

# THE VOTE

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

VOL. III. No. 75.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1911.

ONE PENNY.

## NOTICE.

Letters relating to editorial and business matters should be addressed to THE EDITOR and SECRETARY respectively. Applications for advertising spaces to be made to the ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER.

Offices: 1, ROBERT STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

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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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## OUR POINT OF VIEW.

### A Minister on Peace!

Referring to the debate on the Navy Estimates in a speech made at Manchester on Friday last the Chief Secretary for Ireland said his audience must have noticed the "ray of light" which radiated the gloom necessarily consequent on such discussions. For this ray of light the Foreign Minister was responsible in holding out the hope of perpetual peace between England and America. While in perfect sympathy with the desirability of such a consummation we must nevertheless refuse to admit the sincerity of all peace utterances when they emanate from a Member of the Government which continues to do violence to its own principles by denying representation to half the taxpayers of the country. When the present Cabinet show the least disposition to make peace with the nation's women—which, while not in any way wishing to depreciate the value of goodwill as between countries, is, we should have thought, of more vital necessity to the well-being of England—we shall be able to credit their statements with at least a possible verity.

### The Education Circular.

Though not as a rule by way of being superstitious, recent events at the Palace of Westminster incline us to think that the Fates themselves have had a hand in the brilliant farce—which, with apologies to G. B. S., might be called "The Showing-up of Ministers"—lately enacted within its walls. Seriously, we wonder if the limelight which has so luridly displayed the deficiencies of Ministers was designed merely to reveal the incompetence of the particular holders of office for the work which they so badly manage, or to make ridiculous the oft-repeated assertion that women are not fit for public affairs! But there is a graver side to this question. That a circular which nobody seems anxious to father could have been sent from the Board of Education apparently without any authority reveals an inexcusable state of things. That the Minister of Education should display so little control over himself when questioned about the circular is lamentable.

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That he should endeavour meanly to attach responsibility to a retired official is more than deplorable. But what we are chiefly concerned with is the hostility and jealousy shown to exist towards the children and teachers in our elementary schools. It is a matter of common knowledge that the elementary teacher is frequently the son or daughter of parents in poor circumstances, who have made considerable sacrifice in order to give their child a better position than they themselves have enjoyed. It is also no reflection on the father to state—what is almost invariably the simple truth—that it is the mother who deprives herself of what are generally considered no more than the necessities of life for the sake of her children. And now it seems that ability, character and experience count for little when compared with the superior advantages of class! It is time indeed that the nation availed itself of the wisdom and experience of the mothers of the race.

### An Important Decision.

In the action brought by Mr. Hawkins, of the Men's Political Union, against the Bradford League of Young Liberals, which was tried the other day at Leeds, the plaintiff was awarded £100 damages for injuries sustained at a meeting addressed by Mr. Churchill last November. This is a matter for more than ordinary congratulation as we have learned not to expect justice to triumph over prejudice in cases arising out of the Suffrage agitation. Of even greater importance is Justice Avery's ruling that it is illegal to eject any person from a public meeting who is not present with the express purpose of creating a riot, and without first requesting the disturber to leave. In the face of such a decision it will be interesting to note the future attitude of Liberal stewards towards Suffragists anxious to learn from the lips of Ministers themselves the Government's intentions with regard to the Women's Bill.

### Pressure of Business.

To the student of affairs it has long been an open secret that the present holders of office have found their task no sinecure. First one Minister and then another has been glad of any excuse, not only to avoid meeting his constituents but also to absent himself from the House. A day or two ago, the Secretary for War confessed that there was an "enormous pressure of business" in the House of Commons. We should not be surprised if we discovered the reason of this pressure to be due to the activities of the Suffragettes. The electorate, having been enlightened upon their duty by voteless women, have been keeping a stricter than formerly upon ministerial promises. Mr. Haldane also declared that the pressure must lead to "some revision of the machinery before long." Can a cryptic utterance possibly refer to the speedy enfranchisement of women? It is to be hoped so, if Ministers have any regard for their health. Women are only too anxious to help them in difficulties with which, by their own confession, they are unable successfully to cope.

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AT HEADQUARTERS.

We depend on the loyalty of every member of the Women's Freedom League in London and its suburbs to be in Trafalgar-square, Saturday afternoon, April 1, before 3 o'clock, and to bring with her as many others as she can persuade to come. All helpers are asked to be at this office by 2 p.m. Collectors, bill distributors, sellers, decorators are very urgently wanted.

Poster Parades.

To advertise our Trafalgar-square meeting we are having two important Poster Parades, to start from this office Friday at 2 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. Volunteers are cordially invited to come and make these as big and imposing as possible.

At Homes.

Dr. Haden Guest's lecture at Caxton Hall, Thursday afternoon, on "Women's Suffrage and the Health of the Nation" will be of the greatest interest, and we hope to see a crowded audience. The dates of the next Thursday "At Homes" will be April 6 and April 27. On the evening of May 5 we shall have a public meeting, particulars of which will be announced later. Will members and sympathisers please keep this date free? The next Sunday "At Home" will be held at Robert-street, April 23.

Caravan.

Excellent meetings have been held by the Hackney Branch from this caravan, and from this week it will be in charge of Mrs. Tanner, who has arranged meetings in Brixton, Peckham, Battersea and Clapham and Wandsworth. We expect great results from this means of propaganda work, and we confidently rely on our members in South London to give Mrs. Tanner every support in their power.

Branches.

Before next winter we want to form many new branches in the provinces and in London. Our idea is to have a branch in every county and in every important town, that every branch shall be linked up with another, and all in close touch with headquarters. We want branches in every district of London, so that London will be surrounded by them like a fort. This gives work and scope for every member of and sympathiser with the Women's Freedom League. Will all those who are interested in this plan at once send in their names to headquarters?

F. A. UNDERWOOD.

OUR TREASURY.

Our thanks are due to the "Constitutional Suffragist" for the generous gift acknowledged in the accompanying list. As the strictest anonymity has been observed I am necessarily reduced to this very inarticulate expression of our gratitude, and sincerely trust that the best wishes of the giver for the Cause be speedily fulfilled.

The second instalment of the £500 promised by Mrs. Fried has been received most opportunely at this time. Ticket great expense, and I hope that next week I may be receiving substantial results from this Special Effort B.Sc. ek for the Census.

Thu following up my tour of the Branches I have visited Mrs. Shelle Wellingborough, Stamford Hill and Mid-London EDINBURGH. I am well acquainted with the Mid-London ch, whose enterprise in running a series of important Speaker ings this winter is especially gratifying to the Tues surer, as carrying out propaganda work for the Home, me independent of help from headquarters. We Wed what I hope was a useful business meeting. Wel- Despard p.m. orough and Stamford Hill are both new branches, Tickets I came away extremely pleased with their plans SWANSE extending their work into the surrounding district. Tuesy should both form the centre for strong branches CARDIF the League. Sat.,

CONSTANCE TITE.

NATIONAL FUND. Branch and District Funds Not Included.

Table with columns for £ s. d. and names of donors and amounts. Includes entries like 'Amount previously collected, October, 1907, to December, 1910' and lists of individual names such as Mrs. E. Cranstoun, Mrs. Edwards, Miss M. Duguid, etc.

THE PIONEER PLAYERS will give the first of their series of six performances at the Court Theatre, on Monday, May 8, at 2.30, when they will present three new one-act plays—"Jack and Jill and a Friend," by Miss Cicely Hamilton; "In the Workhouse," a realistic scene by Margaret Wynne Nevison (Mrs. H. W. Nevison); and "The First Actress," by Miss Christopher St. John, in which Miss Ellen Terry will appear. The plays will be produced by Miss Edith Craig, and the casts will include Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Clare Greet, Miss Margaret Halstan, Miss Auriol Lee, Miss Dorothy Minto, Mrs. Saba Raleigh, Miss Suzanne Sheldon, Miss Olive Terry, Miss Agnes Thomas, Mr. Tom Heslewood, and Mr. E. Harcourt Williams. It is hoped that the subsequent performances will be given on two days, Sunday evening and Monday afternoon. All subscriptions should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Lady Sybil Smith, 2, Adelphi-terrace House, Strand, W.C.

Is your present experience hard to bear? Yet remember that never again, perhaps, in all your days will you have another chance of the same. Do not fly the lesson, but have a care that you master it while you have the opportunity. EDWARD CARPENTER, in "Towards Democracy."

OFFICIAL BLACKMAIL.

By LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

Census-resistance has gone ahead; even those who are not joining in it have come to admit that it is going to be a big thing—how big will never publicly be known, for though the resisting householders can be accurately numbered, the evaders whom those householders will shelter for the night, or who will otherwise avoid qualification, will be numberless, and only the Women's Suffrage societies will be able to reckon approximately how many tens of thousands they amount to. For obvious reasons the societies will not communicate their knowledge to the authorities except on their own terms, and their terms are full facilities for the Conciliation Bill this year.

A proof that the Resistance is already an assured success is to be found in the rising note of disapprobation, mingled with vague threatenings, which now comes from quarters least favourable to the Women's movement. Several organs of the Press which began by making light of the protest have now changed their tone, and are threatening with dire penalties all who take part in it, while at the same time assuring the public that the authorities have unexpected means for bringing the resisters to heel, which will only be sprung upon them at the last moment.

It is likely enough that the Census authorities, presuming upon a general ignorance as to the strict limitation of their legal powers, will do their best to bluff resisters and evaders into submission when the day of Census-taking arrives; for it is still permitted in this country to threaten people with penalties which cannot be enforced, without thereby incurring a legal charge of blackmail. It is allowed, for instance, to debt-collectors to hold out threats of arrest and imprisonment which cannot be put into effect so as to compel payment. And there are signs that the Census authorities are for the present lying low, in order, at the right psychological moment, to bring this form of official pressure to bear on those who are ignorant as to how the law stands. This is probably what a Registrar in the Manchester district means by "a little tact." Suffragists should understand that the true meaning of "a little tact," employed by those who know the law against those who do not know it is often nothing more or less than official blackmail, and there will no doubt be plenty of official blackmailers abroad on the morning of Monday, April 3. It is necessary, therefore, that all resisters should be armed with knowledge of the exact terms of the Act from which the Census authorities derive their powers.

Not anticipating any general resistance to its provisions, the framers of the Act have omitted in several instances, to provide penalties for the refusal of the information it seeks, or to make any but a comparatively small class legally responsible for filling up the schedules or even for giving information. Registrars, for instance, are directed to obtain particulars as regards those who are travelling on Census night, or are "for any other reason not abiding on that night in any house of which account is to be taken by the enumerators," and under this head they may seek to include those who, in order to evade the Census, choose to walk the streets or remain outside a dwelling-house. But no power is given under the Act to interrogate any but "occupiers," nor is there a single word that provides for the enforcing of penalties against those who are not "occupiers," even for refusing to answer questions. The proposal to take a Census return of those travelling by road or rail, or camping out, is therefore merely a pious aspiration, since the Act provides no means for enforcing it; outside the terms "occupier" and "dwelling-house" the Act confers no penalising powers.

The terms of the Act which bear upon this point are as follows:

- (1) Schedules shall be prepared for the purpose of being filled up by or on behalf of the several occupiers of dwelling-houses.
(2) Every enumerator shall in the course of the week ending on the Saturday next before the Census day leave at every dwelling-house within his district one or more of these schedules for the occupier thereof or of any part thereof, and on every such schedule shall be plainly expressed that it is to be filled up by the occupier for whom it is left.
(3) Every occupier for whom any such schedule has been so left shall fill up or cause to be filled up the schedule, so far as relates to all persons dwelling in the house, tenement, or apartment occupied by him.
(4) The expression dwelling-house shall include every building and tenement of which the whole or any part is used for the purpose of human habitation, and where a dwelling-house is let or sublet in different tenements or apartments and occupied distinctly by different persons or families, a separate schedule shall be left with or for and shall be filled up by the occupier of each distinct tenement or apartment. (Section 4, clause 1, 2, 3 and 4.)

It will be noted that "the occupier for whom the schedule is left" is held responsible for a return of "all persons dwelling in the house occupied by him." Clearly, therefore, he alone is the "occupier" within the meaning of the Act, the occupier being the legal owner or tenant, not the mere inmate or guest. From beginning to end no authority is given under the Act for levying any penalty whatever on any person who is not an "occupier for whom a schedule has been left," either for refusing to fill in the forms, or for refusing to answer questions; nor has the enumerator any right to deliver a schedule to any person later than Saturday, April 1; his only power in that connection is, when collecting "all schedules so left in the course of the previous week," to "complete such of the schedules as on delivery thereof appear to him defective, and correct such as he finds to be erroneous." The Act does not give him power to force schedules upon evaders on the Monday morning and demand that they shall be filled up; he must have delivered the schedules in the previous week. As regards the penalties which the Act lays down they are all of them limited, in the words of Section 12, Clause 2, to "any occupier for whom a schedule is left under this Act." No person travelling, no person who is not an occupier, no person for whom a schedule has not been left in the week ending April 1, incurs under the wording of the Act any penalty whatever. The Act has been so badly drafted that those who are not "occupiers" do not fall under its provisions as regards any obligation on themselves to assist in making the returns accurate. If only one schedule had been left at a house only one person can be held responsible for filling it up (see above, Section 4, Clauses 2 and 3); that is to say, either the person for whom the schedule had been left, or the person who as substitute and temporary tenant has chosen to become responsible. Throughout the Act it is abundantly evident that to be an occupier one has to be in legal possession of a house or of some part thereof; inmates of a "workhouse, hospital, prison, public institution, or other large establishment," are not entitled to receive separate schedules as "occupiers," and therefore are outside all responsibility in the matter, and can incur no penalty for refusing information. The Act seems to recognise that such persons lie outside its jurisdiction; for in the clause dealing with their enumeration it provides for the returns with regard to such inmates to be made by the actual occupiers only "so far as may be practicable," and the withdrawal of

consent to unrepresentative government may make the completion of such returns a far less practicable matter than in previous years.

To sum up, the points to be borne in mind are briefly these:—

The authorities have no right to deliver schedules later than Saturday, April 1.

The authorities have no right to deliver schedules or to ask questions of those who are not legal "occupiers."

The Act provides no penalties for refusal to fill up forms or to answer questions, except against "occupiers for whom a schedule has been left."

People who are merely "inmates" or "travellers" are not called on by the Act to supply any information, and are under no penalties for not doing so. The occupiers of houses alone are responsible for making the returns with respect to inmates, "as far as may be practicable."

There is just one other point to bear in mind: resisting householders should answer all questions put by the enumerator with the formula, "I refuse to answer any question." It is possible that the official blackmailers may attempt to persuade them that for every single question they refuse to answer they incur a fine of £5. But the clause says, for "refusing to answer, or wilfully giving a false answer to any question" the penalty is £5. The formula, "I refuse to answer any question," precisely covers the wording of the clause, and will foil any brow-beating attempts at official blackmail. It may be thought that this analysis of the faulty drafting of the Act comes somewhat late; but it has to be borne in mind that when it likes Parliament can rush through repressive measures against women with indecent haste. It will not, however, be possible for an amending Bill to be passed between the appearance of this week's THE VOTE and the night of the Census. The only thing there is time for is for the Government to announce full facilities for the Conciliation Bill this Session; then, even at a days' notice, Census-resistance will be dropped.

LAURENCE HOUSMAN.

### THE WOMAN'S UPRISING.

I have seen her armies rising as the rising of the sun;  
I have seen her as the maker of the morn,  
Girt with Love and armed with Justice, going forth  
her race to run

Where the tribes of darkness wept in lands forlorn.  
She hath left the land of bondage, she hath ridden to the  
fight

In the power that is the passion to be free,  
And the night grows old behind her, and before her wakes  
the light—

I have seen her, and I see.

She hath marked the maid her sister in the dew-time  
of her youth,

In the rose-time of her beauty bought and sold,  
And in wrath her arm grows mighty, and her eye grows  
wet with ruth

For the lambs the wolf hath ravaged from of old.  
She hath marked the mother's anguish for the babe that  
is her lord's,

Though herself must pay its price in agony,  
And her eyes become as lightnings, and as thunder-  
bolts her words—

She hath seen, as Heaven can see.

I have watched her great uprising; I have watched the  
bonds she wore,

Strong as iron, snap like cobwebs one by one;  
She who cometh like the morning is not she who was  
of yore,

For her face is to the rising of the sun.  
Free alike as maid and mother—free to own the babe  
she bears,

Free to own and keep and rule herself is she,  
And a lily is her sceptre, and a palm for crown she wears—  
I have seen her; Time shall see.

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### PRIZE COMPETITIONS TO INCREASE OUR CIRCULATION.

A prize of a framed and autographed photograph of Mrs. Despard will be awarded to the reader who obtains the largest number of new subscribers to THE VOTE during the three months ending Saturday, June 24. If every member of the League would obtain one new subscriber our circulation would become so large that we should shortly be enabled to double the size of our paper. Send in the names and addresses of new subscribers week by week, enclosing with each postal order for 3s. 3d. (subscription for six months) and your own name and address. Write the words "Circulation Department," on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Receipts from Advertisers.

To encourage our readers in supporting advertisers, we offer a first prize of 10s. or two fully-paid up shares in the Minerva Publishing Company, and a second prize of 6s. 6d., or a year's subscription to THE VOTE, post free, for the largest number of receipts for goods bought from advertisers in THE VOTE during the three months ending July 1.

### RESULT OF RECEIPTS COMPETITION

The first prize of 10s., or two fully paid-up shares in the Minerva Publishing Co., Ltd., is awarded to Mrs. Vulliamy, Maitland House, Newnham, Cambridge, for largest amount spent with advertisers during the three months ending March 25. The second prize of 6s. 6d., or one year's subscription to THE VOTE, is awarded to Miss Murray, Moor Park, Cardross, for largest number of receipts sent in.

REFERRING to our paragraph stating that the Quakers are the one religious body which place women theoretically and practically on a level with men, Mrs. Clarkson Swann writes: "It may interest your readers to know that this ideal is also a tenet of the Christian Science Church."

### "UNSTAINED AND UNSULLIED."

The above words were used by the Home Secretary in an address on the "Houses of Parliament" given before the Association of Municipal Corporations. The occasion was their annual dinner. At such times fine talk, talk that will induce a feeling of genial self-satisfaction on the part of speaker and audience, will generally be included in the programme. When, however, after-dinner speeches, put down in black and white, are submitted to a cool morning analysis, they will often lose their effectiveness.

Mr. Winston Churchill had been speaking, not without pathos, of the coming and going of political parties. He predicted that the day might arrive when the Government to which he belonged would be called to lay down the heavy burden and high privileges of power and to go out into the much-longed-for wilderness. When that day came they were resolved to hand over to their successors "an Empire undiminished, unimpaired in strength and vitality, unstained and unsullied in honour and repute." Brave words, which evoked cheers from the audience. But what do they really mean?

"An undiminished Empire!" Except at a certain moment when certain people engineered a war-scare no one seems to have felt that the Empire was in danger. "Unimpaired in strength and vitality!" Is it possible that the Home Secretary or any other member of the Government can fail to see whither the nation is drifting? Alas! only too surely health, strength and vitality are ebbing away from our workers. Children are half-timers; boys and girls are robbed of the joyful expansion of youth by cruelly long working hours, and cannot, even then, without the help of burdened parents, keep soul and body decently together. Mothers underfeed and overwork themselves in order to give bread to their little ones, and yet continue to bear them. Why? Because they cannot do otherwise, men in their wisdom having decreed that wives shall obey their lords.

Let our radiant Home Secretary consider these things! Let him walk through the streets of some of our working quarters, either in London or elsewhere, and then let him again recite, if he has the heart to do it, his jubilant Hosanna over the "unimpaired strength and vitality" of the Empire. The real truth is that every year, every month, of the present suicidal system is impairing our strength and making the struggle for life more difficult.

Still stranger, however, in the hard light of facts, are the final words of this remarkable paean. "Unstained and unsullied in honour and repute" is the record which the Government of to-day will hand on to the Government of to-morrow. This indeed makes one wonder whether the Home Secretary understands the meaning of words. Already the honour of this country has been stained; already her repute has been sullied, and for that this Liberal Government is responsible.

But we shall be told that it is we who do not understand the meaning of words. A nation's honour! That is a great thing. To form some conception of what it includes, I go to the ancient seers, and I remember that in our churches, as by law established, some such words as these are read: "Righteousness exalteth a nation!" How strange! Not Empire, not wealth, but righteousness! And if I look into the character of those who shall direct the destinies of that nation I read: "Take counsel, execute judgment; make thy shadow as the night in the midst of the noon-day; hide the outcasts, betray not him that wandereth."

It is not a little strange that this particular moment should have been chosen by another Minister, the War Secretary, to appeal to the women of the country, "by their patriotism," to help him. Apparently he is in some difficulty. His Territorial Army is not drawing in recruits as it should do, nor the country rejoicing in its unsullied honour, its health, strength and vitality. Therefore further inducements must be brought to

## MADAME LOUISE



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bear on the strong young men of Britain. This is to be understood; yet, surely, a man of Mr. Haldane's resource must have been in an ironic or sportive vein when at the Drill Hall in Mold, where he was speaking a day or two ago, he called upon "the fair sex" to come to his assistance. Evidently no Suffragists were in his audience. Had they been, I think they would have retorted, "Let the other sex be fair, or rather let them cease to be unfair, and then we will see what our fairness can do!" For it all comes to this, as we in our Census protest—which day by day grows in volume—are endeavouring to prove. Women are tired of being citizens on sufferance—tired of being by turns coaxed, cajoled and bullied; tired, above all, of being dominated. The honour of their country, the integrity of the Empire, the strength and vitality of the men, women and children in every part of that Empire are, beyond expression, dear to them; and it is therefore they hold together with a firm determination not to be put off either by fair words or by harsh repression. For we know that in the State, as in the family, our point of view is necessary. We feel the urgent need for change. The wilderness of sadness and subjection is behind us. Before us stretches the broad sea of abundant life. We have ventured out "like little wanton boys that swim on bladders"; but our hearts have been fearful and our faces have been turned to the wilderness. Now we are prepared to launch out and, obeying the commands of the Master's, of love and wisdom, to "let down our nets for a draught"—a full draught of life.  
C. DESPARD.

### Farmer George Discusses the Burning Question of the Day.

"What I sez is let zo them theer noospaper chaps coom doon these 'ere pairt their tawk—marriage a failure fur shure! Let 'em t' luk at my wumman; she minds the place, sees to the chidren, feeds th' pigs an' the calves, gets the meals, milks the cows, looks a'ter the hens an' chickens, churns the butter an' goes ta mairket, an' does it all fur nuthin'!"

## THE VOTE.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1911.

### NO VOTE, NO CENSUS.

At the beginning of this Parliamentary Session the Women's Freedom League hoped that Mr. Asquith would feel in honour bound to state when he intended to fulfil the pledge made by him last Session to give an opportunity for dealing effectively with our question. No sign was given, nor has any since been given, that Mr. Asquith intends to redeem his promise in the immediate future. We have learnt from bitter experience that in the political world those who remain quiet are those who are ignored. But our need is too urgent to allow us to pause or falter in the demand we make; the time is ripe for dealing with the question of women's enfranchisement.

The League chose the taking of the 1911 Census as a fitting opportunity for protesting against the continuance of legislation without representation. Other suffrage societies have since adopted this scheme of passive resistance, with the result that more women will be co-operating in a special piece of suffrage work on the night of April 2 than has ever been the case before. The response has been great. Women are realising that the work of protest is not to be left to the few, that each and every one of us must take her share whenever possible. Before another such national demand is made, women will probably be enfranchised. The next step towards freedom will be hastened if many thousands refuse their consent to this Census.

Many and various are the reasons which have been advanced why we should not resist the Census. We are reminded that women are allowed to take part in the Census as enumerators and officials. This is true. In the last general Census report issued by the Government we read: "We cannot speak too highly of the fact, zeal and ability with which Miss Haynes and her four assistant supervisors discharged their important and responsible duties, whilst the general intelligence and expertness shown by the women clerks in the work assigned to them was conspicuous. In fact, we are glad to report that the experiment of enlisting women clerks into the Census service has proved a complete success."

This is surely good testimony, and sounds as though it might be taken from a testimonial, rather than from the impartial pages of a Blue Book. Being interested to see how the Government paid these women they praise so highly, we turned to the Blue Book containing the statement of salaries paid, and found the following instructive table:

No. employed.	Minimum.	Annual Salary. Annual increase.	Maximum.
60 2nd Division Male Clerks	£70	£5-£10	£250
80 Assistant Male Clerks	£55	£2 10-£5	£100
50 Female Clerks	£55	no annual increase.	£55

Reading the last row, we see that the best of these women clerks can never rise above the salary at which the least experienced man clerk starts, and is practically only paid a half of the maximum to which the lowest grade male Census clerk will automatically rise. Apparently the Government thinks that women can be paid in compliments instead of hard cash! This is but another illustration of the underpayment of voteless women, and, as we have often said, the Government is one of the most unprincipled employers in this respect. We do well to remember that after the women of Norway obtained the vote, they quickly obtained equality of wages for men and women who were doing similar work in the Post Office.

An example of the little importance which is attached

to the unpaid labour of married women in the homes is furnished us in the Census by the inquiries made under the heading "occupation." *The Times* states that "the wife or other female relation of the head of the family, if regularly assisting in his business, must name that as her occupation; but if all her duties are domestic no entry is to be made." The officials would appear to be as unimaginative as the little boy who, being questioned as to the occupations of the family, said with reference to his mother, "Mother does nothing; she just stays at home"; though further questioning revealed the fact that mother kept the house clean, washed, cooked, and did everything herself for a family of six. Yet, so long as such home work is unrecognised and unpaid, it will be counted as nothing, and incidentally we may remark, it will be carried out unscientifically and at a great cost of women's lives and labour.

This unfair treatment of women's work in the home and in Government offices shows the need there is for us to use every possible means of protest to remedy our voteless condition. Every married woman, and every woman employed by Government especially, should be ready and willing to evade the Census as a fit means of registering her protest against such treatment.

It is amusing to note how our critics assume that we are acting in an irresponsible manner, or as though we are organising a huge practical joke. We can assure them that we were never more serious in our lives. The Women's Freedom League is fully alive to the serious consequences of what it is doing, but is still more acutely conscious every day of the far more serious consequences of one-sided legislation by men. The evil results of our present laws relating to marriage, divorce, age of consent, guardianship of children, illegitimacy, solicitation and prostitution are more than sufficient justification for any act of passive resistance on the part of women which may attract attention to our claim for representation, especially when we remember that women are the chief sufferers under the present laws. When we set out to protest against legislation without representation, our aim was to make such government difficult and costly, and in time impossible. Our first object of attack was naturally the Cabinet, but if the Cabinet fails to meet our just demands, our next object must be the machinery of government itself which is carried on not by the Cabinet, but by the great departments of State and their armies of officials. These must be hampered and, if possible, held up. This work we have begun in a systematic manner, and this Census protest is but an introduction to what we shall do in this way. Ultimately we hold every elector in this country as sharing responsibility for the present political degradation of women, and if the Government which he has helped to put in power, and which we have partly to pay, does not remove the sex disability with regard to the franchise laws, then the war will have to be brought to the door of the elector until he, unable to bear any more, will insist that women are placed on a political equality with himself.

Until he does so, the members of this League will prosecute by every means in their power passive resistance to the autocratic government of women by men. The call to women to boycott the Census will result in a striking example of the confusion which carefully organised passive resistance can produce.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

*The Literature Department* has removed to Room 24, where a display of literature is to be seen, to which everyone is invited. We now have in stock Mr. Chapman's "Marriage and Divorce," 2s. net, also a leaflet on the Conciliation Bill brought up to date—at 9d. per 100.

If you are successful in all you do, you cannot also battle magnificently against great odds.—EDWARD CARPENTER, in "Towards Democracy."



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### BRANCH NOTES.

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

**Acton.**—Mrs. ARNEY.

The Acton Branch held a meeting at the Priory Schools Acton, on Wednesday, March 22. The subject was the proposed Census boycott, and the speakers were Mrs. How Martyn and Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. The chair was taken by Miss F. A. Underwood. Mrs. How Martyn very concisely showed the necessity of the vote to women, and explained "tax resistance" and the reason for the method of carrying out the "Census protest." Mr. J. Y. Kennedy, "in a very able and witty speech," as our local paper reports, spoke in favour of the Census protest, and expressed his admiration of the women of the militant societies, who, "by the example of courage, sacrifice and devotion they had given, had set a pattern to the men of the nation." Several names of intending Census resisters were given in, and a good collection for the size of the audience was taken. Both local papers have very good reports of the speeches.

**Anerley and Crystal Palace District.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss J. FENNINGS, 149, Croydon-road.

A very attentive audience, including a good many men, assembled in the Town Hall last Wednesday to listen to Mrs. Despard's and Mr. Joseph Clayton's interesting and instructive speeches. Miss Ethel Fennings made an efficient chairman. Our best thanks are due to Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Higgins, Miss Morgan, Miss Rodwell, Miss Muriel Fennings, Mr. Jackson, and others, who helped so much to make the meeting a success. THE VOTE and other literature sold. The resolution calling upon the Government to give facilities for the passing of a Woman Suffrage Bill this Session was carried unanimously. In the afternoon we advertised the meeting by driving round the neighbourhood in a cart decorated with posters and W.F.L. flags, &c.

**Clapham Branch.**—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD, 31, Rush Hill-road, Clapham Common.

On Tuesday afternoon last Phillips's Music Room, South Side, Clapham Common, was crowded to hear Mrs. How Martyn's explanation of the reason of the Census boycott. Mrs. Tanner took the chair, and discussed women's claim to and need for the Parliamentary vote. Mrs. How Martyn strongly advocated the Census boycott as one of the means of bringing the Government to recognise that the government of our country rests upon the goodwill and consent of the governed. A very fair collection was taken, and many names given in of those who

would refuse information to the Census enumerator. Will members please note that the meeting announced for March 31 in the Lecture Room, Battersea, is postponed until further notice?

**Croydon.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. TERRY, 9, Morland-avenue. Office: 3, The Arcade, High-street.

Members already find that it is very helpful to have a local centre. This week we are distributing a circular, setting forth the various uses that our office may become to outsiders, so we hope to be better known and shortly to become a stronger branch. Mrs. Harding, Miss Struthers, and Miss M. Struthers have kindly helped in supplying useful articles, and friends, too, have come to our aid in furnishing. We are still badly in need of chairs, so that we may not need to hire. Our Sewing Party will be pleased to have more plain needlework. Members who will evade the Census, and have not yet sent in their names to the secretary, please do so without delay.

**Finchley.**—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. TINKLER, "Cranford," Stanley-road, East Finchley; Miss E. HEPWORTH, Rastrick, Nether-street, N. Finchley.

The annual business meeting will be held on Tuesday week, April 4, at Mrs. Owen's, 11, Manor Villas, Squire's-lane, Church End.

**Hackney.**—Miss E. BUSBY, 48, Arlington-street, Islington, N. Miss LE CROISSETTE, 238, Navarino Mansions, Dalston-lane, N.E.

The past week has been a busy one for the Hackney Branch. Open-air meetings in afternoon or evening attracted large numbers of listeners, and one could not help being impressed by the serious attention that was paid by "the man in the street" to the Suffrage speakers. The Caravan has toured the district every day, and several poster parades have been organised in order to advertise the Census meeting. A final caravan meeting was held in Victoria Park on Sunday afternoon, an enormous crowd gathering round to listen. Our thanks are due to all those friends who have assisted us in our endeavour to make the Town Hall meeting a success, and we hope an opportunity may arise when our gratitude can take a concrete form.—P. LE CROISSETTE.

**Herne Hill and Norwood.**—Miss B. SPENCER, 32, Geneva-road, Brixton, S.W.

On Tuesday, March 21, our Debating Circle met at the above address, when Miss Lucie Jenks opened a discussion on "Are the Mental Capacities of the Sexes Equal?" This proved to be a very controversial subject, and it was adjourned until our next meeting on Tuesday, April 4. We shall be glad if a few more members will attend these meetings, as they are very helpful and interesting, and are held on the first and third Tuesdays in the month. Several of our branch members have undertaken some particular piece of work for Special Effort Week, either to canvass, to obtain new members, or new subscribers for THE VOTE, or to collect funds, and we hope to make it a record week.

**Mid-London Branch.**—Mrs. TRITTON, 1, Northcote-avenue, Faling.

At our members' meeting on March 22 the Hon. Treasurer of the League spoke to us, and suggested various methods by which the branches can give the requisite financial support to headquarters. There was a very poor attendance, and we were unable to make definite arrangements for the open-air meetings which we purpose holding after Easter, and I hope more will be done in this direction when we meet at the Bijou Theatre on April 12 at 7 p.m., before the public meeting, at which Miss Cicely Hamilton has kindly consented to speak. The dressing-case was raffled on March 22, and won by Miss Edith Craig.

**Stamford Hill.**—Hon. Secretary: Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, 114, Holmleigh-road.

Unfortunately we have not been able to have any open-air meetings this week. Last Wednesday, at a small meeting at Mrs. Cunningham's, Mrs. Goodwin kindly read a very interesting paper entitled "The Domestic Profession"; Miss Broodie was good enough to contribute one upon "Frances Power Cobbe: Her Life and Work"; and Mrs. Cunningham followed with one illustrating "The Persistence of Custom." The first meeting of the speakers' class was very successful indeed. It will meet again (by kind invitation of Mrs. Thomson) at 7, East Bank on Thursday, April 6, at 4 p.m. Mrs. Goodwin will move: "That married women should not be excluded from the labour market." Mrs. Griffiths has kindly promised to act as seconder, and Mrs. Cunningham will preside.

**Brighton and Hove.**—Hon. Secretaries: Mrs. FRANCIS, 51, Buckingham-place, Brighton; Miss HARE, 8, San Remo, Hove.

A crowded and most successful drawing-room meeting was held, at the kind invitation of Mrs. Godson, on Wednesday afternoon, at 8, Sackville-gardens, Hove. As many of those present had never attended a Suffrage meeting before, Mrs. Francis spoke on the A B C of the Suffrage, and outlined the principles of the W.F.L. Miss Hare gave her lecture on Florence Nightingale, and three new members joined, which is a good harvest for a private meeting. Preparations are being made for Census night. Several members who are householders are resisting, and opening their houses to evaders for the night;

others are vacating their houses and leaving them to be occupied by evaders.

**Portsmouth and Gosport.**—Mrs. WHEATON, 64, Devonshire-avenue, Southsea.

On Thursday, March 30, at 7 p.m., a meeting of Census resisters will be held at 6, Clarence-view to make final arrangements for April 2. A room has been secured in which the evaders can spend the night, and one of our members has promised to lend a motor-car. The local evening paper has given us a splendid show, which, of course, has advertised our protest for us. This week the branch is very busy working for the Special Effort Fund, and we hope to send a substantial sum to headquarters.

**WALES AND MONMOUTH.**—Hon. Organiser: Mrs. CLEEVEs, "Chez Nous," Sketty, Glamorgan.

**Swansea.**—Hon. Organising Secretary: Miss H. DAVIES, B.A., Training College, Swansea.

On Tuesday, March 21, a successful entertainment was given at St. Gabriel's Hall. Miss L. Davies charmingly rendered a pianoforte solo; Miss E. Abraham sang "The Awakening" beautifully; then followed three dramatic sketches by Misses M. Holmes and M. Hutton and Mr. Seyler, B.Sc., under the direction of Miss Holmes, who played the diverse roles of a fashionable *malade imaginaire* and Joe, the crossing-sweeper, with equal facility. Next came six morris dances, by twelve young girls under the direction of Miss Neal. Finally came the performance of Miss Hamilton's "How the Vote was Won," in which the parts were taken by Misses E. Holmes, E. Abraham, M. Hutton, D. Salmon, H. Davies, E. Phipps, Mrs. Seyler, Mrs. Cleeves, and Messrs. Seyler and Tobias, not forgetting "Buller," Mr. Tobias's dog, who played his part most naturally. —E. PHIPPS.

**EAST ANGLIA.**—Hon. Organiser: MISS ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road, Ipswich.

**Ipswich.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss C. E. ANDREWS, 160, Norwich-road.

Last Thursday we had a very interesting meeting at our offices. Mrs. Hutley presided, and Mrs. Manning Prentice was the speaker. Her subject was "A Visit to Hungary," and the lecturer gave a very graphic description of the Hungarian people, dealing on the position of women there. Friends were urged to join the all-night party on April 2, and to help in making Mr. Laurence Housman's meeting a success. Mrs. Pratt, the energetic organiser for the sale of THE VOTE, will be glad of more help, and canvassers are specially needed. We extend a cordial invitation to any friends wishing to take part in the Census protest; sleeping accommodation can be arranged at 16, Arcade-street for those who need it.

**LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE.**—Hon. Organiser: MISS MANNING, B.A., Harper-hill, Sale, Cheshire.

**Eccles.**

On Tuesday evening a small meeting was arranged by Miss Ramcar, Mrs. Ackersley kindly lending her room for the occasion. Although the numbers were small, a good beginning was made, and another meeting will be held at a later date. Two drawing-room meetings will be held next week, and Census resisters will have full information of the proceedings on April 2 from Miss Heyes.

**Manchester, Central.**—Hon. Secretary: Miss G. E. HORDEN, 89, Clitheroe-road, Longsight.

Dr. Elsie French kindly gave us a drawing-room meeting on Friday, March 24, when Miss Heyes gave a short address. Census resisters will receive notice of their lodgings for April on Friday next.

**Sale.**—Vote Agents: Mrs. HOBSON, 13, Northenden-road; Mrs. WALKER, 125, Washway-road.

The Speakers' Class met on Monday at Harper Hill, and an interesting discussion on Franchise Reform took place. This week we shall have a Census "At Home" on Friday, March 31, in the Temperance Rooms at 3 p.m., and Mrs. Nidd and Nurse Griffin will be the speakers; Mrs. Manning in the chair.

**Urmston.**

On Friday, March 31, Miss Manning will give an address in Wills's Room, 42, Flixton-road, on "Olive Schreiner." On April 7 a Hard-up Social will be held at Hughenden Hall. Tickets, 6d. each, from Miss Manning.

Census Protest: All resisters must write to me at once, and get instructions for April 2.—M. E. MANNING.

## SCOTTISH NOTES.

**Glasgow:** Suffrage Centre, 502, SAUCHIEHALL-STREET.  
Hon. Secretary: MISS MINA STEVEN.  
Hon. Treasurer: MISS JANET L. BUNTEN.  
Shop Manageress: MISS McARTHUR.  
Telegrams: "Tactics," Glasgow. Nat. Telephone: 495 Douglas.

**Glasgow.**—302, Sauchiehall-street. Hon. Secretary: Miss MINA STEVEN. Hon. Treasurer: Miss JANET L. BUNTEN.

During the fortnight Miss Anna Munro has been with us a very successful series of meetings have been held, both in and outdoor. On Monday Miss Cicely Hamilton addressed a crowded

"At Home" in the Centre on Olive Schreiner's book, "Women and Labour." Miss Hamilton's masterly interpretation was intensely appreciated by the large audience. Miss Anna Munro, who occupied the chair, spoke briefly on the Census protest, urging all present to join. Miss Edith Craig welcomed the guests, and Miss McArthur and Mrs. Webster were hostesses. At the close new members were gained, a large quantity of literature sold and Census resisters.

At Govan, Partick and Springburn Miss Munro addressed large open-air Census meetings, assisted by Misses Perritt, Baird, Bain, McArthur, and Evans.

The Dennistoun committee arranged a pleasant indoor gathering, at which Miss Skinner very ably presided.

**Dundee.**—Miss CLUNAS, 1, Blackness-crescent.

At Thursday's branch meeting Miss A. P. Brant gave an interesting account of her work on the Old-Age Pensions Committee. A discussion followed, and several questions were answered by Miss Grant, who understands her subject thoroughly. All present felt how necessary it is that women should be members of such committees. Members are reminded that the School Board election takes place on Thursday, April 6, and that our president, Miss Husband, is seeking re-election to this board. A Census protest meeting will be held at the High School Gate on Saturday, April 1, at 7 p.m. Miss Jack, Edinburgh, is to be the speaker. Will members please attend in large numbers to sell THE VOTE and take up the collection?  
L. CLUNAS, Hon. Sec.

**Edinburgh.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road.

Hon. Secretary, Miss A. B. JACK, 21, Buccleuch-place.  
Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. A. WOOD, 67, Great King-street. Hon. Shop Secretary, Mrs. THOMSON, 39, Rosslyn-crescent.

The usual afternoon "At Home" was held on Tuesday, when Miss Sidley spoke on the Census boycott. On Wednesday evening Dr. W. W. Taylor, of the Men's League, gave a most interesting address on "Women and the Law." He contended that woman was the natural breaker-down of law and convention, and thus had often made possible the progress of the race, while man, the law-maker, was rather the enemy of change. Woman, on the other hand, broke the criminal law less. Specially interesting and suggestive was the clever twentieth-century reading of the "Antigone," by which Dr. Taylor illustrated this point. All the characters of the Suffrage drama, from the Suffragette to Mr. Asquith, found their prototypes there. All members are requested to attend the annual business meeting on April 5, when office-bearers and committee will be elected and future plans discussed. Meanwhile, remember the Birthday Sale on May 6, the forthcoming Jumble Sale, and, above all, the Census boycott. Miss Sidley is completing arrangements for the night of April 2.

HELEN McLACHLAN.

## OTHER SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

**Women's Tax Resistance League.**

Secretary: Mrs. KINETON PARKES, 10, Talbot House, 98, St. Martin's-lane, W.C. Census Department: Mrs. Katharine Gatty.

By kind permission of Mrs. Clarkson Swann, a drawing-room meeting, on March 21 was held at Bromley, the speakers being Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Gatty. Miss Benett gave one at Finchley on March 24, where Mrs. Cecil Chapman and Mrs. Gatty spoke. A very largely attended and enthusiastic private meeting at the house of two lady doctors was addressed by Miss Abadam on March 25, when Mrs. Gatty answered a series of technical legal questions relating to the Census Act. The Artists' Suffrage League have arranged a discussion on the Census on March 27. Miss Loundes is to support filling in the schedules, and Mrs. Gatty is to advocate withholding information. On Thursday, March 30, at 5 p.m., Mrs. Lizzie Morris is giving an "At Home" at 147, Harley-street, where it is hoped that Miss Nina Boyle, of South Africa, will speak, as well as Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Kineton Parkes. On Saturday, April 1, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, and Mrs. Katharine Gatty are speaking in Trafalgar-square by invitation of the Freedom League. On Sunday (Census Day) ten meetings will be held by the W.T.R.L. in the London parks at 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., and 5 p.m., when well-known speakers from all the societies will speak on Passive Resistance. The W.T.R.L. is selling a souvenir of the Census, 1911, in the form of a button, half-a-crown size, price 3d. It is inscribed "Census Resisted: No Vote, No Census," and the following quotation from the Census Act: "A Census for Great Britain shall be taken in the year 1911, and the Census Day shall be Sunday, the 2nd day of April in that year."

**Irish Women's Franchise League.**

LONDON BRANCH.—Hon. Secretary: Miss K. PEARCE, 31 Delancey-street, N.W.

The first meeting of this branch will be held on Tuesday next, April 4, at the Emerson Club, 19, Buckingham-street, Strand, at 8 p.m., when officers and committee will be elected. It is hoped that all Irish women interested will attend, so that a good membership may be assured from the first.

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A very popular model for average figures. Made in a substantial coutil, white or grey.  
Sizes—18 to 30 inches.

PER 3/11 PAIR.

No. 105a, in satin-striped drill, white-blue and white-pink, 4/11 1/2  
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## THE CORSET QUESTION OF TO-DAY.

Practically speaking every reader of this paper is interested in the question of Corsets, and that interest must, in the natural order of things, at some time or other find its practical outlet in the act of purchasing. Now it is one thing to buy a corset and quite another thing to be perfectly satisfied with it, after you have bought it, and that is just where we want to be of service to you.

We are not content to merely sell you a corset; we take a personal interest in the matter, and are not satisfied unless we are quite certain that the model supplied is in every way suited to the particular requirements of your figure. We have at our Show and Fitting Rooms a staff of expert assistants who make it their business to send every customer away satisfied with her purchase. You can be personally fitted (and we advise this wherever possible) without any extra charge, but should this not be convenient, you can rely upon the very best possible attention at the hands of our postal department. A postcard to us will bring you a daintily-illustrated booklet, together with self-measurement form, which when filled in is an adequate guide to us in the selection of a suitable model.

ALL MEASUREMENTS TAKEN ARE REGISTERED FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, THUS ENSURING A PERFECT FIT AT ANY FUTURE TIME.

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## CAXTON HALL "AT HOME."

Mr. Cameron Grant and Mrs. Sproson were the speakers at the "At Home" held on March 23.

Mrs. How Martyn, in the chair, said she wished to impress upon the audience that though the proposed boycott of the Census was not aggressively militant, it would be a most effective protest. The Women's Freedom League wished to make the Government difficult and costly. Passive resistance, actively carried out, was more effective than what is generally known as militant tactics. Women were indirectly taxed to the extent of twenty-five million pounds annually. If this could be withheld it would prove more effective than any other form of protest. With regard to the Census Boycott, the W.F.L. had concentrated especially upon women householders. If, when the enumerator came round, he only received a paper on which was written "No vote, no census," then he had to report to the local registrar, who reported to his superior officer, and finally the number of women householders who had refused on that ground would be reported to Mr. John Burns, and so to the rest of the Cabinet. One such woman refusing in that way was worth more than a thousand women who signed a petition to be sent to Mr. Asquith.

Mr. Cameron Grant spoke on "Woman with the Vote." This, he said, was merely a hypothetical supposition at present, but would, he hoped, not long remain so. When women got the vote the speaker believed they would use it principally to reform the laws dealing with women and children.

In the course of a vigorous and trenchant speech, Mrs. Sproson said that when women got the vote they would find their work cut out for them in trying to bring into order affairs which men, by their bad management and ignorance of the woman's view, had allowed to get into a state of chaos.

## THE CENSUS BOYCOTT—LAST SUGGESTIONS.

Women householders and others who are resisting have probably completed their arrangements, but for those who have not I am asked to mention that some women occupiers still have room to accommodate evaders. It is impossible for lack of space to mention what each district has arranged, but good accounts of what our members intend to do have reached me from nearly all our branches, and it is very evident that most Suffragists are eagerly seizing this opportunity to protest against government without the consent of women.

Special posters in various sizes have been printed with the words "No Votes for Women, No Census," and can be had on application at the office. I hope that all our members and sympathisers will make effective use of these posters, and, whether they are actually resisting or not, place one of these large bills in the window or upon the door on Monday morning, April 3. It all adds to the utter uncertainty and also advertises the protest more effectively, and at the same time will not in itself result in any penalty for those who exhibit such posters. Please apply at once for the bills, as I have not an unlimited supply. All who are leaving their own houses should make a point of using the poster. Miss Alison Neilans would be glad to hear from any members who could give some special assistance on Sunday night, April 2.

Do not forget that all householders who are risking the penalty should write across the Census schedule, "No votes for women, no information from women," and should not enter into any discussion with the enumerator who calls for the paper.

If relatives threaten to include evaders, whether they are at home or not, it may be well to remind anyone doing so that he or she also becomes liable to a £5 fine for giving false information.

EDITH HOW MARTYN.

### "MRS. PAT" IN COMEDY.

That prejudice is the most formidable of all the enemies of progress is an accepted fact. There is nothing so strong, nothing so stubborn as the refusal to be convinced. Like a monstrous menacing dragon it guards the citadel to all reform and is impervious to every weapon but custom. To conquer prejudice one must don the armour of defiance and carry the sword of achievement. To reason with the creature is but a waste of time, since logic and prejudice meet only to repel. To persist in the path that leads to the desire; to pierce the scowl of distrust with the smile of confidence; to create and instantly to seize opportunity—these are the resolves which must be put into effect if one is to overthrow the enemy. Truth and beauty have ever waged a hard fight with prejudice; but that which almost from the beginning has been anathema to the blind goddess is the intellectual and material advancement of woman. Every inch of the ground gained has been won with a cost which cannot be counted—that because freely paid is sometimes apt to be forgotten. But the good that is disclosed with the death of every reactionary force should quicken one to further effort.

Where to-day would be the stage without its actresses? Yet woman had a stiff battle to fight before being allowed to set foot upon its boards. Had she shirked the task how much poorer now would life be. Certainly the comedy *Lady Patricia*, by Rudolf Besier, now running at the Haymarket would have been impossible of production without a woman to play the title rôle. In this case it is not the play that is the thing, but the players. Without an excellent cast—and the acting at the Haymarket is very good indeed—the play could hardly have been accorded the hearty reception it met with on the first night of its production. In spite of being in the minority of critics—the greater number of whom have extolled the wit and brilliancy of the drama—one must faithfully record one's own impressions of the performance, otherwise the value of this criticism would be absolutely nil.

The play revolves round a soulful *poseuse*—Lady Patricia—and, broadly speaking, the technique of the play is admirable. Lady Patricia is beautifully artificial; and very prettily artificial is the oak-tree scene in which most of the action takes place. But the play drags, the second act in particular being far too long drawn out, and there is much unnecessary repetition. The performance, of course, is in its early stages, and when next one visits the Haymarket it will doubtless be found that a little pruning has taken place greatly beneficial to the play itself. That *Lady Patricia* is worthy a second and oft-repeated visit everyone who has witnessed the play will agree. And that which will attract nine out of every ten persons to the Haymarket again and again is the wonder and charm of Mrs. Patrick Campbell as Lady Patricia.

Not the greatest of her admirers could have predicted for Mrs. Campbell such a complete success in comedy as she scored the other night at the Haymarket. Yet this assertion would seem to detract somewhat from the belief in her powers, since genius is nothing if not versatile. As, however, "Mrs. Pat's" personality is particularly appropriate for the more serious drama in which she has hitherto exclusively appeared, the regular playgoer will understand that the remark is intended in no derogatory sense. It has often been said disparagingly of great actors that their own personality dominated that of the characters they assumed on the stage. This was said of Henry Irving: "You never forgot it was Henry Irving all the time." And it is said to-day of Mrs. Patrick Campbell. The truth is that a great personality is always magnetic. "Personality" is genius in its most elusive form. Elusive, true; but persistent. Something that cannot be lost sight of; that penetrates every disguise. A force that makes itself felt under any and every circumstance. And so Mrs. Pat as Paula, Mrs. Pat as Magda, Mrs. Pat as Olive in *Olive Latimer's Husband*, Mrs. Pat as Lady

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# WILLIAM OWEN

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Patricia is still Mrs. Pat. But without "Mrs. Pat" these creations would be non-existent, or at most impossible conceptions for the great majority of us. Out of the largess of her own capacity Mrs. Campbell endowed what were mere lay figures with more than a semblance of life. With the fire of her genius she warmed them, and with the glow of her inspiration brought them into being.

One cannot help wondering how Mrs. Campbell likes her new departure as a comedy actress. She must hate really the shallow *poseuse*, Lady Patricia—or does she? It is recorded of Rachel that she longed her life through to play in comedy. She herself had a firm conviction of her powers in that direction, though she was the greatest tragedienne of her day. Mrs. Patrick Campbell also seemed predestined to play tragedy to the last. And lo! we have Lady Patricia. If Mrs. Pat, like Rachel, has always had a predilection for comedy she is more fortunate than her great prototype in being able to gratify her wish and at the same time prove to her critics the utter futility of setting bounds to genius.

M. SLIEVE MCGOWAN.

### HOW TO HELP THE CAUSE. SPECIAL MESSAGES TO OUR READERS.

From Mrs. Rose (Advertisement Manager).

Our Branch Secretaries are so alert in helping the League in various ways that I feel I may call upon them to make a special effort during the next few weeks to interest Branch members in our advertising columns. Will secretaries make a point of drawing attention, at Branch meetings, to the fact that we look to all members of our League to support advertisers in THE VOTE by dealing with them on every possible occasion. I should also be grateful if some of our members in the provinces would approach local firms and endeavour to get their advertisements for our columns, pointing out to them that local members will gladly

support them. THE VOTE is an excellent medium for advertisements, as is testified by the numerous expressions of satisfaction I receive from advertisers. I shall be most happy to send the advertisement tariff to any member who will send me a postcard.

From Miss Ethel Fennings ("Vote" Sales Organiser).

Volunteers are wanted to sell in Trafalgar-square on Saturday. Please come to Robert-street at 2 p.m. This is a unique occasion, and everyone is sure to find plenty to do. Now is the time to work harder than ever and I hope that many will make a special effort to increase the circulation of our paper. There are countless opportunities of doing this which are lost through want of thought. May I again remind our members of the great importance of wearing the W.F.L. badge and carrying two or three copies of THE VOTE about always, and when attending any progressive meetings taking two or three dozen to sell outside before the lecture starts. A member of the Northern Heights branch writes that she has secured six new regular subscribers in the last fortnight, making a total of fourteen since VOTE week. In addition to this she takes seven herself every week to distribute. Other members please copy.

Alexander de Tocqueville said:—

"In politics, as in all else, we must be careful to inculcate certain principles, to instil certain feelings. During my long experience of public life nothing has struck me more than the influence of women in this matter. I do not hesitate to say that they give to every nation a moral temperament which shows itself in politics. A hundred times I have seen weak men show real political value because they had by their sides women who supported them, not by advice as to particulars, but by fortifying their feelings and directing their ambitions. More frequently, I must confess, I have seen the domestic influence gradually transforming a man naturally noble, generous, and unselfish into a cowardly, commonplace, place-hunting self-seeker, thinking only of public business as a means of making himself comfortable, and this simply by daily contact with a well-conducted woman, a faithful wife, an excellent mother. from whose mind the grand notion of public duty was entirely absent."

## A BONUS TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CUSTOMERS.

FOR the convenience of Customers, and to save the trouble of sending a remittance with each order, or paying for goods on delivery, sums are received on Deposit, which may be applied to the payment of goods.

Customers who keep a Cash Balance to the Credit of their Deposit Accounts, and buy goods to the value of £25 within one year will be allowed a

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Full particulars are given on page 25 of our Annual Catalogue. Write for it to-day.

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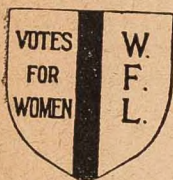
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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

### LONDON.



**DARE TO BE FREE.**

**Thurs., Mar. 30.**—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speeches 3.30 p.m. Dr. Haden Guest.  
Caravan Meeting, Mossbury road, Lavender Hill, 7.30 p.m.  
**Fri., Mar. 31.**—Caravan, Polygon, Clapham, 7.30 p.m.  
Poster Parade, 1, Robert-street, 2 p.m.  
**Sat., April 1.**—**TRAFALGAR SQUARE MASS MEETING, 3 p.m.**  
"Votes for Woman *versus* the Census."  
Mrs. Despard, Mrs. How Mactyn, Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Francis, Mrs. Nevinson, Mrs. Kineton Parkes, Miss Irene Miller, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Mustard, Mrs. Gatty.  
"Old Pump," Uxbridge. Miss Alison Neilans, Mr. Joseph Clayton, 8 p.m.  
Caravan, "White Horse," Brixton, 7.30 p.m.  
Poster Parade, 1, Robert-street, 11 a.m.  
**Sun., April 2.**—Caravan, Brockwell Park, 3 p.m.—Caravan, Rushcroft-road, Brixton, 7 p.m.  
**Mon., April 3.**—Caravan, Rushcroft-road, Brixton, 7.30 p.m.  
**Tues., April 4.**—Caravan, "White Horse," Brixton, 7.30 p.m.  
**Wed., April 5.**—Drawing-room Meeting, by permission of Miss Tite, 53, Drayton-gardens, Kensington, W., 8 p.m.—Caravan, Polygon, Clapham, 7.30 p.m.  
**Thurs., April 6.**—"At Home," Caxton Hall, 3 p.m. Speeches 3.30 p.m. "The Women's Freedom League Views of the Census Protest."  
Caravan, Mossbury-road, Lavender Hill, 7.30 p.m.

**EALING.**  
**Wed., April 12.**—8 p.m. Public Meeting at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, organised by the Mid-London Branch. *Speaker:* Miss Cicely Hamilton. *Chair:* Mrs. Hyde. *Hostess:* Mrs. Wall Cousins. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a Branch Members' Meeting.

### PROVINCES.

#### BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

**Fri., Mar. 31.**—Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. Henry Tippett, IPSWICH.

**Thurs., Mar. 30.**—8 p.m., Co-operative Hall. Mr. Laurence Housman, Mrs. How Martyn.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH.

**Sat., April 8.**—"Hard Up" Social, Suffrage Centre.

**Sat., April 29.**—Jumble Sale. Contributions to be sent to Centre.

### SCOTLAND.

#### GLASGOW.

**Thurs., Mar. 30.**—Pollokshields, Burgh Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Anne Munro.—8 p.m., Lecture on "Shelley," Mrs. Despard. *Chair:* Miss F. M. Stewart, B.A.—Pollokshields, Burgh Hall, 3 p.m. Mrs. Despard, Miss Anne Munro.—Suffrage Centre, 8 p.m. Mrs. Despard.

**Fri., Mar. 31.**—Drawing-room, 3.30 p.m., Port Glasgow. Miss Anne Munro.

**Sun., April 2.**—Census Protest.

**Mon., April 10.**—Hard-Up Social, Glasgow Centre, 6.30 to 11 p.m.

**Sat., April 29.**—Jumble Sale.

#### EDINBURGH.

**Tues., April 4.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. "At Home," 4 p.m.

**Wed., April 5.**—Suffrage Shop, 33, Forrest-road. Annual Business Meeting, 8 p.m.

#### DUNDEE.

**Sat., April 1.**—Open-air Meeting, High School Gate, at 7 p.m. *Speaker:* Miss A. B. Jack, Edinburgh.

**Thurs., April 6.**—Gilfillan Hall, at 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Mrs. Allan. Subject, "The Endowment of Motherhood."

### "HARD-UP" SOCIAL.

The "Hard-up" social held on Saturday, March 25, at Holborn Hall, was a huge success. The Actresses' Franchise League gave two amusing plays, "The Maid and the Magistrate," and "Lady Butterby and Mrs. Macbean." The artistes whose performance was greatly enjoyed by the crowded audience were Miss Jess Morryne, Mr. Benedict-Butler, Miss Clarice Laurence, and Miss Edith Anton-Laing. Mr. Reginald Potts' burlesque Suffrage meeting caused great fun and laughter. Mr. Frank Withy gave his inimitable Suffrage songs. Miss Dorothy Slade, Miss Nevinson, Master George and Miss Ryllis van Raalte, Mr. Potts, and Madame van Raalte contributed to the concert. Thanks are due to Miss Sydney Keith, who gave a popular entertainment as a side show,

Madame Ulisa and Mrs. Thomson Price for their palmtree, and last, but not least, to Mme. Amy Kötze, of Great Marlborough-street, who very generously gave several beautiful costumes and hats to be sold for the benefit of the League. There was also dancing and a plentiful supper provided by the visitors. A clearance sale wound up the proceedings, which had given great enjoyment to about 250 people, besides having added very materially to the funds of the W.F.L.

O FREEDOM, beautiful beyond compare, thy kingdom is established!

Thou with thy feet on earth, thy brow among the stars for ages us thy children,

I, thy child, singing daylong, nightlong, sing of joy in thee.

EDWARD CARPENTER, in "Towards Democracy."

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