

THE VOTE

(THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.)

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ONE PENNY.

NOTICE.

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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.

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WHAT WE THINK.

Testing Alloy.

Mr. Churchill warned his followers that in voting for the Second Reading of our Bill they were really voting for the Third. If there can be any truth in the statement made by a man with a taste for "ratting," then we have won further than even we dared hope. "The majority of 109," said Mr. Brailsford at our Caxton Hall meeting, "obtained after such a display as that, was worth more to your cause than a majority three times as great obtained under the dishonest conditions of the earlier debates." Never in the history of the movement have we felt as strong as we do to-day; never in the history of the movement has the same sense of solidarity inspired our speech, our action. We are "practical politics." We can command a majority greater than Tariff Reform, greater than Free Trade, greater than the Veto proposals. We have changed the warfare of our opponents from jokes at our sex to logical reasoning; we have found out the false friends who would sell us and the foolish friends who would still test us. Better a strong old warrior like Mr. Asquith, who never wavers in his opposition, than a politician of the calibre of Mr. Winston Churchill. Blood will out, and the turncoat will always find a coat to turn, a principle to sell, a promise to be faithless to. He slinks away an unheroic figure. Like the publican's bad money, he is nailed down to the counter—a warning to others—apparently honest metal, able for a time to deceive honourable women and honourable men, but, rung on the counter of the House, his face-value is proved untrue and his real value is manifest.

Objections.

Mr. Asquith affects concern for the married women who would not be qualified under the Women Occupiers' or Conciliation Bill; but the married women who have been asking for the Suffrage—who most eagerly and emphatically demand it—are content that they shall stand aside if by doing so they can assist in the establishment of the principle that sex is not a disability. The one organised body with a right to speak for the working women—the Women's Co-operative Guild—in the name of its 25,897 members has given its support to Mr. Shackleton's Bill, and this—if any were needed—is a good test of the attitude of the married working women. Of the democratic nature of the Bill, the support of thirty Labour Members out of a possible forty, of the People's Federation, and

of every democratic body is surely proof enough. In the course of the debate some men told the House that all of us were too good for the Vote; and some men told it that some of us were too bad. Mr. Winston Churchill turned sick with horror at the idea of an immoral woman voting. Would Mr. Winston Churchill give an immoral man a vote and refuse it to an immoral woman? The latter class is a much smaller one than the former, and one Encyclopædia tells us with grim pontificality that immoral women form a separate class of the community—and that immoral men do not. The sinister suggestion would arise that if Mr. Belloc and Mr. Churchill are so much exercised over the thought that a lady who adopts a man's standard of morality might be enfranchised under the new Bill—Mr. Belloc's innuendoes are twin brother to Mr. Churchill's assertions—it may be due to the fact that she is not unlikely to know men's weaknesses best. Another opponent wants us to be the angel at the fireside, forgetting that the female angel generally gets her avicular whiteness made grubby from the fact that she cleans the grate, sets the fire, and not infrequently has no time to warm at it, and that the male and more murky angel, on his return from the City, generally spreads his wings in front of the blaze to such effect that preciously little of it reaches any other celestial bird.

Women Workers in Revolt.

The spirit of revolt has passed through the industrial world, and is creeping, in some cases quickly, in some cases slowly, through every trade in which women are employed. In America last winter 40,000 waist-makers went on strike and picketed the factories for 100 days, in spite of the fact that they were "beaten up" by thugs and policemen, fined by magistrates, and even in some cases sent to the workhouse, and by May Day their cause was won, 354 employers having signed the Union's contract for fifty-four hours a week and a rise in wages; and three miles of them marched up Fifth Avenue singing the "Workers' Marsellaise." The tradition that women cannot strike has been disproved again and again within the last twelve months, and now news of a new strike of 25,000 women cloak-makers in New York has reached us. With the news of this last strike comes the report of the refusal of Union rates to women workers in co-operative stores at Manchester. In March last a petition to which upwards of 13,000 signatures were appended was presented to the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society at Manchester. A reply has been received stating that "After a careful review of the position and the whole of the circumstances the directors regretted they could not see their way to adopt the recommendation." As long as it is suspected by employers that women cannot enforce their demands, just so long will fair wages be denied them, just so long will they be refused their places side by side with men on the committees and councils either of Trade Unions or of Co-operative Societies, just so long will men imagine that they can be made the ill-paid drudges of the labour market. The victory recently won by the Neilston factory girls ought to have been a warning to employers, whether individual capitalists or co-operative, and the serious unrest amongst ill-paid women is spreading everywhere. In the Bible we are told that a judgment may be expected by "those that oppress the hireling in his wages."

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PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT. GREAT PROCESSION AND MASS MEETING.

With our opponents aroused, and fighting with their backs to the wall in a last desperate effort to defeat the Cause, Suffragists must show a united front; therefore the Women's Freedom League is joining with the other Suffrage Societies in the great DEMONSTRATION initiated by the National Women's Social and Political Union, to be held in Hyde Park on Saturday, July 23rd.

Before the meeting we shall walk in procession, and every member and sympathiser is urged to take part. In the teeth of the opposition the Conciliation Bill has been read a second time, with a majority of over 100, and the Government must be made to recognise the tremendous earnestness of the demand for facilities. Before the Bill 12,000 women marched; now we must have 20,000 in line. No one who cares for the Cause can stand aside at this critical moment.

The Women's Freedom League section forms up on the Embankment, east of Temple Pier (close to Temple Station, District Railway), 3 p.m. sharp.

This time the special scheme of Miss Edith Craig, who has again most generously agreed to organise the procession, will not call for sub-groups, but prisoners and picketers will walk under their own banners. Should anyone be unavoidably prevented she is urged to find a substitute without fail and send in her name to the office.

In order to prevent confusion *Pickers* should be at the office on Saturday at 2 p.m., and report themselves to Miss Ada Mitchell, who is responsible for the arrangement of the picketers.

Prisoners are asked to meet Miss Thompson at 2.45 outside Temple Station (District Railway), opposite Norfolk Street, Strand.

Graduates are requested to walk in their academic robes. They, too, should assemble at the office at 2 p.m., and report themselves to Mrs. H. W. Nevins. Branch banners are not required. All members having pennons, however, are asked to bring them, as they will form an important part of the display. It is particularly desired that as many as possible of our members will wear white dresses and walk without hats (these may be left at 1, Robert Street). The White Section will lead. We are looking forward to a large contingent from centres outside London, as fortunately there are at the present time excursion rates from everywhere. Hospitality will gladly be provided for those members who make immediate application.

Sympathisers as well as members are invited to help in this Demonstration, and every woman who reads this, and who cares for the tremendous issues which are at stake, is asked to join us, and to bring her friends. Those who cannot come can still help by contributing to the expenses of this Demonstration, which will be a severe strain on the resources of the League. Success depends on sacrifice, and we must all pay our share in service, in money, or in both.

Please send contributions to Mrs. Despard for the special Procession and Demonstration Fund.

Those who cannot walk in the procession can have seats reserved in special landaus, on application, at 3s. each, providing early application is made. The carriages and motor cars will start from Blackfriars Bridge.

Will anyone who can give any information *re* decorations used on carriages in the last Procession please do so at once to Miss Tucker at 1, Robert Street, as some are still missing?

In Hyde Park we shall have Platforms No. 7, 8, and 9, and members and friends unable to join us on the Embankment are asked to meet at these platforms at 5.30 p.m.

Resolutions will be put to the meeting at 6.30.

Trafalgar Square Demonstration.

Following the Hyde Park meeting the Women's Freedom League will hold an important DEMONSTRATION in Trafalgar Square at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 24th inst. Mrs. Billington-Greig and several of the N.E.C. members and other speakers will take part. It should be of quite special interest. Friends are asked to volunteer as banner-bearers, THE VOTE and literature sellers, and stewards. In addition to this numerous other NEXT STEP DEMONSTRATIONS are being held in London and throughout the country, particulars of which may be found in another column.

Eastbourne Holiday Centre.

This is now being worked by Mrs. Dilks and Miss Munro, and promises to be a great success. Members who have not yet chosen vacation quarters are recommended to Eastbourne, where they will find pleasant companionship and comradeship in the work. Arrangements will gladly be made at special terms for members desiring accommodation, and free quarters can be provided for those who are willing to help energetically. A Cycling Corps will be organised and a vigorous campaign carried on. Those prepared to join should send in their names to the Propaganda Department at once.

"The Vote" Sellers.

The sale to the outside public in London is going up by leaps and bounds, but must be pushed still more vigorously. Will members willing to help communicate at once with Mrs. Snow, 1, Robert Street? They will be wanted at the demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday. Literature sellers are also urgently required, and are asked to communicate with Miss Hicks, our Hon. Literature Secretary. For the procession on Saturday men are wanted to help as THE VOTE sellers.

Acton Branch.

A new Branch is being formed here, and all members, sympathisers, and friends are asked to send in their names to B. Borrmann Wells.

Special Notices.

The offices at 1, Robert Street are open every evening until 9 p.m., and members, friends, and sympathisers are always welcome. B. BORRMANN WELLS.

"STAND FIRM!"

"Stand Firm!" That is the message that we must send now in our thousands. The two hundred and ninety-nine members of the House who, defying the Government's strong invitation to wreck the Conciliation Bill, voted for the Second Reading, must be made to understand that the whole body of Suffragists in the country look to them now to carry it to a triumphant conclusion. They must be left in no sort of doubt as to our attitude in the matter. Any lowering of their flag to the Cabinet's tyranny will strengthen the most insolent autocracy that the House of Commons has ever been asked to tolerate. It will be a subversion of the whole principle of representative government. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane have both stated in unmistakable terms that, if the House desired it, they ought to be given opportunities of dealing effectively with this question. They have proved that they do desire it; they have only to stand firm, then, and the Government *must* give way.

But we must strengthen their attitude by every possible expedient that we can think of. Every Suffragist should write to as many as she can of those who voted for the Second Reading of the Bill, and point out that she hopes and expects them to support the policy of the Conciliation Committee in demanding further facilities from the Government.

Meetings should be held continually where the following resolution should be put, and a copy, signed by the chairman and giving time and place of meeting, should

be sent to members of the Government and the local member:—

"This meeting, taking into consideration the fact that the Conciliation Bill for Women's Suffrage passed its Second Reading by a majority of 109, calls upon the Government to grant facilities for its passing into law this session, so that the strongly-expressed will of the House may prevail."

All women who would become voters under the new Bill should make a special point of that in their letters to members whom they can influence in any way. Every London branch should send a small deputation to the House during the next week if possible, see their local member, and impress upon him the great support that this question is receiving in his constituency—particularly if he be an opponent of the Bill. And wear your colours everywhere. Remember that green is the colour of hope, and we are justified in being hopeful. Let everyone know that we regard our Bill as full of life and promise yet. Let the green, white, and gold of the League be ubiquitous, giving the lie to the "Antis'" statement that women do *not* want the vote.

"Stand firm!" Suffragists all, both inside and outside the House, and victory will surely come.

MARION HOLMES.

W. F. L. MEETING AT CAXTON HALL, JULY 13.

On Wednesday evening there was a crowded meeting at the Caxton Hall to consider the political situation resulting from the Second Reading of the Bill and the plans of the League for the near future. The hall was decorated with the colours of the League, the prisoners' banners bearing the names of our stalwarts were hung from the balcony, and the great devices of the League and its motto formed the background to the speakers on the platform. The meeting was most enthusiastic, the majority being taken as a favourable omen, and the need for immediate pressure being brought to bear on the Government was the theme of most of the speeches. Mr. Brailsford, the Hon. Secretary of the Conciliation Committee, to whose efforts when lobbying the Bill owes its origin, gave us a fine address. Mrs. Despard made an appeal for names for danger duty, and met with an immediate response, Mrs. Drysdale being the first to give in her name. A police-inspector in plain clothes was present in the audience taking notes. A large collection resulted from Mrs. Despard's appeal as Treasurer.

Mrs. How Martyn's Opening Address.

Mrs. How Martyn, who was in the chair, in her opening address, said:—

A splendid majority of one hundred and nine! (Applause.) It was proclaimed last night that our Bill has had a great victory in the House of Commons. It is not yet a victory for the cause. (Hear, hear.) It remains very largely with you to turn it into a final victory this session. (Applause.) By its vote last night the House of Commons has vindicated and justified all the sacrifice and all the strenuous devotion of the campaign during the last four years. For this majority was obtained, not after an academic discussion such as had taken place on four or five previous occasions. No, my friends; it was a majority obtained after a serious discussion of the Bill during two whole days of Parliamentary time, and in spite of the determined opposition of Mr. Asquith and the unexpected and traitorous opposition of Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill. Yet they were powerless to move that House of Commons to their will. Now, you have come to-night, I know, to hear what the plans of the W.F.L. are to be. We were prepared for all results, and had the Bill been killed—really killed—last night, Mr. Asquith would have received our answer within a few days in deeds, not words. But we do not regard the Bill as dead. There is a spark of life in it yet, and that spark of life our good and faithful friends of the Conciliation Committee hope to fan into a powerful flame. And, remember, Mr. Asquith refused an early date for the Second Reading, but the Conciliation Committee, backed up by the support of all the Suffrage Societies, was able to make Mr. Asquith concede an early date; and they further hope, I believe, in this instance to get Mr. Asquith to give time for the further stages this session. Now, the Women's Freedom League is going to help them all it can, and we shall continue our efforts until Mr. Asquith has publicly refused to grant these facilities, and that refusal of Mr. Asquith will be taken as the signal for the renewal of hostilities. For, remember, during these months of truce there has not been a cessation of hostilities—there has only been a suspension—and their renewal will mean that on Mr. Asquith will rest the responsibility of having chosen war when he might have chosen peace. Now, we all ought to be very clear on that point. We do not want war; but neither are we going to sit down calmly under an indignity. We cannot any longer consent to be governed without our consent.

Now, one further point I want to touch on, and that is that

Mr. Asquith made a very great deal about not meaning to be frightened by the threats that the women were making. We do not regard the disclosing of our plan as threats. We are expressing our plan of campaign, and we intend to carry it out. I think Mr. Asquith does not realise that he is not dealing with threats, but that he is dealing, or ought to be dealing, with the spirit of revolt which has awakened in women, and which nothing can satisfy but this measure of justice. And we who are the responsible officials of this Suffrage organisation—we are not creating that spirit of revolt. It would be entirely beyond our power to do this. We are only trying to guide it—trying to direct it into channels with as little loss and inconvenience to the community as possible.

We are honoured in having with us to-night Mr. Brailsford, the Hon. Secretary of the Conciliation Committee, and I am going to ask him to move the following resolution: "That in view of the good majority obtained for the Women's Enfranchisement Bill this meeting calls upon Mr. Asquith to find time for the passing into law of the Bill this session."

Mr. Brailsford's Speech.

Mr. Brailsford, who was received with prolonged applause, said:—

I am deeply grateful to this meeting for the kindness with which it has received me, seeing that I am only an official of the Conciliation Committee. But I think that behind your too-generous thanks is a slight misapprehension. You feel, I think, perhaps that those who are doing the utmost for your cause have a sense that the work in which we are engaged is disinterested. I question that. I wish you to understand that our work is not disinterested—that we are working for a public cause which, in our view, affects men and the interests of men, affects our country and the interests of the whole of future generations. We hear, I think, too much on Suffrage platforms about the stigma which rests on your sex by your exclusion from political power. There was a stigma of inferiority in the days when no woman was effectively struggling against this bar. But we do not talk about the stigma that rests upon a rebel when once the flag of revolt is unfurled. He that dares to revolt under it has at once swept away any stigma of inferiority, any badge of servitude, that might previously have clung to him. There remains on you and on all who are struggling with courage and devotion in this great movement—there rests no badge of inferiority, no stigma of sex servitude, on you. The stigma lies rather on the other sex, on the sex which has been content, for the most part, through these years of effort to leave you to do the work and to give you no effective support. You are getting past that stage. There has come a point in your agitation when the courage and devotion of which you have given proof have brought to your side those who are determined to stand by you until your cause is won. You have won the friends that you need for the promotion of your cause.

And now we meet together on the morrow of a momentous debate, which was a debate novel in the history of the Suffrage movement. You had for the first time before the House a Bill which had the support of all parties. It had no other merit than this. It was not a statement of a theory, it was not the embodiment of a definite principle. Your own Bill is the only proper, the only adequate, statement of your theory. Our Bill was a compromise. We had gone down into the mart of politics, where men barter and bargain, and we framed a measure which

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was intended to gain the maximum of sincere support, and we succeeded to the utmost of our hopes. We were able to get on the one hand the support of a number of Unionists who were content with this Bill, and on the other the support of those who accepted it as an instalment, and who thereby proved their sincerity in their own cause. The debate of yesterday was unique in another sense: we had to meet entirely new strategy on the part of the enemy. Hitherto it had been content to let a Suffrage Bill go through without any very serious opposition. The Second Reading had been taken without any effort to carry it any further. If we had said in the lobbies, in regard to this Bill: "You will be perfectly safe to cast your vote for it; the matter is a purely academic one, and will go no farther," we should have had an even larger majority. If Mr. Snowden had been content to sell your cause for Mr. Lloyd George's vote in this way, we should have increased the figure by more than one; but we have our own measure of the value of Mr. Lloyd George's support, and we have done without it. Previous to this debate Mr. Asquith could count upon support in this matter from one or two minor members of his Cabinet. There is Mr. Lewis Harcourt—not a very prominent member—who, if he went into retirement, would scarcely be missed, if at all. Well, there is another Harcourt in the House, and he happens to be in favour of Women's Suffrage. But on this occasion Mr. Asquith had the support of two nominal Suffragists, Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Winston Churchill. They flung themselves into the debate, exercising all the personality and all the magnetism which they have trained themselves to exert in the House. They made speeches calculated to do the greatest possible harm to this cause; they used their utmost resources to defeat the Second Reading—and they failed ingloriously! The majority of 109 obtained after such a display as that was worth more to your cause than a majority three times as great obtained under the dishonest conditions of earlier debates. The meaning of the vote cast for this Second Reading was understood; it had been necessary for us to emphasise it. What did Mr. Churchill say? He said, in effect, that this was not a Second but a Third Reading, and every man who voted for our Bill must be understood to say, "I want this Bill passed into law this session. I want it sent to the House of Lords. I am prepared to fight the House of Lords if they reject it." After an appeal of that sort our majority was 109!

We have the right now to turn to Mr. Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George and say: "You have done your utmost. You have found yourselves in the position of having a very large vote against you, and we demand that you give the facilities required for what is not merely the women's demand, not only the country's desire, but the fully-expressed will of the House of Commons." If I had time to go into the history of this Conciliation Committee, I could tell you of a series of obstacles we have had to face—obstacles which, to my mind, were more serious than the one now before us. When we first met, our best friends, our best fighting men, were ready to say that a non-party solution was an impossibility, and they said further that at all events we could do nothing this session. Then, again, that there was at that time a crisis (about which there was somewhat more noise than reality, while now even the noise is becoming inaudible). After those obstacles had been surmounted we were met with the difficulty that there was no Bill before the House. Not more than eight or nine members had taken the trouble to ballot for a Suffrage Bill, and they had gained no place. That fact shows how little Parliament understands the feeling of the country. But we got over that obstacle, with the result that our Bill came in. Then came the obstacle that the Prime Minister said he would not give us an early date. He would put it down, perhaps, on the last day of the session. There is a great art in time-tables. (Laughter.) You know, when Sir Edward Grey or Lord Lansdowne is negotiating a treaty which might excite comment in the country, the treaty makes its appearance one or two days after the session terminates; and we anticipated that we should be given our date somewhere about the time that the grouse are ready for shooting. Well, that obstacle was overcome by the united efforts of our supporters in the House, who came and signed the memorial to the Prime Minister, and the fact that this memorial was signed by 106 members convinced the Prime Minister that he had better change his mind and give us an early date. We got an early date, and have had the Second Reading. Our opponents did their worst, and we came out with a majority of 109. After that they have not sent the Bill to a Grand Committee, which we thought would have been the easiest and simplest thing to do. They have chosen another way. Well, on them lies the responsibility. They may take which way they prefer. The thing has got to be done; the Bill has got to go through, and it is a matter of complete indifference to us whether it goes through by way of Grand Committee or after having been committed to a Committee of the whole House, and we ask you to let a few more days elapse, so that we can bring pressure to bear upon the men who control the time of the House. We ask you to wait and trust us, if you will be so good. (A voice: How long?) Until we have got our answer. We ask you to trust us. It may seem to you an immodest demand. It is simply for this: you have been at work for five years upon our political education. You have been very efficient teachers. You have brought us to the point of understanding your organisations, your courage and devotion to a single object, your strong and steady and straight line of action; and if you think we have been satisfactory pupils so far, we ask you to trust us a little further, until you see the fruits of your very effective teaching. (Prolonged cheers and applause.)

Mrs. Despard's Address.



MRS. DESPARD.

Mrs. Despard, who was received with prolonged cheers and applause, said:—

Comrades, colleagues, and friends,—I thank you more than I can express for having come here in your numbers to-night, and for the way in which you have received me and my friends. Some people say that it is all a fiction—that women are not really and truly awake, not really and truly alive; but it seems to me that we are very much awake, very much alive. Not only so, but we are determined that we will not go to sleep again. I am perfectly sure that there is not one here who has not listened with the very deepest interest to the speech just given by Mr. Brailsford. I was all the more delighted with his speech, because he has shown that this is not a woman's movement only. I have never spoken about this as merely a woman's movement; I have always said that this is also a man's cause—that this movement affects deeply, and will affect permanently, I am sure, the whole community.

Let us try to get rid of the great halo which surrounds the actual, to project ourselves into the future, using our imagination to try to feature what the result will be of that which we are doing to-day. This was in my mind last night when I went to Parliament Square to learn the fate of our Bill. You know what happened. I want to speak of something deeper—of the undying impression left on those who happened to be there. I arrived in the Square about nine o'clock, and not a great many people were round the House then. I heard bad news. "Churchill has deceived us!" "Is it perfectly true?" "Yes; it is perfectly true." I mixed with one and another; more women appeared—young women ready to sacrifice themselves, women with their colours, women with umbrellas advertising this meeting. I feel I loved them, those who were ready to make themselves look what the world at one time was ready to call ridiculous, but what the world does not call so ridiculous now, for the sake of that which is dearer to all of us than our own lives. I had the pleasure of meeting our clever and delightful friend Dr. Anna Shaw—(loud applause)—who said that she was that night starting on her way back to America, but could not leave without first coming to hear the news. I think that we women and those men who are with us realise that our great cause is not alone a national movement: it is an international one, that the eyes of women all over the world are fixed upon us. Only the other day I heard from Danish and Dutch women that they are watching England closely; they are waiting to see what England is going to do. There lies upon us a great responsibility. I thought of all this outside the House of Commons. I went into the lobby, and I saw there many men and women looking tense and anxious. A Liberal lady said: "If they play us false now we will give up what they call Liberalism!" Young women, old women, and middle-aged women all showed this same strong feeling. Members came backwards and forwards. I saw one, and his face as I saw it last night I shall always remember; it was my friend and comrade, our faithful friend Keir Hardie. (Great applause.) I saw others, who were not Keir Hardies, who were not anything like this our champion. I did not see John Burns. (Hisses.) I saw some who made me wonder how they could possibly be elected representatives of the people. I entered into conversation with one or two of our friends. "Oh, yes; we will vote for you," I heard, "but there will be a very small majority." Later, "The majority has gone: there will be no majority at all!" And so we waited. I came out to speak to my friends outside, and went back, until, finally, eleven o'clock chimed. There was a shout, the division bell was rung, and we waited in suspense. Then Mr. Nevinson—(loud cheers and applause)—came running at full speed to tell those waiting outside, and (whatever they may say in the papers) there were crowds—to tell them of the big majority. "A little handful of young women," says the *Times*! I do not despise young women: the young women of to-day will be representative of England tomorrow. But, indeed, there were women of all ages. There were another few minutes of tense anticipation. "The Bill has passed the Second Reading; it has not yet had a complete victory," I said very calmly. I believe in victory. We are going to have victory; but you know I want the victory soon. We waited with intense anxiety until the second division bell rang. Then we were met by our devoted friends—members of the Men's League, who have been such steady and staunch supporters of our cause. They seemed downcast—could scarcely speak of the last division. I ran out. My friends and I were received with acclamation. I did speak the words reported in the Press: I do not deny it. I said, "We must fight!" And there was an eager response, "Fight fight!" Let me come to the root of this matter—those women, those men, did not mistake my meaning.

Mr. Asquith says "They that take the sword shall perish by the sword!" There is a deep truth behind that. It has ever been in the history of great causes that those who took up the sword for right, for honour, and for liberty have suffered, and some of them, so far as this world is concerned, may have seemed to perish. Perish they did not. They go on living from generation to generation; they will never die while there is a man and woman in this world of ours. But there is nothing literal about the term "sword." We read in the good old Book that there is a "sword of the Spirit," and it is that sword that we are going to use.

I am coming now to the practical part of that which I have to say to you to-night. I agree with what has been already said. We are going to win, but if we are to have the victory we must depend upon ourselves, not upon anyone else. It is in our own hands. We are not going to give ourselves away. We do not mean to give our critics the opportunity of saying: "If you had only kept quiet all would have been well." For a little period we will keep quiet—we hope we shall always be able to be quiet. We hope very shortly to work and fight as our brothers do (quite rightly), with Constitutional weapons. But it may not be so, and we must put that eventually before us.

Let us consider what is really and truly at the back of our great movement. No one can have listened to or read the speeches of the Anti-Suffragists without realising what the opposition means. We women and the best men are fighting for a high and pure and strong ideal, the manifestation of which will be purity of life and manners. Mr. Churchill said that if this Bill passed it would give the Vote to many (as he was pleased to call them) immoral women. (Voice: "What about the men?") Exactly so. What about the men? Our opponents call us by pretty names, so pure, so nice, so honest, so everything that is sweet, and we are to keep all that to ourselves, as the woman's part; while men, well, you know men are men!

My friends, we are out for sweeter manners, purer laws, purer life for men and women—out because we are thinking of our children. Not only religion, but science is making us see the unity of all life, and it is most true that the wrong and misery of one life affect all. Because we know we are one we are out to build up a new order of things in which there shall be a high ideal of purity for men as well as for women, by which the children who come into the world, with all that concerns their coming, shall be held as sacred, shall be thought of with all the love and wisdom we can command. This is at the back of our agitation. This is the meaning of the waking up of women throughout the world.

Power and Peace.

We have passed through a time of considerable tension, and have now to consider how we are to work. First of all, the spirit in which we are to act. I beg every one of my friends altogether to set aside passion. I want everything to be done calmly. I think few of us have any idea of the force of strong, quiet determination. Let me quote from a mystic speaking of a holy one: "And His Presence was as the peace of great power." In great power there is peace; there may appear to be disturbance. It is superficial; the eternal calm is there. I was once at Niagara Falls. I stood close to the head of the cataract and watched the mass of shining waters, soft as silk, curl over the brink of the precipice. The beauty fascinated me, and I cried out to my husband, "Hold me or I shall jump in!" What was the mysterious force that drew me? I have thought since that it was the calm of absolute, relentless power. Down below, where the waters broke, there was raging turmoil; above there was perfect peace. So may it be with the women in their fight! I want to have in every one of us that absolute calm of determination, that mighty force which makes irresistibly for righteousness, justice, and peace. Then there must be union among us. If we have any little discords, any small disagreements, let us drop them! Don't let us lose a moment's time on them. The various societies are gathering their forces together: they are one in the object for which they are working, and the unity of their purpose is becoming more and more evident. That is a good sign, for—make no mistake about it—the time has come when women must stand by women in perfect loyalty. Nothing is more disheartening than to see women, well dressed and not particularly stupid looking, calmly allow men to say to them publicly from a platform, "Of course, naturally, women are inferior to men." This sort of thing amongst us has altogether passed away. Our men—and I am proud to speak of our men—would despise us if we allowed any such thing to be said in our presence without vigorous protest.

One more word, and it is this: I propose to make certain demands on you. I am not going to ask you to do any particular thing to-night. If we get victory all will be well; if we do not we must be prepared for action. And in order to be prepared we must gather our forces together; we must know those who are ready for everything or anything; those who have sufficient trust in the leaders of our society to say that they will give themselves into their hands; to promise "where you go we

will go also." I am ready for whatever may be necessary. (Applause.) We have our plans. (Cheers.) I am ready, if you will grant me the honour, to lead you in anything we may think wise and right.

A vision of the olden time comes before me as I speak. In the dear old Book of the Prophet Isaiah, which I loved as a child, though probably I understood little of it, the prophet said, "I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the Temple, and above it were two seraphims, and the Prophet, filled with consternation, cried out, 'Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell amongst a people of unclean lips.' Then there flew to him a seraph, in whose hand was a live coal from the altar. With this he touched the lips of the Prophet, who immediately knew that he was purified. So when, through the Temple, the call went forth, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for Me?' the fear which in that moment of poignant revelation had paralysed him passed away. His answer was ready: 'Here am I. Send me!' That is a parable for all time. I want to-night to take the names of those who are ready to say, 'Here am I. Send me.' I know it is not everyone who can come. I have heard something of a soldier's life. Not all of them can go to the front; there must be some to stay behind to look after the luggage. Many of them would prefer action, and so it is with many here—some will have to stay behind; but I want the names of those to-night who will say, 'If I am wanted I am here. You will know where to find me.'"

CARAVAN CAMPAIGN.

Thursday saw the "send-off" of the W.F.L. Caravan from Edgware with the return of the sunshine. A little crowd of interested people came to hear Mrs. Despard and Mrs. How Martyn explain the position of women and their need of enfranchisement. After the meeting we were driven on to Watford. On Friday and Saturday we had meetings in the Market Place and near the station. On the whole the audiences were sympathetic, although the monetary results were small. We anticipate staying several more days in Watford before going on to St. Albans. Miss Henderson and Miss Branch have spent a great deal of time and energy in supplying many little wants for the Van, and we are now very comfortable and well cared for.—MARGUERITE A. SIDLEY.

IN PARLIAMENT.

The following instructions to the Women's Franchise Bill have been put on the paper:—

"Mr. Holt,—On Order for Committee on Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill being read, to move, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they may amend the Bill so as to provide that the wife of any man registered as a voter in respect of a household qualification shall also be registered as a voter in respect of that qualification.

"Mr. King,—That it be an instruction to the Committee that they may amend the Bill so as to provide that no woman be registered as a Parliamentary voter until she has first signified in writing that she desires to be so registered.

"Mr. Rea,—That it be an instruction to the Committee that they may amend the Bill so as to provide for the enfranchisement of husband and wife occupying a house of less than £20 annual value."—The *Times*, July 18th.

(See also Mr. Hill's motion, page 153.)

Treasurer's Note.

I wish very heartily to thank those members and friends who have responded to my appeal and to remind all our readers that no member—no friend of the cause of Women's Freedom—can consider herself free of responsibility. The moment is critical, and our expenses are many. The Procession on the 23rd, in which, at the expressed desire of many of our branches, we are taking part; our meetings, our enormously increasing office work, with the necessity, always more urgent, of vigorous propaganda efforts, make constant and exhausting demands upon our Treasury. I know it can all be met; but every member, every friend, every reader of THE VOTE must help us at the centre to bear the burden.—C. DESPARD.



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SATURDAY, JULY 23, 1910.

THE PRESENT POSITION.

Even yet we can say the Women's Suffrage Bill is not dead. There is still the shadow of hope for us. The next few days may see the Bill forced into the House again with further time granted—reluctantly enough, as we know—by the Government for the Committee Stage. This may be. It is not very likely that it will be graciously or willingly done, but it is still possible. We shall hold to this thread of hope until it is snapped.

The circumstances of the debate and divisions on the Second Reading of the Conciliation Bill are known to all, and they have thrown light into many dark places. They have shown with conclusive force that the question of Women's Suffrage can never be relegated again to the slough of the merely academic. The issue of woman's citizenship is at last universally recognised as of grave importance and certain imminence. This is finally clear. We may deduce it first from the uneasiness displayed by our opponents, and from the extent of their organisation against us; and it is also evident in the newly-discovered and quiet determination of the true friends of the Cause.

The debate on the Second Reading showed us more than these things. It showed us that nothing short of Government intervention could prevent our Bill from reaching safe harbourage. The Women's Freedom League has held for long that an untrammelled House would carry a measure enfranchising women in the course of a few weeks from the date of its First Reading. On Tuesday the Government, through Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill, gave us conclusive proof that this is true. In order to prevent the Bill from certain passage into law it was necessary for them to intervene. An effort was made by these two supposed friends within the Ministry to provide Mr. Asquith with an excuse for refusing further facilities for the measure. Their opposition was designed to reduce the majority for the Bill in the Second Reading division, and to prevent the Bill being carried to one of the Grand Committees. But this pretty plan failed to carry to the desired end. The Bill has certainly been sent to a Committee of the whole House—thus far they may claim success—but the majority in its favour is far too large for Mr. Asquith to find an easy escape from the fulfilment of his obligation.

Had this attack from members of the Ministry been spared the measure it would have been certain of passing through the House of Commons this session. Its passage is doubtful now; it is still possible, but very doubtful. And this difference in position is directly due to Ministerial attack. As a direct result of the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill the Liberal vote of 161 for the Second Reading was reduced to 100 in favour of the Bill going to a Grand Committee. When to this is added the very considerable number of Liberal votes turned against the Bill entirely and therefore cast against the Second Reading, the effect of the action of these Ministers will be seen to be serious indeed.

We cannot know, of course, what reasons weighed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Home Secretary when they undertook this extraordinary piece of work. From its nature it is plain that it cannot be regarded as a pleasant piece of work, nor one which would be lightly undertaken. The right-about-face in both cases was too abrupt and too complete to have been easy. It gave a shock to Liberal women throughout the country, and produced in them a sense of betrayal such as they never experienced before. If the Bill is killed at last, if the efforts of the enemy acknowledged and unacknowledged are successful, the work of these two Ministerial wreckers will not be forgotten.

Efforts are already being made to find excuse for this

Ministerial intervention. The *volte face* is described feelingly as a regretted but imperative sacrifice to Party needs. The statement is made that certain resignations from the Cabinet had to be avoided at all cost. But this excuse is mere bluff. It will be credited by no one who is acquainted with British politics—and politicians.

It is the merest convention—and one of the flimsiest—to say that younger Cabinet Ministers, men with higher posts still to gain, regret the resignation of their older and staid colleagues. Such happenings are often their own opportunities. The supporters of the Liberal Party, and of the present Liberal Cabinet—which is quite another thing—whether right or wrong, must probe further before they convince us that such a reason is genuine, or that, being genuine, it is a sufficient excuse.

The chief fact for us is not why this thing was done, but that it was done. To us it is the latest expression of the Government blockade. It throws into emphatic relief the responsibility of the Government for our unenfranchised condition. It makes clear that our anti-Government policy is not only logical, not only justified by the controlling power of the Government of the day over our lives, but is, from a Parliamentary point of view, essential and imperative. This is the lesson for the future—if the Bill be killed.

One other fact stands out for all to see. We have moved the Government one step forward on the right road. Governments are always opposed to new franchises, and male Governments are naturally loth to make a change which includes the double danger involved in a new franchise given to women. Hence we have previously found the Government of the day in active opposition to most of our Women's Suffrage Bills, either officially refusing to accept them or allow them time or consideration, or employing the machinery of office actively against them. But by our efforts during the last four years we have produced a change. This Government has been forced, against its will, in spite of a strong minority in opposition and in spite of the Prime Minister's public refusals, to give special facilities to a Women's Suffrage Bill—these facilities consisting of two days of Government time, and a pledge to allow the effective settlement of the question "if the deliberate intention of the House" should be made clear. Thus the official action of the Government has been made favourable, while unofficial opposition only has been employed against us. This is a distinct advance, and one which must not be overlooked. It shows one of the greatest effects of our political work.

Indirectly this analysis of the position brings us face to face with one of the many unpleasant sides of political activity. The excuses of Liberals on behalf of Mr. Churchill and Mr. Lloyd George, and the newspaper comments and whisperings prior to the division, show that it is recognised as an ordinary usage for a prominent member of the Government to give a public pledge contingent upon certain conditions and then to make use of private but still official means of preventing those conditions from being fulfilled. It needs no comment from women to emphasise the glaring immorality that is revealed by these admissions. But this particular exercise of double dealing will not be allowed to be forgotten in the country, however permissible politicians may think it, if women are again driven back upon rebellion because justice and honour are denied them in the House.

If this Bill is killed the Government will have sowed the whirlwind, and it cannot expect but that it should also reap it.

TERESA BILLINGTON-GREIG.

Speaking at the W.S.P.U. meeting at Queen's Hall on Monday last, Lord Lytton said, regarding the correspondence which had passed between himself and Mr. Churchill, he wished to say that he did not enter into that controversy in any light spirit or with any love for it, because the Home Secretary was the oldest of his political friends; but he had been compelled to do so because he honestly believed that Mr. Churchill was a well-wisher and supporter of the cause. He was astonished to find him voting and speaking, not even in the spirit of a friendly critic, against the Bill, and working for its destruction merely for the love of destruction, without one word of regret. Strenuous efforts were being made to break up their Conciliation Committee. They did not intend to be broken; they intended to go forward with the Bill and not to be satisfied until it was passed into law.



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BRANCH NOTES.

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Despite the inclement weather, an enthusiastic meeting was held in Finsbury Park on Sunday morning, the 17th inst. There was a fair sprinkling of "Antis," but no new arguments were advanced. Mrs. Betham paid her first visit to the locality, and made an interesting speech. The chair was taken by the treasurer of the Branch, and a satisfactory collection was taken. Members are urged to come along and sell the literature.—**ELEANOR C. DYER.**

Herne Hill and Norwood.—32, Geneva Road, Brixton, S.W.

On Monday, July 11th, a meeting was held at 28, Carson Road, Dulwich, at which we passed the resolution calling upon the Cabinet to grant full facilities for the passing into law this session of the Women's Suffrage Bill now before Parliament, and which was sent to Cabinet Ministers. On Sunday, July 17th, a meeting was held in Brockwell Park, the speakers being Mrs. Toyne and Miss Irene Miller. Although the weather was dull, a large and attentive audience listened while Mrs. Toyne described the Anti-Suffrage meeting that had been held on the previous Saturday in Trafalgar Square. The remark of an Anti-Suffragist "that women were a danger to the nation," and which had been applauded by feminine "Antis," was admirably criticised by Mrs. Toyne, who said that the common sense of women tells them that their voice is needed as well as that of men to make just laws for themselves and for their country. Miss Irene Miller also gave a very interesting address, and spoke of the many other societies besides those of the Militant Suffragists that were working for the political emancipation of women, all of which added force and strength to the urgent demand for the Suffrage which the militant societies are making. The next meeting will be held on July 31st, when the speakers will be Mrs. Manson and Mr. Bowden-Smith.—**B. SPENCER.**

Hackney.—Suffrage Shop, 4, Clarence Road.

Our shop is proving useful in many ways. On Monday, July 11, we held a jumble sale, and by this means, as well as by the sale of needlework and sweets, all of Suffragette make, and therefore warranted to please, we were able to raise money to keep our shop going. The sale of THE VOTE has increased during the last fortnight owing to the increased number and zeal of our sellers. Several new members have been made this week, and promise to become active supporters. An excellent meeting was held at

Clapton Square on Saturday, July 16th, at eight o'clock, when Miss Anna Munro addressed a large and interested audience. Many questions were asked, and dealt with to the satisfaction of the crowd, which applauded on several occasions, and even at ten o'clock were not in a hurry to leave us. About two dozen VOTES were sold and a collection taken. On Sunday, at 3.15 p.m., in connection with the N.W.S.P.U., a great demonstration was held in Victoria Park. This was well advertised by an excellent band of chalkers from both societies, who scoured the neighbourhood. Mrs. Holmes and Miss Hicks were the speakers for the W.F.L. Fine, rousing addresses, delivered from four platforms, soon attracted large and interested crowds. The working man's "voice" was constantly heard, but was ably dealt with by Mrs. Holmes, who showed them that the working men and women stand to lose nothing by the Conciliation Bill; rather will both gain when the woman's voice is no longer silenced and her power felt at the ballot-box. Much literature and a large number of VOTES were sold and a collection taken.—**A. G.**

Hayes End.

Miss Weir, of Ealing, made a good speech, and was followed by Mrs. Cunningham. Unfortunately, a band contest proved a counter attraction, and the meeting was small; but the women listened attentively, and a fair number of VOTES were sold.—**M. C.**

Southall.—"Lynton," Dormers Wells, Middlesex.

MARGARINE FACTORY.—Mrs. Cunningham "took on" a meeting here, the first held for the Suffrage, on Monday last, at 6 p.m. There was a fine crowd, very attentive and interested. A fusillade of questions followed, and sixteen copies of the VOTE were sold.—**M. C.**

Brixton.—32, Wynne Road.

We had to abandon two meetings during the last fortnight through rain. However, we had a large audience at Rushcroft Road on Monday, when Miss Cressy spoke. Mrs. Pickering sold two dozen copies of THE VOTE at this meeting, and also took a fair collection.

We held an exceptionally good meeting at the White Horse on Friday, when Mrs. Tanner said that, on account of the holidays, this would be our last meeting till autumn. There was quite a murmur of disappointment, and we were asked "not to desert them altogether." Miss Jenkins sold a fair number of THE VOTE, and the collection quite covered the hire of vehicle.—**K. TANNER.**

Hornsey.—8, Church Lane.

At Hornsey Fire Station, at 8.15 on July 11th, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson spoke to a large audience. Though tired from a board meeting, she was full of her usual dry humour and hard hits; and the crowd asked many questions, and seemed reluctant to go at 9.45. The neighbourhood seems very difficult to sell anything to, but interest is very gradually being awakened, which is observable from the altered demeanour of the frequenters and the increasing number of near neighbours attending. Mr. Chappell, of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, took the chair, and reported progress of Brighton, where he had spent his holiday.—**M. S. S.**

Manchester District.—Miss Manning, B.A., Harper Hill, Sale, Cheshire.

Manchester (Central Branch).—9, Albert Square.

The Bill passed by a large majority has been referred to a Committee of the Whole House, and our indignation on Wednesday morning led to the arranging of a joint protest meeting in Heaton Park on Sunday, the 17th. On this occasion all arrangements were made by the N.W.S.P.U. We held meetings and distributed bills, and our joint efforts resulted in a mass meeting around two platforms, on one of which the League was represented by Miss Neal, Miss Manning, and Miss Heyes, while the N.W.S.P.U. speakers were Miss Lillian Williamson, B.A., Miss Rose, and Miss Drummond. In spite of the piercing wind an audience of several thousands stood attentively through the long speeches, applauded every point, put many questions, and passed the resolution, though by a smaller majority than last Sunday. This week we have to thank Miss Lea, Miss Brock, and the members of the Swinton Branch for generous donations towards the organisation fund. Will members please remember that the tremendous pressure put upon us by the present crisis makes serious inroads on the treasury, and that more and increased subscriptions are required?—**M. E. MANNING.**

North-East District.—Mrs. Schofield Coates, Wilstrop House, Roman Road, Middlesbrough.

Middlesbrough.

On Thursday evening, July 14th, a meeting was held in the Market Place to protest against the shelving of the Suffrage Bill. Mrs. Coates Hansen presided, and made a vigorous attack on the members of the Government who had opposed the Bill, and was followed by Mrs. Schofield Coates, who gave an animated address. The audience was large and sympathetic, and a resolution urging on the Government the necessity of granting facilities for the passing of the Bill was carried unanimously. The following evening another meeting was held in a different quarter of the town. The chair was taken by Miss W. M. Jones, and Mrs. Schofield Coates again spoke, and riveted the attention of a large crowd by a vigorous and eloquent address.—**LOTTIE MAHONY, Hon. Secretary.**

East Anglia.—Miss C. Andrews, 160, Norwich Road, Ipswich.

Ipswich.—160, Norwich Road. There was a good attendance of members and friends at our branch meeting last Thursday. Mrs. Willis presided, and the speakers were Mrs. Gordon and myself. Disappointment was expressed that Sir Daniel Goddard had voted against the second reading of our Bill, and Mr. Silvester Horne, although voting for the second reading, had voted for the Bill to be referred to a Committee of the whole House. The Pageant Committee meets this week to make arrangements for the Pageant of Famous Women which Miss Edith Craig has kindly promised to arrange for us in Ipswich on October 20th.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Felixstowe. We are hoping to have our caravan in Felixstowe by the beginning of August, and are looking for a suitable pitch. Will any friends in or near Felixstowe who can spare time to help please communicate with me? There is work of all sorts to be done.—CONSTANCE E. ANDREWS.

Sheffield.—32, Dover Road. An outdoor meeting was held at one of the entrances to Whiteley Wood on Monday evening, 11th inst., when Mr. C. G. Wilkinson took the chair and Miss G. Clarke spoke. A fair-sized and attentive crowd was attracted, and remained to the end of the meeting. A collection was taken and THE VOTE sold.

On Saturday, the 16th, the local W.S.P.U. and the W.F.L. Branch united in promoting a large demonstration on the Crookesmoor Recreation Ground at 6.30 p.m. The Women's Freedom League had two platforms, on one of which Mr. Cuthbert G. Wilkinson took the chair, and Miss Gertrude Clarke and Miss Janet Heyes (Manchester) were the speakers; on the other the chair was taken by a local member, and Mrs. Sproson (Wolverhampton) and Mr. Richard Hawkin spoke.

When the moving crowds had been riveted an excellent hearing was given to all speakers, and the listeners stayed to the end.

Resolutions calling upon the Government to grant facilities to the Representation of the People's Bill were passed almost unanimously at both platforms, the dissentients numbering only six, two of whom were youths. All the copies of THE VOTE were sold and a collection taken.

On the 15th inst. Mrs. R. Thompson gave an "At Home" to members of the branch and friends, when the new banner was unfurled by Miss G. Clarke, and a good collection taken to defray its cost.

East Sussex.—Mrs. Dilks, 39, Milton Road, Eastbourne. **Eastbourne.**

This week we have had two excellent meetings on the beach. On Monday, July 11th, Mrs. Francis very kindly came over from Brighton, and gave a most earnest and eloquent address. We had a few questions at the close, mostly on the militant methods. The resolution calling on the Government to grant further facilities for the passing into law of the Conciliation Bill was passed with one dissident. There must have been about 200 people, probably more, present. On Saturday, July 16th, we were fortunate in securing Mrs. Nevinston as our speaker, and we had an even larger attendance than on the previous occasion, and a very large number of men. They fully appreciated Mrs. Nevinston's dry humour, and a great many questions were put at the close. Police regulations oblige us to close at nine o'clock, but the crowd was very loth to go, and after we had closed the meeting it broke up into groups, discussing the subject. Several men told me they were on our side, and had been converted through the open-air meetings. The collection was fairly good, and for once we sold all THE VOTES we had, and could have done with more.—A. DILKS.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

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Glasgow. CLYDE CAMPAIGN.—Meetings this week have been held at Kirm, Greenock, Port Bannatyne, Rothesay, Gourrock, and Largs. They have been well attended and successful, both collections and sales of literature being considerably larger than last week. We find, too, much support from the crowd, as well as sympathy—votes of thanks, "Three cheers for the Suffragettes" and invitations to come again soon being frequently called for by members of our audiences. At Kirm we had hearty support from an ardent Liberal because he considered votes for women meant "votes for temperance." At Largs some working women answered forcibly and to the point the argument of a gentleman who spoke rather sentimentally about "the foot that rocks the cradle ruling the world," to the great delight of the crowd. Our meeting in Gourrock was largely attended; in fact, the meetings during the week-end have been particularly successful, as Miss Julia Wood has given much help in collecting and selling literature, the people in the crowd being unable apparently to resist her appeals for help. Mr. A. C. Wood also helped us splendidly, besides rendering moral support by attendance at the meetings. We find that our collections are larger, our sales of literature more satisfactory, when we have plenty

of helpers, and for the sake of the League I ask that all members who can spare the time will give help in this way. An hour or two, a day or two, a week or two of help will be gladly welcomed. Our headquarters during August will be at Ayr. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Wood, I have to thank Miss White and Miss Kirby; also Miss Baird, who has given up a week of her holiday to work in this campaign.

During a meeting in Gourrock a member of the audience, who had interrupted repeatedly throughout, exclaimed to a member of the League who was holding the banner, "I suppose when my old woman gets into Parliament I'll have to stay at home and boil the kettle." The banner-bearer was getting rather weary of this gentleman's "wit," and she promptly retorted, "If you had any sense you would boil the water!" Strange to say, the gentleman retired from the scene amid general laughter, and the voice of this particular objector was no more heard.—MADGE TURNER, Organiser.

Edinburgh.—33, Forrest Road. All our efforts this week have been directed towards the working up of the Joint Demonstration to be held on the Calton Hill on Saturday, 23rd July. At the two meetings held here on Tuesday arrangements were made, and volunteers were enrolled for visiting, chalking, and assisting at open-air meetings. Big and attentive crowds gather at our outdoor pitches, two or three of which are occupied every evening. There can be no doubt as to the interest that has been aroused by the debate on the Conciliation Bill; but the idea that every woman householder is a woman of property dies hard. Miss Sara Munro, Miss A. B. Jack, and Miss McLachlan have been the speakers, while Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Gould, Miss Thomson, and Miss M. McLachlan have taken chairs, the last three for the first time in the open air. As the importance of this branch of work can hardly be over-estimated, we would strongly urge other members to follow this example. THE VOTE has sold readily at all meetings, Miss Ethel Holmes being specially successful in this direction. We are glad to announce that Miss Eunice Murray will be one of our speakers on the 23rd.—HELEN MCLACHLAN, Asst. Secretary.

OUR TREASURY.

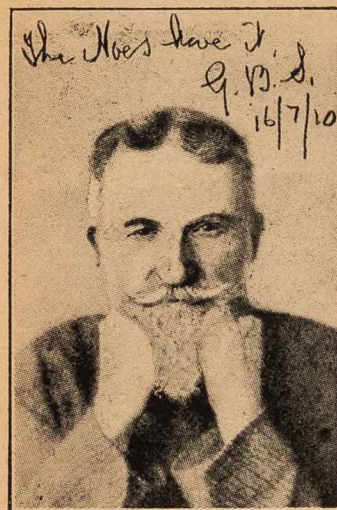
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Amount previously acknowledged	3028 10 10	Snow, Esq., W. R.	1 1 0
Taylor, Mrs.	0 5 0	Llewellyn Smith, Rev. C.	0 1 0
Henwood, Miss D.	0 1 0	Renold, Mrs. M. S.	0 10 0
Bosley, Miss	0 10 0	Logan, Miss I.	5 0 0
Steel, Lady	20 0 0	Schofield Coates, Mrs.	1 5 0
Allan, Miss J.	10 0 0	Clark, Miss	1 10 0
Ferry, Mrs.	1 0 0	Jenkin Bernard, Mrs.	0 5 0
Harvey, Miss E.	0 10 0	"H."	2 0 0
Cimino-Foliero, Miss	1 1 0	Calvert, Mrs. F.	1 0 0
Patch, Dr.	1 10 0	Dixon, Mrs. L. M.	0 2 6
Mocatta, Miss	2 2 0	Anonymous member of Clapham Branch	0 5 0
Thomson Price, Mrs.	1 3 6	Sutton, Miss L.	1 1 0
Bell, Mrs. F.	0 10 0	Borrmann Wells, per Mrs. Larkcom Jacobs, Mrs.	0 10 0
Counter, Mrs. (collecting book)	0 1 5	Gordon, per Mrs. Davies, Miss E.	0 2 0
Murray, Mrs. A.	0 2 6	Votes (profits)	0 2 7
Lane, Mrs. A. J.	0 2 0	Snow, per Mrs. J. E.	0 2 6
Croydon Branch	0 2 6	The Vote sales (street)	13 18 11
Thurburn, Miss	0 1 0	Francis, per Mr. Tickets	0 5 0
Newbury, Mrs.	0 1 0	Collections:	
Clapperton, Miss J. Hume	1 0 0	Thomson Price, Mrs. (drawing-room meet- ing)	1 16 0
Drysdale, Mrs. B.	2 0 0	Gordon, Mrs.	0 8 9
Sanderson, Mrs. A.	0 5 0	C.T.O., per Miss Vincent	0 7 10
South Shields (aff'n fee)	0 5 0	Trafalgar Square meet- ing	3 7 6
Read, Miss C. M.	0 2 0	Collection per "H."	0 9 0
Weir, Miss	0 4 6	Caxton Hall	8 5 1
Binks, Mrs.	0 10 0	Procession Donations:	
Carlton Smith, Miss A.	2 2 0	Amount previously ac- knowledged	86 0 8
McCulloch, Miss	0 2 6	Hampstead Branch	1 0 0
Lightman, Miss	0 0 5	Smith, Miss H.	0 10 0
Sidley, Mrs.	1 0 0	Carlton Smith, Miss A.	0 2 6
Perth, Miss	0 2 6	Plowright, Miss K.	0 1 0
Highbury Branch	0 10 0	Winterne, Mrs.	0 10 6
Anonymous	0 5 0	Munro, per Miss (car- riage seats)	2 6 0
Jeffries, Miss E. E.	0 2 6	J. S. Mill Donations (pre- viously acknowledged)	28 17 5
Wilkesden Branch	0 2 6	Hicks, Miss A.	3 0 0
Cunningham, Mrs.	5 0 0	Countess Russell	1 1 0
Anderson, Miss M.	2 2 0	Temple, Mrs. E.	1 1 0
"A Friend"	1 0 0	Lazarus, Miss	0 10 0
Meeson Coates, Mrs. D.	1 5 0	Clarkson Swann, Mrs.	1 0 0
Hicks, Miss A.	3 0 0	Wilson, Miss A.	0 1 0
Countess Russell	1 1 0	Dixon, Miss	0 1 0
Temple, Mrs. E.	1 1 0	Less procession amount previously included in general list	10 8 10
Lazarus, Miss	0 10 0		£3246 0 3
Clarkson Swann, Mrs.	1 0 0		
Wilson, Miss A.	0 1 0		
Dixon, Miss	0 1 0		

Open-Air Meeting at Regent's Park.

Despite the wet and cloudy weather, between the showers was held a most successful meeting at Regent's Park last Sunday morning. Mrs. Beith was our speaker. She had a large audience of men and women all eager to hear the latest news. After explaining to them thoroughly the Conciliation Bill, Mrs. Beith gave an interesting review of the political situation up to date. Questions were asked and answered. There was a great clapping and many expressions of sympathy from those present hoping we might get our wishes fulfilled as to the Bill passing its final stage this session.—E. DE V., Hon. Meetings Secretary.

A large amount of matter has again had to be held over owing to lack of space. After next week, when the Procession has been dealt with, we hope to resume our usual features.

THE "ANTI" MEETING.



GEORGE BERNARD SHAW. "I.L.P." Photo, (copies can be had at the Suffrage Shop).

If Saturday's meeting is any test of the Anti-Suffragist numbers and the Anti-Suffragist arguments—and incidentally its effect on the crowd—we have nothing to fear from them. From the plinth we heard men employed in what Harry Lauder would have described as "just blethering." The usual anti-arguments were used, but as the crowd have learned the answers to them the details of the Bill were attacked. One tall-hatted, exquisitely tailored person informed a by-no-means friendly crowd that the Bill was "undemocratic," but the working men in the crowd invited him to tell them by what right he spoke for the working classes. He also told them no first-class country had enfranchised its women, and ironical inquiries as to the standing of Australia and New Zealand were directed towards him. He degenerated into statements that the Bill had been defeated, and was asked if every Bill that passed its Second Reading with a thumping majority was defeated. Finally he fell to praising the courage of those who opposed it in the House, and there we were not quite at variance with him. Most of the speakers used similar arguments, and some of them were well heckled by the working men, some of the Men's League, and some of our own members. To say that the "anti" resolution passed by a majority would be a straining of the truth, as most of the crowd, being suspicious of "anti" resolutions, refrained from voting. Mr. George Bernard Shaw, concentrated on one platform, watching the speakers' unavailing efforts with sardonic eyes and calling out what he has written across the photo inserted here, "The 'Noes' have it." The crowd was a good-humoured one, save only when some gentlemen in corduroys the worse for their wages entered into free fights as to the merits or demerits of our claims. "Wimmen don't go to sea," said one oracularly, "and I arst you why should they 'ave votes?" "And I arst you, fat-'e'd," said a similar man and a brother with a hoarse voice near him, "'ave you ever 'eard of 'orspital ships?" "Well," said the discomfited one, "they don't wear trowsers, do they?" "Yus, they do; I saw them in the pawk wearing 'em on 'orseback," said the hoarse one,

coming dangerously near. "Well, you don't get a vote for wearing trowsers, do ye?" "'Oo sed I did, fat-'e'd—'oo said it—that's wot I want to know?"—but here, at the suggestion of a gentleman in blue, they retired outside the crowd to settle their differences.

On the plinth a number of frightened-looking "anti" women gave support to the men speakers by their womanly presence. A double line of policemen drew up to see them off the Nelson column at the close of their meeting lest we might remove the ladder and leave them to the mercy of the lions. Some of the male antis employed their time sticking specially prepared and gummed discs with "Votes for Women—Never!" on the backs of prominent Suffragists. This type of argument is that adopted by guttersnipes, and is unworthy of a League which professes to have the benediction of Lords Cromer and Curzon, to say nothing of Mrs. Humphry Ward.

Mr. Hills' Motion.

Mr. J. W. Hills (one of the speakers at Trafalgar Square on Saturday, who argued that if women got votes men would have no tobacco) has put down the following motion in the Parliamentary papers for an early day:—"Government of the Empire.—To call attention to the fact that this House has, after due deliberation, declared itself unfitted to carry on the country's business, and has expressed its wish and intention to hand over to women the government of the nation and the Empire; and to move 'That this House do resolve itself into Committee to consider its best means of relieving itself of duties for which it has declared itself incompetent.'"

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett's answer to him we print below. To Mr. J. W. Hills, M.P. for Durham.

SIR,—Even though one realised you were assisting the cause of Woman's Suffrage this afternoon at the Anti-Demonstration in Trafalgar Square, may I say it was a matter of deep regret to see a chosen representative of the people playing down to the simplicity and gullibility of the electorate? May I say, too, as one who stood among them, that they were not deceived? I love good government and political integrity too well to want to win a great Cause at their expense, and I was as digusted as were the men around me at the pains you were at to prove by a simple process of perverted deduction that the Woman's Vote would rob the poor man of his tobacco! Could you have heard the derisive remarks of your male hearers it might have cured you of this method of getting at them.

We expect this sort of thing from barnstormers and demagogues, we have been taught to look for them from Chancellors of Exchequers, Home Secretaries, and other high officers of State; but these methods, coming from the follower of a dignified leader like Balfour, prove that, after all, dignity and principle are not confined to Parties or leaders, but come from within men themselves. You were right in moving that motion in the House of Commons. You should, indeed, be "relieved of duties for which you have declared yourself incompetent."—Yours, &c., M. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

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MRS. FAWCETT ON THE PRESENT SITUATION.

At a meeting of the N.U.W.S.S. (North Hackney Branch, at "Newlyn," 69, Lordship-road, Stoke Newington, by kind permission of Councillor and Mrs. Coumbe), Mrs. Henry Fawcett, L.L.D., expressed her views on the present position:

We have reached a very important and very critical moment in the Suffrage movement. We have every reason to feel greatly delighted at our large majority, considering the forces against us and in spite of the fact that some of those whose support we had every right to expect forsook us. The corrected majority (110) is a larger majority than any other political question debated before the House of Commons could secure—greater than that of the Veto Resolutions, greater than that of Tariff Reform or Free Trade. Our movement has made enormous progress. For the first time the Government has given time for its discussion, and that debate was taken part in by the leading men of all parties. Four leading articles against us in the *Times* on four successive days is a sure proof that our movement has taken prominence. (Laughter.) Because the Bill has been sent to a Committee of the whole House does not mean that the Bill is shelved, and that it will go no farther. It is still possible to make progress with it this session. Last December, at the Albert Hall, Mr. Asquith, who, strong opponent as he is, is far preferable to false friends, declared that the Government had no wish or desire to burke discussion on this important subject, and further declared that the newly-elected House of Commons should have an opportunity to debate it. Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Asquith alone, could give these opportunities. To give Mr. Shackleton facilities for the First and Second Reading of the Bill and then to send it to an indefinitely postponed Committee of the whole House would not be in accordance with Mr. Asquith's word—and Mr. Asquith is a man of his word. In this matter we have a small majority in the House, in the party, and in the Cabinet. In reply to Mr. Ellis Mr. Asquith had said, if it were the deliberate desire of the House to discuss this matter, he would give them opportunities of dealing with it effectively. But if it were only to be read for the second time and not to have any further facilities that is not dealing with it effectively; it is only playing with it. The door of the House is now ajar, and it only remains for us to push it open. When Mr. Haldane was speaking, though a great supporter of the Bill, though he voted for it, he said that he was unable to vote for it to go to Grand Committee, because he thought that on account of its great importance, and not because he wished to burke it, it ought to go to a Committee of the whole House. These were practically Mr. Asquith's views, too, and it remains for Mr. Asquith to translate these opportunities into concrete form; and we must press for further facilities and we must not cease until the Bill has become law. Both Mr. Asquith and Mr. Haldane were men of their word, and when they said that the Bill should be effectively dealt with they meant it.

We must organise great agitations, then, to stir up public opinion, which has expressed itself in favour of our Bill. The fact that the present session ends in July gives us every hope and confidence that if we can show that public opinion expresses itself favourably on this matter, the Bill may be translated into law in the autumn session. The Government would then go to the country strong, without any fear of lack of Liberal support; but if the Government goes to the country with this question unsettled, the supporters of this measure, dejected and disillusioned, will abstain from working for the Liberal party. I know that Liberal women are exceedingly angry and sore at what has been done by Mr. Winston Churchill and by Mr. Lloyd George, who were consulted by the Conciliation Committee at every stage, and who had promised to support the Bill. The great majority which we have now, in spite of such odds, in spite of their desertion and Mr. Churchill's warnings to his followers, shows the strength of the movement in the country. If the Government leave the Bill in this condition when they go to the country they will be under great disadvantages when entering on their electoral struggle. We would be justified in going into every constituency and holding up to ridicule the men who protest against the unrepresentative nature of the House of Lords, but who take no steps to remedy the unrepresentative nature of the House of Commons. There can be no sincerity in them; they cannot believe what they say. They declare that to be a peer is an accident of birth, but it is not as much an accident of birth as is sex, for they can create peers. I fail to see why all men should be born citizens and all women be born helots.

Mr. Lloyd George declared at one of his meetings that to prevent women voting was an act of intolerable injustice; yet when he had an opportunity of remedying this act of injustice he preferred to perpetuate it.

As to Mr. Churchill, he upholds his family traditions of bad faith. When he was appointed to the Cabinet a body of women waited on him to know if he would take steps to secure the representation of women. He had been several years at the House in Westminster, and he had not done anything for women, but when they placed their case before him he said: "Ladies, I am your friend, and I will be your friend in the Cabinet"; and when his opportunity came he turned round and not only voted against the Bill, but spoke against it.

There were some men in that House who said the Bill was not

democratic enough, but surely it is more democratic to include some women than to keep all outside the pale.

In 1832 the first great extension of the Suffrage had only added 500,000 new electors to the roll, but our Bill would enfranchise a million women. If the Bill was democratic enough for the Labour party it ought to be democratic enough for any Liberal in the House of Commons. The knell of Liberalism will be sounded when Liberals will not be true to the principles of Liberalism. But in the midst of our justifiable anger against these two men we must not be unjust to the great bulk of those who voted for us.

I do not wish to emulate Mrs. Humphry Ward, who has told us that the political ignorance of women is invincible and imposed by nature, and then goes to the electors of Hereford and tells them how they should vote, and incidentally gives hints to Cabinet Ministers on the best way to rule the country. She recently set aside all the figures laboriously collected by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who had compiled the results of a poll of women municipal voters as to their feelings on the Suffrage, with her best schoolma'am manner, as who should say, "And has my little Nellie told a lie!" But I would like to call your attention to the signs of profound change in the country. King George in his first speech to the Privy Council on his accession sounded for the first time a note never sounded before by any English Sovereign, by alluding to the help that would be afforded to him by his dear wife in his high and difficult position—so King George does not agree with Mrs. Humphry Ward. The House of Commons, in recently passing the Regency Bill, proved that they, too, do not agree with her that women's political ignorance is invincible and imposed by nature.

This change that Women's Suffrage will bring about is not a revolution, but part of an evolution. An enormous change has taken place in the educational and social conditions of women, and it is only right that a corresponding change shall take place in their political status. Whenever the political status of a people has not changed with their social conditions a revolutionary outburst greets this want of harmony. In the textile industry there are five women to every three men—thousands of them earn their own living; they have got their own trade-unions, and they contribute to the levy that supports their member—and that member is Mr. Shackleton. It is thus mainly by the contributions of women that he is supported, and the only thing in the choice of their member that the women insist upon is that he shall be in favour of the enfranchisement of women. In that constituency of Clitheroe lies the complete answer to Mrs. Humphry Ward.

Every University has now thrown open its doors to women save Oxford and Cambridge, where still they are only on sufferance. Once an examiner at Cambridge who was against the

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higher education of women refused to examine a woman for the Nat. Sci. Tripos. His feelings were worked upon by his brethren, and he consented to receive her papers among the others. These papers were submitted with no sign of the writer's sex, and he is reported to have said to his colleagues afterwards: "My best man is Ogle; who is yours?" Ogle was the lady's name! In medicine women had, after a great struggle, secured admittance to all degrees, and of the 553 medical women on the British register 538 had signed the memorial to Mr. Asquith in favour of women's enfranchisement. Women had recently been admitted to sit on the Royal Commission on the Divorce Laws, as it had been discovered that women probably did know something about marriage. Ten years before women sat on commissions there was one being appointed on pauperism, and the reason for the choice of one member was naively given that "his sister knew so much about the subject." Women are now elected as town councillors and as mayors, and yet they are considered unfit to say which of two men shall represent a constituency. I once heard the objection that women would always vote for the handsomest man ably dealt with; the answer was, "Have you ever seen a board of Guardians?"

I cannot help feeling that a man more naturally relies on physical force and a woman on spiritual force, and that therein lies our strength. At the present moment we must appeal, by every power of persuasion, to the reason and the sense of justice of our fellow-countrymen.

OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES ON THE BILL.

New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.

At a large garden meeting given by Mrs. Langdon Down at Normansfield, Hampton Wick, on Wednesday afternoon, July 13, the speakers were Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., Mr. Cecil Chapman, J.P., and Miss Abadam. Mrs. Cecil Chapman presided.

The first speaker was MR. HUGH LAW, who drew attention to the fact that, for the first time in the history of the movement, two days had been given in Government time for the debate on a Woman Suffrage Bill, with an attendance in all parts of the House which certainly had not been given to any other measure this session. For the first time the opponents of Woman's Suffrage had really been put upon their mettle, and had provided a compendium of the various objections that people bring forward against the principle. To take the physical force argument, that might do very well if lynch-law prevailed, but in a civilised State power, if it rested on anything at all, rested upon the general good sense and consent of the governed.

SIR JOHN COCKBURN, in a stirring speech, said that it was unchivalrous in the last degree that men, having fully armed themselves for entry into the industrial arena, should see women thrown into it without a single weapon for the protection of their interests—women who were canvassing and "touting" for politicians were loafing about on ground they had no right to be on. They were at present outsiders, and one who was not a voter should not be employed to influence voters. There was no need to be despondent about the fate of the Conciliation Bill. The cause of Woman Suffrage was on the rising tide and need not fear being stranded. Whatever the imperfections of the present Bill, its claims should still be pressed; faults in it were bound to be amended later. The best should never be made the enemy of the good.

MR. CECIL CHAPMAN, who had been present at the debate in the House of Commons, said he was struck by the enormous number of boogies trotted out on that occasion which he had thought were long ago discarded like broken toys from the nursery; and also by the enormous amount of hypocrisy that was allowed to go down without reproof in the House. Unless further facilities were given for the Bill a direct contempt was being shown towards the majority of members who had voted in its favour by a Government that prevented them from putting their convictions into effect.

Conservative Women's Franchise Association.

A specially convened meeting of the Women's Council was summoned on Thursday, 14th inst., to discuss the result of the second reading of the Conciliation Bill, and it was decided that every effort should be made to bring pressure to bear on the Government to obtain time for the further stages of the Bill during the present session. Our appeal for funds made at our meeting at the Wharnclyffe Rooms to enable us to extend our work has met with a very generous response.

In error last week the address of Miss Bennett—who won first prize in our competition for largest amount spent with advertisers—was wrongly given. It is 25, Ferncroft Avenue, Hampstead, N.W.

The Committee of the London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage are organising a university section, independent of other sections, and walking in academic dress under academic banners only. This section will assemble at 3 p.m. at north side of Holland Park Avenue and will start at 4 p.m. Robing rooms at 76, Holland Park Avenue. Rooms for disrobing before entering Hyde Park at the Cabins Restaurant, Edgware Road. Speakers on University Platform will include Dr. Flora Murray and Dr. L. Garrett Anderson. The Committee hope that 1,000 or more will assemble, as the academic section makes a great impression on the public.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

LONDON.

THURS., JULY 21ST.—Highbury Corner, 7.30.
Miss Guttridge.

Percy Road, Tally Ho! Corner, 8.
Miss Toyne.

1, Robert Street, 6.45. London
Branches Council.

Sat., July 23rd.—Great Procession. W.F.L.
Section starts 3 p.m., Westminster
Embankment, east of Temple Pier.

Hyde Park, 5.30. Mrs. Despard, Mrs.
Billington-Greig, Mrs. Holmes, Miss
Hicks, M.A., Mrs. Sproson, Miss
Manning, B.A., Mrs. Borrmann
Wells, Mrs. H. W. Nevinson, Mrs.
Schofield Coates.

Sun., July 24th.—Trafalgar Square,

3.30 p.m. "Pass the Bill" Campaign. Mass Meeting.
Speakers: Miss Manning, B.A., Mrs. Sproson, Mrs.
Billington-Greig, Mrs. Borrmann Wells, Mrs. How
Martyn, Miss Hicks, M.A., Miss Coyle, Mrs. Manson,
Miss Murray, Mrs. Schofield Coates, and Mrs. Toyne.

Finsbury Park, 11.30.

Regent's Park, 12. Mrs. Sproson, Mrs. Hyde.

MON., JULY 25TH.—1, Robert Street, 11 a.m., National Executive
Committee.

Hornsey Fire Station, 8 p.m.

Tram Terminus, Crystal Palace, 8 p.m. Miss Ethel Fen-
nings, Mr. R. Bowden Smith.

TUES., JULY 26TH.—Hampstead Heath Flagstaff, 7.45 p.m.
Suffrage Debate. Opener, Mrs. Holmes. Chair, Mrs.
Hicks.

Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. Mrs. Holmes.

Whist Drive, 1, Robert Street, W.C., 7 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d.
Hostess, Miss Reeves.

THURS., JULY 28TH.—Percy Road, Tally-Ho! Corner, 8 p.m.
Miss Hicks.

SUN., JULY 31ST.—Brockwell Park, 6 p.m. Speakers: Mrs.
Manson and Mr. R. Bowden-Smith.

SCOTLAND.

SAT., JULY 23RD.—Edinburgh. Joint Demonstration on
Calton Hill. Rally, Regent Terrace, 4.30 p.m. Meetings,
Calton Hill, 5.30 p.m.

MEN'S MEETINGS.

In the Park on Sunday last the Men's League and the Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement had a large and enthusiastic meeting with four platforms. At the Men's Union platform Mr. Frank Rutter, Mr. J. Y. Kennedy, and Mr. H. W. Nevinson were speaking; at the Men's League platform the speakers were Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Joseph Clayton, and Mr. Manson. Mr. Duval was at another platform, while the Earl of Lytton chaired for the Conciliation Committee, where Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., Mr. A. Lynch, M.P., and Mr. Goldman, M.P., were the speakers. On Lord Lytton's platform was a banner bearing the legend "Women's right wrongs no man." He remarked that they were told they must not give the Vote to women because they, being in the majority, could vote down the men. That was a good argument from the point of view of the men and of prejudice, but it was a strange argument to urge in the name of Liberalism and democracy. The preponderance of females was due to the great mortality of male children. That was an evil which the State should deal with, and it was a question of more interest to mothers and women than to men. (Cheers.) He did not want petticoat government nor male government exclusively. He wanted government of the people by the people, and with the consent of the people. (Cheers.)

Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., proposed: "That this public meeting demands that the Women's Suffrage Bill, which passed its second reading on Tuesday night by a majority of 109, shall become law this session." He maintained that the marriage bar would be expressly raised by the Bill. Women householders, the large proportion of whom in London were the widows of working men, would be admitted, and working women generally were entitled to the protection which the Vote gave. If sex were no disqualification, he did not see why wealth or poverty should be. It might be said that the presence of a peer in the chair was proof that the Bill was being promoted in the interests of the wealthy classes. He (the speaker) was a plebeian, and they were both there as men anxious to see the sex disqualification removed so as to bring into politics the sweetening and purifying influence which women always brought into every form of public work. (Cheers.)

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PORTSMOUTH CAMPAIGN.

On Friday the local members met and formed the Gosport and Portsmouth Branch of the W.F.L. Mrs. Crawley was appointed hon. secretary, Mrs. Tremain hon. treasurer, and Mrs. Whatton hon. literary secretary. It was determined to raise a Guarantee Fund, by means of weekly subscriptions, to help to provide an Organiser for the district. Several members promised small weekly sums.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday we held open-air meetings, those on Monday and Friday being particularly successful.—EDITH A. BREMNER.

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