

THE VOTE,  
June 26, 1914.  
ONE PENNY.

**DR. KNIGHT'S TRIUMPH**

# THE VOTE

**THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**

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

## MRS. BESANT'S PLAIN WORDS TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### Plain Words to the Prime Minister.

We congratulate the East-end workers on their triumph and on the altered tone of the Prime Minister's reply to their demand. We add our support to the insistence of the deputation that the imperative need of the moment is a Government measure for Woman Suffrage. The Government is busy making peace with militant men in Ireland, and, as Mrs. Besant pointed out so forcibly in her impressive address at the Queen's Hall last Tuesday, the only way to make peace with women is to recognise the justice of their demand. She pictured the alternative: mob law instead of real law, and such scenes as disgraced Mr. Lloyd George's meeting in South London last Saturday and Hyde-park on Sunday. Mob law is the end of government. Liberals who vote against Woman Suffrage, she said amid cheers, are denying their principles. Does Mr. Asquith's changed attitude mean a vision of the loss to the nation of this long denial of justice to women? We hope so.

### Plain Words to the Press.

Even Mr. McKenna appealed to the Press for justice to the Woman Suffrage movement. Suffragists have long suffered from the biased and antagonistic attitude of leading newspapers—with a few honourable exceptions—and we welcome the following pertinent letter which has been sent to the Press by the Women Writers' Suffrage League; its forceful presentation of facts should bring home the truth to editors. It will be interesting to see how many publish it.

Sir.—As office-bearers of the Women Writers' Suffrage League, and therefore as representatives of an overwhelming majority of English literary women, we protest against the treatment awarded us by the so-called Free Press of this country.

We assert, and we assert it unhesitatingly, that communications even from our best-known members, women whose reasoned opinions should be part of the armoury of a rational State, fail to find place in your columns.

We assert also that the space which—in the interests of justice and of peace—should have been ours, is taken up by grossly exaggerated accounts of deplorable events which are largely due to this boycott in the Press, since every fool knows it is unsafe to sit on a safety-valve!

We assert, and we assert it boldly, that while the Press opens its arms to the veriest balderdash from a "Victorian Woman," it refuses five lines to eminent writers on the Suffrage side.

Furthermore, we give as example a specific instance of the unfairness we allege.

The downfall of "Laura Grey" was used by the Press generally as a weapon against the Woman's Movement.

Whether rightly or wrongly, let the world judge. In the end, such judgment is always fair. In the course of the attack, however, *The Standard* published a monstrous paragraph, purporting to come from a leading member of one of the leading Suffrage Leagues.

It was instantly categorically and officially denied by the League in question. *The Standard*, however, refused to give publicity to the denial, on the ground that it was not of "sufficient public interest." The libel itself being deemed, it is supposed, to be sufficiently racy to stand.

Such meannesses are intolerable in an honourable profession.

Finally, as fellow workers with the pen, we would point out that the indiscriminate use of such epithets as "insult," "outrage," "furious," "unsexed," &c., &c., is bad art. To describe a dignified appeal like Miss Blomfield's in the same terms as a murderous attack on a defenceless child is not literature.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) FLORA ANNIE STEEL (President).  
C. ROMANNE-JAMES (Hon. Sec.).

### Free Speech.

The public-spirited action of the Portsmouth Trades and Labour Council, in offering their platform and protection to Miss Nina Boyle in defence of the right to free speech, cannot be too warmly acknowledged. At the time that the offer was made, and publicly made, the Freedom League meetings in the Town Hall-square at Portsmouth had been systematically broken up, and the offer was not only generous but courageous. Largely through the support of the organised working-men of the district, a successful meeting was held after the offer of the Trades and Labour Council had been made, and the dangerous and disorderly element found itself

held in check. On Tuesday last Miss Boyle went once more to Portsmouth to avail herself of the opportunity offered, and to vindicate the right of all sections of the people to free speech—a matter of peculiar importance at the present moment, when so many of the public's rights are being curtailed. Our cordial thanks are here presented to the chairman and committee of the Portsmouth Trades and Labour Council and to the fair-minded men and women who secured a hearing for our speakers during the Portsmouth campaign.

### Religious Bodies and Sex Equality.

We are glad to bear tribute to the impressive demonstration held in Hyde Park on June 18 by the United Religious Leagues for Woman Suffrage. On a beautiful summer evening a large crowd listened with reverence, even awe, to speakers representing different religious communities, who began their meeting with prayer and ended with the following resolution, which was passed practically unanimously:—

That this joint meeting of the Religious Societies for Woman Suffrage calls on the Government to extend the Parliamentary franchise to women in the interests of justice, morality, and religion.

For the first time the Religious Leagues held a demonstration in Hyde Park. The Church of England, the Free Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Scottish Churches, the Friends, and the Jews came out into the open to let London see that Woman Suffrage was a winning cause. Men forgot to scoff; they bared their heads to pray. It was a remarkable sight, full of significance. London's streets are now thronged with delegates from all parts of the world to the Salvation Army Congress being held in the Metropolis, and the amazing success of the vast organisation is largely due to the fact that its founder, "General" Booth, who often declared that his wife was the better "General" of the two, was wiser than his generation and began the work of the Army on the absolute equality of the sexes. He recognised that to grapple successfully with the problem of evil, men and women must work together, and the words of Mrs. Bramwell Booth, speaking at the Congress last Monday on the important results of this equality, are illuminating:—

There is no restriction because of sex calculated to limit woman's influence or authority or opportunity to serve by sacrifice. In the Salvation Army men and women are equal. Leaders in the Army are not afraid that women can be too influential. I was asked the other day if women in future would dominate the Salvation Army. I replied that I should not be in the least afraid if they did. Women in the future will have a wider and greater platform of public service than ever before. Women among our delegates have shown their equality to man, not only in the words they have spoken but in the work they represent.

Commissioner Higgins, who served thirteen years under women chiefs, spoke highly of woman's qualities as leader.

The Friends set an excellent example in this respect which has made for the emancipation of women from religious fetters and for an equal standard of morality; in later organisations such as the Theosophical Society, the Christian Scientists, the Bahai Movement, sex equality rules, and has proved an excellent foundation for service. If politicians were wise they would take note and courageously follow this excellent example.

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## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

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### MILITANT POLICY OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

The question is frequently asked, What is the actual policy of the Women's Freedom League, and how do we stand with regard to militancy? It may be well at this critical moment to make our position perfectly clear.

We are militant, and in so far our methods differ from those of the constitutional Suffragists. We believe that there have been moments in the history of every nation when laws had to be broken in order to prove that they harked behind the conscience of the people. That the law which prevents woman from taking her place as citizen is unjust and tyrannous we believe, and therefore we are in rebellion against a Government that refuses to give the nation an opportunity to redress that injustice. Therefore, we resist taxation, we refuse to submit to the Insurance Act, we make protests in public places against the orders of authorities; we do everything we can to emphasize our conviction that we are being treated as outlaws.

But we use no violence, and we do not, at any time or in any way, either damage private property or inflict suffering and loss on our fellow-citizens.

This, briefly, is our policy. I wish also to make it perfectly clear that it is adopted by the whole of the League, and has not been imposed upon it by its leaders. Over and over again, in our yearly conferences, two resolutions have been passed by large majorities—that we ourselves shall abstain from violence, and that we shall not criticise those who follow other methods.

C. DESPARD.

### THE PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 7, the President will be "At Home" (by kind permission of Mrs. Harvey) at Brackenhill, Highland-road, Bromley, from 3.30 to 6 p.m.

She will be delighted to welcome every member and friend of the Women's Freedom League who can possibly go to see her.

To commemorate the occasion, Mrs. Despard has consented to plant a labourum tree.

The most convenient train leaves Victoria at 2.50 p.m. Book to Shortlands Station, where the train will be met by representatives of the League. The train back to Victoria leaves Shortlands at 6.15.

E. KNIGHT,  
F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### AT HEADQUARTERS.

Caxton Hall.—The last of our indoor afternoon meetings this session will take place next Wednesday at Caxton Hall, when we shall have privilege of listening to two distinguished foreign Suffragists, Miss Rosika Schwimmer and Sister Henriette Arendt. Miss Schwimmer will speak on "What Finnish Women do for their Country," and Sister Henriette on "The International Traffic in Children." The chair will be taken by Miss A. A. Smith at 3.30, and we hope to see a great number of our members and friends present on this occasion.

Hyde Park.—Throughout the rest of July we shall hold open-air meetings Wednesday afternoons in Hyde Park. The speaker on July 8 will be Miss Eunice

Murray, and the chair will be taken at 3.30. Will readers kindly rally to our support at these meetings?

Lancashire Coast Campaign.—From July 26 until the end of August Miss Andrews will run a Women's Freedom League Campaign in Blackpool, and one at New Brighton for the first fortnight in September. Will all who are willing to help communicate with Miss Andrews at 5, Friars-road, Sale, Cheshire? She will want many volunteers for speaking, selling THE VOTE and our literature, and collecting, &c.

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

### DR. KNIGHT'S TRIUMPH.

Sentenced in February to fines amounting to £20 for refusing to pay insurance contributions, with one month's imprisonment as the result of refusing to pay the fines, Dr. Elizabeth Knight continued to enjoy uninterrupted freedom until May 13, when a warrant was issued for her arrest. Still the hand of the Law tarried in the execution of the sentence, and not until June 16 was the warrant carried out. On June 17 she was once more at liberty, and her protest against Government without Consent and Taxation without Representation is completely vindicated by the action of the very Government against whom the protest was directed! Apparently that Government does not feel justified in keeping Dr. Knight in prison at the expense of the other taxpayers; and in that tardy recognition of the principle for which women are fighting we hope we see a sign of a new heart and a contrite spirit in the arrogant denizens of Downing-street.

To the statement—offered in the trusting belief that the Women's Freedom League is below the ordinary standard of intelligence—that Dr. Knight's fine had been paid, we present a polite incredulity. That incredulity is shared by other persons, whose connection with officialdom gives some weight to their frank opinion that the fine was not paid, that it frequently is not paid when the Government says it is, and that it is no uncommon practice to indulge in this particular form of official subterfuge. It appears that if the person fined has been committed to Holloway, the fine must be paid, in cash and in person, to the Governor of the prison. As no member of the League, nor of Dr. Knight's family or friends, visited the Governor for this purpose, it would be a matter of public interest to secure the name of the philanthropist who did! These unknown benefactors who intervene so opportunely between a stern Government and an oppressed people deserve the warm gratitude of Mr. McKenna and Mr. George, and no doubt find suitable acknowledgment of their never-to-be-sufficiently-admired altruism.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Dr. Knight on her spirited protest and her speedy release. We cannot spare her long from among us; and if anything could add to our joy at the discomfiture of McKenna, George and Co., it is the knowledge that we shall not have one month to wait before offering her those congratulations publicly and personally.

C. NINA BOYLE.

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## POLITICAL AND MILITANT.

## "Those whom the King Delights to Honour."

Once more the list of Birthday Honours gives cause for grave reflection. With the exception of ladies of the Royal Family—who, with a delightful incongruity, have been granted military honours—no woman in His Majesty's dominions has been allowed any share in the Royal recognition. Year after year this scandal continues and grows in enormity because of the increased value and extent of the services rendered by women to an ungrateful State that will not recognise their existence in any fashion, other than the infliction and enforcement of penalties. Again and again attention has been drawn to this matter; and the new list, with its amazing and cynical lack of justification, points an ugly moral in the evident scarcity of persons of merit of the male sex, and in the open revelation of the reasons for their inclusion. The Press, in a bald statement of facts, is more eloquent than it if had poured out a Niagara of criticism. Here are some of the qualifications for His Majesty's approval:—

- Sir Leonard Lyell; an ex-Radical M.P. and a nephew of Sir Charles Lyell, the famous geologist.  
 Lord Kinnaird; Director of Barclay and Co., bankers, and president of the Football Association.  
 Lord St. Davids; ex-Radical M.P., largely interested in South American finance.  
 Sir R. H. Hobart; Registrar of the Order of the Garter and Official Verderer of the New Forest.  
 Mr. James Horliok; name familiar in connection with a famous preparation of milk, out of which he made a large fortune.  
 Mr. Joseph Paton Maclay; partner in a large firm of Glasgow shipowners.  
 Mr. T. R. Bethell; Radical M.P. for the Malden Division of Essex from 1906 to 1910.  
 Mr. Ellis Denby; retired spinner, of Shipley.  
 Mr. J. H. Duncan, M.P.; member of a Yorkshire firm of worsted spinners, M.P. for the Oxley Division since 1900.  
 Mr. Edwin Homer; head of a trading firm of valuers and auctioneers in Blackburn.  
 Colonel Wallis King; Hon. Secretary of the Naval and Military Tournament.  
 Mr. R. C. Lockhart; jute and linen manufacture, Kirkcaldy.  
 Mr. John Robert O'Connell; prominent Dublin solicitor.  
 Dr. Seymour Sharkey; medical referee to the Treasury.  
 Mr. J. F. C. Snell; president-elect of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.  
 Mr. William Shaw Wright; Chairman of the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company and of the Hull Conservancy Board.

A more deliberate and unabashed prostitution of the nation's honours to party exigencies one could not conceive. Above and beyond the greed which makes a sex monopoly of the King's recognition is the disgrace of the open barter implied.

The Women's Freedom League is sending to the Prime Minister and to His Majesty a protest which will include a list of names of women who should have been mentioned in any worthy or representative roll of Royal honours. In some cases, the recognition is long overdue. This list will be published in our next issue, and will form a startling contrast to the official list published last Monday, to the lasting disgrace of the Ministers whose traffic in national rewards has long been a crying scandal.

## Picketing.

Pickets stand daily at the Palace Yard entrance to the House of Commons, to catch those of the Peers who enter thereby; and at the main entrance to the House of Lords, to catch those who use their own doorway. Volunteers to picket between the hours of 4.15 and 7.30 are badly needed. Please do not fail to send in your name to the office, stating what days and times you can give. The pickets receive courtesy and kindly interest. The leaflets are taken and read with avidity, the posters show the reason for our picketing, and the flags attract attention to our League and its colours. If you want to spend a really interesting hour or two, volunteer for picket duty without delay. Friendly chats with M.P.s, visitors to the House, passers-by, and foreign visitors in England, give one a glimpse of the way in which the whole world is watching the Suffrage movement in England.

## LIGHTHOUSES.

The question of Women Police (or "female constables," as he prefers to term them) is one which affords the male journalist an occasion to sharpen his not over-polished wits. He draws a painful picture of a portly "P.C. Petticoat" hauling off naughty delinquents, male and female, to the Police Courts, bearing false witness against them, and accusing them of the heinous offence of being seen in each other's company on the top of an omnibus. In short, he believes that if once women were introduced into the Police Force, "all his little pleasures in life would be doomed, and life would be lived in conformity with the standard of manners and morals imposed by the strictest sect of Plymouth Brethren.

It is a truism to say that the eye can only see what it brings with it the power of seeing. It is another picture which is conjured up in the brain of Councillor Margaret Ashton, a name honoured in Manchester for her enlightened and devoted work in the service of the community, and who, needless to say, is a whole-hearted woman suffragist. To her, the woman police officer presents herself as a lighthouse, beckoning those who are tossed on the huge waves of Fate, saving the wrecks of humanity, giving them shelter and help and opportunities for recovery from the cruel storms of life.

A Conference on Women Police: Their Position and Powers, was held last Friday at Caxton Hall, under the auspices of the Criminal Law Amendment Committee, the chair being taken by that friend of Woman Suffrage and of so many other good causes—the Rev. Dr. Cobb, Rector of St. Ethelburga, Bishopsgate. He did not question the wisdom and superiority of men (!), but he was of opinion that, however well they do their work, they would do it better with the assistance of women. It might be that the work of women police would tend to bring about such conditions that the need for all police, male and female, would be abrogated. This might be the dream of a visionary, but visionaries had been the people who had done the world's work. He doubted whether punishment ever did any good. He was inclined to think it did more harm than good.

Miss Constance Tite, who has spent several months in Germany, studying the conditions under which police-women work in that country, said that at first the women were regarded as interlopers. Sister Henriette Arendt was the first woman appointed as police assistant in Germany. This was at Stuttgart, eleven years ago. Now, thirty-five towns in Germany have police-women and find their work indispensable. They have the entire dealing with prostitutes, and all cases relating to children and young persons are investigated by them. She drew the attention of the Conference to the fact that, while the example of Germany was useful, conditions in the two countries being different, it was not possible to take Germany as an exact model.

Mrs. Luke Paget said that women were needed as police officers, because they were different from men, and could do work which could not be adequately done by men. The duty of Watch and Ward was essentially the work of women. Girls would often be saved from silly mistakes if they could turn to someone they could trust. With women police, London would be a cleaner and safer place for girls and boys.

"In our own country, we have to go very fast to keep where we are," said Mr. Bronson Reynolds, formerly Prosecuting Attorney for the County of New York. There were, he said, fifteen cities in the U.S.A. and two in Canada (Toronto and Ottawa), which have women police with full powers. The report of the splendid work of Mrs. Josephine Roohe in Denver had already reached Europe. As Prosecuting Attorney it had been his duty to investigate cases in which women were charged, and he found that the women brought before him had frequently to live through "a chain of mortifications." With women police, the entire machinery of the Police Courts could be improved. Cases had undoubtedly occurred in which women had

been demoralised by police officers. Women and girls were more or less in danger when the power over them was entirely in the hands of men. Girls should be placed in the care of women. There was a need for women who were able to speak with authority. He thought that during the next ten years, all towns in the U.S.A. would appoint police-women.

Schwester Henriette Arendt, to whom reference had been made by Miss Tite, as having been the first police-woman in Germany, said that she was now in England to study social conditions and, in particular, the international traffic in children, which she was frequently told here, as she had been told in Germany, did not exist. As police-woman, she had the supervision of prostitutes and, in general, that of young persons. It had often been her duty to witness against women, and she had felt the urgent need for women as lawyers and as judges. It was universally acknowledged that the women police had been a success in Germany and she hoped that the same success would attend the women police in England. In answer to an enquiry as to whether a definite training was required, she gave her opinion in the affirmative. It was necessary that the women police should have special knowledge of the law dealing with children. She had herself trained women for police work in Germany, Austria, Finland and Norway.

Councillor Margaret Ashton (Manchester City Council) insisted, as indeed did all the other speakers, on the necessity for police-women to have the same powers of arrest and search as were conferred upon the men. There was general agreement with the Chairman of the meeting that women police must have the same powers, the same status, and the same pay as the men constables. In Manchester, many more police matrons were needed, but the functions of the police matron were quite distinct from those to be performed by the police-woman. Women police were not needed to do the work of rescue workers. They were needed to patrol the streets, to visit places of amusement and more particularly to take down the depositions of children and girls, in cases of sexual offences.

(Writing in last week's VOTE, Mrs. Nott Bower says:—

"We ought to realise that in cases of incest or criminal assault upon a child, we are dealing with quite innocent victims of most cruel wrong, and therefore it is doubly incumbent upon the community to do nothing to add to their suffering, and, above all, nothing that may further add to the original outrage by deepening its impression on a young mind.")

Councillor Margaret Ashton also drew the attention of the Conference to the need for protection for boys as well as for girls, which would be afforded by the appointment of police-women. She believed that the periodical visits of women police to places of amusement would have a great moral effect. The presence of women police in the streets would be of great service to respectable girls and women, who have frequently now to go to a policeman to ask him where they can get a night's lodging. She agreed with the other speakers that the majority of the police are respectable men, who take no advantage of their position to mislead women, but there are men among them who draw girls into bad houses. Nothing could be more unsuitable than the practice of men constables inspecting women's lodging-houses when the women are in bed. She believed that when men and women work together, they can solve problems which have hitherto been insoluble—a proposition which has frequently been put forward by Suffragists.

A Resolution urging the appointment of women police constables, with powers equal to those of men constables in all county boroughs and the metropolitan boroughs in the County of London, was carried *nem. con.*

E. M. N. C.

## A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.

Much water has run under the Suffrage bridge during the last few weeks. From the futile conference of the Liberal women, the still more futile debate on militancy in the Commons, and the outbreaks of mob nastiness engineered by the Press and encouraged by magistrates and Cabinet Ministers to the amazing *volte-face* of the Prime Minister last Saturday, events have marched with bewildering rapidity. The Government, tangled in its own net, is apparently finding the task of governing difficult. Thus only can we explain the incongruity of the situation, and its curiously swift contradictions.

The Council of the Women's Liberal Federation exhausted itself in abuse of militants and militancy. Their support of Suffrage is apparently entirely subordinate to their support of party Liberalism; and very much at variance with the bolder, freer Liberalism advocated by that forward section of the Liberal women who have formed themselves into a Suffrage organisation. After denouncing the "terrible scourge and violence" which their association with Nationalists surely should have taught them to respect, and condemning the "false and spurious sentimentality" of the Government, they must have felt a trifle dazed at seeing that the Prime Minister, as the direct result of the militant action of an excessively turbulent "rebel," had consented to receive a deputation of that rebel's supporters—introduced by two other rebels, Mr. Lansbury and Mr. Scurr, who themselves have been haled before the Courts and are still liable to imprisonment—and graciously promised consideration to the rebels who were not present. More. Mr. Asquith went back completely on poor Mr. McKenna, who surely has the hardest job ever shouldered on to a Cabinet Minister!

Mr. McKenna very pointedly told the House of Commons that, although he could not keep Suffragettes in prison till the end of their terms, yet the way in which they were treated while they were there entailed suffering far beyond the original sentences, so that members need not fear that the women were escaping punishment. The Home Secretary, therefore, has at last admitted what he has been charged with over and over again, that forcible feeding is not being used as "hospital treatment," but as an additional punishment. This was highly pleasing to the House of Commons. Of all the things set forth by the Home Secretary, the picture of the sufferings of the rebel women most appealed the wrath of the honourable and gallant gentlemen who make up the roll of the representatives of the "people." Now Mr. Asquith has told Mrs. Scurr that he does not wish to be "vindictive" and that no one has any desire or intention to be vindictive, and that he will speak to Mr. McKenna about it. We would much have liked to have been present when he did, and to have heard what Mr. McKenna called him.

So there are two sets of Liberal opinion among the women Liberals; and two sets of Liberal opinion in the Cabinet. These double standards are very perplexing. Liberalism is either the support of Liberal principles, or, alternatively, the support of a Liberal Government which defies Liberal principles. It is almost as worrying as the standards about militancy. Irishmen of all sections may be militant, without scruple. They may terrorise the Government without fear or loss of political status or personal freedom. Hooligans may be militant. Helpless persons attacked by murderous mobs find it difficult to understand the subtle distinctions now being drawn. The militant women who resent a condition of political serfdom are denounced for a campaign of violence. Hordes of semi-savage ruffians are applauded and encouraged whenever they commit violence on gatherings of persons, or individual persons known to be or suspected of being in sympathy with the Suffrage movement. Why are these male militants, who have no grievance, less blameworthy than the female militants who have? There is no answer to this question, except

the old anti-suffrage *Benedicite*, "Man is man and woman is woman."

It is, however, quite evident that the Government is "distracted with the dangers they have allowed to grow up. For the want of a strong and timely hand in Ireland they are faced with two hostile armed forces in that "distressful country," and they cannot clear the decks for action because of the confusion created by other rebels. For want of a measure of common justice, the militant women's movement has become a menace to the peace and order of the community. The press has so inflamed an already dangerous condition that the time has now come when non-suffrage women are no longer safe from frenzied attacks. The Prime Minister's admissions and concessions to Mrs. Scurr's deputation are a tacit confession that he no longer believes in coercion only for women; and the release of Dr. Knight, after a bombastic and futile prosecution, sentence and arrest, reveals the straits to which an Anti-Liberal policy has reduced a Liberal Government that has acted on double standards of morals in politics, in conduct, and in rebellion.

C. NINA BOYLE.

#### SOME QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

##### Women Suffrage and the Referendum.

On June 22, in answer to a question by Mr. King as to taking a Referendum of the electors on Woman Suffrage, Mr. Asquith said: "I have seen in the public Press a letter from Lord Murray on this subject, but I am not satisfied that the suggestion made in it is the proper method of dealing with the question referred to, nor do I think that a Bill for the object is likely to be regarded as non-contentious."

##### Woman Suffrage and a Select Committee.

On the same day Dr. Chapple asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that women having no electoral voice in the selection of Members of the House persistently alleged that they suffered as a class from wrongs which a man-made Parliament would not redress, and in view of the fact also that many Members opposed to the extension of the franchise to women had nevertheless repeatedly expressed their willingness to support any measures for the removal of such injustices as might be shown to exist, he would set up a Select Committee to inquire into and report on alleged grievances.

Mr. Asquith: "His Majesty's Government are quite willing to consider any grievances that may be shown to exist in this matter, but they do not think that the appointment of a Select Committee for the purpose suggested is necessary."

##### Women and Income Tax.

On June 16 Mr. Cassel asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention had been called to the judgment of Mr. Justice Rowlatt in the case of Purdie v. the King, in which he held that the proviso in Section 45 of the Income Tax Act 1842, that the profits of any married woman living with her husband should be deemed the profits of the husband and be charged to the husband, did not apply to charges by deduction; and whether in view of this decision, the Commissioners will now recognise the claims of married women to exemption and abatement in respect of separate incomes.

Mr. Lloyd George: "I am unable to recognise that the decision in this case, under which it was held that Mrs. Purdie was not entitled to the repayment of tax claimed by her, involves the consequences suggested by the Hon. and learned Member."

Mr. Cassel: "Can the Right Hon. Gentleman say why it is that although an income from which the tax has been deducted is not deemed to be the husband's income, the wife is not entitled to claim her exemption?"

Mr. Lloyd George: "The Hon. and learned Gentleman is now entering into an argumentative matter which I could not possibly discuss by way of question and answer."

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### MR. ASQUITH AND THE EAST-END DEPUTATION.

The Prime Minister, after many "Nays" at last said "Yea," and decided to receive at Downing-street on Saturday morning last, a deputation of the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, to the establishment of which Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, with other able helpers, has devoted all her time and energy for the last two years and achieved remarkable success. The Federation has branches in Bow and Bromley, Poplar, Stepney, Limehouse, Hackney, and Canning Town.

The deputation consisted of Mrs. Scurr, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Parsons, and Mrs. Payne, chosen by public meetings in Limehouse, Poplar, Canning Town, and Bow and Bromley. They were accompanied by George Lansbury and John Scurr.

It was unique in being probably the first body that had ever gone to see the head of the Government of this country, unaccompanied by organisers or Members of Parliament, and consisting solely of women engaged in the every day work of life. The Prime Minister, unaccompanied by Cabinet colleagues, met them in a quite informal manner, and put everyone at ease.

Mrs. Scurr, who spoke first, after expressing regret that Miss Sylvia Pankhurst was too ill to be present, dealt with the case of the women wage-earners of the East-end. It was a common thing, she said, for women to earn seven or eight shillings for a full week's work. The average wage of women throughout the country was seven shillings per week, and they were all sure that it was impossible for a woman with only herself to keep to live decently on 7s. The wages fixed by the Minimum Wage Boards were exceedingly low, in no case more than 13s. 6d. for a full week's work for adult women. Any rise in the price of rents and foods, or other necessities, affected the women mostly. The Insurance Act had shown the enormous amount of sickness there was among married women. The husbands of the women of the working class died on the average at a much earlier age than men of other classes, and the widows were left often with a large family of young children to support, and were able to earn but a scanty wage. The Poor Law had treated them mercilessly. Out relief in most cases was denied to the widow as well as to the deserted wife. Mrs. Scurr dealt with such vital questions as the need for divorce law reform, the pitiable position of unmarried mothers, and the White Slave Traffic. Dealing with the payment of taxation by women she said that every year large numbers of poor women are sent to prison for contempt of court because they have been unable to pay their rates and taxes. Some are quite old women who have worked hard all their lives and never before come into contact with the law. This is a most cruel hardship. It was imperative that women should have the power to improve the awful conditions in which they and their children lived. "The demand, which we have come to make to you to-day," she said, "is one that we believe had not hitherto been made by any Woman Suffrage deputation. It is the form of franchise which you have declared your intention of establishing for men in the near future. It is the one for which your party is said to stand. It is a vote for every woman over 21. It is common knowledge that every great statesman, and especially those of your own party, have declared that where popular unrest springs up the right course is to remove the cause. We urge you to bring in a Government measure for a vote for every woman over 21, and to do so immediately, and we ask it especially because of our urgent sense of grave need."

Mrs. Scurr said their leader had been sent to prison nine times; and nine times had she been brought to death's door. Her crime was only that of speaking. Men like Larkin, Lansbury, and Carson had all made seditious speeches, yet were free. "We wish to put it to you that Sylvia Pankhurst has suffered enough," said Mrs. Scurr. She appealed for Mrs. Walker, the docker's wife, now in prison, and asked him to secure unconditional release for both Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Walker.

Mrs. Hughes, of Bow, a brushmaker, told how she earned 2d. for a half-guinea brush; Mrs. Bird, of Poplar, the wife of a transport worker, gave facts of family expenditure, with a good husband, earning 25s. a week, and six children; Mrs. Ford, of Stepney, and Mrs. Parsons, added sad stories of the difficulties under which women work, and their miserable wages.

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#### The Prime Minister's Reply.

##### CAREFUL AND MATURE CONSIDERATION.

Mr. Asquith, in reply, said:—I have received a great many deputations in this room and elsewhere from various organisations, both of men and women, asking for the extension of the franchise to your sex, and it is a mistake to suppose, as I think it is suggested in one of the letters which preceded this interview, that these deputations have not consisted of, or have not been representative of, working women. That is not the case. I have heard very remarkable speeches from women workers, representing the textile trades of Lancashire and Yorkshire and other industries in various parts of the kingdom. Yet upon consideration I was glad to have an opportunity of giving you a hearing this morning for two reasons. In the first place I understand you and the organisation with which you are connected dissociate yourselves altogether from these criminal manners which have done so much to impede the progress of your cause, and next because I think the East-end of London, the working people in the East-end of London, stand in some respects upon a peculiar footing, that they had at any rate, a special case to which it is well to give attention, and which, as

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far as I am concerned, I am much more glad to hear first hand from the people who are actually concerned in it, and whom it touched, than from the outside evidence of any people, whoever they may be. I tell you quite frankly that I have listened with the greatest interest to the statements made by Mrs. Scurr and the special individual experiences of the various members of the deputation by which that statement has been reinforced. It has been a very moderate and well-reasoned presentation of your case, and I assure you that I will give it careful and mature consideration.

I am not going into anything in the nature of arguments or to deal with any controversial topic, but I think I am right in saying that in substance the case you have presented to me to-day comes to this: That the economic conditions under which women labour in a community like, for instance, the East End of London, are such that neither in the way of legislation, nor perhaps in the way of administration, can you get substantial and intelligent reform unless women themselves have a voice in choosing their representatives in Parliament. You have given, each of you, special illustrations from your own experience, or the experience of your neighbours, to show that is not merely a rhetorical statement, but corresponds to the actual facts in East-end life. I am not going to argue, because I will take all these things into careful consideration. But it is only fair to point out, as I think more than one of the speakers have acknowledged, that these conditions have been, as you will see if you cast your eyes back, substantially mitigated, though they have not been brought up to the level we should like to see, by legislation and administration. To only give two illustrations: the establishment of trade boards two or three years ago, though it has not raised women's wages to the extent we should like to see them, has made a substantial improvement in the condition of things which prevailed before. And in the same way, with regard to what you were telling me just now about the cigarette factory, I think there is very little doubt that the introduction of women in increasing numbers into factory inspection has improved the conditions on what they were thirty or forty years ago. I am strongly in favour of that reform, and I should like to see it even now more widely extended than it is.

##### A DEMOCRATIC MEASURE.

There are special and sad cases such as those the speakers referred to with regard to the position of certain workers and unmarried mothers which, no doubt, do call for special consideration, but in regard to which, if every woman over twenty-one had a vote and exercised it and helped to return to the House of Commons people who were in sympathy with their wishes and wants in the matter, you would still find that problem, I will not say insoluble, but excessively difficult. Even with the best minds in the country inspired by the strongest sympathy

and thoroughly representative of all the interests concerned, I will not go so far as to say we should never be able to remove it, but it is a difficult and complex problem which cannot be solved by any short cut or by any heroic remedy. I do not want to argue this question at all. On one point I am in complete agreement with you. I have always said that if you are going to give the franchise to women, give it to them on the same terms as to men. Make it a democratic measure. It is no good paltering with it. If the discrimination of sex does not justify the giving of the vote to one sex and withholding it from the other, it follows *a fortiori* that the discrimination of sex does not justify and cannot warrant giving to women a restricted form of franchise while you give to men an unrestricted form of franchise. If a change is to come, it must be democratic in its basis.

##### NO DESIRE TO BE VINDICTIVE.

The other point was in regard to those two ladies, Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Walker. Your suggestion is that there is a different measure of justice or injustice, whichever you like to call it, meted out to women and men, and quite apart from that allegation, your suggestion is that Sylvia did not commit a formidable offence, like any criminal violence, for which that would be an appropriate punishment. I shall be very glad to speak to the Home Secretary about these cases and consult him about them, and I can assure you there is not the slightest disposition in any quarter to be vindictive, and although it has unfortunately become necessary to take such steps as can be taken to suppress the use of organised violence, there is no desire at the back of any of my colleagues or myself to interfere with the fullest expression of free speech and the proper organisation of opinion in all the forms with which we are familiar in England, right or wrong.

##### AFTERWARDS.

The members of the East London deputation to the Prime Minister and the East London Federation of the Suffragettes have expressed their disappointment that Mr. Asquith's reply did not at once give a definite favourable answer to their demand for an immediate Government measure to give a vote to every woman over twenty-one; but they await the result of the careful and mature consideration which Mr. Asquith has promised to give to their demand, and will expect to hear from him within the next few days.

Neither the deputation nor the East London Federation repudiate the militant measures of other organisations. They carry on their own militant fight for the vote in accordance with their view of what is suited to them.

Miss Sylvia Pankhurst contradicts the statement made by *The Times* that when she arrived at St. Stephen's Hall on Thursday last she sent in a violent message to the Speaker and afterwards apologised.

## MRS. BESANT ON WOMEN AND POLITICS. THE ONLY WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

The Queen's Hall was crowded to its utmost limits last Tuesday evening to hear Mrs. Besant lecture on the dominant question of the day: Women and Politics. It was, she said, in response to the many requests made to her that she agreed, before her departure for India, to speak on the subject on which, forty years before, she had spoken almost within a stone's throw of the Queen's Hall. The struggle is not yet won, but the triumphs gained in other aspects of the woman's movement, she said, make the political victory certain. Urging the need for a large view, she divided her lecture into four heads: (1) The general advance of women; (2) Objections now being raised to Woman Suffrage; (3) The results in countries in which Woman Suffrage is an established fact; (4) How the present condition of the struggle has been reached. "When a great cause has reached a crisis, when many are speaking unfairly, when cries of anger are heard, I would rather stand by those who in some unwisdom are showing a most marvellous heroism, rather speak before the cause triumphs, than later when everyone acclaims the victory and the unwisdom is forgotten in the heroism that inspired the struggle."

### The First Step: Education.

The spread of higher education for women, Mrs. Besant insisted, was the first great step in advance, and this struggle is practically won; she told of the founding of women's colleges—the first, Queen's College, Harley-street, in 1843; very soon after, Bedford College; later on, Newnham and Girton. That Oxford and Cambridge still refuse women the crown of the letters of degrees won is, she said, "a petty piece of antiquated convention."

Then followed the struggle, against bitter opposition, for entry into the medical profession, and the story of some pioneers—Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett, and Sophia Jex Blake—lent point to a rapid sketch of events which led to victory.

Votes for various Councils—Municipal, Borough, School Board, &c.—were granted; another struggle, only partly won, was referred to: that of Josephine Butler against prostitution. "Much still remains to be done," said Mrs. Besant; "this is one of the causes why the woman's vote is so badly needed."

### "We Must Move More Quickly."

Outlining the story of the struggle for the Parliamentary Vote, Mrs. Besant paid tribute to Mary Smith who, in 1832, sent a petition to Parliament for Woman Suffrage, signed by herself alone. She told of John Stuart Mill's petition and others, of Bills, resolutions, and amendments; how Woman Suffrage was six times approved and fourteen times rejected, and pointed out that, considering these figures, it could not with justice be said that militancy had retarded progress. Liberals, she declared, voted for Woman Suffrage when they were sure it would not pass; they come out in their true colours when militancy had made it a practical question. Women are demanding the vote because of right and justice; there should be no talk of the State granting the right; the State is the nation, and half the nation must not go unrepresented, having no share in voting the taxes they are compelled to pay. It took forty years' continuous work to get the age of consent raised from thirteen to sixteen; it took thirty years' work to get the Married Woman's Property Act on to the Statute Book. "We must move more quickly now!"

### Concerning Objections.

Mrs. Besant put aside objections which are antiquated and have been disproved by results, such as that all women would vote as do their husbands, fathers, and brothers, declaring that it was balanced by the other objection that votes for women would cause family dissensions. Taking the objection that "women do not want the vote," she pointed to the petitions from organised bodies of women workers, from the great Suffrage Societies, from Town and Borough Councils, but insisted that those who want it ought to have it, even if it were true that the majority did not want it; no great reform battled for and won has been wanted by the majority; it is the intelligent minority that wins. That "women rule already" with wives was, she insisted, the grossest insult to womanhood—and manhood. Lord Curzon's objection that the vote would interfere with woman's duty of maternity, if logically pursued, would shut her out from everything else. "By degrading women thus you would grow a nation of stupid men." The objection is nothing but hypocrisy, she added; it does not prevent men urging women to join the Primrose League or the Women's Liberal Federation, and work hard to get men into Parliament. She laughed to scorn Lord Curzon's other objection that to give votes to women would endanger British rule in India—when Queen Victoria was honoured throughout the length and

breadth of the country, when Indian history is full of the great deeds of women, even to leading armies.

### "Where Are You Going to Stop?" Nowhere!

Sex must not be taken into consideration as sex; women must neither be chosen for any position, nor debarred from it, because they are women; the best person must be chosen, irrespective of sex.

### Results: Outworn Objections Disproved.

Beginning with Wyoming, Mrs. Besant told of the coming of Woman Suffrage in the United States, its recent rapid progress, and gave undeniable evidence of its good results in juster laws for women and children, in morality and social progress. Warm tribute was paid to Finland, where women not only vote but are taken into counsel by the nation; to Norway and the British Dominions overseas—New Zealand and Australia, which have left the Mother Country behind and disproved outworn objections.

### Liberal Principles Denied to Women.

In a masterly survey of events since 1906, when a wave of enthusiasm for representative institutions helped to sweep the Liberals into power, and such questions as housing reform, sweated labour and wages were put in the front of the Party programme—all questions in which women were vitally interested—encouraging women to believe that the Liberal Party would apply its principles to them, she showed how those principles have been applied only to men; that repression, coercion, torture have been meted out to women demanding justice; how Mr. Churchill's refusal to grant an inquiry into the events of "Black Friday" drove women into doing more than present petitions to Parliament. Britain, which had lectured Europe on the treatment of political prisoners, refused to give sanctuary to her own women. The Press, indignant over Stopniak's revelations in "Russia Under the Czars," hates and misrepresents women striving for freedom in England. Unconvicted prisoners are brought into court too weak to stand their trial. "Is it possible that these things can be?" asked Mrs. Besant; "that cruelty, brutality, and torture are meted out to women before conviction!" She strongly denounced the torture of the Cat and Mouse Act; maintained that every martyr might have escaped suffering if ready to sacrifice principle; and marvelled that an Englishman could say of suffrage prisoners: "They punish themselves worse than I could have done!"

### What Will be the End? The Vote!

"How will it end? Only by doing justice and granting women their just demands! 'Remove the cause' is the method with men's grievances when they become disturbances. The same remedy must be applied to women. Yet John Scurr, George Lansbury go free, and Sylvia Pankhurst, under the same condemnation, is arrested and rearrested eight times. Mrs. Besant urged recognition of Mr. Asquith's change of face to save a woman's life; Mr. McKenna's attack on the militants' funds she characterised as adding meanness to cruelty. She concluded with a moving appeal that neither the pride and prejudice of politicians, nor the sufferings and anger of the militants, should hinder justice; if Woman Suffrage is not granted, things will go from bad to worse; mob law instead of true law; lynch law instead of justice. She urged a definite promise on the part of the Liberal Government to make Woman Suffrage a plank in its platform, with an amnesty for the militants and a truce to militancy, recognising that it has made it impossible to hang up the reform. "People will marvel that in England such a struggle was ever waged; when men and women are working together in patriotic service, and the warriors have made the woman's cause triumphant, the wrong done—I am against violence, though I realise the motives of those who are driven to it and honour their heroism (she interpolated)—will be forgotten in the splendour of the work accomplished, which has made women free."

### A MEMORY.

I knew a woman once, serenely grave,  
Whose hours for others' happiness were spent.  
No selfish pleasures could her soul content,  
Nor could she sympathise with fashion's slave.  
The dens of drink and fever found her brave,  
Unruly passions to her suasion bent.  
By her cool touch pride's barriers were rent.  
She helped the foolish and reformed the knave.

She wished for wider influence to make known  
The wrongs of her poor sisters, and to shame  
Taskmasters in their gross unrighteousness.  
The hopes she breathed will soon perchance be grown  
To ripe fulfilment: Then the sacred flame  
Of zeal now kindled shall refine and bless.

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Stylish Gown with prettily draped Skirt of Saxe Satin. The Bodice is composed of Saxe Ninon over Ivory Lace trimmed Gold Lace & Tango Ninon. In all colours. Sale price 57/6

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FRIDAY, June 26, 1914.

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### EDITORIAL.

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

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## FROM NATURAL CAUSES.

"Died from natural causes." Such was the verdict given the other day in the case of an appallingly sudden death. The victim was a horsekeeper. He returned home on one of these late summer days, said to his wife, "We must have a holiday soon," and immediately fell down dead. The evidence of the doctor was to the effect that he had been shockingly overworked and that no food was found in his stomach. The wife, when questioned, said he often gave his food to hungry children. She said also that for some time he had always been "tired." An ordinary person listening to the evidence would have come to the only logical conclusion—the man had died of over-work and insufficient nourishment. Probably the coroner was of the same opinion; but as such admissions might endanger the stability of our social system, the old lying verdict was given, "Natural causes."

It is a piteous story, and, unfortunately, not new. "They call our deaths by many names," said a woman, the sole survivor of a large family of workers; "but they're all one and the same. We work—we have to—and we stint and pinch, and then we take sick and die; and it's no wonder."

The naked truth is that, in our free and happy land, women, men and children, in their multitudes suffer unspeakable tortures, become, sometimes for years, useless members of society, living on over-worked relatives or the harsh charity of the Poor Law, and die untimely. But these things, we are told, must be. There is no use lamenting over them. They are in the natural order: "Man"—and here the word man certainly includes woman—"is born to sorrow as the sparks fly upwards."

Now, it is our earnest conviction that this sort of talk is mere jargon—dangerous jargon—in the eyes of those who see clearly. There are two kinds of sorrow—one necessary, the other unnecessary. The necessary we must bear as best we can, calling upon the fortitude that is our human heritage. Against the unnecessary we must strive with all our force, and not until we have done every thing that in us lies to heal it should we dare to sit down listlessly and lay the blame of the world's undoing upon Nature, or Providence. Surely the time has come when the questions "What is natural?" and "What unnatural?" should be seriously grappled.

Let us see! Take first, as being constantly before us, the pronouncements at coroners' inquests, the judgments of persons in authority, the common parlance of unthinking people. What, according to these, is natural?

That, in a great majority, men should work up to and beyond the limit of their powers; that women, the vast number, should work also and weep as they work; that little children, in their multitudes, should be deprived of the opportunity of fair and full development;

that the minority should cynically and thanklessly batten on the flesh and blood of the majority; that young men, richly endowed for human service, should sow their wild oats, never mind at whose cost, before they settle down to family life and political activities; that the vices which are poisoning the nation's blood should, in the case of men, be charitably condoned because Nature has made them what they are; that women, being naturally the weaker vessels, should suffer and be still.

No one will dare to deny that these are the answers given by persons in place and power to the question—"What is natural?" And there is a subtle reason for Society's attitude. To throw the blame for the world's misery on something outside the world, say Providence or Nature—is to shift the burden of responsibility from the shoulders of those who constitute Society. Like Cain they disclaim power. What can we do? You must quarrel with Nature. She made us so.

Alas! how cruelly does Society malign that mother-power to which every unit owes its being? The truth, if we could only see it, is that we have gone against Nature—that we are living as aliens in the harmony of the Universe. It is not Nature, it is a man-made civilisation which outrages Nature, that is responsible for by far the greater number of our sorrows. And undoubtedly the day will come—nay, may it not be that it has already dawned?—when Nature, great, beneficent, and yet ruthless, will assert herself. Past civilisations, grown corrupt and weak, have been swept away. New races, strong, simple and natural, have taken their place. Do we dare to dream that what has happened to others who erred as we are erring to-day, may not happen to us? If so, we dream falsely. But there is a means of escape.

We have said that the day of deliverance seems already to have dawned. We say this advisedly, because we believe some are finding out a way of return to the holy guidance of Nature. And here, as is indeed most natural, women are the pioneers.

We have answered our first question: "What in the eyes of modern Society, is natural?" We come to the second—"What is unnatural?" Ask the distinguished persons—men and women—representing Society in its highest phases, who sit and stand on Anti-Suffrage platforms, and they, with one voice will answer you "Unnatural? Why, you are unnatural, you Suffragists. You are going against the safeguards—nay, more!—the holiest traditions of Humanity. Woman's sphere is ordained by Nature. In taking her out of it you are breaking the laws of God and seriously endangering the stability of Society. This open rebellion, this blatant demand of women to take their part in moulding the destinies of the nation, which only belongs to them through men's goodwill, is unnatural in the highest degree." From natural—we believe they would add immutable—causes women and men are as they are. The wild women are fighting against Nature!

This to-day. In the near future they, with the whole of Society, will recognise that women Suffragists—that women and men working together for the restoration of Society to health and sanity—are, in a very true sense, obeying the voice of Nature. It is because they cannot sit quiet under a system which, decreeing woman's subjection and man's dominance, ignores compassion and tramples upon those who allow themselves to be trampled upon, that they are Suffragists.

This is our mission—to hold up the mirror to Society, to make the nation perceive what are the gods it worships. Our eyes are open and the lying verdicts of "natural causes" will not satisfy us. Let the Anti-Suffragists rave as they will about the laws of God; that will not trouble us, for we are out to vindicate them. Not to dethrone Nature, but to restore her to her true place in the Nation's life is our object, and, knowing this, we know that we shall conquer.

C. DESPARD.

## OUR INTERNATIONAL COLUMN.

We welcome the following article, just to hand, from our good friend, Mrs. Ellen Wohl, giving interesting particulars of the new political party in Hungary which stands for woman suffrage and of which a brief notice has appeared in THE VOTE.

### THE CITIZEN RADICAL PARTY IN HUNGARY.

The first meeting of the new Citize Radical Party was held on June 6 in Budapest, under the chairmanship of Prof. Rustem Vambéry, son of the world famous Prof. A. Vambéry, who, during his life received marks of honour from their Majesties Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. The foundation of the Radical Party means a fundamental organisation of Hungary against the conservative rule of Count Tisza, who, in his blind adoration of aristocracy is the greatest obstacle of true progress. On the standard of the Radical Party we can read the real device of the Twentieth Century, and the men who hoisted this standard assure us of victory.

It is natural that among all the devices of the Radical Party, its first demand: "Universal Voting by ballot which is to include Women" is what gives the greatest satisfaction to the feminists. It is a joy to see that our great work, begun amid derision and sneers, and which even now demands so much self-sacrifice from our English sisters, has been recognised by the Radical Party, which now relieves us from the responsibility of fighting alone for the Great Cause, by treating it as their own.

Next year there will be a General Election, and the Conservatives have not yet realised the great help organised feminists will be able to give to the Radical Party in "Keeping the Liberals out."

### Schools for Girls.

Till we can take our part in political life, our work extends in every attainable direction for the welfare of our people. We take every opportunity to establish High Schools for girls such as exist for boys, and our thanks are given to these fathers who see the necessity of the equal education of both sexes and do not spare effort and money to carry through the projects advocated by the feminists. An interesting project will be realised in Nagyvarad this autumn, when young women will be taught by a doctor how to tend babies in order to avoid infantile mortality.

ELLEN WOHL.

### American Woman Quells a Town.

A young woman armed with a mandate from the Governor of Oregon arrived at Copperfield, a town in that State, early in the New Year, ordered all the public-houses to be closed, placed the town under martial law, demanded the instant retirement of the Mayor and Council, instructed a number of militia requisitioned to support her to disarm all the citizens, and then returned to Salem, the State capital.

The emissary was Miss Fern Hobbs, private secretary to the Governor, who took action in consequence of complaints by the citizens that the local authorities were ignoring violations of the State liquor law, the Mayor and several councillors being, in fact, public-house keepers.

Threats of action by the Governor had stirred the town, and citizens who are allied to liquor interests promptly armed themselves, intending to resist, but when one woman arrived at the railway station, where the populace was assembled to await the coming of the Governor's emissary, her mission was deemed a joke. Her immediate request for the resignation of the Council was flatly refused. In the train, however, were some members of the State Coast Artillery and prison guards, under Colonel B. K. Lawson, who is also superintendent of the State prison, and him she peremptorily ordered to place the town under martial law and arrest the Mayor and three councillors.

Colonel Lawson searched all the men at the railway station, and finding that each had a revolver disarmed them. He raided the public-houses, placing each under a guard, and ordered the proprietors to remove their stock out of the county under pain of confiscation.

### Why We Oppose Pockets for Women.

1. Because pockets are not a natural right.
2. Because the great majority of women do not want pockets. If they did, they would have them.
3. Because whenever women have had pockets they have not used them.
4. Because women are expected to carry enough things as it is, without the additional burden of pockets.
5. Because it would make dissension between husband and wife as to whose pockets were to be filled.
6. Because it would destroy man's chivalry towards woman if he did not have to carry all her things in his pockets.
7. Because men are men and women are women. We must not fly in the face of Nature.
8. Because pockets have been used by men to carry tobacco, pipes, whisky flasks, chewing gum and compromising letters. We see no reason to suppose that women would use them more wisely.—ALICE DUER MILLER in *New York Tribune*.

## AT THE FRENCH POSTAL CONGRESS

### WELCOME TO MISS LE CROISSETTE.

We are very glad to receive from Miss Le Croisette the following account of her impressions and experiences at the Conference of the "Société des Agents des Postes, Telegraphs and Telephones," which has just taken place at Lille, and which she attended as delegate from the British Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association. Our readers will remember that Miss Le Croisette is the first woman to represent the Association, and that she headed the poll at the election of a delegate.

The Conference was held in the Salle des Lilloises, and consisted of about 200 delegates from France and her Colonies, among whom was a fair number of women. On entering the Conference I was given the seat of honour next to the President, and each day I was requested to mount the tribune and speak. In my speech presenting the greetings of the Postal and Telegraph Clerks' Association, I made reference to the fact that I was the first woman to be sent as foreign delegate by our English Association. The President, in his reply, also commented on the innovation.

Throughout my stay I received great kindness from everybody; in one direction specially the kindness was shown in a remarkable manner. The French Postal Authorities granted three days' holiday (without loss of pay) to a woman employee for the purpose of entertaining me in my capacity as English delegate. I could not help wondering how long it will be before the English Government gives such an earnest of the *Eminente Cordiale*.

I was soon asked whether I was a "Suffragette Anglaise," and the news that such was the case soon spread throughout the Conference. Time after time I was congratulated on that score, and I must confess that red wine and white wine, and even champagne, were drunk to the success of "Les Suffragettes Anglaises" and "Le Women's Freedom League."

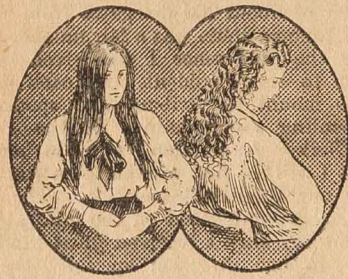
I exchanged information with the women regarding conditions of French and English service respectively. They seemed very surprised that compulsory retirement on marriage should be so rigidly enforced here. "C'est terrible," was their verdict. But on my enquiring how they gained the right to remain in the Service after marriage, should they so desire, they explained that, after all, it was only an act of expediency, and not a recognition of justice. The population of France has not replenished its numbers to the satisfaction of the Government, so the women are encouraged to come to the rescue by being allowed to remain in the Service after marriage. About 50 per cent. of the French Postal women are married. Should they have children the authorities allow them certain times off during the day in which to feed them! But great capital is made out of this "concession," for it is used as an argument against equal pay. After practically going on its knees to the women and begging them to increase the population (and incidentally proving that in the last resort the State or community depends on the women) the Government makes a virtue of expediency, and tells them they are not worth so much as men owing to the services which they have been implored to render!

The Congress devoted much time to the question of the treatment of "aides." These correspond in a way to our grocers'-shop-assistant-postal-clerk, but with this difference—the "aides" act very often as domestic drudges, besides selling bacon and stamps. Their condition is hard, and, needless to say, they are mostly women. The Society has decided to create a free school of training for entrants to the established Service, in order to enable the "aides" to better their position.

The French postal women have a fine spirit. They want no favours, but ask for the same treatment as the men; or, as a Paris delegate said to me, "Nous ne voulons pas la galanterie mais la justice!" They have nothing but admiration for the English women who are fighting for their freedom, and gave me repeated assurances of their sympathy with us in the present struggle for enfranchisement. Throughout my stay at Lille I seemed to be as much a Suffragist as a postal

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delegate; and, indeed, the fact of my being a Suffragist was a recommendation wherever I went. It is good at times to come into contact with people of a different tongue, to feel that our ideals are theirs also, and to know that afar off they watch our fight as though it were their own.  
P. LE CROISSETTE.

### THE "PROTECTED" SEX.

#### Killed.

The body of an elderly woman was found lying partly on the bank and partly in the reeds of the Grand Junction Canal at Isleworth. The head bore two severe wounds. The woman had evidently been attacked, and had either fallen or been thrown into the reeds. The victim was identified as Emma Miller, a lame woman who has been staying at a lodging-house in the Brentford district.—*Daily Mail*, June 22.

#### Procuration.

Joseph Karmeller, 30, and Sam Scheffer, 26, charged at Thames Police Court with being concerned together in attempting to procure Rose and Yetta Doffman, aged 20 and 17 respectively. Karmeller said, when witness (Yetta Doffman) met him with her sister and two other men, "You should go with one of those fellows. They would not mind spending money on you, as they are rich." Witness was taken to the first-floor back room of the house where Karmeller resided. Prisoner tried to molest her, without success. Next day Karmeller met them, and said: "That man I introduced you to takes girls to Buenos Ayres, where they can make a nice living."

At a later period Scheffer was introduced to witness. He said: "I had a girl like you, but after a few years she left me. I will try and get enough money to take you and your sister and Karmeller to Buenos Ayres." Later Karmeller said to her sister: "I am trying to make it easy for you both not to work so hard. I want to take you to Buenos Ayres, but I have not got enough money. I have got a brother in Buenos Ayres, and he has got three girls there, and he's making a nice living." On the 12th inst. witness and her sister met Karmeller as they were going to their work after dinner, and he said, "I am very slack and I want you to help me with money." Her sister said she had no money as she gave it to her parents, and Karmeller replied, "On Saturday I will show you a place where a man will give you £2." Remanded.—*News of the World*, June 21.

#### Robbery with Violence and Attempted Rape.

Richard Farmer Yates, charged with attempting to rob Mrs. Davies, of Newport, Monmouthshire, with violence. Accused pretended to show Mrs. Davies the way to a lady whom she wished to visit, but half-way through a wood tried to take her money. He also attempted improper relations, and when she resisted, struck her on the jaw. She screamed. He said, "I will stop your screaming," and held her neck with his hands. After a struggle she fainted, and remembered nothing more till P.C. Steadman and another man took her away. These two men and some other people were attracted by her screams. They found her lying on the ground naked, her garments having been torn to bits and scattered about the place. Prisoner remanded in custody.—*News of the World*, June 21.

#### Brutality.

Joseph William Walton, 28, charged at Newcastle with drunkenness and neglect of his three children, aged 5, 4 and 3 years, and with an aggravated assault upon his wife. Could earn more than £2 weekly, but never worked more than half-shifts. Had frequently thrashed his wife and tortured her in ways she could not mention. When she was about to become a mother, he turned her out into a snowstorm. In consequence of his drunkenness the children had suffered all their lives from want of food, and during the last six months had been supported almost entirely by neighbours. Bailiffs had been in the house three times—one had bought food for the children. On Friday all the mother had to give them was old crusts which she broke with a hammer and soaked in cold water. A neighbour had heard the wife thrashed and kicked almost nightly, and had seen cuts, bruises and teeth-marks on Mrs. Walton. Mr. J. R. Roberts, the magistrate's clerk, said it was a case he had never heard equalled in his thirty years of police-court experience.

The chairman, addressing the prisoner, said: "I will not waste words upon you. I take it you are past all feeling. You will go to prison for six months with hard labour on each charge." The magistrate's clerk asked the wife, "Do you want a separation from this beast?" "Yes." A separation order was granted, with a maintenance order of £1 a week.—*Reynolds*, June 21.

### "VOTE" BRIGADE.

London is at present crowded with foreigners and visitors from our oversea dominions, who are very anxious to know more of our Suffrage Movement. Selling our paper, *THE VOTE*, is therefore not difficult, and besides being excellent propaganda it shows our misinformed friends what Suffragists are like and what they do. Come and help. Send in your names to Headquarters with the times you can spare to keep the West-end pitches going.

P. LEAHY.

### OUR TREASURY. NATIONAL FUND. (Now Including Branch and District Funds.) Amount previously acknowledged: October, 1907, to December, 1913, £19,320 5s. 5d.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amount previously acknowledged	..	..	..	19,320	5	5
<i>By Election Fund—</i>						
Ipswich Branch (Ipswich)	..	..	..	1	5	0
<i>Political and Militant Fund—</i>						
Mrs. Carey	..	..	..	1	0	0
<i>Special Levy for General Election—</i>						
Mrs. and Miss Fox Bourne	..	..	..	1	10	0
<i>Per Glasgow Branch—</i>						
Mrs. Wilson	..	..	..	10	0	
Miss B. White	..	..	..	5	0	
Miss T. F. Thomson	..	..	..	2	6	
Mrs. MacLeod	..	..	..	2	0	
Gravesend Branch	..	..	..	3	0	
Middlesbrough Branch	..	..	..	12	2	
Sheffield Branch	..	..	..	6	0	
Southampton Branch	..	..	..	4	0	
Stamford Hill and Tottenham Branch	..	..	..	1	2	0
Waterloo (Liverpool)	..	..	..	1	2	6
				5	19	2
<i>Caravan—</i>						
Mrs. Carlton Smith	..	..	..	10	0	
Mrs. E. M. N. Clark	..	..	..	5	0	
Miss McFarren	..	..	..	6		
				15	6	
Mrs. H. F. Brown	..	..	..	5	0	0
<i>Per Mrs. Beaumont Thomas—</i>						
Miss Beaumont	..	..	..	1	0	0
Mrs. McDade	..	..	..	10	0	
Mrs. Beaumont Thomas	..	..	..	10	0	
Miss Baekman	..	..	..	5	0	
Mrs. Napier	..	..	..	2	0	0
Mrs. Ethel Bridson	..	..	..	5	0	
Mrs. M. E. d'Alton	..	..	..	2	6	
Miss M. Drimmie	..	..	..	2	0	
Miss E. M. Roberts	..	..	..	1	6	
Miss Norah O'Brien	..	..	..	1	0	
Mrs. E. M. Simmons	..	..	..	1	0	
Office Sales	..	..	..	3	2	1
Office Sales	..	..	..	10	3	
<i>Branches—</i>						
Bromley	..	..	..	1	0	
<i>Capitation Fees—</i>						
Aintree	..	..	..	1	0	0
				£1,487	13	7

Cheques to be made payable to the Women's Freedom League and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Ltd."  
*To Branch Treasurers.*—In future Branch and District Funds will be added to the National Fund, and for this purpose a list should be sent monthly to the Hon. Treasurer.  
*Special Notice.*—The Birthday Fund list will be published on July 10.

### SOUTH COAST CAMPAIGN.

The persistence shown by the Freedom League at Portsmouth, in the face of uproar and hostility in the Town Hall-square, enhanced by the indignation of peaceful citizens against the rioters, resulted in a splendid victory before the campaign ended. Each dinner hour meeting of dockers was better than its predecessor, and it was on the strength of their support that we decided to hold one more meeting in the square before leaving the town. The Chief Constable refused his sanction, but on June 18, at 8.0 p.m., a noble army of police escorted us to the waiting thousands, amongst whom we saw many friendly dockyard men. Miss Boyle was greeted with a long cheer when she mounted the platform, and then silence reigned, broken only by applause. When her place was taken by Mrs. Leigh Rothwell there were signs of unrest, but her convincing arguments won the audience once more, and any would-be interrupters found silence the better part of valour. There were but few questions for Miss Boyle to answer, and the meeting closed with renewed applause.

The next day we moved on to Southampton, breaking our journey at Eastleigh to hold two short dinner-hour meetings for men outside the Railway Works. The Southampton meetings—afternoon and evening—took place at the Clock Tower. Several most objectionable hecklers were present in the afternoon, and we were obliged to lodge a complaint against the police on duty for refusing to arrest one man who used filthy language to us and threatened to overturn the trolley. However, in the evening there was a great improvement in behaviour.

We scored further success at Winchester on Saturday, June 20, with two admirably organised meetings. In the afternoon the arrival of a municipal watering-cart, whose driver intended to water our pitch and scorned the intervention of even the Inspector-in-charge, enlivened the proceedings and was a good example of the male "militant!" A record crowd gathered by the West Gate at seven o'clock, but the suggested disturbance did not happen, a well-known heckler being allowed short shrift. The uproars at Portsmouth made Winchester jealous for her own honour—with excellent result. All possible annoyance was cleverly obviated by the police force, whose tactics, if adopted generally, would avert many unpleasant episodes. At the Dock Gate meetings many penny pamphlets were

### The Marchers' "Qui Vive" Corps (CONSTITUTIONAL).

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Winchester, Basingstoke, Reading and Guildford.

Members are asked to make every effort to join for all or part of the time.

Funds urgently needed for organising the March. All particulars from

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sold, chiefly the "Traffic in Women"; and eleven dozen copies of THE VOTE were also sold during the week.

While Miss Boyle was away at Brighton on Wednesday, June 17, Portsmouth Police Court was enlivened by the arrival of Mrs. Speck and Miss Trott to watch the proceedings. They were first denied entrance, and later would have been sent out during an unpleasant case; but victory was to W.F.L. each time. It is noteworthy that the maximum fine was given in the above case, and the woman was publicly thanked for her services to justice.

It will be readily understood that we have been unable to take any collections during this campaign; the platform has been twice broken, flags destroyed and stolen, and the usual expenses of such work are hard to meet. Any contributions will be most welcome.

Arrangements are now being made to hold a series of meetings in the New Forest district, commencing at Botley and Southampton on Saturday and Sunday. They will be conducted by Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, Miss Trott, &c. Will any members and friends who can offer help of any kind during the first half of July communicate with Miss Trott at 11, Kent-road, Southsea?

#### CLYDE CAMPAIGN.

Organiser-in-charge, Miss Ada Broughton, Concord Villa, Columhill, Rothesay.

During the months of July and August the Women's Freedom League hopes to conduct another strenuous and successful campaign on the Clyde, when meetings will be held daily at Rothesay, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Largs and other resorts on the Clyde. Any members or friends who have not already decided where to spend their holidays, cannot do better than visit Rothesay and spare part of their time in making our campaign a distinct success. Workers are needed for Vote and literature selling, advertising the meetings, &c. The more speakers and helpers we have, the more meetings can be held. The Scottish Council has taken a flat in Rothesay larger than on previous occasions, and as this involves more expenditure, while the travelling expenses are always exceedingly high, the Council confidently appeal to each member and sympathiser to give what financial support they can afford. Will all who are willing either to give personal or monetary assistance kindly communicate with the organiser?

#### GARDEN PARTY AT SALE.

The Sale Branch which was re-formed last autumn, has since been constantly at work in the Suffrage world. On June 20, a garden party was held at Thornhill, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Hagedorn. Mrs. Hagedorn is one of the most energetic workers in the Branch and spared no trouble to make the party a success. The lawn was a scene to delight the heart of all suffragists, for gathered together in large and small groups were people discussing the women's movement. The groups presently united to hear speeches by Miss Constance Andrews and Professor Merrick and a beautiful rendering by Mrs. Nidd of one of Olive Schreiner's "Three Dreams in a Desert." After tea had been served, Laurence Housman's play, "Alice in Ganderland," was given. The artistes had spared no trouble in rehearsing, so that all the points of the play were well brought out, and besides causing much amusement, also emphasized the one-sidedness of politics and the necessity for the feminine view to be considered. Those who took part in the play were Miss Margaret Farrow (Alice), Mr. Jack Cooke (Mad Hatter), Mr. Otto Geiler (March Hare), Mr. Bernard Cressy (Dormouse). To them and to Miss Fildes, Miss Hines and Miss Geiler, are due special thanks for the large part they contributed to the success of the party. Charming bouquets of flowers in the colours of the League were presented to Mrs. Nidd and Miss Andrews. A treasure hunt and houp-la were sources of amusement and helped to contribute to the collection, which amounted to £6.

#### IN PUBLIC PLACES.

##### Clapham Common.

Last Sunday the biggest crowd we have yet had heard Miss Eunice Murray. For more than two hours men and women stood listening to her speech and answers to their questions. Miss W. St. Clair presided, and at the end of the meeting a good collection was taken and many copies of THE VOTE sold. Mrs. Tanner will speak next Sunday, and the chair will be taken by Mrs. Sutcliffe.

##### Regent's Park.

In spite of gloomy weather the Mid-London Branch, on Sunday morning, had the largest audience of this year, which constantly showed its appreciation of Miss Eunice Murray's humour and daring. Several well-known Hyde Park anti-Suffragists were present. We were doubtless indebted for the honour of their presence to the fact that no Suffrage meeting was being held on Hampstead Heath, where they are generally to be found Sunday after Sunday egging on the roughs. Mrs. Hyde presided.

##### Hyde Park.

The thousands of "irresponsibles" who frequent the Park on Sunday afternoons on the look-out for "a job" hailed the unfurling of our colours—45 minutes earlier than usual owing to a subsequent engagement of Mrs. Merivale Mayer—as an electric signal for mischief. They started Marathon-ing from all directions, till they formed a solid mass round our platform. Three times they organised charges and ran our cart a considerable distance. The consequences would undoubtedly have been serious had the police not arrived on the scene, and countercharged them in return. Realising that discretion sometimes is the better part of valour, we determined to close the meeting—much to the relief of our small band of constables who showed much ingenuity in steering us through the excited rabble to the Park gates,

where luckily we espied a taxi. In spite of police on the steps and beside the driver we did not escape flying missiles from feckless foes. One amusing incident occurred. An excited Anti-woman fought her way through the crowd in order to join forces with the other "irresponsibles." She had no sooner reached the front ranks than she was mistaken for "one of the Furies." The last we saw of her was in a hatless condition pommelling a burly constable, who was removing her with massive force to the "back of beyond." Next Sunday we intend to hold our meeting an hour later.—EMILY JUSON KERR.

#### AT THE PLAY.

##### The Irish Players.

Oft had I heard of the Irish Players at the Court Theatre, but never sampled their excellence until June 20, when *The Wrens* and *The Eloquent Dempsey* were performed. Now I understand the reason of their vogue. It lies in the freshness of their comedy, the humour with which they represent Irish foibles and shortcomings, the amusing dialogue, and to some extent the clearness with which the actors speak and the difference between the *timbre* and the cadence of their voices and ours. *The Wrens*, a one-act play by Lady Gregory, gives us a scene in front of the Parliament House at Dublin, the very day that the Act of Union was passed in 1799. *The Eloquent Dempsey* followed this curtain-raiser, and we follow Mr. Wm. Boyle's comedy with unabated interest till the curtain falls. Jeremiah Dempsey (Mr. Arthur Sinclair) is the storekeeper of a small Irish town, with which he combines the business of publican and an attempt to be at one and the same time leader of the local Nationalist movement and such an upholder of Saxon supremacy as to deserve the honour of J.P. and a visit to the town of the Irish Secretary. His wife (Sara Allgood) is excellently well done. She wants her husband to be straight, to have done with the coil he winds round himself by duplicity, to retire to a farm and devote himself to honest work, leaving the store to his daughter and her future husband. All Dempsey's eloquence is needed to soothe in turn the many susceptibilities he offends, to explain the awkward situations in which he is involved. All flee, or attempt to flee, from his flood of eloquent explanation, from which they have suffered long. It is only fair, however, to say that the audience had not a word too much of it. With a few million such wives as Mrs. Dempsey, who unrelentingly holds up the mirror of truth to her husband, we might soon expect a Great Revival amongst husbands, and an upheaval in the position of wives like unto the great coral reef thrown up by earthquake on the Coromandel coast some half century ago. *Speriamo.* C. S. B.

##### Pioneer Players.

Another triple bill was arranged by the Pioneer Players last week at the Little Theatre. The chief part in *The Duel*, by Guy de Maupassant, was very finely acted by Mr. Harcourt Williams. *The Level Crossing*, by Mrs. Herbert Cohen, was a strong presentment of a tragedy the elements of which were firmly rooted in the characters of John Gibbs and his wife, Rizzpah, these parts being excellently acted by Mr. Fisher White and Miss Elaine Sloddall. *Idle Women*, a study in futility, was a delightful skit by Magdalen Ponsobny. Lady Ditcham had summoned a Committee meeting of a Society for the Rejection of all Earthly Temptations. The members of this Committee were told that they were to meet a boy leader, Tenno Matsuri, who had come from the East to help them with a New Philosophy. Instead of Tenno, a London street urchin was brought by mistake to Lady Ditcham's house, where he was petted and fussed over by her ladyship and her guests. The boy hardly liked the attentions he received and did not seem at ease in his Chinese robes. He attacked the food supplied to him with wonderful vigour, but even the profound philosophy he had acquired on London streets nearly broke down on one or two occasions. The climax was reached when an inquiry was made over the telephone from Scotland Yard, and the boy piteously cried out, "I feel sick!"

#### OVERSEAS SUFFRAGE UNION: A CONFERENCE.

Proposed new Woman Suffrage Union, British Dominions Overseas, promoted by Lady Stout (Wellington, New Zealand), Miss Vida Goldstein (President, Women's Political Association of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia), Mrs. L. A. Hamilton (President, Canadian National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, Toronto, Ontario, Canada), Mrs. Macintosh (President, Women's Enfranchisement Association of the Union of South Africa, Port Elizabeth, Cape Province, U.S. Africa), and supported in each Dominion by the most active and important women's organisations, and by many private individuals.

A conference will be held on Thursday, July 9th, 1914, in the Rooms of the Westminster Palace Hotel, London, S.W. 10.0 a.m., Business Meeting of Delegates; 3.30 p.m., Public Meeting. Chair: Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G. Speakers: Miss Margaret Hodge, and other leaders from Overseas. Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Mrs. Cecil Chapman, Rev. Claude Hinscliff, Mrs. Auerbach. It will be the first Suffrage Meeting in London specially convened for visitors from Overseas. There will be an Exhibition of Literature by every Suffrage Society.

Reception, 8.30 p.m. To meet the President and Officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance. Entertainment by the Actresses' Franchise League. Tickets: inclusive, 3s.; Delegates, 2s.; or Public Meeting only, 2s. and 1s.; Reception only, 2s. Details and arrangements made for the week, July 5 to 12.

A full programme will be issued at the end of June. Application by post should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelope to Miss H. C. NEWCOMB, Hon. Sec. pro tem., care of International Women's Franchise Club, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W.

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## COSTUME DINNER AND PAGEANT.

Arrangements are now almost complete for the Costume Dinner and Pageant which the Actresses' Franchise League and the Women Writers' Suffrage League are organising for Monday, June 29, at The Hotel Cecil, 7.15 for 7.45 p.m. There will be about thirty tables, each to seat ten guests. Fancy dress or evening dress will be worn. Among the many interesting characters represented will be the following:—Miss May Sinclair as Jane Austen, Mrs. Sarah Tooley as Elizabeth Fry, Miss Monk-Mason as Florence Nightingale, Miss Winifred Mayo as Charlotte Brontë, Miss Cicely Hamilton as George Eliot, Mrs. C. C. Stopes as Anne Clifford, Mr. Pethick Laurence as John Stuart Mill, Miss Decima Moore as Beadicea, Miss Olive Terry as Joan of Arc, Mrs. Archibald Little as Tzi Hsi An, Mrs. Kineton Parkes as a Japanese poetess, Miss Knowles as the Queen of Sheba, Lady Muir Mackenzie as Leonora d'Este, Miss May Whitty as Queen Louisa of Prussia, Miss Janet Steer as Marie Antoinette, Miss Humbert as Madame de Staël, Mrs. Mona Caird as Josephine, Miss Abadam as Dr. Helena Piscopia of Padua, Miss Maud Cressall as Sappho, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel as Gulbadem Begum, Mrs. Romané James as Runna the Rajput nurse, Mrs. Pethick Laurence as Deborah, Miss Nina Boucicault as Nell Gwynne, Mr. Aston as Sheridan, Miss Virginia Seagraeve as Mrs. Sheridan, Mr. Nevinson as Garibaldi.

The pageant will be under the direction of Miss Edith Craig and a special attraction is that His Highness Prince Tschagadaeff, the conductor, and the members of the Balalaika Orchestra, have kindly offered to perform. The Balalaika Orchestra is composed entirely of Russian instruments for the performance of Russian ancient folk songs and dances, and it has had the honour of playing before the King and Queen at Windsor Castle by Royal command. It is an amateur private orchestra and so seldom performs in public that no one should miss such a unique opportunity of hearing it.

Tickets for the dinner and pageant (dinner, pageant and buffet, 10s. 6d.; pageant and buffet, 5s.) can be had at the offices of the Actresses' Franchise League, 2, Robert-street, Adelphi, and The Women Writers' League, Goschen-buildings, 12, Henrietta-street, London. Applications should be made without delay.

Madame, THE WELL-KNOWN FASHION PAPER, is advancing with the times, and on page 159 tells our readers something of what it is doing. No. 1 of the new series will be ready shortly.

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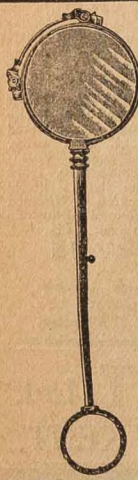
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## BRANCH NOTES.

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

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

On June 15, the monthly committee meeting was held to discuss the work of the Branch and "Flower Day," &c. On June 18, another quite successful open-air meeting was held at our new pitch. Mrs. Terry presided and Miss Underwood gave an interesting address on Woman's Suffrage and various objections commonly raised against it. The listeners were quite unwilling to go away even after ample time had been allowed for questions. Copies of THE VOTE and pamphlets were sold by Mrs. Loveday, Miss Cooke and Miss Bennett. It is hoped that all members are getting their "Birthday Fund" cards well filled, as they should be returned to the treasurer, Miss Foster, early in July.

## Clapham.

We rejoice in the remarkable success of our Sunday evening meetings on Clapham-common, an account of which appears in another column. All members and sympathisers in South London are cordially invited to come to our garden-party (in aid of Mrs. Despard's Birthday Fund) on Thursday, July 2, at 23, Albert-road, Peckham, the garden being kindly lent for this purpose by Mrs. Pickering.

## Kensington.

Very successful open-air meetings have been held each Monday in North Kensington. Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Hyde, and Miss Beatrice Kent have been listened to with great attention, there are no interruptions, and the chief difficulty seems to be in leaving off—so many questions are asked. Mrs. Tanner was kept busy in this way until 10.30, and the audiences are loth to disperse. There is one strong point to be noticed about these meetings: they are arousing the public conscience. When they were first commenced, people only listened patiently or politely; now they take quite a live interest, especially at question-time. With more helpers North Kensington would become a Suffrage stronghold. Members and friends are asked to volunteer to take the chair at these meetings, also for VOTE selling, both in Kensington and outside Hyde Park during our Sunday meetings. A good number of members came to Globe Studios last Wednesday, and several fixtures were arranged for the Branch. On Wednesday, July 8, a whist drive is to be held at Glebe Studios, by kind permission of Mrs. Meeson Coates. Tickets may be had of any of the members or at the office. Mrs. Meeson Coates has offered to lend her studio every Saturday evening, commencing Saturday next, June 27, at 8.15 p.m., for members to meet and bring any friends who are interested. It is hoped that as many as possible will avail themselves of this offer, which affords an excellent opportunity for members to become better acquainted with each other, and to make plans for further activities.

## Mid-London.

The Branch members' meeting called for June 18th, could not be held, as we had not a quorum. Will all members make an effort to be at the next one on Thursday, July 2nd, on which date the collecting cards for the Birthday Fund must be sent in, and we are very anxious to have a good sum to hand to our hon. treasurer.

## Stamford Hill and Tottenham.

Miss Underwood very kindly spoke for us at our open-air meeting on June 16 at Stamford Hill. The audience were most attentive and interested in her clear and forcible address on the work of our League. The chair was taken by Miss Eggett. These meetings will now be held weekly on Tuesdays, alternately in Stamford Hill and Tottenham, and on Tuesday, June 23, we hope to have the pleasure of hearing Miss Boyle at Tottenham. Picketing at the House of Lords re the Plural Voting Bill was discussed at our Branch meeting on Friday, and volunteers were forthcoming for this work.

## PROVINCES.—Anfield.

The second meeting of the Branch was held on June 19, the attendance having exactly doubled itself. Mrs. McGuffie took the chair, and most warmly congratulated the members on the good start they had made. A most inspiring address was given by Miss Appleton on "The Unity of Religion and Politics." She showed that religion is love manifested in service, that religion enters into life and therefore into politics, that politics ought to be a sacred charge, for God speaks to men in all ages through the movements of the times. A good discussion followed, and two new members were made. Mrs. McGuffie and Miss Appleton were sincerely thanked for their kindly help.

## Brighton and Hove.

Miss Boyle's visit on Wednesday was a great success. A non-disturbed meeting, with an interested audience, was held on the front in the afternoon, and a social was arranged by Miss Hare for the evening at 19, Norfolk-terrace. Miss Boyle's speech was enthusiastically received and the social part of the programme was carried out by Miss Grace Nightingale, who again kindly came to recite, Miss Slatter and Miss Wolff van Sandan. Several new members joined.

## Ipswich.

On June 18, we held our quarterly devotional meeting, and we were very glad to welcome Mrs. Willis once again. She rarely missed a meeting until her husband's illness, but now that his health is improving we hope to see her sometimes. After prayers for the Woman's Movement, and a psalm, Miss Brett and Mrs. Hossaok gave short addresses. The former spoke of the way God had used women as well as men to do His work in the world. Mrs. Hossaok spoke on "Ideals." Mrs. McCreery, who was unable to be present at our birthday party, kindly gave a donation to the fund, as did Mrs. Muskett. We thank them both and would be grateful to any others who will follow their example, no matter how small the amount.

## Middlesbrough.

On June 15, a very successful open-air meeting was held at Borough-road corner, Miss Marjorie Broadbridge took the chair and made a very effective little speech, in which she pointed out the objects of the League. A large crowd assembled and Mrs. Schofield Coates, our

Blouse Bargains  
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THE "LENA" is an Extra Quality Jap Silk Shirt, well made, fashionably cut, low in neck, trimmed hemstitching and pearl buttons. Sale price, 11s. 9d.

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THE "EDITH" is a simple Jap Silk Shirt fastening in front, with Ivory ball buttons. 4s. 11d. is the sale price.

THE "NORAH" is a most becoming Shirt in extra heavy Jap, fastening slightly at the side, correctly low cut neck. Sale price, 10s. 11d.

The Stripe Skirt is a very smart washing Skirt of heavy Summer Cotton material with Sash, 14s. 11d., in White and Black, White and Navy, White and Brown, White and Green, Dark Grey and White.

The Sporting Tweed Skirt is a well-tailored Tweed at 16s. 11d., for the Moors, etc.



NORAH.

EDITH.

IRENE.

LENA.

## LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL.

The jumble sale has now been fixed for Saturday, July 18. We are hoping to have a much larger one than the last and Mrs. Fisher will be glad to receive parcels now at 1, Robert-street, Adelphi. Articles of any description are welcome—especially men's and children's clothing. Will members please do all they can in sending and asking their friends to send contributions of old things?

E. CLAYTON.

## OTHER SOCIETIES.

## Women's Tax Resistance League.

Miss Gertrude Eaton would like her friends to know that during her illness her taxes were paid without her consent or knowledge. They will realise her indignation at this action.

On June 15, Miss James, of Kenley, had a gold watch sold at Croydon, because of her refusal to pay Imperial taxes till women have the same control over national expenditure as male taxpayers possess. Miss James made a protest in the auction room of Messrs. King and Everall, and again at the meeting outside the public library, when speeches were also made by Mrs. Terry and Miss Maclellan.

On June 19, a silver salver, the property of Miss Maud Roll, of Oakdene, Rotherfield, was sold under distraint for King's taxes by Messrs. Carter and Banks, of Tunbridge Wells. Many supporters rallied round Miss Roll in the auction room, and a forcible speech was made there by Mrs. Kineton Parkes. Subsequently a meeting was held on the Common, presided over by Miss Roll.

On June 17, Lady Maud Parry kindly gave a very successful garden party under the auspices of the Women's Tax Resistance League. Miss Lena Ashwell, at the end of a very fine speech, asked every woman to get up and fight the world on her own feet, honestly and with courage. Mrs. Kineton Parkes agreed with Miss Ashwell that the only women we cannot do with are those who do nothing. Mr. Nevinson blamed the King for not having received the recent deputation, and thought it an occasion when he, being above party, could have interfered with splendid effect. The Rev. Hugh Chapman also spoke.

Each Suffrage society is desirous to extend a welcome to the delegates from the Woman Suffrage Union, British Dominions Overseas, during their conference next month in London. The Women's Tax Resistance League announces that under their auspices, Lady Brassey has very kindly consented to give an evening reception at Park-lane on Monday, July 6, when short speeches will be made by prominent members of the League who have resisted Imperial taxes as a constitutional protest against continued non-representation.

speaker, was given an attentive and appreciative hearing. In spite of predictions that we should have a stormy time, it proved to be a very orderly meeting. Questions were asked at the end. On June 17, Miss Winifred M. Jones gave an address on Woman Suffrage at the annual meeting of the N.U.W.S.S. at Redcar. Owing to the heavy thunderstorm, which lasted all Saturday afternoon and evening, we were obliged to abandon our open-air meeting at Stokesley.

## Swansea.

On June 18, a Branch meeting was held in Dynevor-place School, Mrs. Seyler in the chair. Arrangements were made for an open-air meeting at Clydach, which it is hoped Mrs. Gatty will address. A discussion followed on social work among girls and women, with special reference to the needs and circumstances of Swansea. The secretary was instructed to write to the local papers on the subject of Dr. Elizabeth Knight's arrest.

## SCOTLAND.—Clydebank.

On June 16 an evening meeting was arranged at Alexandria. Miss Semple was to have been the speaker, but through some mistake she did not arrive. Miss Dorothy Barrs took the meeting alone, and with the kind help of some members of the I.L.P. it proved most successful. Able assistance was given in selling THE VOTE and taking a collection. On Saturday evening a magnificent meeting was held in Clydebank, when Miss Barrs presided for Miss Shennan, of Glasgow. Although the weather was most unsatisfactory a huge crowd had gathered, even before the speakers had mounted the lorry and hoisted the Freedom League colours, eager to hear what the Suffragettes had to say. The crowd grew steadily as the meeting proceeded, and, despite the rain, remained solid until the end. Many questions were asked and ably answered by Miss Shennan. The audience gave a most enthusiastic send-off to the speakers, with many invitations to come again soon. There was a great demand for THE VOTE and other Suffrage literature; a good collection was taken and everybody seemed eager for badges. Great assistance has been given at these meetings by Mr. Grant, a new and enthusiastic associate of the Glasgow Branch. We urgently need more speakers and helpers to spread the light of the Woman's Movement throughout the whole of Scotland. When we hear from English people that the Cause of the Woman's Suffrage has been put back by the militant action of the W.S.P.U. we can only say, with Miss Murray: "Come to Scotland and see!" Here the movement is going forward by leaps and bounds, and the enthusiasm, especially of the working men, is fine.

"Does the baby talk yet?" asked a friend of the family. "No," replied the little sister, disgustfully. "He don't need to talk. All he has to do is to yell, and he gets everything in the house worth having."—*Woman's Journal.*

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



DARE TO BE FREE.

Fri. June 26.—CROYDON OFFICE, 32A, The Arcade, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss F. A. Underwood. Chair: Mrs. Ridley, Hostess: Mrs. Wilkinson. Sat., June 27.—CHELSEA, 55, Glebe-place. Mrs. Meeson Coates "At Home" to members and friends of Kensington Branch, 8.15 p.m. Sun., June 28.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Mrs. Mustard and Miss Le Croissette, CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Mrs. Tanner, Mrs. Sutcliffe, HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), 6.45 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Merivale Mayer and Mrs. Clarendon Hyde. Mon., June 29.—KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Lancaster-road, 8 p.m. Miss Rusbrooke. Tues., June 30.—STAMFORD HILL, Amhurst Park-road, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Wed., July 1.—CAXTON HALL, Public Meeting, 3.30 p.m. Miss Rosika Schwimmer, "What Finnish Women do for their Country," and Sister Henriette Arendt. Chair: Miss A. A. Smith. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C. London Branches Council Meeting, 6.30 p.m. Thurs., July 2.—W.F.L. OFFICE, Speakers' Class, 7 p.m. Highbury Corner, 8 p.m., Miss Nina Boyle. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Mid-London Branch Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Special Business: Birthday Fund collecting-cards to be handed in. HACKNEY, 23, Terrace-road, Hackney Branch Garden Party. Speakers: Mr. Lawrence Housman and others. CLAPHAM BRANCH, Garden Party, at 23, Albert-road, Peckham (by kind permission of Mrs. Pickering), 3.30-7 p.m. ADDISCOMBE. Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m., "The Blackhorse." Speaker: Miss Price. Sat., July 4.—W.F.L. Flower Day, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Full participation from Office. CHELSEA, 55, Glebe-place. Mrs. Meeson Coates "At Home" to members and friends of Kensington Branch, 8.15 p.m. Sun., July 5.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. Miss Eunice Murray. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray and Miss Underwood. Mon., July 6.—KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Lancaster-road, 8 p.m. Miss Nina Boyle. Tues., July 7.—Bromley, "Brackenhill," Highland-road. Mrs. Despard "At Home" to members and friends, 3.30 p.m. TOTTENHAM, outside Gas Offices, High-road. Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray. Wed., July 8.—HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch), 3.30. Open-air Meeting. Speakers: Miss Eunice Murray and others. CHELSEA, Glebe Studios, 55, Glebe-place. Whist Drive, 8 p.m. Tickets 1s. 6d. each, inclusive. CLAPHAM COMMON, Open-air Meeting, 6.30 p.m. Miss Eunice Murray. Thurs., July 9.—Highbury Corner, Open-air Meeting, 8 p.m. Mrs. Mustard. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Speakers' Class, 7 p.m. Fri., July 10.—CROYDON, W.F.L. Office, 32A, The Arcade, 3.30 p.m. Sun., July 12.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m. Mon., July 13.—KENSINGTON, corner Portobello-road and Lancaster-road, 8 p.m. Tues., July 14.—STAMFORD HILL, corner Amhurst-park-road, 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss C. Nina Boyle. Wed., July 15.—HYDE PARK (near Marble Arch). Open-air Meeting, 3.30. Thurs., July 16.—Highbury Corner, 8 p.m. W.F.L. OFFICE, 1, Robert-street, Speakers' Class, 7 p.m. Sun., July 19.—REGENT'S PARK, noon. CLAPHAM COMMON, 6 p.m.

PROVINCES.

Sat., June 27.—Botley (HANTS). Open-air Meeting, 7 p.m. Mrs. Leigh Rothwell and Miss Trott. Sun., June 28.—Southampton. Open-air Meeting, The Common, 7 p.m. Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, Miss Trott, and Dr. Stancombe. Tues., June 30.—Manchester, Sidney-street. Open-air Meeting. Speakers: Miss Andrews, Chair: Mr. Beanland. Fri., July 3.—Grays. Open-air meeting. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Mon., July 6.—Middlesbrough. Open-air Meeting. Speaker: Rev. A. Scruton. Mon., July 13.—Middlesbrough. Open-air Meeting. Speaker: Rev. T. C. Gobat.

SCOTLAND.

Fri., June 26.—Scotstoun. Open-air Meeting, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Shennan. Sat., June 27.—Clydebank. Open-air Meetings, 3.30 and 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Miss Eunice Murray. Wed., July 1.—Edinburgh. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, "At Home," 7.30 p.m. Clyde Campaign during July and August.—Headquarters: Rothsay. Open-air meetings daily, 3 and 8 p.m.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Will members arranging Garden Parties please include a Literature Stall? It is astonishing how much good propaganda work is done this way, and how attractive a book stall proves. I shall be glad to send a special selection of books and pamphlets if secretaries will let me know in good time. W. M. THOMAS.

Too Good to Miss.—Miss Alix M. Clark, 11, Severn-street, Newtown, Montgomery Boroughs, has begun again to make the famous mayonnaise sauce, the sale of which last year added substantially to the Birthday Fund for our President. This year Miss Clark hopes to realize £15 from its sale. Will members send orders to her direct, enclosing postal order 1s. for 9d. jar, post free?



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"IF IT WERE TRUE." Explaining Spiritual Meaning of Women's Militancy. Obtainable, 7s. 6d. per 1,000, 10d. per 100 leaflets, from M.W.V.S., 26, Grand-parade, Brighton.

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[WEEKLY

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

## Peter Robinson's

OXFORD STREET

### Annual Summer Sale

COMMENCES ON MONDAY, JUNE 29

LADIES can always rely on our goods being of superior and reliable quality, and during Sale-time we mark them at prices that are usually charged for cheap grade articles. A few examples of the Bargains are instanced in this advertisement.



B.S. 1.

B.S. 2.

B.S. 3.

B.S. 4.

B.S. 1. A charming ninon Blouse, veiled various colours over very handsome floral ninon, front fastening with fancy buttons; aerophane collar.

Sale Price 35/-

B.S. 3. Very good quality Jap. silk Shirt, with fancy stitching, new roll collar, trimmed fancy buttons; perfect fitting.

Sale Price 19/6

Also Jap. silk Shirt from 5/11

B.S. 2. Dainty Net Blouse, finely tucked, with handsome collar and revers, fastening in front with fancy buttons. In ivory or Paris.

Sale Price 21/-

B.S. 4. Latest Fashion in the new black cuvette beaded Blouse, lined ninon, suitable for day or evening wear. Marvellous Value.

Sale Price 29/6



D.R. 69.

D.R. 70.

D.R. 69. Stylish Ivory Tambour lace Robe with embroidered design, suitable for afternoon or evening wear. Only requires joining at back to complete.

Sale Price 25/6

D.R. 70. Charming Robe of fine Tambour lace, in the latest style. Only requires joining at back to complete. Sale Price in ivory or Paris shade, 35/6 in black, 45/6

Many other Bargains equally as good as those illustrated above will be found in the Sale Catalogue, a copy of which may be had post free for the asking.

**Peter Robinson** Ltd.  
OXFORD STREET,  
LONDON, W.

