken, and will continue to take, the necessary steps to bring the offenders to justice?" The Home Secretary said: "I hope the hon. gentleman will not mind my saying that I deprecate very much questions which might arouse feelings of anger."

The Home Secretary: "It is simply a statement of facts that this Government, like every other Government, must enforce the respect for the laws—(more cheers)—without which our civilisation and the whole social fabric must be shattered. (Hear, hear.) If these women have their way in securing the franchise by militant methods they would secure a vote in a constitution, and amongst a people, where a vote would not be worth having. (Cheers.) They have begun at the wrong end. (Hear, hear.) The British people must first of all be convinced by reason."—*Daily News*, May 22, 1913.

Lord Macaulay's words, taken from a speech delivered during the debate in the House of Commons on the Reform Bill, December 16, 1831, were particularly emphatic, thus:—

Is delay no evil? Is prolonged excitement no evil? Is it no evil that the heart of a great people should be made sick by deferred hope? . . . What then, it is said, would you legislate in haste? Would you legislate in times of great excitement concerning matters of such deep concern? Yes, sir, I would; and if any bad consequences should follow from the haste and the excitement, let those be held answerable who, when there was no need of haste, when there existed no excitement, refused to listen to any project of reform, nay, who made it an argument against reform, that the public mind was not

excited. . . . Half the logic of misgovernment lies in this one sophistical dilemma: If the people are turbulent, they are unfit for liberty; if they are quiet, they do not want liberty.

But reformers are compelled to legislate fast, because bigots will not legislate early. Reformers are compelled to legislate in times of excitement, because bigots will not legislate in times of tranquillity.

Mr. J. A. Hobson, author, thinker, and Liberal, writing in *The Daily News*, October 10, 1913, on the Rebel Menace, and dealing with Mr. Churchill's pronouncement with regard to Ulster and Home Rule, said:—

It is manifest that the only novel factor in the situation is the menace of rebellion in Ulster and in England. The offer of a conference and the large new concessions held out by Mr. Churchill, cannot be understood by any sane observer as due to any other cause than fear. No brave talk about the advantages of a pacific settlement, that will leave behind it no rankling sense of hatred and oppression, affects this truth. Everyone knew all along that Unionist Ulster hated Home Rule and feared it, but the Government believed that this hate and fear would die down with time, and was not really fatal to good government in Ireland. If they have now changed their mind, this change can only be attributed to a discovery that the hate of Ulster is more formidable than they thought. That is to say, they are conceding to rebels what they would not concede to constitutional opponents. . . . And this at a time when Syndicalism, Suffragetism and Resistance Leagues of various sorts are everywhere threatening the stability of government!

To one Liberal at any rate what is happening appears to be a dangerous blend of cowardice and treachery, covered, but not concealed, by a nauseating sline of "magnanimity."

Mr. Winston Churchill was convicted out of his own mouth by his recent words with regard to Ulster:—

I do not agree with those who say we cannot parley with men who threaten violence and illegality. Liberalism is successful because it does not seek the symptom, but always seeks the cause. There is rarely violence without some cause; when the cause is abated, the violence and other ugly symptoms disappear. Liberalism has been successful because in all its quarrels it tries patiently to understand and make allowances for the sincere point of view of the other side.

This principle is conspicuous by its absence with regard to the violence of Suffragists, and Mr. Baillie Weaver declared that every month that the Cat and Mouse Act remained in force added hundreds of women to the militant ranks. Coercion only deepens the sense of injustice; it is no remedy.

The last quotation was from the Rev. R. J. Campbell, who said that to-day a new spirit was rising in the ranks of womanhood, a new ideal had dawned, a new hope, a new enthusiasm was taking possession of the souls of millions.

You may blame this or that excess on the part of individual adherents; you may get angry with them and condemn them, but assuredly you cannot stop this incoming of Diviner life; for where the spirit of sacrifice is in the service of a high impersonal end you behold something of the redeeming work of Christ.

When the Home Secretary testified the other day in the House of Commons that nothing could exceed the heroism and self-devotion of the Suffragists whom the law obliged him to keep in prison, he but paid unconscious tribute to the principle which is the very core of the Christian Gospel.

These women are in deadly earnest; so much so that, as this responsible Minister of the Crown declared, they would welcome death itself if that would secure the triumph of their cause. Be sure no cause can be resisted for ever which can produce such a spirit. It is a just and righteous cause.—*Daily News*, March 22, 1913.

"Nothing," said Mr. Baillie Weaver in summing up, "not even a sex war, can alter the ultimate aim of the woman's movement, which is co-operation between men and women." Mrs. Mustard presided, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Weaver for his very telling address.

BY-ELECTIONS.

South Lanark.

Result:	
Mr. W. Watson (C.)	4,257
Mr. G. Morton (L.)	4,006
Mr. T. Gibb (Lab.)	1,674

Unionist majority over Liberal 221.

The Women's Freedom League brought to a close their victorious campaign in South Lanark, by holding further excellent open-air and indoor meetings in

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Coalburn, Lesmahagow, Stonehouse and Strathaven, and the workers rejoice in the knowledge that their efforts have been crowned by a splendid victory over the Government; the "Anti-Government" policy of the League has largely contributed to "keeping the Liberal out." The campaign has also broken down the apathy previously manifested towards Woman Suffrage; in its place is now keen interest. Women hitherto opposed, have declared themselves entirely in sympathy, and many have expressed the wish that the League will follow up the campaign by further meetings which will no doubt result in new members for the League. The organiser gratefully acknowledges the following: Miss Read, 2s.; Miss Jack, 5s.; Mrs. Wilson, 6s. 8d. (returned railway fares); Mr. Bryson, 2s.

THE "PRIVILEGED" SEX?

Here is a chance for Mr. George and Mr. Churchill! Maria Jones, aged seventy-two, convicted so often that she has spent thirty-two years in prison since 1870, has got three years' at the London County Sessions, for theft. Cannot these gentlemen intervene on behalf of the poor old lady so victimised and misunderstood; or is all their solicitude monopolised by the Dartmoor Shepherd? Mr. George does not believe in monopoly, and we do not believe in sex privilege; so we venture to put forward the claims of Maria Jones for equal treatment and the unconditional release granted to the worthy Davis.

Another Test.

Again, we find Lillian Dwyer indicted, at Liverpool, with "causing grievous bodily harm" to her husband, Peter Dwyer, by throwing boiling oil over him. The man has since died. Some short time back we gave the case of a man who poured paraffin over his wife and thrust her on the fire. She also died. The verdict was manslaughter, the sentence fourteen years, though we can hardly imagine any murder which could be more deliberately arranged to secure its end than this "manslaughter." We shall watch the case of Lillian Dwyer, and see whether, if convicted, she secures a verdict of manslaughter.

And Yet Another.

Mr. Justice Lawrence, summing up in the case brought against Dr. John Dell Bridger for assaulting Miss Bollinger, aged eighteen, when she consulted him professionally, gave vent to some very strange views. He alluded to the fact that the girl gave her evidence as if she believed it, and in the witness box appeared to be a young person who was telling the truth. He then proceeded to suggest that she was not telling the truth, and said "it was a matter of common knowledge" that women did make "charges of this nature" which were unfounded. This was not because women were more prone to lying than men, but "more likely to have hallucinations and a perverted conception of what happened." Further, that though her mother might properly be proud of her, the daughter of such a mother—i.e., one who went and horse-whipped the man she believed to have committed an unspeakable assault on her daughter—might have "wild and fantastic imaginings." No attempt was made to find out if she were such a person, with wild and untruthful habits; but the defence produced a lot of evidence as to the respectability and propriety of Dr. Bridger, which, together with the fanciful suggestions of Mr. Justice Lawrence as to the nature of a young lady of whom he knew nothing except that she "appeared to be telling the truth," evidently weighed with the jury, who acquitted the accused. Yet we remember various pronouncements of the Bench in regard to these same cases, pronouncements which declared such crimes to be "acts which even the most respectable men may give way to at times"; and we fear that in the teeth of such pronouncements (from men who ought to know their own sex!), evidence of "respectability" would not seem vastly important in establishing innocence. Now

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let us look at this case in the light of another, reported in the same issue of the weekly papers. The defendant, again, was a medical man, the complainant a young girl. It is the man, this time, who makes charges, which cannot be substantiated, against the girl's character—charges of blackmail and of misconduct with his patients; but dares not come into court in support of them. These charges against girls are the very commonest weapon in the armoury of the immoral man, charges with which he excuses his own wickedness; or, perchance when necessary to achieve his purpose, uses to starve a virtuous girl into submission by securing loss of employment and difficulty in finding another situation. From accused men, from the Bar, from the Bench, come these wholesale accusations against girls for any and every purpose; we have yet to find the judge who will sum them up as a male characteristic, and who will say: "It is a matter of common knowledge that men constantly protect and defend themselves by launching these unfounded charges against injured girls." We must wait, for that, until we have women on the Bench, women at the Bar, women freely admitted to the Courts. Until then, the Courts will continue to be disgraced by these exhibitions of sex malice and intolerance, which have become so frequent and so much a matter of course as to pass almost unnoted, save by the ever-growing indignation of the slandered and maligned women citizens of the nation.

C. NINA BOYLE.

MISS ANDREWS' VICTORY.

The Mock Parliamentary Election, held in the Walton Congregational Church, Liverpool, on December 11, resulted in the triumphant return of Miss Andrews who, owing to the illness of Miss Heyes, kindly stood as the Independent woman candidate. The eloquence and logic with which Miss Andrews addressed the "constituency," and the urgency and reality of the reforms she advocated were in striking contrast to the tame party programmes submitted by the Liberal and Conservative candidates. The result of the ballot showed that Miss Andrews polled more votes than the other three candidates put together.

SUFFRAGE CONFERENCE IN DUBLIN. DECEMBER 9 to 12.

From north, south, east and west the suffragists flocked to Dublin during suffrage week, and the large concert room of the Rotunda resounded with their cheers and laughter three times a day. The elements seemed in our favour, for really it was difficult to realise we were in mid-December, the weather was so spring-like in its mildness.

It seemed strange to me at first, after all I had heard of the Labour troubles, to see the people in Dublin going about their business in the ordinary way, apparently quite happy and contented. It was only in the neighbourhood of Liberty Hall that one saw groups of haggard, anxious-looking men and women to remind one that Dublin is in the midst of a great labour crisis.

The Conference itself was most interesting. I was down to speak on "The Present Position of the Suffrage Movement" and "If Women had Votes," as the representative of the Women's Freedom League. Each time I received a most delightfully warm welcome. Everybody seemed to know that the Women's Freedom League was the Society of which Mrs. Despard is President, and I find her name is honoured wherever the Suffrage position is understood in Ireland as it is in England. I heard a great deal of the splendid work she did on her two recent Suffrage tours in Ireland.

On Tuesday the subject was "The Present Position of the Suffrage Movement," and we had fifteen minutes' speeches from delegates from different parts of Ireland, as well as from Miss Courtney (N.U.W.S.S.), myself, and Mrs. Kineton Parkes, representing England. Mrs. Parkes, of course, spoke for the Tax-Resisters, and explained the Tax Resistance policy very clearly in a racy and humorous speech, which was much appreciated.

Wednesday afternoon was given over to speeches on "The Conditions of Women's Work in Ireland."

All the speakers were experts in some branch of the subject, so that a most interesting and instructive afternoon was spent.

Thursday afternoon was the most exciting of all, as we had a debate between Miss Helen Smith, of the N.L.O.W.S., and Miss Mary Hayden, a well-known Irish scholar, and a Professor of the National University. Miss Hayden was masterly both in her opening on the Suffrage position, and in her summing up of Miss Smith's arguments, which, needless to say, she quite demolished. During her speech Miss Smith made a most unwarrantable attack on the N.U.W.S.S. with regard to their attitude towards militancy. Miss Courtney, I am glad to say, asked, and obtained, permission to refute the charge on behalf of her Society, which she did in a spirited speech of about three minutes' duration. The resolution in favour of the Suffrage was carried by a very large majority.

The last meeting of the Conference was on Friday afternoon; subject, "If Women had Votes." A very satisfactory feature of this session was that we had quite as large an audience as at the previous Conference meetings, although another meeting, organised by the W.S.P.U., was being held in the Abbey Theatre. The fact that two well-attended Suffrage meetings could be held in a city like Dublin on the same afternoon augurs well for the interest that is taken in the question.

But there was also a lighter side to the Conference. Each evening there was an entertainment provided, of a dramatic or social character. On Tuesday we were given the opportunity of seeing "Rosmersholme"—surely Ibsen's gloomiest play! It was splendidly played by Miss Elizabeth Young's company.

On Wednesday we had a very good musical entertainment, followed by a comedy, "Not Made in Heaven," which was screamingly funny in a typically Irish vein.

Suffrage Week was brought to a close by a grand *conversazione* on Friday night, when a really delightful evening was spent. Speaking personally, I can honestly say that I had a very happy week, and have enjoyed every minute of the Conference. I had the kindest and most charming host and hostess in Mr. and Mrs.

Duncan, who made me feel at home from the moment I crossed their threshold.

I hope and believe that the Conference has done a great deal of good in rousing interest in the Suffrage Cause, and that it will bear good fruit.

KATHLEEN TANNER.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Liberal Men Move.

The Liberal Men's Association for Women's Suffrage has now been formally launched. Its object is to unite and co-ordinate the action of Liberal men so as to promote the cause of Women's Suffrage.

Membership is open to all men who are Liberals and who are in favour of the political enfranchisement of women. There is no pledge, and all methods adopted for furthering the cause will be strictly lawful, constitutional, and consonant with Liberal tradition. These methods will be education, propaganda, and organisation within the ranks of the Liberal party. Mr. William Barton, the Liberal member for Oldham, has accepted the office of chairman. Mr. Edmund T. Spencer is the secretary, and his address is 44, Brazenose-street, Manchester.

"The First Political Reform."

Mr. Keir Hardie, speaking recently at an anti-military demonstration at Birmingham, said the first proposal they put forward to help them to combat the war spirit was the enfranchisement of women. In refusing votes to women, the Government had no other policy than to torture and imprison those who had the courage to fight. They lied, they tricked them, they deceived them, and did everything except to be honest towards women and the nation. They of the Labour Party stood solid in their demand that the first political reform should be the enfranchisement of women.

Woman Suffrage a Test Question for Liberal Candidates

The Political Correspondent of *The Standard* wrote as follows on December 10—"It is understood that a number of Liberal members of Parliament have sent a letter to the Prime Minister protesting against a movement for the selection only of such candidates for Parliament as are in favour of votes for women. It is said that Mr. Illingworth, the Chief Liberal Whip, and Mr. Gulland, the Scottish Whip, are making Women Suffrage a test question for candidates. The statement is denied at the Whips' office, but there is reason to believe that influence in this direction is being exercised unobtrusively by those who are responsible for the selection of Liberal candidates. Such action would not be altogether illegitimate under existing circumstances, for Mr. Asquith has left the question an open one and has promised to incorporate Women's Suffrage in the coming Electoral Reform Bill if it can obtain a majority in the House. Last session Mr. W. H. Dickinson introduced a Bill which would have given the vote to some six million women, but it was rejected on the Second Reading by a large majority. Since then the promoters of the Bill, backed by its sympathisers in the Cabinet, notably the Chancellor of the Exchequer, have been quietly trying to secure the necessary majority in the Commons. A ceaseless campaign is being carried on among members, and an effort is certainly being made to ensure that new candidates are sympathetic to Women's Suffrage."

Cats and Mice.

Mrs. Pankhurst, who had been on a visit to her daughter in Paris, was re-arrested whilst travelling in the train between Dover and London on Saturday evening. The arrest was effected by Scotland-yard detectives, and on her arrival at Victoria at 7.10 Mrs. Pankhurst was conveyed to Holloway Gaol in a taxi-cab. The reason for her re-arrest is that she has broken the terms of her license. Stringent precautions were taken by the police at Victoria Station to prevent any demonstration by sympathisers; the taxis were chartered, and other passengers by the train were indignant at the inconvenience thus caused. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was released from Holloway on December 15, after hunger-striking since her arrest on December 9. Miss Annie Kenney has been ordered abroad as her health is giving rise to grave anxiety. She will remain at Lugano for several weeks. Mrs. Pankhurst was released on Dec. 17.

Male Militancy.

The students at Queen's University, Belfast, broke up a Suffrage meeting held in the University lecture rooms on December 9. They released large quantities of chemicals and snuff, detonators and squibs were discharged continuously, and amid wild hilarity, a student, made up as a virago, appeared and demanded a vote. Finally, the professors appeared, and cleared speakers and students out of the room. The women tried to continue the meeting in the women's hall, but the students stormed the corridors, and brought a hose into play. The meeting was then abandoned.

A "Secret" Agreement.

It is reported from Washington that the Immigration Committee have "secretly" adopted an agreement providing for the absolute exclusion from the country of militant Suffragettes, and all members of revolutionary societies in Russia and other foreign countries.

THE LEAGUE'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

Our Christmas Presents Sale of December 10, besides being a very enjoyable gathering, resulted in a substantial addition to the funds of the League.

My grateful thanks are due to all our members and friends who helped towards this satisfactory result.

May I ask those friends who have not already assisted, to send me their present, and so increase our joy at this Festive Season.

E. KNIGHT.

Christmas Presents List.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Christmas Presents Stall	16	12	4			
White Elephant Stall	12	3	6			
Vegetarian Stall	3	0	0			
Sixpenny Stall	2	10	5			
Penny Stall	1	5	7			
Goods sold at Office	3	15	0	39	6	11
Branches—						
Aintree	1	5	0			
Burnage	0	10	0			
Clapham	0	16	6			
East London	0	3	6			
Gravesend	0	2	0			
Ipswich	1	0	0			
Leichworth	0	12	6			
Swansea	1	16	0			
				6	5	6
H. S. L. Fry, Esq.	1	0	0			
Miss Lilley	1	0	0			
Mrs. George Scaramanga	1	0	0			
Mrs. Pickering	0	11	7			
"Kenneth"	0	10	6			
Mrs. Fulton	0	10	0			
Miss E. E. Gill	0	10	0			
Mrs. Gugenheim	0	10	0			
Mrs. Jason Kerr	0	10	0			
Miss E. White	0	10	0			
Miss R. Bamson	0	5	0			
Miss C. Hare	0	3	0			
Profit on Tea, per Mrs. Fisher				7	0	1
Sale of Tickets				2	3	9
Collection				2	11	6
				59	17	3

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."

Many of our members and friends rallied to the Caxton Hall on December 10, and a brisk sale of goods took place. Will all members please note that we could have sold far more if we had had the goods to sell? So please set to work at once for next year! The exhibition of Tango dancing was greatly appreciated, and we heartily thank the assistants of Miss Mathewson and Miss O'Cleary and her partner, for the charming dances they gave, and I hope it will inspire many of those present to come to the Tango practice class on January 9.

Mr. Percy Harvey's band made things go with a swing, and as we have secured him again for the Carnival on January 17 we shall be sure of good music for the dancing.

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Harbord and their assistants for the catering arrangements; also to Mrs. Hyde and Miss Murray, Miss Bouckley, Miss Cross, Mrs. Malby, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. White, and Mrs. Smith for the able way in which they took charge of the stall.

Will every one of our members ask themselves, "Have I given my present to the Freedom League?"—and if not, do it now.

MARGARET HUNTSMAN.

THE WOMEN'S EXHIBITION AT GLASGOW.

The exhibition of women's work which has attracted so much attention in Glasgow closed on December 13. Mrs. Despard was able to be present on the last evening, and spoke on the significance of the exhibition. She showed how woman's work has been taken out of the home and out of her hands largely by the introduction of machinery; the ideal in work as in all phases of life must be the co-operation of men and women. She pleaded strongly for the beautiful to be brought back to work that is to-day so often dull and degrading, and expressed the hope that such exhibitions would stimulate the two great movements—Women and Labour—both of which are strong in Glasgow.

COME AGAIN!—On Friday Miss Constance Andrews lectured at the Old Drury Club on the subject of "Thought Power." The remarks made by her and the chairman, Mrs. Clarendon Hyde, on the Woman Question in connection with the advanced thought of the day were well received, and the wish was expressed by the members of the club that both ladies would at some future time speak on the Suffrage movement.

ACCEPTABLE XMAS GIFTS

Gloves are always acceptable presents. This week we are making a special offer to Readers of "The Vote," enabling them to purchase reliable gloves at bargain prices.

Our Special Nappa Glove made from the best selected skins and finished with two horn buttons & titched points.

Per 1/11³/₄ Pair.

Tan and Grey only.

3 Pairs in dainty box for 5/11.

WE PAY CARRIAGE.

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BROMLEY, KENT.

THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

More Women Butchered.

Miss Dunne, living near Athlone, found murdered after a search instigated by the writer of an anonymous letter to the police. Headless body found in some bog-land. Man arrested.

Miss Bradfield, Liverpool, found murdered in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. Body roped up and fastened in two sacks, with marks of great brutality. Supposed to have been bludgeoned to death in her place of business and robbed by two young men employees.

Miss Prendergast, old-age pensioner, found terribly lacerated and dead in a stream, where she had been hurled on a projecting stone. Brother charged at Leinster Assizes and convicted of manslaughter. Fourteen months.

Body of a woman, unknown, found in the river at Reading naked but for one stocking, and with incised wounds in the chest.

Member of a District Council near Limerick arrested, charged with murder of his wife and lodged in Limerick Prison after receiving special condolences on his bereavement.

Murderous Assault.

Mrs. Evans, of Coventry, shot at three times in succession by her husband in the presence of her children, one of whom saved her by furiously attacking the father and throwing a piece of bread at him. The woman, who had her baby in her arms, is badly hurt. Jealousy is pleaded in extenuation.

Criminal Assault.

Miss Odart, aged seventeen, of Acton, typist to coloured medical man, Mr. Ruthmeyer. While in his employ drugged and outraged three times in succession. Circumstances roused her suspicions, and on accusing him he offered her marriage, which was indignantly refused. He then dismissed the girl and subsequently made charges against her of misconduct with his patients and attempted blackmail. An infant was born, the girl nearly losing her life on the occasion. No punishment. £350 damages.

Threats.

Mrs. Hentschel, wife of political spy, threatened by her husband by post, telegraph, telephone, and verbally. Declared he would hang, drown, or shoot her babies rather than leave them with her. Woman refused to live with him because of his violence. Carried a revolver. Hentschel committed for trial.

Mr. Ezra Perks, described as an idle, drunken wastrel, sentenced at Dudley to six months imprisonment for spending his wife's maternity benefit on drink. So drunk that the hearing of the case had to be delayed.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING CO., Ltd., 2, Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C.
Secretary—Miss H. HOLMAN.

FRIDAY, December 19, 1913.

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 RATES.

United Kingdom ... 6/6 per annum, post free.
Foreign Countries ... 8/8 " " " "

"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Book-stalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

DOWN PILLOWS AND SCREENS.

A down pillow and a screen; is that what we are wanting, or is it a glimpse of the truth? In a little book bearing the fascinating title "The Quest of the Ideal," that question has just been asked. In view of the present political and social situation, it might be as well to put it to those who, by their economic grip over the nation's resources, are able to govern its activities; to the Rothschilds, Curzons and Co., who are pouring their money by thousands into the treasury of the Anti-Suffrage League; to the employers, with their proposed £50,000,000 defence fund; to male politicians and lawyer-legislators; generally to the busy and plausible persons who, loving the People—workers, women, and little children—put (in profession, at least) their interests before anything else in the world.

Were plain speaking the order of the day, we know how we should be answered. "Truth is so barbaric. All very well to cry out for it in the old days, when life was simple. Now society is exceedingly complicated. We have to look on every side of us before we act. Moreover, we are too enlightened to be easily alarmed. Surely, it is the part of wisdom not to trouble oneself about abstractions. We have round us the four walls of warmed and curtained rooms; down pillows and screens shut off the outside tumult. These ridiculous, unsexed women, many of whom, if only they could give up their antics, we would willingly draw into our own sheltered circle; these discontented men; these outstanding personalities, to whom the multitudes listen because they give expression to their own folly, will, if we give them rope enough, cry themselves hoarse and inarticulate. There are signs of this already. We, in the meantime, behind our army and our police, within touch, in every great city of courts of justice, to try offenders against our law, and prisons for their detention, and having at our command a House of Commons ready at any moment, irrespective of party, to pass measures for the protection of our order, can afford to smile at the threatened cataclysm. What can even truth avail against such defences as ours?"

That, undoubtedly, is the attitude of many of our leading politicians to-day. It accounts for the fact that while to an extraordinary extent real issues are burked, matters of no vital importance to the nation are forced to the front. Fierce labour disputes; glaring instances, as in Wales, in Dublin and on the Rand, of unnecessary violence in the soldiery and the police, the dangerous situation in India, brought about by feeble, one-sided administration of the law in the Transvaal, discontent with British rule, and lack of confidence in Britain's power to protect her subjects; at home, a judiciary system which, by its lapses from justice is covering itself with dishonour; the increase of disease and death amongst children, the immunity from penalisation of employers in dangerous trades,

the phenomenal growth of armaments on the one hand and the cost of living on the other; the unhealthy conditions under which young women (the mothers of the future) are compelled to live and work, and the deepening of the gulf that is beginning to separate the sexes—these things, if allowed to grow, may result in political and social convulsions, whose effect in misery and loss it would be impossible to calculate, are, by the ordinary party politician, not regarded at all. Radical, Whig, Tory, even Labour, when, for Liberal support, it drops its independence, refuses to admit that there is any real importance in the present upheaval. There may be uncomfortable moments in the career of the dominant party; there must be ups and downs in political life; but that the basis of things should change; that the social order should be shaken to its roots, that out of the solid-seeming volcanic crust on which we tread, flames should one day arise—this they do not fear. The worst thing that could happen to the Liberals would be defeat. Possibly, to the Tory Party, the worst thing that could happen would be victory.

Once, in the old time, a Man, gifted beyond all others with prophetic genius, was moved to sorrow and wonder over the blindness of His fellow-countrymen who failed to discern the signs of the times. "Therefore," He said, mournfully, "your house is left unto you desolate."

It may be that in the Invisible Court, where no mistakes are made, where cause and effect follow one another as inevitably as night follows day, such a sentence has already been passed upon our nation; and, indeed, we have moments of despair—moments when our military pomp, our wealth, our material and commercial expansion come upon us with a sickening sense of unreality, when we ask: "What shall it profit a nation if it gain the whole world and lose its own soul?"

And then, looking beyond the present distress, we think we can see in our people an abounding vitality, an inner soul, indomitable of righteousness, which renews our hope.

If the politician refuses to see, let him dream on! Presently his pillows of down and his sheltering screens will be torn and shattered, and then he will be compelled to see. The great toiling, hungering, sweating world is not the world of the politician. Prime Ministers, Chancellors of the Exchequer and Home Secretaries are too small to be able to grasp it. The women are beginning to see that world. Men, the workers, are seeing it with them; and the first sign of their awakening is that they will no longer accept as truth the hypocritical pretences that are put forward in its name.

The defeat of the Liberal Party in one of their Scotch strongholds affords clear evidence to any impartial observer that the tide is turning. We hear in Scotland that women Suffragists, who worked gallantly during the campaign, lost the Liberal candidate many votes by their clear presentation of the truth. Large audiences were addressed, and, in many cases, those who came to scoff remained to bless. Many a Scotch Liberal attributes the defeat to their influence. But no doubt there were other causes. However it may be, we may draw hope from the indications we are given of growing discontent amongst men as well as women.

To-day there is nothing open to malcontents but to vote for the other political party. The time will come when strong-souled men and women, having shaken themselves free of the shackles of party, will seek their representatives from those who have discarded the down pillow and screen philosophy down on the floor of the working world, not to reform, as the jargon of the day is—the other world needs reformation—but to understand, to help, and to redeem. Such men and women need no protection. The voice of the tempest is their call to action.

C. DESPARD.

AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE.

[We welcome the following article from our good friend and Suffragist, Mr. G. E. O'Dell, who is now lecturing for the Ethical Union and on Woman Suffrage in the United States. With it comes the news that he has been appointed general editor of a new monthly journal to be issued from New York by the American Ethical Union early in the New Year.—Ed.]

It was reported in the American Press the other day that Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, having to fill the vacant office of Chief of Police, was seriously considering the appointment of a woman to that post. The rumour was sufficiently solid for the papers to name the most likely woman, and to publish her portrait.

In England such a proposal would cause most persons to laugh. Not so in Chicago. Even in New York, where I am writing, I have found the likelihood of such an appointment treated with a shake of the head, but not with a smile. Everybody knows Chicago.

Chicago is a mass of contradictions and paradoxes, such as any loosely-formed conglomerate of persons from every nation under heaven must doubtless at first be. Vice, crime and corruption, for instance, are so far prevalent that the Englishman with timid relations can rarely pick out a day's newspaper that he cares to post home. And yet the cultured people of the city, and they are a large number, will compare favourably, in the grace and unobtrusive dignity of their lives, with any on earth. Furthermore, women have a high social status. If the State of Illinois recently gave all its women citizens the Parliamentary vote, Chicago, in numbers one of the largest cities in the world, had the predominating voice. Its reputable men do not fear women. Chicago points with pride to Jane Addams as being entitled equally with Mr. Roosevelt to be counted a leading American citizen of the time. The huge public school system of Chicago is managed by a woman; and in the causes of her appointment and her success may be found one reason why the proposal to hand the police also over to a woman's control arouses no ribaldry. For graft and nepotism cursed the school system; and Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, an educational expert and a martinet, was appointed to her post as a bold (perhaps even desperate!) means of obtaining decency and order. She produced them. And when, the other day, in the persistent efforts of corruption to find an opening, a particular publisher's school books passed her Committee on grounds not wholly of their educational worth, Mrs. Young appealed to the many-headed Cæsar by resigning her post, all respectable Chicago came to the rescue. The Mayor refused the resignation; but the little old lady, quiet as a Quaker, but iron-willed as Wellington, got her own way.

Now, if Mayor Harrison, in an effort to clean up the police system of his city, by some new and startling means, ever should go so far as to try adding to the ten policewomen he has already appointed in the ranks some moral bulldog of a woman as Chief of the force, he would find any number of public-spirited Chicago men willing that a woman should have the chance.

Why should this be? It is an interesting question. Why is it that so many American women, and even those of such a monstrous mushroom of a city as Chicago, have gained the vote, and on liberal terms, while Englishwomen are still struggling against a general disinclination on the part of men to admit them to even the narrowest measure of political power? Why do so many American men treat Woman Suffrage as a thing not to be afraid of, and also entrust many individual women with public responsibilities usually reserved to themselves? Why, to give a further instance of the public status of women being higher in Chicago than (for the nearest comparison) in Glasgow or Liverpool, have the Chicago newspapers, even from a time long preceding the granting of the vote, given women an amount of space daily that surprises anyone used to the pointed omission of women's political and other interests from the English Press?

The answer, as I conceive it, is one about which one ought not to be other than perfectly frank. Men are less afraid of women in public life here because they have less need to be. It is no disgrace to Englishwomen, for it is not their fault, but they are in general less ready for the intelligent exercise of the franchise than American women, at any rate so far as my own knowledge can tell. This is no reason for not giving Englishwomen the vote; quite the contrary, to give them the vote is the indispensable first means towards fitting them to exercise it.

But it is curious to observe the higher level of equipment here amongst quite ordinary women of what in England would be sharply marked off as the middle class. Let me give an instance. A few weeks ago I was present at a circle for the study of Biblical criticism, held by the minister of a church in Chicago. About eighty women attended, and stayed afterwards to lunch. As it was the opening meeting of the session, the lunch was followed by short speeches of welcome to the minister on his return from holiday for the winter's work. One woman after another—I think there must have been nearly twenty—was called upon, mostly with but a few minutes' notice to speak. Now, nothing could well have been more difficult, because there was only one general theme. Yet every speech was a little gem, quite individual in character, most of them included an apt story or other illustration, none exceeded three minutes, and every woman not only spoke absolutely to the point, but knew precisely the moment to say no more and sit down.

In conversation one meets with just the same thing. American women talk a great deal, and it may be that much of what many of them say is superficial. But most conversation the world over is that. And American women do, in larger numbers than in similar circles in England, interest themselves in important topics, try to form opinions about these, and express them freely. American men do not discourage them; there is, indeed, a larger measure of intellectual comradeship among men and women.

In this word "comradeship" is perhaps to be found the key to the situation. America has not yet outgrown the experience of her pioneer days; in those days men and women worked and suffered side by side in a way that taught them a large measure of mutual respect. This mutual deference of the pioneers is still a fresh enough tradition to operate strongly in the western states, and even in the middle west, at Chicago. It is a fine thing.

But it makes it very difficult for American women to understand English militancy. Everywhere the visiting Englishman is asked to explain. Why these outbursts, this furore about what American women are winning in State after State of the Union without any such struggle and sacrifice? It is very difficult to explain that the position of women in England does not compare favourably with that which they occupy in America; that Englishmen in general, though they may not admire women any less, have less respect for their intelligence; that also, largely owing to the friendly encouragement of men, a much greater number of American than of English women have acquired an interest in general culture outlasting their school life; that a startling kind of suffrage propaganda was needed in England, if only as a means of awakening masses of unthinking women, and creating in them the will to know, to reason, and to act outside of routine; and much else to the same effect. It is easier to think these things than to say them, and I shall not cultivate a habit of saying them on this side. But I am afraid they are true. Their effect on anyone who realises them should be to double his belief in the need of votes for Englishwomen—and every subsequent measure that may help to break down rapidly that survival of the feudal spirit which causes so many Englishmen still to treat women as the civic and economic inferiors of men.

G. E. O'DELL.

THE VOTE: AN APPEAL.

Dear Readers,—Again I wish to thank all who are responding to my appeal for £100 for the enlargement of THE VOTE, and to say how deeply I appreciate their help. We have not yet attained our goal, and I want to be sure of success by the end of the year. Every gift—large or small—brings it nearer, and I appeal again to all readers to do what they can so that we may go forward with confidence in the New Year.

I need only repeat briefly the reasons for the appeal: the importance of our paper in the work of the League and the demand of advertisers for space in it. During the coming holiday weeks more space, in the ordinary course of business, will be available for reading matter. This will enable us to husband our resources in readiness for subsequent demands.

I renew my appeal for VOTE sellers in all parts of the country. I hear with great pleasure of the success attained in Edinburgh and other places, and am convinced that their good example will encourage others. A definite promise of a stated time each week is what we desire, so that the work may be well organised. Our circulation must go up; it is you who can help.—Yours sincerely,
C. DESPARD.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	67	3	0
Mrs. Gush	0	2	0
Mrs. W. A. H. L.	0	5	0
Mrs. Carey	1	0	0
"Kenneth"	0	10	0

"The Vote" and Christmas.

Owing to the Christmas holidays, we have to go to press two days earlier than usual. Saturday morning's first post (December 20) will be the latest moment for contributions.

THE VOTE will be published on Tuesday, December 23, and Miss Leahy will be at Headquarters until 7 p.m. on that day to supply copies to all who require them. As so many of our members will be enjoying holidays, will they make a special effort to secure a "Holiday Record" sale of the paper?

THE WOMAN'S THEATRE.

"A Gauntlet."

We again offer our congratulations to the Actresses' Franchise League on their splendid achievement in the production of *A Gauntlet*, at the Coronet Theatre last week. The cast worked admirably, and it would be difficult to praise too highly the rendering of Svava by Ermita Lascelles and of Riis by O. B. Clarence. Miss Winifred Mayo, too, who produced the play, well

Chapter 3

Absolutely Clean Linen

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deserved the repeated calls which the audience made for her at the close of the first performance.

It is not easy to realise that Björnstjörne Björnson wrote this play about thirty years ago, and that it has been known to some part of the British public at any rate for at least twenty years. It is true that the majority of us have in some measure broadened our views in the interval, and yet the mass of people are still unconvinced that there should be but one standard of morality, one code of honour for men and women.

Svava was the only child of Riis who had had many "affairs," and of his wife, who thoroughly despised her husband, and had long ago lost all affection for him, but who tolerated his presence and protection for the sake of the child she loved devotedly. She educated Svava in complete ignorance of the facts of life, in Svava's own words, "to make mistakes," and—one might add—to pay the full penalty of these mistakes. The girl grew up in a world of unreality, weaving ideals out of a lofty imagination with all the intolerance of youth and inexperience, but with a high courage which never failed her. She fell in love, not with young Christensen himself, but with her ideal of him. He, too, was the product of his education and training. From his youth he had been taught to believe that laxity in morals was part of a man's privilege and in no way detracted from his "honour." His creed was an easy one: a woman's past, present and future belonged to her husband, but not the most devoted wife had the smallest claim to anything but her husband's future; and he was supported in this view not only by his own family, but also by Svava's. When Svava discovered that there had been a particularly ugly incident in his past life, she was uncompromising in her denunciation of him. The acquiescence by her family in the double standard of morality for the sexes consumed her with indignation, and the powerlessness of Christensen to recognise that a man's "honour" could in any way be smirched by faithlessness towards women lashed her into fury. Because she was unflinching in facing the consequences of her point of view, and did not hesitate to expose the hypocrisy of her mother's conventional theories and the duplicity of her father's delinquencies with cruel and biting scorn, Svava won the adhesion of her father, mother and lover to the new standard she had raised. It was not until Christensen had completely capitulated that she offered the smallest hope of a possible reconciliation in the future.
F. A. U.

TAX RESISTANCE.

Sale at Petersfield.

Miss Cummins, who lives in the pretty little district of Froxfield, near Petersfield, had goods sold in respect of non-payment of King's Taxes on Monday afternoon. Miss Boyle and Miss Murray attended the sale from Headquarters, and among local supporters were Miss Cummins and her sister, Mrs. Baddeley (W.S.P.U.), Mr. Powell, Mr. Roper, and others. The assistant auctioneer, to whom it fell to conduct the sale, was most unfriendly, and refused to allow any speaking during the sale; but Miss Boyle was able to shout through a window at his back, just over his shoulder, an announcement that the goods were seized because Miss Cummins refused to submit to taxation without representation, after which quite a number of people who were attending the sale came out to listen to the speeches. Perched on the parapet of the churchyard wall, Miss Murray opened the brief meeting, followed by Miss Boyle, both receiving unexpected attention. Mr. Powell then spoke a few effective words to the men present, calling upon them as voters to give effect to the women's protest by approaching their member and warning him that Women's Suffrage was a question to which he would be expected to give serious attention.

It would appear that, in spite of its remote position and quiet, uneventful life, Suffrage has made great way in the Petersfield district. There are some 250 Suffragists, and several influ-

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ential secessions from the Liberal Association have taken place over the question.

Arrest and Release of Captain Gonno.

Captain Gonno, R.A., was arrested at his residence at Bognor on Saturday, and taken to Lewes gaol for non-payment of Imperial taxes. Captain Gonno, whose wife is a member of the Women's Tax Resistance League, refuses to pay his wife's income-tax, because he supports her in the belief that there should be no taxation without representation, and because he wishes to do his share towards altering the iniquitous laws regulating the taxation of married women. He refuses to pay his own taxes as a protest against the Government's broken pledges to women and their torture of women prisoners. The Women's Tax Resistance League at once organised a campaign of protest, in which the Women's Freedom League and other Suffrage societies would have joined, to hold meetings outside Lewes Gaol. On Monday night, however, he was set free; and the Women's Tax Resistance League is now raising serious points in regard to the legality of the arrest and the treatment otherwise meted out to him. It is well known that Captain Gonno's health has suffered severely of late, and his serious indisposition is attributable to the excessive violence of Liberal stewards at meetings which Captain Gonno has attended on behalf of the women's cause.

The following correspondence has been sent us for publication by the Women's Tax Resistance League:—

To the Home Secretary, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,—Will you kindly inform my committee why, having decided to release Captain Gonno, R.A., from Lewes Jail, you discharged him before it was possible for his family to send for him, as they were prepared to do, rather than expose him in his delicate state of health to a cross-country railway journey unaccompanied?

Did you not state in the House of Commons that prisoners were never released without such necessary precautions having been taken?—Faithfully yours,
(Signed) MARGARET PARKES.

To the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Treasury-chambers, Whitehall, S.W.

Sir,—Are you aware of the fact that on Saturday evening last Captain Gonno, R.A., was arrested at Bognor for non-payment of Imperial taxes and conveyed to Lewes Jail, and that he was released with no reason given at 6 o'clock on Monday evening? Will you kindly supply the committee immediately with answers to the following questions, as we consider that it is most important to know the reason for such apparently unconstitutional procedure?

1. By whose authority was Captain Gonno arrested and upon what charge?

2. Is it not usual in such cases to levy distraint upon the premises in respect of which the taxes are due?

3. By whose authority were orders sent to the Governor of Lewes Jail for Captain Gonno's release?

4. If the imprisonment was a just one, for what reason was he released in less than 48 hours?—Awaiting the favour of your reply. Faithfully yours,
(Signed) MARGARET PARKES.

Magistrate Compliments a Woman Tax Resister.

Miss A. Metcalfe, B.Sc., ex-H.M.I., was summoned at Greenwich Police-court on Tuesday, December 9, for non-payment of dog licence. In a short speech she said that she refused on conscientious grounds to pay taxes while women had no vote. The magistrate congratulated Miss Metcalfe on the clearness and eloquence with which she made out her case. He regretted that the law must take its course, and imposed a fine of 7s. with 2s. costs, recoverable by distraint. The alternative was one day's imprisonment. We would like to contrast this with Miss I. Stewart's case which was identical, but her sentence was £2 fine or fourteen days' imprisonment.

FEDERATION OF CIVIL SERVICE WOMEN CLERKS

When the Post Office first began to supply the staff to form the nucleus of the new departments necessitated by the National Insurance Act, the formation of a Federation of Civil Service Women Clerks was proposed, and has now materialised. The societies which constitute the Federation are the Association of Post Office Women Clerks, the Association of Women Clerks, in the Board of Trade, the National Health Insurance Women Clerks' Association, and the Association of Women Clerks in the Board of Education. The general policy of the Federation is to afford a ready means of communication between various sections of the Civil Service for the purpose of taking joint action when necessary in the interests of the whole body of women clerks, and to enable them to concentrate more effectively on the larger issues connected with the claim for equality for women with men in the Civil Service. The objects of the Federation are:—

To protect and promote the common interests of women in the Civil Service.

To remove the artificial restrictions placed on their employment.

To secure that their remuneration for services rendered shall not be differentiated by reason of sex.

To secure the free and unfettered admission of women to all clerical appointments under the State.

To secure the removal of the civil and political disabilities of women.

The paper *Association Notes* has now become the organ of the Federation, and is to be conducted in the future in the interests of the general body of women clerks in the Service. The first number of the new issue has just been published, and marks a distinct advance in appearance and matter. The price has been raised to twopence.

"VOTE" SELLERS' RALLY.

Mrs. Despard welcomed VOTE sellers, and those interested in the sale of our paper, on December 12, at Headquarters, and a pleasant evening was spent in discussing methods of organisation, in which the experience of sellers was most valuable.

It was decided to have a special badge for the members of THE VOTE Brigade, and suggestions for designs were invited. Two champion badges will be presented to the best sellers in large towns, and in small centres, where the facilities for selling are not so great. The latter was offered by our good friend, Mr. Bell, to whom our best thanks are due. We have further to thank Mr. Bell for other useful suggestions and offers of help. Meetings of the "Brigade" will be held at Headquarters during the first week of each month, and it is hoped that Branches will hold a meeting during the previous week so that their reports of sales, etc., can be brought before the Headquarters' gathering. Arrangements were made with regard to the distribution of specimen copies in public centres and places where they would be appreciated.

Miss Leahy, who has recently been appointed VOTE Sales Organiser, thanks all who attended the meeting and those who, though unable to be present, gave her support and encouragement. She further thanks Mrs. Carey, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, who gave their kind help last Friday. Mrs. Carey's keen interest in THE VOTE and the sellers is shown in her much-appreciated offer to entertain all VOTE sellers to tea on Thursdays in the New Year, at Headquarters from 5 to 7 p.m.; Mrs. Despard has promised to be present when her engagements permit. Miss Leahy will be delighted to welcome at any time all willing to help in this important work for the League. She makes an earnest appeal to members to join THE VOTE Brigade, and to Branches to organise VOTE sales on a definite plan each week.

TO MOTORISTS: A WORD TO THE WISE.

A HAPPY THOUGHT.—The Car and General Insurance Corporation, the Head Office of which is at 1, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C., with branches in most of the important cities of the United Kingdom, has hit on a happy device for keeping itself and its work before the public. It has issued a useful "engagement" diary block, with ample room for daily entries. While using it one is impressed by the facilities the company offers for insuring cars. The diary can be obtained on application to the company by any present or prospective policyholder. The wise will apply at the same time for particulars of the 1914 "Eclectic" policy, which is a definite improvement on previous policies at a substantial reduction in premium. A range of seven premiums only is quoted for cars of from 8 to 50 horse-power, excluding or including mechanical breakdowns. The alteration means a considerable reduction for all cars of every horse power, and the company offers to all "Eclectic" policyholders the opportunity of substituting a 1914 policy for twelve months if application be made on or before January 1, 1914. A word to the wise will be sufficient.

A Merry Christmas HOW TO SECURE IT?

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SEVEN BISHOPS. A HISTORICAL PARALLEL.

The great hall of the Church House did not prove to be too capacious for the accommodation of the audience which had assembled to listen to the Bishop of Kensington, who, for the second time within a week, has presided at a meeting in support of the Woman's Movement. In powerful and eloquent speech, full of courage, a profound sense of justice, and the liveliest sympathy, the Bishop kept his hearers spellbound by his fearless presentment of facts, and made an earnest appeal to them to identify themselves with the movement, which again and again he described as "sacred." The great meeting was convened under the auspices of the Church League for Woman's Suffrage, and dealt with "the religious basis of Woman's Suffrage."

The Bishop at once lifted the subject to the highest plane and kept it there. There was to be no trifling with a sacred subject, no uncertainty about its inspiration. He seemed to embody in himself the spirit of penitence for the past neglect of the Church, and urged that it was her duty to take part in this battle for justice and truth. God was revealing to women visions, and "the Church must interpret the visions of God," he said.

Mrs. Creighton, widow of the late Bishop of London, reasoned wisely of the necessity of liberty for the full development of a woman's character, and denounced the craven spirit of those who went through life fearing innovations.

Rev. F. M. Green, giving a brief account of the growth and development of the League, announced that in the short space of four years, it had a membership of nearly 6,000, including 400 of the clergy and seven Bishops. The bannerettes of the hundred Branches of the League, floated from both sides of the gallery, to emphasize the pleasing fact of its growth. Mr. Green asked for £1,000. Before the meeting closed, he announced that £710 had been given and promised. The money was presented to the Bishop in purses, by girls in white dresses, and wearing the colours of the League.

In the year of Grace 1687, seven Bishops were in revolt against the king who arrogated to himself unconstitutional powers, and one of them was Ken. In the year of grace 1913, seven Bishops are in revolt against the State, representing the King, and one of them is Ken—sington!

The seven Bishops of the 17th century refused to submit to a wrong, which the autocratic King James II. wished to impose, and suffered for it. The seven Bishops of the 20th century refuse to submit to the continuance of a wrong imposed by an autocratic Prime Minister, and are suffering for it.

The early Bishops won their battle and made history. The present Bishops will do the same. All honour to them!

BEATRICE KENT.

"VICE ITS OWN REWARD."

Mrs. Cobden Sanderson writes:—

I am sorry Mrs. Nevinson thought from my previous article that I doubted the accuracy of her statement that an unmarried mother of three illegitimate children had received the maternity benefit in a workhouse. As I then stated, the Insurance Act takes no account of morals, and the married and unmarried mothers are treated alike if entitled to the maternity benefit. The unmarried mother getting it through her own personal insurance, whilst the married mother may have it in respect of her husband's insurance. Surely it would be unfair to deprive the unmarried mother, who has been forced to pay her insurance stamps, of the benefit, even if there are "struggling young men outside who frequently cannot afford to marry or have legitimate families of their own." I still say, however, that the statement that "the only benefit paid to insured women in the workhouses is the maternity benefit paid to the mothers of the illegitimate children" is inaccurate, and I think any secretary of an approved society would agree with me.

Many Boards of Guardians try to recover the cost of sick maintenance, including maternity cases, by granting it in the form of a loan; this, however, could only be recovered in a County Court or in a Court for the recovery of debts, and I should very much like to have a test case tried. In most cases the recipients pay what is asked, under the impression that they have no choice. In order, however, to make the repayment more sure, the Holborn Board of Guardians is sending round the following resolution to the different Boards of Guardians for them to forward to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of the Insurance Commissioners:—

"That it is desirable steps should be taken, in conjunction with other Boards of Guardians, to obtain an amendment of the National Insurance Act, so that Guardians may be enabled to recover sick benefits from insured persons (without dependents) who become inmates of a Poor Law infirmary, and apply the same towards the cost of their maintenance."

I should like to know whether a baby is considered a dependent, and I am writing to the Holborn Board to ascertain.

QUALITY AND VALUE.

A perusal of the illustrated catalogue of the Goldsmiths and Silversmiths Company, Ltd.—which can be obtained post free from 112, Regent-street, London, W.—convinces me that purchasers of gem jewellery and gold and silver plate may there obtain the utmost value for their money.

BRANCH NOTES.

Will Branch Secretaries kindly write their reports very distinctly and briefly on ONE SIDE of a sheet of paper, leaving a margin on the left, and address them to the Editor, THE VOTE Office, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, London, W.C.? A halfpenny stamp is sufficient; the flap of the envelope should be tucked inside. All reports must reach the office on or before the first post on Monday mornings.

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

All members are asked to visit the office on Monday, December 22, and Tuesday, December 23. Merchandise will be on sale, and goods left from the recent sale at the social will be sold at reduced prices. We look for support to increase the funds. The office will be closed from December 24 to January 5, inclusive.

At our evening meeting, on December 9, Mr. Stewart Robertson, M.A., gave an excellent address entitled "A Study in Origins." The speaker's remarks were a tribute to the memory of Mary Wollstonecraft and her well-known "Vindication of the Rights of Women," from which extracts were given.

East London.

Members who wish to have photographs of the members who walked through the Forest on Sunday, December 7, please apply to Miss Nixon Glencoe, Queen's-road, Loughton. They are twopenny each. Mrs. Findon has kindly undertaken to make marmalade for the Branch. Kindly send orders soon to the Branch secretary. Everyone please resolve to make at least one new member during the holidays.

Streatham and Thornton Heath.

On December 11 we had a very successful meeting at Clock Tower, Thornton Heath. Miss Trotter made an excellent chairman. Miss Eunice Murray addressed a very large crowd for over an hour. She smilingly but relentlessly denounced Mr. Asquith and his Cabinet for their unfair treatment of women, and this with scarcely a murmur of opposition from the crowd, which is most remarkable considering the hostility we usually meet with. Our usual Radical opponents were present, but they seemed to be held speechless by her arguments; only one ventured a question at the proper time. Many expressed admiration for the speaker's arguments. Many copies of THE VOTE were sold and new members were made, so we all hope Miss Murray will come again soon. Mrs. Pyart now has tickets (6d. each) for Miss Boyle's debate on January 16. Greatest excitement is prevailing over this; so all W.F.L. members requiring tickets should secure them at once. It has been necessary to alter the date of Mrs. Macgregor's whist drive from December 31 to January 7.

PROVINCES—Hanley.

On Friday evening, December 5, Miss Andrews addressed a meeting of working-men at the Providence Chapel, and on Monday, December 8, she addressed the Mothers' Union in the same hall. There were 180 women present and they listened attentively to an account of the White Slave Traffic. On Monday evening, Mrs. Despard and Miss Andrews were the speakers at a meeting in the Temperance Hall; the Potteries were glad to welcome Mrs. Despard once again. Several new members have joined the Branch.

Ipswich.

On December 11 we held our last working party and now hope for a brisk sale during the next ten days. We have decorated our shop in the colours to make it as attractive to purchasers as to the numerous children who come to gaze at the fairy and other dolls. We have to thank many members for their kind gifts and all for the enthusiastic way they have worked to ensure a successful sale. Next Thursday will be a specially interesting day, and we hope that Mrs. Tippett will be present and speak to us.

Middlesbrough.

A Branch meeting was held last Monday night in Hinton's Café. After business had been arranged, Miss Winifred Jones, at the invitation of the Branch, read a play she has recently written, entitled "William the Conqueror." Although it does not deal directly with the Suffrage question, it depicts the intellectual and moral triumph of a woman who breaks the chains of environment and tradition because of her realisation of her right to follow her individual line of thought and action. Mrs. Schofield Coates, in expressing the congratulations and appreciation of the Branch, asked if the play might be produced locally by the W.F.L. Miss Jones gave her assent, and it was decided to give it on March 26, in the Victoria Hall. Will members please send in presents for Christmas tree to the Victoria Hall, from 2 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, December 23?

Portsmouth and Gosport.

The discussion meeting on December 9 was the last before Christmas. There was a splendid attendance, and Mrs. Milderigh read a delightful paper on "The Necessity for Unbiased Opinions." Not only was the paper delightful, but it was charmingly delivered. An animated discussion followed, several of the speakers disagreeing with some of Mrs. Milderigh's ideas. The next meeting will be on January 13, 1914, at "The Castle Tea Rooms," when Miss Phillips will speak on "The Position of Women in Commerce." See forthcoming events for Miss Boyle's meeting.

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

At the Branch meeting on December 3 Mrs. Lamont read a paper on "Women in Industry." As Mrs. Lamont has done much good work in connection with the organising of women workers, the paper was of great practical interest and gave rise to an animated discussion. The following Wednesday Dr. Aimee Gibbs introduced a discussion on Mrs. Galichian's book, "The Truth about Women." Dr. Gibbs gave a concise resume of the main arguments of the book, and paid tribute to its great interest and usefulness as a mine of information. She differed, however, from many of the conclusions arrived at, being of opinion that the importance of fatherhood should be emphasised no less than that of motherhood. Several of those present took part in the discussion. Miss Sara Munro presided over a good attendance.

Women's Freedom League.

BRANCH AND GROUP SECRETARIES.

BRANCHES—LONDON.

Bowes Park.—Miss TODD, 34, Highworth-road, New Southgate, N.
Bromley, Kent.—Mrs. LOVEDAY, 102, London-road, Bromley, Kent.
Clapham.—Mrs. EDITH SMITH, 37, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park.
Croydon.—Mrs. TERRY, 9, Motland-avenue, Croydon.
East London.—Miss E. B. ADAMS, 37, Wellington-buildings, Bow, E.
Finchley.—Miss MOSDITCHIAN, 40, Fallow Court-avenue, N. Finchley, and Miss HEPWORTH, Rastrick, Nether-street, Finchley, N.
Hackney.—Mrs. PIROTTI, 31, Walsingham-road, Clapton, N.E.
Hampstead.—Mrs. SPILLER, 63, South Hill Park, Hampstead, N.W.
Harrow.—Mrs. HUNTERMAN, Rions, Northwick Park-road, Harrow.
Herne Hill.—Miss W. M. SPRIGGS, 69, Danecroft-road, Herne Hill.
Highbury.—Miss JOHN, 11, Canonbury-park South, Canonbury, N.
Kensington.—Miss REEVES, 16, Bracewell-road, N. Kensington.
Mid-London.—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Ealing.
Northern Heights.—Miss A. MITCHELL, Merok, Great North-road, Highgate.
Richmond.—Mrs. D'AUVERGNE SHELTON, 30, Graemesdyke-avenue, East Sheen.
Stamford Hill.—Mrs. THOMSON, 7, East Bank, Stamford Hill.
Streatham and Thornton Heath.—Mrs. GUILD, 32, Buckleigh-road, Streatham.
Tottenham.—Miss P. ROBERT, 30, Lausanne-road, Hornsey, N.
West Hampstead.—Mrs. VAN RAALTE, 23, Pandora-road, W. Hampstead.

PROVINCES.

Aintree.—Mrs. SHAW, 15, Chatsworth-avenue, Aintree, Liverpool.
Bournemouth.—Miss FORD, Heather Cot, Bengal-rd., Winton, Bournemouth.
Brighton and Hove.—Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove, Sussex.
Burnage.—Mrs. BRICKHILL, 33, South-avenue, Garden Village, Levenshulme, Manchester.
Cheltenham.—Miss EDMONSON, 2, Clarence-street, Cheltenham.
Chester.—Miss WOODALL, 13, Abbey-square, Chester.
Eccles.—Miss J. HEYES, The Schoolhouse, Beesley Green, Worsley, Manchester.
Gravesend.—Miss ROLLINSON (pro tem.), Kismet, Pier-road, Rosherville, Gravesend.
Grays.—Mrs. TUNSTALL, 3, Heath-road, Chadwell St. Mary, near Grays, Essex.
Huddersfield.—Miss MATTHEWS, 21, Fir-tree-terrace, Huddersfield.
Hartlepool.—Mrs. ENGLISH, 23, Carlton-street, West Hartlepool.
Ipswich.—Mrs. HOSSACK, 49, Berner-street, Ipswich.
Leichworth.—Miss LEE, Thistle-down, 2, Norton Way North, Leichworth.
Liverpool.—Mrs. EVANS, 49, Kimberley-drive, Gt. Crosby, Liverpool.
Manchester.—Miss A.E. HORDERN, 478, Stockport-road, Longsight, Manchester.
Middlesbrough.—Miss A. MAHONY, 35, Albert-terrace, Middlesbrough.
Portsmouth.—Mrs. WRETTON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.
Potteries.—Mrs. PEDLEY, 18, Bower-street, Hanley, Staffs.
Sheffield.—Miss J. MACDONALD, 21, Harcourt-road, Sheffield.
Southampton.—Mrs. PERRYMAN, Morris Hall, Commercial-road, Southampton.
South Shields.—Mrs. REVELL, 13, Hepscott-terrace, South Shields.
Sunderland.—Mrs. PALLISER, 10, Fox-street, Sunderland.
Torquay and Paignton.—Miss V. SHARMAN, Ivy Lodge, Wellingborough, and Mrs. ENGLAND SMITH, Newstead, Hatton Park, Wellingborough.
Winchester.—Mrs. E. CHILES, Estate Villas, Northwood Park, Winchester.

SCOTLAND.

Dundee.—Mrs. MITCHELL, 13, Clepington-road, Dundee.
Dunfermline.—Miss MCCALLUM, 72, Brucefield-avenue, Dunfermline.
Edinburgh.—Miss JACK, 90, Lothian-road, Edinburgh.
Glasgow.—SECRETARY, Suffrage Shop, 70, St. George's-road, Glasgow.
Kilmarnock.—Miss CLAWFORD, 1, Ferryhill-road, Kilmarnock.
Kirkintilloch.—Miss MCINTYRE, Woodhead-avenue, Kirkintilloch.
Lochgelly.—Miss McPetrie, 6, School-lane, Lochgelly.
Paisley.—Miss DRACUP, 10, Townhead-terrace, Paisley.
Perth.—Mrs. MACPHERSON, 3, Charlotte-street, Perth.
Scottish Scattered.—Miss EUNICE MURRAY, Moore Park, Cardross, Dumbarton.

WALES.

Aberdare.—
Barry.—Miss B. ELLIS, 11, Gaen-street, Barry.
Cardiff.—Mrs. WHALE, 33, Stacey-road, Cardiff.
Montgomery Boroughs.—Miss A. M. CLARK, 11, Severn-street, Newtown, N. Wales.
Swansea.—Miss HUTTON, 9, Sketty-road, Uplands, Swansea.

GROUPS.

Newbury and Thatcham.—Miss M. ASHMAN, Broad-street, Thatcham.
Peckham.—Mrs. PICKERING, 23, Albert-road, Peckham.
Sale.—Miss GELER, Thornlea, Wardle-road, Sale, Cheshire.
Stowmarket.—Mrs. FOSTER, The Willows, Haughey, near Stowmarket, Suffolk.
Walkden.—Mrs. ROGERSON, 6, Mayfield-avenue, Walkden, near Manchester.
Wolverhampton.—Miss K. TROTT, Saighton Manor, Chester.
Wolverhampton.—Mrs. CRESSWELL, 25, Rugby-street, Wolverhampton.
Woolpit.—Mrs. FOSTER.

BRANCH NOTES (Continued)

The Christmas Sale held on Saturday raised a good sum for the funds. Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Colquhoun, Mrs. Crabbe and Mrs. Russell, and the Misses Dundas Grant, Nannie Brown, Thomson, Ireland and Henderson were kept busy at their respective stalls; Mrs. Jackson and a band of assistants in providing teas; and Mrs. Simpson in her capacity as palmist. Councillor Fisher formally opened the Sale, thus adding to the debt of gratitude owed him by the Branch. Meetings for 1914 will begin on January 14, when Mrs. Murray will speak, and an interesting syllabus is being prepared for the spring session.

Lochgelly.

At our monthly meeting, on December 9, we had the pleasure of hearing Miss A. B. Jack again. She spoke for a short time outside the hall to a good and attentive audience, part of which adjourned into the hall, where Miss Jack finished her splendid address.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Men's League for Women's Suffrage.

MEN'S LEAGUE FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE (Camberwell and Forest Hill Group) will hold a Public Meeting on Friday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, S.E. Speaker: Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. Music and recitations. All are welcome.

Women's Tax Resistance League.

Mrs. Kineton Parkes has just returned from Ireland, where successful public meetings were held in Dublin and Cork, and tax resistance resolutions passed. She attended, as delegate for the Women's Tax

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L.

LONDON AND SUBURBS.

Fri., Dec. 19.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, High-street, Annual Branch Meeting, 8 p.m.

1914.

Wed., Jan. 7.—STREATHAM, 67, Greyhound-lane (by kind invitation of Mrs. Macgregor), Whist Drive, 7.30 p.m. Tickets, 1s.

Thurs., Jan. 8.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Mid-London Branch Quarterly Meeting, 7.30 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 17.—CAXTON HALL, W.F.L. Carnival, 3 p.m. till 10 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 19.—W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Discussion Meeting, 8 p.m., to be opened by Madame Malmberg. Subject: "Is the Woman's Movement identical with the Eastern Revolutionary Movement?"

Wed., Jan. 21.—Caxton Hall, 3.30 p.m. Public Meeting. Speakers: Miss Cicely Hamilton and others.

Tues., March 3.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of *Madame Marcelle*, by Miss C. Maud, and *Courage* (a Dutch play), by K. H. (Evening).

Tues., March 24.—CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, Performance of *Hawatha* (afternoon).

PROVINCES.

Tues., Dec. 23.—Middlesbrough, Victoria Hall, Christmas Tree Party, 7.30 to 12 p.m. Short speeches by Mrs. Schofield Coates and Miss W. M. Jones. Music, dancing, games, &c. Tickets, 1s. each.

Wed., Dec. 31.—Southsea, Derrynane, Aston-road, 7.30 p.m., Whist Drive.

Tues., Jan. 13.—Portsmouth, Castle Tea Rooms, 7.30, Members' Meeting. Speaker: Miss Phillips.

Tues., Jan. 27.—Portsmouth, Lower Albert Hall, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Speakers: Rev. G. W. Thompson and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Mrs. Whetton.

Wed., Jan. 28.—Portsmouth, Dockyard Gates, Dinner-hour Meeting. Speaker: Miss Nina Boyle. Southampton, Morris Hall, Public Meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Nina Boyle and Mr. Laurence Housman. Chair: Mrs. Rothwell.

Fri., Jan. 30.—Bournemouth, St. Peter's Hall, Hinton-road, 8 p.m., Public Meeting. Laurence Housman, Esq., and Miss Nina Boyle. Chair: Miss Underwood.

SCOTLAND.

Thurs., Jan. 8.—Dundee, Whist Party.

Wed., Jan. 14.—Edinburgh, 90, Lothian-road, 7.30 p.m., "At Home." Speaker: Mrs. Murray.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

Fri., Jan. 9.—Wallington, Women's Adult School. Speaker: Miss Munro.

Fri., Jan. 16.—THORNTON HEATH PARLIAMENT. Debate, "That this Parliament Provide for the Representation of the People by Granting Votes to Women Without Delay." Affirmative: Miss Nina Boyle. Negative: Miss Mabel Smith.

OTHER SOCIETIES (Continued from page 133)

Resistance League, the Suffrage Conference held in Dublin, and spoke upon the present position of Women's Suffrage. She also took part in the public debate with the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, on which occasion the Suffragists won by a large majority.

SPECIAL OFFER TO READERS OF "THE VOTE."

Everyone who wears glasses knows that not only comfort but health depends upon lenses and correct fitting. We recommend all who have any trouble with their eyes to consult Messrs. A. E. McLean, Ophthalmic Opticians and Surgical Mechanicians, 37, Aldwych, Strand, who make a special offer to supply our readers with toric lenses at 7s. 6d. per pair spherical, or 10s. 6d. per pair compound. The advantage of the toric over other lenses is that owing to a deep curve, the sight is uniform on the whole surface and not only in the centre. From past experience we know that Messrs. McLean are well qualified to give satisfaction to all who consult them.

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WRITES "Mr. Gossip" in *The Daily Sketch*:—"A short while ago, as Mr. Chesterton was crossing the pavement from Essex Hall to his waiting taxicab, after presiding at a gathering of that very latest novelty in political parties, the National League for Clean Government, I saw him surrounded by an eager band of members of the Women's Freedom League proffering copies of their weekly paper, THE VOTE, the reading of which I trust Mr. Chesterton enjoyed on his homeward journey."



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AN APPEAL.

"THE VOTE" ADVERTISEMENT DEPARTMENT

(Extract from the Report of the Directors.)

AN examination of the details of the Trading Account has shown that a fairly creditable average has been maintained in the Advertisement Department, but in order that the accounts may be held and increased, it is necessary that the Advertisers shall be well patronised, and the Directors appeal to all members to support those firms who support the paper, to regard the Advertiser not merely as an ordinary trader knocking at the door of the consumer, but as one of the most important factors in building up "THE VOTE."

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We accept Announcements of Suffrage and kindred Meetings for this Column at the rate per single insertion of 2s. for 24 words, 1d. every additional word; four insertions at the price of three. All Announcements must be Prepaid, and, to ensure insertion, should reach the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, VOTE Office, 2, Robert-st., Adelphi London, by the *First Post on Tuesday Morning.*

NOTICE.—The ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE announce that the BIRTHDAY PARTY at the Empress Rooms, on Thursday, December 18, has been unavoidably POSTPONED TILL JANUARY 29, 1914.

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