

Men's League for Women's Suffrage

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Monthly Paper.

ONE PENNY.

President: THE RIGHT HON. THE
EARL OF LYTTON.
Chairman: HERBERT JACOBS.

January,
1914.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

The most important single event in suffrage politics during the Christmas holidays was the remarkable expression which fell from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the course of an interview with a *Daily Chronicle* representative, and was duly given to the public on New Year's Day. With his pontifical pronouncement upon Naval policy others—including Mr. Winston Churchill—are concerned; we are interested in his emphatic pronouncement on Women's Suffrage. Taken in and by itself, nothing could be more satisfactory to those who are labouring in the cause. Taken in conjunction with his record in connection with the subject in the House, it is little short of astounding.

How can Mr. Lloyd George expect Suffragists to believe in the sincerity of his support? He and his friends are never tired of blaming Militant Suffragists for the harm they do to the cause. Yet he, among others, is directly to blame for the slow progress which it has made, and for the rebuffs it has encountered. With anything like a lead from him, the question, so far as the Liberal Party is concerned, would be settled in a week. We are positively assured that opposition within that party is inconsiderable, and unofficial Liberalism is very largely with us.

What is Mr. George waiting for? We are told that he is waiting in the true spirit of an opportunist for the expected retirement of Mr. Asquith—an event which, we may infer, is delayed only by the problem of Ulster. Then, under the auspices of Sir Edward Grey (presumably) as Prime Minister, he will suddenly appear as the champion of Votes for Women. We must assume that this is his strategy. If no such purpose lies at the back of his extraordinary oscillations between lip-service and half-concealed, or even open, hostility, his attitude is one for which no honest man would care to be called to account. That attitude is precisely calculated to cool the keener spirits among his followers and to afford a welcome excuse for the self-seeking partisans. Worse still, it blinds the non-official party man to the fact that he is at the moment a stumbling-block, and makes it impossible, or at least difficult, to press the question among his supporters in the country.

We have a strong dislike of extravagant language. But we would add that the Chancellor is well aware of these facts, and

that he is committing the gravest of political sins in allowing the progress of a just cause to be impeded by his Machiavellian attitude of pseudo-friendship. Moreover, we venture to warn him that he is playing a dangerous game for his own party. He has gone far enough—to go back no further than his statement in the *Chronicle*—to incriminate himself deeply. Unless he takes definite action soon, he may well find that his strategy has led to the strengthening of the small anti-suffrage group within his party, which will prove a thorn in his side when, in the fulness of time, he at last decides to take action.

NORTH ISLINGTON.

A correspondence has passed between the political secretary of the League and the chairman of the North Islington Liberal and Radical Association. It is not surprising that his committee decline to stultify their action in adopting an anti-suffragist candidate by withdrawing Mr. Costello. Apparently Mr. Costello has gone so far as to say that if the Liberal Party adopts women's suffrage he will not vote against it. The propriety of such an attitude is Mr. Costello's concern, but his position does not satisfy us. Our campaign against him will now begin in full force, under the guidance locally of Mr. Frederick Flear, who has laid the committee under a great debt by arranging for the circularisation of every elector in the constituency. The electorate numbers 13,599; the last election (January, 1910) resulted as follows:—

G. A. Touche (U.)...	5,428
D. S. Waterlow (L.)	5,022

Unionist majority	406
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In 1906, Mr. Waterlow was successful. He was the first M.P. who ever spoke for the Men's League, and it was at the first meeting the League held (1907), when Mr. Chancellor, Mr. Jacobs, and Mr. Mitchell also made their first speeches for the League. Mr. Touche, the Unionist member, is a good Suffragist, and for some time Sir Victor Horsley was expected to be the Liberal candidate. We venture to think that Mr. Costello's anti-suffrage views will render the recovery of the seat impossible, and we have every hope that as the result of the canvass now being begun the local association will see the wisdom of substituting a Suffragist for Mr. Costello—a candidate who, we believe, has no local status, but is a nominee of headquarters.

Suffragist Ministers and the Liberal Whips will watch with

some anxiety the result of the advertising campaign which was opened in the Liberal Press on January 20 by the Liberal Women's Suffrage Union. The spirit of discontent among Liberal Women is spreading, and, as advertising is costly, we may assume that this spirit is expressing itself in financial support. There is room for party and for non-party societies, and we trust that the promoters of the new society will meet with a response such as will encourage them to press their party with strong and increasing determination.

There have been rumours that Suffragists in the House propose to reintroduce the Private Member's Bill. The committee trust that this proposal is not under serious consideration. There is no need to reiterate the obvious objections to such a course, and we agree with the opinion of the *Manchester Guardian* that it would be a grave error in tactics. We must have a Government measure.

Owing to an unfortunate oversight, reference has not been made in these columns to the activity of the Cambridge University Branch. A series of meetings was arranged for November, December, January and February, including two papers this term by Prof. E. C. Clark (Regius Professor of Civil Law) on "The Legal Aspect of Women's Suffrage," and by the Rev. S. C. Carpenter on "The Religious Aspect of Women's Suffrage." Our cause is nowhere stronger than in the Universities, even in those which deny women the right to a degree!

It is a singular commentary on the justice of this country that the New Year's Honours List did not include the name of a single woman, though by common consent women are performing splendid services in literature, art, education, science, and the drama, and especially in the sphere of social reform and social science.

As an example of the interest which competent women are taking in the profounder questions of social reform and racial hygiene, we may instance the important course of lectures for women only arranged by the Criminal Law Amendment Committee (19, Tothill Street), on alternate Thursday afternoons in the Kingsway Hall. The Royal Commission on Venereal Disease gives immediate point to this course. How comes it that social reformers do not recognise the urgent need of giving public-spirited women the only direct means of influencing the legislative machine?

OUR SPEAKERS.

During the holiday season fewer meetings have been held than usual, but nevertheless many of our men have been busy, notably Mr. Housman, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Caddick, and Mr. Flear. The last is doing yeoman service in Islington, where a few weeks ago he held a very successful debate with an anti-suffragist solicitor. Mr. Caddick helped the New Constitutional Society to complete their record of an unbroken series of meetings for a whole year by addressing their noonday meeting in Hyde Park on the last Sunday in 1912.

Some of our readers seem to like to see a speakers' list, and we are now issuing every month a reply postcard to the speakers of the League, so far as we know them, and should be greatly obliged to them if they would fill them in and return them. It is useless if only two or three do so, as the list is then too incomplete to make it worth publishing.

May we take this opportunity of expressing our great regret that one of our most indefatigable speakers, our late treasurer, Mr. Reginald Pott, has been compelled, through overwork, to take a prolonged rest. We hope he may soon be quite well again, and wish him and his a very successful year.

SUFFRAGE ACTIVITIES IN 1914.

Probably no one—not even the keenest suffragist—is aware of the extraordinary amount of work which is going on day by day under the auspices of the numerous societies which various special causes have called into existence.

Our members will be interested at the outset of the New Year to read the following brief summaries of arrangements made or contemplated by a few of the societies. We hope in the next issue to have further reports from other societies, and, so far as is possible in the space at our disposal, to make these paragraphs a regular feature of the "Monthly Paper." Even where strong differences of opinion exist as to propaganda and policy, it is desirable that we should all have authoritative knowledge as regards the work of other societies. We regret that we have had to hold over two reports till the next issue.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.—Albert Hall Demonstration.—The N.U.W.S.S. is organising a demonstration in the Albert Hall on February 14, at 8 p.m., which promises to be one of the most striking demonstrations that have yet been organised in support of Women's Suffrage. We have for many years been accustomed to great meetings of the general public in the Albert Hall. The important feature of this demonstration is to be the attendance of large numbers of men who have come to show that the electors of the country demand a Government Measure for the Enfranchisement of Women. Besides the hundreds who are expected in their individual capacity, there will be the significant figures of those who represent the vast mass of organised labour in the country—the delegates of trades unions and other societies of men who will attend as representatives of their associations. The following list of speakers is announced:—Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., in the chair, Miss A. M. Roydon, Mrs. Creighton, Mr. William Barton, M.P., Mr. Fenner Brockway, Mr. A. Henderson, M.P., and Lord Lytton.

This demonstration should make a particular appeal to members of the Men's League, and we hope that all our readers will respond to the invitation from Mrs. Fawcett which is included in this paper. We are informed that complimentary tickets for special seats in the Albert Hall will be sent to men who wish to be present as demonstrators on receipt of the filled in form which accompanies the invitation.

The Albert Hall demonstration on February 14 is a unique opportunity for men to show their support of Women's Suffrage and their determination in demanding a Government measure. Mr. Asquith has been requested to receive a deputation from the men attending the demonstration, and it is expected that the attendance will be of so large and representative a character that he will find it impossible to refuse.

Women's Freedom League.—The activity contemplated by the Women's Freedom League this year will probably include a renewed and extended policy of resistance to government without consent, in regard to taxation, insurance, supplying information to Government Departments, and any other acts of

legislation passed over our heads. Special attention will be paid to the administration of the criminal courts, and a resolute campaign will be continued to secure freedom of entry for women members of the public. A test case will be brought against Mr. Mead, of Marlborough-street Police-court, to decide our rights in this matter. Militant action is being taken in the matter of the case of *Rex v. Wetherall*, recently tried before the Common Sergeant. A leaflet and a pamphlet have been printed, and will be published and circulated by the League, which will bring the League's workers within the reach of the law, for libel and contempt of court. A vigorous campaign will be inaugurated in Homerton, with the object of rousing public opinion finally on the question of the official protection of criminals. Propagandist activity throughout the country will be carried on unceasingly, and the reorganisation scheme adopted by the League, which is expected to be of great assistance to the branches, will add to the efficiency and effectiveness of the League's efforts. The annual conference will be held at the end of March.

C. NINA BOYLE.

New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage.—This society will hold, in addition to their weekly Tuesday afternoon At Homes, a series of evening meetings on the first Monday in the month in the N.C.S. Hall at Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge. Men are especially invited to these meetings. The Hyde Park Sunday noon meetings will be continued as usual. These meetings, which have been the means of interesting many men in the suffrage cause, have now taken place regularly for over a year, the speakers addressing meetings from the grass on those occasions when the police refused permits for a platform. In view of the possibility of a general election, special attention is being paid to selected constituencies, including Whitechapel, Peckham, Bristol East, Reading, and other districts worked by the society.

The Speakers' Class, under the direction of Mrs. Pertwee, will be held on Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. The fee for members of the N.C.S. is 5s. for 10 lessons, for non-members, 10s. In addition, it is hoped to arrange special classes for election canvassers, so that they may be able to explain to the voters the attitude of the Liberal Government towards Women's Suffrage, and their record on the question since they came into power, and in this way make clear to the electors the logic of, and the need for, the anti-Government policy. A campaign has been started at Ashford among the employees at the railway works, and is proving very successful, much sympathy and understanding being shown by the men. It is intended to hold campaigns in other railway centres later on.

In view of the refusal of the local authorities in many districts to allow the Town Halls to be used for the meetings of Constitutional Suffrage Societies, the N.C.S. feel that some special efforts should be made by women voters in the forthcoming council elections, and will advise their members to vote, according to Lord Robert Cecil's plan, for those candidates only whose views on Women's Suffrage are sound.

The above are a few of the activities of the N.C.S. Needless to say, they will not interfere with the usual work and meetings in town and country.

GLADYS WRIGHT.

Free Church League for Woman Suffrage.—The Free Church League for Woman Suffrage is appealing for £1,000 to finance a vigorous campaign for the year. The Free Church League has fallen into line with all the other Suffrage societies in the demand for a Government measure as the only reliable

MEN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

President.—The Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mynheer F. Kehrer.

Hon. Secretary.—Lieut.-Col. W. A. E. Mansfeldt, Dillinsburgstraat 19, Utrecht, Holland.

Correspondent.—Mme. Martina Kramers, Kruiskade 92, Rotterdam.

Italy.—On December 6, 7 and 8 a woman suffrage congress was held in Rome. Following up the line of conduct marked out for Socialist women by Clara Zetkin, the secretary of the International League of Socialist Women, the Italian Socialist women refused to attend the congress and to be represented there, because it was arranged by bourgeois women. However, the Italian Socialist Party, apparently more concerned about the realisation of the Suffrage clause of the party programme, sent two delegates, Treves and Busji, M.P.'s. This shows how sometimes practical men Suffragists can do more for the cause of women's enfranchisement than the women themselves.

Netherlands.—The National Woman Suffrage Association resolved in its annual meeting to set about collecting signatures to a national petition for Constitutional Equality of Men and Women, which is to be presented to the Government. The declaration of the Prime Minister, stating that the present Cabinet will take more account of the will of the people than of party claims, makes it the plain duty of Dutch Suffragists to show what part of the nation demands political equality of the sexes.

means of securing the enfranchisement of women. The League is promoting a petition to the House of Commons similar to that promoted by the Church League. The petition, it is hoped, will be supported by the signatures of Free Church ministers throughout England and Wales. The new forward movement of the League contemplates securing the co-operation of the great Free Church Representative Assemblies in drawing the earnest attention of the Churches to the immense spiritual and social significance of the modern revolt of women. An excellent start was made by the presentation of a petition, signed by about 2,000 Free Church people, to the Organising Committee of the National Federation of Evangelical Free Churches. As a result of that petition the official programme of the forthcoming annual meeting of the Federation devotes an entire session to the frank discussion of the Suffrage issue. The names of the speakers include Mrs. Philip Snowden, the Rev. C. Fleming Williams, and Professor Massey.

Special endeavours are to be made to rouse the interest of the Churches in the importance and urgency of the woman's claim to full citizen rights. In the appeal issued by the National Executive of the Free Church League the conviction is expressed that if only the organised forces of Christianity could be brought into the field on behalf of the woman's cause the long struggle for justice and equal treatment would come to a speedy and satisfactory end.

Actresses' Franchise League.—The Actresses' plans for the next half-year include a series of large "At Homes," to be held on the first Friday afternoon in every month at the Arts Centre—each meeting to be on a special subject. The first will be on "Tax Resistance" (February), the second on "Sweated Women Workers" (March), and the third on "Women and the Empire" (April). There will also be a series of drawing-room

meetings at the houses of well-known actresses, where addresses will be given by eminent Suffrage speakers.

A Speakers' class has been formed—for members of the League only—which will, it is hoped, bring forward a number of new speakers to take the open air meetings in the Park during the summer months.

A "Men's Group" of the A.F.L. is in process of formation, which will consist of actors, dramatists, musicians, and all men connected with the theatre. It is hoped that this group may undertake some important political work on the reassembling of Parliament.

On the social side plans are in order for the "Birthday Party," postponed from December, which will be at the Empress Rooms on January 29. The League will also entertain the Northern Men's Federation at a Social evening on February 15, when they come south to their London Convention.

MANCHESTER MEN'S LEAGUE.

The month which brought the work of 1913 to a close will be pleasantly remembered by us for a good wind-up to a busy period, and our executive are looking forward to the activities of the New Year with confidence renewed and hope stimulated by the splendid spirit shown by our individual members in their earnest desire to press forward the reform which we all have in view.

Our secretary's calls for volunteers, whether for an important deputation or for a humbler duty, have met, invariably, with an instant and ample response. The League has reason to hope that in a quiet way it has effected practical service to the movement and continued to justify its existence.

A well-attended meeting was organised by us at Prestwich, and carried out under the auspices of the National Union, at which Mr. Gugenheim, of the London Men's League, was the principal speaker.

In connection with the meeting held in Manchester in November, convened by the Cavendish Club for the formation of an "Association for Public Service," addressed by Sir Edward Grey and Lord Hugh Cecil, the opportunity was taken to bring clearly to the notice of all who attended that, although all the reforms proposed were matters in which women were directly affected, there was not the slightest suggestion throughout the proposals that women should be called into counsel. It was further pointed out that legislation must precede any real remedy, and that the best social service on which the new association could concentrate would be the broadening of the basis of responsibility for the redress of the admitted evils by enabling women to participate in that legislation. The League has the satisfaction of knowing that the leaflet issued (copy of which is enclosed) was so far appreciated as to prompt an anonymous sympathiser to forward a donation to the printing fund more than sufficient to cover the cost of the leaflet in question.

The visit of the Premier to Manchester on December 5 found the League ready with an imposing deputation of representative University, professional and business men desirous of eliciting from Mr. Asquith a statement as to his present position with regard to the suggestions laid before him by Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Swanwick in August last. Unfortunately, Mr. Asquith would not meet this deputation, stating that his time in Manchester was fully occupied.

When it was known that Mr. Asquith was not to address a public meeting in Manchester, our members attended the meeting hall at Oldham, and there distributed some 2,000 of our leaflet, which quotes Mr. Asquith's prophecy of disaster to the country if women were enfranchised, and also the well-known resolution unanimously passed by both Houses of the Australian Parliament, which testifies to the good results which have accrued from the extension of the franchise to women there. Again we were rewarded by an increase in our membership.

The League questioned Sir John Simon at his recent meetings here as to the extent to which he could be relied upon in urging the introduction of a Government measure, and obtained from him the assurance that "he would use every influence he had to secure that a measure of enfranchisement for women should be brought before the House of Commons in the most effective way and at the earliest possible moment."

Sunday, December 14, was the date reserved by the N.S.P.C.C. for putting forth their plea on behalf of the children, and it gave us another grand opportunity for emphasising the desirability of embracing the offered co-operation of the women in all matters concerning the welfare of children. Our members turned out in force and distributed the special leaflet drawn up by our secretary (copy enclosed) at the seven principal meetings.

Other useful propaganda work has been carried on through the fair handling which our letters to the Press have received. Altogether we feel we are advancing, and look forward with hope to the coming year.

— THE —

NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Evening Meetings, at 8.30 p.m.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL HALL,

Park Mansions Arcade, Knightsbridge.

Monday, February 2nd—

MRS. CECIL CHAPMAN, MISS MCGOWAN, MR. J. MALCOLM
MITCHELL.

Monday, March 2nd—

MRS. MERIVALE MAYER, MISS WINIFRED HOLIDAY,
MR. JOSEPH CLAYTON.

NORTHERN MEN'S FEDERATION FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Non-Party and Constitutional.

Founder and Hon. Organiser: Mrs. ARNCLIFFE-SENNETT.

"Now's the time and Now's the hour."

THE MEN OF THE NORTH

will hold a

CONVENTION

On Saturday Afternoon, February 14th, at 3 p.m. (doors open at 2.30), in the
MEMORIAL HALL, FARRINGTON STREET,

to give their

MANDATE

FOR A GOVERNMENT MEASURE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

VOTERS! COME AND SUPPORT THE MANDATE.

ADMISSION FREE.

A few reserved seats at 2s. 6d. to be obtained at the Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert St., Adelphi,
and the Secretary to the Convention, 6, Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, and also at the Hall.